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New health facility considered for Grundy County

STAFF REPORT

Grundy County is proposing to construct a new health department facility as part of a multi-year project aimed at better serving the needs of a growing community. County officials note Grundy continues to be one of the most attractive counties in the state to raise a family. Between 2000 and 2010 the population of Grundy County grew 33.4% and the decade that followed saw an increase of 4.93%. An increase in population has led to a need for additional county services including more behavioral health, private water well and sewage testing, food establishment compliance, senior services and the women,

infants and children [WIC] program. The new building, estimated at 22,000 square feet, would provide space for the various divisions of the health department, along with the Regional Office of Education, Child Advocacy Center and Kendall/Grundy Community Action. Additionally, there would be flexible space for the occasional use by outside service agencies and meetings of the County Board. Plans call for the new facility to be constructed on property the county owns on School Street in Morris, directly west of the county administration building. The cost of the new building is estimated at \$10.8 million. The County Board has pledged \$6.5 million in American Rescue Plan [ARP]

funds and \$2 million from its capital improvement plan. Various ways to cover the \$2.3 million funding gap are being reviewed based on information presented by the county's finance director. The concept of moving the health department into its own facility was introduced in early 2022 by evaluating programmatic need, expected growth in population and services. One year ago, the county put out a request for qualifications seeking an architectural/engineering firm. Four bids were received and one was selected and recommended to the County Board for consideration.



GRUNDY COUNTY is considering the construction of a new health department facility and the relocation of county services.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 2



THIS GROUP OF youngsters representing D Construction delivered sweet treats to those watching the big parade.



THE COVE brought an island vibe to the annual Carbon Hill Homecoming parade.



THE COALIER YOUTH Softball League participated in this year's Homecoming parade.

Summer celebration



TAKING A SPIN—Enjoying all that the annual Carbon Hill Homecoming carnival had to offer were friends [from left]: Croix Owensby, Collins Glefke and Mason McIlvane.



MOTORS PROPELLING AMUSEMENT rides, the call of bingo, the boom of fireworks and the crack of the bats resonated through the village of Carbon Hill last week as the village hosted its 73rd annual Homecoming festival in the town park.



THE 73rd ANNUAL Carbon Hill Homecoming opened with a presentation honoring Todd Cumming who was selected by the village as this year's festival grand marshal. Cumming has provided many events and programs in Carbon Hill Park over the years and his work on the town's park and softball field is unmatched. Taking part in the celebration were village officials [from left]: Lorna Surman, Laura Johnson, Laura Jones, Paul Opyd, Cumming, Mayor Adam Johnson and Eric Johnson.

Coal City building code updated

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Village of Coal City has amended its code to include an update to the town's building requirements. Town officials have adopted the 2021 International Residential Code [IRC] that set standard requirements for residential home construction. The village has been operating under the building requirements outlined in the 2015 IRC. The new building guidelines take effect 30 days from its approval— that being July 14. In updating the building code it amends the section regarding the specified standards related to the environment of the community when it comes to the hardness of construction in regards to factors such as wind, precipitation and temperature. At the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Board, village trustees agreed to amend portion of the new code. "When you go to each edition you modify some of the stuff within that new edition," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz. The modifications include rules regarding footings, permits, doors, solar provisions, home daycare and tiny houses. "When adopting this updated code, the Board reviewed those changes and included modifications to ensure the newly adopted code meets the expected standards for Coal City, one of those items is ensuring the sprinkler requirement on all residential continues to not be a requirement," Fritz said. According to the admin-

"WHEN ADOPTING THIS UPDATED CODE, THE BOARD REVIEWED THOSE CHANGES AND INCLUDED MODIFICATIONS TO ENSURE THE NEWLY ADOPTED CODE MEETS THE EXPECTED STANDARDS FOR COAL CITY."

MATT FRITZ
VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR

istrator, the change also removes a conflicting portion of the code that existed within the land use code regarding the storage of vehicles in residential districts. The language supersedes the International Property Maintenance Code [IPMC]. "The portion to be deleted provided an emergency clause that allowed a resident to claim an emergency condition with the vehicle so this would no longer be necessary to be enforced. Eliminating the conflicting language and allowing the IPMC prevail will allow for better enforcement of junk vehicles on property in which their storage is not permitted," Fritz said. A third change recommended by the Planning and Zoning Board regarding the terms of planning commissioners had to be struck upon legal review.

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