

Lady Coalers tackle Tuscola





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A new budget for Coal City

Spending plan takes into account inflation, capital projects, staffing

BY ANN GILL

The village of Coal City will spend \$16.57 million in the upcoming fiscal year, a plan that takes into account capital projects, staffing changes and inflation.

"Although the pandemic emergency has ceased, the remedies that came along with it have returned inflation into the economy and fiscal year. increased costs for goods, staffing and service provision," Administrator Matt Fritz said.

anticipated revenue so town leaders plan to closed the gap by spending ous departments.

down fund balances and utilizing tax increment finanacing dollars [TIF] for

Coal City's fund balance includes dollars the town received from the American Rescue Plan [ARP] and plan to utilize to complete utility improvements in the coming months.

The budget reflects a 24.5% increase in spending and a 20.6% increase in revenue over the current

The administrator and town That's \$2.1 million more than trustees met weekly to review the wants and needs of the village's vari-

department heads have needed to evaluate expenditures and proposed replacements in light of the increase cost of parts, new equipment and reg-

ular budget items.' For example the budgeted cost of gasoline and diesel fuel in fiscal year 2022 was \$57,391 and in 2023 that rose to \$73,205.

Previously, there has been mod-The budget was presented and approved by the Village Board April the trend would cause the line items the trend would cause the line items to increase for a year or two and then decrease when the goods came back to its overall trend. It is expected that much of the inflation to these line

future; the new adjusted costs are likely their new level," Fritz said.

The administrator noted the cost of salt and chlorine used at the water treatment plant had to be adjusted to reflect increases in prices, as have utility costs and even the price of

The 2024 budget also takes into account staffing changes resulting from retirements and resignations.

Personnel costs are outlined within the town's operational expenses and include full and part-time employees.

Compensation for some of the employees is divided among funds

Noting a substantial increase in items will not be removed in the depending on their job functions, specifically within administration.

between the general and utility fund and the police staff is wholly supported by general fund proceeds, Fritz explained.

Γhe operational expenses within this year's spending plan come to \$8.2 million, an increase of nearly 11% from the 2023 budget. The budget includes \$3.8 million for personnel costs with about 60% of those dollars earmarked for law enforcement.

As a result of some turnover in the police department, the budget

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 2



THE UNIT 1 Board of Education recognized the service of outgoing members Robert Bianchetta and Chuck Lander. The two men opted not to seek re-election this spring and will depart the Board at the end of the month after a combined 27 years of service.

Unit 1 bids board members farewell

BY ANN GILL

The Unit 1 Board of Education is changing as members Robert Bianchetta and Chuck Lander finish their terms at end of the month. Their seats being filled by two newly elected mem-

Combined, they have served the school district for 27 years—Bianchetta for 16 years and Lander for 11.

'They have done some amazing things for our community and our school district and we will definitely miss them," Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer said of the outgoing members.

Lander and Bianchetta opted not to seek re-election this spring opening up two seats that will be filled by Cynthia Klein and Daniel Englehardt.

Englehardt previously served on the Board having been appointed to a short-term vacancy. This will be Klein's first term of service. They will be sworn in when the Board reorganizes

Bianchetta and Lander were recognized by the superintendent and fellow board members at the start of the April meeting. Each was presented with a crystal plaque by Board president Ken P. Miller in appreciation for their years of service.

Board membership is a thankless job, where one puts what's best for the district ahead of their own interests. They do this for no pay, committing two Wednesdays a month away from their families and we appreciate all they have done," Spencer

Bianchetta served on various committees most recently on Board Policy, Insurance and Transportation Committees, as he was the district's representative to the Illinois Association of School Board's Three Rivers Division.

Lander has represented the district on the Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] Board of Control and was the Board appointee to the district Athletic Committee.

'We can't thank these gentleman enough for their dedication to the school district over the years," Spencer said.



COAL CITY HIGH School's chapter of Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA] took part in the annual state leadership conference and event competition. Taking part were [from left, row one]: Kiley McKim, Peyton Benson, Nyah Planeta, Kylee Kennell and Wyleigh Serena. Row two Gavin Chernesky, Luke Crater, Logan Hawkins, Luke Hawkins, Jackson Wilcock and Brady Ehman.

FBLA members medal at state contest

Coal City High School's chapter of Business Leader. leadership conference and events competition last weekend.

Coal City had 12 students enrolled in the state event competition with two students placing at the contest held in Springfield

Luke Crater earned third place in UX Design and Jackson Wilcock, took third place in the category of Future

Future Business Leaders of America Over 1,400 students attended the ship development focus of FBLA-PBL. [FBLA] took part in the annual state conference with competitors from 75 schools across the state.

The awards were part of a comprehensive competitive events program sponsored annually by Illinois Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda, Inc. (FBLA-PBL). Individuals, teams, and local chapters are encouraged to compete in any of over 75 different events representing a wide range of

activities and the business and leader-

Also competing at the state contest were Peyton Benson, healthcare administration; Josh Ritchie, advertising; Kiley McKim, business communications: Brady Ehman, computer problem solving; Nyah Planeta, personal finance; Logan Hawkins, accounting; Luke Hawkins, parliamentary procedure; Gavin Chernesky, cybersecurity; Kylee

SEE FBLA, PAGE 2

School makeover begins

BY ANN GILL

The fitness room at Coal City High School is getting a

makeover, the first of what will likely be a series of facility upgrades over the next few The fitness space is one of

several areas within the high school targeted for improvement by the Unit 1 Board of Education last December.

ed in the late 1990s as part of building addition project. The

addition originally divided the equipment including tread- Superintendent Chris Spencer. space by a windowed wall with an open practice area on one side and weight room on the

Teaching and coaching staff who work in that area suggested the space could be better utilized if opened up and modernized.

District's architects designed it so the spaces will be opene, a fresh coat of paint applied, new flooring and electrical upgrades to accommodate the main focus of the improvement—new fitness mills, exercise bikes and

The Board of Education directed architects and staff to move forward with the project in February and during the first week of April, contractors were in the building taking down the windows and opening up the space.

"It creates a nice transition and makes it easier for teaching staff to cover both areas. It turned out nice and we are happy with the job they said

A week later, Board members approved a \$95,759.01 bid from Stray Dog Strength to redo the flooring, including a

for training purposes. Stray Dog Strength was one of four bidders with their

patch of turf that will be used

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE 2











Police activity increases in March

The Coal City Police Department continues to see an increase in total calls for service in the month of March at 638, an increase of 32% from the same month one year ago.

Total activity, a combination of calls for service and officerinitiated, was up 23 calls from the prior month. To date, officers have logged 1,779 calls with 723 requiring a report.

In his monthly report to the Village Board, Chief Chris Harseim expects the increase in call volume will continue Officers filed 19 criminal charges and handed out 38 cita-

tions, both down from the prior month. And, the chief reported there were six traffic crashes investigated in March. As for activity involving the county's ProAct Unit, Harseim said there were nine felony and nine misdemeanor arrests, as

well as drug and firearm seizures. He added, the unit is conducting tobacco compliance checks throughout the county and in its first outing found four

of five tobacco sellers in the village of Diamond were found in violation of selling to individuals under the age of 21.

Spring cleanup set for Coal City

The village of Coal City's annual spring cleanup day is just one month away.

The village of Coal City and Environmental Waste Recycling has announced the curb side collection—the only one held this year—is sched-uled for May 18 and 19, depending on your waste collection day.

There are a few items that that will not be collected and that includes broken concrete, building materials, rocks, soil, household hazardous waste including but not limited toexplosives, paints, oils, solvents or other materials that may present a fire hazard.

Other items not allowed include medical and biohazard wastes, construction and materials demolition including drywall, lumber, roofing materials, fencing and posts, permanent swimming pools and or materials resulting from fires, floods or evic-

Kennell, introduction to event

planning, and Wyleigh Serena,

introduction to event plan-

Coal City High School partici-

pated in the two-day event

that included business and

leadership training workshops

and seminars, and election of

Spencer said.

price coming in below original estimates.

The flooring should be installed by Aug. 1

"It's good to be moving forward with some

Along with the improvements to the fit-

ness room, spring break provided an opportu-

nity for workers to tear down a wall that divid-

ed two classrooms at the high school, a change

that provides more space for the district's

my courses are held is located next to a space

that was not being used and they were able to take down the wall without much disruption

Spencer said the classroom where acade-

area officers.

School

Coaler Academy.

The 12 delegates from the

Items that can be disposed of during the spring cleanup is a white item and tire pickup. A maximum of four tires-no rims. White items are anything that heats or cools such as refrigerators, stoves, air conditioning units and even washers and dryers.

The white item and tire collection will also be a curbside collection.

Mattresses, box springs, sofas, furniture and furnishings can be put at the curb for

An electronics pickup is also scheduled for these days and must be pre-scheduled at least 24 hours in advance by calling 815-725-4555. There will be a \$35 charge for every television or monitor collect-

The waste hauler asks that all items be placed at the curb by 6 a.m. on the day of scheduled pickup.

FBLA is the largest and

organization in the world. Its

members, belonging to more

than 6,000 chartered chapters,

include students from the

Islands, Puerto Rico, and

Leaders of America (FBLA) is

the high school division and

Phi Beta Lambda (PBL) is

designed for post-secondary

and college students.

States, the Virgin

Future Business

oldest business

United

Europe.

Legislators share good news at annual breakfast

State legislators and community leaders convened and filled the house at the annual Economic Development Council (GEDC) Legislative Breakfast.

GEDC Chairman Pete Brummel and Nancy Norton, the agency's president and CEO, welcomed the nearly 170 guests to the event that featured remarks from Illinois Senators Tom Bennett and Sue Rezin and Representatives Jason Bunting and Jed Davis.

The legislators discussion business issues affecting Grundy County and the state of Illinois during the April 13 event at the Morris Country

The Legislative Breakfast started off with some great news about Illinois.

- In less than two years, Moody's Investor Services has upgraded Illinois' credit rating
- Illinois has paid down its backlog of bills from a high of \$16.7 billion during the budget impasse to an accounts payable today of \$2.4 billion. State vendors used to
- wait up to 210 business days to get paid. Today the oldest general funds bill in the comptroller's office is 17 days old.
- Illinois is the only state with all seven Class One
- Illinois has the third largest interstate system in the

THE GRUNDY COUNTY Economic Development Council [GEDC] hosted its annual Legislative Breakfast on Thursday, April 13. The event, held at Morris Country Club, included remarks from [left to right]: Representatives Jason Bunting and Jed Davis and Senators Sue Rezin and Tom Bennett.

Grundy County

Illinois graduates more engineers each year than Stanford, Massachusetts Institute of Technology [MIT] and California Institute Technology [Caltech] combined.

Other topics that were discussed included the recent bill event and commented, "This sponsored by Senator Rezin that lifts a moratorium on crowds we've ever had. It is so building new nuclear plants in important that our legislators

Senate and now goes to the House for consideration.

The crowd also learned about legislation to address the teacher shortage in Illinois and the unemployment insur-

Norton moderated the has been one of the largest

Illinois. That bill passed the hear from the business com munity about issues of impor tance, and in turn, participants can hear firsthand what is hap pening in Springfield. grateful for the hard work and commitment demonstrated by our legislators and appreciate their willingness to listen and support our local businesses. It is an important, valued part-

Young Philanthropists to award \$20,000 to local non-profits

philanthropists from across Grundy County will join the Community Foundation of Grundy County in awarding \$20,000 to nonprofit organizations.

The community is invited attend the Philanthropists Grant Award

Night on Thursday, May 11. At ing and in an amount they Young time, the Philanthropist groups from Coal City, Gardner-South Wilmington, Morris Seneca high school's will hand out funds to various groups the

Each school group is allot-

No one was injured when fire swept

On Wednesday, April 12, around 7:42 p.m.,

According to a release issued by the

the Braidwood Fire Protection District responded to a structure fire at 163 S. School

St., across from Reed-Custer Elementary

department, fire personnel discovered a single

story residence with heavy smoke and visible

through a Braidwood home last week.

STAFF REPORT

determine would best assist the non-profit carry out its

The grant recipients are not know until the awards night when the students announce their selections.

The May 11 event will be ted \$5,000 to distribute to held at the Morris Country organizations of their choos-

No injuries reported in Braidwood fire

No tickets are needed to attend the event and participation is free due to the generous sponsorship of BDF LLC., however registration is required and can be made by calling the community foundation 815-941-0852 or e-mailing julie@cfgrundycounty.com.

Budget

takes into account the expense of training new staff.

Coal City's budget includes capital improvements to the water treatment plant that is being financed by an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency [IEPA] grant that is backed by a surcharge collected through the bi-monthly utility billing. Additional projects in the coming fiscal year include the

town's participation in Grundy County's Master Transportation Plan, finalization of phase 2 engineering for the North Broadway reconstruction, phase one engineering for Reed Road extending west from Broadway to Gorman Road and planning for the fis-cal year 2025 resurfacing of Carbon Hill Road from Division Street [Route 113] to the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail

The fiscal year 2024 budget begins Monday, May 1.

speller in IVC conference

Coal City Middle School was represented during the Illinois Valley Conference Spelling Bee by three students—Max Brady Christensen, Pierson and Delanie Winke, who was the conference champion.

Winke was crowned the top eighth grade speller in the con-test that was held in

sponsors.

and expand for much needed instructional

approved a \$284,405 bid from Tiles in Style to

issues in the flooring in some portions of the

putting together cost estimates and timelines

funding sources is also expected in the coming

break and see those rooms," Spencer said.

complete tile work at the middle school.

"It was nice to come back after spring

At its meeting on April 12, the Board also

The work, Spencer said, will fix moisture

The superintendent said architects are

A financial review of projected costs and

Winke is top

place among sixth graders

Jen Munsterman and

Christensen took first

among seventh grade spellers.

Tara Sweeney serve as the school's spelling bee

Class of 2003 save the date

arrived at the scene.

The Coal City High School class of 2003 graduates are should save the date for its upcoming 20-year

Organizers are planning to reconnect on Saturday, Sept. 30 at the Goose Lake Hâll, 3935 Goose Lake Rd.,

Additional details will be sent out to graduates, however questions regarding the event can be directed to Angela Murell at 815-922-0927 or by e-mail coalcityhs2003reunion@gmail

discovered the fire had progressed into the

attic. Firefighters were able to get the fire under

assessed by ambulance crews but were not

transported to the hospital, and there were no

by the Braidwood Fire Protection District and

the MABAS Division 15 Fire Investigative Scene

The two occupants of the home were

The cause of the fire is under investigation

Braidwood Fire was assisted on the scene

the fire protection districts of Wilmington

control and extinguished.

injuries reported from the fire.

Coal City, Troy, Channahon, Morris, Custer, fire from the back of the structure when they Braceville, Gardner, Braidwood ESDA, Firefighters made entry into the home and Braidwood Police, and MABAS 15.

Community Foundation offers non-profit wish list

The Community Foundation of Grundy County is offering a new service to support local non-profit organizations and units of government. Through its non-profit wish list, the Community

Foundation will accept donations and forward them on to the organization at the beginning of each month. Donors can support one or more organizations or

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

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

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

COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

for other projects

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

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

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

Library Road Trip - Saturday, March 25 thru Sunday, April 30 visit participating libraries, collect a souvenir and get a stamp in your passport book. The more libraries you visit the more times your name will be entered into a drawing for an awesome gift basket. You must turn in the passport book at your home library. Participating libraries include: Charles B. Phillips Public Library District, Coal City Public Library District, Fossil Ridge Public Library, Joliet Public Library, Manhattan-Elwood Public Library District, Messenger Public Library, Morris Area Public Library, Oswego Public Library District, Plainfield Public Plano Community Library District, Sandwich Public Library District, Seneca Public

Library District, Shorewood-Troy Public Library, Somonauk Public Library District, Three Rivers Library District. Wilmington Public Library District and Yorkville Public

Read Away Your Fines - For the month of April all CCPLD library cardholders will have the opportunity to "Read Away Your Fines." Come to the front desk with CCPLD reading material and sit in the library and read. For every 15 minutes you read (must be in the library) we will remove \$1 from your current fines only (does not apply to future fines). This does not cover damaged or unreturned library materials. Take advantage of this opportunity to clear your fines.

Thursday, April 20-AARP Smart Driver Course, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 2nd day of course.

Terrific Tots, 10 a.m. We Remember, 1 p.m. Terrific Tots, 6 p.m.

Cooking with Heather Shouse, sandwiches, 6-8 p.m Friday, April 21- Play Days, 10 Bingo, 1 p.m.

F Fun Fridays, 3 p.m. Dungeons and Dragons Game Night, 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, April 22-Stitch Group, 9 am.-4 p.m.

Kids off the Grid, 11 a.m. Monday, April 24-Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

Terrific Tots, 10 a.m.

Family Lapsit, 6 p.m.

Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m. Eager Readers Homeschool Edition, 1 p.m. Eager Readers, 4 p.m.

Preschool Storytime, 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 25-Happy Scrappers, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.. Wednesday, April 26-Senior Health Insurance Program

(SHIP), 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Family Lapsit, 10 a.m. Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m. Early Dismissal Day, 11:45

Fit 4 Life, 3:30 p.m. Teen Game Night, 6 p.m.

a.m.-2 p.m.

Drive-up pork dinner May 6 at CCUMC

invites the community to their Drive-Up Pork Chop Dinner on Saturday, May 6, from 4 p.m. to

The Coal City United Methodist Church 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 Each dinner will include: a pork chop, cheesy potatoes, baked beans, coleslaw and meals will be available, so stop by early.



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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Ann Gill, editor

\$56,000 for new park equipment

BY ANN GILL

Three weeks after presenting a plan for a new park in Meadow Estates, the Coal City Village Board has approved the purchase of playground equipment.

Trustees agreed to spend \$56,022 for swings, slides and climbers from NuToys. The equipment should be delivered before the end of the calendar year.

'Orders for specific types of equipment result in months of delay prior to scheduling an installation date. Currently, this may be able just before Christmas resulting in a likely installation in the first or second quarter of 2024," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz. The park is being constructed on a

plot of land along Richards Street where it connects with Foxgrove Drive. The land was dedicated to the village as part of a development agreement with the subdivision's developer Mark Scaggs.

According to Fritz, the developer will install a concrete pad on the park land. This space will be utilized for a pickleball

The village will install a plastic matting on the concrete court, however it will be up to players to provide the net.

The park was designed based on input from subdivision residents. The cost of the equipment will come from existing

In other matters from the April 12 Village Board meeting:



THE VILLAGE OF Coal City has agreed to the Park Board's plan for a new park in Meadow Estates Subdivision. The space will include a playground and pickleball court.

acquire a new pickup truck as trustees approved the purchase of a Ford F-150 through state bid at a cost of \$34,930.

The truck is coming from Morrow Brothers Ford in Greenfield and will replace a 10-plus year old truck utilized by the building inspector.

• A \$23,890.35 payment to Chamlin Engineering was approved to cover the • The building department will final payment for construction oversight in the meeting at Village Hall.

of the 2022 street and alley program.

 Trustees approved purchase odors totaling \$59,410.35. Included in the bills were a \$4,477.59 payment to Cargill for road salt, \$2,058.40 to Simple Communications for tech support and \$15,246 to replace a raw sewage pump.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 26

Search for a conductor draws interest

Pinwheels serve as a symbol for child abuse prevention

abused has not changed much in years

and this needs to stop. We need to do our

part to bring awareness that children are

being verbally and physically abused by

According to National Children's

Victims are neglected through emo-

Alliance, more than 600,000 children are

tional, physical and sexual abuse. Signs of

child abuse and neglect can include unex-

plained injuries, fear of going home, nerv-

ousness around adults or afraid of certain

adults, passive and withdrawn or aggres-

groups pinwheel chairman.

abused each year.

Unit I begins filling positions for 2023-24 school year

Coal City Middle School is seeking to fill a position in its music department, and the level of interest is something the district has not seen in any teaching position for quite

please hold on to your seats here, we had 23 applicants for the middle school band position," Superintendent Chris Spencer told the Board of Education last week.

ed a "that's great," from Board president Ken P. Miller and a "that's amazing," from vice president Shawn Hamilton.

STAFF REPORT

children.

remember the last time the district had so many applicants for a single position. In fact, he doesn't remember a 100% right," Spencer said. time there have been more

The spot is being vacated by Lynnae Bontrager who has decided not to return to her position as the director of bands at the middle and intermediate schools.

Her successor is expected to be approved by the Board of Education in May as interviews for the position were held last

Spencer said eight of the 23 applicants were brought in and qualified staff. for an interview, all with good candidates with a variety of experience.

shared his Hamilton

Spencer said he can't my opinion, but when people see the good things we do they

Along with a band direc-

than 10 applications for an tor, the middle school is curthe upcoming school year.

> director of special populations, reported interviews for those positions will be taking place this week.

in filling the open positions they are aware of in order to

thoughts on the interest in the the intermediate school, a science and a foreign language data, but that is a testament to instructor at the high school our fine arts program. That's and a speech pathologist for

Kripple has interviewed three "good candidates" for the speech pathologist position and expects to present a individual for Board approval in

"This is where we are [with staffing] right now," Spencer

The Board of Education approves all hiring decisions at their monthly meetings and traditionally grants the superintendent the power to hire staff as needed for a short period of time leading up to the start of a new school year.

Hamilton suggested the Board could add a special meeting to its study sessions should the need to finalize hires occur prior to the month-

All positions that become open within the district are posted on the district's web-

Special education 'child count' increases in Unit 1

BY ANN GILL

The number of special education students moving into the school district has increased by more than 15%

Unit 1's special education 'child count' for the current school year is 368, up 44 students from the year before and 50 from the 2020-2021 school year.

"In the past year the district has seen a significant increase in students requiring special education services," said Luke Kripple, the district's director of special populations.

The Illinois State Board of Education [ISBE] requires districts to submit and verify their special education 'child count' annually. The information, Kripple said, is important as it is used to determine the amount of special education funding the district receives from the

In other matters from the April 12 meeting:

As a result of closed session discussion, the Board adopted a recommendation from administration to terminate the employment of Ryelee Bolden and deny a request submitted by Sarah Southall for a leave of absence.

• The Board approved the resignations of Lynnae Bontrager, middle school band director; Shannon Manietta, full-time special education aide, and Tyler Schoonover, first grade teacher all effective at the close of the school year. The Horkavy, full-time special education aide at the elementary school approved effective March

Angelina Bergman was hired as a full-time custodian at the middle school; Alicia Foote, a one-on-one special education aid at the elementary school; Juan Guerrero, full time custodian at the high school, and Mikayla Lange, special education cross categorical teacher at the middle school for the remainder of the

 The transfer of Sarah Bohac from special education co-teacher at the intermediate school to elementary school special education teacher in the ED program was approved.

• ISBE requires school boards to annually review the conditions of hazardous of the district administrabus areas and certify to the tion center. state whether or not haz-

ardous conditions remain unchanged. Areas previously designated as hazardous routes remain unchanged for the upcoming school year. The certification will be sent to ISBE and the Department Transportation [IDOT].

 A federal requirement of districts with outstanding bond debt is to prepare and present a continuing disclosure report. This report will be prepared by Raymond James and Associates at a cost of \$1,750. • Approval was given to

renew the high school's membership with the Illinois High School Association [IHSA] for the 2023-2024 school year. · At the recommenda-

tion of the superintendent, board members approved articles of agreement between the school district and Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC].

 The Board had a first reading on revised district policy 7:270 regarding the administration of medicines

 A first reading was also held on 39 district policy revisions that will be further reviewed by the Board's Policy Committee. Adoption of the policies will be presented upon a third reading.

• As required, the Board approved the quarterly drop-out report for the quarter ending March 13 and submitting the report to the Regional Office of Education. The report lists all students who have left the district.

• A \$1,350.36 donation from the Parent School Organization [PSO] was accepted. The funds will be used to purchase T-shirts for the fifth grade class at Coal City Intermediate School as they transition to middle

Board members accepted an anonymous donation of \$10,000 to support the Coal City Theatre Department.

· District enrollment at the end of March was 2,156 students-high school, 614; 493, middle school; 290, intermediate school: 287 elementary school, and 472 at the early childhood cen-

The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3 with a study session slated for Wednesday, April 26. Both meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in the boardroom

"I am happy to say, and

The announcement elicit-

Small blue pinwheels spin in the

The GFWC-IL Coal City Junior

breeze, the plastic child's toy popping up

from the landscape as a symbol that all

kids deserve a life free of verbal and phys-

Woman's Club planted pinwheels in Coal

City's Campbell Memorial Park and other sites this month in observances of Child

Abuse Prevention Month. For nearly a

decade the club has taken part in the

nationwide initiative to bring awareness

to and prevent the abuse and neglect of

"The statistics for children being

position, "I base this on no

want to be a part of it.'

"I agree. I think you are

rently seeking a counselor for Luke Kripple, the district's

This is the time of the year district administration is meeting with candidates interested

start the school year with a full Some of the other positions the district is looking to fill include a fourth grade special education co-teacher for

> sive and disruptive, lack of personal hygiene or changes in behavior, sleep pat-

terns and school performance. Child Abuse Prevention Month was family members and non-family mem-started in 1983 as a project of Prevent said Cherie Sieger, president of the Child Abuse America and its statewide Coal City Junior Woman's Club and the chapters to raise awareness and to promote specific ways to join the prevention

> Anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect is encouraged to report their observations to the Department of Children and Family Services [DCFS] hotline at 1-800-25-ABUSE on through its online reporting system at dcfsonlinereporting.dcfs.illinois.gov/

Kindergarten registration

April 26

Kindergarten registration for the 2023/2024 school year will be held Wednesday, April 26 at the Early Childhood Center. Visit the Coal City School District Early Childhood webpage and click on the kindergarten registration appointment link to make an appointment. This includes the students attending our preschool program who are going into kindergarten. Call the office for more information

In order to be eligible, a child must be five years of age on or before Sept. 1, 2023. Call 815-634-5042, ext. 1301 for further information or visit the website at www.coalcityschools.org.

Registration documents needed at Roundup are a certified birth certificate, driver's license or state ID for notary purposes, proof of residency: Mortgage paper, real estate tax bill, real estate sales agreement or lease agreement and any legal documents such as custody, power of attorney or protection orders.

Unit 1 Students of the Week



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for April 19 are (from left): Lexi Henderson, Seth Langer, Derek Maxwell, Ryder Sorensen and John Viano



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Student of the Week for April 19 is Phoenix LeClaire, second grade.

as new business

The Magic Dumpster files

LEGAL NOTICE **Assumed Name**

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 14, A.D. 2023, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as The Magic Dumpster, located at 29 Arlington Dr., Diamond, IL

Dated this 14th day of April, A.D.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant
on April 19 and 26 and May 3, 2023.

Unit 1 Board agrees to waive tuition for exchange student

STAFF REPORT

Coal City High School is opening its doors to a foreign exchange student for the 2023-2024 school year.

A local family is working Council for with the Educational [CETUSA] to host an exchange student during the upcoming academic year, and the Unit 1 Board of Education has agreed to enroll the student in courses at the high school.

The district accepts foreign exchange students, and per policy may require the student to pay tuition.

CETUSA and the family

Hearing planned for signage variance at 301 S. Broadway

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 15tth day of May, 2023 at 7 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: a variance regarding

the total signage square footage and its location over the right of way.

At the following address: 301 S. Broadway

Legal description of property: The west 70 feet of lots 2 and 3 in Block 42 of the original town of Coal City, section 2-32-

Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Kenny Patel of Jeny LLC. Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof. Persons may appear in person or by agent Dated this 19th day of April, 2023.
Published in the Coal City Courant on April 19, 2023.

P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594

asked the Board to consider waiving tuition, and in keeping with past practice it agreed to waive the fee for the academic

The school has not had a

foreign exchange students since the 2020-2021 school

Attorney Black files Sohan estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2023 PR 23
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLE SOHAN,

DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Carole Sohan. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Rebecca McComb, 4500 W. Southmor Rd., Morris, Illinois 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be

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

Frank J. Black Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street Suite 211

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

Free Press Newspapers readers

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to

www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

Controlled by machines

Morris Hospital wasn't working properly and quite a few people could not get their prescriptions refilled and the pharmacies refused to accept any doctor's prescription refill orders by telephone. Then the hospital stated that only computer authorization is allowed by law to refill prescriptions. But our leaders were warned years ago what could happen but they didn't care because they receive everything they need under a priority status along with medical personnel. And after arguing about my prescriptions with the hospital, the pharmacy and the doctor's office all three basically stated that there was nothing they can do to help me get my medication because my life is controlled by a machine. How do you like knowing that a computer determines if you are out of medication for survival like it's damaging my life? If the truth doesn't rattle your brain then watch the movie The Net with Sandra Bullock and that movie might shake every apple from your tree. Computers are the truest form of managing humanity to man pushed to its usage by our Congress with no thought about human life. There's no appreciation for being treated like scum by the public servants.

Keeping score

WILMINGTON—For those keeping score, Trump has used the fifth amendment 440 times, Hillary Clinton, zero.

God's way

SHADOW LAKES—Answer to The last attack: Perhaps it is God's way of calling those people to Heaven.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

AI takeover

COAL CITY—If the artificial intelligence program goes into effect it may eliminate jobs for some Americans which could be a bad thing when the computers take over. But on the good side the computers would not have to be paid money to talk so the artificial intelligence could take over Congress and the computers argue the Constitution. There wouldn't be any corruption or back door deals by our elected offi-cials so the computers could be blamed for everything bad that happens to citizens instead of the crooked lying activities of the Democrat

Murders per capita

WILMINGTON—I read some statistics that contradict the constant fear mongering I see on Fox News. For all their panic about violent crime in Democratic-run cities, the truth is San Francisco has less violent crime per capita than Houston. Chicago has less murders per capita than New Orleans. And how do you explain that mass killing shooting sprees are happening in red states such as Florida, Texas, Tennessee and Kentucky? Quit blaming Liberals for violence and murder.

Fix the stoplight

BRAIDWOOD—Hopefully the city council of Braidwood will investigate the possibility of upgrading the traffic lights at the octagon of Hades. These lights going north on Route 113 do not hold long enough. Two cars, holy yellow light. How about always blinking red, 4-way stop, except between the hours of 7-9 a.m. and 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Keeping you home

SHADOW LAKES—Have you seen the price of gas lately? What do you think the price like to take your family on a trip. Our government is going to make sure you stay in your homes. Our government is surely there to help the citizens of this county.

Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Reflections on Earth Day

WILMINGTON—As the Native American expression goes, "we do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children." It's a fact. Although some of us curse the

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

winter snow, many enjoy its beauty and others

in the western states depend upon it for the water of life. And although everyone enjoys the

greening of the trees because they bring clean

air to breathe and clean water to drink, the sta-

tistics are not good with global tree loss

increasing by more than 50% each year. In

2020, the world lost enough trees to cover the

United Kingdom. Imagine that. It's one of so

many reasons to remember Earth Day on April

U.S. and the world. China, Russia, Iran, Saudi

Arabia and Brazil have joined to become the

new force in the world. President Macron of

France visited Chinese President XI and then

told the other European leaders to no longer

"follow the U.S." Our Allies are deserting us. They are cozying up to China because they see

China as the new world leader and they want to

be on the winning team. All of this is because of

Biden's weakness on the world stage. The

Bidens are so in bed with the Chinese

Communist Party getting millions for all mem-

bers of the Biden family as payback for turning

a blind eye to what is going on. Instead Biden is

on Ireland looking at castles. Did you see the Irish school boy ask Biden what was the key to

success? Biden's answer, "Don't get Covid."

Then Hunter Biden intervened (why was he

there?) and said dad he asked what was the key

to success? Biden's answer, "Well, I'm probably

not the best one to answer that" and he walked

away. Biden let China get away with the balloon

incident. It intercepted military intelligence

from our military bases and he just brushed it

off. China owns thousands of acres of land near

our military bases. The CCP owns 90% of mines

that produce metals needed for production of

electric vehicles. CCP makes the wind turbines,

solar panels and over 200 coal mines for their

energy production. No interest in climate con-

trol there. Yes, CCP is laughing all the way to the

bank, while we are suffering due to Biden

Administration policies to cut our oil produc-

tion and all the New Green Deal restrictions

and regulations. China is getting richer by the

hour. It has the largest army and navy in the

world. Has bought up ports all over the world

to control shipping and to have military bases

from which to launch missile attacks. All of this

is for world dominance. The Biden administra-

tion must be replaced and not with politicians

who will continue the same policies. We need a

strong leader. The world needs a strong leader

to undue all the harm that has been done in the

City and county police departments are funded

by property, business, and sales tax, federal and

state grants, local fees and fees and fines and

voter approved special taxes. All employees of

the police department file taxes and pay state

Biden and big oil, if you invested a thousand

dollars in Exxon Mobil the day Biden took

office it would be worth \$3,600 today, 248 per-

cent profit. Don't tell me the Biden family is

not making money. Please check my numbers

back production of its oil. Gas will cost \$4-\$5 a

gallon once again. Thanks Joe with your all

electric cars and trucks and green energy. Gas

and groceries will skyrocket in price for the rest

of the year. Joe put us into a recession, not

Chicago stores last fall. In recent news Walmart

in Chicago announced they will shut down four

more stores in April because of a lack of profit

in the last seven years in their stores making a

MORRIS-I read Walmart shut down four

MORRIS-Saudi Arabia decided to cut

SHADOW LAKES— Let's be honest about

BRAIDWOOD—In reply to Hardship for us.

past two years.

\$5 gas

Paying taxes too

tax just like your family.

Record profits

The real reason

BRAIDWOOD-China is taking over the

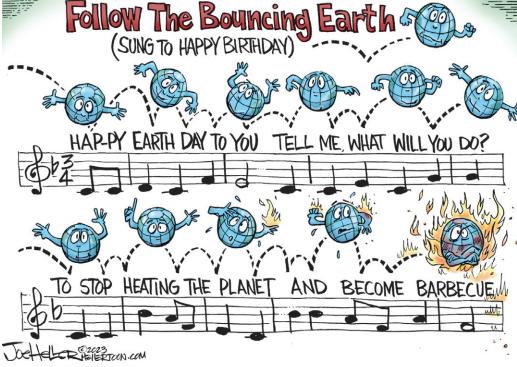
Our weakness is Biden

28 this year. Irene

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

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 courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff in the subject line or go to www.freep ressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Soundoff 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 o 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.



total of eight stores closed. Could stealing and unpaid bills be the real reason? That's Chicago.

Go home Jim

WILMINGTON—The murder rate is higher in Columbus, OH than New York City so maybe Jim Jordan should go home and clean house.

A party divided

MORRIS—With crime at an all time high in Democrat run Chicago, the timing is perfect for the Obama's request for the Democrat National Convention 2024 to be held in Chicago. We really don't need a repeat of the 1968 Chicago Democrat Convention as the Democrat Party is just as divided on issues as the Republicans. Let

Another postal increase

MORRIS—The U.S. Postal system just had a recent increase of 58-63 cents for stamps. News tells us another increase per stamp to 66 cents is coming soon. Buy your stamps in bulk soon. It's a sad day for the greeting card and Christmas card business.

Every four years

BRAIDWOOD-Every four years after the changeover of administrations, the residents of Braidwood are forced to watch individuals associated with the previous administration heckle, jab and spar with those of the new, all out of political and personal spite. It is a typical case of inflated egos and personal vendettas all because they were not re-elected or reappointed back into office. Braidwood cannot move forward with this type of behavior from those no longer in office. It is a hindrance as much as it is an embarrassment to all of us. We can only hope and pray that those who will no longer be in office will have enough mannerisms to act like an adult and not throw a temper tantrum during a city council meeting or on Facebook just because they did not get their way during the election.

Shaking their heads

MORRIS-President Joe Biden and his famous son, Hunter Biden who he takes on many of his trips with him, are now visiting Ireland to visit where his ancestors had lived. World leaders just watch and listen and smile at his decision making

Created equal

DIAMOND—Our liberties are God-given. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Our Declaration of Independence. Meet the alliance defending freedom. For 29 years they have been defending the right of every American to live out prac tice and express their faith freely including ADF's major role in 72 Supreme Court victories and hundreds of victories in lower courts. major focus of ADF is to counter the ACLU's (American Civil Liberties Union's) 60 year march through our federal courts to restrict Christianity and faith to American public life. In recent decades we have seen the following The 10 Commandments banned from public schools and public places-the forced removal of Christmas nativity displays from public places, students prohibited from kneeling and praying at football games, Christian artists threatened with fines or even jail time for respectfully declining to create custom art celebrating same sex weddings or a gender transition, children punished by schools for bringing a bible to school or wearing a cross on a neck lace, attempts to remove "In God We Trust" from US coins. What's at stake: ADF believes that efforts like these are doing enormous damage to our nation. ADF has the view that faith and freedom go together. If you lose one, you often lose the other.

Sudden closures

COAL CITY-I heard a local fast-food recently had some managerial problems which caused them to close unexpectedly at the spur of the moment. Hopefully that problem has been solved. One thing I've noticed recently is that the place has become a hangout for young kids. It's very annoying to be in there trying to eat when kids come on bikes and constantly come in and out of the lobby and dining area spreading out on the tables and benches while not even ordering anything to eat or drink. I also witnessed some foul language while I was there with my very young kids. They need to get a handle on this situation before they no longer have any inside diners coming there just for that reason. It's also getting very annoying for the dollar store closing to the public every time they get a truck load of supplies. I know this is not the practice of all of them. They say they are short of help to stock shelves yet I know for a fact that people have applied for a job there and have never gotten a call.

6% and growing

SHADOW LAKES—Remember some time ago, when our leaders said, "marijuana is not addictive?" This statement was made when the big push to legalize the weed was established for both medical and recreation use. Stores opened everywhere. Here is the punch line. The same people that told you that the use of it was OK are now saying, "6% of our population are now addicted to its usage." Believe it or not,

Letter to the editor

Keeping courthouse would benefit public

For some time now there has been much talk about the future of the Will Courthouse. It seems that the powers to be think that tearing it down is the only remedy! I for one disagree.

When this structure was built some 50 or so years ago, it has stood up very well as far as anything mother nature could throw at it.

Sure there are some maintance issues here and more than likely correctable.

Remember this structure was bought and paid for

by the taxpayers of Will County, first, and probably other funds were acquired as

I feel it's time that the powers to be come up with a real plan that will benefit the people of Will County for starters. After all, it's their money which created and maintained this area for so many years now. Demolition is out of the question.

P.S. If it's worth having it's worth taking care off.

Submitted by, Leonard Seltzer Manhattan, IL

Energy experts concerned Illinois' move to clean energy may cause reliability issues

BY KEVIN BESSLER THE CENTER SQUARE

Some energy experts are raising a red flag that Illinois' transition to clean energy may prompt reliability issues.

With more coal and gas plants going offline under Illinois' Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, some lawmakers are concerned of possible brownouts.

During a recent Senate Energy Committee hearing, Brian Thiry, external affairs director with Reliability First Corporation, said retirements of old power sources are outpacing new power sources coming online.

"As we shrink these margins, it is a reliability risk, so it is just something we need to consider. It is a risk that we are seeing and it's a risk we're concerned about," Thiry said. Thiry warned that some renewable proj-

ects could be delayed due to financial problems or supply chain issues. Diane Holder, vice president of Entity

Engagement and Corporate Services with Reliability First, said what they are seeing are reduced reserve margins for energy. "Retirements are outpacing new installa-

tions, and I'm sure you can understand, that is a bit of a gap, and one that we think battery storage can certainly help address, but battery

storage is not yet fully developed," Holder said. Some state lawmakers have highlighted the fact that some of the retiring plants should have been kept online longer through the clean energy transition.

My colleagues and I have no issue with the development of alternative sources of energy," said state Rep. Blaine Wilhour, R-Beecher City. "What we have an issue with is the heavy hand of government forcing the closure of power plants before there are viable alternatives in place.'

According to the Energy Information Administration, as of July 2022, Illinois had the country's fifth largest energy consumption among states. Just over half of that comes from nuclear, the highest proportion of any state.

The committee plans to meet again to discuss reliability issues in the near future.

"Indiana or Texas, they're much faster at this," said state Sen. Suzy Glowiak-Hilton, D-Western Springs. "We are in Illinois. It seems to be really slow, so I'm concerned about our ability to transition quickly.'

Presbyterian church to sell flower baskets

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood will be selling Hanging Baskets of flowers for \$25. The sale will start Saturday and Sunday, May 6 and 7, during the Red Carpet Corridor Event on Rt

They will have a stand set up across from Berkots so be sure to look for their banner. Some of the types they will be selling are Supertunia baskets, Fuchsia, Geraniums, Millonbells/Calibrachoa, Impatiens SunPatiens, Dragon Wing Begonia.

Pre-orders can be taken ahead of time by calling or texting LuAnn Bolatto at 815-790-7134. The number of baskets and color choices will be needed when you contact her.

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David (Andy) June Ford (Chet) June III Steve Prodehl

· Bankruptcy: Chapter 7 &13 (wage earner's plans)

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Sunday, April 23 7 a.m.-Noon Essex Community Hall 217 Parls St., Essex, IL

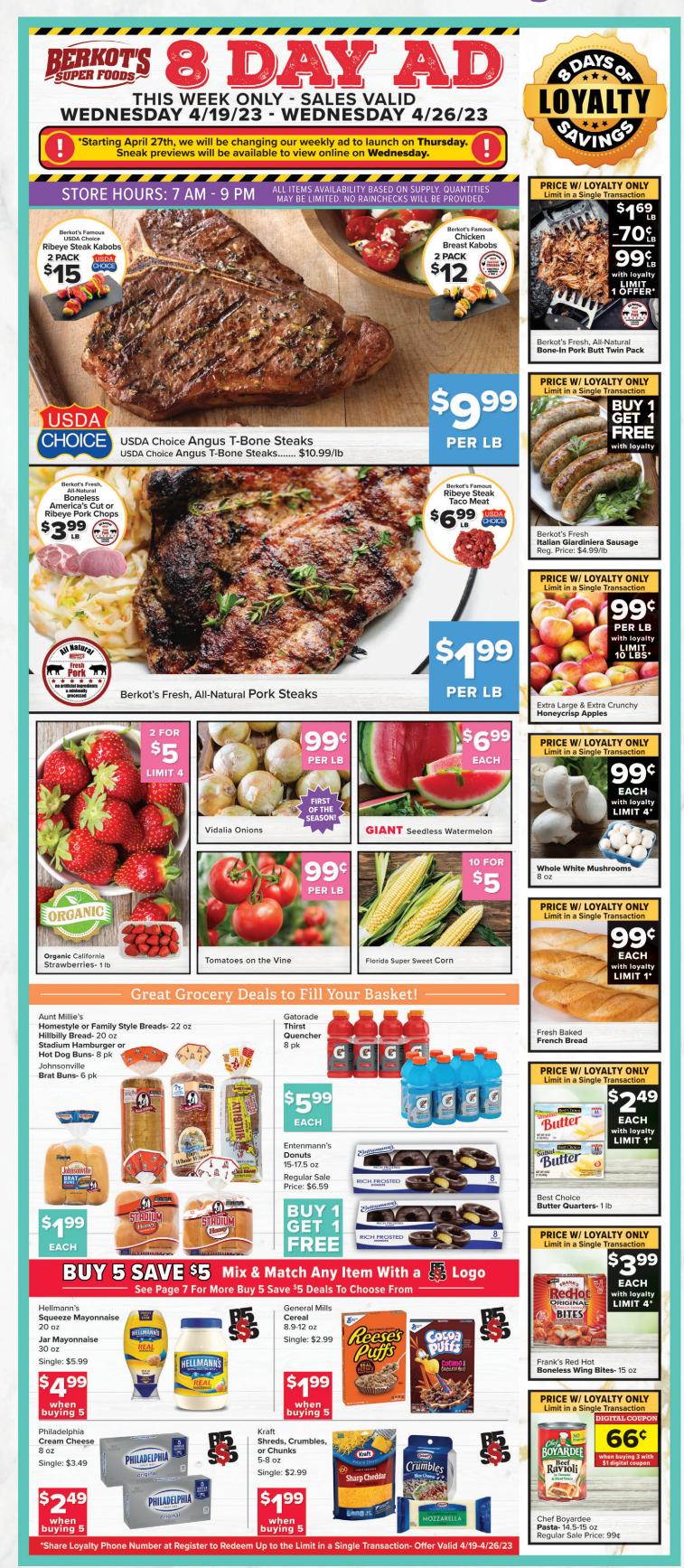
biscuits & gravy, bacon, sausage, hash browns, toast, milk, orange juice and coffee.

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Gas price climbing

find a gallon of gasoline for less than \$4/g locally, as prices shot up 12 cents on average over the past week.

cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 29.0 cents per gallon lower than a

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 11.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.06/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

"With oil prices touching their highest level of 2023 at nearly \$83 per barrel, the national average price of gasoline has continued to inch higher, with 45 of the nation's 50 states seeing prices rise over the last week. While the rising price of oil is likely the largest factor in rising gas prices, seasonal impacts continue to also exert pressure on prices," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at

Wilmington area stations ranged from \$4.09/g to \$4.01/g on Monday. In Braidwood the

You'd be hard-pressed to price was \$3.99/g, to \$4.15/g while in Coal City stations were charging anywhere from \$3.87/g to \$4.09/g.

The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal, The Coal City Courant, Wednesday, April 19, 2023, page 6

According to GasBuddy Prices in Illinois are 43.8 price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.49/g near Champaign while the most expensive was \$4.99/g, in Chicago, a difference of \$1.50/g.

"With the Northeast making the final step in the transition to summer gasoline this week, states in that region should expect a sharp rise in gasoline prices over the next week or two. Every other region has already seen the final step in the transition occur, so while other areas will see prices continue to slowly rise, the Northeast is likely to see a pretty hefty jump of 15-40 cents per gallon soon. Oil prices remain a wildcard, but we're likely a few weeks away from seeing the national average peak. Whether it hits \$4 per gallon or not is still perhaps a 50/50 chance.'

The national average is up 22.1 cents per gallon from a month ago.

George's gardens

IDENTITY THEFT TIP

Shred your mail, receipts and old credit cards, and wait until trash is collected to throw them away. Consider redacting information, such as your name, address and any financial or account information. Remove any labels from prescription bottles before throwing them away. While identity theft often occurs online, "dumpster divers" may go through your garbage to get your personal information.

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Bobcat numbers increasing in Illinois

BY ZETA CROSS THE CENTER SQUARE

The bobcat population in Illinois seems to be growing. No one knows for sure, says Jennifer Kuroda, founder of Illinois Foundation.

A lifelong resident of Rockford, Kuroda said she's never seen one when she has been out hiking. Bobcats don't want to be around people, she "Bobcats are very reclu-

sive. It is easy to walk right by one. They are very reluctant to reveal themselves," Kuroda Kuroda blames the media

for making people afraid of bobcats. "On the news, they esca-

late the dangers of bobcats. A hundred percent of the attacks are from bobcats that have rabies," Kuroda said. "A fox or a raccoon or any rabid animal is going to come after you.'

Bobcats won't hurt children or pets. They might eat a backyard chicken, but they prefer voles and other rodents.

"Bobcats are excellent for natural rodent control," she said. "Bobcats are not very big. The biggest ones are twice the size of a housecat"

A big male lucky enough to live in a habitat with plenty of rodents to eat can weigh up to 40 pounds, she said. But many bobcats are much smaller. Last year when Kuroda was out with a naturalist, they collared a full-grown female that only weighed 14 pounds.



A FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT of Will County game camera photographed bobcats, possibly a mother and her kittens, walking in a small open area at Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township in October 2020.

"She was the size of a Department of housecat," Kuroda said.

In the Midwest, bobcats are rare because they were over hunted to near extinction in the 20th Century. In the 1960s and 1970s, states put bobcats on the protected species lists and they made a comeback. No one knows exactly how many bobcats live thing affecting turkeys.' in Illinois now. A couple of ago, the

Natural Resources had posted that there were 3,000 to 5,000 in the

Some hunters blame bob-

wild turkey population, Kuroda said. "That is nonsense," she said. "Habitat loss is the main

cats for the drop in the state

In 2016, to Kuroda's dis-

Illinois may and sadness, the Illinois

legislature made bobcat hunting and trapping legal again. In 2022, people went online to buy \$5 pelt permits for 367 bobcat kills. Fifty-two percent of the bobcats were killed by hunters. The rest were trapped or killed on the roads.

WWW.FREEPRESSNEWSPAPERS.COM

Two years ago Forest Preserve District of Will County game cameras captured photos of bobcats, possi bly a mother and her kittens, walking through a small open area in Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township One was also found as road kill in Essex Township and two different motorists have reported seeing one while driving near Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie north of Wilmington. Bobcats have been spot

ted in the Chicago suburbs recently, Kuroda said.

"The forest preserves there are so well connected that it is not surprising that bobcats are moving through there, or even denning," she

People who really want to see a bobcat in the wild are much more likely to see one in southern Illinois, Kuroda said. Bobcats like the habitat of the Shawnee National Forest. Dawn or dusk are the best times to spot one, she said. For an even better chance to see one, take a trip to Kiawah Island, South Carolina. About 30 bobcats live on the island and the residents love them, Kuroda said.

"They see them out on the golf course," she said.

Summer ethanol blend debate continues

BY KEVIN BESSLER THE CENTER SQUARE

Federal regulators have proposed a rule that would permit year-round sales of E10 gasoline in Illinois and seven other Midwest states, opening the door for expanded use of E15.

Last year, the governors of the eight states petitioned the federal government with a request to opt out of the regulatory waiver that allows for regular E10 gasoline to be sold during summer months.

The governors tied their request to a provision under the Clean Air Act, giving the Environmental Protection Agency 90 days to formally respond and implement the change by July 2022, a deadline that

would allow E15 and E10 to be made using the same gasoline blend stock, and would help expand the availability year round of E15 in multiple jurisdictions. Illinois corn farmers and the ethanol

industry are also concerned the year delay will have an impact on market certainty and request action be taken to ensure E15 remains an option in this summer's fuel market. "An emergency waiver for summer

E15 would give consumers the option of lower cost fuel during the warmer Illinois Corn Growers Association President Matt Rush said in a statement.

Patrick Kelly, senior director of Fuel & Vehicle Policy with the American Fuels and Petrochemicals Manufacturers, said

Officials said removing the waiver there are additional costs to produce, store and distribute a so-called "boutique" Midwestern gasoline. "The total incremental cost to supply

> this new boutique gasoline ranges from \$500 million to \$800 million each year, and a disruption could push costs to \$1.1 billion," Kelly testified to the EPA. Kelly said the Midwest would rely

> more heavily on supply from Gulf Coast refineries and would be cut off from receiving available supplies from neighboring states. In the event of a hurricane or other extreme circumstance, gasoline shortages in the Midwest could be more frequent.

The EPA enforces summertime regulations preventing ethanol blends to be sold because of concerns of smog.

WHS Class of '80 planning reunion

of '80 Reunion will take place bar. June 24, at the Holiday Inn & Blvd., Joliet. It will start at 4:30 999-2121 p.m. and end at 11 p.m.

single and \$125 for couple. at dawnorris@comcast.net.

Save the date as the Dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Wilmington High School Class and there will be a DJ and cash

If you have any questions Suites at 1471 Rock Creek call Lyn Reese-Allot at (815) LREESE1962@yahoo.com or Admissions will be \$65 for contact Dawn Hansen-Norris

Letter to the editor

Alcohol Awareness Month a reminder alcohol is not safe

"Wine promises one thing delivers another", a quote from a recovering alcoholic. "No matter what problem you're trying to mask or fix.....alcohol will always ensure you end up with more of what you don't want.'

Ethanol, the alcohol that is in all alcoholic beverages and which is burned in engines, is a toxic poison to the body. The wine industry did a smart move, financially on their part, when it "married" the health industry several years ago.

April's Alcohol Awareness Month is a good time to be reminded that by volume there is more ethyl alcohol in wine than in beer.

To explain, each average serving of the following contain the same amount of alco-

hol, 1/2 ounce: 1-2 oz cocktail; 3-5 oz. wine; 12 oz. beer; 12 oz. wine cooler. No alcoholic drink is safe.

According to researchers, such as Samuele Bacchiocchi and David R. Brumbelow, the word "wine" in the Bible is a generic word that has several meanings such as fresh grape juice, molasses, raisins, and fermented alcoholic wine. The meaning of the word must be determined by the context of the scripture. There is one verse that

speaks clearly and is easy to understand from Proverbs 20:1: "Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is deceived by them is not wise."

Mrs. Loreta Jent, **Education Director** National Woman's **Christian Temperance Union** Normal, IL

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 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 avail-

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

Questions can be directed to Cherveny by emailing brenniei@aol.com.

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

Craft Show and Flea Market Application

Name:								
Phone:								_
Address:	City:							
State:	Zip Code:							
Contact Person:								_
Signature:								_
E-mail Address:								_
List of what will be sold:								_
								_
How many spaces? (circle o	one): 1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
***********	******	****	****	****	***	***	****	****

Women of Wilmington use only

(do not write in these spaces)

Amount Receieved: Check #:

8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Migration Kick off

Take a hike with

The Forest Preserve will Celebration with a guided be hosting a new program "Photography Bird Ĥike" on Saturday, May 13, at the Four Environmental Rivers Education Center, Channahon. It will be from

photo expert

photography hike along the best birding trails Four Rivers has to offer. Get tips from an expert photographer on how to capture your favorite birds. Bring your camera and take advantage of the busiest time of the year! Free, all ages.

Five eaglets hatch in two Forest Preserve District of Will County nests

Five eaglets have hatched in two Forest Preserve District of Will County nests this spring, continuing a trend of rebounding eagle numbers in the region over the past decade.

Three eaglets were spotted on April 4 in one nest and two hatchlings were confirmed in a second nest on April 14.

The eagle parents are busily feeding their fuzzy-headed chicks, which was caught on Facebook.com/WillCoForest YouTube.com/WillCoForests.

Joel Craig, a volunteer eagle monitor for the Forest Preserve, said it's exciting to see the hatchlings, especially the trio in one nest. This is the second time in three years that

this nest has produced three eaglets.

Seeing the next generation of bald eagles locally makes me extremely happy – and in a sense, relieved," said Craig, who is a member of the Will County Audubon. "You never know how inclement weather might affect the nests from the time the eggs are laid through the first few weeks in the lives of the eaglets.

Eagle nests are huge, generally measuring 4 feet to 5 feet wide and 2 feet to 4 feet deep. They are used year after year and require

some maintenance prior to each nesting season. Eagles will usually keep building on the nest until it gets too big, and it collapses or the weight of it breaks the tree. Then they'll find a new location and build another one.

The eagle baby boom shows that the



TWO EAGLE NESTS located in the Forest Preserve District of Will County have produced five eaglets this spring. The hatchlings are a good sign that a rebound of eagles in the area is continuing.

species is finding Will County a hospitable place the Forest Preserve District is having an overto nest, Craig added.

whelmingly positive impact on the ecosystems "The way resources are managed within in which these preserves exist," he said.

debt, investing for future

growth, reducing taxes, and/or

returning money to taxpay-

report noted, "After the budget

stalemate that occurred from

2015-2017, the state's financial

position has been getting bet-

between Republican Gov.

Bruce Rauner and Democrats

in the General Assembly drove

the state's bill backlog to near-

ly \$17 billion and caused crip-

pling cuts across state agen-

advice: "The State needs to

continue to show fiscal disci-

pline and demonstrate that

the results of the past few years

are not an anomaly."

Goal: draw, color

and create your own

artwork to express

The report's final piece of

ter each year."

But on the whole, the

That two-year impasse

This is not only good for the environment, but it's also a very visible return on the investment of Will County taxpayers and the financial resources with which the Forest Preserve is entrusted.

Craig said that an increasing number of immature bald eagles in the winter indicates the ones we're seeing now are residents and not

It's also evidence that Will County has good, clean water and a healthy fish population to support them year-round.

Γ̈́ο see eagles rebound like they have in this area in the past 10 years has been pretty exciting," Craig said. "To be threatened and endangered when I was a kid to what we're seeing now, it's really a population explosion in our area over the past few years. Eagles and their nests are federally protect-

ed, and human interference could cause the birds to abandon the nest and their eggs. The National Audubon Society recommends being at least 330 feet away from a nest.

That's about the length of a football field. To protect these birds, the Forest Preserve never publicly disclose nesting locations. If you should come across a nest, be sure to keep your

For more information on the Forest Preserve WillDistrict County, ReconnectWithNature.org.

Analysis:

State spending will soon begin outpacing revenues once again

BY JERRY NOWICKI CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - While Illinois has recently experienced a prolonged stretch of good financial news, a new state fiscal forecast notes that if spending continues to grow at its recent pace it could lead

It would mark the reversal of a recent trend during which the state logged considerable surpluses this fiscal year and the two years prior.

to future budget deficits.

In the highest-spending scenario outlined in the threeforecast from the Commission on Government Forecasting and

Accountability, the state could once again face a bill backlog as high as \$18 billion. That estimate assumes spending growth at its five-year average

"This example shows that spending patterns seen in the past few years cannot continue without a comparable increase in revenues which is not seen in the commission's current estimates," the report from the legislature's nonpartisan forecasting commission

If the state keeps spending growth at 1.8% - the most austere scenario outlined by the commission - it could maintain an accounts pavable balance of \$1.4 billion, the same as it was at the end of Fiscal Year 2022.

Even in that scenario. state spending would outpace revenues in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2024 that begins July 1 – although Gov. JB Pritzker has proposed decreasing state spending in FY 24.
His \$49.6 billion proposed

spending plan for FY 24 represents a 0.7% decrease from the baseline number assumed in COGFA forecast. Lawmakers, however, are still working on crafting a final budget before their May 19 adjournment.

"We have to pass a balanced budget...Illinois has

had a past where, you know, one-time expenditures that surpluses for "paying down for a few years anyway, that didn't happen," Pritzker said at a news conference last week. "... And I think the General Assembly has taken that very seriously.'

While the new report illustrated that lawmakers may have to tighten their belts in the coming years, it remained consistent with previous projections by the commission and other forecasters that have suggested an economic slowdown is on the horizon.

The COGFA report noted that over the past five years, state revenues have grown at a rate of 12% on average, compared to the 7.1% average expenditure growth.

Pandemic-era federal stimulus funds have mostly dried up, however, and their effect on the nation's economy is beginning to wane. Many economic forecasts anticipate a mild recession is on its way.

The slowdown was evidenced in COGFA's March revenue update that was published this week, showing that revenues declined \$563 million from the same month last year. It marked the first yearover-year decline for any month this year, but COGFA noted the drop was expected after a record March 2022.

In other words, revenue 12%that were seen in fiscal years 2021 and 2022 are not likely to be repeated anytime

COGFA anticipates revenues will shrink by 1.4% to \$50.4 billion in the upcoming FY 24 and remain under current-year levels until FY 2026, when they jump 2.5% to \$52.2 billion.

As for spending, one important caveat is that the growth of the past two years been at least partially driven by measures that COGFA described as "fiscal discipline." That includes debt retirement, increased pension payments and long-term savings.

It has also included temporary tax relief and other

won't carry over from one fiscal year to the next.

human services, education

across

But spending

and other agencies has also "Current forecasts would allow for more of this kind of spending in the short-term,'

COGFA wrote in the report. "However, longer-term, economic and tax revenue forecasts remain murky as the potential for a recession remains.

The three-year report also analyzed threats to the state's fiscal position, including the potential recession, a COVID-19 resurgence, population loss and pension debt among oth-

Many of the threats, the report noted, "can be directly linked" to "a long-term trend of having expenditures being higher than revenues." It also noted that "work still remains" for the state to achieve a "budgetary system that is more stable in the long-term."

"An opportunity exists to improve the state's financial situation by better aligning the revenues and expenditures of the state. This can be done by raising revenues, cutting spending, or some combination of both," the report noted.

Illinois could also achieve growth rates of 18% and stability by broadening its sales tax to include more serv-

"The Illinois sales tax was originally developed in the 1930s when the economy was much more reliant on goods production," the report noted. 'By taxing services, the tax system would modernize to more accurately reflect the economy

of 2023. The revenues resulting from a service tax could be used to offset a portion of the sales tax on goods and "allow for the overall tax rate to be lowered," according to the

The state could also save money by reducing statutory interest payments on overdue bills and using current-year

Decluttering Our Hearts & Home at the Wilmington Library

The Wilmington Public tion to things and provide Library will host professional organizer Jennifer Barnes for a presentation Decluttering Our Hearts and Homes: The Emotional Connection to Stuff" on Wednesday, April 26, at 6 p.m.

This presentation will focus on the why and how behind our emotional connecmotivation to declutter the spaces in which we live and

To register, stop by the library, 201 S. Kankakee St., or call 815-476-2834. All are welcome, we do not limit our programming to Wilmington cardholders.





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Drawing by Edie

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OBITUARIES

Suzanne Lissy_

COAL CITY-Suzanne Lissy, 85, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at her home surrounded by family on Friday, April 14, 2023.

Born April 22, 1937 in Chicago, Suzanne was the first of 17 children born to Joseph Henry and Ruth Naomi (Wilson) Hanley. She was raised in Chicago until moving with the family to Coal Čity when she was in the sixth grade. Suzanne graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1955. On Nov.

10, 1956, she married John Lissy in Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City and together they made a home and raised their family in Coal

Suzanne worked initially before marriage at Caterpillar Tractor Company in Joliet prior to starting a family and raising her children. She later worked locally part-time selling Avon and at Bellettini's before lastly working for the Coal City School District in the school cafeteria. She was an active parishioner of Assumption Catholic Church, where she served as a Martha; was a member of the Coal City Junior Womens Club and belonged to both the Coal City Area Club and the Miners Club. Suzanne served as a volunteer with the Grundy Community Hospice Auxiliary and assisted with the Community Nutrition Networks Meals on Wheels. Not to forget, Suzanne enjoyed her outings with the 'Ranch Girls'.

One who loved the outdoors, Suzanne took pleasure in birdwatching, enjoying the rise and the set of the sun, and the beauty of flowers. She was also an exceptional homemaker, known for her cooking and baking, and was a talented seamstress. Suzanne loved playing cards, especially euchre, and enjoyed many a dance with her beloved John. Together Suzanne and John shared many trips and vacations, but nothing gave her greater joy than watching her family tree grow. She was her grandkids greatest fan, and with her social demeanor, Suzanne would do anything for anyone in need. She will be remembered as the rock of the family, who was proud to have been the matriarch of the Hanley

Suzanne lived life for family and faith. She led with her heart and never hesitated to give of herself to others. She welcomed each day as a gift and always found blessings in every moment. Suzanne devoted herself to the care of her family, leading by example and supporting her loved ones in every possible way. An inspiration to all who were blessed to know her, Suzanne will long be remembered and so very

Survivors include her loving husband, John; three children: Beth (Willie) Wren and Mark (Jean) Lissy, both of Coal City and Matthew (Debbie) Lissy of Phoenix, AZ; eight grandchildren: T.J. (Nikki) Peters, of Oak Park, IL; Tim (Beth) Peters, of Frankfort, IL; Lauren Lindley, of Coal City; Amber Lissy (Bobby

Toew), of Pinellas Park, FL; Caryn (Brandon) Brasseur, of Morris; Meghan (Scott) Hodgen, of Diamond; Marcie (Craig) Ewenson, of Ottawa and John Hanley Wilson Lissy, of Phoenix; 15 great-grandchildren: Jackson, Alice and Daphne Peters; Elliott and Abby Peters, Brooklyn Pontanini, Fiona and Jameson Lindley, Cason Masters, Lexi and Triston Toew, Camden and Bennett Brasseur and Addie and Averie Hodgen;

13 siblings: Judy (Richard) George, of Cocoa Beach, FL; Cathy (Jim) Hutchings and Tim (Jodi) Hanley, both of Coal City; Mike (Sharon) Hanley, of Loveland, CO; Jane (James) Calcaterra, of Sugar Grove, IL; Jean (Gary) Skubic, of Diamond; Ruth Ann (Dan) Mulhall, of Virginia Beach, VA; Albert Hanley, of Minocqua, WI; Patty (Terry) O'Bert, of Morris; Janet (John) Peters and David Hanley, both of Coal City; Jeff (Nancy) Hanley, of Minooka and Tom (Rhona) Hanley, of Coal City; sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Gail Hanley, of Coal City; Marion (the late Dean) Sanders, of Herscher; Sylvester Lissy, of Coal City and Gary (the late Nell) Lissy, of Carbon Hill and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as friends.

Suzanne was preceded in death by her parents, one son, Michael Lissy and three brothers: Jim Hanley, Joe Hanley and Bill Hanley.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Friday, April, 21, 2023 between the hours of 4

Funeral services will follow on Saturday, April 22, 2023, which would be Suzanne's 86th birthday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 215 S. Kankakee St, in Coal City. Reverend Josh Miller will preside and Deacon William Dunn will

Burial will be in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Suzanne will be laid to rest with her late son, Michael. Pallbearers will be: T.J. Peters, Tim Peters, Brandon Brasseur, Scott Hodgen, Steve Sanders and Michelle Hanley. Honorary pallbearers will be Craig Ewenson and Bobby Toew.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Suzanne's memory to Heritage Health of Dwight's Activities Department; Lightways Hospice of Joliet or to the family for distribution to various other local charities of their choos-

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

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes and

Patricia M. Hill

(Goodwin) Hill, 82, of Kiski Township, PA, formerly of Plattville, IL, passed away Monday, April 10, 2023. She was born June 27, 1940 in

Quincy, IL the daughter of the late Thomas and Estelle (Ahern) Goodwin. Patricia was a graduate of Wilmington High School and worked as a property manager in the hospitality industry. She enjoyed baking, cooking, gardening, bird watching, and watching game shows on television. Patricia was spiritual and loved her Jr., Gerald and Vicki. Lord. She loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was ing, Services will be held at the convenience of known to send family members a greeting card the family.

for all types of special occasions.

(Paul) Franz, of Avon, OH; Ann M. (Timothy) Peterson, of Madison, TN and Jesse P. (Natalie) Hill, of Vilonia, AR; grandchildren: Michelle, Kerri, Luke, Ryan, Timmy, Shawn, Dale, Abigail, Austin, Beau and Jesse; greatgrandchildren: Alli, Xavier, Nora, Ŏwen, Taeson, Jaxon, Teagan, Riley, Zane and Ollie and several nieces, nephews, and cousins.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: Thomas

At Patricia's request there will be no view-

Arrangements have been entrusted to the

Patricia is survived by her children: Ralph (Cylinda) Hill, of Kiski Township; Christina L. Crematory, Inc., Apollo, PA.



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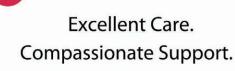
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Barbara Bexson _

GARDNER-Barbara Susan Bexson (nee Rex), 75, of Gardner, passed away Friday, April 7, 2023 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in She was born May 14, 1947

in Lockport to the late Fred and Dorothy (nee Aspel) Rex. Barbara married Joe Bexson on April 19, 1980 in Gardner. She previously served as the . Gardner Village Clerk for over 20 years. Barbara had a love for fishing, bowling, playing Bingo, and spending time outside, especially enjoying yardwork. She had a generous heart and made sure to support and donate to many organizations, such as the St. Jude and Shriners Children's Hospitals, Morning Star Mission, and to many local churches. Most of all, Barb loved spending time with her family and cheering on her grandchildren at their sporting events. Surviving are her husband of 42 years, Joe Bexson, of Gardner; four step-sons: Michael Bexson, of Gardner; Dave (Angie) Bexson, of South Wilmington; Jeff (Joy) Bexson, of Gardner and Joe (Amy) Bexson, of Madison, WI; nine beloved grandchildren: Ben Bexson, Chris Bexson, Tyler

(Dion Miske) Bexson, Henry Bexson, Riley Bexson, Chloe Bexson and Sofia Bexson; two dear great-grandchildren, Jackson and Cullmann and one greatgranddaughter due to arrive in May; siblings: Ron (Faith) Rex, of Honolulu, HI; Laurine (Greg) Knox, of Belvidere, IL; Phyllis Rex, of

in-law, George (Donna) Bexson, of Gardner and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Northglenn, CO and Brian Rex, of Marseilles, IL; brother-

Cremation rites will be accorded. Private memorial services will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in

her name to the charity of your choice would be greatly appreciated. For more information and to visit her

online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com. R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory,

401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with the arrangements.

Ron Dempsay

SPARTANBURG, SC-Ron Dempsay, 72, of Spartanburg, SC, passed away on Sunday, April 2, 2023, at the Spartanburg Medical Center after suffering a massive stroke.

Cassi (Jeff) Carlson, Kristen (Luke) Cullmann,

He was born June 15, 1950. After graduating high school in Wilmington, Ron served in the United States Air Force, then went on to attain his undergraduate degree from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, MO. Ron later completed his master's degree at Truman State University. Service was always a part of Ron's life – whether

coaching young adults, counseling victims or becoming a lifeguard in his 70's, he continually focused his efforts on helping others. A partial list of the organizations Ron served with over the years includes patrolman for State Highway Patrol, Missouri, coach at Central Methodist College, Fayette, MO; teacher and coach at Salisbury Public Schools, Salisbury, MO; head of security coach at Quincy

Illinois University; principal at Unity Public Schools, Mendon, IL; principal at Glenallen Public Schools, Glenallen, AK; victim counselor at Victim's advocates, Anchorage, AK; victim counselor at Lakewood Police Department, Lakewood, CO; lifeguard at YMCA, Spartanburg, SC and volunteer at American Legion in

Sports and coaching were a significant part of Ron's life. He was a life-long fan of the Chicago Bears and St. Louis Cardinals. He was also very passionate about his grandchildren, attending as many sporting events, concerts and presentations as possible.

Dempsay, of Spartanburg; son, Lance Dempsay and wife, Missy, of Kirksville, MO; daughter, Tia Ginter and husband, Rob, of Simpsonville, SC; eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and uncle/great-uncle to numerous nieces and nephews; father, Paul Oscar Dempsay and wife, Pat, of Wilmington; sister, Carol Pendergrass, of Springfield, MO; sister in-law, Deana Chounard and husband, Mark, of Mansfield, IL; sister, Dee Davis and husband, Tony, of Wilmington; sister, Karen

Ron is survived by his wife, MaryAnn

Dempsay, of Wilmington; brother, Kevin Dempsay, of Wilmington; brother in-law, Charles Rich and wife, Shirley, of Mountain Ron was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia Hubler Dempsay; mother in-law, Florence Pierce Rich; father in-law, Howard "Hap" Milton Rich; brother, Randy Dempsay; brother in-law, Mark Sanzenbacher and brother

Sanzenbacher, of Reeseville, WI; sister, Lisa

in-law, Butch Rich. A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, May 27, 2023 at Quincy University Hall of Fame Room from 2-4 p.m. Please wear casual dress, shirts, jerseys, hats, etc. from the team/school where you were coached by/with or knew Ron.

In lieu of flowers or gifts, the family kindly asks for donations in Ron's honor to one of the following organizations that he actively sup-National Pancreatic Foundation, Parkinson's Research Foundation, Spartanburg American Legion or your favorite charity of choice.

₋ Joseph Giacomo ——

COAL CITY—Joseph Anton Giacomo, 82, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly Sunday, April 16, 2023 at his

Born Sept. 30, 1940 in Joliet, he was the son of Peter and Mary Marie (nee Togliatto) Giacomo. Joseph served with the United States Army National Guard in the mid 1960's. He married Mary LaZier July 30, 1966 in Braidwood. Joseph retired in 1997 as a chemical operator from BASF. He was a member of the Coal City Area Club where he enjoyed fishing with his grandson and watching the wildlife. He also enjoyed taking vacations with his family, feed-

ing any little outdoor critter, and cooking.
Surviving are his wife of 56 years, Mary
Giacomo, of Coal City; two children, Stacy (Terry) Warner, of Braidwood and Kent Giacomo, of Coal City; grandson, Tyler Warner; sister-in-law, Helen (the late Lewis) Uhrich, of Naples, FL and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, Peter and Mary; sister, Esther (Donald) Wills; mother-in-law and father-in-law, Helen and Lawrence LaZier; sister-in-law, Sharon (Charles 'Ike") White and brother-in-law, Lawrence LaZier Jr.

Visitation for Joseph will be at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Friday, April 21, 2023 from 1 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 3 p.m. Interment will follow in Braceville-Ĝardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to Coal City Emergency Services or the charity of the donor's choice would be appreciated.

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

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

Donald L. Roach _

COAL CITY-Donald L. Roach, 83, of Coal City, for Bloomingtonof merly

Normal and Lincoln, IL, passed away Monday, April 17, 2023 at Morris Hospital, surrounded by family. Born Oct. 10, 1939 in Jacksonville,

IL, Donald Lee was a son of Robert and Edna M. (nee Ayers) Roach. He was raised in Jacksonville, gradu-

ated from Jacksonville High School with the class of 1957, and went on to serve with the United States Army and United States Navy. On Feb. 8, 1969, Don married Sharon Jean Stroud in Jacksonville, and they made their family home in Lincoln. He spent his entire professional career with Bridgestone Firestone Tire Company in Normal until he retired after over 30 years of service.

Don was a member of the American Legion in Lincoln and a member of the Coal City United Methodist Church. He was a great sports fan, supporting the St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboys, and was a die hard Fighting Illini fan. Don was a hard worker and loving husband, father, and grandfather, and he will be fondly remembered for his love of Dunkin.'

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Sharon Roach, and one son, Darren (Stacey)

Roach, both of Coal City; three granddaughters: McKenna, Hayleigh and Aubrey; one sister, Clara Bender; sister-in-law and brother-in-law: Jo Roach, of Lawton, OK and Randy (Verna) Stroud, of El Paso, IL and sev-

Don was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Frank and Jim Roach and three sisters: Mary Scanlan, Thelma Pederson and Shirley

Per Don's wishes, cremation rites are being

eral nieces and nephews.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway Street, in Coal City on Tuesday, May 30, 2023 from 10 a.m. until the time of memorial service at 11:30 a.m. Pastor Jay Regennitter will officiate and then inurnment with full military honors will follow at Abraham Lincoln

National Cemetery in Elwood, IL. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Don's memorial page via social media.

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

Rain barrel, compost bins available

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

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

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

You may use the water you captured for watering the event calendar at willyour garden, plants, trees, and countygreen.com

bushes between rain events. This saves you money and reduces pressure on our drinking water sources. Prices start at \$64.50, up

to \$186.50 depending on the style. To place an order go to

Many positives to buying refurbished electronics

Dear EarthTalk: Is buying refurbished electronics better for the planet than buying brand new ones?

-- Peter Behr, Chicago, IL According to the United Environment Programme (UNEP), the world produces some 50 million tons of electronic waste each year, and the figure is increasing. Meanwhile, only 20 percent of this electronic waste is disposed of properly.

The remaining 80 percent is either sent to landfills, incinerated or illegally traded, resulting in a host of environmental problems including groundwater pollution, reduced air quality and the depletion of virgin natural resources to replace discarded items. As a result, buying refurbished electronics is a step in the right direction.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that buying refurbished electronics can significantly reduce the environmental impact of electronic

The EPA estimates that for every million smartphones that are refurbished and reused, approximately 35,000 pounds of copper, 772 pounds of silver, 75 pounds of gold and 33 pounds of palladium can be

This is a considerable number of valuable resources that can be conserved by buying refurbished electronics.

Refurbishing electronics not only conserve resources but also helps reduce green-



house gas emissions by as much as 50 percent, according to the EPA.

This is because the production of new electronics requires a lot of energy, and greenhouse gas emissions are generated during the manufacturing process.

'Most of the pollution that's made actually is in the manufacturing of the device, not the use," says Lucas Gutterman of the non-profit public interest group, U.S. PIRG. "So buying refurbished and using things for as long as we possibly can, really helps protect the environment.

Buying refurbished is also good for the pocketbook, given that they cost less. But is the savings worth it? Refurbished items sold by reputable retailers undergo tests and inspections to ensure that they meet the same quality standards as new items.

According Technology Consumer Association (CTA), a trade association for the consumer electronics industry, buyers should look for refurbished electronics that come with a warranty that assures that the



increasingly looking at refurbished items when shopping for new

item has been thoroughly vet- ranties and a return policy. ted and is of high quality.

Some credit card companies will extend coverage on refurbished goods, too, as long as they come with a preexistwarranty," Reports' Consumer Grauer. Another smart consumer tip is to always check the return policy on a refurbished item before hitting the "buy" button.

'It might take you a little while to notice poor performance and defects in a refurbished product, so it helps to have at least one month to decide whether you want to keep it," adds Grauer.

Apple, Dell, Amazon. Walmart and BestBuy are among the large companies that sell many refurbished electronics with limited war-

Dozens of other smaller (e.g., Refurb.io, TechForLess, Gazelle, RefurbMe, etc.) also specialize in refurbished products and typically offer similar if not better terms for consumers.

Buying refurbished products positively impacts the environment by boosting the circular economy, lowering the replacement cycle, reducing carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions, avoiding additional ewaste, and reducing energy and fuel consumption," says Simo Elalj of RefurbMe. "You do this by giving a new life to a

pre-owned device."

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

talk.org.

Will County Recorder warns against costly veteran services

Will County veterans always safe and available to should avoid dealing with companies wanting to charge a fee for submiting their military discharge papers (DD-214) for recording or provide copies of their military discharge papers.

These services are provided at no cost to the veteran in my office," Will County Recorder, Karen A. Stukel stated. The company that has recently submitted documents for recording is DD214 Direct based out of Phoenix, AZ and the fees charged are \$79 and above. This company is offering a paid service to veterans that is free at County recording offices throughout

Recorder Stukel encourages veterans to record their military discharge papers with Will County Recorder's office her office so that they are at (815) 740-4637.

obtain a copy, should they need one, at no cost.

Once recorded, to show our appreciation, the veteran can sign up for our Honor Rewards program. This pro gram partners with area businesses to offer discounts to our brave servicemen and servicewomen.'

Veterans should be mind ful of the services that businesses/organizations charge for, especially when they may be offered at no cost by a governmental office or organization. If a veteran has any questions or concerns they should reach out to their local Veterans Assistance Commission, the United States Department of Veterans Affairs at (800) 698-2411 or the

Taxed out: Americans pay \$78 billion in gas taxes

Taxes on gasoline amount to \$215 million daily

While Americans raced to file their taxes ahead of the deadline, Tax Day is every day

for U.S. drivers. Gas prices have been rising over the past several weeks as Americans get back on the road and gear up for summer road trips - but there are some hidden costs buried in what

more for many motorists around the country.

Every day, Americans spend \$215 million on federal, state and local taxes on gasoline, with some states having lower taxes, and some having higher taxes. Some states also benefit from higher gasoline prices, with percentage-based sales taxes applied, helping the state to capture additional revenue when motorists are already getting hit with higher

gas prices. While most Americans Americans pay for gasoline blame oil companies or gas

gasoline, few remember or are reminded by the portion Uncle Sam takes at the gas pump: 18.4 cents on every gallon, but most states take even more than that, and most never disclose at the pump how much tax is charged per gallon, making motorists target gas stations or oil companies instead of disclosing they are charging an average of 38.7 cents on every gallon," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum

California ranks the highest with 86.55 cents per gallon. that are driving up prices even stations for the high price of Illinois is second at 78 cents/g.

analysis at GasBuddy.

Alaska is lowest at 33.5c/g while in Missouri, a neighbor to Illinois, gas tax is 38.3c/gal.

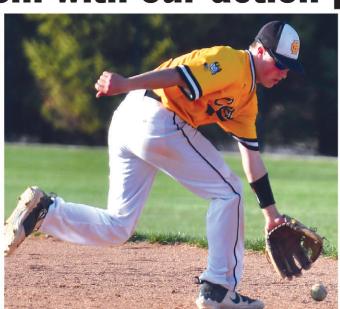
No wonder Illinoisans cross the Mississippi River to

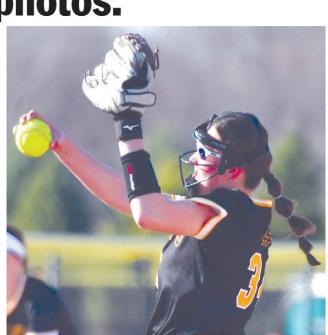
Some states pinch motorists even more by having a percentage-based sales tax on gasoline, so that when gas prices rise, their coffers are filled at a faster pace. When gas prices hit a record last year, states saw money rolling in around the clock, more than ever before in some states.'



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bartenders Hirina Lounge, 1099 S. Tuffy's ton. BASSET and food handling training auired. Weekends. days and nights. Apply person 815-476-2700. ch16-17

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Village of Diamond 1750 E. Division St. Diamond, IL www.villageofdiamond. org ch15-16

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For all positions, send letter of interest and along with a copy of certification and endorsements if applicable to Mrs. Cynthia Christensen. Superintendent,

Box 459, mington, IL South Wil-60474 by May 1, 2023 or email cchristensen@swil74.or Please indicate in the heading the position of interest. Start Date for all positions will be 2023. August 14,

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REAL ESTATE

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 Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ot-tawa Street, Room 201, 60432, e: **U.S.** Title: Bank Trust National Association, not in its individual but solely as Trustee Trust VRMTG Brown Defendant. Case No. 22 FC 1019 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Circuit, 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.

purchaser of the unit, other 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 proceding 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 Mih-111 E. Main Street. Decatur, Illinois 62523 P: 217-422-1719 F: 217-422-1754

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR COLLECTION ACT YOU PRACTICES ARE ADVISED THAT
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DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL
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REAL ESTATE

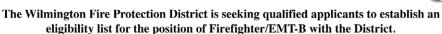
sessments

REAL ESTATE of 840 N English St, Braidwood, IL (Residential) the 27th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Othouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Street, Room , IL 60432, Joliet, Fifth Third Title: 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 Illinois. 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 dential 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. the event incomo condominium, in with 735 In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) (H-2), 765 (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,

minium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule plus following application of the proceeds then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and 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 15W030 Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPT



Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/EMT-B



Starting Salary: \$55,854.39

QUALIFICATIONS

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

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

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

Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Monday, May 1st, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the
- Oral Interviews: Monday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 10th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

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

Wilmington Fire Protection District

501 N. Main Street Wilmington IL. 60481

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a condominium, in accor-

(H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are

dance with 735 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1)

Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics



DEBT AND ANY INFOR-MATION OBTAINED WILL

the Free Press Newspa-pers on Wed., April 5, 12 &

USED FOR THAT

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

Starting Salary: \$65,854.39

QUALIFICATIONS

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

Applications will be available to qualified candidates March 13th, 2023 - May 1st, 2023 in person between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. You may also download the application online at www.wilmingtonfire.org under the Employment

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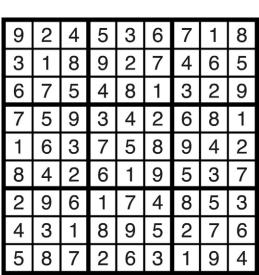
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SHERIFF'S REAL ESTATE of 128 N Countryside Ct, Braid-wood, IL 60408 (N/A). On the 27th day of April, 2023 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Court-house Annex, 57 N. Ot-tawa Street, Room 201, 60432. Case Title: Freedom Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff V. Bryon Baine; Bridgette Huffman; Unknown Own-ers and Non-Record Claimants Case No. 22 FC 0406 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. 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 mortgagee acquiring residential real estate pur-

sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the resirights 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 a condominium, with 735 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by sub-

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Lawmakers consider banning vehicle searches based on cannabis odor

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD - Just before lawmakers went on a two-week spring break, the Illinois Senate passed two bills that would work to further decriminalize cannabis use in Illinois.

The bills -Senate Bill 125 and Senate Bill 1886 - would prevent an individual's vehicle from being searched solely based on the smell of cannabis and would allow some individuals on probation to consume cannabis or alcohol.

When Illinois legalized cannabis in 2020, it also made individuals previously charged with minor cannabis offenses eligible to have their records expunged. At the end of 2020, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced 492,129 cannabisrelated convictions had been expunged and 9,219 people with low-level cannabis convictions had been pardoned.

"It was incredibly important as we were looking to legalize this product that has clearly demonized so many communities." Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, said of the legalization law at an April 11 news conference.

Both bills will still need approval in the House and a signature from the governor to become law.

Cannabis odor in motor vehicles

SB 125 would ensure that the smell of "burnt or raw cannabis in a motor vehicle" cannot alone be probable cause for an individual's vehicle to be searched.

"People – especially people of color - are unnecessarily pulled over far too often," Senator Rachel Ventura, a Democrat from Joliet and lead sponsor on the bill, said of the legislation during floor debate. "The odor of cannabis alone shouldn't be one of those reasons (for their car to be searched). Cannabis is legal in Illinois and it's a pungent scent that can stick to clothes for extended periods of An amendment to the bill created

an age exemption, specifying that individuals under the age of 21 are still eligible to have their vehicle searched solely based on odor. After that provision was added, the

ACLU of Illinois shifted from supporting the bill to having a neutral stance "We do have concerns that the

amendment to the bill creates a workaround, or a loophole, that could have the effect of incentivizing police to target youth for unnecessary traffic stops or vehicle searches," Atticus vote and will head to the House.

Ballesteros, an attorney with ACLU of Illinois, said in an interview.

Ballesteros added that ACLU of Illinois originally supported the bill because there are many reasons why a

vehicle may smell of cannabis. "And to us, that applies irrespective of age," Ballesteros said.

The measure passed 33-20 in the Senate and awaits action in the House. Substance use on probation

SB 1886 would bar courts from preventing individuals from using cannabis or alcohol if they're on probation, conditional discharge or supervi-

The bill has several exemptions, though, including if the person is sentenced to a crime that involved "the presence of an intoxicating compound in the person's body."

Courts would also still be allowed to impose substance use restrictions if the person is under the age of 21 or if they are participating in "problemsolving court," a system of courts designed to help people with mental health and substance abuse problems.

The measure passed with a 34-21

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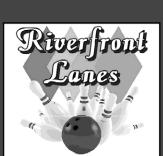
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will take place as allowed by the IL Self
Storage Facility Act 770 ILCS 95. This property includes household

goods. It is in space 323 at Triangle Mini Storage, 24700 W Stripmine Rd, Wilmington, IL 60481. Potential sale will take place on

Listing Date: April 14, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Ending Date: April 28, 2023 12:00 p.m.
Location: selfstorageauction.com Auction

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.

Vicky Tipton petitions for name change I-80 overnight closures begin

PUBLIC NOTICE

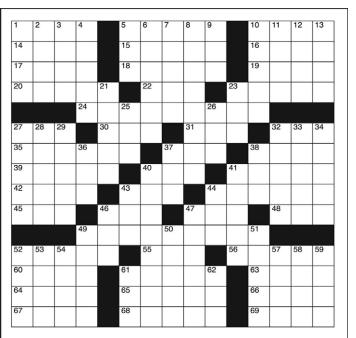
STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF WILL, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the matter of the petition to change the name of VICKY ROSE TIPTON to the new name of VICKY ROSE GRAVES, Case No. 23MR59

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Vicky Rose Tipton adult, shall appear in the Will County Court Annex Building, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, IL 60432 courtroom 905 at 9:00 a.m. on the 28th day of April 2022 before the judge excitated. April, 2023 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Vicky Rose

NOTICE

Tipton be changed to Vicky Rose Graves.
/s/ Vicky Rose Tipton
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on Wednesday, April 5, 12, and



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dylan and Marley are two
- 5. Makes healthy 10. The Who"s "O'Riley"
- 14. Side sheltered from wind
- 15. Flat-bottomed sailboats
- 16. Egyptian supreme god 17. Advice
- 18. Mass of small, loose stones 19. Online learning services
- provider 20. "Lords" in Northwest Semitic
- languages
- 22. Of she
- 23. A place to relax 24. Critical and mocking
- 27. Consumed
- 30. You get one in summer 31. Bath
- 32. Luxury automaker
- 35. Spiders spin one
- 37. Guy (slang) 38. Greek personification of Earth
- 39. Large instruments

CLUES DOWN

- 1. One-liner
- 3. College in Rome 4. Prevents from seeing
- 5. Cycles/second 6. Mischievous child
- 7. Less common 8. Honorably retired
- 9. Midway between south and southeast
- 10. A confusion of voices and
- other sounds 11. Bony fish genus
- 12. Type of pear
- 13. Egyptian cross
- 23. Founder of Babism 25. Bar bill
- 26. Chicago ballplayer
- 27. Performer 28. Hairpiece
- 32. Aircraft formation
- 29. Partner to flowed

- 40. Domestic cattle genus 41. Appetizer
- 42. Oil group
- 43. Where to put groceries 44. Speak incessantly
- 45. Popular color 46. A place to sleep
- 47. Make fun of
- 48. Former CIA 49. Salts
- 52. Bleated
- 55. Never sleeps
- 56. Sword 60. Water (Spanish)
- 61. Cyprinids 63. "Dark Knight" actor Christian
- 64. Fictional demon 65. Old World lizard
- 66. The content of cognition
- 67. Makes a mistake
- 68. A way to make wet
- 69. Tide

33. You have 3 per day

- 2. Evergreen genus
- 37. Wet, muddy ground 38. Talk
- 34. Goes into 36. College athletic organization
 - 40. Witty conversation
 - 41. Gurus
 - 43. "French Price of __ Air" 44. Sports equipment
 - 46. Try to get
 - 47. Flower cluster
 - 49. Sea dwellers
 - 50. Palmlike subtropical plant
 - 51. Polio vaccine developer 52. Baseball's Ruth

 - 54. Hungarian violinist Leopold 57. Offered
 - 58. Ancient Greek City
 - 59. A way to derive
 - 61. Touch lightly 62. Witnessed

A project involving pavement patching and widening Interstate 80 between Interstate 55 and Ridge Road in Joliet and Minooka begins this week. The project is part of advance work leading to the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of I-80 through Will County.

Ballard files summons for dissolution of marriage

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, PORTAGE COUNTY DIVORCE NOTICE Case No. 2022FA000093

To whom it may concern and to

Damon Eugene Ballard, address and whereabouts unknown. Take notice that a Petition was filed in the Circuit Court, Portage County, Wisconsin, for the dissolution of marriage of Chaundra Elise Ballard,

petitioner, and Damon Eugene Ballard

respondent.

Now, therefore, unless you, Damon Eugene Ballard and all whom it may concern, files your answer to the Petition in said suit or otherwise file your appearance therein, in the said Circuit Court Branch 2, Circuit Court Judge/Circuit Court Commissioner: Louis J. Molepske Jr., 1516 Church Street, Stevens Point, WI, 54481, before May 23, 2023 which is 40 days from the day after the first date of publication, a Default may be entered against you at any time after that day and Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Petition.

Dated: April 4, 2023 /s/ Chaundra Ballard, petitioner
Published in the Free Press

Advocate on Wednesday, April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Attorney McGrath files Rutter estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the Matter of the Estate of RICHARD C. RUTTER, Deceased. Case No.: 23 PR 105

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the eath of RICHARD C. RUTTER of Elwood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued March 6, 2023, to ROBERT RUTTER March 6, 2023, to MOBERT NOTTER whose address is 28436 S. Rt. 45, Peotone, IL 60468, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 1992.

Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the day of October 12, 2023, or 3 months from

the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service Visit http://www.illinoiscourts

gov/faq/gethelp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org. Robert Rutter, Independ

the Estate of Richard C. Rutter

Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 McGrath Law, P.C. 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442 (815) 478-4020

mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

improve the existing shoulders and temporarily widen the existing pavement in preparation of future projects to rebuild I-80. Additional work including temporary roadway lighting, temporary drainage and pavement repairs are also included. The project is anticipated to be completed in November.

Starting at 8 p.m. each night, motorists should expect overnight lane closures along I-80, between I-55 and Ridge Road, as workers complete

closures will reopen by 6 a.m. weekdays, 10 a.m. Saturdays and by noon Sundays.

Beginning Monday, May 1, weather permitting, motorists should expect lane shifts and shoulder closures, along with the overnight lane closures through the work zone. At least two lanes in each direction will be maintained during peak travel times. The overall I-80 project

will redesign and rebuild 16 miles from Ridge Road, in Minooka, to U.S. 30, in Joliet

The \$8.1 million project pavement repairs. Overnight and New Lenox, while adding or extending auxiliary lanes to improve safety and reduce congestion.

Interchanges will be or improved at Interstate 55, Illinois 7, Center Street, Chicago Street, Richards Street and Briggs Street, with a new flyover ramp linking southbound I-55 to eastbound I-80 to improve traffic flow and safety. More than 30 bridges will be rehabilitated or replaced, including those over the Des Plaines

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

rame 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

The Forest Preserve to host Wildflower explosion

The Forest Preserve is hosting a new program "Rivers Color Wildflower Explosion" Saturday, May 6, from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at Four Environmental Rivers Education Center. Channahon.

Learn about and photograph the many wildflower species found in the preserve. Bring along your phone or camera to record the species that you find. Free, all ages. Register by May 5.

> UNFORGETTABLE freepressnewspapers.com

Attorney McGrath files Stipanovich estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN PROBATE
In the Matter of the Estate of
PETER STIPANOVICH, JR., Deceased. Case No.: 23 PR 82 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors, of the death of PETER STIPANOVICH, JR., of Elwood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued March 6, 2023, to JOHN STI-PANOVICH, whose address is 2504 Emily Ln., New Lenox, IL 60451, whose attorney of record is Timothy J. McGrath, of 440 S. State Street, Manhattan, IL, 60442. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (IL. Compiled Stat. 199, Ch. 755 par. 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate

Claims against the estate may be filed with the Clerk of the Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois, 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 12th day of October 2023, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery, whichever is later, and that any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney with-in ten (10) days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory with limit-ed exemptions. To e-file, you must first cre-

ate an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or sit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

of the Estate of Peter Stipanovich, Jr.,, Deceased.

Timothy J. McGrath - 6193170 440 S. State Street Manhattan, IL 60442
(815) 478-4020
mcgrath@tmcgrathlaw.com
Published in the Free Press
Advocate on April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

TAKE PART IN the Forest Preserve District of Will County's

Wildflower Explosion.

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 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 /s/ Joanne Adel Nasra

Petitioner Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 5, 12, and 19, 2023.

E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, April 12, 19 and 26, 2023.

Frank J. Meents

3 1 6 9 2 8

Coming soon...

Our Graduation Pages

A Salute to 2023 Seniors Coal City High School Wilmington High School Reed-Custer High



Wilmington High School Class of 2021

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COALER SPORTS



THROW IN TIME—Lady Coaler second baseman Makenzie Henline raises her glove in the air signaling the force out following a popup at second base on the Manteno runner. Also waiting for the call is Mia Ferrias (5).

Lady Coalers tackle Tuscola

TAKING A CUT at the plate for the Lady Coalers last week is center fielder Mia Ferrias.

The Lady Coaler softball team brought home some hardware from the Tuscola tournament over the weekend, winning the third place trophy.

Coal City beat Arthur 7-5 for starters before falling to Marshall 7-2. They battled Camp Point to decide third place, winning

Masyn Kuder earned two wins on the mound and Kerrigan Copes led the way offensively. Lady Coalers end their win steak at 12 games. Their overall record is 16-3 as they remain undefeated 6-0 in conference.

Monday's game against Streator was rescheduled for today (Wednesday). They'll have a break until Monday when they travel to Herscher.

Combes throws no-hitter

Coal City shutout Kankakee High School 10-0 on Thursday, thanks to some excellent fielding to back up an impressive pitching performance by Bri Combes

Combes threw a no hitter as she walked only one and struck out none during five innings. Combes also went 2-for-3 at bat, ending up with two RBIs.

Coal City came out swinging with 14 hits including six doubles as they ran the bases well and took advantage of three Kankakee errors.

Leading the Lady Coalers in hitting was Kerigan Copes going 3-for-3 with an RBI. Makayla Henline was happy hitting two doubles and scoring two runs. Makenzie Henline, Khloe Picard, Jadyn Shaw and A. Harvey all registered dou-

Walk-off win

The Lady Coalers broke a 1-1 against Manteno on Tuesday to win 2-1 in the bottom of the 7th, thanks to a line shot to the centerfield fence by Abby Gagliardo to score Khloe Picard.

Masyn Kuder went the distance on the mound allowing only one run and picking up her 11th win of the season.

Tonight marks the 10th win in a row for us and I'm proud of how we have competed this year," said coach Rodney Monbrum.

Recording hits for Coal City were the Henline sisters, Kerigan Copes and Picard.

The Lady Coalers committed four errors while Manteno had two.

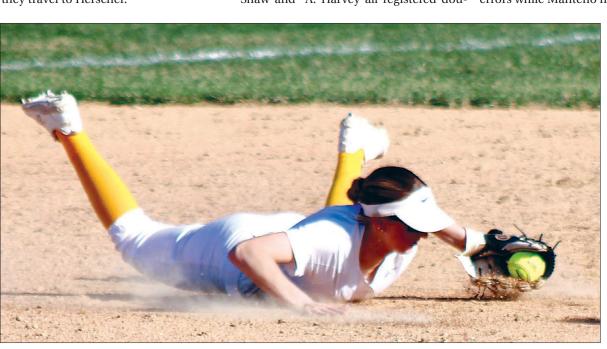
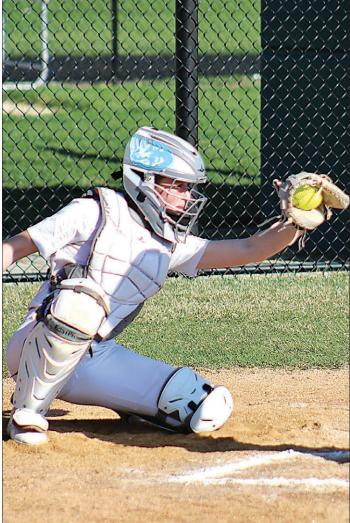


Photo by Amy Walker **MAKING THE** STOP with a diving grab at shortstop is Coal City's Makayla Henline.



TARGETING A STRIKE for Coal City pitcher Masyn Kuder last week

Micetich to lead Coaler boys basketball

STAFF REPORT

Joe Micetich has been named new head coach of the Coal City High School varsity boys basketball team.

was announced last week following the Unit 1 Board of Education's approval. He suc-

ceeds Tyler Schoonover who is Micetich's appointment leaving the district after one vear of teaching and coaching.

Micetich previously served as the Coaler's sophomore coach and was a twoyear junior varsity coach at . Dwight High School before joining the CCHS staff as a math teacher in the 2019.

Harlan Kennell will assist Micetich, a position being vacated by Seth Schoonover.

Kennell, a business education teacher at the high school, was the seventh grade basketball coach at the middle school

At its meeting last week, the Board also took action on a recommendation from athletic director Dan Hutchings to name Michael Kostbade as the district's first head middle school soccer coach. He currently serves as an assistant for the high school girls soccer

Sarah Cyrkiel has been named his assistant coach for the 2023 season.

Earlier this year, the Board agreed to pilot a middle school program for students in grades six to eight. The soccer program will

be financially supported by the Coal City Soccer League for the next three years. Board members also

approved Emily Halliday as an assistant high school track coach and accepted the extracurricular resignations of Lauren Basham, sixth grade softball coach; Stephanie

Vuscko, seventh grade softball coach; and Branden Peterson, head middle school wrestling



SUBSCRIBE TODAY FOR WEEKLY GAME REPORTS AND PHOTOS CALL 815-634-0315







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

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"Support Coal City High School Athletes"



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



is catcher Khloe Picard.

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie

& a FREE 2-Liter of Soda (Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 04/30/23.

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COALER SPORTS



SPEEDING TO THE BALL for Coal City during their loss to Herscher is senior middle Cara Planeta.



CHASING THE BALL for the Coal City soccer team last week is Aubrey Mellen.



COAL CITY SENIOR Kaelan Natyshok fires up his teammates during a recent game.

Late hitting hurts the Coalers

The Coal City varsity baseball team stayed within striking distance of the Morris Redskins through most of the game Saturday before pulling away late in a 10-3 victory.

Morris trailed 2-1 in the top of the fifth inning when AJ Zweeres doubled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring

The Coalers struggled to contain the high-powered offense of Morris, giving up 10 runs. Coal City fired up the offense in the first inning, when Braiden Young doubled to

The Coalers was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Cason Headley made the most plays with six.

Cade Baldauf went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Coal City.

At Slammers Stadium

The Coalers defeated Newark Norsemen on Thursday as they got to play at the Slammers home field in Joliet.

Coal City tallied four runs in the first inning. Nolan Eddy had an RBI double in the inning to lead the run scoring. Coal City got their offense started when Luke Nolan lined out, driving in a run.

Caden Kuder got the win for Coal City . The lefty lasted 2.1 innings, allowing one hit and no runs while striking out five and walking one.

Joe Watson and Austin Davy entered the game out of the bullpen and helped to close out the game in relief.

Braiden Young, Carter Garrelts, Eddy, Cade Baldauf, and Nolan Ness each collected one hit for Coal City.

Tuesday Thriller

Coal City took their game in dramatic walk-off fashion in Tuesday, thanks to a walk-off single to topple Manteno 2-

bottom of the seventh when Braden Reilly singled on a 1-0 count, scoring one run. The pitching was strong on both sides. Reilly struck out

The game was tied 1-1 with Coal City batting in the

two, while Ben Carlile shut down 12. Coal City got on the board in the second inning when Reilly was hit by a pitch,

In the top of the sixth inning, the Panthers tied things up at one when an error scored one run for Manteno.

Reilly earned the win for Coal City. The pitcher went seven innings, allowing one run off seven hits, striking out two and walking one.

Tanner Wallace went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead the Coalers in hits. Also collecting hits were Baldauf, Jim Feeney and Eddy.

The Coalers, 7-6 overall, will get a few days rest as their next game is Monday at Herscher.

Lady Coalers suffer pair of losses

There was no easy going last week for the Coal City girls soccer team who fell to two tough foes.

Coal City lost 1-0 to Lisle on Thursday. Lady Coaler keeper Chloe plueger had 13 saves and keeper Alaina Morales had two. Their overall record is 4-3-1, conference 1-

Herscher showed why they're ranked at the top of the conference with Peotone during a 6-1 loss. The lone goal for Coal City was scored by Cara Planeta. Keeper Chloe Plueger

The Lady Coalers travel to Peotone Thursday then will host the Lady Coaler Shootout Saturday.



BLOCKING OUT the Herscher forward is Coal City's Kylee Kennel.



TWO ARE BETTER than one when it comes to defending the field. Lady Coalers are Cassidy Jenke



(23) and Audrey Cooper (21).



GETTING TO THE BALL for a block with her body is Coal City's Kim Perez.

Photo by Amy Walker PUTTING UP at fight for the ball against Herscher last week is Coal City's Audrey Cooper

Coalers participating in spring sports

STAFF REPORT

Over 26% of Coal City High School's student body is participating in a spring sport.

In his monthly report to the Board of Education, athletic director Dan Hutchings reported 162 students are playing a sport, the largest turnout being for boys base-

There are 38 students playing baseball this season with 10 seniors, 12 juniors, five sophomores and 11 freshmen.

Girls soccer plays in the spring and this year there are 33 members on the team. Taking the field are nine seniors, seven juniors, 11 sopho-

mores and six freshmen.

The boys track and field team is comprised of 32 members—five seniors, six juniors, six sophomores and 15 fresh-

Coal City's girls track team is comprised of 11 students two seniors, one junior, two sophomores and six freshmen.

The Lady Coaler softball team has 28 members this season with one senior, six juniors, 11 sophomores and 10 freshmen.

The sixth spring sport offered at CCHS is boys tennis and this year's squad is comprised of 20 members with three seniors, six juniors, four sophomores and seven fresh-