

Braidwood Lions Club Summerfest

Thurs. ~ Sun., July 17 ~ 20

Details on page 7.



\$1.00

Vol. 124, Issue 28

1 section • 12 pages

Not over 75% advertising
www.coalcitycourant.com

COAL CITY COURANT.com

WEDNESDAY, JULY 9, 2025

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



A PET CHIP READER was recently donated to the Coal City Police Department to help officers identify lost pets. The donation was made by Subies of the Corn, a nonprofit made up of Subaru enthusiasts. Club president J. Mykel Hill (left) and secretary/treasurer Christine Hill present the reader to Coal City School Resource Officer Joshua Nugent.

Pet patrol gets a little easier with microchip reader donation

The Coal City Police Department will be able to identify lost pets, potentially reuniting them with their owners quicker, thanks to a recent donation by a group of car enthusiasts.

Subies of the Corn NFP, a registered nonprofit, donated microchip readers to both the Coal City and Wilmington Police Departments. These contributions were made in honor of Subaru Loves Pets®, a nationwide initiative dedicated to improving the lives of animals.

The universal handheld microchip readers will allow officers to quickly scan and identify lost pets

in the field, even during weekends, holidays, or after business hours when veterinary clinics are closed.

By providing law enforcement the ability to access a pet's microchip data, lost animals may be reunited with their families faster and more efficiently.

"Getting lost pets back to their families quickly is crucial, and we're grateful to support our local police departments with tools that help make that easier," said J. Mykel Hill, president of Subies of the Corn.

This donation came at a critical time, as Fourth of July celebrations can be an incredibly stressful experi-

ence for pets.

Loud fireworks and unfamiliar crowds often cause pets to become frightened and run away, leading to a spike in lost animal reports around this time of year. By providing local police departments with microchip readers, Subies of the Corn is helping ensure that lost pets can be quickly scanned, identified, and safely reunited with their families during one of the busiest and most chaotic times for animal shelters and first responders.

Subies of the Corn, also known as "SOTC," originated as a Subaru SEE PET CHIP READER PAGE 2

Megan Bugg Memorial raises over \$105,000

The 6th Annual "Megan Bugg Memorial Golf Outing" was held on June 28, at the Morris Country Club.

This year's sold out event hosted 264 golfers using both The Club and The Creek courses. The golf portion of the event was followed by a dinner, formal presentation, raffles, auction and live music.

Thanks to the generosity of our over 100 sponsors and 264 golfers, the event raised over \$105,000 to support the Megan's Mission Foundation and their goal to realize Megan Bugg's dream of ending childhood cancer through advocacy and research.

These funds will be used to continue supporting some of the most promising and innovative childhood cancer research in the country taking place in the "Megan Bugg Global Research Laboratory" at the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute.

Participants heard an impassioned plea by Megan's father Dr. Kent Bugg on the current shortage of funding for childhood cancer research. Currently, the Federal Government allocates only 4-6% of their total NIH cancer research budget towards childhood cancer.

SEE MEGAN'S MISSION PAGE 2



DR. KENT BUGG addresses golfers at the start of the 6th Annual Megan's Mission Foundation Golf Outing in Morris.

Production crew sneaks into area to film thriller



ACTOR AUTOGRAPH—Jeremy Allen White stops to sign a T-shirt for a fan on Saturday during a stop in Wilmington.

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Greenhouse plants were half-price at Whitmore Ace Hardware in Wilmington, but that's not why actors Jeremy Allen White and Austin Butler showed up in town during the July 4th weekend.

In the wee hours of July 4, production trailers began arriving to the plaza on Water Street, fronted by the former Valle's Produce and Whitmore Ace Hardware, with Wee Sip Liquors in the middle.

The actors didn't do much shopping, but the fine folks at Whitmore were thrilled nonetheless.

"They had their film trucks parked in the lot next to us," the hardware store's Facebook page announced Saturday.

White and Butler were in town to film a spy thriller, *Enemy*. The movie features White as a detective hunting down a contract killer played by Butler. Why did they choose to film near Wilmington? It's a well-known fact that con-

tract killers and cornfields go together like mustard and Chicago dogs.

In fact, the duo and crew have been filming in and around Chicago since May. What began as a 32-day production schedule has gone into overtime.

White and Butler have been spotted unwinding at a variety of Chicago hotspots, including Wrigley Field, where they watched the Cubs defeat the Colorado Rockies 3-1 on May 26.

A glimpse of fame

It just so happens that Ashley Shell Van Tilburg works at Wee Sip, and like the good folks at Ace, had a bird's eye view of the comings and goings of the crew. The arrival of the entourage was a mystery she was determined to solve.

"I actually wasn't really sure who they were at first," Van Tilburg said. "I didn't recognize their names. When I googled them and realized who they are and what they played in, I realized I did like them as actors."

Breanna Desper also

braved Saturday's heat and humidity for a chance to see her favorite actors.

"Austin Butler makes me feel nostalgic, since he was a staple in my childhood, playing shows like the *Carrie Diaries*," Desper said. "Jeremy Allen White has peaked my interest as I got older because he plays some interesting, disorderly, and unpredictable characters like in the shows *Shameless* and *The Bear*."

Desper had little idea the actors were coming to Wilmington. Though she didn't score an autograph, she did have the opportunity to talk to one of the film's crew members, who clued her in on a couple of details.

"He said they're filming a movie called *Enemies*," Desper said. "They needed a back road for a scene. They pulled out a map and picked

SEE FILM CREW PAGE 2



SALE VALID
7/10-7/16/25

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD
AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

BUY 5 SAVE \$5
Mix & Match Any Item
with the B5 logo

Check Out
Additional Items on Page 9 in
our Digital Ad!

\$2.99
when buying 5

Blue Bunny
Novelties 6-9 Ct.
Single Price: \$3.99

\$5.99
when buying 5

CoffeeMate
Liquid Creamer 64 oz
Single Price: \$6.99

\$2.49
when buying 5

Kraft Shreds, Chunks
or Crumbles 5-8 oz
Single Price: \$3.49

\$1.79
when buying 5

Daisy Dips 16 oz or
Squeeze Sour Cream
14 oz or- Single Price: \$2.79

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



THE MEGAN'S MISSION Foundation awarded its first annual Megan Bugg Courage Award to honor the memory of Katie Histing, who passed away on Nov. 25, 2024 from Ewing's Sarcoma. Katie was one of Megan's closet friends in the childhood cancer community. Katie's mom, Lynn Histing attended the golf outing to accept the award in her daughter's honor.

Megan's Mission,

continued from page 1

Likewise, pharmaceutical companies ignore childhood cancer research because they do not view the outcomes as profitable due to childhood cancer being perceived as a rare disease.

As a result, research institutions studying childhood cancer depend on the funding provided by nonprofits like the Megan's Mission Foundation as their lifeline to continue researching less toxic and more effective cures for children impacted by this terrible disease.

Dr. Charles Keller (Research Director) from the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute was present to discuss the impact that Megan Bugg's legacy and the Megan's Mission Foundation has had on the childhood cancer community. This includes funding research projects that have resulted in multi-million dollar grants.

The Megan's Mission Foundation also awarded the first annual "Megan Bugg Courage Award" to honor the memory of Katie Histing, who passed away on November 25, 2024 from Ewings Sarcoma. Katie was one of Megan's closest friends in the childhood cancer community. Katie's mother, Lynn Histing was presented the award in Katie's honor.

The next event for the Megan's Mission Foundation is the 'Megan's Mission 5k Run' which will be held on Saturday, Sept. 13 during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. Information can be found at <https://www.megansmission.org/5krunwalk2025>

The Megan's Mission Foundation will continue to honor the life and legacy of Megan Bugg by continuing her fight to eradicate the nightmare of childhood cancer. Thank you to everyone who made the 6th Annual Megan Bugg Memorial Golf Outing such a huge success.

Grundy County finds West Nile Virus in mosquitoes

The Grundy County Health Department has confirmed that mosquitoes collected in the Village of Mazon on have tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). The results were confirmed on July 2.

In response, the Health Department urges all residents to take preventive measures seriously to avoid contracting WNV or other

mosquito-borne illnesses.

To help reduce your risk, the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recommends following the "Three R's" of mosquito protection: Reduce exposure by staying indoors between dusk and dawn, Repel with bug spray and Report any standing water.



Photo courtesy El Patron Restaurant II

GROUP PHOTO—Actors Jeremy Allen White and Austin Butler (center, back) stand behind a group of fans in the parking lot in front of the former Belletini Foods grocery store on Saturday evening. A caravan of trucks and escort vehicles used by the crew for the filming of "Enemies" stopped in Wilmington after recording a scene on a Wilmington farm. White and Butler approached spectators, suggesting they take a group photo before the movie crew moved on.

Film crew,

continued from page 1

Wilmington."

Award winning actors

White is best known for his portrayal of Carmen "Carmy" Berzatto in the Chicago-based series, *The Bear*. He's a two-time Emmy winner for Outstanding Performance by a Male Actor in a Comedy Series.

Butler portrayal of Elvis Presley in the movie *Elvis*. For his performance, Butler won a Golden Globe and BAFTA award, and was also nominated for an Oscar for Best Actor.

On Saturday, July 5, Van Tilburg dropped her children off at the nearby McDonald's. She decided to join the crowd waiting for the actors to return from filming. It looked like fun.

"So, I stuck around and chatted with everyone since it's a small town and we kind of know everyone," Van Tilburg said. "I suddenly wanted to meet the guys, and I waited for them to pull up."

Down to earth guys

It was well after dark when White and Butler returned in the film's production van. Saturday was a scorcher, and the duo had been filming near dusty cornfields in the heat of things.

When they noticed their stalwart fan base dripping sweat on parking lot asphalt, the actors volunteered to take a group photo with their admirers.

"They had to be really hot, hun-

gry, tired, but they took the time to greet everyone," Van Tilburg said. "A CVS employee had told me they were really great people. For them to take the time to greet everyone and pose for a photo was super great."

Both Van Tilburg and Desper were grateful for a once in a lifetime opportunity, though both secretly harbored a wish for a conversation with the stars, possibly a bit part in the movie.

"I was not able to communicate with either celebrity, or get an autograph," Desper said. "It would have been miraculous if I could. They did grace us with a group photo and that was enough."

Braidwood man facing felony charges

Ronald Tvrz, 51, of Braidwood, is facing three felony charges after what police say was shooting incident in the 1000 block of North Division Street on July 4.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. on Saturday July 5, the Braidwood Police Department was notified of an incident that occurred during the evening of July 4, involving a convicted felony allegedly discharging a firearm at an acquaintance wearing a bulletproof vest.

According to a press release by the Braidwood Police, multiple witnesses were interviewed, and a search warrant obtained.

On July 5 at approximately 4:40 p.m., Braidwood police officers, with assistance from the Grundy County REACT Team and Wilmington Police Dept. executed the search warrant at the residence. The street was temporary closed.

During the execution of the search warrant, two firearms and a bulletproof

vest were recovered. One of the firearms had a defaced serial number, and the inner bulletproof vest appeared to have been struck by a projectile.

Police charged Tvrz with two counts of unlawful possession of a firearm by a felon and possession of a firearm with a defaced serial number, all class three felonies.

Tvrz was transported to the Will County Adult Detention Facility.



RONALD TVRZ

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.

Tenant: Anton Manning, 58 E. 164th St., S. Holland, IL 60473. Unit# 330
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by July 31, 2025, the property within unit #330 will be sold to satisfy the lien.

Published in the Coal City Courant on July, 9 and 16, 2025.

Attorney Black files Shay estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2025 PR 52

In the Matter of the Estate of STEVEN G. SHAY, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of STEVEN G. SHAY. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to MARGARET I. SHAY, 953 E. North Street, Morris Illinois, 60450 whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS, 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.

MARGARET I. SHAY
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
ATTORNEY DONALD F. BLACK
BLACK & BLACK
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 2, 9, and 16, 2025.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.

Tenant: Claire Erdman, 221 E. Division St., Braceville, IL 60407. Unit# 335
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by July 31, 2025, the property within unit #335 will be sold to satisfy the lien.

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 9 and 16, 2025.

Attorney Black files McCormack estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2025 PR 53

In the Matter of the Estate of JAMES R. MCCORMACK, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of JAMES R. MCCORMACK. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Kimberly A. Wendling, P.O. Box 84, Kaneville, Illinois, 60144 whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS, 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.

KIMBERLY A. WENDLING
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
FRANK J. BLACK
BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS
201 Liberty Street, Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 9, 16, and 23, 2025.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.

Tenant: Natasha French, 32 N. Dixie Highway, Mokenca, IL 60954. Unit# 249
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by July 31, 2025, the property within unit #249 will be sold to satisfy the lien.

Published in the Coal City Courant on July, 9 and 16, 2025.

Attorney Black files Ehrman estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2025 PR 50

In the Matter of the Estate of ROSE MARY EHRMAN, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of ROSE MARY EHRMAN. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to FRED JOSEPH EHRMAN, 270 S. Broadway Street, Coal City Illinois, 60416 whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS, 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.

FRED JOSEPH EHRMAN
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
ATTORNEY DONALD F. BLACK
BLACK & BLACK
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 2, 9, and 16, 2025.

Coal City Zoning board to consider variance for chicken structure

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING VILLAGE OF COAL CITY ZONING ORDINANCE 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 21st day of July, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL on the following matter, a 75 ft. setback variance from neighboring structures for chickens. At the following address: 150 E. 1st St., Legal description of property: Sufferns subdivision Lot 10 and western half of lot 11, block 20, section 35-33-8. Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Erik and Kellie Linsey. Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof. Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 3rd day of July, 2025
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 9, 2025.

Pet chip reader,

continued from page 1

Enthusiasts Car Club in 2017 and evolved into an Illinois nonprofit corporation in August 2023. SOTC operates as a 501(c)(3) public charity, aligning with the Subaru Love Promise. The organization's core mission is to host enjoyable and charitable events for Subaru enthusiasts in the Chicago Southland area, with the primary aim of benefiting others.

Since its inception in 2017, Subies of the Corn and its dedicated members have raised over \$13,000 for local and national charities, collected over 6,400 toys for Toys for Tots, and donated over 1,100 pairs of socks, 250 toiletry kits, 75 drawstring bags, 50 towels, and 50 washcloths to assist those experiencing homelessness.

Subies of the Corn and its members have also collected and donated over 4,100 pounds of food addressing issues of food insecurity and contributed to environmental sustainability by collecting/recycling over 11,000 plastic grocery bags, diverting over 165 pounds of plastic from landfills.

Additional information about Subies of the Corn can be found on their website at <https://subiesofthecorn.org>.

The logo for the Illinois Press Association, featuring a stylized red and white graphic of the state of Illinois with the text "ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION" and "Serving newspapers since 1865".

The Coal City Courant
USPS No. 120-060
Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by
G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
271 S. Broadway St.
Coal City, IL 60416
Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster:
Send address changes to:
Free Press Newspapers;
111 S. Water St.; Wilmington, IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$46 Grundy & Will counties; \$53 other Illinois counties and \$60 out of state

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

Advertising and Business Offices:
• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481 (815) 476-7966
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 (815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2024 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G-W Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G-W Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Looking south, Gardner was here first

Although we think of Coal City as the city that started the “Coal Rush” in this area, the truth is that Braidwood and Coal City are the late comers to the area. The first of the coal towns was Gardner.

When Illinois became a state most of the population was in the southern part. Our area did not see the first white settler until 20 years later. The towns on the I & M Canal were the first to prosper, then other towns that had some connection with the Canal started to grow. One of these towns was Wilmington.

In 1852 the businessmen of Wilmington got together to petition the state to grant a permit for the Chicago and Mississippi Railroad (later to become the Chicago & Alton) to run a line from St. Louis on to Springfield, Bloomington, Wilmington and finally ending in Joliet. The petition was granted and the Chicago & Alton Railroad was the result.

The first thing the railroad did was survey the proposed route. Henry A. Gardner, J. C. Spencer and C. H. Gould were engineers on the railroad assigned to the task. They not only surveyed the proposed route, but also bought up land along the route for future investment. This practice would seem unethical to us today, but it was common practice then.

The railroad was completed in 1854, the same year that the above three men platted out the town which they named after Gardner, the chief engineer on the C & A.

The first building was that of the C & A section boss and the second was known as “the barracks.” It was built by the first postmaster, Absalom Gleason and held not only the post office, but also his family living quarters, a general store, and a paint shop. In 1855 “The Eagle” hotel was built by G. R. Taxis and Scott Armitage.

The town survived, if not prospered as a location to ship grain and other agricultural products, and as a jumping on and off point to the Grand Prairie surrounding it as well as connections to other lines in Joliet, Bloomington and Dwight.

It was long known that coal was abundant in the area, and in 1864 the first shaft was sunk. The editor of the Wilmington Independent visited there in December of 1864, here is his description, “On Thursday last we made a visit to Gardner, and were surprised at the improvements which are constantly being made. A few enterprising men, who have recently located there, together with the older residents, are pushing matters with creditable zeal, and the little village bids fair soon to become a thriving town.

“Gardner now contains three stores, owned respectively by J. B. Benson, Mr. Hart, and Robert Atkinson, all of whom are doing a good business. Messrs. Morgan & Hart, who now have a store at Braceville, have just completed a new building, the best in the place, and are about to put in a heavy stock of merchandise.

“In the afternoon we visited the new coal mine, owned and operated by W. H. Odell, Esq. Enveloping our self in a huge oil cloth cloak, we stepped upon the “dummy” with our friend Odell, and were soon lowered 166 feet “into the bowels of the earth.” The shaft is the largest in the State. It was made 8 by 16 feet, and filled in with timber, making it 7 by 15 feet in the clear.

“The distance from the surface to the bottom of the shaft is 200 feet - 18 or 20 of which is below the coal vein, and is intended as reservoir for the water constantly dripping from the sides of the shaft, and escaping from those portions of the mine which are being worked. To look up from the bottom of this gloomy access, one would suppose it half a mile to the surface, the aperture appearing scarcely larger than a man’s hand.”

This huge shaft was the state of the art, the coal was inexhaustible, the railroad was already in place to haul the black gold away, in short; Gardner had a great future. It was thought that it would be as large as Alton, Joliet, or perhaps even Chicago.

And while Braidwood has a reputation for being wild. By 1872 Gardner was a close second as a report of a wedding reveal, “A late charivari party in Gardner fired a cannon immediately in front of a business row of buildings, in one of which the bridal party were, and broke nearly 100 panes of valuable glass in adjacent buildings. We understand that legal steps have been taken, and that no “panes” will be spared to collect damages of the rioters.”

My question is, “Who brings a cannon to a wedding?” Now that’s wild!



Sandy Vasko



AN EARLY PHOTO of Gardner shows the storefronts that lined Depot Street. Note the many hitching posts in front of every store.

Seniors who were awarded scholarships



FLOYD AND NORMA Calcaterra Family Scholarship—\$1,000 each—presented to [from left]: Alysin Fite and Addison Hodgen by Unit 1 Educational Foundation member Mindy Rampa.



COAL CITY ALUMNI MEMORIAL Scholarship—\$300—presented to Naomi Rodriguez [left] by guidance counselor Erin Dransfeldt.



COAL CITY LIONS CLUB Scholarship—\$300—presented by club member Chuck Dennison to Kylee Kennell



DENNIS NEARY MEMORIAL Scholarship—\$500—presented to Avery McConnell by retired Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim.

New students have two dates to register for a Coal City school

The Coal City School District will host walk-in registration for students new to the school district on Thursday, July 10 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. and Tuesday, July 15 from 4-6 p.m.

The first step to register is to complete pre-registration online through the New Student Registration link located on the district website at www.coalcityschools.org.

Families will receive an e-mail with step by step directions on how to complete the online registration. Be sure to read through the informational page for additional requirements.

Before a student can attend, families must provide proof of residency; driver's license or state ID for notary purposes [does not need the correct address, but needs to be valid], and Illinois State Board of Education Student Transfer Form issued by prior school [does not apply to students who are entering Illinois from another state or new Pre-K/Kindergarten students].

This can be done during the new student in-person registration that will take place at the District Administration Center, 550 S. Carbon Hill Rd., Coal City. For those unable to attend, a second date has been set for Tuesday, July 15 from 4-6 p.m.

Explore the great outdoors during Girl Scout camp

Join Girls Scouts from Grundy County for four exciting days of nature, friendship and fun in a supportive, girl-led environment.

This day camp is open to all girls entering kindergarten through 5th grade this fall, whether you're a current Girl Scout or brand new to the fun.

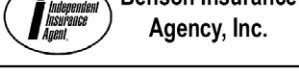
Each day, girls will build outdoor skills, cook their own meals, and take part in hands-on activities and creative nature-inspired crafts.

Love the Outdoors with Girl Scouts in Grundy County will be held July 21-24, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Gebhard Woods State Park in Morris.

Whether you're an experienced adventurer or trying something new, this program is the perfect way to connect with the outdoors and other girls who love it too.

Thanks to the generous support of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, we're able to offer this enriching camp experience at a reduced cost.

To register, go to: <https://girlscout.info/grundy>



Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

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

Must redeem by July 14, 2025

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 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"



RUTH KAPLAN SCHOLARSHIP—\$2,326—presented to Deborah Lynch.

Buck earns dean's list

Trey Buck of Coal City has been named to the Deans' and President's Lists at Drake University during the Spring 2025 semester.



"Proud to be serving the community for the past 40 years!"

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

COUPON

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

2- ONE TOPPING PIZZAS
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

ONLY \$35.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 07/31/2025

815-634-8858
Order online at www.geospizza.net

715 S. Broadway, Coal City

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

 FOLLOW US ON Facebook
 FOLLOW US ON Instagram
 FOLLOW US ON X



Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to
www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

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.

Legal local stops

BRAIDWOOD—To the person complaining about semi-truck traffic on Division Street. You do realize that semis are allowed to use that street for local deliveries, local construction, etc., right? There's several areas in town that are currently doing construction so there's going to be a lot of semi trucks going up and down that road. I'm sure you have no idea where these trucks are going to or coming from, so don't just assume that they are all using the roadway illegally and that the police aren't doing their jobs.

Tax and spend

BRAIDWOOD—Illinois Democrats approved Gov. J.B. Pritzker's record-setting \$55.2 billion budget with around \$1 billion in new taxes. Everyone is now paying a bigger tax on cell phone service at 8.65%. Illinoisans already paid the highest wireless taxes in the country, now we are going to have to pay even more. Rent a Airbnb or Vrbo in Illinois and you'll have to pay a hotel tax for that family vacation. There's the tax increase on tobacco products to 45%. Now Pritzker and the Democrats are proposing a \$1.50 delivery tax on nearly every package shipped to Illinois homes for the fall session or next spring. Do you see the pattern here? Pritzker and the Democrats continue to spend more because they are taxing us more. See what will happen if he runs for president?

Demise of DOGE

WILMINGTON—As we celebrate the demise of DOGE, we realize that Musk wasn't the problem after all. He was merely the cover for the evil of Trump who continues to inflict hardships upon ordinary folks. The young, the old and the sick are threatened by Trump's big, ugly bill while billionaires will add another gold-plated toilet seat upon which to rest their sculpted rumps in this current version of the gilded age. We are about to be catapulted backwards into a time of inadequate healthcare when the term 'pre-existing conditions' could mean a death sentence. Democrats rescued us years ago from those awful days and now Republicans are dragging us back into that hellscape once again. Remember how the crippled and broken bodies lined the halls of Congress 15 years ago as they begged for passage of good healthcare? And remember the lies spread by Republicans about 'death panels' which never came to be? Democrats came through with what the people needed with the help of Senator McCain's thumb. But the perfect irony is that rural hospitals will shut down due to Trump's ugly bill and deprive Trump's very supporters of medical services. Should we say they deserve it? Yes, Trump supporters deserve the worst that Trump is flinging out across the landscape. But of course, life isn't fair and debris will be hurled helter skelter. Perhaps it is you or I or someone we love that will sadly be struck down. Irene

Government overreach

COAL CITY—It amazes me how a elected official gets a little power and it goes straight to their head. They become instant experts on everything, especially what's best for us! Coal City is a small rural community, not Plainfield, or Naperville. For the village board to harass a longtime upstanding resident and small business leader is unacceptable. They want to fine him \$750 a day he is in violation of ordinance. His crime...he has been growing & selling vegetables from his home. Now this didn't just happen over night, he's been doing this for several years with no problems. He even gives a lot of proceeds to local churches, and the needy in the community. Now he built a sign and put it in his front yard, to advertise. Just because it is 2 inches too big for the code. The village says there should be no signage in residential areas. What about all the political signs every 2-4

years. The village board should be more concerned about all the empty stores on Broadway St. than a homeowner selling veggies from his lawn. Diamond is growing with at least four new businesses and almost 100 proposed homes. Talk about government over reach! The village board should be ashamed. KL

Truckin' on Kennedy

BRAIDWOOD—Why do truckers think they can do whatever they want? Just because they have jobs to do doesn't mean they can just go down any road and destroy the peace. There's a law that says only a truck with so many wheels can go down Kennedy Road and it surely isn't 17. Anybody know what the limit is? Next time I'm calling the police.

Noisy motorcycles too

WILMINGTON—If our city council is real concerned about the noise from engine breaking, how about the noise from motorcycles that can be heard from a mile away?. I'm not anti-motorcycle, but why do they have to be so noisy?

Stars should shut up

WILMINGTON—Movie stars and recording artists that make millions of dollars from the public going to their movies and/or concerts should keep their mouths shut on their political views or stop the whining when the public stops going to their movies or attending their concerts.

Silence is golden

BRAIDWOOD—Roosters, dogs and junkyards. The rooster starts crowing at 4:15 a.m., the dogs start barking at 5:30 a.m. and then someone starts working on their vehicle with a hammer at 11 p.m. This is not right. Please, if this pertains to you and you know who you are, have some respect for your neighbors.

Kudos to dancers

WILMINGTON—I wanted to praise the Finale Studio for a wonderful performance at the Rialto Theater last week. The dancing was superb and the choreography outstanding. Easy to see why they have won many contests. The kids were adorable and the Dance Dads and babies so cute. The only damper was the whistling of the person right in front of me. There were other whistles around the auditorium too. Someone told me that is was a new thing to show appreciation for the dancers. I was jarred every time she whistled. I found it annoying, ear piercing, and rude. I urge teachers could suggest to parents that this disrupts the show and does not encourage the dancers. It is a shame that something so good was ruined by uncaring audience members. Kudos to all the teachers, dancers and choreographers, and dance moms and dads for such a great show.

Bigger things

COAL CITY—I am so shocked and disappointed of our village officials so making such insane accusations at Ralph Brooks about his garden. It's a beautiful garden that he has been growing for years and he is very generous with sharing his crops with those in need. There's nothing wrong with selling some of it for very cheap prices. It takes a lot of hard work to keep a garden kept up like he does. Coal City has become a dying town due to no business and no seeming to even try to encourage any to come to our town. We have all the beautiful cement pots and benches on the main street but no reason to even spend time uptown because there's nothing to see but empty buildings and parking lots that certainly were not needed. Yet our village council and administrator have focused on one of the few decent things in town. Take a ride around this town and I guarantee there are many unkept yards and buildings and abandoned cars that are in violation of our so-called ordinance codes.

Why OK now?

BRAIDWOOD—Looking at the new police chief's contact it appears that he is going to receive \$125,000, five weeks vacation, 48 hours personal time and 15 sick days. We had another previous appointed official who was given a similar generous package when they were appointed and half the town lost their minds. Where are these same people at now? If they were so against it for one person, then why aren't they against it for another one?

Just a trickle

COAL CITY—What is the secret of the big, ugly bill? It amounts to trickle-down economics and that's not good because it means a downpour of goodies for the rich while the middle class dwindles and the poor scramble. Trickle-down is a favorite of Republicans. Reagan pushed it but his presidency suffered from budget deficits because he gave tax breaks to the wealthy and spent too much on defense. Clinton pulled us up into unparalleled prosperity when he not only balanced the budget and with the \$128 billion surplus also paid off some of the national debt. A powerful middle class emerged instead of the vulgar rich stealing from the desperately poor. President Obama left office with a budget deficit but it was only half of what it was when he entered. It definitely can be said that Democrats have a better record on the economy than Republicans. It's noteworthy that the last Republican president to balance the budget was Eisenhower who did it by taxing the rich and the corporations at a high level.

Rules of the road

BRAIDWOOD—The City of Braidwood and the police department needs to crack down on people driving golf carts to and from the Braidwood Recreation Club. They are driving on Rt. 53, which is a state route, or driving on the sidewalk between McDonald's and the club, both of which are against state law and city ordinance. The only legal way to get a golf cart to and from the Braidwood Recreation Club is on a trailer. Maybe the City of Braidwood needs to enhance their golf cart ordinance to mirror the City of Wilmington's ordinance which requires every golf cart owner to have a safety inspection performed by the police department, the owners to sign a sheet indicating they have received, understand and agree to abide by the rules, and an official approval sticker from the police department displayed on the vehicle before a golf cart or side-by-side can be driven on local roadways.

MAGA puppet

WILMINGTON—When will the MAGA bunch realize that their guy is nothing more than a puppet controlled by the Project 2025 architects. Project 2025 is their baby and their guy doesn't even know what is in it. They just tell him what to sign. This man needs a real cognition test, but not by the doctor who probably faked his 6'3 and 224 pound physical measurements. But keep drinking the Kool-Aid, Trumpers. The midterms cannot get here soon enough.

Abandoned Vehicles

BRAIDWOOD—With the new council cracking down on the abandoned vehicles, Braidwood is looking much better. My one concern is that the code enforcer is playing favorites. The past city administrator has a van that has sat in his driveway for four years and hasn't moved with no license plates. The van has not moved in more than seven days as the ordinance requires. Shouldn't the code enforcer be towing this vehicle?

Like the transparency

BRAIDWOOD—I would like to thank the current city council for being so transparent, professional and open to comment. It is so refreshing to go to or listen

council meeting and actually here reports from the administrator and the council members. The previous year's council members and the administrator would say that there were many good things happening but would not tell the public what they were. The council and administrator reported we had all this money in the bank. Come to find out the council was not doing audits as required by law. How do we really know the money should have not been used for something else? I am sure that these and many more questions will be answered concerning important issues that were not addressed by the previous council as this council settles in.

Short attention span

WILMINGTON—Most people except MAGA's know the president doesn't read documents. It takes too long for his short attention span. Every document that bears his signature is hardly legible. It is said he has a third grade vocabulary. His math on the big beautiful bill does not add up. He stared at an eclipse without sunglasses. He thought we fought Japan in WW1. There truly was one child left behind.

Appreciated

WILMINGTON—I thought everyone would like to know that Hardees gives discounts to senior citizens and also military. I went this morning for breakfast and when I got up to pay my bill the young lady said you get a discount which took almost 80 cents off my bill. I was very surprised that they do that. At McDonald's, all they want to do is give money to Ronald McDonald's house constantly asking if you want to round up your bill.

My kind of neighbor

COAL CITY—I'm calling about the article in the July 2 paper about the gentleman, Ralph Brook who has been doing a garden in his yard for many years and donates to many people and churches and whoever needs it and he is being harassed. If I had a neighbor like that he would be welcomed to the community. Instead you are giving him a hard time. You should be ashamed of yourselves.

Always closed

WILMINGTON—The other day I was downtown and decided to go to the Historical Society and see what kind of things they have in there. They had a sign on the door due to the road construction they are closed. I thought that was a really poor excuse because you could still access the museum. It seems like that museum is never open. I know people who go downtown all the time and the place is never open even though they claim they are open every Saturday but they never are. People come into town and want to go to the museum but it's never open.

Enforce the law

BRAIDWOOD—I would like to know why law enforcement here in Braidwood does not enforce the law when there are fireworks. They are illegal in Illinois. Friday and Saturday night it was like World War III outside but they, like many others, just turn a blind eye because it's the Fourth of July. So if you go by that premise would it be OK for everyone to get loaded and get in their cars and play demolition derby? Because drinking and driving is against the law so why don't they just turn a bind eye to that as well? Why doesn't Braidwood implement fines if caught like other cities? Have some consideration for others around you. Last year was pretty quiet because fines were put in place in Plainfield and Naperville and other cities which was also on the news. So catch up Braidwood. Everyone should not have to deal with your illegal nonsense. Enforce the law. Dee

Not real news

WILMINGTON—Have I got news for you. FOX isn't and that's the truth.

Surf Internet

Join the celebration with fiber-fast internet!

25 YEARS
of Pioneering Connectivity

Fiber Internet Plans Start at Only

\$30/mo*
with AutoPay

Taxes & Equipment Fees Included

☒ Price-Lock for Life*

☒ All-In Pricing*

☒ NO contracts

☒ NO hidden fees

☒ FREE installation*

☒ Equal upload and download speeds

☒ NO data caps or throttling

☒ 24/7 local customer service

CALL **1-844-414-8685**

VISIT **SurfInternet.com**

*Restrictions apply. Go to SurfInternet.com for details. ©2025 Surf Internet

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11	
12				13		14			15				
16				17		18			19				
20						21			22				
				23		24			25				
26	27	28	29				30						
31							32						
33								34	35	36	37	38	
				39	40	41		42	43				
			44	45				46					
							48						
49					50			51		52	53	54	55
56					57			58					
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. 50 percent

5. Records electric currents

8. Charlie Theron flick " _ Flux"

12. More frosty

14. Disfigure

15. Sky color

16. A thoroughfare in a town or city

18. Actress de Armas

19. Spend time in a relaxed way

20. California peak

21. Lodging option

22. Small amount of a thing

23. Expresses sorrow

26. Keeps an ear warm

30. Babies (Spanish)

31. A conceited and self-centered person

32. No seats available

33. Pouches

34. Hip joints

39. A place to bathe

42. Evading

44. Minute, one-celled unit

46. Losing one's hair

47. A country in W Africa

49. One point north of northeast

50. Pointed end of a pen

51. Extreme

56. Norse personification of old age

57. Doctors' group

58. Member of U.S. Navy

59. Mens' fashion accessories

60. A way to allow

61. Gloomy

62. Grads wear one

63. Between south and southeast

64. Jaguarundi cat

CLUES DOWN

1. Snakes do it

2. Hormone

3. The standard monetary unit of Turkey

4. Fixed charges

5. Electronic communication

6. Artilleries

7. "Strangers on a Train" actor Farley

8. Burning

9. Makes ecstatically happy

10. Greek liqueurs

11. Tropical Old World tree

13. Someone who takes vengeance

17. Style of cuisine

24. Select

25. Immunized against disease

26. Old world, new

27. Honorable title (Turkish)

28. Court case: _ v. Wade

29. Supervises interstate commerce

35. Not divisible by two

36. Twelve

37. Commentator Coulter

38. Encourage

40. Plumbing fixtures

41. Early

42. One point north of due east

43. King of Thebes

44. Short-tailed martens

45. Impose a penalty on

47. Consort of Poseidon

48. A way to lessen

49. Brooklyn hoops team

52. Female of a horse

53. Do as one is told

54. A way to prepare meat

55. Unit of measurement

Midway Airport Shuttle

FREE Parking \$2.00 Fare

Non-Stop from Manteno 365 days a year!

Choose the departure time that works best for you:

- 11 options on weekdays beginning at 4:55 AM
- 5 options on Saturdays beginning at 7:10 AM
- 4 options on Sundays/major holidays beginning at 8:10 AM

Nearly a **quarter-million** rides have been provided with a **9.2/10** rider satisfaction rating!

Details at
RiverValleyMetro.com





Manteno Metro Centre

Oak St., Downtown Manteno

Processed foods, a threat to the enviroment

Dear EarthTalk: Is the prevalence of processed foods an environmental threat?

— Lori P, via email

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

Warm supermarket bread. Mouth-watering hot dogs. Fizzy, sweet soda. Processed and ultra-processed foods (UPFs) are pervasive in American diets. In fact, the U.S. leads the world in UPF consumption, with over 60 percent of our daily caloric intake coming from these manufactured products. Despite their popularity, many people remain unaware of the environmental consequences of these convenient foods.

What exactly sets these processed variants apart from wholesome foods? According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), processed foods are altered from their natural state through processes like canning, dehydrating and heating. Ultra-

processed foods are more extreme, consisting mostly of substances and additives extracted from foods, such as fats, starches and preservatives. These products usually bear little resemblance to their original ingredients and are what most people imagine when they think of "processed foods."

Marco Springmann, Senior researcher at the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute, explains, "If you processed some food at home, the chances are you expend more energy doing that, as the process isn't as streamlined as a big factory."

In other words, preparing minimally processed foods at home may require more energy than industrial production, which relies on highly efficient systems. However, the long-term environmental impact of UPFs expands beyond just energy consumption.

The abrupt rise in UPFs threatens agrobiodiversity, or the variety in animals and plants used in the farming and food sectors. UPF production increases the demand for a narrow selection of high-yield crops—mainly rice, wheat, and corn—despite the exis-



THE UBIQUITY OF processed foods in the U.S. and elsewhere is not just a problem for human health but also for the environment.

tence of over 7,000 edible plants.

This issue is further exacerbated by the widespread use of these limited crop species to feed livestock raised for processed meat production. Reducing agrobiodiversity diminishes the variety of consumable foods; during periods of underproduction or climate unpredictability, this could lead to issues in food security.

UPFs also contribute to environmental degradation through waste production: These products are often packaged in single-use plastics such as wrappers, bottles and contain-

ers. Each year, about nine million metric tons of plastic enter the oceans, where they can persist for centuries, breaking down into harmful microplastics that contaminate ecosystems.

In addition, UPFs carry a large water footprint, especially soft drinks, which require hundreds of liters of water for production, processing and packaging. They also require vast amounts of land, release greenhouse gases, and lead to eutrophication (the overflow of nutrients in marine settings).

Our eating habits do make a difference: the food supply chain leads to 26

percent of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions globally. But together, whether researching planet-healthy food alternatives or reducing reliance on single-use plastics, being environmentally conscious is a powerful step in deciding our planet's future.

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

Lisa Marie's HAIR SALON

- Men
- Women
- Children

CUTS ★ COLOR

450 Davy Ln., Wilmington
(708) 465-3198

Free 'Patriotic' concert in Wilmington Sunday

The Wilmington Area Community Band will perform the third concert of the 18th season on Sunday, July 13, at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park.

Arrive early and order dinner from "Truckin' Delicious" food truck! Please bring a lawn chair, mosquito spray, snacks, and water and relax in the shade as the band performs the following music in a beautiful outdoor setting.

This concert's theme is "Patriotic and Americana" with a line-up that includes:

- Star Spangled Banner - soloist, Kirsten Klein
- You're a Grand Old Flag
- American Barndance
- Echoes from the

Battlefield
Aura Lee
Beyond the Riverbend
INTERMISSION
Liberty Bell/
Washington Post marches
with kid conductors!
Best of the West
Battle Hymn Epic
America the Beautiful
Veteran's Memorial

Park is located at the intersection of Williams and Vine Streets - across from Oakwood Cemetery and Island City Baptist Church.

The Wilmington Area Community Band is a volunteer group of local musicians from ages 13 up. In the event of rain or excess heat, our alternative concert location is Wilmington High School and signs will be posted at the park.

Food & Fun at Forked Creek Preserve

The Forest Preserve is hosting "Fun and food trucks" on Friday, July 11, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Forked Creek Preserve at Forsythe Woods in Wilmington.

Enjoy food, drinks, lawn games, live music by Michael C. Hayes and more. Smokin' Z BBQ and Rt. 66 Old School Brewing will be on site. The 2025 series is sponsored by Old National Bank. All ages; free entry. Food available for purchase.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years

Jerry Hallahan - Agent

1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

WEESIP LIQUORS



Truly or White Claw Seltzers
\$3.00 OFF 12 pk



Stella Rosa Wine
\$3.00 OFF 750ml



Jim Beam Bourbon
\$3.00 OFF 750 ml
\$4.00 OFF 1.75L



Dos Hombres Tequila
\$5.00 OFF 750 ml



Gray Whale Gin
\$3.00 OFF 750 ml



Ketel One Vodka
\$3.00 OFF 750ml
\$4.00 OFF 1.75L



Admiral Nelson's Rum
\$3.00 OFF 750 ml

LIL VEGAS

COME TRY YOUR LUCK!

6 Machines
Private Room
Must be 21 yrs or Older

Offers good through July 15, 2025
1099 S. Water St., Wilmington • 815-476-2764

WHS 50th reunion set for July 19

The WHS Class of '75 will hold their 50-year class reunion at the Wilmington VFW on July 19, from 6:30 pm. to 10:30 p.m.

All classmates, spouse/guests and friends are invited to attend. There will be a \$25 per person cash fee at the door. Bring memorabilia to share.

The evening before, July 18, there will be an informal get-together at Haydens Crossing at 7 p.m. and for Sunday, July 20 at Symerton Tap.

A tour of the high school has been arranged for 4 p.m. on July 19 for those interested.

Ongoing updates are available on the Wilmington High School Class of '75 Facebook page.

Casino Bus Trip

New Buffalo, MI

July 16, 2025

Cost:
\$45 per person.
Gives you \$10 towards food & \$15 towards slot play.

Bus departs the Wilmington Moose parking lot at 8:30 a.m. & returns approximately 5:30 p.m.

You **MUST** be registered and paid by July 9.

You can register at the Wilmington Moose or call Judy Radosevich at 708-494-8480.





THE BEST OF THE BEST! IN GRUNDY COUNTY!

We're extremely proud that you, our customers and the residents of Grundy County, have named Grundy Bank The **BEST OF THE BEST FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS** for the 6th consecutive year. We have been serving the good people of Morris and Grundy County since 1864 as a Community Bank. A statistic we're very proud of.

We're different from most banks, we're a true Community Bank that makes all its decisions right here in Morris. We don't have a committee in Chicago or other cities determining your growth, dreams and plans. We work in partnership with you.

We also service your mortgages. We don't sell them off to some Corporation in Texas, New York or wherever. You will be able to see one of our Mortgage Loan Specialists like Dave or Whitney any time you have a question or concern.



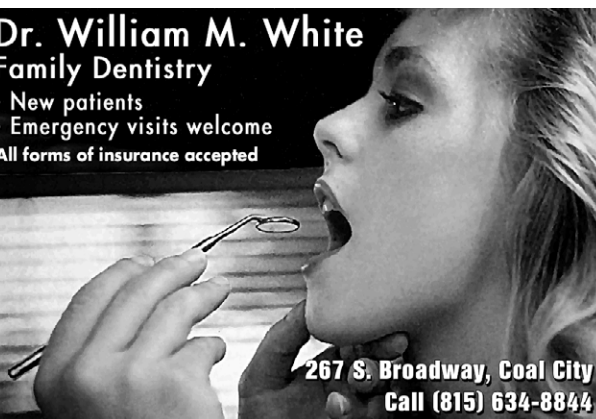
201 Liberty Street, Morris
444 Bedford Road, Morris
120 S. Main Street, Wilmington
(815) 942-0130
grundy.bank



Kevin OLSON President & CEO The Best BANK In Grundy Co.	Dave BROZOVICH Vice President Mortgage Loans The Best Mortgage Broker	Kelly DRANSFELT Financial Advisor The Best Financial Advisor	Whitney VALDIVIA Residential Loan Officer One Of The Best, Mortgage Brokers
--	--	--	---



Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry
 - New patients
 - Emergency visits welcome
 All forms of insurance accepted



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
Call (815) 634-8844

warrenscollisioncenteril.com



WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
 860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
 815-458-3300

- ✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
- ✓ Rentals available
- ✓ Certified technicians
- ✓ All insurance accepted
- ✓ Completed in a timely fashion

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

SUNDAY FUNDAY!
 DOORS OPEN AT NOON! FIRST RAFFLE AT 2PM!
 It's NOT BINGO but a RAFFLE like BINGO... You play it like BINGO!! Lots of cash prizes!!! BIG PRIZES!!!

QUEEN of HEARTS
 Every TUESDAY at 553 W. Kennedy Rd. Braidwood
 You must play BINGO to participate.
 Doors open at 4pm. Drawing is held at intermission.
Queen of Hearts Pot is \$9,900.00
 For BINGO players only on Tuesday nites and see the QUEEN rules at the BINGO hall for rules and regulations.

Braidwood Post 039 BINGO
 Tuesday Night Flash Max Bingo

Pull Tabs	6:30pm	Hot Food, Snacks & Beverages
Bingo	6:30pm	553 Kennedy Road
Doors Open	4:00pm	Braidwood, IL 60408

Home of the "Big Guy"
 Commander Bill Kiley
 815-216-2570

Pritzker's new running mate threw several punches

Christian Mitchell has had strong detractors ever since Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle elevated the young Black man out of obscurity and backed him for the Illinois House in 2012.



Rich Miller

Preckwinkle chose her trusted aide Mitchell over appointed Rep. Kimberly du Buclet (D-Chicago). Preckwinkle's move upset a lot of people in that part of the world because the du Buclet family's local influence had been strong for decades and Mitchell was not a born South Sider.

As a result, I somewhat derisively referred to Mitchell as "The Chosen One" in a story I wrote for my subscribers back in the day.

Mitchell's first House primary race was a proxy battle between Preckwinkle and the Jesse Jackson family, and man was that close race ever heated. He was a brassy, highly educated amateur boxer who didn't take any guff whatsoever.

Mitchell then went on to win two successive Democratic primary races against a Chicago Teachers Union-backed candidate. The enemies list grew as Mitchell fought all opponents tooth and nail.

The complaints really started to fly in 2019 when he was chosen as one of newly elected JB Pritzker's deputy governors. Statehouse denizens (most of them white men) who were accustomed to deference were shocked at Mitchell's in-your-face negotiating style and fierce loyalty to his boss. I lost count of the number of white men who reached out with stories about the brash Pritzker lieutenant.

But, hey, Mitchell helped pass a lot of bills. He drove some very powerful folks up a wall during the intense negotiations over the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, but the bill got done.

Now that he's been chosen as Gov. Pritzker's

running mate. I asked Mitchell last week if he believes he has bridges to build.

"I am proud to have been a tough negotiator in some very, very difficult rooms, trying to get the best deal for Illinois and for working families, for taxpayers. I'm not going to apologize for that," Mitchell said.

But Mitchell said he's a "different person" since he left politics in 2023. "Are there times when I spoke when I should have listened? I think the answer is absolutely."

Mitchell pledged to be far more open in the future. "Anybody who wants to have a conversation, wants to reach out, wants to do well on behalf of the people of Illinois, I'm going to greet them with an open hand."

"And I'm going to remember to listen more than I speak. And I'm really excited to work with everybody, even people with whom we may have had some past friction."

Mitchell was a fearless boxer back in the day, and he audaciously used "The Chosen One" moniker I gave him when promoting two charity fights.

Asked if he still boxes, Mitchell said, "I do not. I've been off for a few months. I had a wrist injury, but I'm hoping to start back next Friday."

I jokingly wondered aloud whether his wrist injury was from breaking somebody's skull. "I did not," he said. "I don't spar that often anymore," Mitchell said, alluding to the fact that he was getting a bit too old to spar. "But I still love to hit the bag and love shadow boxing. It's how I relax."

And now he's "The Chosen One" all over again as the billionaire governor's running mate and possible successor should Pritzker win the presidency or is appointed to a Cabinet position.

Mitchell has a lot of

work to do. But he seems committed to pulling this off.

Asked what his role would be in the upcoming campaign, Mitchell said, "My role is going to be to go everywhere, to talk to everyone, to articulate the issues across the state of Illinois, to meet people in their houses, at their churches, on the stoop in the town square. And ultimately, it's going to be to articulate the message that the governor is putting forward about continuing the progress we've made over the last seven years, protecting that progress, investing in the jobs of the future, and making sure that we have a 21st Century education and health care system that people can afford. That's gonna be my role."

If Pritzker does somehow move up, or even if he doesn't and retires, Mitchell will need the support of powerful people and



CHRISTIAN MITCHELL

groups in 2030 who thoroughly despised him when he was a deputy governor.

"The Chosen One" will then have to stand on his own.

However, he's always been "The Chosen One" for good reason.

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

Grundy Bank's ice cream social returns

Grundy Bank makes a return with their annual Ice Cream Social in the Morris bank's courtyard from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. on Friday, July 18.

Grundy Bank invites residents, summer camps, and the local summer groups to join them for an exciting, fun-filled day with family and friends. Attendees need not worry about choosing just one flavor and/or toppings.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to relax and savor the summer days alongside the community. Grundy Bank eagerly anticipates seeing everyone there and reminds everyone to bring their sweet tooth!

Representatives from the bank will be serving up delighted sweet treats such as root beer floats and ice cream sundaes all for \$.25 cents a scoop. Unlimited toppings will be offered such as Oreo's, M&M's, chocolate and strawberry

syrup, brownie chunks, sprinkles, whipped cream and more!

Grundy Bank has partnered with Sweet Tooth, a local candy shop in downtown Morris, to offer the choices of chocolate and vanilla ice cream.

Last year we raised \$387.83 that benefited We Care of Grundy County "Back to School" program, which will help with providing school supplies for those children in need. We would love to meet or beat that amount this year!

"Since the early 1980s, this cherished event has brought together kids and adults to enjoy delicious treats and be able to enjoy time with family, friends and the community. We would like to invite the community out to celebrate another year yet of sweet summer memories and community spirit," said Kevin Olson, President & CEO of Grundy Bank.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HENDRON CABINETS.COM
 Jason Hendron Construction, LLC.
CABINETRY, GRANITE & QUARTZ COUNTERTOPS
DESIGN & SALES

JSI CABINETRY **QUARTZ** **SKYLINE CABINETRY**

VISIT OUR SHOWROOM: 450 DAVY LANE - WILMINGTON
 Monday - Friday 9-5 & Saturday 9-12

(815) 790-1235

Landscape Supply
 Elwood, IL

- Driveway stone
- Pulverized topsoil
- Pool & play sand
- Hardwood mulch
- Decorative stone
- Bobcat Service

We Deliver!
 www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals

No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

FARMERS INSURANCE

MELODIE J. LUCKETT

326 E. Baltimore St.
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Office 815-476-5242
 Cell 815-671-1356
 mluckett@farmersagent.com

Agent, Notary

Auto • Home
 Life • Commercial

SHORKEY PAINTING
(815) 546-1321
 Interior/Exterior

ORDER YOUR BUSINESS CARDS
 from the Free Press Newspapers
 Call 815-476-7966 and ask for Eric

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
 Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
Ed Bonnavier
 Coal City • 634-4691

LIFTED
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
 CONCRETE RAISING

Spray Foam Insulation

- garages
- pole buildings
- attics
- basements
- commercial
- industrial

Concrete Raising

- driveways
- sidewalks
- patios
- stairs
- and more!

Wilmington • 815-200-6880

PROTECT-YOUR-DECK DECK BUILDER
 Deck, fence maintenance/
 installation & house painting
 • Ext. wood restoration
 • Power washing vinyl siding
 & concrete

Free Estimates
815-935-9949
 Insured • Bonded • Licensed
M & B Roofing

SISTEK RENTALS
 We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT**
 Outdoor Power Equipment

CubCadet **GRASSHOPPER**
 YOUR NEXT MOWER®

815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

This space could be yours!
Call (815) 476-7966

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP.
 Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services

FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS

- Shingle/Flat Roofs
- Gutters
- Siding
- Fascia/Soffit
- Insurance Claims

IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
 WWW.VRCC.US

FULL COLOR

Customized to your liking!

- BANNERS -
- YARD SIGNS -
- POST CARDS -
- BROCHURES -

Competitive prices!

The Free Press Newspapers
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington

TREE REMOVAL

- Tree Trimming & Removal -
- Stump Grinding -
- 24 Hr. Emergency Service -

Insured
 50 Years in Business

Area Tree 'N' Turf
Paul Kosinski 815-483-7616
Joe 815-791-1860

SHOP LOCAL!

WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
 EST. 1958

616 Davy Lane, Wilmington

44th
Annual

Braidwood Lions Club

“An Under the Sea Adventure”

BRAIDWOOD CITY PARK • THURS. - SUN., JULY 17-20

Featuring Rides, Games, Food, Free Live Entertainment,
Flea Market, Arts & Crafts Show & much more!

EVENT CALENDAR	
THURSDAY, JULY 17th	
5 to 11:00pm	44th Annual Braidwood Lions Summerfest Begins Food Court, Lions Beer Garden & Knights of Columbus Council #1574 Concession Stand Open
5 to 7pm	103.1 FM WCSJ Live Remote Broadcast & Giveaways (next to the Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage)
5 to 9pm	Christian Life Assembly Outreach & Photo Booth (hospitality area)
5 to 10:00pm	Carnival Opens – Pay One Price for Unlimited Rides *all night*
6 to 10:00pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
6 to 9pm	Braidwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Booth & Equipment Displays
7:30 to 10:30pm	Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage: “The Baked Potatoes” 60’s-70’s-80’s-90’s Rock & Roll
FRIDAY, JULY 18th	
5pm to 11:30pm	Food Court, Lions Beer Garden & Knights of Columbus Council #1574 Concession Stand Open
5 to 9pm	Christian Life Assembly Outreach & Photo Booth (hospitality area)
6 to 9pm	Braidwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Booth & Equipment Displays
6 to 11:00pm	Carnival Open: Pay One Price for Unlimited Rides *all night*
6 to 10:00pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
6 to 7pm	101.7FM River Country Live Remote Broadcast, Prize Wheel & Giveaways (next to the Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage)
8:00p to 11:30pm	Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage: “Anthem” Classic Rock & Beyond
SATURDAY, JULY 19th	
9:00am – 5pm	Flea Market, Arts & Crafts Show (south end of the city park)
10am - Noon	Annual Summerfest Baby Contest (under the Lions pavilion)
10:00am – 2pm	Summerfest Car Show (east side of the skate park)
10:00am – 2pm	DJ Jeff Saltzman (car show area, east side of the skate park)
12pm – Midnight	Food Court, Lions Beer Garden & Knights of Columbus Council #1574 Concession Stand Open
12 to 4pm	DJ George – Chi-City Enterprises (next to Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage)
12pm to 9pm	Ignite Christian Church Baby Changing/Feeding/Cooling Station & Outreach Booth (north of the hospitality tent)
1:00pm	Annual Summerfest Pie Eating Contest (under hospitality tent)
1pm – Midnight	Carnival Opens: Pay one price and ride unlimited from 1 to 5pm OR 6 to 11pm
1 to 9pm	Christian Life Assembly Outreach & Photo Booth (hospitality area)
2 to 4pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
2 to 9pm	Braidwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Booth & Equipment Displays
2 to 4pm	Entertainers-R-We Balloon Animals & Face Painting (under the hospitality tent)
4 to 7pm	Kroll Farms Petting Zoo (north side of the Bingo pavilion) \$2.00 Animal Feed Cups
4:00 to 7:00pm	Chicagoland’s FREE Country 98.3 & 102.3 Live Remote Broadcast & Giveaways (next to the Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage)
6 to 10pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
8 to 11:30pm	Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage: “Whiskeyfist” Country & Rock With A Kick!!
SUNDAY, JULY 20th	
9:00am – 5pm	Flea Market, Arts & Crafts Show (south end of the city park)
Noon to 10:30pm	Food Court, Lions Beer Garden & Knights of Columbus Council #1574 Concession Stand Open
1:00pm	Hometown Proud Parade: Main & Mitchell Street to RC Elementary School (S. Walker Street)
	Grand Marshal: Freak from Top Fuel Saloon
2 to 10pm	Carnival Opens: Pay One Price for Unlimited Rides from 2 to 6pm OR 6 to 10pm
** Purchase or redeem an unlimited ride wristband from the Carnival Midway ticket booth on Sunday 7/20 prior to 6pm and receive a chance to win one of two bicycles!! Winners must be present to win. Drawing will be held at 6:30pm at the Midway ticket booth. Bicycles provided courtesy of A&A Attractions. **	
2 to 4pm	Entertainers-R-We Balloon Animals & Face Painting (under the hospitality tent)
2 to 4pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
2 to 6pm	DJ Roy Gregory’s Summerfest Country, Rock & Blues Dance Party (next to Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage)
2 to 9pm	Ignite Christian Church Baby Changing/Feeding/Cooling Station & Outreach Booth (north of the hospitality tent)
2 to 8pm	Braidwood Fire Department Fire Prevention Booth & Equipment Displays
4:30 to 5:45pm	Dave DiNaso’s Traveling World of Reptiles (under the Lions pavilion)
6 to 9:00pm	Lions Club Bingo (under the Lions pavilion) \$0.25 a card
6:30 to 9:30pm	Constellation Energy Entertainment Stage: “Midlife Crisis” Pop, Rock, Motown & Funk Party Classics
9:30pm	ANNUAL SUMMERFEST FIREWORKS DISPLAY

SAVE TIME & MONEY!

IN ADVANCE \$70 *MEGA PASS

Pre-Sale Carnival Ride Tickets & Armbands On Sale Now!

RETURNING FOR 2025

UNLIMITED RIDE MEGA PASS!

Good For The Entire Festival!!!

Mega Pass wristbands may be utilized for the entire duration of the festival during Carnival Midway hours. Mega Pass wristbands **MUST** remain on the person’s wrist for the duration of the festival and are non-transferable.

*Pre-Sale Mega Pass: \$70.00 each.

Mega passes purchased at the Carnival Midway ticket booth cost \$80.00. **Save \$10.00 by buying ahead!!**

Participating Pre-Sale locations in Braidwood:
Berkot’s Super Foods - Whitmore Ace Hardware - Braidwood City Hall
Rockin Robin’s Salon - Hairagain Salon - Fossil Ridge Library - Midland States Bank (Diamond) - Clip & Sip Hair Salon (Godley) - Shelly’s Hair Salon (Godley)

** Pre-Sale Wristbands: \$25.00 each.

See Daily Schedule of Events for Carnival Hours & Wristband Session Times.
A wristband purchased at the Carnival Midway ticket booth cost \$28.00 each.

Carnival Midway Provided By A&A Attractions

No Refunds on pre-sale purchases or tickets/armbands/mega passes purchased at the carnival midway ticket booth

Pre-sale ends Thurs., July 17 at 3 p.m.

IN ADVANCE \$25 **WRISTBAND Save \$3.00 by buying ahead!!

Like us on Facebook

THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICIAL SUMMERFEST SPONSORS

PLATINUM LEVEL SPONSORS

Constellation Energy–Braidwood Station, Berkot’s Super Foods, Kozol Bros. Inc., Braidwood Park District, Mastodon Travel Center, Mad Bomber Fireworks Productions

GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS

“D” Construction, Inc., Top Fuel Saloon, R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Camping World–Braidwood, Northern Illinois Steel Supply Co., LRS Waste Management Services, QRock 100.7, Braidwood Fire Department, Braidwood Police Department, City of Braidwood, Braidwood Journal–Free Press Newspapers

SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS

Morris Hospital–Braidwood Clinic, Polk-A-Dot Drive In, Casey’s General Store, MJS Communications, LLC., Arnie Bauer Chevrolet GMC, West Flooring Company, South Wilmington Sportsmen’s Club, Midland States Bank, Subway, R&R Septic & Sewer Service, Inc., Busey Bank, Financial Plus Credit Union, M. Gingerich, Gereaux & Associates, Hexagon Real Estate, Stewart Spreading Inc., Water Well Solutions Illinois, LLC.

BRONZE LEVEL SPONSORS

Anderson Tax Service, J&C Travel Inc., Findlay Real Estate Group, D’Orazio Ford, Village of Godley, Jensen Electric, Inc., Elite Rehabilitation Institute, Sun Motel, J&S Vinyl Designs, Ultimate Rides, Geo’s Pizza, A&E Septic, JM Custom T-Shirts & More

ASSOCIATE SPONSORS

(Various community groups, organizations & agencies who provide support, activities and events during the festival)

Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council #1574, Braidwood Baseball/Softball Association, Braidwood American Legion Koca Post #39, Braidwood Area Historical Society, Braidwood Area Healthy Community Coalition, Fossil Ridge Public Library, RC Gridiron Club, Reed Township Mosquito Abatement District, Braidwood E.S.D.A., Will County Sheriff’s Auxiliary Police, 1st Presbyterian Church of Braidwood, Ignite Christian Church, Christian Life Assembly Church

Thank You!

Fireworks

SPECIAL NOTICE

For safety reasons, NO PETS will be allowed on festival grounds in the carnival midway, food court,entertainment area, flea market areas, parking lots or baseball field areas regardless of size, temperament or leash.

Only certified ADA service dogs will be permitted.

** No Face Coverings Allowed On Festival Grounds.

Standard PPE medical masks which cover the nose & mouth only will still be permitted. Anyone found wearing a face covering on festival grounds which obscures their identity, other than a standard PPE medical mask, may be asked to leave.

Visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org for all your Summerfest information, entry forms and more.
Like Us On Facebook For Even More Exclusive Summerfest Information And Updates

OBITUARIES

Carolyn R. Henke

COAL CITY—Carolyn R. Henke, 80, of Coal City, passed away on Tuesday, July 1, 2025 at The Gardens at Park Pointe in Morris.

She was born on Oct. 6, 1944 in Springfield, to Charles and Virginia (nee Norman) DeLay. She was educated in Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School class of 1962. Carolyn married Donald Henke on Oct. 12, 1963 at the Coal City United Methodist Church. Together, Carolyn and Don raised their family of three daughters and became devoted grandparents and great-grandparents.

Carolyn retired after many years, working as a secretary in the Department of Energy for the State of Illinois. She was a member of the New Community Christian Church in Morris. Carolyn enjoyed spending her time tending to her flower gardens. She was a lover of sweet treats of any kind including cookies and pastries. She liked playing card games such as Euchre and especially Uno with her great-grandkids. The outdoors and travel provided much fun for Carolyn and Don. They enjoyed walking, fishing and sitting by the fire at the Coal City Area Club, going on many bus trips all over the United States and they loved their time spent each November in Ft. Myers Beach, FL. Many



evenings, Carolyn and Don just liked "tooling" around the streets of Coal City.

She is survived by her three daughters: Karen (Lou) Dinelli, Janet (Darryll) Miller and Lisa (Dave) Heelan; nine grandchildren: Kristen Henke, Ryan (Erin) Onsen, Kayla (Brandon) Paulsen, Katelyn (David) Young, Dalton (Alexa) Onsen, Jake (Meredith) Larson, Caeley Larson, Lyndsay Larson and Scott (Sonia) Dinelli; 14 great-grandchildren; her brother, Larry (Cherie) DeLay; her sisters, Sharon (Mike) Dudley and Barb (Wes) Parkhill and a brother-in-law, Ron Henke.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Donald Henke; her parents, Charles and Virginia DeLay and a sister in infancy, Esther DeLay.

Funeral services were held Saturday, July 5, 2025 at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City. Pastor Kevin Yandell officiated.

Cremation rites were accorded following the services. Private inurnment was held at Braceville Gardner Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrari-funeral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City were entrusted with arrangements.

James A. Krug

COAL CITY—James Aaron Krug, 49, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at home on June 27, 2025. Born June 18, 1976, in Joliet, he was the cherished son of Jimmie Dean and Mary Ann (nee Frederiksen) Krug.

James had a lifelong passion for sports. He spent time in karate, but football was where his heart truly was. He proudly represented Coal City on the football team throughout all four years of high school, graduating with the Class of 1994. He later pursued higher education at Joliet Junior College and Olivet Nazarene University. James was employed at United States Cold Storage in Wilmington. He will be remembered for his kind spirit and remarkable ability to connect with those around him, leaving a lasting impression on everyone who met him.

He leaves behind his loving parents, Jimmie Dean and Mary Ann Krug of Coal City, who were a constant source of love and support throughout his life. Closest to his heart was his daughter, Mia Ann Krug of Ottawa-the light of his world who brought him endless pride and joy, and whom he truly adored. He is also deeply missed by his devoted girlfriend, Lisa Kelly, whose presence brought comfort, love, and companionship.

James is survived by his aunts and



uncles: Nancy Carter, Jackie Krug, Doug and Cheri Sutton of TX; Cindy and Mike Conroy of AZ; Lark and Deb Frederiksen of Verona, IL; LeAnn Havekos of FL; and Michelle and Don Wilson of Shorewood, IL. He is also survived by his great-aunts and great-uncle, Elenor Bowman and Ethel McConnell, as well as Jerry and Angie Krug of Godley, IL, and many dear cousins.

Preceding him in death were his beloved grandparents, James and Joan Krug, Earl and Lois Frederiksen, and Betty Vilt. He was also preceded by several aunts, uncles, great-aunts, and great-uncles, including Alice Riddenback, John and Suzanne Frederiksen, Don and Jerri Krug, Gary and Doris Krug, and Ed McConnell.

Cremation rites have been accorded and entrusted to R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood, IL. A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit James's online guestbook at rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with arrangements.

Gary Hansen

REDDICK—Gary L. Hansen, 70, of Reddick, passed away Thursday, June 26, 2025 at his home.

Born Nov. 16, 1954 in Morris, he was the son of Gaylord Hansen and Gladys (nee Smith) McLaughlin. Gary loved cars, fishing, and listening to rock music.

Surviving are one daughter, Stacey (Mike) Harrison, of Ponte Vedre, FL; sister, Gayle (Wayne) Smith, of Coal City; brother, Gordon Hansen, of Wilmington; granddaughter, Rhianna Hansen, of Pontiac; niece and nephew, Megan Hansen and Christian Smith; great-nephew, Declan

Smith; special friend, Kathlyn Kirkland and numerous cousins and friends.

Preceding him in death were his parents and son, Erick Hansen.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Inurnment will be private.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is entrusted with arrangements.

Gas almost \$1/g cheaper downstate

Holiday travelers paid under \$3 per gallon of gas in states surrounding Illinois while locally, the average gasoline price remained \$3.39/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 5.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago.

Despite cheerful prognostications on the prices of gas, prices remain stagnant here, with gas running from \$3.18/g at BP up to \$3.24/g at Love's in Wilmington.

Nothing has changed in Braidwood, with gas hovering at \$3.49/g at Marathon up to \$3.59/g at Casey's.

In Coal City, expect to pay \$3.25/g across the board, with Morris ranging from \$3.19/g at Casey's, up to \$3.29/g at Citgo. As

usual, Bourbonnais is cheapest, but not by much this week, with gas at \$3.14/g at Gulf, up to \$3.19/g at Circle K.

"Nearly every state saw average gas prices decline for the second straight week, even as the nation celebrated July 4 with the lowest national average for Independence Day since 2020," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"If tensions in the Middle East remain contained and the Gulf is spared from major hurricanes, the odds are improving that the national average could dip below \$3 per gallon."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.45/g while the highest was \$4.49/g.

PEO Chapter GK to meet July 14

PEO Chapter GK will meet on Monday, July 14, at the home of Star Beeson at 7 p.m. for social time with meeting starting at 7:30 p.m.

'Tractors for a Cure' planning Aug. 16 ride

On Saturday, Aug. 16, Tractors for a Cure, Inc. will hold a memorial ride honoring Jerry and Lorraine Davidson, who have made significant financial donations to the organization.

The ride will leave Symerton Park at 1:25 p.m. sharp, and all participants must register no later than Wednesday, Aug. 6.

The \$100 tractor entrance fee will include a pork chop dinner at Symerton Tap following the ride.

Those who don't own a tractor may register for the people mover or as wagon rider participants. The fee is also \$100. The cost for children 12 and under is \$25, and includes a hot dog meal. Additional meal tickets are \$25. There will be raffle prizes for participants who paid the full registration price of \$100.

The ride will travel the countryside of Symerton, Elwood and the Wilmington area, ending at Symerton Tap at 4:30 p.m.

Registration forms are available at Symerton Tap, 18332 W. Commercial St., Symerton, the Village of Symerton, 18385 W. Commercial St., Symerton, or the Will County Farm Bureau, 100 Manhattan Road, Joliet. You may also visit the Tractors for a Cure Facebook page.

Any year tractors may participate, and the event will be held rain or shine.

Tractors for a Cure, Inc., is a not-for-profit organization that raises funds for a cure for cancer. The organization is located in Peotone.

Since 2011, Tractors for a Cure has donated over \$649,000 for cancer research to the American Cancer Society and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Illinois State Fair announces "Adventure Awaits"

Adventure Awaits at the 2025 Illinois State Fair.

The theme for this year's fair sets the tone for an unforgettable journey through all that makes the Illinois State Fair a must-see event—livestock competitions, jaw-dropping performances, thrilling carnival rides, delicious food, and nonstop entertainment.

This theme also sets the stage for one of Springfield's favorite traditions: the Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade, stepping off at 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 7. The parade kicks off the 11-day celebration of Illinois agriculture, community, and creativity, winding through Springfield streets and into the heart of the fairgrounds.

From high school bands and community groups to classic cars and creative floats, the Twilight Parade is an annual tradition. The Illinois State Fair is currently accepting parade entries through July 8. For more information

visit statefair.illinois.gov or call the Special Events office at 217.782.0777.

"The Twilight Parade is the perfect way to kick off this adventure," said Jerry Costello II, Director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture. "This year's theme invites every fairgoer to discover something new, and it all starts with the parade."

"There's a world of fun waiting inside the gates," added Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. "We encourage families to grab a lemon shake-up, find their favorite curbside spot, and enjoy this time-honored tradition. We cannot wait for you to experience all the adventure the Illinois State Fair has to offer."

The Twilight Parade will start at 5:30 p.m. in Lincoln Park and travel onto Sangamon Avenue, entering the fairgrounds through the Main Gate. From there, the parade marches down Main Street, turns left onto Grandstand Avenue, marching past the

Grandstand, and exits through Lot 21.

Opening Day Highlights – Thursday, August 7: Fairgrounds admission: \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, free for kids 12 and under.

Carnival rides open at noon – all rides just \$3 all day on August 7.

"Double the Fun" parking deal – pay to park on August 7, and return with free parking on August 12, 13, or 14.

Monsters of Destruction roars into The Arena at 7:30 p.m. – plan ahead and enter through Gate 6 to avoid parade traffic. Tickets can be purchased at StateFair.Illinois.gov.

The 2025 Illinois State Fair runs from August 7 through August 17 in Springfield. Stay up to date with all the latest news and announcements by connecting with us via Facebook and Instagram.

Adventure Awaits – don't miss your chance to be part of it.



Forest Preserve photo

SIGN UP for a Forest Preserve District of Will County volunteer day. There are several local opportunities to make a difference with a couple of volunteer hours.

Forest Preserve District needs a few good volunteers

The Forest Preserve District of Will County has summer volunteer opportunities planned for July, August and September.

The District offers a range of opportunities that allow individuals to contribute their time, energy and skills - often with just a few hours of commitment.

"Most of our roles are short-term and easy to join, but they still make a meaningful impact," said Emily Kenny, the Forest Preserve's volunteer services supervisor. These include helping at public programs and events, as well as weekly Habitat Management Mornings, which offer hands-on stewardship opportunities.

Space is limited for all events, so early registration is encouraged. Seasonal, large-scale events also need volunteers for a variety of

roles.

To stay up to date on current needs, email VolunteerServices@fpdwc.org. You will receive an autoreply with available openings, a volunteer waiver and information on partner organizations seeking help.

"Volunteering in the forest preserve isn't just about giving back - it's also about personal growth and community connection," Kenny said.

Local volunteer opportunities include:

Saturday, July 26: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

Thursday, Aug. 14: 8-11 a.m. Evans-Judge Preserve in Custer Township. Brush control. Ages 10 and older.

Sunday, Aug. 24: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kankakee

Sands Preserve in Custer Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

Thursday, Aug. 28: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve in Reed Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

September: Thursday, Sept. 4: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Kankakee Sands Preserve in Custer Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

Tuesday, Sept. 30: 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Braidwood Dunes and Savanna Nature Preserve in Reed Township. Seed collection. Ages 8 and older.

Wear clothes appropriate for the weather, getting dirty and being near a fire for brush control events. Bring water and snacks. For more information visit the Volunteer page at reconnectwithnature.org/get-involved/volunteer.

Catfish Days Craft Show and Flea Market

A craft show and flea market is planned for Saturday, July 26, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the downtown antique district during Catfish Days. Spaces are assigned first come, first served with a limited number of spaces available. No electricity available.

Check in as early as 6:30 a.m. at North Water and Van Buren street. Vendors must arrive by 8 a.m. and remove all vehicles by 8:40 a.m. or your spaces will be forfeited.

The non-refundable cost is \$35 for 10-foot x10-foot spaces postmarked on or before July 12; \$50 postmarked July 13-19. Do not mail after July 19. Spaces paid for the day of the event will be \$65. Fresh food vendors who prepare food on site pay \$100 through until July 12 for a 10'x20' space. If paid after July 12 the price will be \$150. Food vendors must also be permitted by the Will County Health Department so be sure to contact them.

All interested parties, including Wilmington non-profit organizations, must pay for a space.

Complete the contract below. Detach and return it with a check made payable to **Women of Wilmington**. Mail to: Women of Wilmington, PO Box 13, Wilmington, IL 60481. Email questions to thewomenofwilmington@gmail.com. Post dated checks will not reserve a space. Confirmations will be emailed the week of the show.

Catfish Days Committee and Women of Wilmington will not assume liability for any losses, damages or injuries.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Contact Person: _____

Signature: _____

Email address: _____

List what will be sold: _____

How many spaces? (Circle one): 1 2 3 4 5



Wilmington's 2025 Catfish Days

A Weekend of Disco

July 24th - July 27th



Catfish Days Fair Grounds: North Island Park, 130 Bridge Street, Wilmington

CARNIVAL • LIVE ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD TRUCKS • MEDALLION HUNT • PARADE • CAR SHOW

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thursday, July 24th

Family Night!

Sponsored by Riverfront Lanes

9AM Medallion Hunt Clue (Facebook: CatfishDays)
6PM-11PM Carnival Open, \$25 Wristband Night! (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM St Rose's Dunk Tank- Free! (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM St Rose + Wilmington Coalition's Fear Factor (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM-8PM Live MC: Roy Gregory (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
6PM-8PM Whimsy Face Painting by Jacqueline- Free! (Wilmington's North Island)
7PM National Guard's Obstacle Course (Wilmington's North Island)
7:30PM Adult's + Kid's Tug Of War- NO Pre-Registration Required (Wilmington's North Island)
8PM Live Entertainment: DJ Rob (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
8:30PM Disco Costume Contest- No Pre-Registration Required (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
9PM-Midnight Bowling After Party- \$10 All You Can Bowl, Shoes Included! (Riverfront Lanes)

Friday, July 25th

Country Night!

9AM Medallion Hunt Clue
5PM-8PM Wilmington Park District's 'Pickled on Water Street' Youth Pickleball Tournament. Pre-Registration Required! (Wilmington's Public Lot on Water Street)
6PM-11PM Carnival Open (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM-8PM Wilmington Park District's Hayrack Rides- FREE! (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM-11PM Beer Garden Open (Wilmington's North Island)
6PM River Valley Defense Arts Performance (Wilmington's North Island)
6:30PM Performance By Those Funny Little People (Wilmington's North Island)
7PM Line Dancing with Doug Pfaff (Wilmington's North Island)
7PM Crosstown Exotic's Reptile Show- Free to Attend (Wilmington's North Island)
8PM-11PM Live Entertainment: Hillbilly Rockstarz (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
8PM-12AM Wilmington Park District's 'Pickled on Water Street' Adult Pool Play- Pre- Registration Required (Wilmington's Public Lot on Water Street)
9:30PM Firework's Show (Wilmington's North Island)

Food and Beverages

Experience a variety of delicious food and beverage options at Wilmington, Illinois Catfish Days. From classic festival treats to local specialties, there's something for every craving.

Located on Wilmington's North Island at 130 Bridge Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

Pam's Corn Dogs
Rich's Italian Beef
Pizza For U
Backdraft BBQ
Fast Eddie's Tacos & More Inc.
Keke's Donuts



Located at Wilmington's Water Street Parking Lot at 208 N Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

Buddy Macs Eat N Run
Mels Tacos and More

Parking and Transportation

Finding parking at the festival is easy with multiple designated parking areas and bus shuttle services. Plan your visit ahead to make the most of your festival experience.

FREE Parking:

Wilmington's South Island at 110 S Park Street, Wilmington, IL 60481
Whitmore Ace Hardware at 1105 S Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481
Wilmington City Hall at 1165 S Water Street, Wilmington, IL 60481

FREE Shuttle Bus Services brought to you by Illinois Central School Bus:

- Offered from all of the above locations!
- Run Times:
- Friday, 6PM-10PM
- Saturday, 10AM-10PM



Saturday, July 26th

Rock Night!

9AM Medallion Hunt Clue (Facebook: Catfish Days)
9AM-4PM Women of Wilmington's Craft Show (Downtown Wilmington, North Water Street)
10AM Skinner's Pet & Bike Parade (Starts at Wilmington Park District, and Ends at North Island's Main Stage)
11AM Route 66 Old School Brewing's Baby Contest (Route 66 Old School Brewing)
Noon-5PM Live MC: Roy Gregory (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
Noon-11PM Carnival Open! (Wilmington's North Island)
Noon-Midnight Beer Garden Open (Wilmington's North Island)
12:30PM Finale Dance Studio Performance (Wilmington's North Island)
1PM Wilmington High School's Spirit Line Performance (Wilmington's North Island)
And Wilmington High School Spirit Line's Kiddie Camper's Performance (Wilmington's North Island)
1:30PM Wilmington Park District Dancers Performance (Wilmington's North Island)
1PM-5PM Miller's Petting Zoo- FREE! (Wilmington's North Island)
2PM-5PM Whimsy Face Painting by Jacqueline- Free! (Wilmington's North Island)
2PM-5PM Wilmington Park District's Youth Bean Bag Tournament (Wilmington's North Island)
3PM FREE! 'Saturday Night Fever' Movie Showing (The Mar Theatre - 121 S. Main)
4PM-7PM Live Entertainment: Brian Weber (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
8PM Live Entertainment: No Decision (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
8PM-12AM Wilmington Park District's 'Pickled on Water Street' Adult Bracket Pre-Registration Required (Wilmington's Public Lot on Water Street)
9:30PM Laser Light Show by Laser Encore (Wilmington's North Island)

Sunday, July 27th

The Finale!

8AM-Noon Wilmington's VFW Breakfast Buffet (Wilmington VFW - Post 5422)
10AM-4PM Rusty Nutz Car Show (Wilmington's North Island)
11AM Wilmington Park District's Color Fun Run, Registration Required at <https://runsignup.com/Race/IL/Wilmington/CatfishDaysColorFunRunAndWalk> (Run begins at Wilmington Park District)
Noon-1PM Sensory Hour at the Carnival-Please register on our *Sensory Page* (Wilmington's North Island)
Noon-6PM Beer Garden Open
1PM-6PM Carnival Open, \$25 Wristbands Available! (Wilmington's North Island)
1PM Wilmington's Annual Catfish Day's Parade (Starts at Steven's Intermediate School, travels north on Water St. and Ends at Wilmington Park District)
2PM-6PM Live Entertainment: Rick Lindy and the Wild Ones (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
3PM Old School Brewing's 'Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament' (Route 66 Old School Brewing)
3PM St Rose + Wilmington Coalition's Fear Factor Finals (Wilmington's North Island)
3PM Color Contest Winners Announced (Wilmington's North Island, Main Stage)
6PM Wilmington's Community Band- Jazz Through the Ages (Veteran's Memorial Park - Vine & Williams St., Wilmington)

Festival Hours

Thur., July 24: 6pm-11pm
Fri., July 25: 6pm-11pm
Sat., July 26: 9am-midnight
Sun., July 27: 10am-6pm



Thank you to all of our sponsors!

LIFE'S BETTER WHEN YOU BUNDLE.

You could save on home & auto when you also purchase life insurance from American Family Life Insurance Company.*

Get your personalized quote today.



Gerald Gresham, Agent
1095 S. Water St., Unit C
Wilmington, IL 60481
teamgresham@amfam.com
(815) 476-6364



*Customers who bundle home, auto and life policies may save on their auto and/or home policies. Discounts may vary by state, property, policy form and company underwriting the auto and/or home policy. Discounts may not apply to all coverages on an auto or home policy. Discounts do not apply to life insurance policies. Products not available in every state.
American Family Mutual Insurance Company S.I. & its Operating Companies, American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53783 ©2024 22535 - 04/24 - 24029512

Summerfest carnival ride arm bands, mega passes on sale until July 17

It's time to buy Braidwood Summerfest Carnival ride arm bands early and save some money!

Ticket sales end Thursday, July 17 at 3 p.m. before the midway opens.

Unlimited ride arm bands are \$25 each, a savings of \$3 each when bought ahead of time. They will cost \$28 on the midway.

These arm bands can be used on one of the fol-

lowing ride sessions: Thursday, July 17, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday, July 18, 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Saturday, July 19, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., or 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; or Sunday July 20, 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. or 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

A Mega Pass wristband is also being offered. They are \$70 each in advance. At the midway they will be sold for \$80. These special wristbands may be utilized for the entire time of the carnival.

Mega Pass wristbands must remain on the person's wrist for the entire duration of the festival in order to be valid. But oh so much worth the savings of \$10 each.

The First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood is coordinating the pre-sale campaign and will receive a percentage from every pre-sale ticket and armband sold in advance. Not only are you helping yourselves, you are also helping the

Braidwood Lions Club and the Presbyterian Church.

These pre-sale items are available at these fine locations until Thursday, July 18, at 4 p.m. in Braidwood: Berkot's Super Foods, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Hairagain, Rockin Robin's Hair Salon, Fossil Ridge Library and Braidwood City Hall. In Godley at Clip & Sip Hair Salon and Shelley's Hair Salon. In Diamond visit the Midland State Bank.

Register now for CFD pickleball, youth bags tourney

Get your game on during the Pickled on Water Street pickleball tournament planned during Catfish Days.

The Wilmington Park District is registering players for a youth and adult tournaments to be played in the public parking lot in the 200 block of North Water St.

Sign-up fee is \$20 for single youth player or \$30 for a two-person team. Adult fee is \$30 each or \$45 for a team.

The youth tournament will be Friday, July 25 from 5

p.m. to 8 p.m. with the adult tourney to follow from 8 p.m. to midnight. The adult bracket will conclude on Saturday with play being 8 p.m. to midnight.

There will be entertainment both nights with Jake Vaughn playing Friday 6-8 p.m. followed by DJ Derek from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.

On Saturday from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m. Nashville Electric will be performing on stage. There will be food vendors in the lot too.

The Park District is also hosting a youth bags tour-

namment as part of the Saturday, July 26, Catfish Days fun.

Two player teams can pre-register with a \$20 per team fee or anyone without a team will be paired up with someone at \$10 per person.

Competition will be held on the North Island Park from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. with \$50 awarded for 1st place and \$25 awarded for 2nd and 3rd place.

Register for either tournament at www.islandparkdistrict.com

Free electronics, scrap metal drop-off in Wilmington

Will County's next free electronics drop-off event will be Thursday, July 10, from 5-7 p.m. in the parking lot at the city hall, 1165 S. Water St., Wilmington.

All electronic items (broken or obsolete) are accepted. Items include: televisions (limit 2), computers and monitors including desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets, e-readers), printers, electronic keyboards, fax machines,

videocassette recorders, portable digital music players (iPods, MP3s), CD/DVD/Blu-ray players, DVD players/recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, computer cable, computer speakers, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Also air fryers, all

types of telephones, calculators, camcorders, cell phones, CB radio/CB scanners, digital/SLR cameras, digital photo frames, digital projectors, electric lawn mowers, electric scooters, fans, GPS devices, hands-free phone headsets, Instapot, microwaves, power tools, radar detectors, radios, rice cooker, shredders, stereo receivers, string lights, toasters and toaster ovens, UPS/battery backup devices and vacuums (stick, robot, canister) and tollway responders.

Also accepted are small scrap metal items including cookie sheets, pots and pans, car jacks, chains, keys, copper pipe and fittings, nuts, bolts, screws, hand tools, metal door knobs, silverware, tool boxes, watches, wire hangers, wire screens and more.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Lake Renwick Rookery open for viewing

Lake Renwick migratory bird viewing will take place from 8 a.m. to noon Saturdays, through Aug. 9 at the Lake Renwick Heron Rookery Nature Preserve, Plainfield.

See nesting herons, egrets, cormorants and possibly bald eagles. The preserve has controlled access during nesting season to minimize disturbances to nesting birds, so the only way to view these amazing creatures at Lake Renwick during this time of year is to attend a viewing program.

Volunteers and staff will be at the viewing platform and visitor center to answer questions. Bringing your own binoculars or spotting scope is recommended. Free for all ages.

Grundy Bank Ice Cream Social

FRIDAY, JULY 18
1PM TO 3PM

GRUNDY BANK COURTYARD
201 LIBERTY ST. MORRIS

\$.25/ PER SCOOP
UNLIMITED TOPPINGS!

***ALL PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT WE CARE OF GRUNDY COUNTY BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**



It's time to schedule your child's

SCHOOL
OR SPORTS
PHYSICAL

SCHEDULE YOUR WAY TODAY!
ONLY \$45*

Contact your **Riverside Medical Group Primary Care Provider** or your local **Riverside Immediate Care**.

Riversidehealthcare.org
or **myRiverside mychart**

QUICK.
CONVENIENT.
ACCESSIBLE.

For more information,
riversidehealthcare.org
or **(855) 404-DOCS (3627)**.

*The \$45 is not billable to insurance and not applicable to patients with MEDICAID. Physicals include urine dip, but do not include other lab work or immunizations.

RIVERSIDE HEALTH

Explore the Outdoors with Girl Scouts!

Experience Summer the Girl Scout Way.



Scan the QR code or visit us at girlscout.info/grundy to learn more and save your spot today!

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Wilmington Fire Protection District Budget and Appropriations ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE
ORDINANCE NO. 25-06-001

AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE BUDGET AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2026

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT have prepared or caused to be prepared in tentative form, a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Budget on June 18, 2025, and as said District lies within Will County, Illinois, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days notice prior thereto by publication in a newspaper published in Will County and having general circulation within said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, and all other legal requirements have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, in the County of Will and State of Illinois:

SECTION 1: That the following budget containing an estimate of revenue and expenditures and the appropriations contained therein be and the same is hereby adopted as the Budget and Appropriations for said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year ending on April 30, 2026; and the following sums of money, or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for its fiscal year ending April 30, 2026, for the respective objects and purposes, as hereinafter set forth, namely:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		
Cash on hand at beginning of fiscal year		\$1,875,776.84
Taxes received in this fiscal year (corporate)		\$1,054,528.98
Taxes received in this fiscal year (ambulance)		\$1,054,528.98
Taxes received in this fiscal year (tort/liability insurance)		\$725,808.94
Taxes received in this fiscal year (audit)		\$11,293.07
Taxes received in this fiscal year (social security)		\$60,127.99
Taxes received in this fiscal year (pension)		\$352,221.82
County tax adjustment		\$24,722.67
Personal property replacement tax		\$26,000.00
Service Fees		\$900,000.00
Foreign Fire Tax		\$43,000.00
Ambulance fees		\$1,100,000.00
Interest income		\$12,000.00
Grants		\$14,500.00
Tower Rental		\$25,800.00
Waste Management		\$14,000.00
Annual services fees (Ridge Port)		\$220,000.00
Fire Recovery		\$15,000.00
Old Headquarters Sale		\$700,000.00
Total Estimated Receipts		\$8,229,309.29

CORPORATE FUND		
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Contractual	\$200,000.00	\$240,000.00
Full Time Salary	\$551,250.00	\$661,500.00
Dispatching Fees	\$60,000.00	\$72,000.00
Medical Insurance	\$174,000.00	\$208,800.00
Maintenance-Equipment	\$6,000.00	\$7,200.00
Maintenance-Radio & Pagers	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Maintenance-Vehicles	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00
Maintenance-Building	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Maintenance-Office Equip	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Utilities	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
Gas & Oil	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
Office Supplies & Postage	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Operating Supplies & Tools	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
Uniforms	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
District Signs/Supplies	\$750.00	\$900.00
Office Equipment	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Fire Equipment	\$58,059.57	\$69,671.48
Radio Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
Vehicle Purchase	\$75,000.00	\$90,000.00
Improvements to B & G	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Training	\$12,500.00	\$15,000.00
Public Education	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Administrative Expenses	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Loan Payment	\$550,000.00	\$660,000.00
Personnel Benefits	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Grant Expenditures	\$7,250.00	\$8,700.00
Building & Equipment Fund	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,440,000.00
Donations	\$3,457.67	\$4,149.20
TOTAL EST. CORP. EXPENSES	\$3,059,267.24	\$3,671,120.69

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for corporate purposes.

AMBULANCE FUND		
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Contractual	\$600,000.00	\$720,000.00
Full Time Salary	\$551,250.00	\$661,500.00
Dispatching Fees	\$60,000.00	\$72,000.00
Medical Insurance	\$174,000.00	\$208,800.00
Ambulance Billing Fees	\$250,000.00	\$300,000.00
Maintenance-Equipment	\$18,000.00	\$21,600.00
Maintenance-Radio & Pagers	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
Maintenance-Vehicles	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00
Maintenance-Building	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00
Maintenance-Office Equip	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00
Utilities	\$75,000.00	\$90,000.00
Gas & Oil	\$45,000.00	\$54,000.00
Office Supplies & Postage	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES cont.	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Operating Supplies & Tools	\$11,250.00	\$13,500.00
Uniforms	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
Medical Supplies	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00

District Signs/Supplies	\$750.00	\$900.00
Office Equipment	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Radio Equipment	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00
Medical Equipment	\$64,281.65	\$77,137.98
Vehicle Purchase	\$75,000.00	\$90,000.00
Improvements To B & G	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Training	\$12,500.00	\$15,000.00
Public Education	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00
Administrative Expenses	\$60,000.00	\$72,000.00
Loan Payment	\$550,000.00	\$660,000.00
Personnel Benefits	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Grant Expenditures	\$7,250.00	\$8,700.00
Building & Equipment Fund	\$1,200,000.00	\$1,440,000.00
Donations	\$3,457.67	\$4,149.20

TOTAL EST. AMBULANCE EXPENSES \$3,952,489.32 \$4,742,987.18

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the proceeds of a special tax for ambulance service purposes and are in addition to all other Fire Protection District taxes as provided by law.

AUDIT FUND		
ESTIMATED EXPENSES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Audit Expense	\$21,089.65	\$25,307.58
TOTAL AUDIT EXPENSE	\$21,089.65	\$25,307.58

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for audit purposes.

SOCIAL SECURITY		
ESTIMATED EXPENSES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Social Security	\$79,241.27	\$95,089.52
TOTAL SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENSES	\$79,241.27	\$95,089.52

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for social security purposes.

TORT/LIABILITY		
ESTIMATED EXPENSES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Liability Insurance Expense	\$95,000.00	\$114,000.00
Workmen's Compensation Expense	\$120,000.00	\$144,000.00
Legal Fees	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
Salary (30%-Chief, D/C,Lts, FF/Medic, Kurtz Contract)	\$535,000.00	\$642,000.00
Total Tort/Liability Expense	\$765,000.00	\$918,000.00
Liability Insurance Expense	\$95,000.00	\$114,000.00
Workmen's Compensation Expense	\$120,000.00	\$144,000.00
TOTAL TORT/LIABILITY EXPENSES	\$765,000.00	\$918,000.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for liability insurance purposes.

PENSION		
ESTIMATED EXPENSES	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
Pension	\$343,937.81	\$412,725.37
TOTAL PENSION EXPENSES	\$343,937.81	\$412,725.37

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for pension purposes.

RE-CAP OF ESTIMATED BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS for the fiscal year 2025/2026		
	BUDGETED	APPROPRIATED
CORPORATE	\$3,059,267.24	\$3,671,120.69
AMBULANCE	\$3,952,489.32	\$4,742,987.18
AUDIT	\$21,089.65	\$25,307.58
SOCIAL SECURITY	\$79,241.27	\$95,089.52
TORT/LIABILITY	\$765,000.00	\$918,000.00
PENSION	\$343,937.81	\$412,725.37
TOTAL	\$8,221,025.29	\$9,865,230.35

SECTION 2: It is estimated that no cash will be on hand at the end of said fiscal year.

SECTION 3: All unexpended balance of any item or items of any general appropriation made by this Ordinance may be expended in making up any deficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation made by this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: If any item or any portion thereof of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

PASSED in lawful session of the Board of Trustees of said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on June 18, 2025.

Attest: /s/ Jesse W. Cruitt
President, WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

/s/ Robert Bland
Secretary, WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

Coal City Library seeks bids for parking lot improvements

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION TO BID
Sealed Bids will be received by the Coal City Public Library District for "2025 Parking Lot Improvement" and is further described as follows: the removal and replacement of Hot Mix Asphalt pavement in the parking facilities located on the south side of the Coal City Public Library. The improvements include HMA Surface Removal, HMA Leveling Binder, HMA Surface Course, and Paint Pavement Markings.

Bids shall be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Coal City Public Library, at 85 N. Garfield, Coal City, IL 60416 on Tuesday, August 5, 2025. Proposals will be opened and publicly read in the Annex located at 70 N. Irving, Coal City, IL 60416 at that time.

Plans and specifications may be accessed on-line at: www.chamlin.com

Full-size plans and specifications are available from Chamlin & Associates, Inc., 221 West Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 at the non-refundable cost of \$50.00 per set. Bidders are advised that this Contract will be subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act.

Bidders are advised that this Contract will be subject to the Illinois Steel Products Procurement Act. The successful Bidder shall provide at least 40% of all labor required for the completion of this project.

Bids may be held by the Coal City Public Library District for a period not to exceed 30 days from the date of the opening of Bids for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders, prior to awarding of the Contract.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any or all Bids and to waive any informalities in the bidding.

BY ORDER OF:
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
Published in the Coal City Courant on July 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2025.

Attorney Schmidt files Fleming estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2025-PR-48

In RE Estate of Cathryn L. Fleming, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Cathryn L. Fleming, whose address was 20 N Carbon Hill Rd, Coal City, IL. Letters of office were issued July 2, 2025 to Christina K Fleming, 5518 Amber Way, Johnsburg, IL 60051, whose attorney is Charles Schmidt, 117 W Washington, Morris IL 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office or with the representative or both, within 6 months from the date of the first publication of this notice and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St, Morris IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Any claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and the attorney within 10 days after it is filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinois courts.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. Charles L. Schmidt #6207698 Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd. 117 West Washington Street Morris, IL 60450 (815) 942-0701 grundylaw@gmail.com Published in the Coal City Courant on July 9, 16 and 23, 2025.

Dial 9-8-8 for mental health help

988 is a confidential lifeline and available 24/7. If you or someone you know is struggling with thoughts of suicide or facing a mental health or substance use crisis, help is just a call or text away.

Life can throw us unexpected challenges, and sometimes it can make you feel overwhelmed. You are not alone, help is here. Call or text 988 to be connected with a trained, compassionate crisis counselor who can help you navigate difficult times.

This message is brought to you by the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Free Press Newspapers.

7	4			2		
1		9	5			
	4		5			3
8					7	6
			1	3		
3		7	6			
	8		2			5
9		2			8	4

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

Deadlines

Classified Ads & Classified Display Ads

Fridays - 5 p.m.

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.

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

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

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

HOMES FOR RENT

Wilmington, updated charming 2 BR, 1 BA, home for rent in a nice neighborhood close to a park. Detached 2 car garage, fenced yard, W/D, C/A. No smoking. \$1,400/mo., 1st and last security deposit. 815-476-7278. cc28-30

MISCELLANEOUS

Martin 12 string with case, \$450. Epiphone G400 with case, \$300 (black). Squier telecaster with case, \$300 (natural). Fender acoustosonic 100W amp, \$200. Alto Spectrum PA 200W, \$200. 2 guitar stools with backrests, \$35 each. Epiphone Les Paul Studio with case, \$300 (burgundy). Guitar rack holds 5 guitars, \$50. Call Bob 815-458-3010. cc26-29

Precious Moments collection, 140 pieces. Call 815-685-6868. ca28-29

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinityservices.org.

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Coal City, 550 W. Daisy Place Apt. #4, 2 BR, 1 BA, nice kitchen, w/d connection, stove & refrigerator, \$975/mo. No pets. 815-941-4832. cc26-29

GARAGE SALE

Coal City - 20 N. Carbon Hill Road (kitty corner from CC High School) Sat., July 12 - 9am to Noon. FREE Garage Sale - Christmas tree & decor, hospital bed, Hoyer Lift, Hoover steam vac, lamps, crystal ware, pots/pans, house decor, Yonana Machine, towels & linens, games, summer hats & fun stuff, glassware, queen frame and box spring, treadmill, exercise bike. Furniture available, priced reasonably - sofa/chair/ottoman set, beautiful bookcase set, nice credenzas/TV stands, end tables.

Wilmington, 25630 Cottage Road. Thurs., & Fri., July 10-11. 8am to 3pm. Antiques, Nautical decor, fishing equipment, lots of household items. ca28

HELP WANTED

Offering CNA classes, days, evenings and weekends. Home health nurses needed. CNA instructor needed. Call for class dates, 630-771-1162 or 630-771-9069, www.spectrumnursesna.com cc20-39

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. ch21-46

Julie's Remodeling Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., Call Lee 815-791-5731.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Ron's Drywall, Hang, Tape & Paint, 25 years experience. Reasonable rates including dry-wall repairs, plaster repairs, cracks, holes, & patches. Carpenter available by request. 815-549-5136. cc21-32

WANTED TO BUY

Cash paid for fossils for old fossil collections. Call Pat 630-632-9292. cc25-28

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

CITY OF BRAIDWOOD

PART-TIME ZONING CLERK POSITION

The City of Braidwood is currently accepting applications for the position of Part-Time Zoning Clerk. This position is 24 hours per week and reports directly to the City Administrator, Mayor, and Finance Commissioner.

Responsibilities: The Zoning Clerk will perform a variety of administrative and clerical duties related to zoning, planning, and general office support as needed. Key areas of responsibility include:

- Zoning and planning
- Code enforcement
- Land use regulations

This position provides essential support to the City Administrator and the Planning and Zoning Commission by assisting in the implementation and enforcement of:

- City ordinances
- Zoning codes
- Land development policies

Applications are available on our website at www.braidwood.us or in person at City Hall. Additional information about this position is available on our website under Job Posting. The deadline for accepting applications is Monday, July 14, 2025, at 3:00 PM.

Marlin 12 string with case, \$450. Epiphone G400 with case, \$300 (black). Squier telecaster with case, \$300 (natural). Fender acoustosonic 100W amp, \$200. Alto Spectrum PA 200W, \$200. 2 guitar stools with backrests, \$35 each. Epiphone Les Paul Studio with case, \$300 (burgundy). Guitar rack holds 5 guitars, \$50. Call Bob 815-458-3010. cc26-29

Precious Moments collection, 140 pieces. Call 815-685-6868. ca28-29

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinityservices.org.

Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., Call Lee 815-791-5731.

STORAGE

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL

- Farm Machinery
- Garden Tractors
- Snowmobiles
- Appliances
- Anything Metal

**Free pickup
7 days
815-210-8819**



SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO GRUNDY COUNTY

PRESENTS

1st Annual Touch the Truck Fundraiser for Grundy County Heroes & Helpers

SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 2025 10 AM - 3 PM
COAL CITY LIONS PARK
460 S. ILLINOIS STREET
COAL CITY, IL 60416

GRUNDY COUNTY'S BIGGEST & BEST SUMMER EVENT!

Establish a Lasting and Loving Legacy

Taking legal action to protect your assets, provide for your loved ones, and ensure your final wishes are followed while you can make these decisions on your own terms is important.

- Simple wills
- Estate planning
- Trust administration & probate



**Phone:
815-476-7635**

**207 S. Water St.,
Wilmington**



FRENCHROSE APOTHECARY featuring essential oils, healing stones and handmade jewelry are just some of the items that will be offered by Lisa French during the Coal City Library's Midtown Market.

Coal City Library to host Midtown Market

The Coal City Public Library District (CCPLD), 85 N. Garfield St., is hosting Midtown Market events this summer. Midtown Market events are from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on July 12, July 26, Aug. 9, Aug. 23, Sept. 13, and Sept. 27.

The markets are being brought to you with the collaboration of the Village of Coal City, and the Coaler DRIVE Festivals and Events team.

The event on July 12 will include several local vendors selling fruits, vegetables, vintage décor, sports cards, comic books, toys, jewelry, crochet items, baked goods, paintings, ceramics, 3D printed

items (such as music stand accessories, pool accessories, and mugs).

A food truck vendor, Buddy Macs Eat N Run, will feature a menu of steak and lobster mac and cheese bowls, loaded steak or lobster potatoes, brats, hotdogs, polish sausages, and steak burgers.

Please note that not all events will have the same vendors and/or merchandise sold.

There is no entry fee for the public to Midtown Market events. We invite you to join us. Check out CCPLD's Facebook Page for a look at some of the products being sold.



A&M COOKIES will be offering a variety of fresh baked cookies during the July 12 outdoor farmers' market hosted by the Coal City Library District.

COUPON

\$5 FREE PLAY

redeem at Lucky Dog



Must be 21 years of age or older and Sweepstakes Rules apply.
Limit 1 Coupon per person per visit.
Expires 7/31/2025.
Not Valid with any other offer.

COUPON

Hours of operations:
Sunday thru Thursday • 6am to 1am
Friday and Saturday • 6am to 2am



2675 East Division Street, Diamond, IL 60416
Phone: 1-815-205-3550



Make Your Dream Home a Reality!

- Fixed Rate Mortgage Loan*
- Construction Loan*
- Home Equity Loan*
- Home Equity Line of Credit*

*Apply online or talk with one of
our mortgage specialists.*



Bank of Pontiac

Bloomington • Coal City • Delavan • Dwight • Fairbury • Forrest
Melvin • Minier • Odell • Paxton • Piper City • Pontiac
Toll FREE 855-844-6151 | www.bankofpontiac.com
Member FDIC

*Loans subject to credit approval.