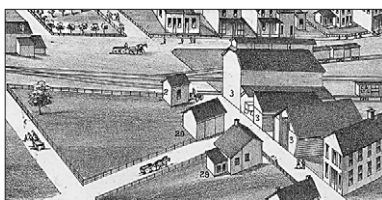




Suspects in high speed chase

A mostly temperate town



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WEDNESDAY, AUG. 7, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



JAMES KRAFT AND a display of his antique and handmade bripicture bricks.

Collecting old bricks gives retired teacher a new perspective on art

BY ROSE PANIERI STAFF WRITER

IN MY NEXT LIFE, I THINK I WILL COLLECT BUTTERFLIES. -JAMES KRAFT

James Kraft collects something nearly as ancient as humankind: Bricks. The earliest discovery of manmade bricks was approximately 7,000 years ago in Turkey.

It wasn't until 4000 B.C. that bricks got fancy. The first red bricks were made in China, using red clay shaped into blocks and baked in a kiln at 1,100 degrees. These bricks were designed to last long enough to be rediscovered by guys like Kraft.

Surprising to those of us who don't give bricks a second thought, the hobby of brick collecting is virtually booming, with thousands of new collectors every year.

Walls and bridges

Before retiring in 2003, Kraft taught art and pho-

tophography at Seneca High School. He certainly wasn't obsessing about bricks at the time. However, he did possess traits that would one day make him a top tier collector: Imagination and a curious mind.

Two years after retiring, Kraft, age 78, caught a chronic case of "brick fever." He would begin to look at the world in a brand new way.

"I had a bridge built across one of the two creeks that join my property," Kraft said. "One major problem, however, was that the bridge framework was ugly and contained graffiti."

The artist in him

balked. Kraft longed for perfection in all his creations, and the flawed bridge offended his sensibilities.

While perusing a landscaping magazine, Kraft ran across the story of an Iowa man who collected antique bricks. He thought about his bridge. Wouldn't it be a hoot to spruce it up with a few really unique bricks? On a deeper, subliminal level, the idea of collecting bricks appealed to his artistic temperament.

"I found my first antique bricks that contained writing in the Galena area while on a weekend vacation," Kraft said. "I decided that I would try

and incorporate these creations from the past into my bridge walls and driveway."

By the time he began incorporating antique bricks into his bridge, he was hopelessly hooked.

Upping the ante

While researching his hobby, Kraft happened upon the International Brick Collectors Association (IBCA) website. There he found a world he never knew existed. What excited him most were brick swaps - the opportunity to meet other collectors and get his hands on a few of the more coveted bricks.

"In 2006, I attended my first brick swap (Paris, Ill.) and came home with 100 different types of brick," he said. "Some had dates, some had pictures, and most had the names of the companies that manufac-

SEE BRICKS PAGE 2

Gardner man charged with woman's murder

On Aug. 4 at approximately 4:45 a.m., Grundy County Sheriff's deputies responded to the 100 block of east Parker St. in Gardner, arresting Jeffrey Conley, 52, on one count of First Degree Murder.

Deputies had been called to the above address for what was originally reported as a drug overdose.

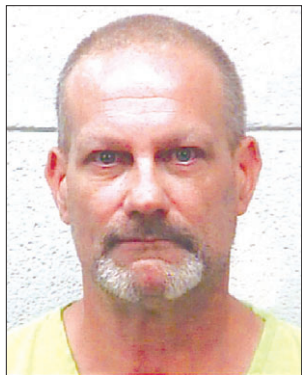
Upon arriving at the apartment complex, deputies located a female victim with apparent stab wounds. The victim was unresponsive.

Deputies rendered aid to the victim until Gardner EMS arrived, reporting no sign of life.

The Grundy County Coroner's office pronounced Aleshea Raszkowski, 55, of Gardner, deceased. An autopsy was performed Aug. 5.

The sheriff's office contacted Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services to process the crime scene. Detectives learned that Conley shared the residence with the victim.

Through an interview with Conley, it was learned that he stabbed the victim



JEFFREY CONLEY

several times. He is being held at Grundy County Jail.

Conley's 7-year-old daughter was present in the residence at the time of the murder. She was released to family, and DCFS was notified.

Grundy County records indicate that Conley pled guilty to misdemeanor battery in 2011, felony theft in 2014, and misdemeanor domestic battery in 2015. At that time, he was placed on two years conditional discharge.

The sheriff's department said the murder was an isolate incident, the result of domestic violence.

Streets on the paving list

Workers from D Construction will be busy paving over a 12 roadways in Coal City.

The board awarded a \$450,149.82 bid to D Construction for this year's street renewal program.

Each year the village sets aside Motor Fuel Tax revenues for road improvements.

D Construction was the lowest responsible bidder for the project.

Streets on the engineer's bid list include: Coalfield (Spring to Barney), Barney Crt., Tipple Way Crt., Big Timber cul de sac, E. First Street and alley, west of 4th Ave., Trotter, west of DiPaolo to cul de sac Eagle Crt., Pheasant to Quail, Mallard Crt., Park Street, Kankakee to Vermillion, Covey Lane, Nicobe to Hunters run, Ann Street, Alley between DeWitt & Mary, Dove Lane and Alley between 1st & 2nd Aves.

July weather wreaked havoc

July was mostly pleasant, except for a single 24-hour period. On July 15, Mother Nature socked Northern Illinois, including our area.

Nature spawned 31 confirmed tornadoes in Northern Illinois, as well as periods of gusts that took out trees and power lines across the area. Wind gusts of more than 62 mph hit hard, knocking down power lines across the Interstate 55, necessitating the closure of miles of the expressway for more than three days.

July had 4.89 inches of rain falling, bringing total rain for the year to 30.84

inches, according to the Grundy County EMS Agency.

On July 15 alone, the area got socked with 1.31 inches of rain. There was measurable rain on 11 days other in July, making it an unusually soggy month.

For the most part, July was a temperate month. The highest area temperature was 93 on July 16, with the lowest at 54 degrees on July 1.

There were six days that reached 90 degrees.



JAMES KRAFT'S BRIDGE that incorporates many of his antique bricks.

Courtesy photo

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Courtesy Photo

A PILLAR OF bricks with the names of his loved ones etched onto the bricks/

Bricks, continued from page 1

tured them.”

Lugging 100 bricks to his Gardner home was no easy feat, but Kraft never complained. He smiled and focused on the end result.

“I started working them into landscaping projects,” he said. “My bridge was completed around 2007, incorporating antique bricks into the walls of the bridge, and into the walkway leading to the bridge. I had my children’s, their spouses’, and my grandchildren’s names engraved onto blocks of the corner posts.”

Branching out

The results were more than he even imagined, kicking Kraft’s newfound love of bricks into high gear. Brick swaps were an easy way to obtain bricks, but his adventurous spirit longed to live dangerously. He branched out on his own. The early morning sun would find Kraft hanging out at the local landfill, shovel in hand, seeking the perfect brick. Still, he craved more.

“I have bricks that were given to me by a shop owner in Lahaina, Maui, before the town was ravished by fire,” Kraft said. “I found bricks made in Scotland and England on Caribbean islands, have bricks from Nova Scotia and Alaska.”

How is one drawn to brick collecting? According to Kraft, many are sparked by their occupation, or are interested in architecture or history. Others – very few – are in it for the money. Rare bricks can net a pretty penny. For example, one e-bay seller is offering an early 1900s fire-brick paver made by the Harbison-Walker Refractories Company for \$100,000. Typically, individual bricks sell for \$10 to \$50 each. (Beware: Postage costs can be a deal-breaker.)

According to Kraft, it’s the rare brick that brings in even \$300. At any rate, it’s a moot subject in Kraft’s case. He’s not in it to make money.

“I have about 4,000-plus bricks in my collection,” Kraft said. “Some of the very best collections have more than 10,000 bricks.”

Picture bricks

Refined brick collectors tend to become a tad more exclusive. Kraft leans toward bricks that have pictures on them. When he can’t find picture bricks, Kraft makes his own. You see, in his collecting frenzy, Kraft has learned the fine art of brick making.

“For several years, I had a friend in Cayuga, Ind., that would give me clay and would fire bricks I had made,” Kraft said. “I made a series of over 50 bricks that told the history of cattle branding, from the time of the Egyptians through the early settlers of Mexico, Texas and the Southwest.”

Kraft’s other favorite picture bricks hail from Michigan’s Upper Peninsula.

“I have a brick, ‘Colonial Woman with a Parasol,’” he said. “There are at least 20 more known picture bricks in the series.”

Kraft also has his totally unique handmade bricks, including a skeleton key, a smoking pipe, and a graphic of the Zuni rain god, Kokopelli, playing his flute.

Today, Kraft is the national secretary of the IBCA, which is an excellent source of information for aspiring brick collectors. IBCA has branches in the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia, and France.

Members range from casual brick collectors to honorary archeologists, whose knowledge has contributed significantly to knowledge about history.

The “Crazy About Bricks” Facebook page is another source of information. The site currently has 10,500 members. But, beware, collecting bricks isn’t for the faint of heart.

“When carrying a brick you’ve found in a remote location and lugging it back to your truck, it quickly becomes obvious that the difference between one eight pound brick and two eight pound bricks is way more than math would indicate,” Kraft said. “We have a saying in the IBCA: ‘In my next life, I think I will collect butterflies.’”

Attorney Black files Stahl estate claim notice

Coffee & Newspapers

One wakes you up

One opens your eyes

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2024 PR 53

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JANA LEE STAHL, DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Jana Lee Stahl. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Jena Lynn Stahl, 7140 E. Huston, Braceville, IL 60407, whose attorney is TIMOTHY J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Jena Lynn Stahl
Independent Executor

Timothy J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street, Suite 211
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Fax: 815-942-0849
Email: tblack03@yahoo.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on July 31, August 7 & 14, 2024.

Mason Kent petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF GRUNDY, SS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the matter of the petition to change the name of MASON JOSEPH KENT to the new name of MASON MITCHELL DEBOARD, Case No. 2024 MR22

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself, Mason Joseph Kent adult, shall appear in the Grundy County Court House, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 courtroom USC at 8:45 a.m. on the 13th day of September, 2024 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of Mason Joseph Kent be changed to Mason Joseph DeBoard.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, July 31, Aug. 7 and 14, 2024.



Courtesy photo

FBLA OFFICERS spent time at the Summer Leadership Workshop planning activities for the Coal City chapter. Taking part in the workshop were [clockwise from top]: Corinna Barkley, Kylee Kennell, Dylan Young, Cade Poyner, advisor Harlan Kennel, William Johnke and Mason Hamilton.

Seven aspiring leaders attend FBLA statewide workshop

The Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA] Chapter at Coal City High School sent seven of its officers to the FBLA Summer Leadership Workshop in Springfield. The three-day energetic and inclusive conference sparked the students with new ideas and opportunities to network with students from all over the state.

The conference provided the students with several hours to plan the activities Coal City High School’s FBLA Chapter will carry out in the coming school year. Representing Coal City High School at the conference were Kylee Kennell, president; Lucas Pfitzenmaier, vice president; Cade Poyner, treasurer; Dylan Young, secretary; Corinna Barkley, reporter; William Johnke, historian, and Mason Hamilton, activity director.

“There were many great networking opportunities that created an overall positive experience. The workshop showed me what I could do to better Coal City’s chapter as president this coming year,” Kylee Kennell said.

This was a common experience among the other attending officers. Cade Poyner had a similar experience saying, “I had a great time at the FBLA SLW. I had the opportunity to meet, build new connections with, and learn from several people across the state. We also participated in many team building activities that were so fun. To top it off, we ate awesome food with our new friends and dressed up for the etiquette banquet.”

The conference also included elections to determine state officer roles. Corinna Barkley shared her experience of the election process, “I was excited to be an elected delegate to vote for the positions of treasurer, secretary, and president. I was eager to cast my vote for my chapter, hoping my chosen candidates would win.”

While at the conference, four students received the Aspiring Business Leader

Scholarship. This scholarship recognizes a student’s business leadership potential that will meet the future needs of careers in government, business, industry, and educational fields.

The scholarship is designed to promote leadership development from participation in the Illinois FBLA Summer Leadership Workshop. Students receiving the scholarship were

Lucas Pfitzenmaier, Kylee Kennell, Corinna Barkley and Dylan Young.

The Coal City FBLA Chapter is advised by Harlan Kennel.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL’S chapter of Future Business Leaders of America attended the Illinois FBLA Summer Leadership Workshop in Springfield. Taking part were [from left, seated]: Corinna Barkley and Kylee Kennell. Standing Lucas Pfitzmaier, Dylan Young, William Johnke, Cade Poyner and Mason Hamilton.



Courtesy photo

FOUR MEMBERS OF Coal City’s chapter of Future Business Leaders of America were awarded Aspiring Business Leader Scholarships at the recent FBLA Summer Leadership Workshop. Recognized for their leadership potential were [from left]: Lucas Pfitzenmaier, Kylee Kennell and Corinna Barkley. Not pictured is Dylan Young.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Because it’s your right to know

Village of Diamond makes petitions available for election

PUBLIC NOTICE


Petitions for Upcoming Election
2025 Consolidated Election

Notice is hereby given by the office of the Clerk of the Village of Diamond, 1750 E Division St., Diamond, IL of the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025, for the following offices:

One (1) Mayor-4-year term
Four (4) Village Commissioners positions 4-year term.

Candidate petitions for the Consolidated Election will be available beginning August 20, 2024, at the Village Hall Monday through Friday between 7:30 am-4:00pm. The first day to file petitions is November 12, 2024, at 7:30 a.m. The last day to file is November 18, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Aug. 7 and 14, 2024.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Back to School Bash Saturday

The Coaler DRIVE Festival and Events Committee is organizing a Back to School Bash for this Saturday, Aug. 10 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Campbell Park on South Broadway St.

Families in the Coal City School District are welcome to join in the fun at Campbell Park, in the city hall parking lot and the empty lot just north of the post office for all kinds of family activities and the distribution of school supplies.

Activities include: Bicycle/scooter obstacle course/rodeo (suggest a helmet be worn and no motorized bikes or scooters allowed); free ice

cream truck; free Krull Petting Zoo; outdoor games including Yardzee, Jenga, Candy Land and more.

School supply pick up will be at Village of Coal City parking lot; 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free hot dog, chips, and drink will be available at the Campbell Park concession stand.

Donors include the Village of Coal City, the Village of Carbon Hill, Exelon, Grundy County Heroes and Helpers, Coal City Unit #1 School District, Frito Lay, and anonymous donors. The Village Church (Coal City) is running the school supply drive.

Back-to-School Nights scheduled

Coal City School District students will be welcomed to their buildings and have an opportunity to meet their teachers at Back-to-School Nights starting on Tuesday, Aug. 13.

The Early Childhood Center will be open from 3:30-5 p.m.; Elementary School from 4:45-6:15 p.m.; and the Intermediate School from 6-7:30 p.m.

Coal City Middle School will host its Back-to-School Night on Tuesday, Aug. 20 from 6-

7:30 p.m.

Students at the high school will have an opportunity to walk their schedule on Friday, Aug. 9. Students are welcome to stop in anytime between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

This is a time students can walk through their schedule and fill their lockers. Parents and guardians are welcome to join their students.

The first day of student attendance is Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Suspects lead police on 100 mph chase

On Thursday, Aug. 1, Grundy County Sheriff's ProAct Unit arrested Dylan Schwartz, 34, of Braceville and Lindsay Stark-Palmer, 31, of Braidwood, on a wide array of charges.

The ProAct Unit attempted to stop a vehicle occupied by Schwartz and Stark-Palmer for a traffic violation as they headed north on Interstate 55 near the Dwight exist. The vehicle accelerated to speeds exceeding 100 mph.

The ProAct Unit attempted to deploy tire deflation devices, but were unsuccessful. The vehicle continued north on I-55, exiting at the Gardner Road exit and heading through Gardner to Illinois 53 where officials lost sight of the vehicle.

Braidwood police officers discovered the vehicle



DYLAN SCHWARTZ



LINDSAY STARK-PALMER

traveling at a high rate of speed through town until it eventually crashed at Main and Hickory streets. Four individuals fled on foot, and a perimeter was established with help from multiple agencies.

Using K-9 and a drone,

deputies located Schwartz, Stark-Palmer, and Le Daja Renee Henry-Hughes of Texas. A fourth suspect escaped. It is believed the individual stole a vehicle from Ultimate Rides in Braidwood and fled.

Drugs and a stolen firearm were located in the crashed vehicle. Schwartz was charged with Aggravated Fleeing and Eluding, unlawful delivery of methamphetamine, possession of a weapon by a felon, possession of a stolen firearm, resisting arrest, unlawful delivery of MDMA, and possession of a controlled substance.

Stark-Palmer was charged with unlawful delivery of MDMA, possession of a controlled substance and unlawful delivery of methamphetamine.

Henry-Hughes was released at the scene and has fully cooperated with law enforcement.

The investigation continues with regard to the individual who fled in a stolen vehicle.

Unit 1 shares 2024-25 school year schedule

The first day for student attendance for the Coal City School District new year is Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Schools will operate on the first/last day dismissal schedule that will have students at the Early Childhood Center attending from 7:55 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.; Elementary School from 8:10 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.; Intermediate School from 8 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.; Middle School from 8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.; and High School students will report from 8:20 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

Regular school day start and dismissal times are:

Early Childhood Center — 7:55 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.

Elementary School — 8:10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Intermediate School — 8 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.

Middle School — 8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.

High School — 8:20 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

The School District has 10 early dismissal days scheduled for Sept. 11, Oct. 9, Oct. 24, Dec. 11 and Dec. 20, and Feb. 6, Feb. 12, March 12, April 9, and May 7, 2025.

On those days students will be released at: Early Childhood Center— 11:30 a.m.; Elementary

School—11:45 a.m.; Intermediate School— 11:35 a.m.; Middle School—noon; and High School—11:55 a.m.

The school district will observe the following holidays and breaks [no student attendance]:

Labor Day, Sept. 2; Columbus Day, Oct. 14; Parent/Teacher Conference Day, Oct. 25; Election Day, Nov. 5; Veteran's Day, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Nov. 27-29; Winter Break, Dec. 23-Jan. 6; Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 20; President's Day, Feb. 17; Casimir Pulaski Day, March 3; Spring Break, March 24-28;

Spring Holiday, April 18-21, and Memorial Day, May 26.

The last day of school is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 27. That date is subject to change should the district need to use an emergency day during the academic year.

High School graduation is scheduled for Sunday, May 11, and Middle School promotion is tentatively planned for Thursday, May 22, again dates could change based on the use of any emergency days during the school year.

Coal City Public Library News

Check online event calendar at ccpld.org for a description of the events and to register.

Check out our digital services available 24/7 on our website at www.ccpld.org.

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-10 a.m. First half hour is

cardio and the second half is weights, resistance band and strength training.

Thursday, Aug. 8-Movie on the Lawn, Migration, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 9-Library closed for staff training. Euchre, 1 p.m. in Annex.

Fun Fridays, 1 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12-

Country Meadows Book Group, 10 a.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 13-Memory Keepers, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Toddler Play day, 10:30 a.m. Back to School Bingo, 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 14-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) - 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Local high school teams catch fish during Bassmaster Nationals

Three area bass fishing teams compete in the Bassmasters National High School Championship tournament last week on Chickamauga Lake in Tennessee with one team missing the final cut after Day 2 by just one ounce.

Grace Olsen and Cole Hampson from Gardner-South Wilmington High School finished 13th out of 271 boats, needing one more ounce to advance to the final day on Saturday.

The Gardner team filled their three-fish limit

on Thursday and Friday to end up with a six bass total of 21 pounds, 2 ounces. On Day 1, Olsen and Hampson turned in a 6 pound, 15 ounce total and then climbed the standings on Day 2 with an additional 14 pounds, 3 ounces.

If they had landed a one-ounce heavier fish, they would have been among the top 12 boats to advance to Saturday's finals and a shot of the winning \$10,000 scholarship for college.

The Reed-Custer team of Bret Cavanaugh and Alex Bielfeldt finished 149th overall after turning in a three-fish limit of 6 pounds, 4 ounces on Day 1 and on Day 2 a single bass weighing 2 pounds, 12 ounces. Their respectable 9 pound total put them just shy of being in the middle of the pack.

The Coal City team of Mason Aldridge and Gavin Harden worked the massive lake hard just like 270 other boats but landed just one fish on Day 1 of 1 pound, 13 ounces to finish 241st overall.

For all three teams it was an honor to qualify for the high school nationals featuring the best high school bass fishing teams in the nation.

Coaler 2004 team to be recognized

Coal City High School is looking forward to welcoming back the players, coaches and cheerleaders from the 2004 Class 4A State Runner-Up Coaler football team.

The team will be recognized at half-time of the varsity football game on Friday, Sept. 20. Please RSVP to bboresi@coalcityschools.org. For questions call 815-634-2396 x1719.

Election petitions soon for three CC Library seats

Coal City Public Library District Secretary, Carol Crawford, announces that petitions will be available at the Coal City Public Library District for three (3) full 6-year Trustee positions.

The first day to circulate petitions for the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election is Tuesday, Aug. 20, 2024. The filing dates will be Nov. 12 - Nov. 18.

Filing closes at 5 p.m. on Nov. 18.

The Library is located at 85 N. Garfield Street in Coal City. Library hours are Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Please call Library Director, Jolene Franciskovich at 634-4552 ext. 104 if you have any questions.

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"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL

MEET THE GOALERS

COMMUNITY NIGHT

FRIDAY, AUGUST 23RD - CCHS STADIUM

5:00PM - BOYS SOCCER SCRIMMAGE

6:30PM - BAND PERFORMANCE

6:40PM - CHEERLEADERS PERFORMANCE

6:45PM - INTRODUCTION OF ALL FALL VARSITY SPORTS TEAMS

7:00PM - FOOTBALL SCRIMMAGE

CONCESSIONS & APPAREL FOR SALE
FREE ADMISSION

Meet the Coalers night set Aug. 23

The high school fall athletic season gets underway with practices on Monday, Aug. 12, and contests begin one week later as the boys and girls golf teams tee off for their first matches on Aug. 19.

The golf team will join all of the fall varsity sports teams in being recognized at Meet the Coalers Community Night on Friday, Aug. 23. A number of events are planned for the evening that will take place at the high school stadium.

Activities will begin at 5 p.m. with a boys soccer scrimmage, followed by a performance by the high school band at 6:30

p.m. and a presentation by the cheerleaders at 6:40 p.m.

Members of the varsity teams-boys and girls golf, boys soccer, girls tennis, volleyball, cheerleading and football-will be introduced to Coaler fans at 6:45 p.m. and the traditional football scrimmage will follow at 7 p.m.

Coaler fans are invited to take part in the activities, admission is free.

Concessions will be available and there will be an opportunity for fans to purchase Coaler apparel so they are ready to cheer on all the teams this season.

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Ill-informed posts backfires on state senator

A Facebook post last week by state Sen. Willie Preston (D-Chicago) created a stir, caused one of his fellow Democratic Senators to bow out of a planned joint fundraiser and, ultimately, the entire fundraiser was canceled.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Niemerg himself wrote. "End of discussion." Some of his Republican colleagues also posted similar thoughts online.

But, as far as I could tell, Sen. Preston was the only Illinois Democratic state legislator to fall for the false outrage. In reality, Khelif was born a female and her Algerian passport lists her as a female. The International Olympic Committee uses athletes' passports to determine gender. Algeria is a Muslim country where gender change is illegal and even simply possessing a rainbow flag can result in a two-year prison sentence. Also, do you really think that Algeria, which banned the "Barbie" movie, would give a man a woman's passport?

C'mon. Yes, Khelif was barred by the International Boxing Association last year, and the IBA's executive director, who is a long-time Russian boxing official, recently claimed Khelif had both X and Y chromosomes, which some women do have (and which studies have found gives them no consistent sporting advantage).

The IBA director earlier claimed Khelif had "elevated levels of testosterone." So, I guess it's possible she was juicing, but the IBA is so notoriously and thoroughly corrupt that the International

Olympic Committee refuses to work with it (and that's saying something, considering the IOC's sordid history).

Also of note, after the controversial Paris Olympics' opening ceremonies, the IBA's executive director called IOC President Thomas Bach "a chief sodomite."

It took just a few minutes to find all that on Google.

Look, I truly do not care what you think about anything. This is a free country and I love it that way. So, if you're a legislator and you want to ban people legally born as males from participating in female sports, that's your right as a state legislator to try. Go ahead and file your bill and work your colleagues and invite the debate and let's see how that all plays out.

However, if you, as a state legislator, publicly announce you'll be introducing important state legislation to address an issue that makes you mad, I think we all have the right to expect that you first take at least a minute or two to double-check whether your outrage is actually valid before you pop off.

The members of the Senate Democratic caucus are more publicly closeted than many nuclear families I know. Their public solidarity is really quite something to behold.

So, I wasn't surprised when progressive state Sen. Robert Peters (D-Chicago) refused to confirm that he'd bowed out of co-hosting a fundraiser with Sen. Preston. But I was told by very reliable sources that he did do so.

The other two Preston fundraiser co-hosts were Chicago state Sens. Michael Simmons and Lakesia Collins. Simmons is the Senate's first openly gay member and Collins is a fiery and unapologetic progressive.

Sens. Simmons and Collins have not responded to repeated inquiries from myself and my associate Isabel Miller about Preston's post or about the event.

Sen. Preston also didn't respond. But the Facebook post disappeared after we started making inquiries.

Maybe he learned. And then the same day I told my newsletter subscribers about Preston and the fundraiser, the Senate Democrats told donors that the August 7th event had been canceled.

All this because somebody let their emotions control their brain. It should be a lesson to everyone in these crazy times.

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

Coal City United Methodist to host Aug. 14 blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Aug 14, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. If you would be willing to donate blood, contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or register

online at versiti.org/il. Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating. Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

Wilmington Area Community Band to perform movie classics

The Wilmington Area Community Band will perform the final concert of the 17th season on Sunday, August 11, 2024 at 6 p.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park. Wildbeast Grill will have food available.

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 "Movies, Musicals, and Favorites".

Star Spangled Banner - Sarah Lenoue, soloist

At the Movies - the Classics

- Guardians of the Galaxy
- Les Miserables
- The Lion King
- Don't Fear the Reaper
- The Queen of Soul

INTERMISSION

- Sweet Child 'O Mine
- Armed Forces Salute
- Endless Rainbows
- Pirates of the Caribbean

Veteran's Memorial Park is located at the intersection of Williams and

Vine Streets - across from Oakwood Cemetery and Island City Baptist Church. In the event of rain or excess heat, our alternative concert location is Wilmington High School and signs will be posted at the park.

The Wilmington Area Community Band is a volunteer group of local musicians from ages 13 up. We welcome musicians looking for a fun summer ensemble. Please contact Wes Smith at 815-476-5517 if you have any questions.

Gas prices falling, but still high

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 7.6 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.95/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 16.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 9.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 2.3 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.76/g.

Locally, Wilmington gas is running \$3.87/g at Mohsen, all the way up to \$4.19/g at BP.

In Braidwood, expect to pay \$3.88 across town, and Coal City is less, with prices ranging from \$3.65/g at Casey's, up to \$3.68/g at BP.

Morris is higher this week, with prices ranging from \$3.84/g at Casey's up to \$3.92/g at BP. Finally, Bourbonnais is \$3.59/g at Road Ranger, and \$3.72/g at BP.

"With oil prices plummeting due to new con-

cerns over the U.S. economy after a poor jobs report, gasoline prices have seen downside in many states, with potential for more to join that trend this week as previous refinery disruptions in the Great Lakes region fade away and the restart process begins," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Diesel prices have also continued to drop, and while Tropical Storm Debby drops buckets of rain on Florida and the Southeast, it poses low risk to refineries or refined product pipelines, so the storm is not a major concern."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.18/g Monday while the most expensive was \$5.29/g, a difference of \$2.11/g. The national average price of gasoline has fallen 3.5 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.44/g.

Conservation District to tour historic Wilmington farm

The Will-South Cook Soil and Water Conservation District will be hosting a tour of the Issert Family Farm in Wilmington on Wednesday, Aug. 14 from 9 a.m. to noon.

The farm, operated by Steve Issert, received this year's Conservation Farm Family Award from the district. The farmstead includes traditional row crops as well as over 100 acres of woodlands.

In 2014, the farmstead

was designated as a Will County Historic Landmark. The tour will provide an opportunity to learn about conservation practices such as wetlands, ponds, terraces, waterways, and woodland management.

The farm is located at 21204 W. Ballou Road in Wilmington. Anyone planning to attend should RSVP to the district office at (815)462-3106 ext. 3 or info@will-scookswcd.org by Friday Aug. 9.

Small Plates, Big Tastes available at the State Fair

When you think of the Illinois State Fair, you probably think of food. From sweet to savory, tasty options are available around every corner. But you may not have the appetite or the budget to eat everything.

That's why the Illinois State Fair offers "Small Plates, Big Tastes". For just \$3, you can get sample size portions from any Village of Cultures vendor, allowing you to save money while trying all the food you want.

"We wanted to give fairgoers a way to 'travel' around the world in the Village of Cultures without breaking the bank," said Illinois State Fair Manager Rebecca Clark. "The sample-size portions allow fairgoers to try foods from

many different parts of the world, and if they enjoy what they try, they can go back for the full-size portion!"

The popular "Feeding Frenzy" also returns in 2024. The "Jaws" theme song will be played over loudspeakers to mark the beginning and end of the frenzy that runs every weekday (August 8 - 9 & August 12 - 16) of the fair from 2 - 5 p.m. When the music sounds (15 minutes prior to the discounts starting, and 15 minutes before they end), participating vendors will reduce prices on select menu items.

Check the Illinois State Fair website or the information booths for an updated list of participating vendors, as well as vendor locations.

Coal City United Methodist Church to host pork dinner

Coal City United Methodist Church (6805 E. McArdle Road) invites the community to attend their pork dinner on Saturday, Aug. 17, from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in their fellowship hall.

Each meal will include sliced pork, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans,

coleslaw, dinner roll & dessert. The cost will be \$15 per meal with all proceeds going to the church's building fund.

Coal City United Methodist Church invites you to take the night off from cooking and join them for a delicious meal.

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First United Methodist Church

FALL PRESCHOOL 2024

The First United Methodist Church Preschool Program has open registration for Fall 2024-2025 school year.

Preschool classes meet 3 times a week.
Monday - Wednesday - Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to Noon.
Preschoolers 2 years (by August 1) to 5 years of age may enroll.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE
Thurs., Aug. 22 from 6-7pm

First day of class tentatively Aug. 26 @ 9am

Information and registration forms about our program can be picked up at the church office or can be found on the church website www.fumcwilm.org.
Contact Mrs. Paula through the church office at 815-476-5474.

Thank You

We would like to thank everyone for your love and support the past few weeks since Dean passed. Even now, we are still getting cards from friends who were touched by his life. The stories you have shared, and continue to share have helped us greatly, as well as all of the prayers, flowers, gifts and donations received in his memory to Kuzma Care, Leukemia Lymphoma and Pregnancy Resource Center in Morris. The outpouring of affection by the many people that came and paid their respects was greatly appreciated and showed us the impact he made on all of you.

A community is only as strong as its members. Dean loved his community and you loved him back.

Thank you, Plese Family



Henry Merkel; Woodworking 3 -Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.



Benjamin Floyd; Small Engines 1 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.



Samantha Merkel; Beekeeping; Extracted Honey - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate. Samantha Merkel; Heritage Arts - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Alternate.



Jacob Floyd; Wildlife 2 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.

Wesley 4-H Hustlers earn 14 ribbons

Projects to be next shown at the State Fair

The annual Will County 4-H General Project show was held July 13 with 14 members of the Wesley 4-H Hustlers bringing home ribbons. Four members advance as delegates to the State Fair while four others go as alternates.

These projects are selected by the member to learn topics that interest them. This could be anything from learning how to cook, build a robot, or care for the environment.

One of the most important aspects of 4-H project work is that the 4-H member decided what they want to learn and do as they explore their project. This allows the project to be self-paced, and gives children important skills in setting and working towards their goals.

When a 4-H member enters a project in their county show, it is reviewed by a judge; whom interviews the member on why the project was chosen, what was learned, how it was completed. Once rankings are selected of the project in that specific category, some are selected to represent their county at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield; giving them the chance to earn additional

awards.

Awards Wesley 4-H members received at the county show.

- Alex Boyer; Visual Arts/Computer Generated - Blue Ribbon
- Veronica Boyer; Food Science 4 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Alternate.
- Logan Burmaster; Family Heritage - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Alternate.
- Benjamin Floyd; Small Engines 1 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.
- Jacob Floyd; Wildlife 2 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.
- Caleb Floyd; Cloverbud - Blue Ribbon.
- Caleb Merkel; Cloverbud - Blue Ribbon.
- Charlotte Merkel; Woodworking 2 - Blue Ribbon.
- Henry Merkel; Woodworking 3 -Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.
- Josiah Merkel; Woodworking 2 - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Alternate.
- Samantha Merkel; Beekeeping; Extracted Honey - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Delegate.
- Samantha Merkel; Heritage Arts - Blue Ribbon - State Fair Alternate.
- Josh Talley; Woodworking 1 - Blue Ribbon.
- Remy Thomas;

Clothing; Clothing - Red Ribbon

All members of clubs from across Will County that were selected at the general project show will show their projects at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on Sunday, Aug. 11, in the Orr Building.

Wesley 4-H Hustlers is one of the oldest continuously operating 4-H clubs within the State of Illinois; dating back to approximately 1927. This club was formed in Wesley Township, and today is based out of Wilmington. The primary area of focus for this youth organization is Wilmington, Wesley, Florence, Reed and Custer Townships in Southern Will County, but is open to all individuals regardless of location of residence.

4-H, the nation's largest youth development organization, grows confident young people who are empowered for life today and prepared for career tomorrow. 4-H programs empower nearly six million young people across the U.S. through experiences that develop critical life skills.

Globally, 4-H collaborates with independent programs to empower one million youth in 50 countries. The research-backed 4-H experience grows young people who are four times more likely to con-

tribute to their communities; two times more likely to make healthier choices; two times more likely to be civically active; and two times more likely to participate in STEM programs.

Learn more about 4-H at www.4-H.org, find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/4-H.

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Left to right: Samantha Olson, Kelly Olson, Dr. Garrett B. Smith, Grace Smith, Sherry Yakima, Dayna Vargoeko. Not pictured: Alee Vargoeko and Sara Daniels

The effort to make air travel more green

Dear EarthTalk: What's new in the greening of air travel and the aviation?
- D.M. Norwalk, CT



INSTEAD OF REDUCING flights, many companies and aviation organizations are promising net-zero aviation in the coming decades.

Air travel is pretty environmentally unfriendly. In 2018, civil aviation emissions constituted 2.5 percent of global human carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions. Released at high altitudes, these emissions impact the climate two to four times more than ground-level emissions.

Consequently, civil aviation accounts for about 3.5 percent of human-induced global warming. Considering that air travel is mostly a leisure activity, not a necessity, this makes it one of the most environmentally harmful leisure activities. Despite calls to

reduce air travel, flights are increasing upwards of three percent per year. Instead of reducing flights, many companies and aviation organizations are promising net-zero aviation in the coming decades. The International Air Transport Association (IATA) aims for net-zero CO2 emissions by 2050 through eliminating emissions at the source.

Central to this plan is a switch from kerosene to Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), which is expected to reduce 65 percent of emissions.

SAF is made from organic waste or synthesized by combining hydrogen with captured CO2. Tests on over 200,000 flights indicate that SAF can reduce lifecycle emissions by up to 80 percent.

The first flight using 100 percent SAF was Virgin Atlantic's flight between London and New York in November 2023. According to Virgin it "demonstrate[d] the capability of SAF as a safe drop-in replacement for fossil-derived jet fuel, compatible with today's engines, airframes and fuel infrastructure."

Electric planes are another promising development. Some 200 companies are working on electric aircraft, which offer a 100 percent emission reduction and no climate impact during flights. However, current battery technology limits electric planes to a range of 531 to 621 miles.

Large and long-haul electric passenger jets are expected to become viable only around 2040. Hydrogen-powered planes are also emerging. Instead of carbon emissions, these

planes emit water vapor during flights.

Companies like Airbus and Rolls Royce are developing hydrogen-fueled aircraft, ready for use in 2035. Hydrogen requires significant space, necessitating changes to aircraft design and ground infrastructure.

Green aviation is in its early stages, with no single solution available. For now, people can reduce their travel emissions by opting for cars, buses or trains. Choosing direct flights and fully booked planes also helps.

Platforms like Skyscanner offer "greener" travel options by analyzing

Clean Transportation, the emissions difference between the most and least efficient airlines can be up to 26 percent.

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A patriotic pitstop for eagle

Photo by Heather Turcany

A BALD EAGLE made a surprise visit in front of an American Flag on the porch of the Gresham Family residence on Shakespear Street in Wilmington. Ruth Gresham said it was about 9:30 a.m. when she got a phone call from neighbor Heather Turcany informing her there was an American Bald Eagle in her front yard. Ruth said by the time she looked out the window eagle was flying away. While its stop was brief, it created plenty of excitement in the heart of the city neighborhood. "It was just remarkable that it landed in my front yard right in the middle of town," Gresham said. "I wouldn't have believed it had my neighbor not shown me her photo. The whole neighborhood was excited about it, although it hasn't been back."



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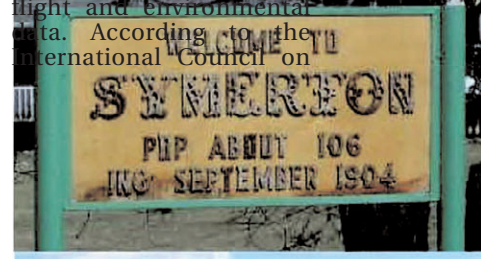
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- Thurs, August 15 Car/Vintage Tractor Show 4:30-7:30 pm
- Fri, August 16 Ryan Leggett on the patio @ 7:30 pm
- Sat, August 17 "Whiskey Romance" Live Band @ 8-11 pm
- Sun, August 18 Tractor Pull @ noon
- Kiddie Pedal Pull—Register @ 1 pm
- Kiddie Pedal Pull starts @ 2 pm
- Bill Gray's Music @ 3-6 pm

All day long: Kids activities, face painting & games, petting zoo & animal show, ice cream truck, 50/50 raffle, Mr. K's Chuckwagon (Friday/Saturday/Sunday) and drinks and food at Symerton Tap and Grill. Come join in the fun!



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CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

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

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

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

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



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

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

HELP WANTED

Applications are being taken for full-time, 12 month, Maintenance/ Groundskeeping position. Competitive pay and benefits, including access to quality health, vision, and dental insurance, paid time off, IMRF Pension benefits, ect. Please contact Jim Habing at jhabing@209u.net or phone 815-926-1725 Resumes should be sent to:

Mr. Jim Habing
 Wilmington High School
 209U Wildcat Court
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which District 209U receives federal assistance. ch31-32

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Braidwood, For rent or sale. 3BR-2BA, encapsulated trailer, 700 sq. ft. Hardwood floors, all new appliances, new central a/c & heating. Gated community, round the clock security patrol. Swimming pool, private lake for fishing & swimming. Club house for community & private use. Call 989-295-9649. cc29-32

Wilmington, 1 BR, stove, refrigerator (courtesy), \$850 mon. Security deposit, first month's rent and lease. No smoking, no pets. Utilities not included. 815-931-9537. ck30-33

MISCELLANEOUS

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

Nortrac BE-SBS50G 50" black 3-point hitch, category 1 snowblower, \$1,500 obo. Call evenings 815-978-7592. Great shape used very little. ca32-34

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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@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 9:00 AM

Location: 1850 S Water St, Wilmington, IL
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Auctioneers:
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 Erik Olson 815-931-0699



www.richardaolson.com

CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

First United Methodist Early Childhood Preschool Program has open registration for the school year 2024-2025. Children 2 (by August 1st) through 5 may attend. Program has 1, 2 or 3 day options. Preschool is in session Mon., Wed., and Fri. following the Wilmington school district calendar. For additional information contact Mrs. Paula, preschool director at 815-476-5474. Registration information and forms can be found at www.fumcwilm.com under the preschool heading, or the church office from 9am-2pm M-F. ck32-34

GARAGE SALE

Carbon Hill, 620 N. 1st Street, in the back garage. Thurs. & Fri., Aug. 8 & 9, 8AM-4PM. Sat., Aug. 10, 8AM to Noon. Fishing poles, life jackets, fishing tackle, nets, electric hand tools, snow blower, metal shelves, misc. men stuff. ck32

LOST & FOUND

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

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!



Part-time reporter needed

The Free Press Newspapers is seeking a staff writer for part-time position, up to 20 hours per week. Assignments include general feature writing, city government meetings, school news, photography and even help with sports coverage if that is your desire. Great opportunity for an ambitious person who wants to learn about all aspects of community journalism. Good grammar a must, Macintosh and AP style writing a plus. If you like the idea you'll mostly be working from home with flexible hours and want to be part of our team, let's talk.

Send resume to Eric Fisher

The Free Press Newspapers

111 S. Water St.,
 Wilmington, IL 60481

fax (815) 476-7002 or email: efisher@fpnusa.com

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Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2023 By Grundy County Offices.

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99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

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The most temperate town in the Northwest

The use of the word "temperate" in this case, does not refer to the temperature, but rather to the amount of alcohol consumed by the populace. In this case the town referred to is Elwood and the time is mid-19th century.



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko

In our past columns I have often used the word 'saloon' in reference to Braidwood history. This may have given you the wrong impression, that is, all towns were as rough and ready as Braidwood. Not so.

In George Woodruff's book, The History of Will County, he describes the first residents of Jackson Township and Elwood like this:

"From the very first, the inhabitants of this township have manifested more than an ordinary interest in those two reforming and elevating influences - religion and education. Hardly had the early pioneers unloaded their wagons before religious services of a public character were performed.

"As early as 1833, an organization for religious purposes was effected. This consisted of a Methodist class, of which William Thornburg was

appointed First Leader. This little organization was what has since developed into the Elwood M. E. Church."

This religious attitude continued through the decades. When other towns had celebrations that included a beer garden and dancing, Elwood had Camp Meetings. Some of the most famous clergy men in the county came to Elwood to preach and pray, including Will County's first settler, Rev. Beggs of Plainfield.

The first one was held in 1865, and part of the announcement read, "It is expected there will be such a gathering of old pioneers as was never witnessed in this section before. Good boarding tents will be provided on the ground.

"Person attending the meeting will leave the train at Wilmington or Elwood. Mr. Hale, the Superintendent of the road, says, "Tickets will be sold at all the stations between Bloomington and Chicago at one fare and one-fifth for the round trip. Clergymen from points south of Bloomington pay full fare up and purchase a return ticket at Elwood, upon presentation of a cer-

tificate signed by the Presiding Elder at one-fifth of a fare."

Jackson Township and Elwood were "dry" places by law. In 1870 the editor of the Joliet Signal visited Elwood and commented, "I should judge, from what I see of this place, that the morals are good. They are pretty tight on the temperance matters. If you should visit this place, Messrs. Editors, you would have to carry your Old Rye with you, if you use the article, although I learn if a person has a lame back, he can get a "nip" at the drug store. It is my opinion that temperance can be run into the ground, and I should not wonder if it is the case here. Moral persuasion will do more than stringent and severe laws."

The following year, the Fourth of July celebration plans were almost derailed by factions within the two churches.

"Our Elwood neighbors, it appears contemplate celebrating the glorious "Fourth." With that view a meeting was recently held and resolutions adopted to have a "temperance Sunday-school celebration." Upon subsequent deliberation the word "temperance" was struck out, as superfluous, Elwood as matter of course, being well known to be one of the most temperate towns in the northwest.



AN 1873 LITHOGRAPH gives a bird's eye view of Elwood. Note that you can see prairie all the way to the horizon, except for a few small clumps of large trees here and there.

"After another sober second thought and considering the existence of more than one Sunday school, the words "Sunday school" were tabled by a vote of about 40 to 41. In short the house was divided against itself, and each faction proceeded to perfect arrangements.

"However peace was declared, and in all probability our neighbors will unite in favor of a good old fashioned celebration, unalloyed by sectarian, political, or other side issues."

In 1875 however, the

temperance climate changed and three men who ran on a platform of "pro-license" were elected to the city council. These men favored issuing liquor licenses to hotels and restaurants in town.

The Elwood correspondent to the Joliet Weekly Sun wrote, "We congratulate ourselves on the possession of an honorable Elwood Board. they have distinguished their reign by many creditable improvements on streets and walks. President, W. F. Muhlig, the others are R. Spafford, W. Gifford, W. E.

Keith, D. C. Weeks, G. E. Cowell - virtually a license board - being most of them elected by small majority on such a ticket.

"They have given satisfaction even to those not voting for them, except, of course, in the matter of granting license, and it is justice to say that the three last named voted against the issuing of the second one - the President taking the responsibility of doing it."

Finally Elwoodites could belly up to the bar legally!



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**SEPTEMBER 14, 2024 - 6PM START
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THE VILLAGE'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL**



COALERS SPORTS

Softball camp a big hit in Coal City



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT students in fourth to eighth grade had an opportunity to take part in a summer softball camp the week of July 15. Campers worked on offensive strategy including bunting the ball, hitting, base running and steals, and defensive strategy such as infield, outfield, pitching, base running and steals, as well as team work. Over 30 students took part in the camp that was led by coach Rodney Monbrum and the softball coaching staff.



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