



Photos of the Coal City Class of 2025 graduates featured inside!



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Coal City High School's TOP OF THE CLASS



Courtesy photo

THE COAL CITY HIGH School class of 2025 will be awarded diplomas on Sunday, May 11. The class is led academically by 14 students whose work in the classroom has placed them among the top 10 percent. Those students are [from left, row one]: Corinna Barkley, Lilly Feisley, Riley Clements, Melody Kinder, Deborah Lynch, Peyton Gibson and Mackenzie Croxton. Row two: Owen Quarles, Shaun Polarek, Trevor Perino, Will Johnke, August Burns, Anthony Aultz and Hunter Nettles. Commencement will begin with the processional of graduates into the competition gym at 1:50 p.m. with the ceremony starting at 2 p.m. The graduates will be recognized for their various achievements during high school. Ahead of commencement, the school will recognize those students who have been named Acclaimed Coalers and Acclaimed Coalers Scholars during a ceremony at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 10.



Photo by Eric Fisher

MAYBE SOMEDAY he'll be a police chief like his grandpa. Hayes Gramlich, 20 months old, stands at the door to a Coal City squad car on Friday after his grandfather, Police Chief Chris Harseim made his final dispatch over the air. One thing Harseim said he is looking forward to as he retires is spending more time with his grandson. Hayes stole the show with his police shirt with a fake patch and the word POLICE across his back.

Chief Harseim makes a final call

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

Retired Coal City Police chief Chris Harseim was on the hunt for suspects until the very end. Two nights before his last day as a police officer, Harseim was out until midnight with fellow officers searching for two suspects who had stolen a car and abandoned it in Coal City. "I suppose it would have been a nice feather in my cap if I had been the one to find them but that's not my point," Harseim said. "It was just part of the job, to be up late, and I signed up for that 30 years ago. I knew what I was getting into, that it's not a normal 9-to-5 job being a police officer. You're really on duty 24/7. Like other officers, I missed birthdays and a lot of holidays so it's bittersweet to be retiring." On Friday at 10 a.m. Mayor Dave Spesia, village trustees, police officers and family gathered in front of the police station where Harseim stepped into a squad car and made his end of watch call over the Grundy County emergency dispatch. The dispatcher sent out an all tone alert announcing that Harseim was retiring after 30 years and 38 days. "I'm gonna miss you all for sure. The citizens of Grundy County are very lucky to have such professional men and women at the 911 center," Harseim



responded. "I've been lucky to work with the best of the best in law enforcement and dispatch during my career. I would put up our county against any other county in Illinois. I've been fortunate to work with great officers in Coal City, and I know they will continue to provide great service to our citizens of Coal City. Godspeed and be safe. Love you guys." Harseim has been with the department since 1995 and served as chief since 2021, when Mayor Spesia selected him to replace Tom Best. Harseim, 57, started his 30-plus years in law enforcement with Coal City as a patrol officer, eventually becoming a sergeant, an investigator and a master firearms instructor – he still maintains an expert rating as a marksman. He also worked part-time as a police officer in his hometown of Morris

from 1991 to 2021. "I have a lot of emotions making my final dispatch. A lot of people that I've worked with a long time in dispatch, the fire department, the school system, trustees, I will miss. But as you can see I've had strong family support and it's time to spend more time with my wife, my daughter and son in law and my grandson. "I hired 10 guys since I was chief of police, so it's been a bittersweet ending for me. I leave knowing our department is fully staffed, and got them up to speed where people need to be." "We have a great community here and there has been super support. The mayor and trustees are pro law enforcement and I leave feeling the village is in good hands."



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Car thieves caught hiding inside garbage can

On April 30, at approximately 7 p.m., Grundy County deputies received a notification through a flock LPR camera of a stolen vehicle in the area of Lorenzo Road and Interstate 55. As deputies and officers from the Wilmington Police Dept. arrived at the Petro gas station, the stolen vehicle was observed pulling out of the gas station.

A traffic stop of the vehicle was attempted, but the vehicle failed to yield, and a pursuit ensued west-bound on Lorenzo Road and entered Grundy County.

The pursuit continued south on Dresden Road, entering Coal City village limits, where deputies lost visual contact of the vehicle. A short time later, the

2025 Mazda entered as stolen from Council Bluff, Iowa, was located unoccupied on S. First Avenue in a wooded area.

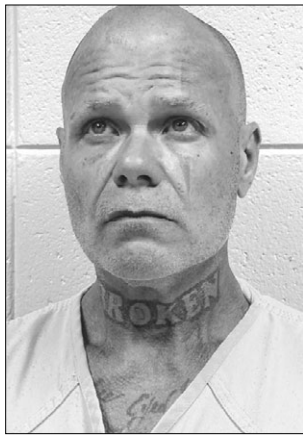
Deputies and officers with the Coal City Police Dept. conducted an extensive search of the area using canines and drones, but no offenders were located. Information gathered during the investigation led deputies to believe the driver of the vehicle was Robert Shelton White, 53, of Iowa.

An unknown white female was believed to be a passenger in the vehicle. White is a registered sex offender from Iowa and held an arrest warrant out of Council Bluffs, IA, for vehicle theft. White also has an extensive criminal history from several states.

The search for the



KATELYN ELAINE BOREN



ROBERT SHELTON WHITE

occupants was called off at approximately 11:30 p.m.

On May 1, a Coal City police officer was dispatched to a residence on Campbell Drive in Richards

Crossing shortly after 6 a.m. for a report of a stolen garbage can. The resident provided video surveillance footage to the responding officer of two subjects tak-

ing the garbage can around 2 a.m.

Deputies and Coal City police believed the subjects seen in the video taking the garbage can, were subjects wanted from the stolen vehicle.

That led law enforcement to believe the subjects were still in the area and were using the garbage can to shield themselves from the elements. Deputies and officers focused on a search area in the northwest portion of Richards Crossing, north of Spring road, which is heavily wooded.

At approximately 10 a.m., a garbage can lying on its side was spotted in the woods and two subjects were found hiding inside the can. Both followed commands given by

deputies and were taken into custody. These were determined to be the same subjects who had fled from the stolen vehicle.

A key to the stolen vehicle was found in White's possession. He is charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, aggravated fleeing/eluding a peace officer, driving while license revoked, obstructing a peace officer, and a warrant from Iowa for vehicle theft.

White is being held in the Grundy County Jail awaiting extradition to the state of Iowa.

The passenger in the vehicle, Katelyn Elaine Boren, 26, of Iowa, was charged with obstructing a peace officer. She was issued a Notice to Appear and released from custody.

World War II veteran to be laid to rest after 80 years MIA

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

On Friday, U.S. Army Private James C. Loyd, will return home after 80 long years.

A gathering for family and friends will be held on May 15, at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington, Illinois, beginning at 10:30 a.m., followed by a solemn procession to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 11:30 a.m., where he will be laid to rest with funerary honors.

Today, Loyd's immediate family—his parents and siblings—have passed away. However, his legacy continues through several nieces and nephews, including James McDowell of The Netherlands and Janice McDowell Dale of Valparaiso, IN.

Nephew James McDowell remembers the families' memories of Loyd though he was too young to know his uncle.

"The military would have sent me to the funeral," McDowell said. "However, I am living in the Netherlands and have had some medical issues. That is why I am unable to attend."

McDowell's sister,

Janice Dale of Valparaiso, IN, is only about two hours away, and will be there to say a formal farewell to Loyd.

Finally coming home

After 80 years Loyd will finally return to American soil. He will be honorably received at Chicago Midway Airport on May 9, with planeside honors at 2:40 p.m.

Though Dale hadn't been born when the family learned Loyd was missing in action, she learned about him through family.

"The family talked about him, but usually when we weren't in the room," Dale said. "I clearly remember my mom telling me that my grandmother never gave up hope that he would come home one day—that he would be found alive."

One of 11 children

James C. Loyd was born on Nov. 11, 1924, in Brilliant, AL. He was one of 11 children born to John Elbert and Pearlle Loyd.

Among his siblings: Edward, Dorothy, Mary, Euil, John, Carrie, Yvonne, Erma, Kathleen and Roger, his older brother Edward and sisters Dorothy and Mary knew him best.

Though Wilmington is 610 miles from Brilliant, AL, Loyd will be laid to rest in Illinois. Dale explained why Loyd will be interred in Illinois

"We moved to Wilmington for my dad's job in the late 50s, maybe 1959," Dale said. "We have a very strong connection to Wilmington, and it seems right that he be laid to rest here."

Over There

According to a press release from the Illinois chapter of Rolling Thunder, Inc., at the age of 18, Loyd enlisted in the Army on May 15, 1943. He was assigned to Company "F," 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division, known for its distinguished and



Courtesy Photo

For his bravery and service, Private Loyd was posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button

valorous service across multiple campaigns during the war.

In January 1944, Loyd served on the front lines in Italy as the allies fought to advance from the Anzio beachhead towards Rome. On Jan. 31, 1944, his unit encountered heavy enemy resistance.

Following the battle, no further trace of him was found.

Loyd remained listed as Missing in Action (MIA) through February 1, 1945, and was officially presumed dead on April 19, 1945, under the provisions of the Missing Persons Act.

"He was listed as Missing in Action, at first," Dale said. "In the late 40s or early 50s, they officially pronounced him dead, but unfortunately, not recovered."

Posthumous honors

In the fall of 1944, his family was given a box containing Loyd's personal effects: A New Testament, prayer book, sewing kit, and nail file.

In March, Loyd was posthumously awarded military honors in recognition of his courage and sacrifice, including the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Honorable Service Lapel Button.

Buried in Italy

Following the end of the war, the American Graves Registration Command made efforts to locate and recover missing American veterans.

According to Rolling Thunder, Inc., in 1945, remains were recovered

near Ponte Rotto, near where Loyd had last been seen. At the time, due to limited identification methods, the remains could not be conclusively linked to him and were buried at the Sicily-Rome American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy.

Decades later, a historian with the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) revisited the case. Noticing the potential connection between the unidentified remains and Private Loyd, the DPAA disinterred the remains in September 2021. With DNA analysis, the remains were positively identified as belonging to Loyd on March 14, 2024.

After more than 80 years he had been found.

Arriving home

After arriving home on May 9, Baskerville Funeral Home of Wilmington will handle all arrangements.

"James [McDowell] and I talked about where we would want him buried," Dale said. "We couldn't have picked a better place to handle the arrangements than Baskerville."

A gathering for family and friends will be held at 10:30 a.m. May 15, 2025, at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road.

Though she now lives in Indiana, Dale feels Loyd belongs as close as possible to remaining family.

"My three brothers and I grew up in Wilmington, graduated from high school, and got married in Wilmington," Dale said. "There were lots of things we could have done. We could have gone with Arlington

National Cemetery. But, for as many people as connected with us—my whole family and other cousins to attend—we chose Abraham Lincoln. It's a beautiful cemetery. It's a national cemetery, and it's all military. It seems like the right choice."

Rest in Peace

After 80 years, Loyd will finally be home. He will be laid to rest among other veterans, many of whom gave their lives to protect our freedom.

"My grandmother never lost hope that J.C. would return home," Dale said. "He's finally coming home for good."

In Italy where Loyd's remains had been buried pending identification, his name is inscribed on the Walls of the Missing at Sicily-Rome American Cemetery, alongside thousands of others who never returned home.

A rosette was finally placed next to his name, signifying he has finally gone home.

Services

Family and friends will gather at 10:30 a.m. at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington, Illinois. A funeral procession will depart at 11:30 a.m. for Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, Illinois.

Full military honors and committal services will be conducted at 12:00 p.m.

Fellow veterans, service members, and all members of the community are invited to join in honoring the service of U.S. Army Private James C. Loyd.

Coal City CUSD 1
seeks bids for
boiler replacement

PUBLIC NOTICE

Coal City Community Unit School District #1 will be accepting bids for the 2025 Coal City Early Childhood Center Boiler Replacement Project at Coal City Early Childhood Center, 755 S. Carbon Hill Rd, Coal City, Illinois 60416. Plans and Specifications are available on May 7, 2025, from Cordogan Clark & Associates, Inc. plan room www.cordoganclarkplanroom.com. Sealed Bids, conspicuously marked, shall be received until 2:00 pm CST on May 22, 2025, at the District Office, 550 S. Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, IL 60416, at which time they shall be opened and read aloud. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 am, May 9, 2025, virtually via Teams. Prevailing wage rates shall apply to this Project. Each bid must conform and be responsive to all pertinent bidding and contract documents including Contractor qualifications as specified in said documents.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Attorney Black files
Buchko estate
claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2025 PR 28

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
JACQUELINE G. BUCHKO,
DECEASED.

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Jacqueline G. Buchko. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Richard Littig, Jr., 1614 Old Oaks Court, Plainfield, IL 60586, whose attorney is TIMOTHY 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.

RICHARD LITTING, JR.
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Timothy J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street, Suite 211
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
FAX: 815-942-0894
Published in the Coal City Courant on April 30, May 7 and 14, 2025.

Joliet Commercial
Photographer files as
new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 17, A.D. 2025, 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 Joliet Commercial Photographer, located at 14 Main Street, Minooka, IL 60447. Dated this 25th day of April, A.D. 2025.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on April 23 and 30 and May 7, 2025.

Maine Township
annual Road District
Budget Hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Maine Township Road District Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Maine Township Road District, in the County of Grundy, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Maine Township Hall on May 9, 2025, by request or appointment pamhazzard@icloud.com.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing and final action on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 6:20 p.m., June 9, 2025, at Maine Township Hall and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing. Dated this 8th day of April, 2025.

Published in the Coal City Courant on May 7, 2025.

Ferrari Commercial
Cleaning files as
new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 28, A.D. 2025, 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 Ferrari Commercial Cleaning, located at 938 E. 5th St., Coal City, IL 60416. Dated this 28th day of April, A.D. 2025.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on April 30, May 7 and 14, 2025.

Maine Township
annual Budget Hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Maine Township Budget Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of Maine, in the County of Grundy, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Maine Township Hall on May 9, 2025 by request or appointment pamhazzard@icloud.com.

Notice is further given hereby that a public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be at 6:15 p.m., June 9, 2025 at Main Township Hall and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the public hearing. Dated this 8th day of April, 2025.

Published in the Coal City Courant on May 7, 2025.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

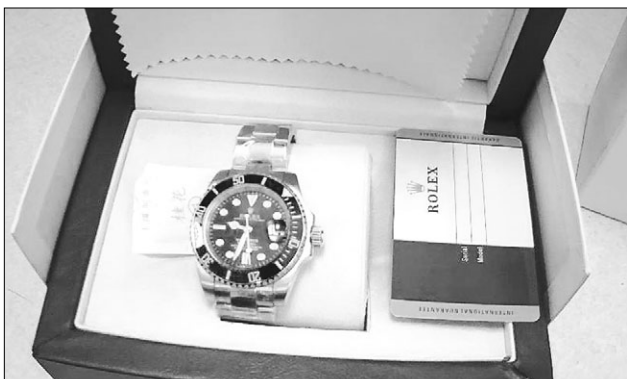
Beware of knock-off Rolex watches, licenses

According to the Chicago Office of Public Affairs, April, Chicago U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers stationed at the International Mail Facility, the Express Consignment Operations hub, the Cargo Examination Station, and Chicago O'Hare International Airport intercepted 145 shipments of counterfeit watches and 340 shipments containing counterfeit driver's licenses.

All 485 shipments came from Hong Kong and China. In total CBP officers seized 516 counterfeit watches bearing the logos of Rolex, Patek Philippe, Cartier, Omega, Audemars Piguet, and others. The items were deemed to be counterfeit by CBP's Centers of Excellence and Expertise, the agency's trade experts, and if genuine, would have had a combined Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price over

\$9.22 million. "Intellectual property theft threatens America's economic vitality and funds criminal activities as well as organized crime," said LaFonda D. Sutton-Burke, Director of Field Operations, Chicago Field Office. "Our employees are dedicated to protecting private industry and consumers by removing these kinds of goods from our commerce."

The rapid growth of e-commerce enables consumers to search for and easily purchase millions of products through online vendors, but this easy access gives counterfeit and pirated goods more ways to enter the U.S. economy. U.S. consumers spend more than \$100 billion every year on intellectual property rights (IPR) infringing goods, falling victim to approximately 20 percent of the counterfeits that are illegally sold worldwide.



COURTNEY PHOTO
COUNTERFEIT ROLEX WATCHES are being sneaked through Customs from China.

CBP officers also stopped 340 shipments of counterfeit driver's licenses in April. In total, they seized 4,345 counterfeit licenses destined to locations across the U.S.

Counterfeit documents are fake documents that have the appearance of legal documentation but are not issued by a legitimate organization or government agency and are not recognized in the United States as official travel or identification instruments. Only two companies have authorization by the U.S. Department of State to print international driver's licenses in the United States: The American Automobile Association (AAA) or American Automobile Touring Alliance (AATA).

"These counterfeit driver's licenses can lead to disastrous consequences," said Michael Pfeiffer, Area

Port Director, Chicago. "Foreign Terrorist Organizations, criminal organizations, and persons involved in fraud schemes use these counterfeit IDs to avoid attracting attention to their illegal activities. Our CBP officers were able to identify these very realistic counterfeits and stop them from reaching their destinations."

Trade in counterfeit and pirated goods threatens America's innovation economy, the competitiveness of our businesses, the livelihoods of U.S. workers, and, in some cases, national security and the health and safety of consumers. To combat the entry of counterfeit and pirated goods into America, CBP targets and seizes imports of counterfeit and pirated goods and enforces exclusion orders on patent-infringing and other IPR violative goods.

Expect increase in counterfeit items

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

According to Glitz, a publication dedicated to the global economy, China is mulling giving free rein to counterfeiters, especially those that target U.S. luxury brands, in retaliation for the "Trump Tariffs."

The question is might counterfeit become a new weapon in the trade war between China and the United States?

Under pressure from the U.S., China committed to better protect industrial secrets, pressuring corporations like Alibaba to work harder to detect and remove counterfeit products.

In light of tariffs placed on Chinese goods, some speculate that China is retaliating by opening the floodgates to counterfeiters and those who will share the "dirty little secrets" about luxury items that manufacturers claim are made in the

United States, but are actually produced in China.

In addition, a social media blitz erupted on Chinese platforms as creators and influencers expose American brands that claim "Made in USA" while mass-producing goods in China.

The internet has lately become overwhelmed with Chinese TikTok videos showing factory workers revealing the origin of big-name items such as Coach and Levi Jeans, all supposedly American-made.

The following items are most frequently counterfeited: Pirated books from Amazon, Nike, Adidas, UGG and Crocs footwear, luxury handbags, fake controlled substances, and Mercedes Benz products.

China remains the epicenter of the global counterfeit industry.

In the end, it comes down to caveat emptor, or let the buyer beware. If you see a Rolex for \$500, it's probably fake.



COURTESY PHOTO
FAKE DRIVERS LICENSES from China were recently confiscated in Chicago.

Old time recipes for good health

With all the doctors, clinics, health food stores, and advice in the media about what is good for us and what is not, you would think that our generation thinks more about their health than those hardy folk of the 19th century. But this is not the case. It was ever present on their mind. Remember that incurable diseases were rampant, and the average life span was quite short because of it.

Most medicines in the drug store were a combination of narcotics and alcohol. They made you feel better, but did little to cure the disease. The exception to this rule was a soap made from pine tar. It was packaged under the name "Grandpa's Pine Tar Soap" or "Packer's Pine Tar Soap." It cured most skin diseases such as psoriasis and acne, it cured dried scalp itch and dandruff, it killed bed bugs and fleas on contact, and it disinfected open wounds and helped with the healing process. To this end, it was used on people and animals alike with the same good results.

This soap was made until the early 1970's when the FDA said there was no proof that it cured these things and ordered the makers to remove the pine tar. I have made pine tar soap and can vouch for its effectiveness.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

Other additives, which were added to soap to increase their healing power was oatmeal, rye flour, and rice flour. All of these additives also work quite well against a lot of skin diseases. Cucumbers were added to soap to fade skin pigment such as freckles. One book published in 1868 proposed the theory that freckles were nothing more than spots of rust from the iron in the blood leaking out through the pores.

A book published in 1833 gives general maxims for health. "Rise early, eat simple food, and take plenty of exercise. Let not children be dressed in tight clothes. Avoid the necessity of a physician, but if you find yourself really ill, have nothing to do with quacks or quack medicine. Keep hair clean, washing does not injure hair as is generally supposed. Do not sleep with hair braided or frizzed. Do not make children cross-eyed by having hair hang about their foreheads, where they see it continually."

Another from the same era gives advice on what to do if you are struck by lightning, however it seems a bit puzzling to me. "For a couple of hours shower in cold water. In case there is still no sign of life, add a cupful of salt and continue

for another hour."

Another 1833 volume gives several good uses for earwax. "It prevents pain from injury by nail or skewer, also prevents cracked lips when used faithfully on a daily basis." If anyone tries this, let me know how it works.

The following bits of advice are from various sources. I do not recommend them in any way, but I find them most interesting. For bed bug poison; scotch snuff mixed with soft soap, to cure tape worms chew pumpkin seeds before bed, for a prick with a pin or a slight cut, nothing stops bleeding better than old cobwebs compressed into a lump and applied to the wound.

A plaster for wounds or cuts can be made from the inside lining of a freshly broken eggshell, if applied immediately. For frosted feet, dip the feet in water, dry with a coarse towel, then put immediately into a pail of brine brought from the pickle tub. For corns bind on thick slices of lemon, to prevent the hair from coming out bathe your head in salt water.

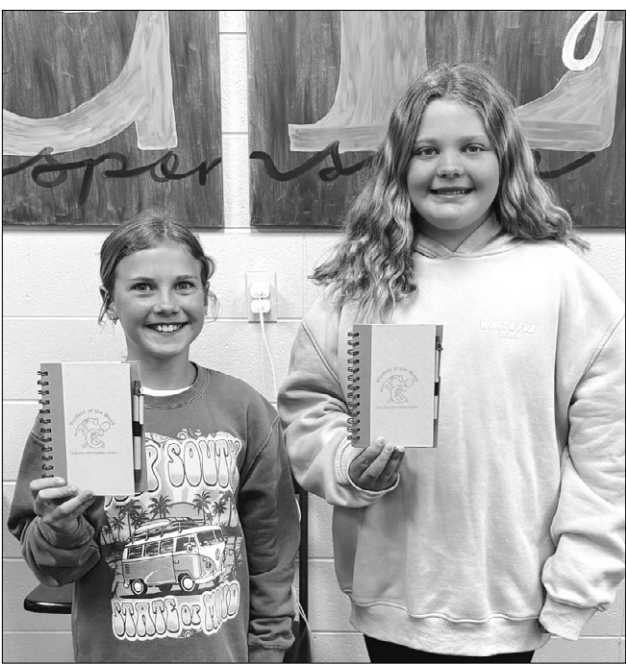
Simple things that we take for granted were not invented yet, such as toothpaste. The following is a recipe for homemade tooth powder. "Take pulverized chalk, and twice as much charcoal; make very fine, and add castile soap suds and spirits of camphor to make a thick paste. Apply with the finger and brush."

Our last cure is one for diarrhea. This was a very worrisome problem, as if not cured quickly, dehydration can occur, especially in children. The recommended cure was blackberry wine, blackberry tea, or blackberries themselves. This recipe for blackberry wine is closest to what they would have made in early pioneer days.

Put two gallons fresh picked blackberries in a crock and cover with water. Mash and stir well several times during the day. By nightfall, strain into a large container and add three and one-half cups sugar to each gallon of juice. Dissolve one-half package yeast in one-quarter cup water and add to juice/sugar mixture and stir well. Ferment until it stops working and then put in jugs and cover tops with a cloth. Let continue to work in a warm place until bubbles cease to rise. When completely fermented, seal, and drink the following spring.

Our last recipe for Cherry Bounce does not really cure anything except sobriety, but it is one I have used and enjoy, in moderation of course.

Take one-half gallon wild or tame cherries, and put in a five-gallon crock. Add the same amount of water and one pound of sugar. Mash well. Add one quart of brandy and let it set covered for about four months, mashing and stirring with a wooden spoon from time to time. Strain seeds and pulp, and pour liquid into jars, seal, and let rest another month, then sip slowly.



COURTESY PHOTO
THE COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School name the students of the week for 4/7, (from left) Harper Horath and Kennedy Enerson.



COURTESY PHOTO
COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of May 5. The honored students are [from left]: Jackson Hollis, nominated by Mr. Kren; Hannah Sinkular, nominated by Mrs. Moir, and Addison Skaggs, nominated by Mrs. Himes. Marina Figge, not pictured, was also recognized based on a nominate by her teacher Mrs. Cade.

Fresh Hot Delivery

The Coal City Courant

Benson Insurance Agency, Inc.

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Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

Catie Morris

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

Must redeem by May 12, 2025

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We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coal Fan Winner.

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Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic. Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.

Blago did some good

WILMINGTON—People love to talk about what crooked politician former governor Blagojevich was. Well if it wasn't for him I would not been able to have an operation back in 2002 when I found a lump because he put a program through for women who didn't have insurance that they could get mammograms and pap smears. So in a way he possibly saved my life. Just remember former Governor Ryan was far more of a crook than Blagojevich was and he was a Republican not a Democrat.

Not out front

BRAIDWOOD—Isn't there a law in this town against leaving your boat and camper parked in your front yard? I'm tired of looking at my neighbor's house with the camper out front, hooked up to electricity, and I believe they're renting it out. We need an ordinance preventing this.

Gambling fate

BRAIDWOOD—I think Putin and Trump are doing like in the movie *The Deer Hunter*, when our soldiers were captured and forced to play Russian Roulette while the Viet Cong were gambling on our fate. You think they would want world peace.

Trump gets an F

BRAIDWOOD—Nobody's surprised that airlines are canceling flights due to the economy but when candy bar sales have dropped due to anxiety, that's jarring. And today I saw a bumper sticker which stated "We the people have had enough." Trump has taken our nation, a country once proudly described as "a light shining on a hill" and trashed it beyond recognition. His declaration that "I run the country and the world" is evidence of his egomaniacal idiosyncrasies that need to be cut down to size considering that 45% of Americans, almost half, give him the failing grade of "F" for job performance after the first 100 days. As Trump bellows "Drill, baby, drill" and calls for the return of dirty coal, he degrades our beautiful land into a trash heap of deregulation where oil barons and smokestacks spew out filth while China is the one designing the technology to create clean and cheap energy leaving us behind in the dust. Meanwhile Trump's Cabinet grovel like the cowards they are and Republicans in both chambers on Capitol Hill are afraid of their own shadows. On the other side Dem Senators are shouting out against Project 2025 for 25 hours at a time, their rallies are held to overflow crowds and people are filling the streets with rage. Americans are fighting mad with good reason while Trump tells reporters he is enjoying his second term. We the people are taking to the streets to spoil each and every day of the Trump news cycle.

Human violence

SHADOW LAKES—I'm calling about an article in the Sound Off. The article is titled beyond comprehension. Well first off there is no such thing as gun violence. A gun is an inanimant object just like an automobile which can be used to kill people. It is not gun violence it is human violence. The article goes on to talk about the shooting at Florida State Univ. in Tallahassee. Well CEO gun profits are not in the question that is protected by the PLCCA that is if you don't know or are uneducated. Gun violence is not the number one killer in kids and teens, it is human violence. Maybe you can comprehend that. Also and article titled Fascism is upon us. Whoever called this in or wrote this in, they're saying that Trump has ignored court rulings. Well how many does this person know of that Biden ignored also? I guess it's tit for tat. And as far as guns go, the second amendment is

the only amendment that you need special attention through the government to use. No other amendment has that. Dan Hill

Inciting riots

COAL CITY—The governor of Illinois was on the news again and he has been saying the Democrats must fight against every bit of President Trumps agendas and that they must have mass revolts against the Republicans. Isn't the governor inciting riots? The governor is also refusing to honor the laws of the U.S.A. by aiding and protection individuals in the U.S.A. illegally. Which is a felony in criminal activity. So tell me why the governor of Illinois is still allowed to be in office when he has violated his oath of office to protect the lives of the American citizens and he has also violated the laws of the U.S.A. by giving tax payers funds to individuals that are not American citizens. Any other American citizen would be put behind bars for aiding criminal activity so why is the governor of Illinois not behind bars?

The laughing stock

COAL CTY—We are the laughing stock of the world. Trump dons his ringmaster's hat to hold a circus of one ring after another of multiple fraud. One of his offers is to invite the top 220 meme coin investors to dinner and therefore give them access to favors. This is quid pro quo and glaring corruption in addition to the daily corruption Trump commits. But the crypto grift doesn't end there as billions pour into his coffers from crypto investments which are known for their cozy compatibility with crookery. Moreover that's only one of the many disingenuous reasons Trump wanted to be president. The people will never let him forget that he was found guilty on 34 felony counts nor that he was indicted on four criminal counts. But running for another term helped him to smudge those stains and emboldens him to project those crimes onto others as he tears our nation down to the level of a tin pan dictatorship. I'm no longer proud to consider myself an American citizen because of the banana republic Trump has made of our once proud nation. We are now the laughing-stock of the world because of Trump.

They won't come back

WILMINGTON—Now that we're finally getting rid of Elon the demon, we find that we have 9,000 fewer federal workers and we're spending more rather than less. Too bad Trump doesn't have the smarts of the Clinton-Gore administration which respected the federal workers for their "honesty and intelligence" documenting the entire process of streamlining bureaucracy into a book. Clinton not only balanced the budget but had a surplus to partially pay the national debt from 1998-2001. And according to Clinton the purpose of the President is to guarantee the welfare of the people including their happiness. In contrast, Trump's Secretary of the OMB and author of Project 2025, Russell Vought, stated that the purpose of Trump's cruelty is to make federal employees so miserable that they won't want to come to work and therefore will gladly accept being fired. This is against every theory of good management and is absolute evidence that Trump and his Cabinet are a cruel and nasty bunch who do not have the management skills to lead the 340 million people of America including children and especially children who once benefited from Headstart which has now been terminated.

100-day disaster

WILMINGTON—I love it when Trumpers say Trump has done everything he promised he would do. So he promised to wreck the stock market after Biden brought it to record heights? So he promised to send U.S. citizens to foreign pris-



ons without due process? So he ended the Ukraine War in 1 day? So he brought down eggs and gasoline prices? Not in Illinois he hasn't. So he promised to ignore Supreme Court rulings because they questioned his many executive orders? The only thing he said he would do that is true so far is that he would be a dictator on day one. But he lied when he said for only one day. It has been over 100 days and counting.

Restoring pride

WILMINGTON—Under four years of Joe Biden every speech was telling us how bad America is. We are racist, sexist, homophobic and xenophobic. Our numbers in the military and police were at all time lows. Now under Trump in the first 100 days people are joining the military and police at record numbers. Why? Because it's ok to be proud of America again.

When cruelty rules

WILMINGTON—The bully Trump lashes out and freedom of the press gets whacked like NPR and PBS did just recently. These two reputable media companies got defunded but why? It appears that NPR and PBS didn't stroke Trump's ego to the extent that Trump wanted, expected and demanded just as Trump's Cabinet must praise him with precious words and sweet phrases which the microphones of the press pick up and we the public overhear. It makes us realize that Trump is sick, Trump is weak, Trump is a coward. And all his cruel behavior is a coverup for his inadequacies. Is it possible that professional attention would calm Trump down and thereby Trump's violations against the Constitution could be avoided? Likewise medical help might relieve Trump's anger against the world, preventing deadly clashes and promoting peace. A disturbed personality like Trump could create horrific world events as we have witnessed in the past century for which we have paid dearly in treasure and sadly in blood.

Either way we pay

We've had immigration laws and quotas in this country since 1875. Administration after administration couldn't fix the problem. I'm not taking the time to do the math. It's a lot of years. To think our guy or gal is the one that's going to fix it I think you probably are going to end up disappointed. It's a good talking point though. I've read Benjamin Franklin's autobiography a few times and the two points I took away are: One, it wasn't only England's taxes that were harming the colonies it was the leaders of

the colonies taxing their own people, on top of England's and two, every politician convinces themselves that what's good for them is good for the whole country. I don't care how my ancestors got here. I just know that I have what I have because they did get here. My understanding is they came through Ellis Island. But good gosh who's gonna pay for that these days? Only taxes on taxes. Either way we pay. Your guy or gal is not going to solve the problem.

Deporter in chief

SHADOW LAKES—All the criticism Trump has gotten, and of course Musk, for wanting DOGE, but yet Obama earned the nickname Deporter in Chief for eliminating 5.2 million illegal immigrants out of the US in his first term. Then there was his campaign to cut whites which targeted more than 33 billion in taxpayer funded expenditures. Kind of the same thing as Trump's department of government efficiency. But 16 years earlier in 1995 Putin symbolized 337,000 federal jobs he was cutting by brandishing a giant check made out to the American taxpayers in the amount of \$7.7 billion and according to what I've read in polls the most popular Democrats were Bill Clinton and Barack Obama so tell me all of you Democrats out there what do you think of Trump's operations now? Senator Elizabeth Warren has been one of the loudest voices in the Democrat battle cry that the department of government efficiency had Elon Musk was not elected and yet Warren herself has been an unelected official appointed to some congressional panel to oversee federal government spending. Dan Hill

Support a kid for Bible school

The Coal City United Methodist Church, at 6805 E. McArdele Road, invites all kids entering first to fifth grades to join them for "Road Trip" Vacation Bible School, June 16-19 from 9 a.m. to noon. Adult, middle school, and high school volunteers are also needed. Registration for students and volunteers is online at vbspro.events/p/e1b37a. Kids go home with a sack lunch every day. You can sponsor a child or student leader for \$30, which provides a t-shirt, Bible stories, games, crafts, lunch and more! For any questions, please call the church office at 815-634-8670. Registration deadline is June 1, so be sure to register early.



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You better keep up

MOTHER OF 10—Imagine being a mother of 10 little goslings all at once. It's a full-time job for this Canada goose as they try to keep their 10 little ones (two weren't keeping up with the rest of the flock and are out of the photo) out of harm's way. On this Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11, take a drive through the island parks in Wilmington for a better appreciation of what Mother Nature provides as there are at least four pairs of geese raising goslings. Happy Mother's day to all moms.

Photo by Eric Fisher

Another week of stagnant gas prices

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 5.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.34/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 15.0 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 53.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 0.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.501 per gallon.

In Wilmington, Mohsen has the lowest prices in the area at \$3.16/g. Shell is charging \$3.24.

Braidwood is running \$3.29/g across the board, and Coal City is right at \$3.45/g.

Morris gas ranges from \$3.14/g, all the way up to #3.29/g at Amoco.

Bourbonnais gas is \$3.12/g at Gulf, up to \$3.29/g at Gas N Wash.

"Last week was another mixed bag at the pump for many Americans, but there may be some promising short-term news from OPEC, which has agreed to increase oil production starting in June," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Here in the U.S., slightly more than half of the states saw gas prices rise, while many others saw modest declines. We continued to see price cycling in states prone to such movements, including

much of the Great Lakes region.

"However, the most notable development is OPEC's decision to raise production next month, as oil prices hover near their lowest levels since the pandemic. While gasoline inventories have been tightening due to ongoing refinery maintenance in

response to lower oil, refinery output is expected to rise soon. As maintenance wraps up, we could see an increase in gasoline supply and a national average that may soon dip below \$3 per gallon."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.61/g while the highest was \$4.49/g.

Take a book club hike

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is hosting "These Books Are Made for Walkin'" on Monday, May 13 from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

This nature-themed book club, in partnership with Three Rivers Public Library in Channahon, allows participants to discuss a book of the month while strolling the trails. Ages 14 or older; free. Register by May 11.

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U.S. still an egg exporter

Despite the domestic shortages, the U.S. remains a net exporter of table eggs. In January and February 2025, the country imported 57.4 million eggs while exporting 176 million.

At the same time the average price of large, grade-A eggs reached \$6.227 in March, up 5.60% from the previous month and 108.12% higher than in March 2024.

Pritzker tries to rally “do-nothing” Democrats

During a rip-roaring speech in New Hampshire last week, Gov. JB Pritzker called for mass national protests and “disruption,” assailed “do-nothing” Democrats for their “simpering timidity” and labeled President Donald Trump a “madman” who cannot be reasoned with.

The Jewish Ukrainian-American governor said of Trump: “Stop tearing down the Constitution in the name of my ancestors. Do not claim that your authoritarian power grabs are about antisemitism. When you destroy social justice, you are disparaging the very foundation of Judaism.”

“These Republicans cannot know a moment of peace,” Pritzker said.

President Donald Trump’s deputy chief of staff Stephen Miller told reporters that the line “clearly could be construed as inciting violence.”

The president’s son, Donald Trump Jr., tweeted at the governor: “Are you trying to inspire a 3rd assassination attempt on my dad? Two wasn’t enough for you?”

Illinois Republican Party chair Kathy Salvi



Rich Miller

claimed Pritzker was “calling for political violence against Republicans” during his speech.

Fox News host Sean Hannity jumped into the fray, claiming the governor, “all but threatened half the country with violence.”

But here’s the rest of Pritzker’s paragraph: “They must understand that we will fight their cruelty with every megaphone and microphone that we have. We must castigate them on the soap box and then punish them at the ballot box.”

Pritzker called the Republican accusations “ridiculous,” and continued: “I called for people to take out their megaphones and their microphones, to stand up on soap boxes and get to the ballot box in order to defeat the people who are trying to take so many things away from the American people. That has nothing to do with violence.”

Basically, Pritzker was the Republican outrage of the day. It’s all pretty standard stuff.

The Pritzker folks appeared to be unfazed and even found it kind of amusing, with one calling the developments, “a mas-

ter class in the right-wing echo chamber.”

As for the rest of us, we should probably just learn to get used to this. We’re in for about three or four more years of this stuff if Pritzker runs for reelection and then campaigns for president.

Mention to anyone near Pritzker that it sure looks like he’s setting up a presidential bid and they will tell you he’s simply trying to rally the party and the nation against Trump. His folks will also correctly remind you that the 2028 election is years away and that the 2026 midterms are the next real concern.

But it’s obvious that he can be fighting in the here and now and positioning the party for 2026 and also be trying to set himself for a 2028 bid.

Whatever the case, I only care about whether he’s doing the job he was twice elected to do. I was born here and have lived in Illinois all but a few years of my life, and I plan to be a resident for the rest of my life as well.

So far, Pritzker seems to be keeping up the pace of his state public events. And his agencies, while far from great, are not falling into further disrepair.

He’s made some poll-friendly proposals the past year or so, which a few have claimed are explained by his grand ambitions. But, c’mon. Politicians love to

push ideas that poll well.

The billionaire also has access to a fleet of jets, so he can zoom back and forth to national events in about the same time that it would take us mere mortals to drive from Chicago to Springfield during rush hour.

And a Sunday event in another state is hardly the end of the world.

But if Pritzker’s governance does start slipping because he’s running for higher office, I pledge to let my opinion be known. I will not stand for it. This state is far too important and its position has long been far too precarious to sacrifice it on the altar of national ambition. This ain’t Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton running for president.

Arkansas could’ve slid off a cliff and nobody would’ve cared, because it was mostly already there.

And if he decides to run for reelection, he absolutely must choose a running mate who could step into the position if, by chance, Pritzker actually wins the nation’s top job. He also needs to make sure he has staffers in place who can keep the government running while his top staffers are directing his national efforts.

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

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Joliet Slammers announce nine fan giveaway for 2025

The Joliet Slammers are proud to announce a full lineup of 2025 fan giveaways, bringing more fun to the Slammers game day experience than ever before.

The Slammers’ 2025 season will begin on Friday, May 9 against the Schaumburg Boomers with the home opener and Fireworks Night. Gates will open at 5:35pm, with first pitch at 6:35pm.

Giveaways during the Slammers 2025 season include:

- May 10: Magnet Schedule Presented by Advent - You will never miss a Slammers home game again! The first 1,500 fans will receive a 2025 Magnet Schedule presented by Advent.

- May 11: Little Potted Trees Presented by Channahon Baseball - Help the Slammers and Channahon Baseball plant 400 trees this Mother’s Day.

- May 22: Wooden Train Whistles Presented by BNSF Railway - All aboard!

The first 600 fans through the gates will receive a wooden whistle courtesy of BNSF Railway.

- June 17: Italian Flags Presented by American Italian Cultural Society - The first 1,200 fans will receive an Italian Flag to fly all game long as we celebrate Italian culture.

- June 26: Bill Murray Bobblehead Presented by D’Arcy Motors - Add to your memorabilia and join us for Ghostbusters Night where the first 1,000 fans through the gates will receive a Bill Murray bobblehead presented by D’Arcy Motors.

- August 2: Adjustable Hat Presented by Illinois Bone and Joint Institute - Leave your ballcap at home because you will be one of the first 1,000 fans rocking this exclusive giveaway at the game!

- August 13: Lunch Box Presented by Ecolab - Celebrating back to school with a lunch box giveaway! The first 1,000 kids to join us for Slammers Back to

School presented by Ecolab will get their very own Slammers lunch box.

- August 28: Slammers Baseball Cards Presented by Dr. Pepper - Score a free set of limited-edition baseball cards. Only available to the first 500 fans through the gates!

- August 30: JL Bird Bobblehead Presented by Ecolab - Honor the spirits with our vibrant Día de los Muertos inspired JL Bird

Bobblehead - 1,000 fans to receive this giveaway. All promotion dates and giveaways are subject to change.

All ticket plans, groups, suites and single game tickets are available for the 2025 season. To see the full 2025 Schedule, information on ticket packages, and more, visit www.jolietsslammers.com or call 815-722-2287.

Methodist church to host blood drive

The Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road, will hold a Community Blood Drive in their fellowship hall with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, June 3, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

To register a preferred time, please contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 or

register online at Versiti.org/il.

Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are recommended. Be sure to bring a photo ID, drink plenty of water, and eat a healthy meal before donating. Please consider donating blood and help save a life.

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The Coal City Courier

271 S. Broadway, Coal City

Lady Coalers double defeat Herscher Tigers

The Lady Coaler softball team swept Herscher with back-to-back wins before losing to Seneca last week.

Coal City trailed 3-1 on Wednesday in a battle with Seneca before tying it up 3-3 in the top of the third. The hosting Irish scored two in the bottom of the frame and three more in the fifth to send Coal City home with a 9-4 defeat.

"Hats off to a very good Seneca program," commented Coal City coach Rodney Monbrum.

The Lady Coalers out-hit Seneca 11 to 8 but hurt themselves with three errors and leaving nine batters stranded on base.

Kaycee Graf hit a pair of doubles for two RBIs. Khloe Picard recorded a home run and a single while Addison Harvey and Masyn Kuder contributed two hits apiece.

Naomi Rodriguez pitched two innings with three hits and three runs taken off two walks. Brittnae Combed came on for one inning, allowing one hit and two runs against one walk. Kuder finished the final three innings with four hits, four runs, two walks while striking out one.

The Lady Coalers (15-7 overall) rallied in the fourth inning against Herscher on Tuesday to win 5-3.

They were down 3-2 when they tied it up in the fourth and scored the winning runs in the fifth to sweep the Lady Tigers.

"Kuder threw the ball well tonight for us and Addison Hodgen hit her second homer in two days. Darcy Ness went 7-for-9 in the series and crushed the ball at the plate," coach Monbrum praised.

Hodgen contributed in a big way with a two-run homer. Picard hit a double and a single while Harvey also had two hits. Darcy Ness smashed a double and a single for two RBIs. Madalyn Petersen, Juliana Covington and Graf each had a hit.

Kuder pitched the win, allowing six hits, three runs, two walks while striking out five.

Monday's win at Herscher featured a combined 37 runs scored as Coal City won it 22-15.

The Lady Coalers trailed 10-7 after five innings when they pulled ahead 11-10 in the top of the sixth. They ended up scoring 11 more runs in the seventh to ice the victory.

Ness lifted the middle of the

line-up by hitting 5-for-6 including a double and three RBIs. Hodgen, who smacked a home run, finished 4-for-5 with five RBIs. Picard also had four hits, including a double, and two RBIs. Peterson doubled and had two singles while Graf had two hits.

"Addison Hodgen had a career day as did Darcy Ness at the plate. Naomi Rodriguez came in relief to throw a solid 2 innings," commented Monbrum.

Kuder hurled five innings with eight hits, 10 runs (3 earned), six walks and three strikeouts. Rodriguez came on in relief for two innings, giving up two hits and five runs while walking three and striking out two.

The Lady Coalers hosted Reed-Custer Monday and played in Braidwood Tuesday. On Thursday they host Newark and then conference-leading Manteno on Monday. On Tuesday they travel to Manteno.



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund

I'VE GOT IT—Coal City's Juliana Covington makes a catch on a fly ball hit to the outfield on Monday.

OBITUARIES

Sally A. D'Orazio

COAL CITY—Sally A. D'Orazio, 90, resident of Coal City, formerly of Rockdale, passed away Monday, April 28, 2025, at Ascension St. Joseph in Joliet, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born May 27, 1934, in Munising, MI, the daughter of the late Herbert and Frances (nee Stimac) Blank. Sally grew up on the family farm outside of Star Siding/Shingleton, MI, and graduated from Munising Middle High School. After graduation, she migrated to Joliet to live with her Aunt Mary. She worked as a secretary at Al Baskin's Clothing Store, where she met her husband, Roger. They resided in Rockdale, IL, for over 60 years, where they raised their family and enjoyed making many friends. She recently relocated to Coal City and continued to make more friends and acquaintances.

Sally liked to be social and kept busy as a volunteer with St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet and as a member of the Red Hat Society. She was an experienced quilter and enjoyed sharing her craft. Growing heirloom seed vegetables and flowers was a favorite spring and summer hobby, and she maintained many houseplants, with her favorite being African violets. She adored animals and would care for the many outside cats, squirrels, and any other creatures who would find their way into her garden.

Sally had a quick wit and a playful spirit that never faded. Whether challenging her loved ones to a round of Rummikub or a game of cards, she brought laughter and warmth to every moment. Her mind was as bright as her

smile, and she left a trail of joy, kindness, and unforgettable memories with everyone lucky enough to be part of her life.

She is survived by her two sons, Roger (Elaine) D'Orazio and Terrence (Barbara) D'Orazio; grandchildren: Roger (Lisa) D'Orazio, Allison (Tim Zlomie) D'Orazio, Ryan (Debbie) D'Orazio, Bernard (Jenna) D'Orazio, Gary (Lesley) D'Orazio, Terrance (Beth) D'Orazio Jr., and Gina (Michael) Wix; great-grandchildren: Brody, Emma and Mason D'Orazio; Sienna Ruffatto, Oliver, Graham and Knox D'Orazio; Beckham and Bianca D'Orazio, William, Matthew, Madelyn, and Katelyn D'Orazio; Joshua and Abby D'Orazio, Hunter and Ava Wix; brother, James Blank and sisters: Loretta Reff, Deanna Boyak and Annetta (Jerry) VanLandschoot. Many nieces, nephews, cousins, dear friends, and Red Hat Ladies also survive.

She was preceded in death by her husband of over 42 years, Roger D'Orazio and her parents.

Services for Sally A. D'Orazio were held privately by her family, and she was entombed at Woodlawn Memorial Park, Joliet.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to SNIP Society NFP, 2201 Glenwood Ave, Joliet, IL 60435 or to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Please visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com, where you can share a favorite memory or leave an online condolence.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home in Morris was in charge of arrangements.

Tracy Jones

BRAIDWOOD—Tracy Ann Less Jones, 54, of Braidwood, and formerly of Morris, passed away tragically on May 1, 2025, as the result of a motor vehicle accident.

Born Aug. 24, 1970, in Ottawa, Tracy was a daughter of Deborah Ann (Strong) Watters, of Plainfield and the late Richard Lee Less. She spent her early years in Ottawa before moving to Morris, where she graduated from Morris High School with the class of 1988.

Following high school, Tracy pursued her passion for beauty and creativity by attending Professional's Choice Hair Design Academy. She worked as a hairdresser in the Joliet area, where she made lasting relationships and touched lives with her warmth and artistic eye. Eventually, she dedicated herself to raising her family, a role she embraced wholeheartedly.

Never one to stop learning or serving others, Tracy later attended Kankakee Community College to earn her nursing degree. As a Registered Nurse, she found her calling at the Illinois Veterans Home in Manteno, where she cared for Veterans with unwavering compassion and dedication for the past 17 years.

Tracy was a woman of many passions—an avid attendee of Dynamic Fitness in Coal City, a lover of music and concerts, and a free spirit who enjoyed yoga, Pilates, essential oils, and spiritual rituals like saging. Her artistic soul was evident in her painting, photography, and home decorating, all of which showcased her impeccable taste and eye for beauty.

Tracy had a deep love for the sun, travel, white wine, and her beloved dog, Bo. She was a gentle spirit with a fierce heart—kind, thoughtful, strong, and an advocate for others, especially the patients under her care. A devoted mother and grandmother, nothing brought her more joy than being present for her children's and grandchildren's milestones. Her loyalty to her family was unwavering, and she was always there, cheering from the sidelines, camera in hand, heart full of pride.

Above all, Tracy will be remembered



as a nurturer, a true caregiver, and a friend to all. Her memory will live on in the lives she touched, the family she loved so fiercely, and the legacy of compassion and creativity she leaves behind.

Survivors include her mother and step-father, Deborah and Tony Watters; step-mother, Jean Less, of Ottawa; three children: Molly Jones (Danny Perry), of Custer Park and Samuel Jones (Sydney Hernandez) and Joshua (Hailey) Jones, both of Wilmington; four grandchildren: Payton, Chloe, Walker and River; siblings: Christine (Dan) Flaherty, of Plainfield; Kirk Less, of Buchanan, MI; Jennifer (Travis) Atkinson, of Billings, MT; Jaimie Brewer, of Lander, WY; Jackie Watters, of Wilmington and Nikki Bleyle, of Momence, IL; nieces and nephews: Fiona, Sean, Caesar, Kaiti, Caleb, Kora, Connor, Crestin and Charlee; aunts and uncles: Lynnette Kubly, of Plainfield; Jay (Sue) Less and Frank (the late Sue) Less, both of Ottawa and Wally (Tracy) Less, of Tarpon Springs, FL; numerous cousins, including her special cousin, Amy Kubly, and her former husband and father of her children, Darrin Jones, of Wilmington, as well as canine companion, Bo.

Tracy was preceded in death by her father, Richard Less; grandparents: Linnett "L.W." and Dorothy Strong, Oscar and Shirley Less, and Dr. James and Dr. Barbara Watters, and niece, Grace Flaherty.

Cremation rites were accorded. She was laid to rest in Mt. Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Tracy's memory to her family for distribution to charities which were near and dear to Tracy's heart.

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

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

St. Rose graduate receives World Award

Alicia Hobbs Levi, a graduate of former St. Rose Elementary School in Wilmington and Joliet Catholic Academy, recently accepted the World Literacy Award for Reading is Fundamental's Contribution to Literacy at the world conference held in Oxford, England.

She is the daughter of Sandra Hobbs Galyon of Wilmington.

Alicia has served as the President and CEO of Reading is Fundamental since 2016. Prior to that she was Vice President of Education for PBS. She has a strong belief of the



ALICIA HOBBS

importance of book choice and access. RIF has given 422 million books to over 129 million children.

Alicia was also honored by JCA at this year's Hall of Champions event at the Jacob Henry Mansion in Joliet for her career in promoting literacy. Six graduates were recognized for their accomplishments. In the group was Raymond Fonck, another St. Rose grad, who was a University of Wisconsin professor of nuclear engineering and applied science.

Fossil Ridge Library News

Adult Programs
Friday, May 9-Trivia Night, 6-8 p.m. at Gardner American Legion, 426 Industry Ave., Gardner. Join Ms. Quiz as she tests you and your team on all kinds of knowledge. Prizes will be awarded. Alcohol can be purchased at the American Legion. Food may be brought into the establishment. Please register in teams of 5-8 people.

Tuesday, May 13-Well-Read Book Club, 1-2 p.m. Dive into thought-provoking reads and engaging discussions with the Well-Read Book Club. We'll explore books that challenge your perspectives each month and ignite meaningful conversations. Join us and connect with fellow book lovers. May's title: The Forgotten Bookshop of Paris by Daisy Wood. Copies are available at the front desk or online

in our digital consortium.

Wednesday, May 14-Play That Hot Fiddle with Dennis Stronghmitt, 6-7:30 p.m. Born in 1916 in southern Indiana from a southeastern Illinois family, the child prodigy fiddler and singer Wade Ray developed into one of the most endearing entertainers in country and western swing music.

Children Programs
Monday, May 12-Kids Can Cook: Lasagna 5:30-6:30 p.m. This program teaches children in 1st-5th grade essential food preparation and cooking skills while introducing them to the joys of nutritious and delicious food. Registration is required, with a maximum of 20 children.

Tuesday, May 13-Play-Doh Playdates, 10:30-11 a.m. Join us for a Play-Doh workshop. Display your creativity using our Play-

Doh and tools. For children aged 2-6.

Wednesday, May 14-Chess Club for all ages, 5-7 p.m. The Fossil Ridge Public Library is hosting a chess club! This club is a drop-in session, and members can attend at leisure to learn or enhance their skills and play against other players. All ages are welcome.

Thursday, May 15-Toddler Time, 10-11 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

Registration is required for all programs. For more information call 815-458-2187.

MVK senior citizens agree to playing more games of Bingo

Thirty-two MVK Senior Citizens met at the Mazon American Legion on April 15, at noon for dinner catered by The Upper Crust through the Community Nutrition Network which was delicious. People who play Euchre arrived at 10:30 and played till the meal arrived.

The meeting was brought to order at 12:45 by President Beth Burns who led the pledge to the flag. Prayer was given before the meal by Secretary Nancy Johnson. We had a moment of silence.

Greg Mialkowski from The Gardens at Park Pointe gave a short talk about their activities. He is also on the radio station 103.1 on

Monday mornings Business Spotlight.

Secretary Nancy Johnson read the minutes from last month and they stand approved as read.

There were four members present with April birthdays so we all sang Happy Birthday to them.

Treasurer Shirley Petersen gave her report with a balance of \$830.86. A motion to accept was given by Joe, second by Betty, motion passed.

Business: Carol Clemens made a motion to play 10 games and one coverall of Bingo instead of 5 games since several members who enjoy Bingo come from farther away and want to make the after-

noon worth their time. After a discussion and positive voting results, this will take effect in May since the Bingo board has to be reprogrammed.

Beth Burns talked shortly about the Red Carpet Route 66 extravaganza in May.

Door prizes were won by Kay Jensen, Jan Alsbury, and Nancy Burchfield.

Bingo games were held after the meeting.

Our next meeting will be May 20, 2025 with a noon, meal before the meeting.

A motion to adjourn was given by Nancy, second by Shirley, motion passed.

Recognition for Coach Lockwood



IN JANUARY THE Illinois High School Track and Cross Country Coaches Association inducted Coach Todd Lockwood (center) into the Hall of Fame. Coach Lockwood has been coaching track for 45 years as head coach at the Middle School level, an assistant coach at the High School level, he was named Assistant Coach of the Year in 2002, and he has been a volunteer at both Wilmington High School and Middle School for 12 years! Included in his 4 1/2 decades of coaching is 35 years at Reed-Custer. The Wilmington Track program is grateful and lucky to have Lockwood coaching our track athletes, and is honored and proud to congratulate him on his well deserved Hall of Fame Induction. Todd was joined by his family, including wife Ruth, and their two sons, on Tuesday.

Tiffany a happy recipient of trophy



TIFFANY LOCKWOOD (right) at Whitmore Ace Hardware in Wilmington receives the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce Employee of the Month Trophy. Her cheerful disposition earned her a nomination from a patron of Ace Hardware and friend of Melissa's Closet. Presenting the trophy is chamber ambassador Wendy Hill from the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community who added "This is always fun to present the trophy and recipients are usually surprised. But Ms. Tiffany was particularly happy and already showing the trophy to customers in line."

Chamber photo

Trump's budget cuts affect U.S. national parks

Dear EarthTalk: How have Trump's budget cuts affected U.S. national parks and can we expect widespread closures during the busy summer season?

-- Mary Paterson, Greenwich, CT

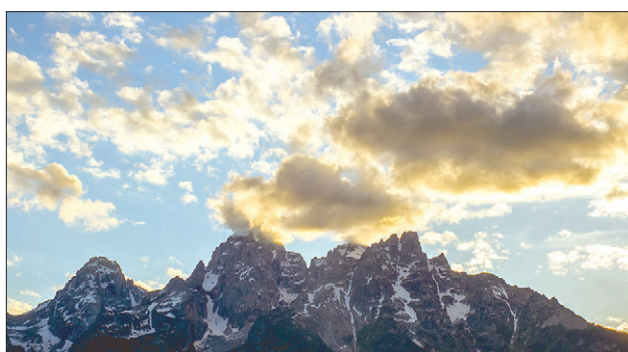
EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

America's national parks welcome millions of visitors per year, some 331.9 million in 2024. And parks offer more than just scenery. The 63 American national parks are vital to conservation and local economies.

The National Park Service (NPS) is responsible for the sites, from larger parks like Yosemite to smaller sites. However, the NPS heavily relies on funding from the federal government. Trump's federal budget cuts included significant cuts to the Department of Interior, which oversees the NPS.

Trump heavily reduced NPS funding despite Congress having not approved all of it. For example, NPS has struggled heavily with maintenance costs, such as road and trail repairs and upkeep at visitor centers. Furthermore, the deferred maintenance backlog for NPS was over



U.S. NATIONAL PARKS, like the Grand Tetons pictured here, are facing severe budget cuts thanks to Trump administration mania over cost cutting.

\$23 billion as of 2023. Reductions in the budget also led to staff cuts and hiring freezes, leading to a smaller number of people who could support the parks and tourists.

Many national parks sponsor environmental initiatives, but these have had to be scaled back due to the budget cuts.

Theresa Pierno, the CEO and president of the National Parks Conservation Association, said, "This budget doesn't value our parks, and instead presents cuts that would be deeply damaging to them," in response to the Trump Administration's FY2018 budget.

Staff shortage from budget cuts means fewer rangers, programs and activities available for tourists. Many basic services, like trash collection, restroom cleaning and trail maintenance, have been delayed in many parks due to this issue.

Trails, campgrounds and visitor centers in a few parks were even closed temporarily due to a lack of park staff. Parks with a high visitor volume became overcrowded, leading to environmental damage, safety issues and a less satisfying and peaceful experience for visitors.

While no major national parks shut their doors completely, many smaller parks were especially vulnerable to the cuts. The reduced funding meant these parks had shorter operational hours and a reduced visiting season, impacting the communities in the area that rely on money generated by tourism. Phil Francis, chair of the Coalition to Protect America's National Parks, believes that "this financial challenge, combined with increasing use of the parks and recent policy changes, greatly challenges the ability of the NPS to meet its fundamental mission of

resource protection and visitor enjoyment."

Many see these cuts as having long-lasting consequences for the future of America's national parks. Future administrations face the issue of creating a sustainable budget for national parks. Most important, public advocacy through organizations such as the National Park Foundation and the National Parks Conservation Association will continue to play a large role in protecting our national parks for decades to come.

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Plant, bake sale Saturday

The Morris Area Garden Club (MAGC) will hold a plant, gift and bake sale on Saturday, May 10 from 8 a.m. to noon in the VFW Hall, 309 McKinley St. (corner of McKinley and Rt. 47), Morris.

Proceeds will be used for MAGC's scholarship fund. For sale will be garden plants, decorated cups and saucers with planted succulents and other

plants, decorated milkglass vases, and a bake sale!

One stop shopping for Mom and/or yourself!

MAGC has delighted people for more than 15 years. Members and guests meet on the third Wednesday from February to November. The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 6 p.m. in the Morris Area Public Library, 604 Liberty

Street.

Featured speaker will be Kim Goodwin, Bailey Nurseries Territory Sales Representative, presenting, "Hardy Rock Star Plants," versatile, aesthetically appealing woodies for a wide array of landscapes.

Questions? Email MA GardenClub@gmail.com. Follow or contact the club on Facebook at Morris Area Garden Club.

Morris Hospital offering Heartsaver CPR training

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is offering the American Heart Association's Heartsaver CPR AED & First Aid Training course for the general public on Monday, May 19, from 4-8 p.m. at

Shabbona School, 725 School St., Morris.

The course is for individuals interested in learning skills that could save the life of a loved one, friend, co-worker, or community member.

Participants will learn the skills needed to perform high quality CPR, proper use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), relief of foreign-body airway obstruction, and basic first aid. The cost is \$110 and includes American Heart Association materials.

In 2025, Morris Hospital will also be offering the Heartsaver CPR, AED and First class on August 19 and November 18.

Register online at www.morrishospital.org/events. For more information, call 815-705-7360.

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2025

First Baptist Church of Coal City

2nd Annual

Cruising for Christ

Car Show

2025

Sunday, May 18 • 12:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Prizes for Best of Show People's Choice and Best of Show Exhibitor's Choice.
For Car show questions, contact Sam Scott Payne on Facebook. \$20 entry fee.

4470 E. Rt. 113, Coal City, IL

1 mile west of Coal City High School

• Serving Lunch

• Silent Auction

• Bake Sale

• Praise Music

We have lots of great items, including Dollywood Tickets!



OPERATION
CHRISTMAS
CHILD
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE®

100% of all donations will go towards FBC Coal City's mission to send 500 shoe boxes to children in need across the world through Operation Christmas Child.

CRUISE ON OVER

Help us spread joy one gift at a time!



Will, Grundy County fairgrounds receive grants for exhibit upgrades

For the eighth year, Compeer Financial is helping county fairs across the Upper Midwest improve facilities and attendee experiences through its Fund for Rural America, the Farm Credit cooperative's giving program.

In Illinois, 21 fair organizations will each receive up to \$4,000 to support their fairground projects.

In total, Compeer Financial is awarding \$242,000 to 61 county fairs across Illinois, Minnesota

and Wisconsin for a wide range of repairs and upgrades through this year's County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant Program.

"County fairs are a summer highlight for families involved in agriculture and living in rural communities," said Karen Schieler, manager of corporate giving at Compeer Financial.

"These grants help fair organizers enhance the experience for exhibitors and visitors by funding essential updates to buildings and grounds. Fair

organizers work tirelessly to ensure a positive, memorable event each year, and we're proud to support their efforts."

Two of the 21 organizations in Illinois earning a County Fair Facility Upgrade Grant include: Grundy County Agricultural District Fair: Concrete and hog pens and Will County Fair Association: Replacing posts and plywood in the horse barn.

Learn more about native shade plants

The Forest Preserve is hosting "Adopt a Native Plant - Shade" on Friday, May 16 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Learn about shade-loving native plants and adopt three to take home. Ideal for those looking to transform shaded yards. Ages 16 or older; \$5 per person. Register by May 14.

Grundy Senior Expo open to all seniors

The 3rd annual Senior Expo hosted by the Grundy County Health Department will be held Wednesday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Jennifer's Garden Banquet, 555 Gore Rd., Morris.

Over 1,000 people were in attendance last year as the agency celebrated seniors by offering a fun-filled day with Bingo, prizes, senior service vendors, lunch, music and educational seminars.

This event is completely free for all seniors. GTS will be providing free rides for those who wish to attend. People can register on Eventbrite or call 815-941-3404.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a part-time office employee. Must have experience with Micro-soft Office, POS systems, and phone etiquette. Please send inquiries to wcsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. ch18-22

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

Timeless Home Renovations
Specializing in Flooring, Trim, Tile, Bathrooms, Kitchens, Basements and More. Inquiries email: MIKE @ TIME - LESSHOME.ONMI-CROSOFT.COM
MIKE: 815-351-8736

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

GOT GRASS Lawn Care
Jim Baudino
815-342-6394
cc11-26

HAY

4 acres mixed hay, red white clover & grass. Wilmington area. 815-476-9601.

WANTED

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

STORAGE

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

FOR FREE

Full size gray sofa. Electric reclining foot and head. USB ports, everything works. 815-476-2972. fr18-19

GARAGE SALE

Coal City - 175 W Fox Street. Friday, May 9, 8am-4pm and Saturday, May 10, 8am-1pm. This is the one! Pedestal table/4 chairs, 1 leaf. Cabela's tent/canopy, sleeping bags, 2 excellent vacuums and much more. ca19

GARAGE SALE

Coal City - 95 W. Division St., Thurs., Fri. & Sat., May 8, 9, 10 from 8am-3pm. Big Sale: Lots of stuff to look at and get. We have alot of clothes, women's, petite and men's, no children's. Winter coats, sweaters, sweatshirts, winter clothes and summer clothes. Old books, knick knacks, exercise equipment, Christmas decorations, costumes jewelry, bedding, blankets, pillows, etc. Come and see and purchase. Need to get rid of it all. cc18-19

GARAGE SALE

Lake Shannon Multi-Family Garage Sales
Saturday, May 17 8:00am to 4:00pm
18530 W 3000N Rd, Reddick

HELP WANTED

Wilmington, IL area. Shooting and throwing ducks & pheasants; operating a 4-wheeler; maintaining training equipment. Lake maintenance; mowing & weeding grass; driving tractor. Mechanical ability would be a plus. Hard work, fair pay, year round employment. Call Lisa at 815-302-8810. cc17-19

HELP WANTED

Lifeguards needed at local sportsmen's club in Wilmington. Must be certified or able to become certified. Please send inquiries to wcsc1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. ch18-22

Illinois Department of Transportation

Public Comment

The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) is currently engaged in engineering and environmental studies for the improvement of IL 53 from Patterson Road to Mills Road, in the City of Joliet, Will County. The general scope of work for this improvement is anticipated to consist of intersection improvements for safety and traffic operations, drainage improvements, and pedestrian and bicyclist accommodations. IDOT is seeking public comments on impacts the IL 53 project will have on Nowell Park owned and operated by the Joliet Park District.

Nowell Park is protected under federal regulations originally enacted as Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, which protect public parks, recreation areas, and wildlife and waterfowl refuges, as well as public or private historical sites. IDOT anticipates a *de minimis* impact finding for Nowell Park, based on the determination that the project will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities qualifying the property for protection under Section 4(f).

The project will impact 0.34 acres of Nowell Park for construction of a new shared-use path, a path connecting the new shared-use path to the park's existing path, intersection improvements, and drainage improvements. Documentation of this proposed action and its impacts, including avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures, will be available at the following locations:

DATE: May 7, 2025 to June 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday thru Friday
PLACE: Illinois Department of Transportation Bureau of Programming – 4th Floor
201 West Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196

DATE: May 7, 2025 to June 6, 2025
TIME: 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, Monday thru Friday
PLACE: Joliet Park District
3000 W. Jefferson Street
Joliet, IL 60435

An electronic version of this documentation is available on the IDOT website on the Section 4(f) tab at <https://idot.illinois.gov/transportation-system/environment/section-4f-documents.html>. Written comments can be submitted at the IDOT office, mailed to the IDOT office, or sent electronically to the above referenced website. Comments received by June 6, 2025 will become part of the public record.

This comment period will be accessible to people with disabilities. Anyone needing special assistance including Spanish interpretation should contact Corey Smith, P.E. at (847) 705-4103.

All correspondence regarding this project should be sent to:

Illinois Department of Transportation
201 W. Center Court
Schaumburg, IL 60196-1096
Attn: Bureau of Programming
Corey Smith, P.E. / (Corey.Smith@Illinois.gov)

LOST & FOUND

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

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Pro Lawn Solutions LLC
Comprehensive lawn care services including mowing, weed/mosquito/pest control, fertilization, mulching, and much more! Fully Insured! For a free quote call or text 815-651-1963 cc19-22

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		4			8			
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48					49			50	51	52	53	54
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59					60			61				
62					63					64		

CLUES ACROSS

- Herring-like fish
- Perform on stage
- Soda
- Small growth
- In support of
- Step taken when walking
- Hollyhocks
- Returned material authorization (abbr.)
- Feel pain
- San Diego ballplayer
- Inches per minute (abbr.)
- Fat from a pig's abdomen
- Create again
- Honors once more
- Thin coating of gold
- Welsh river
- Japanese novelist Mizumura
- Husks of corn
- Green vegetable
- Showing guilt
- Soldier
- Photographers
- Language spoken in Nigeria
- Mimic
- Expressed pleasure
- Ancient Greek sophist
- Beverage container
- Night monkey genus
- Lace bugs
- Hogshead (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- A place to unwind
- Helped (archaic)
- Razorbill genus
- Bleached
- Continent
- Fruit preserved in syrup
- Impediment to one's freedom
- Nocturnal rodents
- Earthy pigment
- Relieved oneself
- Golf score
- Tech hub ___ Alto
- Sportscaster Andrews
- Records electric currents
- Popular Hitchcock film
- Revolutions per minute
- NY Giants legend
- Sports radio host Patrick
- When you hope to get somewhere
- French seaport
- Thai river
- Rocker's accessory
- Extra charge
- Influential American president
- Pain in the head
- Great Plains people
- Consumed
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Improves
- Secret clique
- Behind the stern of a ship
- Dough made from corn flour
- Fallow deer
- Swiss river
- Grayish white
- Engrave
- College's Blue Devils
- Midway between south and south-east

FACE PAINTING

FREE ENTRY

Grundy Area FFA Alumni & Supporters

BBQ AT THE BARN

May 10, 2025 | Coal City Middle School Parking Lot
3 pm - 7 pm

SWING BY FOR DINNER AND DESSERT! EVERY ORDER HELPS SUPPORT THE ANDREW KRULL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND!

INCLUDING GAVC FFA

RSVP HERE

SHOPPING VENDORS

5	4	1	3	2	8	9	6	7
3	2	9	7	6	1	5	4	8
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9	1	2	8	5	3	4	7	6
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2	8	6	4	1	5	7	3	9
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Photo by Eric Fisher

CCHS CORINNA BARKLEY kicks the ball down the field during Thursday's game against Reed-Custer. Coal City's won the Senior Night contest 2-1.



Photo by Eric Fisher

SAVE BY Coal City's Maggie Sterba during Thursday's game against Reed-Custer.



Photo by Amy Walker

SLIDING INTO HOME is Coal City's Gavin Berger during their home game against Herscher. Berger was 2-for-3 at bat with one RBI and was called out in a very close call.

Comets spoil Coaler after 10 innings

The battle between Reed-Custer and Coal City baseball teams went into extra innings on Monday when the Comets scored two runs in the top of the 10th to celebrate a 3-1 victory.

The game was tied 1-1 when Alex Bielfeldt singled scoring two runs. Relief pitcher Matt Kuban then finished off the Coalers in the bottom of the frame to seal the win. He threw 2 2/3 innings of scoreless ball for Reed-Custer, surrendering two hits while striking out three and walking none.

Pitching was top-notch on both sides as the game remained scoreless through four innings. In the bottom of the fifth Coal City's Gavin Berger singled

in a run to give his team the lead.

But the Comets never gave up, scoring the tying run in the top of the seventh thanks to a single by Joe Bembenek to center field.

Bielfeldt finished with two RBIs while Landen Robinson led the Comets with two hits in three at-bats and stole two bases.

The Coalers amassed 11 hits, led by Lance Cuddy who went 3-for-5. Berger ended up 2-for-5 while Donnie Ladas and Ethan Olson collected multiple hits.

Bielfeldt started on the mound for the Comets, lasting 7 1/3 innings, allowing nine hits, one run, while striking out five and walking three.

The Coalers started with A.J. Wills on the mound for 6 2/3 innings. He gave up four hits, one run while walking four and striking out five.

It was the fourth win in a row for the Comets as they improve to 13-10 overall, 4-7 in the conference.

It was the third loss in a row for the Coalers who are 16-9 overall, 7-4 in the conference.

On Saturday they lost to Central 10-1 and Tolono Unity 9-0 as they managed seven hits over two games.

On Wednesday they defeated Seneca 15-5 after coming up with 14 hits.

Gabe McHugh set the tone for the Coalers with three hits and two RBIs. Cuddy had a pair of hits, as

did Berger who knocked in three runs. Wills finished with three hits while Ladas had two hits.

Cuddy gave the Coalers five solid innings of scoreless pitching, surrendering six hits and four runs in the sixth while walking two and striking out three. Ben Watson took over the final inning, giving up one hit, one run, one walk while striking out one.

On Tuesday they fell to Herscher 6-4 after making four errors but threatening in the bottom of the seventh when they plated three runs.

The Coalers host Newark Thursday and Manteno on Monday.

Lady Coalers get a good seed in Manteno regional

The Coal City soccer team broke a 1-1 ties on Senior Night to defeat Reed-Custer, 2-1.

Both Coal City goals were made by Kylee Kennell. One was assisted by Claire Mohler, second goal was from a free kick.

The Lady Coalers improve 10-4-1 overall, 4-2 in the conference.

Earlier in the week the Lady Coalers edged Joliet Catholic Academy 2-1.

The Coal City goals were made by Maggie Sterba and Hayden Francisco with assists by

Hayden and Kylee Kennell. Keeper Chloe Pluger had 6 saves.

The Lady Coalers travel to LaSalle Peru on May 13. Regional play starts May 16 at Manteno when the #2 seed Coalers face Manteno (#7) at 4:30 p.m.

If Coal City wins they will face the winner of Reed-Custer (#3) vs. Beecher (#5) for the regional championship at 5 p.m. May 20. The winner of that match advances to the Coal City Sectional at 5 p.m. May 23.



Photo by Eric Fisher

LADY COALER Kylee Kennell takes the ball down the field during Thursday's game against Reed-Custer. Kennell scored two goals.



Photo by Amy Walker

COALER DRAKE STEWART throws to first for an out against Herscher.

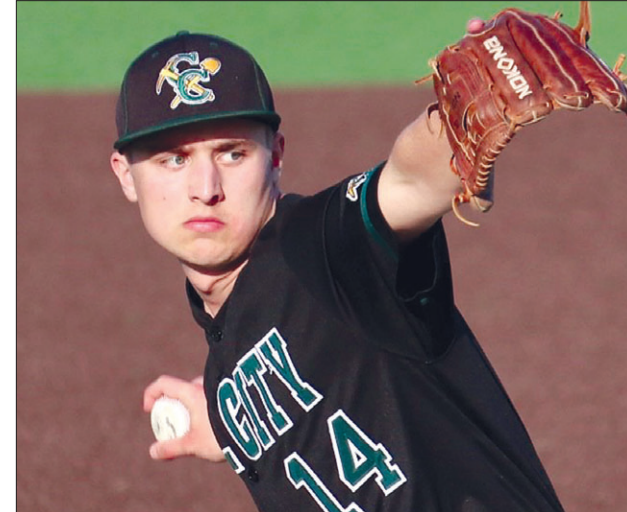


Photo by Amy Walker

COAL CITY'S MASON HAMILTON winds up for a pitch against Herscher.



Photo by Eric Fisher

ANOTHER STOP—Coal City goalkeeper Chloe Pluger makes a save.