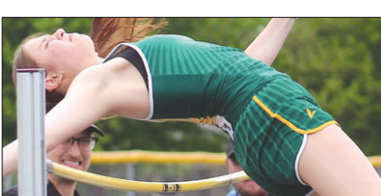


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WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



ADALINE DOWLING, vice president of the class of 2024, gives the farewell address and directs graduates to turn their tassels on Sunday.

Coal City School District photos

CCHS awards 130 seniors diplomas

As the Coal City High School class of 2024 sat together one last time, they were reminded that their presence in the school's gymnasium on Sunday afternoon was a celebration of all they had accomplished.

"It has been a pleasure to see you achieve so many successes inside and outside of the classroom. For all of you, whether your name is denoted in the program or not or if your path to success was filled with bumps along the way, earning a high school diploma today is something you should be proud of. Your class has made a positive contribution to our school community," said Coal City High School Principal Art Stafford.

"Your willingness to be involved in a multitude

of sports, clubs, activities and volunteer organizations is something I have never seen in my 22 years in education."

Out of the 130 members of the class, 35 percent plan to attend a four-year college or university, 29 percent will enroll in a junior college, 22 percent are entering the workforce, 13 percent are continuing their studies at a technical or trade school, and one student, Dennis Layne Cuddy, has enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and will depart for basic training on June 24.

The Top 25 percent of the graduating class were recognized for their academic success with particular emphasis on those completing their studies in the Top 10 percent.

Academically, the

class was led by valedictorian Dominic Cimino and salutatorian Abby Stiles. Both graduates address their classmates during the ceremony.

Graduates Elsa Bunton, Bradley Burla, Cimino, Adaline Dowling, Amelia Fritz, Alaina Gill, Giselle Guerrero, Mackenzie Henline, Makayla Henline, Ava Houston, Kylie Jackson, Cassidy Jenke, Ryland Megyeri, Ethan Scrogam, Jady Shaw, Stiles, Keaton Stroner and Wyatt Wickiser were also recognized for their achievement as Acclaimed Coalers.

"These students have achieved high standards of academic achievement and met all college and career readiness indicators," Stafford said.

Following the award-

ing of diplomas, the graduates heard closing remarks from class secretary/treasurer Giselle Guerrero and vice president Adaline Dowling, who directed classmates to turn their tassels to the left. With that they officially became alumni of Coal City High School.

As the graduates prepared to depart the ceremony, they had one last mark to leave on their school...confetti in all colors of the rainbow shot up to the rafters and rained down on the crowd, the mark of a true celebration.

As the ceremony concluded the graduates, clad in Coaler green robes, rose from their golden chairs and exited the gymnasium to the Coaler fight song.



Coal City School District photos

ETHAN BACH receives his high school diploma from Ken P. Miller, president of the Board of Education.



GRADUATING SENIORS AT Coal City High School were awarded over \$83,000 in local scholarships. Recipients of the financial scholarships include (from left, row one): Bradley Burla, Max Hone, Kylie Jackson, Mia Ferrias, Avah Housman, Cassidy Jenke, Wyatt Wickiser, Ava Houston, Abby Stiles, Mackenzie Henline, Jady Shaw, Makyla Henline, Adaline Dowling, Giselle Guerrero, Elsa Bunton, Alaina Gill and Amelia Fritz. Row two: Dominic Cimino, Jim Feeney, Ethan Scrogam, Tanner Phillios, Ryan Endrst, Ryland Megyeri, Colten Sztapka, Tanner Wallace, Joe Watson, Cade Baldauf, Chase Dehler, Gavin Carpenter, Buddy Widlowski, Stephen Byers, Jr., Kevin McConnell and Austin Davy. Not pictured Chesterine Kuhel. See story page 2



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Scholarships totaling over \$83,000 given to CCHS graduates

Coal City High School held its annual Scholarship Awards Night on Wednesday, May 8.

The evening was set aside to recognize members of the senior class who have been awarded one of more than 36 local scholarships. In all, 34 members of the class of 2024 received financial awards totaling \$83,193.

Aimee Gerhardt Outstanding Human Scholarship—\$1,000 each—presented to Adaline Dowling and Amelia Fritz Bob's Advanced Auto and Tire Scholarship—\$1,000 each—presented to

Makenzie Henline, Ava Houston and Ethan Scrogam Bank of Pontiac Scholarship—\$1,000—presented to Jim Feeney Coal City Community Unit Education Association Teacher Scholarship—\$500—presented to Elsa Bunton Coal City Alumni Memorial Scholarship—\$500—presented to Giselle Guerrero

Coal City Athletic Boosters Three Sport Athlete Scholarship—\$750—presented to Jim Feeney, Makyla Henline, Makenzie Henline, and Colten Stzapka

Coal City Athletic Boosters Scholarship—\$500—presented to Cade Balduf, Stephen Byers, Jr., Enderst, Mia Ferrias, Max Hone, Kevin McConnell, Tanner Phillips, Ethan Scrogam, Jady Shaw, Abby Stiles, Joe Watson and Buddy Widowski

Coal City Music Boosters

Scholarship—\$500—presented to Bradley Burla

Coal City Music Boosters Mark Laronn Scholarship—\$500—presented to Chesterine Kuhel

Coal City Music Boosters Rodgers Cumming Scholarship—\$500—presented to Stephen Byers, Jr.

Coal City Student Council Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Adaline Dowling and Alaina Gill

Constellation Scholarship—\$2,000—presented to Dominic Cimino

Cordogan Clark Built Environment Scholarship—\$5,000—presented to Alaina Gill

Grundy County Law Enforcement Managers Association—\$500—presented to Cade Baldauf

Donald L. Pfeifer Sr. Memorial Scholarship—\$250 each—presented to Alaina Gill and Jady Shaw

Ed Rashke Memorial Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Ryland Megyeri and Abby Stiles

Financial Plus Scholarship—\$500—presented to Tanner Wallace

GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club Scholarship—\$250—presented to Kylie Jackson

Joliet Junior College Foundation Scholarship—\$3,200—presented to Alaina Gill

Kessler-Wharrie Memorial Scholarship—\$500—presented to Tanner

Wallace

Kim Ferrari Memorial Scholarship—\$500—presented to Joe Watson

Wilmington Masonic Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Adaline Dowling and Amelia Fritz

Ruth Kaplan Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Mia Ferrias, Avah Housman, Cassidy Jenke, Ethan Scrogam, Joe Watson and Wyatt Wickiser.

Scholarships valued at \$1,000 each were presented to Elsa Bunton, Amelia Fritz, Ava Houston, Kylie Jackson and Kevin McConnell. A scholarship valued at \$2,243 was awarded to salutatorian Abby Stiles and valedictorian Dominic Cimino was presented with at \$3,500 scholarship Suzanne Cassani Memorial Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Alaina Gill and Wyatt Wickiser

Touchdown Club Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Gavin Carpenter and Tanner Phillips

St. Juvin VFW Scholarship—\$1,000 each—presented to Alaina Gill and Kylie Jackson

Will County Farm Bureau Foundation Scholarship—\$1,500—presented to Mia Ferrias

Coal City Firemen's Association Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Alaina Gill and Giselle Guerrero and \$1,000 awarded to Chase Dehler

Class of 1984 Scholarship—\$500—presented to Kylie Jackson Floyd and

Norma Calcaterra Family Scholarship—\$1,000 each—presented to Elsa Bunton and Amelia Fritz

Indicom Electric/Greg Hill Scholarship—\$1,000—presented to Ryan Endrst

Josh Cumming Memorial Scholarship—\$1,000—presented to Adaline Dowling

Matt Vignocchi Memorial Scholarship—\$500 each—presented to Cade Baldauf, Cassidy Jenke and Tanner Wallace

Reeves/Baskerville Scholarship—\$500—presented to Alaina Gill

Rick Darling Scholarship—\$500—presented to Austin Davy

West Flooring Scholarship—\$1,000—presented to Joe Watson

Coal City Community Educational Foundation Scholarship — \$500 — presented to Elsa Bunton. Scholarships valued at \$750 each were presented to Kevin McConnell, Adaline Dowling, Cade Baldauf, Tanner Wallace, Colten Stzapka, Alaina Gill, Chase Dehler, Joe Watston, Amelia Fritz and Tanner Phillips. Receiving \$1,000 scholarships were Ryan Endrst, Jim Feeney, Maxwell Hone, Cassidy Jenke, Kylie Jackson, Giselle Guerrero, Dominic Cimino, Wyatt Wickiser, Austin Davy, Avah Housman, Mia Ferrias and Ethan Scrogam.

April: Showers and mostly mild temps

April's weather was a mixed bag of tricks.

The month started temperate, with a high of 61 degrees on April 1. It was pleasant enough, but then nature decided to play an April Fool Day prank, dumping 2.25 inches of rain.

Then Mother Nature pulled a fast one – reverting to winter – with snow or a snow/rain mix from April 3 to 5, when temperatures nose-dived into the 30s.

On Tax Day, April 15, winter-weary residents

headed outdoors when temperatures hit 85 degrees, and continued to hover in the high 70s and low 80s, before diving back into the 50s and 60s. By April 28, temps rose to nearly 80 degrees and temperatures remained mild until the end of the month.

April showers clocked in at 2.6 inches, with 14 days of measurable precipitation.

Total liquid precipitation for the year to date was a mere 9.82 inches

The average high for April was 63.7 degrees with the low at 43.3 degrees.

Attorney Meents files Reardanz estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HERMAN WALTER REARDANZ, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 22

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Herman Walter Reardanz, Letters of Testamentary as Independent Executor were issued on April 25, 2024, to Cathleen Rose Reardanz, whose address is 895 E. Division Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 12, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 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 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 provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. 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.

Cathleen Rose Reardanz
Independent Executor of the Estate of Herman Walter Reardanz, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, May 1, 8 and 15, 2024.

Attorney Meents files Maland estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PETER JOSEPH MALAND, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 25

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Peter Joseph Maland, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on April 25, 2024, to Anthony E. Maland, whose address is 6571 Spruce Lane, Winneconne, Wisconsin 54986; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 12, 2024, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 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 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 provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. 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.

Anthony E. Maland
Independent Executor of the Estate of Peter Joseph Maland, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, May 1, 8 and 15, 2024.

Village of Carbon Hill to host hearing on annexation agreement

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL
ANNEXATION AGREEMENT

(GIORDANO & BAP POWER CORP. D/B/A CENERGY POWER)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held before the Village of Carbon Hill Village Board at the Village of Carbon Hill Village Hall, 695 N. Holcomb Street, Carbon Hill, Illinois 60416 on, Tuesday, June 4th, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., to consider the terms of a proposed Annexation Agreement between the Village of Carbon Hill, Scott & Keith Giordano, and BAP Power Corp. D/B/A Cenergy Power, for the following described property:

A portion of the North half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 33 North, Range 8, East of the Third Principal Meridian, more particularly described as follows: Commencing at the center of said Section 34, thence measuring North 1364.5 feet to place of beginning, thence West 120 feet, thence North 100 feet, thence West 60 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 150 feet, then South 50 feet, thence West 230 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 150 feet, thence South 50 feet, thence West 20 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 150 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 230 feet, thence South 50 feet, thence West 860 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 210 feet, thence North 50 feet, thence West 170 feet, thence North 1421 feet, thence West 190 feet, thence North 550 feet, thence following the center of the main Claypool Levee and Drainage District in an easterly direction for 2660 feet to the Northeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of said Section 34, thence South 1275.5 feet to the place of beginning, (except coal and other minerals underlying said premises and the right to mine and remove the same);

The above described property consists of approximately 41.33 acres +/- and is located on Cameron Street in Felix Township, Grundy County, Illinois (PIN 06-34-101-003).

A copy of the proposed Annexation Agreement is available for inspection at the Village of Carbon Hill Village Hall, 695 N. Holcomb Street, Carbon Hill, Illinois 60416. The Annexation Agreement provides, among other terms, that the entire property to be annexed to the Village of Carbon Hill will be zoned under the M-1 Manufacturing District to construct and operate a Large Scale Solar Energy System under the provisions of the Village of Carbon Hill Zoning Code, and subject to the terms and conditions contained in said Annexation Agreement. Said Annexation Agreement may be amended after Public Hearing and before approval and execution thereof.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing, and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Questions or comments may be submitted orally, in writing or both.

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE VILLAGE OF CARBON HILL VILLAGE BOARD
Published in the Coal City Courant on May 15, 2024.

Morris Area Garden Club program on forbs

Learn how one residential association transformed their lawn into a mix of colorful prairie, woodland and wetland wildflowers and forbs, sedges and grasses with multi-season interest. Dennis Swiftdeer Paige's Zoom presentation demonstrates how homeowners can use these ideas to enhance biodiversity, aesthetic beauty, and environmental health in their own landscape.

Paige is a naturalist, habitat restorationist, native landscaping consultant, speaker, and author. This presentation is based on his book Community Eco-gardens: Landscaping with Native Plants. The subject landscape is a recipient of the 2011 Conservation and Native Landscaping Award from

Ortiz files for variance to build garage

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 3rd day of June, 2024, at 7:00 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 5' Variance from 10' setback for R.V. Carport

At the following address: 895 Pheasant

Legal description of property: Quail Run Subdivision Fifth Addition Lot 16 section 3-32-8

Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Debra Ortiz.

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 10th day of May, 2024.

Published in the Coal City Courant on May 15, 2024.

Felix Township to hold town budget hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

FELIX TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Felix Township in the county of Grundy, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024 and ending March 31, 2025, will be on file and available for inspection at Felix Township Office, 6525 E. Whitetie Rd. Coal City, Illinois beginning May 9, 2024. Please call 815-634-7288 or e-mail felixclerk1@gmail.com for a copy or to schedule an appointment.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 6:00 o'clock p.m. Wednesday June 12, 2024, at the Felix Township Office and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the June 12, 2024, meeting.

Dated: May 9, 2024

John D'Arcy- Supervisor

Megan Wharrie- Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on May 15, 2024.

Felix Township to hold road district budget hearing

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
FELIX TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes for the Township of Felix in the county of Grundy, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2024, and ending March 31, 2025, will be on file and available for inspection at Felix Township Office, 6525 E. Whitetie Rd. Coal City, Illinois beginning May 9, 2024. Please call 815-634-7288 or e-mail felixclerk1@gmail.com for a copy or appointment.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held on June 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at the Felix Township Office and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at the June 12, 2024, meeting.

Dated: May 9, 2024

John D'Arcy - Supervisor

Megan Wharrie - Clerk

Published in the Coal City Courant on May 15, 2024.

the USEPA and the Chicago Wilderness Alliance.

The meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at 6 p.m. at the Morris Area Public Library, located at 604 Liberty Street. The session will begin with a brief business meeting and end with a door prize drawing. Attendees will pick up a snack on the way to their seats and enjoy another interesting presentation.

This meeting is co-sponsored by the Morris Area Public Library and

Uncle Fuzz's Varmint Removal files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 30th, A.D. 2024, 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 Uncle Fuzz's Varmint Removal located at P.O. Box 75, Mazon, IL 60444.

Dated this 30th day of April, A.D. 2024.

Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, May 8, 15 and 22, 2024.

That Perennial Place.

Many fine speakers and activities are on the schedule for 2024. Why not put a recurring meeting on your calendar today? Morris Area Garden Club, MAGC meets the third Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., February through November at Morris Area Public Library, Downstairs Conference Room

Non-members are wel-

come, expert gardeners to novices, no experience necessary. Come to the next meeting and learn more about the Morris Area Garden Club.

For additional information visit their Facebook page Morris Area Garden Club or e-mail MAGardenClub@gmail.com.


ATTENTION

VILLAGE OF DIAMOND RESIDENTS NOTICE OF HYDRANT FLUSHING




The Village of Diamond will be flushing hydrants starting **May 20 through May 31, 2024.** (weather permitting)

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




A message of gratitude



To all the gracious and giving people who took a part of their Sunday to wish me a happy birthday; your kindness and generous love touched me deeply. I wish to thank each one who personally expressed a greeting and those who sent one or phoned. I treasure all. I have been truly blessed to have lived in Coal City. This community is filled with people who have a beautiful and generous spirit which shines through in so many ways and reflects theirs and God's compassion and love. Thank you for showering me with both. God's blessing to all of you.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Lucille DeGulie



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Coal City School District photo

INTEGRITY WAS THE character trait students at Coal City Middle School have been focused on for the past month. Students recognized for their character include [from left]: Carson Dearth, Gage Kraus, Grace Sitar, Camden Schott, Derek Maxwell, Melody Leman and Emma D'Orazio. Each of the students received a certificate and gift card. Integrity is the next area of focus for middle schoolers.



Coal City School District photo

IT CAME DOWN to three and with the correct spelling of bionic, fifth grader Kam Gabehart was declared the winner of the 2024 Coal City Intermediate School Spelling Bee. The bee was held Friday, May 10 and moderated by Superintendent Chris Spencer.

Students of the week



Coal City School District photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of May 13. The honored students were selected by their teachers for the weekly recognition. Honored were [from left, front]: Aiden Carrigan, nominated by Mrs. Roseland; Mykila Hess, nominated by Mrs. Moir and Tori Harrington, nominated by Mrs. Munsterman. Not pictured is Branna Flores, nominated by Mrs. Cade.



Coal City School District photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of May 6. The honored students were selected by their teachers for the weekly recognition. Honored were [from left, front]: Jonna Allen, nominated by Mr. Brimm and Grace Ferenzi, nominated by Mrs. Fincher. Not pictured is Ashlyn Siron, nominated by Mrs. Sandburg.



Coal City School District photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School student Cele Gordon was nominated by her choir director Mr. Kren to serve as Student of the Week.

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, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. First half hour is cardio and the second half is weights, resistance band and strength training.

Thursday, May 16-We

Remember, 1 p.m. Michele Micetich will discuss the topic of the impact of weather.

Friday, May 17-Bingo, 1 p.m.

Fun Fridays - 3 p.m.

Saturday, May 18-Summer Reading Challenge "Adventure Begins at Your Library" begins Saturday, May 18 and ends Monday, July 15 for all ages. Register via the Beanstack app or stop by CCPLD to register for the

Challenge. Registration for Summer classes and events begins

Laki Hawaiian Ice Truck, 12-6 p.m. in CCPLD's parking lot. They will have over 20+ flavors of shaved ice for sale. They take cash or card.

Monday, May 20-Mahjong, 1 p.m.

Wednesday, May 22-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Grundy County Health Department to host annual Senior Expo

Calling all who are aging in the Grundy County Area, The Grundy County Health Department Senior Expo is right around the corner. The buzz hasn't stopped since our first Senior Expo. With the attendance of over 1,300 persons, more than 75 vendors, and hours of fun! Our excitement is palpable as we gear up for a grand celebration! Your valuable contributions are truly appreciated.

Reflecting on our journey, the team and I once orchestrated Older American Month Celebrations with an annual budget of one hundred dollars. Gratefully, we have hosted many seniors, marking the inception of what has now blossomed into a vibrant expo featuring bingo all day, enticing prizes, raffles every half hour, appearances by county celebrities, and a well-stocked cash bar.

We have heard that there are too many fairs in Grundy- that did not deter the Senior Division. There is a notion that big ideas are for big cities- that did not deter us either. Instead, it has motivated us to continue. And so, I welcome everyone to join the team and I, in what has been the best idea yet.

It brings me great joy to extend a warm welcome to our annual Senior Expo. A heartfelt thank you to all

who lent their support in 2023. For those who missed out last year, make sure to mark your calendars, as we embark on another year of empowering seniors.

The Grundy County Health Department Senior Expo will be held at Jennifer's Gardens, 555

Gore Rd in Morris, Wednesday May 22, 2024 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event will once again be free to all who are ageing. To reserve your tickets please find our event on EventBright.com or call us at 815-941-3121.



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Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner



Breanna Clark

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

Must redeem by May 20, 2024

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"

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

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

Diamond Mayor cuts ribbon for Surface Ride



THE GRUNDY COUNTY Chamber of Commerce & Industry celebrated Surface Ride Shop's two-year anniversary in Diamond with a ribbon cutting April 24, with the Surface team and Mayor Terry Kernc (third from left).



FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"



39TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

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)

ONLY \$28.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 05/31/24.

Gift Certificates Available

Order online at www.geospizza.net

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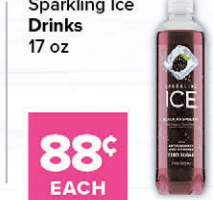
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Baseball, the sport that brings people together

ELAINE FISHER-OHLUND
FOOD FOR THE SOUL

It's easy to love baseball. It's America's pastime. It's not just a sport, but a cultural legacy, a connector of generations and a reflection of America's past, present and future.

If you attend a high school game, you'll see moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas relaxing in the sun enjoying the game. Little siblings gather on blankets playing Play-Doh and eating yummy snacks. Pets are sometimes present too.

At Wilmington home games there is even a favorite dog, Diesel, that all the little ones take turns walking. No matter how tired old Diesel looks, he is willing to take a walk again.

Lexi Liarmatis last week brought a squirrel she and Reese Van Duyne saved from a fallen nest. Most moms were hesitant to even look at the creature curled up in a blanket while the little ones anxiously lined up to hold him. Happy to report he's thriving and doing well.

The ballpark, be it baseball or softball, is a fun place to gather with others. I especially enjoy being around the grandparent crew as much as I enjoy watching the game.

Our grandparent crew starts with Grandma B. who is not afraid to speak her mind with strong words. She will let the announcer know when she's not a fan of the music. The funny thing is she's right, you can't understand one word of it.

She also likes to yell things like, "can we get a hit already" to the next batter. But she's grown on me because she is just as



Photo by Elaine Fisher-Ohlund
THE GRANDPARENT CREW watches a Wilmington baseball game last week. They include (from left) Grandpa S., Grandpa M., Grandma T., Grandma B. and Grandpa B.

loud as when they make a great play.

She reminds me of my grandmother, who encouraged her family to pick up and move to a small town to buy a newspaper at the age of 55. From what I understand Grandma B. did a lot for this community. She is strong, honest and out spoken. And really she's just saying out loud what we are all thinking.

Grandpa S. doesn't really say much. He's a quiet man but I heard he was one hell of an athlete growing up.

Now I know every team has a Grandma T. Grandma T. is the grandma that would give a hug to ever batter that struck out if she could. I wouldn't be surprised if she bakes a dessert for the team to pass out on the bus for the ride home, win or lose.

I know for a fact she's a great seamstress. If you need a letterman jacket or prom dress altered, she's the team grandma to go see. She always underprices her work, but it's obvious she doesn't do it for the money. She does it

because she wants to be helpful. She is the grandma that is about smothering these boys with love.

Grandpa M. was a coach for over 26 years and his son has followed in his footsteps. If he coached anything like his son does, he was a great coach. And I would put money on it that his grandson will also one day be a coach.

Grandpa M. is definitely the loudest but I personally think he gives solid advice. However his son who is a coach to the team sometimes doesn't feel the same way. They'll exchange words between them as their wives cringe in the stands. But us bystanders understand and find it almost entertaining.

Grandpa B. never misses game. I realize now I have been on multiple travel baseball vacations with this man and probably have only said 20 words to him. He has put his time in for his grandson.

I asked the grandparents how many hours they think they have spent at their grandson's baseball games. They came up with

the number of 2000 hours.

That's 120,000 minutes or 83.3 days. They have put in their time, punched their cards and that's why they deserve the best seat in the house, right behind home plate.

Here is a recipe from Grandma T's kitchen, pizza casserole. It's a delicious recipe that I have had the pleasure of tasting and can be prepped before a game, then popped in after a win for a comfort food meal.

Ingredients

- 1 box of penne pasta
- 1 lb of ground meat,
- 1/2 Italian sausage (brown and drained, can add Italian seasoning and garlic)

- 1 large jar of spaghetti sauce
- 1 can of pizza sauce
- 1 can of cheddar cheese soup
- 2 cups of mozzarella cheese

Directions

Mix sauces, beef and noodles. Pour half of the mixture into a 9x13 pan. Cover with 1 cup of the mozzarella cheese. Repeat and layer. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church (located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City), will host a

Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Tuesday, June 4 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood should contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or register online at [versiti.org/il](https://www.versiti.org/il).

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended.

Bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating. Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to three lives.

Ed Menz observes 93rd birthday

Edward Menz, of Wilmington, celebrated his 93rd birthday on Monday. He holds his driver's license from 1955 and tells us a lot of the history he has witnessed. When Ed was born the worst drought in U.S. history, known as the Dust Bowl, was taking place. Also the Empire State Building was completed and first opened although it was still tough to find a job with 16.3% unemployment. The year 1931 was also the year Al Capone was sentenced to 11 years in prison for tax fraud.

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Edward D. Nowman

COAL CITY—Edward D. Nowman, 76, and a lifelong resident of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at Morris Hospital.

Born April 18, 1948, in Joliet, Edward DeWayne Nowman was the son of Othie E. "Pat" and Anna A. (Lankers) Nowman. From his earliest days on South Kankakee Street in Coal City, Edward's roots ran deep in the soil of his hometown. He embarked on his educational journey at Assumption Parochial School, later graduating with the class of 1966 from Coal City High School, where he undoubtedly left an indelible mark.

Following his graduation, Edward pursued his calling in healthcare, earning his nursing assistant education. By night, he dedicated himself to serving others at St. Joseph Hospital as a CNA, while by day, he immersed himself in the vibrant world of flowers and antiques at Chada's Greenhouse, under the mentorship of Eddie Chada. It was during this time that Edward's fascination with antiques blossomed into a lifelong passion.

After his tenure at St. Joe's, Edward transitioned to private home healthcare before fully committing himself to the antique business. His love for antiques and collectibles led him to establish Mill Race Emporium Antiques in downtown Wilmington, where he shared his treasures with the community for many years. Even after the closure of his retail space, Edward remained a stalwart presence in the antique world, continuing to buy and sell collectibles online until recent years.

Beyond his business endeavors, Edward was a custodian of local history, deeply involved with the Carbon Hill Museum, where he served as treasurer, and he was a life member of the Wilmington Historical Society. His contributions to preserving Coal City's heritage, including artifacts displayed at the Coal City Library, underscored his commitment to honoring the past. Edward's passion for history was infectious, as evidenced by his engaging presentations at the public library and museum, where he shared his expertise with regular "Show and Tell" pro-



grams.

Edward traversed far and wide in search of hidden treasures. His keen eye for antiques was matched only by his quick wit and culinary talents, particularly his renowned chocolate chip cookies, which brought joy to all who sampled them.

Edward Nowman leaves behind a legacy far richer than any antique collection—a legacy of kindness, knowledge, and cherished memories. Though he may be gone from our sight, his spirit lives on in the hearts of those fortunate enough to have known him. In celebrating Edward's life, let us also celebrate the enduring legacy of community, passion, and generosity he leaves behind.

Survivors include his sister, Patti (Lori Carlson) Nowman, of Morris, and several cousins as well as a host of friends.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents, and his life-long best friend, Mary Lou Cobb.

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

A private family graveside service was held in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Edward was laid to rest with his parents.

A special thank you is extended to Dr. Daniel Jurak and the staff at Morris Hospital for the exceptional care given to Edward in the days past. Your thoughtfulness and dedication will always be remembered.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Edward's memory to the Carbon Hill Museum, 875 N. Second Street, Carbon Hill, IL 60416 or to Coal City Fireman's Association, P.O. Box 219, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

Jessica Cunning

Essex—In Loving Memory of Jessica Lynn Cunning.

With heavy hearts, we announce that Jessica Lynn Cunning, the beloved infant daughter of Brandon and Lauren (Homerding) Cunning, earned her angel wings on May 7, 2024.

Though her time with us was too brief, Jessica left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who loved her before they knew her.

Survivors include her parents, Brandon and Lauren of Essex; maternal grandparents, Sharon Homerding and Roger Homerding; maternal great grandmother, Pauline Homerding; aunts and uncles: Shelly Allen, John Allen (Michelle), Sarah Cunning, Dana Buzzard, Theresa (Dustin) Streff, Christopher Homerding (Kirstyn) and Allison Homerding.

Jessica was preceded in death by



paternal grandparents: Marla Allen and Harold Thomas Cunning and her uncle, Matthew Homerding.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Saturday, May 11, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 10:00 a.m. Pastor Dennis Papp from Southfield Church in Channahon will officiate.

Burial will follow in Oakwood Cemetery on Essex Road in Braidwood.

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

Funeral services and arrangements made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Charlie Brown



VENICE, FL—Charles "Charlie" Brown, a man of unwavering dedication and service, passed away on Friday, May 10, 2024, at his home in Venice, FL, at the age of 80.

Born Oct. 5, 1943, in Joliet, Charlie was the son of Charles O. and Kathryn J. (Patch) Brown. Charlie embarked on a life filled with commitment, passion, and service. In 1964, he married Kathy Jisa, and together they built a life centered around family and community. They raised two children, Colleen, and Thomas, instilling in them the values of integrity, compassion, and hard work.

Charlie's dedication to his country was evident from a young age, as he proudly served in the United States Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. His service to his country was matched only by his commitment to his profession. For 28 years, Charlie served at the Illinois Bell Telephone Company, retiring as an Outside Plant Engineer. Never one to rest on his laurels, he continued his career following his retirement with Byers Engineering Co. and MFS Network Technologies, where he held various managerial and supervisory positions including Operations Manager, Engineering Supervisor and Project Manager.

In addition to his professional endeavors, Charlie was deeply involved in his community, serving in various capacities that showcased his leadership and commitment to public service. He served as the building inspector for the Village of Diamond and played a vital role on the village's planning and zoning board. His dedication to education led him to serve on the Coal City Community Unit District #1 School Board, where he advocated for the betterment of the local schools.

Charlie's commitment to public safety was exemplary, as evidenced by his seven years of service on the Coal City Emergency Squad where he was the squads first Certified EMT (A). In addition, he dedicated himself to 20 years with the Coal City Fire Protection District, where he was the district's first State Certified Fire Service Advanced Firefighter/Fire Service Instructor and Fire Service Officer with an associate degree in Fire Science. He was proud to have retired as Deputy Chief. His passion for safety extended beyond his professional life, as he worked as an independent safety consultant, sharing his



expertise in Industrial First Aid, CPR/AED and defensive driving with certification through the National Safety Council.

A man of many talents and interests, Charlie was a writer, contributing articles on historical military firearms to Small Arms Review/Small Arms of the World magazines. He was a dedicated life member of the Illinois State Rifle Association and belonged to the National Rifle Association, embodying his passion for firearms and marksmanship.

Charlie was an active member of the St. Juvin Post #1336 VFW, where he served as commander and in addition served as vice chair of the Grundy County Veteran's Assistance Commission. His dedication to his fellow veterans was unwavering, and he leaves behind a legacy of service and sacrifice that will be remembered for generations to come.

Charlie's passing leaves a void in the lives of all who knew him, but his memory will live on in the hearts of his family, friends, and community. His legacy of service, integrity, and dedication will continue to inspire us all. May his spirit soar high, forever remembered as a true patriot, leader, and friend.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Kathy; children, Colleen M. (Roger) Bottens and Thomas C. (Margaret) Brown; grandchildren, Caitlin (George) Lynch, Zac Bottens, Tyler Bottens, Lauren Brown and Alexa Woolcock and a host of friends, and comrades-in-arms who were touched by his kindness and generosity.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents and one grandson, Dillon Bottens in infancy.

In honoring Charlie's wishes, cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home on June 21, 2024, from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. A private family graveside service with full military will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

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

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

Rita Barham

COAL CITY—Rita Barham, 79, of Coal City, passed away Friday, May 10, 2024, at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Jan. 12, 1945, in Joliet, Rita was the daughter of Robert and Norma Ruth (Hoskins) Pfister. She was raised in Coal City until relocating to Harrisburg, IL where she graduated from Harrisburg High School with the class of 1963. Rita married Jerry Barham, and together they made a home and raised their family in Coal City.

A dedicated wife and mother, Rita in addition to maintaining the family home, most recently held employment with Shadow Lakes, where she did marketing and clerical. Rita was a great sports fan, who enjoyed following the Chicago Bears, she loved animals, taking dogs and birds into the family home throughout the years, and she was a true music enthusiast. Rita took pleasure in cooking, collecting bears, and created many happy memories traveling to the tropics.

One who always put others ahead of herself, Rita will be remembered as generous and caring. She had a wonderful sense of humor and loved to laugh. Family was of utmost importance, and nothing gave her greater joy than becoming a grand-

mother.

Survivors include her husband, Jerry; two sons, Mark Barham (fiancé, Rose Gabriel), of Elk Grove Village, IL and Greg (Linda) Barham, of Plainfield; one grandson, Bobby Barham; bonus grandchildren: Joey and Frankie Nagy and Hala Daramjee; one brother, Robert "Bob" (the late Mary) Pfister, of Arlington, TX and one brother-in-law, Michael (Eugena) Barham, of Auburn, IL, as well as several nieces and nephews.

Rita was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City with Deacon Bill Dunn from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church presiding.

Burial followed in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington, where Rita was laid to rest near her parents.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.reevesfuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Rita's memorial page.

Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes & Crematory in Coal City was in charge of arrangements.



Zwaantje R. Cwiok

MORRIS—Zwaantje R. Cwiok, 99 and affectionately known to many as "Swaanie", peacefully passed away on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at her home in Saratoga Tower, Morris. She was born on May 10, 1924, in Chicago, to Herman and Hilda (Smedemann) Rosing.

Zwaantje's life was marked by resilience, grace, and a spirit of generosity that touched the lives of all who knew her. Raised and educated in Chicago, she dedicated most of her life to various bookkeeping and clerical positions, demonstrating a strong work ethic and commitment to excellence.

As a past tenant president at Saratoga Tower, Zwaantje found joy in bringing people together, organizing resident bus trips, and planning activities that fostered a sense of community among her neighbors. Her passion for crafting was evident to all who knew her, as she delighted in creating holiday ornaments throughout the year, sharing her creations with others and spreading joy wherever she went.

In her leisure time, Swaanie found solace in playing bingo, completing word searches, and immersing herself in the works of Fern Michaels and Debbie Macomber, whose stories captivated her imagination. She enjoyed the simple pleasures of watching the Hallmark Channel and game shows, finding comfort

and companionship in the familiar rhythms of television.

Throughout the trials and triumphs of the past century, Zwaantje's giving nature and unwavering determination were a source of inspiration to all who knew her. Her memory will be cherished by those whose lives she touched, and her legacy of kindness and resilience will endure for generations to come.

Survivors include two sons, Lawrence Cwiok of Morris and Jerome (Lisa) Cwiok of Beecher, IL; one grandson, James David Cwiok; one brother, John Rosing of Cary, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Swaanie was preceded in death by her parents; one son, James Cwiok, two sisters: Elkena (William) Knight and Margaret (Daniel) Tomano and one brother, Jacob (Chris) Rosing.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a celebration of Swaanie's life is being planned for a later date.

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

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



Robert Wegforth



Robert Arthur Wegforth, 93, passed away on May 6, 2024.

Bob was the beloved husband of the late Ruth Wegforth (nee Peters) for 55 years and the late Dolores Wegforth (nee Nolan). A native of Chicago, he attended Calumet High School and graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology. He served in the US Army and was assigned to the Far East Command. He was President of Executives International, Inc., Senior Vice President of Drake Beam Morin Corporation, Manager of National Accounts, and other sales management and sales positions within a division of American Can Company. He was under contract in the Chicago White Sox organization as a pitcher. He served in various leadership roles at First Nazarene Church in Lemont.

Robert was the loving father of Robert S. (Debra), Gayl Jones (Ed) and John (Heidi); grandfather of Jennifer Brenner

(Josh), Jessica Waldron (Chad), Shelby Wegforth, and Austin Wegforth (Mallory); great grandfather of Reign Winker, Rosie, Billy, Joey, Brittini, and Sage Brenner, Emalee, Joshua, and Jacob Cohen; Scotty Schmidt, and Henry Wegforth; great-great-grandfather of Samuel Miguel.

Bob was the cherished son of the late Ted and Arvilla Wegforth and loving brother of the late Edward Wegforth.

Visitation with the family will be held at First Nazarene Church, 12725 Bell Road in Lemont (firstnaz.cc), on Tuesday, May 21 from 4-8 p.m. in Cerrato Hall. The Celebration of Life Service will be on Wednesday, May 22 at 11 a.m. in the Sanctuary. The family will receive visitors starting at 10 a.m. A luncheon will immediately follow the service in Cerrato Hall.

Interment will be held at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL at a later date.



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The problem with conventional toothpaste tubes

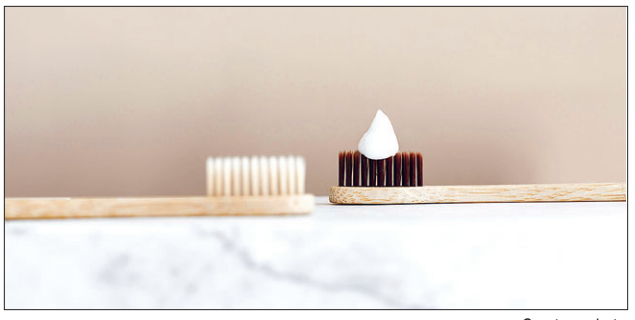
Dear EarthTalk: Why are conventional toothpaste tubes not eco-friendly? What better alternatives are out there?
-- Jackie V., Pittsburgh, PA



The impact of conventional toothpaste tubes is significant and largely negative. Typically made from non-biodegradable plastic and aluminum, they present significant challenges in recycling processes. The mixed material composition requires complex, costly separation techniques, making recycling inefficient and often nonviable. According to Forbes, some 1.5 billion toothpaste tubes are discarded each year. The production and disposal of these tubes involves substantial energy use and emissions. From the extraction and processing of raw materials to manufacturing and eventual disposal, the lifecycle

of conventional toothpaste tubes is energy-intensive and ecologically damaging. After use, they are typically "discarded at a facility and will end up in the landfill" says Julie Smith of Aspire Colorado. In response to these issues, there has been a rise in eco-friendly alternatives. Zero-waste toothpastes, which eschew traditional tubes, are becoming increasingly popular. These typically come in tablet or powder form and are packaged in biodegradable or recyclable materials. Toothpaste tablets are especially sustainable as they also reduce water usage, relying instead on saliva of water. Other innovative solutions include toothpastes packaged in metal tubes, which are easier to recycle than plastic ones, and brands that use plant-based container materials. These efforts reflect growing consumer demand for sustainable products, reflecting a broader trend towards environmental responsibility. Several brands have been leading the way in this shift towards sustainability. David's Natural

Toothpaste offer toothpaste is packaged in metal tubes, and The Humble Co. uses plant-based materials for their biodegradable tubes. Both options present a significant reduction in waste compared to traditional plastic tubes. These products not only help to reduce environmental impacts and also cater to health-conscious consumer by avoiding harmful chemicals often found in conventional toothpastes. However, transitioning to these eco-friendly alternatives is not without its challenges. Makers face significant hurdles in altering established production lines, sourcing materials that meet quality and safety standards and potentially incurring higher costs. Consumers may also be hesitant to switch to new formats, such as tablets or powders, or may be skeptical about their efficacy. Additionally, the initial cost of these alternatives can be higher, which may deter widespread adoption. Regulation and industry standards play a crucial role in facilitating this transition. Governments can promote the use of sustainable packaging by



Courtesy photo
THE PRODUCTION and disposal of toothpaste tubes involves substantial energy use and emissions.

implementing policies that encourage recycling, reduce the use of non-recyclable materials or provide incentives for companies to develop greener products. Specific regulations that mandate the use of recyclable materials in packaging can drive innovation in the industry, leading to more sustainable options becoming available and economically viable. EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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Button winner claims \$605



WILMINGTON CHAMBER PRESIDENT Steve Evans presents Marilyn Hussey of Custer Park with a check for \$605. Hussey had the winning button #260 during the recent Red Carpet Corridor split-the-pot button raffle.

Mobile food pantry to visit Kuzma Cottage

Catholic Charities of Joliet will be hosting Mobile Food Pantry at Kuzma Care Cottage on Wednesday, May 22, at 635 S. Main St., Wilmington from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

When you arrive, please line up in the St. Rose Church parking lot by entering on the Main Street side. (Please do not arrive before 9 a.m.) All Mobile Food Pantries will use a

"drive thru" method to distribute food. Please clear space in your trunk or backseat so volunteers can load boxes of food directly into your vehicle. Food is free to neighbors in need; no ID, proof of address or income is required. Everyone is welcome. Food is distributed on a first-come, first served basis, while supplies last.

Camping hosts needed at Kankakee River State Park

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) is seeking campground hosts for the 2024 camping season at the Kankakee River State Park on Highway 102 and two other state parks in northeastern Illinois: Illinois Beach and Chain O' Lakes. Campground hosting is a perfect position for anyone who enjoys camping and helping other people. Hosts are often the first face to greet state park visitors. They check on arrivals and departures, write camping permits, acquaint campers with park facilities and regulations, answer questions about local and statewide attractions, help visitors plan outings, and more. Campground hosts live in their own RVs, motor homes, or trailers at designated spots within state parks. "Above all, the quality all campground hosts possess is a passion for working with the public," said Calvin Beckmann, chief of parks and recreation for IDNR. "If campground hosting sounds appealing to you, we would love to hear from you." Kankakee River State Park is a 4,000-acre park in Kankakee County with more than 200 campsites. Illinois Beach State

Park is in Lake County along the beautiful Lake Michigan shoreline. Chain O' Lakes State Park, in McHenry and Lake counties, is popular with boaters, anglers, and skiers. Anyone interested in being a campground host can complete and submit a Campground Host Program Packet. Questions can be directed to the site superintendent at the appropriate state park.

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

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FOR FREE

Free: Very clean, green striped couch; Wood kitchen table with 4 chairs; queen bedroom set. Wilmington. 779-267-1546.

GARAGE SALES

15th ANNUAL WILMINGTON ALL-TOWN GARAGE SALE
Thurs., June 6 (8am-5 pm); Fri., June 7 (8 am-5 pm); Sat., June 8 (8 am - 2 pm) Sponsored by First United Methodist Church, 401 E. Kahler, Wilmington. Everyone is welcome to come out and explore all the great sales at the church and throughout the whole town. Stop by for lunch at the church on Friday from 11:30-1:00. Listing Maps will be available for pick up at the church beginning at 8 am on June 6 and throughout the sale dates. For more information, call: 815-476-5474. ch19-21

BRAIDWOOD - 174 E. Third Street. Wed., May 22, 8AM-Noon and Thurs., May 23, 1PM-5PM. Huge Sale, 50 years accumulation. Tools, furniture, glassware, paintings, wall decorations. Too much to mention. cc20-21

Braidwood - Multi Family Sale. 145 S. Kenard St. Thurs., Fri. & Sat., May 16, 17 & 18 from 9AM-3PM. Not your Grandma's garage sale. Michelle's Bougie Buckle Boutique. Ladies 0-30, boys 6-10, mens clothes, household, bike, highchair. Tons of extras. You don't want to miss out. Cleaning out storage unit. cc20

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GARAGE SALES

Lake Shannon Annual Multi-Family Garage Sales
Saturday, May 18, 2024. 8:00am to 4:00pm. 18530 W 3000N Rd, Reddick. cc19-20

HELP WANTED

Hot Shotz, 725 S. Broadway in Coal City. Bartender needed for afternoons & evenings. Please call 815-685-2919 and leave message. ck17-20

Lifeguards needed at local sportsmen's club in Wilmington. Must be certified or able to become certified. Please send inquiries to wscs1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a reliable Maintenance Worker. Must be able to operate the Skidsteer, Backhoe and other equipment. Please call the office at 815-476-6561 or email: wscs1946@gmail.com cc17-22

Will County Sportsmen's Club is looking for a full-time office employee. Must have experience with Microsoft Office, POS systems, and phone etiquette. Please send inquiries to wscs1946@gmail.com or call the office at 815-476-6561. cc17-22

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 37150 S MACKS ROAD, CUSTER PARK, IL 60481 (Not applicable). On the 30th day of May, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING LLC Plaintiff V. MARK R. RAMSEY AKA MARK RAMSEY; MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC.; LARRY LIBERSHER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS**, Defendant. Case No. **22 FC 0819** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mort-

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gagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **ANSELMO LINDBERG OLIVER LLC**, 1771 W. Diehl Rd. Suite 120 **NAPERVILLE, IL 60563** P: 630-453-6960 F: 630-428-4620 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., May 8, 15 & 22, 2024.

LOST & FOUND

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15th ANNUAL WILMINGTON ALL-TOWN GARAGE SALE

Thurs., June 6 ~ Fri., June 7 ~ Sat., June 8

The 15th Annual All-Town Garage Sale will be sponsored by the First United Methodist Church. We will be producing MAPS of listings throughout the town. All of the advertising will be done for you and bargain hunters will be out all over town. You may sign up for one or all days, and specify your hours. We may have sellers inside the church and vendors/crafters can have a space in our parking lot for an additional \$10 (for all 3 days). MAPS can be picked up at the church on Thursday, June 6th beginning at 8 a.m. through the entirety of the sale. Please fill out the form below by May 28 with a \$10.00 donation to have your information in our Map Listing (60481 RESIDENTS ONLY). These forms are also available at Wilmington City Hall, Wilmington Library, FUMC church, or download from our website at: www.fumcwilm.org. Make your check payable to First United Methodist Church and you may drop off or mail your check to FUMC, All-Town Garage Sale, 401 E. Kahler Road, Wilmington, IL 60481. Call our church office at 815-476-5474 with any questions. (The First United Methodist Church of Wilmington is not responsible for lost, stolen, or broken items. All unsold items and trash must be removed after the sale.)

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

Yes, _____ I want a CHURCH PARKING LOT SPACE for my own table (June 6: 8-5; June 7: 8-5; June 8: 8-2)

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Address of participating sale: _____

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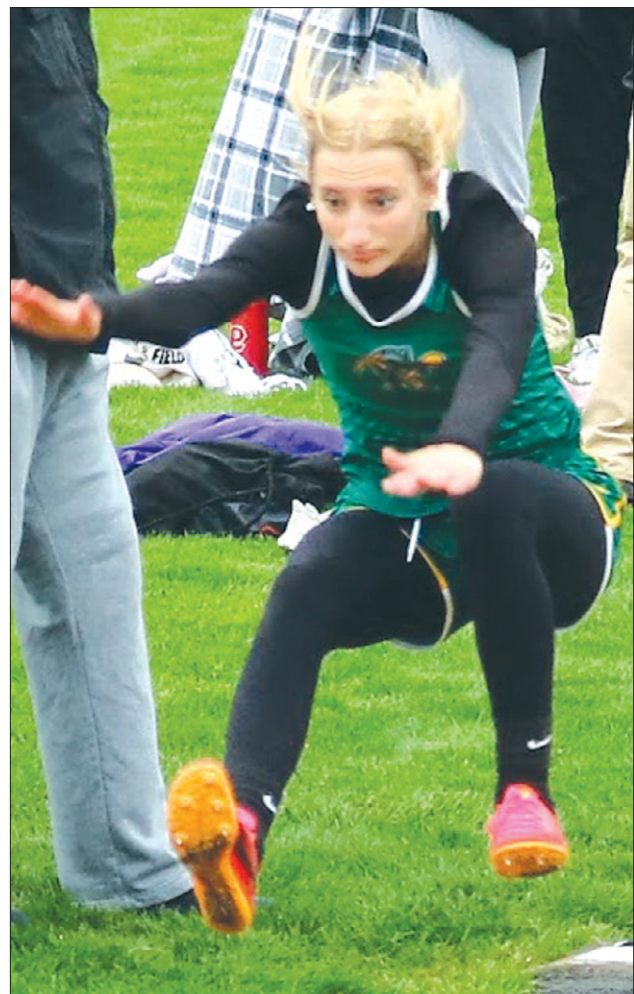
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COAL CITY SOPHOMORE Evelyn Wills finished second at the sectional meet in high jump with a jump of 1.49m. to qualify for state. The State Finals will take place May 16-18 at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Going to state

Courtesy photo
COAL CITY FRESHMAN Ella Wills will compete in the long jump and triple jump at state. Ella went 5.10m in the long jump at the Princeton Sectional this week to earn a trip to state. She took second in sectional action in the triple jump at 10.63m. Two members of the Lady Coaler Track and Field team have qualified for the Illinois High School Association State Finals.



Lady Coalers get a favorable regional, must upset Beecher

The Coal City softball team is fortunate to land in the Manteno Regional. Unlike Wilmington and Reed-Custer, the Lady Coalers dodged the Joliet Catholic regional where Beecher (28-1) and JCA (16-8) are heavily expected to battle for the championship.

At Manteno, Coal City (20-10) has a shot at winning the title but they have to get by Bishop McNamara today (Wednesday) at 4:30 p.m. to return on Friday at 4:30 p.m. for the championship against #2 seeded Manteno who is 29-1-2 overall.

The Lady Coalers beat McNamara before, 13-12, but have lost twice to Manteno 2-1 and 12-5.

They battled Manteno last Tuesday at home, scoring three runs in the first inning before the Panthers erupted for eight runs in the top of the second. Still Coal City closed with 9-5 after three innings before the visitors pulled away for good.

Manteno may have out-hit Coal City 16 to 12 but the Lady Coalers had their bright spots with Makenzie Henline and a double and single by Abbi Gagliardo. Sierra Anderson and Kaycee Graf finished with two hits each. Also contributing hits were Makayla Henline, Jaydn Shaw, Addison Harvey, Khloe Picard and D'Arcy Ness.

Bri Combes pitched two innings, giving up eight runs (only three earned) off five hits and two walks. Naomi

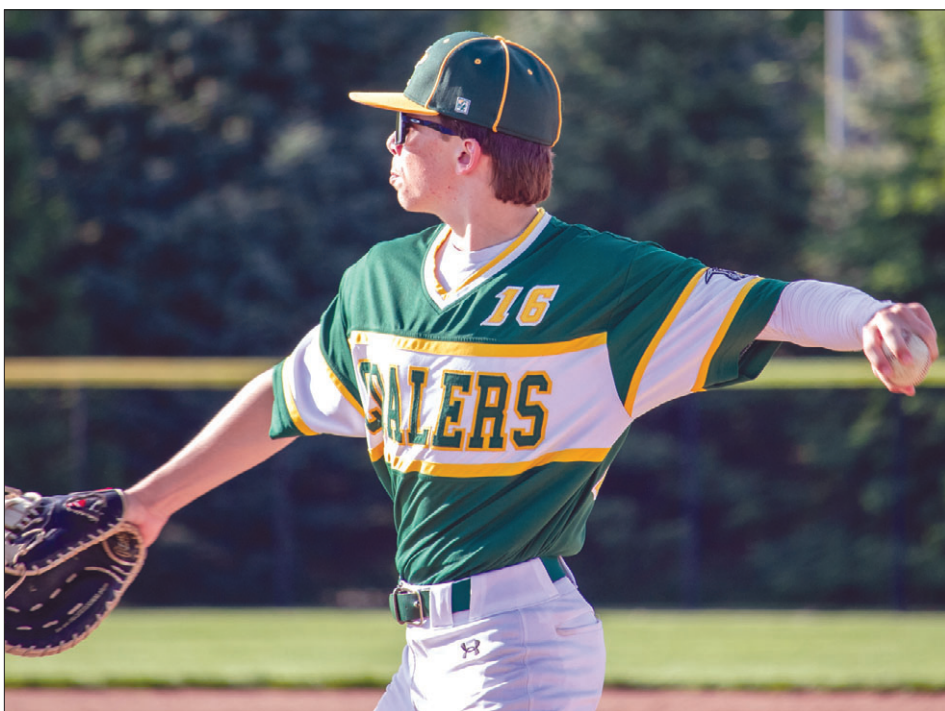
Rodriguez went five innings, getting tagged for 11 hits, four runs and one walk.

Pontiac 5, CCHS 1

On Friday the Lady Coalers were held to just one hit against a tough pitcher, losing 5-1. Anderson singled and

scored the lone run for Coal City in the third inning while Pontiac hit two home runs and took advantage of a couple of Coaler errors.

Combes were seven innings in the circle, allowing 11 hits, five earned runs while striking out two.



MAKING A THROW during last week's win over Reed-Custer is Lance Cuddy.

Coalers ready to go deep into the playoffs

The slate has been wiped clean for the Coal City baseball team as they prepare for a post-season run starting Thursday at Reed-Custer against Beecher.

The two teams did not play each other during the regular season. The Bobcats enter the regional with a 20-9 record while the Coalers are 15-12 overall after dropping five straight.

On Saturday the Coalers fell 4-1 to a strong Pleasant Plains team on the road. It was the second game of the day for the Coalers.

Gabe McHugh threw 5.2 IP, allowing just 4 runs (3 earned), on 7 hits while walking and striking out. Lance Cuddy got the last out, a strike out. Gabe McHugh was 2-for-4. Luke Nolan, Danny Olson (RBI), Wyatt Wickiser, and Jack Varnack added hits.

Coal City 7, Rochester 8

The Coalers traveled to Pleasant Plains to play Rochester and Pleasant Plains in a double header. Rochester was able to sneak out an 8-7 win in game 1. AJ Wills went 3.1 IP allowing 7 earned on 5 hits

with 5 walks and 4 Ks. Austin Davy went the next 2.2 IP allowing 1 earned on 5 hits with no BB and 2 strikeouts.

Austin Davy (RBI), Danny Olson ((2 RBIs)), and Lance Cuddy notched two hits each. AJ Wills and Gabe McHugh each had a double and two RBIs. Creide Skubic and Dylan Young also had hits.

Coal City 2, Manteno 5

The Coalers dropped the final ICE game at home for Senior Night, 5-2. Tanner Wallace went the distance on the mound and was the tough luck loser surrendering 5 runs (one earned) on 5 walks with 4 Ks. Luke Nolan had a solo homer. Tanner Wallace doubled. Will McArdle (RBI) and Austin Davy added hits.

Coal City 8, Manteno 10

Coalers drop a 10-8 decision at Manteno. Joe Watson went 3 IP, allowing 8 runs (1 earned), on 7 hits and 3 walks with 1K. Jack Varnack came on to hurl 2.2 IP allowing 2 runs (0 earned) on 3 hits with 2 walks and 2 Ks.

Danny Olson led the offense with 2-for-3 day

including a 3-run bomb and 4 RBIs. Tanner Wallace (RBI), Gabe McHugh and Lance Cuddy added hits for Coal City.

The Coalers must defeat Beecher at 4:30 on Thursday in order to advance to the regional championship game at 11 a.m. Saturday, likely against Wilmington who finished the conference 14-0 and are 22-1 overall.



WORKING THE BALL for the Lady Coalers during their home match is Aubrey Mellen.

Lady Coaler soccer advances to title match

All you need is one goal to win!

The Coal City soccer team realized that on Friday when they defeated Manteno in regional action on Friday.

Junior Kylee Kennel scored the lone goal for Coal City. Freshman goalie Clair Mohler ended up with

six saves.

The Lady Coalers (12-4-2) were to play for the Manteno Regional Championship yesterday (Tuesday) against Beecher who was coming off a 6-1 win against Wilmington.

The last time Coal City and Beecher battled each other it ended in a 0-0 tie.



Photo by Amy Walker
THROWING FOR AN OUT after fielding the ball is Lady Coaler Makenzie Henline.

Middle School Coalers advance 19 to state track and field events

Coal City Middle School will be well represented at the Illinois Elementary School Association [IESA] State Track and Field Finals. The Coalers have 19 athletes advance to the state meet in 13 events.

Participating at the state meet are:

Jaylyn Hogan—shot put

Kinsley Nowak—long jump

Marina Figge—100, 200, and long jump

Levi Marshall—400

Kenny Tazelaar—400

Nick Pfeiffer—800

Jonah Micetich—hurdles and pole vault

Ryahn DeMichele—shot put

Frank Roehr—high jump

Maddox Meents—high jump and long jump

Phil Larson—pole vault

Spencer Vaira—pole vault

Kiptyn Dearth—discus

4x100 relay—Levi Marshall, Jonah Micetich, Kenny Tazelaar and Alex Duran

4x200 relay—Maddox Meents, Spencer Vaira, Frank Roehr and Miguel Nunez

4x200 relay—Ryland Clements Tyce Farrell Gage Kraus and Leriyahn Hunter

4x400 relay—Levi Marshall, Maddox Meents, Kenny Tazelaar and Jonah Micetich

The state finals will be held May 17-18 at Eastside Center in East Peoria.