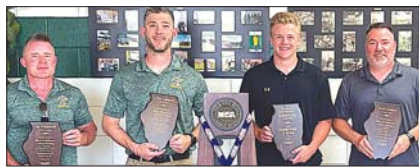


Preparing for a new school year



Accolades continue for wrestling team



\$1.00
Vol. 122, Issue 23
1 section • 14 pages
Not over 75% advertising
www.coalcitycourant.com

**NOW OPEN
IN DIAMOND
7 Days a Week!**



**Birdie's
Cafe II**

2445 E. Division St. (Hwy 113)
Diamond • 630-750-1279

COAL CITY COURANT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Coal City going with "least cost alternative"

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Almost a century ago the village of Coal City tapped its third water well. But after 96 years in operation the time has come to shut it down.

Well 3, located behind the police station on South Broadway, has been out of service for several months.

Village Administrator Matt Fritz said the water being pumped from the source well was not meeting quality standards set by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA).

Due to the failed IEPA test the village took the well out of service to investigate the issue. What they discovered is the problem wasn't due to some type of chemical or element in

the raw water, but particulates.

"So we did all the analysis and essentially what we were told is that we have a well that is going dry, its cone of influence isn't as large anymore and that would explain why there are more particulates within what was getting pumped out," Fritz said.

Town officials were looking at ways to resolve the problem and rehabilitate the well. The cost to do that was estimated at over \$46,700.

At a Water and Sewer Committee meeting in early May, Fritz told trustees that abandoning the well was the "least cost alternative."

"It's age in service time and condition warrants a properly licensed abandonment as opposed to full restoration," Fritz told trustees

at the Village Board's meeting on May 24.

The well is one of three that have been located at that site over the last two centuries.

Residents who pass by the original brick pump house located to the south of the police station may stop to use the water fountain that was the town's original well. Another was drilled just eight feet from that location and then well #3 was added.

Based on the amount of water being pumped from that site, Fritz said town officials were told it was time to abandon the well, as it would be much better to shut it down than try to rehabilitate it given the number of wells that have operated there over the years.

The process of abandoning the well includes applica-

tions to the environmental health division of the Grundy County Health Department, as well as the state.

The cost associated with permanently closing the well will likely save a few dollars over what it would have cost to get it back up and running, Fritz said.

There is no set deadline to have the well abandoned, but the administrator said the hope is it can be completed within the month.

The village is currently served by three additional wells that pump raw water from the ground that is then processed at the town's water treatment plant located on the public works campus along North Broadway.

SEE WELL, PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

THE VILLAGE OF Coal City is on a path to abandon one of the town's original water wells. After 96 years in operation, town officials have made a decision to shut down well 3 that is located adjacent to the police station. The town's original well was located at the site that has provided raw water to the town for over two centuries.

Patrol officer overcome by unknown substance

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

A routine traffic stop turned out to be anything but ordinary for one Coal City patrol officer.

It was on the evening of May 26 when a pickup truck with expired registration was pulled over in the area of East Division and South Kankakee streets.

The driver, 47-year-old Richard T. Saunders, of Braceville, was driving on a revoked license and was detained by officers.

Saunders indicated there was cannabis in the center console and officers located 27.04 grams in the vehicle.

But that is not all that was found inside the 2002 Chevrolet Silverado pickup when patrol officer Brandon Larson conducted an inventory of its contents.

Along with a half-empty 24 ounce can of the alcoholic beverage, Twisted Tea, the officer found several cellular phones with the batteries removed.

And, there was a fountain soda cup in the center cup holder covered with plastic.

When Larson removed the plastic cover he immediately recoiled and dropped the cup on the pavement.

"I became disoriented which caused me to immediately fall backwards. At this time my eyes were burning,

my sinuses began running uncontrollably and I began dry heaving," Larson stated in his written report of the incident.

He used his radio to notify dispatch to send an ambulance to the scene.

The contents of the plastic cup spilled on the pavement. It was a thick green substance with a pungent smell of acid that expanded to about three inches in height, according to Police Chief Chris Harseim.

Saunders told police the substance was jewelry cleaner, however the chief said pH values were not the same.

A Coal City Fire Protection District ambulance transported Larson to Morris Hospital, the police chief and officer's family were there as he underwent a series of tests.

After spending the night at the hospital, Larson was released and was back at work the next day.

The Metropolitan Area Narcotics Squad (MANS) was called in to test the matter and the Kane County Bomb Squad was brought in to complete a search of the impounded vehicle.

Harseim said it still is undetermined what the substance is, but said it had a high level of acidity. No other compounds or items were located in the vehicle.

The Coal City Fire Protection District was called

SEE POLICE, PAGE 2

A cup of sunshine



Courtesy photo

TWO YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS Kensley Schomid and Isadora Crawford set up a lemonade stand on the first weekend of summer and it came at just the right time as temperatures climbed to near 90 degrees. Crawford and Schomid offered two types of lemonade, water and popcorn at their stand on Marguerite Street. The pair are looking to raise money for a trip to Tennessee.

Not a smooth ride through Diamond

The village of Diamond issued an alert Tuesday morning after learning multiple residents sustained tire damage from spikes that were spread across the roadways.

Village hall alerted that "unknown offenders have thrown metal tire spikes into roadways throughout the village for the sole purpose of causing damage to tires."

The spikes were first noticed on Monday after residents fell victim to punctured tires in the area of the Diamond Estates and Farmstone subdivisions.

Along with causing damage to vehicle tires, town officials say the spikes pose a risk to young children running in the street or riding their bicycles.

Motorists traveling through the village are reminded to pay close attention to items on the roadway. Individuals who see these spikes are asked to collect

SEE TIRES, PAGE 2



**BERKOT'S
SUPER FOODS**

SALE VALID 6/8-6/14/23

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR
WEEKLY AD AT
BERKOTFOODS.COM

Dutch Farms
Large Eggs- 18 pk

\$1.99
EACH

Sugardale
Original or Thick
Sliced Bacon- 16 oz

\$2.99
LIMIT 4

Tropicana
Orange or Red
Grapefruit Juice- 52 oz

\$3.99
EACH