

New year, new faces at Unit 1



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## Community won't support park district

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The lack of support for the formation of a park district and community center in Coal City has put a stop to the proposal.

A community survey determined 60% of respondents did not support the formation of a park district and 59% were opposed to funding a community center at an estimated cost of \$18.2 million.

As part of its strategic plan, the village of Coal City commissioned the survey and covered the cost of sending it out to 4,063 registered

voter households within the boundaries of the Unit 1 School, Fire and Library districts.

From the mailing, 20% or 832 surveys were completed and returned. Survey tabulators noting that was a good percentage of respondents, it also shared 94% of those completing the survey were likely voters—those expected to cast a ballot on election day.

The Coaler Community Center Citizens Committee reports the survey results, "identified both pocketbook concerns and a lack of need as key reasons why voters currently do not support the new district and community center."

According to the results, 40% of respondents indicated the community already has access to parks, playgrounds, trails and other amenities and the addition of a community center was not needed.

The survey further revealed 65% of respondents were extremely or very concerned about the increase it would have on their property taxes.

The committee had estimated the annual tax impact at 15 cents per \$100,000 of assessed value for the community center and 10 cents for facility operations and maintenance, or \$75 per \$100,000 of a home's fair market value.

Coal City Village Administrator and committee member Matt Fritz said he believes the financial concerns addressed in the community response is a, "a direct reflection of the economy right now. It's the cost in the pocket that is keeping people from having more support for it."

Recipients of the survey were asked to rank what types of programming they would like should a park district be formed, and there were 40 categories to select from.

Fritz said the top three were fitness classes,

SEE DISTRICT, PAGE 3

## Road resurfacing through Coal City, Diamond to begin

Diamond will seek funding for sidewalk upgrades along I13

STAFF REPORT

A 1.58-mile roadway resurfacing project is set to begin next week on Coal City's busiest thoroughfare.

Construction has been awarded a state bid for the milling and resurfacing of Route 113 [Division Street] from Lincoln Street in Coal City east to the Will County line, Will Road in Diamond.

The \$1.2 million project is being funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois program.

In addition to the resurfacing work, the project includes the installation of ADA ramps on sidewalks at various intersections along the project area.

At the request of the village of Diamond, Mayor Terry Kernc said IDOT is widening its ADA ramps from 5 feet to 6 feet.

The work is scheduled to begin Monday, Aug. 22 and result in lane closures during the duration of the improvements through Oct. 31.

Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim told village officials he reached out to the contractor on a work schedule that can be shared with school officials as the project gets underway at the start of a new school year.

Given increased traffic with the start of school, coupled with business and rail traffic, Harseim said there will be delays in traveling through the construction zone.

The widening of the ADA ramps through the village of Diamond finds town officials working with the village engineer Chamlin & Associates on a Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program [ITEP] grant to cover the cost of replacing the town's 5 foot sidewalks with 6 foot walkways from Fifth Avenue east to Curtis Road—just west of Will Road.

Kernc said phase one

SEE ROAD, PAGE 2

## Day one in the books



Photo by Ann Gill

THE UNIT 1 School District's 2,100 student returned to class on Tuesday, Aug. 16 for the 2022-2023 academic year. Superintendent Chris Spencer said, "the first day of school is the best day of the year." The start of the academic term began with a shortened schedule as fourth and fifth students at Coal City Intermediate School began exiting the building at 1:25 p.m. Wednesday starts a full day schedule for students at all grade levels.

## Meadow Estates residents oppose apartments

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Meadow Estates residents have a lot to say about the developer's plan to construct apartments within the residential subdivision. Their thoughts and opinions were presented to the town's Planning and Zoning Board.

When developer Mark Scaggs started the subdivision 16 years ago he included a commercial lot in the plans. But with no potential buyers in sight, he now wants to rezone the parcel and construct apartment buildings.

In order to advance his plan, Scaggs was zoning changed for lots 1001 and 1003 Foxgrove Drive from C-3-community commercial—to RM-2—high density multi-family residential. The request was the subject of a public hearing on Monday.

It was a standing-room only crowd inside Coal City Village Hall as Meadow Estates homeowners and neighboring land owners turned out to make clear they did not support Scaggs' concept for the vacant lot.

"When we heard about this situation it was of great concern for many reasons," said Foxgrove Drive resident Barb Hammitt.

She and a few neighbors went door-to-door to get the word out about the proposal and in the process, collected 126 signatures opposing apartments.

"This subdivision is basically 100% opposed to this," Hammitt told the developer and zoning commissioners as she submitted the signatures into the record.

Hammitt was one of nearly a dozen residents and a handful of neighbors to



Photo by Ann Gill

MEADOW ESTATES DEVELOPER Mark Scaggs' plan to construct apartment units on land he owns on the southwest corner of Berta Road and Foxgrove Drive is opposed by subdivision residents. Scaggs has filed a petition with the village of Coal City to change the zoning from community commercial to high density multi-family. The matter was the subject of a public hearing before the village's Planning and Zoning Board on Monday and has been continued until Sept. 19.

address the Planning and Zoning Board. Among them was Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc, who sent a letter to the

village late last week questioning the proposed map amendment.

In her letter and in public comments, Kernc addressed concerns regarding parking and green space. And, should the plan be approved, she requested a privacy fence on the southern edge of the lot which abuts residential and agricultural zoned property that is located within the village limits of Diamond.

"Fences sometimes help make good neighbors and, in this instance, it should be required," Diamond's mayor said.

In ending her letter, Kernc made it clear to Coal City, "direct access to the site from Berta Road will not be allowed."

Jurisdiction of Berta Road is held by Diamond, and with the property located on the southwest corner of Berta

Road and Foxgrove Drive, the easiest access for construction traffic would be off Berta Road. But Mayor Kernc said it won't be tolerated.

Hammitt and Foxgrove Drive neighbor Phil West pointing out that traffic is already an issue on their street and the proposed addition of 15 residential units only adds to their concern.

Patrick Patterson who lives directly south of the subject property shared his thoughts and observations on the traffic situation.

"We have a lot of traffic on that road and this is going to multiply it greatly. We're going to have a lot of traffic and if the

SEE MEADOW ESTTES, PAGE 2



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# Meadow Estates

cars spill out and are parking along the roadway I am very concerned with child safety and public safety. The kids don't have a lot of area to play and are going to get out into the road, someone could easily end up having a mishap there," said Patterson as he presented his own list of objectors, the names of Diamond Ridge Subdivision residents against the project.

Property values and aesthetics were on the minds of residents as well.

Resident Brent Davy noted that the site is at the main entrance to the subdivision and from a cosmetic point of view, seeing an apartment complex right there might not be the best image for the development.

Other issues brought up during the nearly 90-minute hearing included drainage, sustainable infrastructure and building management and maintenance—with or without Scaggs' ownership.

Scaggs said the two bedroom, two bath "luxury apartments," estimated at \$1 million each to construct, would rent at a monthly rate of \$1,300 to \$1,500 a month. The materials used in construction, the highest quality, and the completed units would be overseen by a local management company—although he did not disclose to residents who that would be.

Background checks for all potential renters that from his estimate would likely be young professionals, senior citizens, snow birds, and empty nesters—like himself.

Residents appeared skeptical of what they were hearing from the developer.

At least a handful of residents claim that before purchasing their homes, they addressed future development with Scaggs and in particular any plans for multi-family housing.

All say they were assured there would be no additional duplexes or apartments.

"I recall a conversation with Mark saying he was even regretful he put duplexes in place. If he's regretful about duplexes then why put apartments in," questioned Davy, who has lived in the subdivision since 2005.

The concerns addressed on Monday all come back to quality of life for the residents in and around Meadow Estates.

A majority of those who stepped up to the microphone saying health and safety was their top concern.

"We moved to this area purposely because I wanted my daughter to grow up in a place where I knew she was safe. I can't imagine something happening like that shooting that happened in Morris. What's to say that's not going to happen here," said Rebecca Warner, who moved into the development last October.

"I want my daughter to grow up in a place where she can play with kids and be around these people who obviously care about their children as well. Why can't I have the assurance that my daughter can still grow up in a place and be safe and know she is because everyone in this neighborhood right now is looking out for her?" Warner continued.

As the public comment concluded each member of the Planning and Zoning Board was given time to address questions and comment on the proposal before them.

Commissioner Walt Mahaffay's comments drew cheers from those in the audience as he made clear he was against Scaggs' proposal.

"You have 126 people that signed a petition that are against it...so are you gonna do what you guys think is best or what the people want? We're suppose to be for the people, and I think we need to listen to the people, they really showed up," Mahaffay said directing his comments to those seated at the table with him.

He went on to say, "I have no idea if Mr. Scaggs is a man of his word, but it doesn't matter because once he sells his word means nothing. If he dies tomorrow—and I hope you don't Mr. Scaggs—but if he dies tomorrow, whoever takes it over can do whatever they want as long as they follow code."

Residents said they too are fearful of what the project could become under different ownership.

Commissioner Jill Breneman, who was hearing the information for the first time, indicated she too was not in support of the proposal.

"Hearing what you are all saying, I do agree with you," she told those gathered.

"We have to figure out something to do with that property to assist him [Scaggs] if we can so that we can get this resolved or it will come back year after year," Commissioner Richard Crotteau said. He encouraged residents to offer suggestions as to what could be done with the property.

Many residents indicated they would not be opposed if the developer wanted to change the zoning to allow single family home construction.

At one point the crowd was all talking at once and it forced the chairperson Georgette Vota to strike the gavel to regain control.

Given all of the comments and information presented, long-term commissioner John Hawkinson suggested postponing a decision.

"For me it's going to take a little time to digest this. There were a lot of good comments, I would like to see us table this issue and not make a decision tonight," he said.

"I want you to keep the people in mind in your decision," said Al Kwiatkowski, who owns a home on Short Drive.

After hearing all that was said Scagg said he would be open to looking at some alternative plans for the site with the Board.

"I had some other ideas that wouldn't involve human beings being there, so we can take a look at some other things too," the developer said.

Commissioners agreed to continue the public hearing to Sept. 19, and at that time the developer is slated to re-address his plans for the property.

Once the Planning and Zoning Board makes its recommendation to accept or deny the petitioners request, the final vote is made by the Village Board.

"This isn't any of our faults that Mr. Scaggs is unable to sell his property. We bought property there knowing it was going to be commercial and knowing he has a certain amount of multi-family. I hope you realize this is not a smart business decision for the village of Coal City to do this," said Meadow Estates homeowner Justin Halliday.

# New faces for a new year

## STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 School District opened its doors on Tuesday for the academic year with some new faces.

Joining the staff for the 2022-2023 school year are 16 individuals, 11 of them teachers who will work across the district's five academic buildings.

This week we introduce readers to the new classroom instructors and next week we'll present those joining the district as counselors, reading specialists and speech language pathologist.

**ASHLEY JACKMAN** — Wanting to give back to the children in her hometown, Jackman is set to begin her career in education as a special education co-teacher in a kindergarten classroom at Coal City Early Childhood Center.

"I am very excited to start this school year and can't wait to meet and get to know everyone," said Jackman.

Jackman, a graduate of Illinois State University, earned a degree in elementary education. She said her path into teaching was developed while working at a local daycare center. The experience allowed her to realize she has a passion for working with children.

Growing as an educator and creating relationships with her students and co-workers is a top goal for Jackman in her first year.

Jackman, a resident of Coal City, enjoys spending time with family, taking bike rides and creating with her Cricut.

**TYLER SCHOONOVER** — Following in the footsteps of his father, a teacher and coach, Schoonover comes to Coal City to serve as a first grade teacher at the early childhood center and varsity basketball coach at the high school.

The graduate from Lewis University previously taught at St. Anne Grade School and sought a move to Coal City due to its, "incredible staff and support by the community."

Schoonover is motivated by seeing his student have fun and succeeding in class. And, he motivates his students by pointing out the positives and rewarding them for giving their best effort.

This first grade teacher's plan for the academic year is to have fun with his students, create a fun loving environment in his classroom and find success on the court with the Coalers.

Schoonover, who was a standout athlete at Reed-Custer, is a resident of Bourbonnais and enjoys watching sports, playing video games and working out in his spare time.

**SARA BOHAC** — "I want to become a better teacher with every day that passes," said Bohac, who is joining the staff of Coal City Intermediate School as a fourth grade special education co-teacher.

Bohac always wanted to be a teacher and pursued her career goal earning a degree from Grand Canyon University in elementary and special education. Prior to taking a position with Unit 1, she worked with the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative.

As she begins her new position at CCIS, Bohac said her goals are to become familiar with classroom routines and materials and build positive staff and student relationships.

Positive praise, reminding them of how far they have come and reassuring them she is there to help them grow is Bohac's way of motivating her students.

Bohac said she wanted to show her four sons—Jackson,



Photo by Ann Gill

**THE UNIT 1 School District welcomes 16 new staff members this school year and 11 of them will be working with students in the classroom. New teachers for the 2022-2023 school year [front row from left] are: Sara Crykiel, Amanda Gibson, Joey Rivera, Sara Bohac and Sonja Minnick. Row two: Richie Taylor, Tyler Schoonover, Sarah Bell, Ashley Jackman, Adam Macholz and Michael Kren.**

Jacob, Joey and Jamisen—that if you go after what you want, and enjoy it, it can be life changing.

Along with spending time with her family and friends, Bohac enjoys kayaking, camping, fishing and listening to music and attending concerts.

**SONJA MINNICK**— A recent graduate of Illinois State University, Minnick returns home this fall as a special education teacher at Coal City Intermediate School.

"I want my students to have a great experience, just as I did," said Minnick, who joins a staff that includes some of her former teachers.

As she begins her career teaching fourth and fifth graders, Minnick's goal is to help students, and that's what influenced her choice to become a special education teacher.

Motivated by seeing her students grow academically and as people, Minnick strives to create a fun and positive learning environment within the classroom to motivate them.

Traveling and seeing professional theater are among Minnick's favorite activities.

**JOEY RIVERA**— Motivated by the teachers he had as a student in Unit 1 Schools, Rivera was prompted to seek a teaching position in the district upon earning his degree from Millikin University.

Growing up in Coal City, Rivera said he loved the schools and community, and it was the teachers he had here that influenced him to go into education.

"The teachers I had made learning fun and engaging," he said.

This fall he will be teaching fourth grade at the intermediate school and as he begins this new journey his goal is simply to be himself, be confident and always do his best.

Rivera seeks to motivate his students through choice and relating instruction to their interests. Some of his interests are boating, video games and playing bags [corn hole] competitively.

In addition to teaching, Rivera—a state championship wrestler—will be coaching wrestling at the middle school.

**AMANDA GIBSON**— Creating a welcoming classroom environment that elicits student connections and academic achievement is the goal for Gibson as she begins her first year as an eighth grade English/language arts teacher at Coal City Middle School.

"I'm super excited to be a part of a local district that strives for excellence and mirrors my passion for education," Gibson said.

Prior to joining the middle school staff, Gibson taught fourth grade at Meridian District 223 and in Rockford Public Schools.

"I love being part of the school environment, being

able to help shape kids' minds, and the chance to instill a love for education in others," said Gibson.

And, to motivate students to learn Gibson gets to know her students by being a present and positive guiding adult in their lives and letting them know they can achieve anything they put their minds to.

Gibson resides in Essex with her husband, Eric, and their sons Jasper and Knox., and the family's canines. Along with spending time with family, Gibson enjoys running, cooking, reading and being outside.

**MICHAEL KREN**— For the first time in 26 years, someone new will be directing the school district's choirs and that person is Kren.

"I have always loved music and kids. Teaching gives me the opportunity to bring that same love for music to my students," said Kren, who will divide time between the middle and high schools, and direct the high school show choir called Footnotes.

As the new director, Kren looks to create relationships with the students in order to build trust and respect amongst the choir.

To motivate the students Kren said he will bring in music they like and listen to, their progress assessed through their growth and participation.

Kren, a graduate of Olivet Nazarene University, comes to Coal City from King Middle School in Kankakee.

A lover of Casey's breakfast pizza, Kren, of Morris, enjoys water skiing, boating and camping.

**SARAH CYRKIEL**— While growing up in Coal City, Cyrkiel loved the experience she had, and wanted to give back to the community.

This school year, Cyrkiel will return to her alma mater to teach math. Her path into education paved by the educators she had while a student in the building.

"I had a few teachers in high school that went the extra mile for me and I hoped to do that by giving back and being that teacher for someone," Cyrkiel said.

Creating an engaging and fun curriculum that can be shared and reused in the future and form long lasting connections with students are her first year goals.

The progress of her students is one she tracks through class work, practice problems and warm ups related to previous work. She also encourages her students to express areas they believe need more instruction.

Outside of the classroom, Cyrkiel enjoys playing tennis, soccer, reading, boating and being outside.

A graduate of the University of Illinois and Governors State University, Cyrkiel and her husband, Niko reside in Coal City.

**SARAH BELL**— Instructing students in a tran-

sitions program has been Bell's dream job, and it's taking her to Coal City High School this school year.

"I've always wanted to help young adults with disabilities become productive /independent members of their community," said Bell.

The district's transition program focuses on independent living and job skills for those age 18-22. The program has grown over the years and Bell is looking forward to helping further expand it.

Bringing movement and humor into lessons is a way she motivates her students and in turn, seeing them gain independence with their personal growth is what motivates her.

Bell holds degrees in special education and special education leadership. She previously served as a life skills teacher through the Grundy County Special Education Cooperative and spent six years in transitions with Plainfield School District 202.

In addition to beginning a new job, and being a mother to two children—Jason and Olivia—Bell is set to be married next month.

**ADAM MACHOLZ**— In a hands-on learning environment, Macholz said, students are best motivated by seeing their successes and watching their hard work pay off in the projects they do.

Directing students to create beautiful pieces is one of the goals for Macholz, the high school's new industrial arts instructor.

It was while substitute teaching that Macholz discovered he enjoyed working with students and other teachers and it's led him into a career in education.

He previously taught fifth grade at Bourbonnais' Liberty Intermediate School and oversaw the seventh/eighth grade fabrication lab at Bourbonnais Upper Grade Center.

Macholz resides in Braidwood with his wife and four-month-old son.

Along with woodworking, he enjoys gardening, design and sailing.

In fact, he races sailboats on a team based at Lake Michigan and has participated in the Chicago to Mackinac race seven times.

**RICHELIE TAYLOR**— Before instructing students in a classroom, Taylor served as an industrial chemist.

As the academic year gets underway, Taylor joins the science department at Coal City High School teaching chemistry and biology.

Taylor seeks to prepare materials that his students understand, to make instruction retainable and usable for his students.

Taylor, of Marseilles, is a graduate of Illinois State University and completed his student teaching in Seneca.

Outside of work, white water kayaking is what fills Taylor's time, that and restoring a 2000 F259 V10.

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## Road

engineering is underway and the grant application is set to be submitted next month.

The project is currently estimated at \$700,000 and if the funds are awarded, the work would commence in 2023.

## Kauzlaric earns degree

The University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point conferred degrees to 1,100 graduates for the spring 2022 semester.

Among them was Bridget Kauzlaric, of Coal City with a Bachelor of Science, Physical Education, Summa Cum Laude.

*Award Winner*

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor

# Coal City seeks another round of housing rehab funds

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

In its continuing effort to assist low to moderate income homeowners, the Coal City Village Board is preparing its application for another round of Housing Rehabilitation funds.

The funds, if awarded, would provide the village with an additional \$500,000 to assist 10 homeowners in covering the cost of up to \$50,000 in necessary interior and exterior improvements.

This will be the village's second application for funding to assist residents within the area known as old Eileen—an area north of East Division Street, east of Lincoln Street to

the Claypool Drainage ditch—on the eastern edge of Coal City.

Funded with federal Community Development Block Grant dollars, the program is overseen by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity [DCEO].

The funds are made available to upgrade single family, owner occupied homes at no cost to the homeowner.

In order to qualify, the homeowner must meet the low to moderate income standards for Grundy County. Qualifying incomes vary depending upon the number of residents within a household and qualified earnings.

Before it can submit its funding application, the village needs to connect with inter-

ested and qualified homeowners, and a survey is the first step.

Information has been sent to residents in the target area and as of Aug. 10 there were 10 surveys returned, the goal is to obtain 34.

Even if a homeowner within the project area decides not to participate, it's important for their completed survey to be submitted as it could help generate the points necessary for a successful application. In turn, they would then be assisting their friends and neighbors who could benefit from the program.

There is a series of ranking criteria that assigns points in various areas such as need, and impact. The more points the better the chance the application has to be successful.

The Village Board is once again working

with the North Central Illinois Council of Governments [NCICG] on submittal of its application.

Since this is the second application for the same area, Village Administrator Matt Fritz said the cost to prepare and submit the documentation is a bit less at \$3,500.

"Should Coal City be a successful grant applicant, NCICG will inform our residents when it is time to apply for the available funds after the grant begins in 2023. The selection of qualified rehabilitation homes will happen at that time. Just because a qualified survey is received; it does not mean that household is selected for rehabilitation funds. That occurs in the future after the program area has been determined by DCEO," Fritz said.

# Worship center approved by village

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

A conditional use permit authorized by the village of Coal City will allow The Village Christian Church to develop a worship center in the Berta Crossing Plaza.

Based in Minooka, The Village Christian Church has witnessed a growing congregation and that has resulted in its needs to expand and Coal City is the next location.

The church will lease second story space above Premiere Fitness at 965 E. Division St.

"This looks like a great space for us," said Tim

Juskiewicz, the church's facility manager.

The space is zoned for commercial use, so for the church to establish at that location it needed a conditional use. On the recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board, village trustees approved the church's conditional use request.

Now that approval has been granted work will begin to convert the space into a worship area, classrooms and an administrative area.

Juskiewicz said the church will get the space ready to start having services this fall.

The Village will hold

Sunday worship services led by Pastor Mike Strunga.

In other matters from the Aug. 10 meeting:

- Police Chief Chris Harseim provided an update on the work of the Grundy County Proactive Unit that has seized more than 74,530 grams of illegal substances since its formation in March 2021.

Among the various drug seizures by the unit, officers have taken in 71,048 grams of cannabis, 1,659 grams of methamphetamine, 1,305 grams of heroin and 70 grams of cocaine.

Between March 2021 and July 2022, the unit made 161 arrests, 50 of those from war-

rants and 84 of those felonies.

The unit has also seized over \$16,000 in cash, 10 vehicles and nine firearms in the past 16 months.

"Kudos to them for the great job they are doing," Harseim said.

- Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$58,514.48. Included in the bills were payments of \$12,098.10 for a repair at the sewer treatment plant, \$814.94 for water testing, tech support totaling \$1,909 and \$1,451.80 in tech support for the police department and village hall.

The next meeting of the Village Board is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m.

# Kendall-Grundy Community Action sets outreach dates

Kendall-Grundy Community Action is set to resume its service hours in Gardner at the South Grundy Resource Center, 229 Liberty St.

Better known as the LIHEAP People, representatives from KGCA can assist low income residents with utilities and other forms of emergency assistance and referrals to peer agencies.

A representative will be in Gardner twice a month on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon beginning Sept. 28 and continuing through May 24, 2023.

The Gardner visits are being held to assist those who live and work in the southeast portion of Grundy County access services locally rather than traveling to the agency's Morris office.

Outreach dates in 2022 are Sept. 28, Oct. 12 and 26, Nov. 9 and 23, Dec. 7 and 21.

Dates in 2023 are Jan. 4 and 18, Feb. 1 and 15, March 1, 15 and 29, April 12 and 26 and May 10 and 24.

# Highway honor for late police chief

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

A portion of Illinois Route 113 has been named in honor of Coal City's late police chief Dennis M. Neary. A ceremony to recognize the designation will take place next month.

A resolution, approved last year in the Illinois Senate, establishes the portion of Route 113 [Division Street] from Carbon Hill Road east to Virginia Street as the Dennis M. Neary Memorial Highway. Signs making this section of the roadway were installed last week by the Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT].

Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim shared the news that the signs were installed located on the east at Virginia Street and on the west near the campus of Coal City High School.

"I couldn't be more happy that they are there," the chief said, noting the Neary family is also pleased to the markers lining the roadway.



A SECTION OF Route 113 has been named in honor of Coal City's late police chief Dennis M. Neary.

The designation recognizes Neary who dedicated his professional and personal life to the health and safety of the community.

He served 36 years as a law enforcement officer, 30 of those years as the town's police chief.

Neary also served his community as a member of the Coal City Fire Protection District as a firefighter and emergency medical technician, retiring his post there as

captain. Neary died Oct. 2, 2016 following a battle with advanced stage lung cancer. He was 66.

The highway designation resulted from an effort by State Senator Sue Rezin to honor the former chief.

A ceremony recognizing the designation of the Dennis M. Neary Memorial Highway is set to be held at 10 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Campbell Memorial Park.

# District

health and wellness programs and community events.

The three areas were also at the top of the list for the 254 residents of Coal City who completed that section of the survey—474 Coal City residents sent in a completed survey. Ideas the administrator said can be used by Coal City's Park Board for future planning.

The Coaler Community Center Citizens Committee met to review the results and on Monday it made the announcement that it would not be placing the proposed questions on the November ballot.

Initial discussions on a park district and community center began in 2019 and were temporarily shelved days after word came that Exelon [now Constellation] was planning

to shut down the Dresden Nuclear Generating Station.

Not long after state legislation paved the way to keep the plant open, the committee pulled the plans off the shelf and resumed its work toward getting the measure in front of voters.

"At the last meeting we had there was a lot of disappointment as far as what the survey results were. But the committee wanted to be responsive to what the information provided," Fritz said.

Along with the village administrator, members of the executive committee were Brittney Kaluzny, Rodney Monbrum, Todd Cummings, Jon Micetich, Jason Gagliardo, Gwen D'Arcy, Matthew Leman, Kyle Sulzberger and Chris Dearth.

"I think the committee had a nice mix of members to really decide upon the future course. Brittney was really

driving the committee to reach a consensus and we had varied opinions on there as well.

"We had Todd Cummings speaking for what people have been asking for as he has been doing different [softball] tournaments and events in Carbon Hill. There was Jon Micetich who has been serving on the YMCA board seeing what works and what hasn't worked so far in Grundy County and what direction we should go. "Rodney Monbrum had been heading up a wellness

effort and had a lot of input as the school district tried to tackle wellness, and there was Kyle Sulzberger who did a lot as well from the community and business stand point," Fritz said.

At this point, Fritz does not see the committee moving forward on the concept of a community park district.

A report detailing the survey results is being prepared for the Coal City Village Board and is expected to be presented to trustees when they meet next week.

## Notice of foreclosure for 1805 Jana Lane

### PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

NEWREZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING; Plaintiff, -v- BENJAMIN LEVIN; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 2022 FC 23

#### PUBLICATION NOTICE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, BENJAMIN LEVIN; and UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendant in the above entitled suit, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the 13th Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois by the plaintiff against you and other defendant, praying for the foreclosure of a certain mortgage conveying the premises described as follows to wit:

LOT 33 IN HARMON ACRES FIRST ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JANUARY 13, 1989 IN PLAT BOOK E, AT PAGE 7, AS DOCUMENT #213281; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.  
COMMON ADDRESS: 1805 Jana Lane, Morris, IL 60450  
P.I.N.: 02-33-332-005

and which said mortgage was signed by BENJAMIN LEVIN, mortgagor, to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., acting solely as nominee for Guaranteed Rate, Inc., as Mortgagee, and recorded in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Grundy County as Document No. 572370; and for such other relief prayed; that summons was duly issued out of the Circuit Court of Grundy County against you as provided by law, and that the said suit is now pending.

YOU MAY BE ABLE TO SAVE YOUR HOME. DO NOT IGNORE THIS DOCUMENT.

By order of the Chief Judge of the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, this case is set for Mandatory Mediation on September 16, 2022 at 10:00 am at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450. A lender representative will be present along with a court appointed mediator to discuss options that you may have and to pre-screen you for a potential mortgage modification. For further information on the mediation process, please see the attached NOTICE OF MANDATORY MEDIATION.

YOU MUST APPEAR ON THE MEDIATION DATE GIVEN OR YOUR RIGHT TO MEDIATION WILL TERMINATE.

NOW THEREFORE, UNLESS YOU, the said above defendant, file your answer to the Complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Office of the Clerk of this Court in Grundy County in Room RM. 30 at P.O. Box 707, Morris, IL 60450 on or before September 2, 2022, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said complaint.

E-Filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

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JB&A # IL 20 7890  
13200120

# Goron graduates from police training



Coal City Police Department photo

CONNOR GORON COMPLETED the 12-week law enforcement training course and graduated from the University of Illinois Police Training Institute on Thursday, Aug. 11. Police Chief Chris Harseim was in attendance at the ceremony recognizing the new officers. Goron was hired by the village of Coal City in April to serve as a police patrol officer and began his required training in May. He started field training with the department on Sunday and should be on solo patrols my mid-November. Goron, 21, of Joliet, is a graduate of Joliet West High School and attended Joliet Junior College where he worked with the campus police department. He was the top candidate out of nine on the village's newly created police eligibility list.

# Fall Fest returns

Music, car show, 5K among scheduled events

## STAFF REPORT

The village of Coal City will host the second annual Fall Fest with an evening of events that include fundraising and fun.

The agenda for the Saturday, Sept. 17 event is being organized by the Coal City Park Board and will include a kick-off event the night before—Friday, Sept. 16—as Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire will open its parking lot to the community for music and dancing following the Coaler football team's home contest against Herscher.

On Saturday, activities will get underway at 4 p.m. with a car show along South Broadway from Campbell Memorial Park north to Oak Street. The display of vehicles, old and new, will run from 4-7 p.m.

The Megan's Mission 5K, a fundraiser to support the ongoing effort started by Megan Bugg to childhood cancer research, advocacy and scholarship will step off at 6 p.m. from the Babe's Tap. Registration for the 5K can be completed on-line at [runsignup.com/Race/IL/CoalCity/MegansMission](http://runsignup.com/Race/IL/CoalCity/MegansMission)

Entertainment for the evening gets underway at 7 p.m. with Slap Shot playing until 10 p.m. in the parking lot at Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire.

Several businesses in that area will be open with food and beverage, and there will be vendors including Picture Me Smokin' BBQ, Boy Scout Troop 466 selling their brats and New Hope Presbyterian Church will be selling hoagies. There will also be lemon shakes.

The Park Board has also scheduled a touch-a-truck event and inflatables for kids. There is still more being worked out for the all-town event.



It is with sincere gratitude that the family of Carole Ann Wills express our gratefulness for the care and loving kindness shown to our family with the recent passing of our mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother. To Matt Baskerville and the Reeves/Baskerville Funeral Home, your ability to go above and beyond to assure that our every wish and desire was attended to will forever be in our hearts. You are a class act, and it shows in all you do!

Thank you to Deacon Dunn and Rev. Miller for providing a mass to celebrate her life and heal our broken hearts; To Rita Wise and Nicole Blustein for providing music and lyrics that woke up the angels; grandson, Beau Wills and dear friend, Donna Gervase for performing readings at the mass, To The Flower Loft for beautiful floral arrangements which took our breaths away at first sight; And to the Martha's of Assumption for the delicious meal and healing fellowship after the services.

Thank you to our dear family, friends and neighbors who supported us in the journey of taking care of our mom and provided us with care, food, flowers and gifts of kindness. She will be forever admired, adored and loved by many.

With gratitude and love,  
The Greg Wills, Darin Wills & Kristin Copes Families

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## Aghast and defiled

DIAMOND—One hundred FBI agents raided President Trump's Mar-A-Lago home. They used a warrant where a subpoena would have been sufficient. FBI Director Ray proved this. The Department of Justice, the US Attorney General and Biden were all aware and supported this atrocity and threat to democracy in America. It was not a legal process, it was a political debacle. They removed over 15 boxes of documents and the contents of the president's safe without looking at it or reading them. How were they to know if what they took was on the warrant? Is this considered terrorism? What were they thinking? It is abundantly clear that the DOJ and FBI are no longer advocates of the rule of law but they are above the rule of law. God help us.

## Take back our country

BRAIDWOOD—It's official: Following this unprecedented and political attack on Trump, the unfounded raid on his home. It is time to drain the swamp in DC. It is now that we the people must take back our country from the corrupt clown circus in Washington. They have made a mockery of this country and are doing their best to destroy it from within. \$5.00 gasoline, highest inflation in 40 years and rising at an alarming rate and now this ridiculous boondoggle, Inflation Reduction Act, which in reality is going to speed up inflation and create an even bigger deficit. This bill is a complete joke, and not a funny one. I really feel sorry for anyone that supports this regime because, with your heads buried in the sand, you apparently have no clue what is happening. I'm talking to you, Democrats. Wake up people before it's too late. And now they are pushing the ridiculous notion that Monkey pox virus is a danger to all of us and our children. This is absolutely absurd. And if you are buying this garbage, then you are a complete fool. I urge everyone, no matter what your political preference, to vote this November and Purge this state of power hungry Democrats and purge this nation of this "Donkey Pox" the real pandemic that is killing this great country.

## More U.S. debt

WILMINGTON—The \$740 billion Inflation Reduction Bill passed the Senate with a 50-50 vote. Vice President Harris signed the bill 51-50. That's her 25th time to vote on massive spending bills for the Democrats. Our grandchildren will definitely be in debt and owned by China. Wait until you get your taxes you'll maybe figure out how politics works. Most in that bill will not go into effect for 4 years. The bill will not lower inflation just get use to high prices. 87,000 new IRS agents will be hired to make sure you pay your taxes. It's all about encouraging you to vote Democrat in the November election. Be sure to vote! \$360 billion goes to climate spending.

## Backwards Biden

DIAMOND—Biden reverses inflation. Biden has reversed everything about Trump. Trump inflation: 1.9%. Biden inflation: 9.1%. Sleepy Joe did it again.

## Raiding Democracy

DIAMOND—Raids are now a first resort in America. Raids are a last resort in a Democracy.

## Don't be a loser

WILMINGTON—The Department of Justice declares 'nobody above the law' but Trump's father commanded 'don't be a loser'. It explains Trump's lifelong lawbreaking which Trump hoped would make him the winner of fame and fortune but it only dragged him down into the belly of the evil beast. In fact, the very reason Trump is running for the 2024 presidency is to seek safe haven from the law but it might be too late. During his deposition in New York last week Trump pleaded the Fifth throughout the entire proceeding which years ago he never would have done, criticizing the Fifth as a signal of guilt. Yes, Trump's corruption has brought him down into the abyss. Ralph D.

## All time low

BRAIDWOOD—The Democrat Party has reached an all time low patriotically. Guess who are the two of the biggest contributors to the Trump candidates running for office in the primaries. Gov. J.B. Pritzker has spent \$30 million to get State Senator Darren Bailey to be the Republican nominee. Political ads are being paid for by J.B. while Speaker Nancy Pelosi had worked hard to put two Colorado Republican candidates to win and they did. Democrat Zuckerberg spent millions on last election. Nice if it would all backfire.

## Just 18 months

WILMINGTON—President Biden inherited a growing economy primed to rear back from the pandemic and in a year and a half he has dragged America back to the 1970s. The U.S. is in a recession. Everyone can see this except President Biden and the Democrats. Inflation costs for gas and groceries etc. are eating into wages and consumer spending is slopping.

## The great deception

DIAMOND—The Great Deception about carbon dioxide with it's miraculous power to boost plant growth. No matter what level it rises to, it instantly accelerates a greener world, life in the oceans and supply of oxygen. The human world needs more food and CO2 provides it. Global Warming is a hoax." Peter Clark.

## Afraid of Trump

SHADOW LAKES. My name is Dan Hill and I'm watching the news about how the FBI raided Mar-A-Lago Trump's home in Florida, the very first time it has ever been done in the United States of America. What they're looking for, God only knows. But they are trying to find any and everything they can to prevent him from re-running for president because they are afraid of all Democrats are and that includes you idiots in my community that he will bring America back to the Constitution of United States of America. But what about Hillary's 11,000 e-mails. Why didn't they ever raid her house? Hillary Clinton is a communist. The same thing with the Democrats who are looking for dictatorship in our government.

## The misinformed

SHADOW LAKES—Watching Newsmax and Greta Van Susstereen says what will spark Armageddon. Well if she had read the Bible, especially Revelations, she would know and so will everyone else on this earth. Dan Hill

## Clock is ticking

SHADOW LAKES—Wow! Congress passed "The Inflation Reduction Act. "Believe me when I say you will not see inflation reduction at all, if you see anything it will be the other way. I really get a chuckle when Congress says they will lower the U.S. debt. Go to the U.S. Debt Clock Real Time; these numbers are not spinning in a downward direction. They love to print and spend money. You will never see the U.S. Debt go down in your lifetime nor your son, or your grandson. Always, Margot Lane.

## Change is inevitable

DIAMOND—Reply to "Part of our history" in the Soundoff Aug. 3. Hello history teacher, you called my articles in Soundoff as rants. Have you been reading out loud again? What I do write are neither right wing nor garbage, they are true and verifiable in at least two places. I prefer to get my news from NEWSMAX Magazine and the Epic Times newspaper. I'm primarily a visual learner and like to revisit things in print. I would never insult your intelligence you did a remarkable job of that yourself. As a person who earned a Master's degree in reading and supervision plus 20 additional hours in graduate learning, I am shocked and surprised that a history teacher of your stature would search for information concerning critical race theory in history books when it is clearly a politically racially dividing push in current events. It is not a phony issue and is extremely anti-American. I too started my day with the pledge of Allegiance. I am a retired teacher and don't make judgments about "teachers" in general. Your broad criticism about Republicans are neither true, verifiable or fair. For one teacher to criticize another as you did me, someone you don't know at all. I taught 4th, 5th and 6th grade and classroom discussions they were open and my only intrusion into the discussion was my only question "why do you think so?" At first they were quizzical. As they grew accustomed to my question they were ready to tell me why in discussions they led. I love to hear "why do you think so?" I believe they will use this into adulthood. They learned critical thinking skills and used them. Any critical thinking person understands you cannot change history - event follows event. The things we wish hadn't happened and the things we are proud and thankful that did. I am proud and grateful for Thomas Jefferson who loved his creator, his country and his freed slave Sally Hemings. No, history teacher, I do not think climate change is because of anything you or I caused. Change is inevitable. Nothing you or I do can stop it anymore than you can stop the earth from rotating on its axes or revolving around the sun. The sun has always controlled our climate and will continue to do so. This too is a verifiable fact. Sharon

## Monkey pox rising

WILMINGTON—The first case of monkey pox surfaced in May. Cases of the once rare disease have steadily risen. California, New York and Chicago have declared monkey pox a health emergency with 7,000 cases reported among gay and bisexual men who contacted the illness through close contact. It can also pass through shared bedding, towels and clothing. Pus-filled lesions can last for weeks. Once again the health experts with poor communications were wary of labeling monkey pox a disease as it spreads "like wildfire." Have we not been down this road with HIV Aids epidemic. Both diseases started in Africa. Illegals from Africa have been crossing our southern borders unvaccinated. Thanks Joe!

## Con artist congressmen

SHADOW LAKES—We now have new taxes that are supposed to be used to correct the climate change. But all that money is only going to go into the pockets of the politicians. And all the politicians that say that they can solve any type of climate problems are some of the biggest con artist that have ever lived. Since they don't even obey the same rules that they demand for the American citizens. Climate change is being used to control finances of the American citizens and take away the American citizens right to live in peace and prosperity. The leaders in Washington, D.C. took an oath to the U.S.A. that they have revoked. Which places our leaders in Congress and White House into the category of Communist Dictator. How many public servants purchase a personal electric vehicle? The tax payers will pay for their electric vehicles. Legalized theft by traitors to the U.S.A.

## They're mental

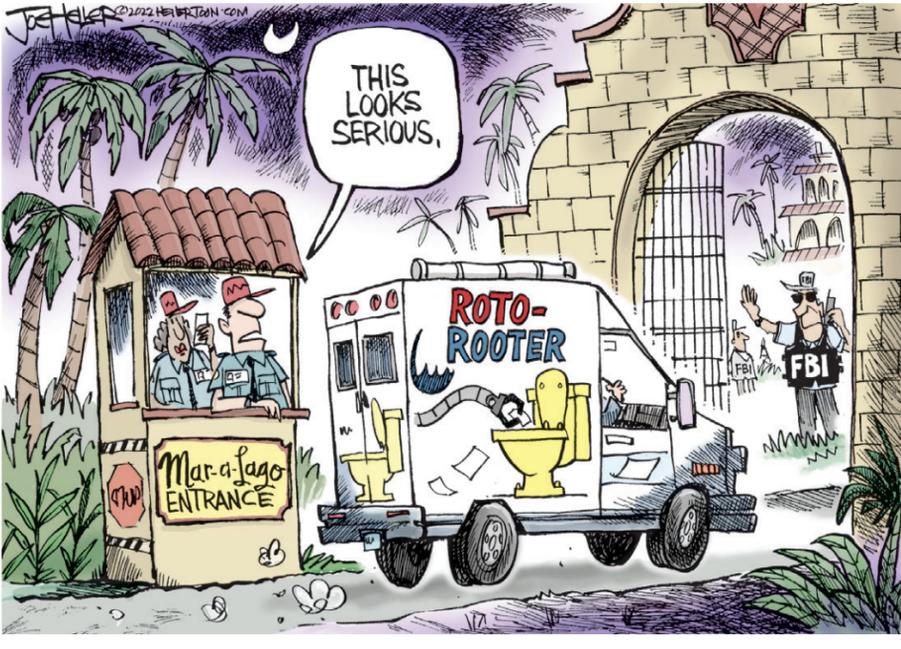
WILMINGTON— I see Joe Biden was on the news today saying that he had one thing to say and that was zero. Zero inflation for the month of July. O.K., inflation went from 9.1 down to 8.5 that's not zero inflation because it didn't go up. But 8.5 % is still a 40 year high. This guy and his Democrats are mental along with the ones in Shadow Lakes that are mental. I don't know what their problem is but I hope they pay monetarily.

## It's a Swamp

Remember Aug. 8, 2022 when our FBI, on orders from the Department of Justice spent 9 1/2 hours searching and smashing a safe at ex President Trumps Mar-A-Lago mansion in Florida. Strictly political as we become a "banana republic" when that behavior goes on with our FBI and Department of Justice. Outrageous! What about doing nothing over Hillary and Hunter Biden? It's a Swamp!

## Unicorns, candy canes and...

COAL CITY—This is directed toward the committee that wants to form a park district and a building to house it. In what world or reality are they living in? Are they seeing unicorns, candy canes and rainbows where in real life townspeople are struggling with inflation, post-pandemic health and economic woes, the threat of a long term recession along with a poorly run state ranked at the bottom, that has



seen people and corporations leave in record numbers. How naive and gullible do they think the people of Coal City are? There are numerous reasons why this is a bad idea. Let me expand on some of the obvious reasons why this idea should not be brought to fruition. Mainly, the financial climate right now and immediate future will not be favorable for families and businesses as they will have more important costs, issues to take care of. Costs cited in flyer may seem like a minuscule amount now but with inflation, imminent recession and an unstable financial climate statewide make this a fool's venture. Don't think for a minute that the costs quoted in the article are real. We all know that as the years go by everything will go up. It never stays as originally presented. As we have seen and are now dealing with, a state that taxes and spends beyond its means. Another fact that often goes unmentioned is that we are now paying the tornado tax and will for the next several years if not longer as usually these taxes get written into future budgets because officials think that once debt is paid off, they assume the people forgot about it and try to justify keeping it instead of erasing it. Also, few, if anyone realizes that this whole debt is the fault of a president from the state of Illinois who refused to issue a disaster declaration not once, not twice, but three times if not more to aid people from his own state. Need a hint? The schools already have the facilities needed for what these people are calling for and all it would need is cooperation between city and schools to work together and come to a sane, logical and cooperative agreement. Again, I don't know what world these people are living in but I do know that my world and reality is not filled with unicorns, candy canes and rainbows. If they want that, Disney World can satisfy that urge. This is a catastrophe waiting to happen and the people of Coal City can't let this happen. Now for a more positive and sensible idea, one mentioned in a July 6 Soundoff, how there is no new businesses on Broadway after recent restorations that were supposed to attract more businesses. How's that working out? Another foolish venture that failed to attain its intended purpose. Why not put the effort (and front money) for a park district into trying to annex Diamond into Coal City and get closer to the interstate? Looks to me like Diamond hasn't got a clue as to how to capitalize on its proximity to the highway and get businesses there. That land has been vacant for years and with the right leadership and expertise it could be a gold mine for the town. The main idea I'm trying to get across is to generate revenue, not dispense money that the town (public) doesn't have. It's a no brainer. No to a park district.

## A giant mistake

WILMINGTON—To the owner of the Launching Pad: Maybe you should think about changing your sign out front to closed. It would be helpful to all the travelers who pull up and are deceived when you are advertising food and hours when you are never open. And the car you have out in front of the giant, why don't you move it? You say it's to protect the kids and other people from getting too close to the road. Well, guess what, it does not. We've seen many people getting close to the road now because your car is in the way. I think you are doing this because your business failed and you are taking it out on other people. So being a resident of Wilmington all my life I feel really bad for the out of town travelers who cannot enjoy a nice stop to eat and take pictures. Just as I feel bad to the people who helped donate their time and money and got nothing in return. And to the ones who worked for you and never got paid. The pad was a great place to work and visit years ago. We were open seven days a week and were always very busy. And yes, I know this for a fact because I did, like many others, work there. And now on a last post you made you said you were going to turn it into a museum? Well, I know I wouldn't support that and I doubt the rest of Wilmington would either. But then again, I've never gone into your business the little bit you were open anyway. When people asked me about the place I would tell them don't know, don't step foot in that place. And now have to deal with people asking all the time what's the deal with the Launching Pad? Why isn't it open? Why is that car in front of the giant? When are they going to open again? Maybe we should just send them to your house so they can ask you personally.

## After the wrong people

SHADOW LAKES—Isn't it strange how the government can hire 87, 000 more tax collectors, but we cannot hire one border security guard? Always, Margot Lane

## Unprecedented

BRAIDWOOD—The MAGA folks have the unmitigated gall to say how 'unprecedented' was the Mar-a-Lago raid. Where were they during the Trump presidency when Trump violated our democratic institutions to an 'unprece-

dent' extent, putting us all in utter disbelief about Trump's disrespect to our nation? Trump's cronies pretend to clutch their pearls when they call to 'defund' the FBI and law enforcement in general which have suddenly been abandoned by the right-wingers. As Trump violates the rule of law and endangers national security, the GOP becomes an army of sycophants and yes-men who kiss the feet of a tyrant. The party of Lincoln appears to be on life support or perhaps already cold stone dead. R. K.

## Pillars of the DNC

I give you the four legs of the Democratic platform. One smashed Blackberry, one fake FISA document paid for by the Blackberry smasher, one added CIC and one presidential son who sits on a China company when he's not doing drugs or covorting with prostitutes. Very impressive.

## Price gouging

WILMINGTON—Will someone tell the Wilmington oil barons that their gas is 50-60 cents a gallon higher than all of Kankakee area? Gas prices are below \$4/gallon in many places in our immediate area.

## Trump is pleased

BRAIDWOOD—The Mar-a-Lago raid is exactly what Trump wanted. It gave Trump an excuse to go running to his gang of militia hoodlums who are now threatening civil war by announcing that they are locked and loaded. Considering that 20 months ago authorities requested the stolen documents, they have been patient with Trump. Authorities could have sent a subpoena to Trump but he would have snorted in contempt so why waste the paper? After exhausting all other means of enforcement, the final recourse was to stage a surprise raid at his home. And because Trump is now treated like a martyr and enjoys money from publicity rolling in, Trump asks the FBI, what took you so long? Meanwhile the rest of the country is torn apart. Bobby

## Weaponizing poverty

WILMINGTON—One thing I know about Jesus is he was concerned about the poorest among us. Go re-re-read Matthew and the sermon on the mount. Now contrast that with the actions of Governor Abbot of Texas using the poor for political feeder and weaponizing poverty. The irony is he is saving these immigrants souls because everyone knows that Texas is where Satan lives. Penny Lane

## Success in Congress

COAL CITY—When we learned of the raid on Mar-a-Lago, we saw once again that Trump's crimes never seem to end. But fortunately, great legislation such as the Infrastructure Bill passed last fall bringing union jobs, the Gun Safety bill passed two months ago, the CHIPS bill for technological competition with China, the Burn Pit bill for veterans passed recently and the Inflation Reduction Act fighting inflation, drug costs and including the biggest climate bill in history have all passed in the past month. These bills will benefit all Americans but were passed with little or no help from Congressional Republicans. Meanwhile Trump and his angry mob are committing violence against innocent Americans and our very democracy is hanging by a thread due to political schemes by MAGA Republicans. Kurt K.

## Better enforcement

SHADOW LAKES—I see people living in Coal City are a little upset with pathetic-looking properties. Well, welcome to the club. Here in Shadow Lakes, we have people that live here full time and those that live here part-time. That does not seem to make the difference. I drive by homes of people that live here full time, and these places look like dumps. We have yards with three-foot weeds and grass that you could get lost in. We have homes that could use repair and cars with outdated stickers on their plates. We too have ordinances in our by-laws. Is anything said or done? No. I guess the people that own these places have the attitude that it is mine and I can do what I want. Then comes the day when you would like to sell your home. What do you think happens when a would-be buyer looks next door? Always, Margot Lane

## The nightmare continues

DIAMOND—Former President Trump has inflicted nothing less than a nightmare upon our nation for the past six years. His chaotic presidency was fraught with scandal on a daily basis and cruelty was the point to his policies as his favoritism divided us into a toxic state of political war ultimately resulting in bloodshed. Now we discover that his adolescent and criminal act of stealing documents was never resolved. Furthermore, Trump has the umbrage to be angry about the raid on Mar-a-Lago when he's lucky he's not detained and

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EACH

Locally Grown  
Black Diamond Watermelon



**\$2.99**  
PER LB

Premium Seedless  
Red or Green Grapes



**10 FOR \$5**

Locally Grown  
Sweet Corn



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Driscoll's  
Blueberries- pint

Berkot's has all your favorite *top-quality* meat!



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PER LB

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# Try the Dr. Funk cocktail to cure your end of the summer blues

Are you in a "funk"? Is it the back-to-school blues? Did your favorite baseball team let you down this summer? Perhaps you are in a funk that is general in nature. This sounds like a job for the good doctor. Dr. Funk, that is.

I have been aware of the Dr. Funk for many years, but had not tried one until recently. Dr. Funk is a bit citrus, a little sweet, cut with a nice kick of Jamaican rum and absinthe with a splash of soda for sparkle.

I absolutely loved this drink the first time that I tried it. I added the drink to my regular cocktail rotation, and then I just had to know: Is there a real Dr. Funk?

Come to find out, there is a real Dr. Funk. Bernard Funk was a German physician living in early 20th century Samoa. He was known throughout the South Seas not as a doctor, but as an excellent mixologist. Sometimes the good doctor would blend his two specialties when treating patients. One such patient was author Frederick O'Brien.

O'Brien was suffering from heat exhaustion when Dr. Funk prescribed what was basically a sparkling lemonade with absinthe, and probably a good measure of absinthe.

Rum was added to the recipe once the tiki arms race between Donn Beach and Trader Vic began in the late 1930s, but the character of the drink was undeniably South Pacific.

There is no telling how many "prescriptions" of this variety came from the office of Dr. Funk, but it became a staple of bar menus from Samoa to Tahiti long before the locals in Los Angeles got ahold of it.

Very little is known about Bernard Funk other than he was German, a doctor, and a mixologist. Occasionally you may find the drink listed online and in bars as "Dr. Funk of Tahiti".

I have no idea what the man looked like, but the Dr. Funk is almost always served in a "Fu Manchu" style tiki mug. A double rocks glass will accommodate the drink if the aforementioned Fu Manchu tiki mug is unavailable.

As I mentioned earlier, I am a fan of this drink. In the tiki world there is a laundry list of drinks that are kind of like a Mai Tai, or a Swizzle of some type, but the Dr. Funk stands alone.

The Dr. Funk is a seven-ingredient cocktail, and you

will be handsomely rewarded with flavor if you take the time to track down the proper ingredients.

By proportion, rum is the main ingredient in the Dr. Funk. Use a dark rum, preferably a dark Jamaican or demerara. Myer's, El Dorado 12, Coruba, and Appleton Estate are all excellent choices for the Dr. Funk.

Always use fresh citrus juice in your cocktails, pick up a lemon/lime squeezer for your home bar if you do not already have one.

Do your best to track down a true grenadine as opposed to Rose's grenadine which is essentially a red colored sugar syrup. A true grenadine from Sonoma Syrup, B.G. Reynolds, or Small Hand Foods will have the strong notes of pomegranate needed to make Dr. Funk proud.

The availability of



**THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL**  
Brian Rung

absinthe will vary from region to region. I find Pernod to be the best for cocktail applications. Herbsaint carries the anise flavor when used as a mixer even though it is not technically absinthe.

The distribution of absinthe is improving, but you may be limited to one or two options at your local store.

Use the darker demerara simple syrup as opposed to a syrup made with cane sugar. Demerara syrup is made the just as any other simple syrup would be made: dissolve one cup of sugar into one cup of warm water and allow to cool.

I prefer a "rich" demerara syrup in tiki drinks, using a ratio of 1.5:1 or 2:1 sugar to water.

Combine all ingredients in your shaker, along with a healthy measure of crushed ice. Give it a good shake of at least 10-15 seconds before

pouring the contents into the glass. Add the club soda or seltzer to the drink when it hits the glass, do not shake soda, club or otherwise.

This is a great drink if you find yourself in a cocktail rut, in addition to the unique flavor notes it has quite the intriguing nose.

For more on Bernard Funk read Frederick O'Brien's 1920 bestseller White Shadows in the South Seas.

The Dr. Funk is built in a shaker and served over ice in your favorite tiki mug or double rocks glass.

Combine in shaker:  
1/2 oz. fresh lemon juice  
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice  
1/4 oz. grenadine  
1/2 oz. demerara syrup  
1/4 oz. absinthe (Pernod)  
2 1/4 oz. dark Jamaican rum

Shake with crushed ice and pour unstrained into tiki mug or double rocks glass

Top with 1 oz. club soda  
Garnish with pineapple fronds

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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**First United Methodist Church**  
**Fall Preschool 2022**

The First United Methodist Church Preschool Program has open registration for Fall 2022-2023 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. 18 from 6-7pm**

First day of class tentatively Aug. 22 @ 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.fumcwillm.org](http://www.fumcwillm.org). Contact Mrs. Paula through the church office at 815-476-5474.

**UPCOMING EVENT**

## Soundoff, continued from page 4

tried for crimes immediately. Others before him, CIA Director, David Petraeus, and National Security Advisor, Sandy Berger, have been convicted and punished for similar but lesser actions. Trump deserves prosecution and hopefully never to hold public office again.

### Not a raid

WILMINGTON—The Right keeps calling what happened in Mar-A-Largo a raid. The truth is the FBI was serving and executing a legal search warrant. It's not like they broke down the door with guns drawn and started shooting. That's what happened to Breonna Taylor.

### Rolling along

BRAIDWOOD—Why do semis continually go down Division Street in Braidwood without getting tickets? Seems to me that if they cannot control semis on a road that has been a non-truck route for years, they will not be able to control the semis from the new trucking company on Rt. 129. Get a mitt and get in the game Braidwood Police Department. Do your jobs.

### A coincidence by three

WILMINGTON—We appreciate what Congress accomplished recently despite the fact that Republicans were AWOL, MIA and obstructing the work of the legislative chambers. The bills passed by Democrats recently are for the benefit of the average person instead of for corporations and for the 1% super-rich as was the case four years ago. In fact, we've discovered that three departments in the Trump administration were coincidentally involved in missing communications on and around Jan. 6. Was it incompetence or malice? We long have known that Republicans are willing to destroy the futures of everyday people through willful negligence in Congress, but would they also destroy the very structure of our national security?

Theo A.

### A better name

WILMINGTON—I'm sick of the Proud Boys, especially that name. Let's call them what they really are, proud angry white men.

### What's worse

WILMINGTON—What's worse for a trans or gay kid living in Florida? Answer: Having Republican parents.

### She won't survive

WILMINGTON—Republican Liz Cheney, part of the January 6 Select Committee, will write a book hoping to make lots of money then she'll run for president. Remember, you read it in the Free Press Sound-off. It's nothing but politics folks. She will lose her seat in Congress. The voters aren't stupid. She doesn't care.

### Adding more taxes

WILMINGTON—Credit card debt has skyrocketed and so has interest on their debt. Democrats are in denial we're in a recession as they add more taxes to the middle class.

### A populist

WILMINGTON—For seven years since President Trump won the election the Washington DC Swamp has been out to get him. He's neither Democrat nor Republican. He is a populist. As a businessman he made excellent choices. The swamp rests and feeds on the progressive assumption that the mass of citizens is incapable of self government. He has awakened millions.

### Red Riding Hood

DIAMOND—Red: Grandfather, why are you wearing sheep's clothing? Joe: This is what all good sheep wear, Dear Red. Red: But Grandfather, why do you need 87,000 new agents? Joe: The better to audit you, Dear Red. Red: But Grandfather, is Uncle Hunter getting a new computer? Joe: I've told you many times don't question me about Uncle Hunter's activities.

Sharon

### Biden's Utopia

DIAMOND—Freedom of speech for me...but not for thee. Freedom to assemble for me...but not for thee. Freedom to petition the government for me...but not for thee. Freedom to worship for me...but not for thee. Freedom to keep and bear arms for me...but not for thee. Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure for me...but not for thee. Equal justice under the law for me...but not for thee. Registered voter

### Desperate Democrats

DIAMOND—Biden has reversed everything about Trump. Trump inflation 1.9%, Biden inflation 9.1%. Sleepy Joe did it again. Also, raids are now a first resort in America and a last resort in a Democratic Republic.

### Keep studying

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the article in the Aug. 10 Sound-off column called "Fact based history." Obviously because someone has a master's degree in history and taught doesn't quite understand all books given in grade and high school and college are screened before they are offered. One of the things that I learned is to know more of history you have to go outside the classroom and the books issued to you and read many other books. The Civil War did not start over slavery. It started over the taxation of the south bringing their cotton up to the north because the south did not have the manufacturing for the cotton that the north did. So maybe you master's degree people need to do a little bit more studying. Dan Hill

**FRIDAY & SATURDAY, AUG. 19 & 20**

**2022 ELWOOD COMMUNITY DAYS**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2022**

**Vendors/Food Trucks ~ Friday and Saturday!**  
LaPasadita Mexican Cuisine, Raceway Pizza, Chef's Taste Food Truck, TCBY Truck, Auntie Anne's Truck

**4:00 pm - Midnight ~ Beer Garden:** Cover Charge \$3.00.  
Beer, Red White & Blue, 312, Hard Seltzer, etc. \$3.00 each.

**4:00 pm - Midnight ~ Margarita Truck**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Elwood Fire Department: Smoke House**

**5:00 pm ~ Bags Tournament Sign up:** \$10 per person, single elimination, partners will be chosen in a blind draw. Tournament begins at 6:00 pm. Must be 18 and over. Any questions or to sign up please contact Darryl Lab: Darryl.p.lab@gmail.com.

**5:00 pm - 7:00 pm ~ The Junkyard Dawgs Band**

**8:00 pm - Midnight ~ Righteous Hillbillies**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 20, 2022**

**7:30 am - 9:30 am ~ Annual Bob Corcoran Youth Fishing Contest at Lloyd Erickson Pond:** Sponsored by the Jackson Township Sportsman's Club and Larry Walsh Jr. Ages 1-15 welcome. This is a free event, but you must bring your own bait and fishing gear.

**11:00 am ~ 31st Annual Elwood Days Parade:** Brought to you by Elwood Cub Scout Pack #156. The parade will begin at South Street and will proceed north on Chicago Street/Brandon Rd.

**Noon - Midnight ~ Beer Garden:** Cover Charge \$3.00.  
Beer, Red White & Blue, 312, Hard Seltzer, etc. \$3.00 each.

**Noon - Midnight ~ Margarita Truck**

**Noon - 4:00 pm ~ Craft Show:** If interested please contact Marie 815-423-5011.

**1:00 pm ~ Crosstown Exotics Traveling Reptile & Bug Show**  
Fun educational entertainment for all ages. This is a one of a kind hands-on experience.

**3:00 pm ~ The Magic of Brian Holt**  
A family friendly magic show for people of all ages.

**1:00 pm - 3:00 pm ~ Soap Box Derby Registration -** Diagonal Road North End of Lloyd Erickson Park. Class 1: Ages 5-7, Class 2: Ages 8-11, Class 3: Ages 12-14. Anyone that would like to enter please contact Larry or Matt at 815-424-1077.

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Soap Box Derby Races**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ 21 and Over Cup in Hand Kickball Tournament:** \$10 per person. Create a team of 10 or more and contact Nichelle to register your team. Nichelle.tomalewicz@villageofelwood.com Registration closes Friday, August 12th.

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Jackson Township History Club Display**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Bingo - Presented by the Twilighters**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ Habitat For Humanity**

**4:00 pm - 8:00 pm ~ 5 Person Rock Climbing Wall, 2 Person Zip Line, Foam Pit (remember your towel), Pony Rides, and a Petting Zoo!**

**8:00 pm - Midnight ~ Poison'd Crue -** Back by popular demand!

**9:00 pm ~ Fireworks**

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## Smiths celebrate 50th anniversary

Dale and Jerri (Garner) Smith, of Braidwood, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Aug. 26, 2022. They were married on Aug. 26, 1972 at the First Presbyterian Church.

Dale is employed at LyondellBasell and Jerri is employed by the Reed-Custer School District.

They are the parents of Holly and Brian Stellano, of Braidwood and Chris and Julie Smith of Essex. They have seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A celebration dinner with family will be held

## Eight months of I-55 resurfacing begins

The Illinois Department of Transportation said that patching and resurfacing of northbound and southbound Interstate 55 from Weber Road to Interstate 80 in Will County will begin this week.

Overnight and weekend lane closures will be needed over the next eight months. Major travel delays are anticipated; use of alternate routes is encouraged.

To complete the work, motorists should expect various overnight and weekend lane and partial ramp closures on both sides of I-55. The closures will take place from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m.

Sundays through Thursdays, with weekend closures starting at 9 p.m. Fridays to 10 a.m. Sundays. At least one lane in each direction will remain open.

The project, which consists of resurfacing the 13.6-mile stretch of I-55, is expected to be completed in spring 2023.

Motorists can expect delays and should allow extra time when traveling through this area. Drivers are urged to pay close attention to flaggers and signs in the work zones, obey the posted speed limits and be on the alert for workers and equipment.

## Class of 1961 to hold reunion Sept. 10th

It has been 61 years since the WHS class of 1961 graduated. On Saturday, Sept. 10, at noon, the last organized reunion will take place.

It will be informal at Wilmington's South Island pavillion. The plan is to be with long-time friends who have the ability to make each other feel like kids again and catch up with the present.

There is no charge and anyone who would like to join us is welcome. If possible, please bring a folding chair, your own beverage and a dish to share during the potluck lunch. Arrive at noon and dine at 1 p.m.

For more details contact Sharon at 815-861-6534 or Lana at 414-719-1121.

## Most Illinois schools opting out of new sex education standards

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

With the new school year upon us, it is more apparent that many school officials and parents in Illinois want no part of new standards of teaching sexual education in the classroom.

Democratic lawmakers passed a bill that aligned the state's standards with a national model. School districts were given the option to opt-out, and they have in droves.

According to the website Awake-Illinois, only 20 school districts have decided to fully follow the standards, with 534 opting out.

Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington are listed as districts that have opted out. Of the 12 districts in Grundy County, all schools have opted out while in Will County, with 29 districts, only Beecher is adopting the new standards.

Most are opting out

because they don't presently have sex education classes at the elementary level.

In accordance with the National Sex Education Standards, the Illinois State Board of Education said elementary students, including kindergartners, will learn about consent, gender identity, hormone blockers and healthy relationships. Middle schoolers will learn about dating violence prevention, different types of sex and sexual harassment. High schoolers will learn more about their bodies, pregnancy and sexual health.

State Rep. Adam Niernerg, R-Dietrich, wrote an op-ed urging schools to reject the standards and said they are too much, too soon.

"This is well beyond what the conversations that should be happening with our children in schools on this particular issue, when they should be focusing on reading, study-

ing and enjoying sports," Niernerg told The Center Square.

Niernerg adds the fact that school districts and parents are saying no to the curriculum should send a message to the lawmakers who passed the legislation that they are too extreme for working class Illinoisans.

Supporters of the updated standards said the breakdown per grade level is age appropriate and important to educate children about the issues.

State Rep. Kathleen Willis, D-Addison, was behind the legislation and wanted the sex ed curriculum mandated for schools, which ultimately was excluded from the final legislation.

"It is not too early to start teaching children, as young as pre-school and definitely by kindergarten, about healthy relationships," Willis said.

## Clark named to dean's list

Kaitlyn Clark, of Custer Park, has been named to the 2022 dean's list at Coe College in Cedar Rapids, IA. Clark earned at least a 3.5 grade point average and ranked in the top 10%.

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# OBITUARIES

## Dave Ashcraft

WILMINGTON— Dave Ashcraft, 59, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022 in Paducah, KY.

Born Nov. 7, 1962, David Eugene was a son of Carol "Jane" Ashcraft (née Fancher) and James F. Ashcraft. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the Class of 1980.

Dave worked as a laborer and an iron worker. He retired from the Laborers Local #75. He was mechanically gifted with all hands on projects. He loved fishing, music and had a quick wit with the biggest smile. Dave will be remembered for always having a good time, and cherishing time spent with his grandkids.

Survivors include his mother, Jane, of Wilmington; two daughters: Julie Ashcraft and Brittany (Doug) Pulaski; step-son, Adam (Kate) Russell; four grandchildren: Emma, Katelyn, Elsie and Austin; one brother, Fred Ashcraft; three nieces: Kristin, Kara and Karli, and two



uncles: Harold Fancher and Gary (Sue) Fancher.

Dave was preceded in death by his father, one sister, Carol Rhodes; step-son Tony Russell and both his maternal and paternal grandparents.

The family received friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022 from 10 a.m. until the time of celebration of life at 12 noon. Cremation rites were accorded following the services and he was privately laid to rest in Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington with his father and his sister.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Dave's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. [www.baskervillefuneral.com](http://www.baskervillefuneral.com)

## Debra Fuhrmann

FLORIDA— Debra Eileen (Wright) Fuhrmann, 61, passed away peacefully on Aug. 4, 2022, surrounded by the people who loved her the most.

Debbie was born in Danville, IL to William and Dora Wright. Debbie graduated from Danville High School in 1979, and finished her BA at Nova University in Davie, FL. She married Lawrence Fuhrmann Jr. in 1982. They served in the US Marine Corps together, they later lived in Homestead, FL but eventually moved to raise their children in Wilmington. After retiring, her and Larry moved to Ramrod Key, FL where she lived until her death.

Debbie worked for several years at Berkot's Grocery Store in Coal City and Dwight prior to retiring. She was extremely creative; she loved to paint and do crafts of any kind. In her spare time Debbie enjoyed crossword puzzles and sudoku, loved flowers and there wasn't an animal she didn't love; except maybe the giant



iguanas that ate her flowers, those she didn't love. Throughout her life she rescued numerous dogs, cats, birds, fish and even a baby squirrel.

She will be lovingly remembered by her husband of 40 years, Larry; her brother, Ben (Janet) Wright, of Crawfordsville, IN; her children, Jamie (Jamie) Gragg, of Key West, FL and Cory (Gini) Fuhrmann, of Custer Park; grandchildren, Easton and Markie Chandler, of Custer Park and her greatest joy, Carter Fuhrmann of Ramrod, FL. Debbie will also be dearly missed by her lifelong best friend, Pam (Kyle) Roberts as well as Justin (Gabby) Roberts, Kelsey Roberts and Jordan Roberts who think of her as a second mom.

Debra was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation has taken place and a Celebration of Life will take place some time in the future.

## Edward P. Carlo Sr.

BRACEVILLE—Edward P. Carlo Sr., 78, of Braceville, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

He was born on Aug. 25, 1943 in Chicago, to Phillip V. and Helen (nee Malinowski) Carlo. Edward grew up as one of six children. After high school, he served his country honorably in the United States Navy and was stationed in San Diego during the Vietnam Era. He married Karen Clark on Jan. 4, 1964 at St. Simeon Catholic Church in Bellwood, IL. Together, they raised their three sons. Edward worked as a Pipefitter with Local 597, retiring after 54 years. Edward's passions were pheasant hunting and golf. He enjoyed taking his oldest grandson, Ryan, hunting with him. He loved spending time with all four of his grandchildren and his great-granddaughter, "Little Miss B."

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Karen Carlo; his sons: Edward Carlo Jr., Phillip (Beth) Carlo and Robert (Nikki) Carlo; his four grandchildren: Ryan Sorensen, Brittany Carlo, Zakary Carlo and Brandon Carlo; his great-grand-



daughter, Brooklynn Villanueva; his sister-in-law, Cornelia Carlo; his brothers-in-law, Burton (Alice) Clark and Robert (Susan) Clark; his sister-in-law, Beverly Clark; many nieces and nephews and his beloved dog, Zeek.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Phillip and Helen Carlo; his brothers and sisters and their spouses: Vincent and Marie Carlo, Dolores and Edward Beauchamp, Phillip Carlo, Patricia and Clare Phillips and Gloria and Vincent Mascio.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Edward's name may be directed to the Will County Humane Society, 24109 W. Seil Road, Shorewood, IL 60404.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A private family inurnment will be at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery with full military honors.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Patricia Conley

GARDNER—Patricia Ann Conley, 68, of Gardner, passed away Sunday, Aug. 14, 2022 at Burbank Rehabilitation Center in Burbank, IL.

Born May 26, 1954 in Philadelphia, PA, Patricia was the daughter of Albert and Marie (Berggoetz) Meneely. She graduated from Indian River High School in Chesapeake, VA with the class of 1972, and on May 19, 1973 she married Bernard John Conley at Saint Pius Catholic Church near the Little Creek Virginia Naval Base. Patricia and family relocated to Illinois where she would complete an associates degree in Elementary Education from Joliet Junior College.

She was an active woman in her communities, serving as a teacher's aid at the local schools and also volunteered her time at the Coal City Elementary School Library. Patricia was a member of the Church of Hope in Gardner, and served as both a Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts Leader. She also held employment with the Morris Herald and with the Walmart in Joliet. In her spare time, Patricia enjoyed crafting and playing computer games. But her greatest joy came from spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren who were precious to her.

Survivors include her husband of 49 years, Bernard Conley, of Gardner; four children: Karen (Brian) Hand, of Morris; Sherri Conley, of Chicago; Matthew Conley, of Mazon and



Kimberly Conley, of Diamond; 15 grandchildren: Brittany, Stephanie, Taylor, Abby and Samantha Hand; Tamara and Tyler Morris, Lauren and Trevor Moore, John, Aaron, Kelly, and Michael Lawson; Skylar Conley, and Ryan Lodrigue; five great-grandchildren: Camilla, Sincere, A'Zaria, Luke, and Riley; nieces and nephews: Dorothy Meneely and William, Thomas, James, and Kenneth Conley; and dear friends: Gail Hicks, Cathy and Gordon Milne, and Betty Gifford.

Patricia was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter, Christina Lawson in 2011; one brother, David (Dixie) Conley; her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Marvin and Marie Conley and her brother-in-law, William Conley.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway in Coal City on Friday, Aug. 19, 2022 from 4 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 6 p.m. with Reverend Jan Chandler officiating.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service and Patricia will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Patricia's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

## Marjorie R. Malher

PIPER CITY— Marjorie R. Malher, 80, of Piper City, IL, passed away at her home in Piper City, after a long, lingering and frustrating illness on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022.

She was born Oct. 1, 1941 in Grenada, MS. Marjorie was a long-time member and Elder in the First Presbyterian Church of Braidwood where she and Dennis were married on Oct. 17, 1959. After moving to Piper City so that she and her husband could be closer to her daughter for help with her illness, she transferred her membership to the First Presbyterian of Piper City.

Marjorie worked outside the home most of her adult life with her last position held before her retirement being Traffic Manager for Diversified CPC International of Channahon. She first and foremost was dedicated to her family. She enjoyed family gatherings, decorating her home surroundings and some traveling.

She is survived by her husband, Dennis O. Malher; daughters, Nanette J. Malher, of



Ashland City, TN and Allison D. (Rick) Gjerde, of Piper City; one grandson, Dean O. Gjerde and his wife, Lane (nee Cannon) Gjerde; three great-grandchildren: Aria, Camilla and Owen Gjerde, of Charleston, IL; and one sister, Judy Pressgrove, of Oxford, MS.

She was preceded by her parents, A.V. and Janie Lou (nee Carpenter) Allison, five brothers and her beloved mother-in-law, Eva Malher.

As per Marjorie's wishes and instructions, she is to be cremated without fanfare after a family only gathering.

Inurnment will be in Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

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

## Don Jensen

GARDNER—Don Jensen, 82, and a lifelong resident of Gardner, passed away Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born Jan. 10, 1940 in Morris, Don was a son of Harold and Myrtle (Thompson) Jensen. He was raised in Gardner and attended Gardner Schools. On March 17, 1967 Don married Sandy Wilkey in Dwight, and together they had two children, Barbara in 1967 and Jodi in 1968.

During the 60's Don worked at Uniroyal in Elwood repairing typewriters and serving on the fire department. It was then in the 70's that he followed his passion for fire service working on the Fermlab Fire Department in Batavia. Every summer Don would also repair all the typewriters for the GSW High School in his shop at home. The 80's took him to the Corps of Engineers as a Lockman, first in Starved Rock and then Dresden from where he retired in 2003. Not being one to sit around, Don soon found himself as a stock "boy" at Testa's in Coal City, and finally working at Fisher Auto Parts delivering until his real retirement in 2013 when he stopped working to care for his wife who had become sick.

Don, his dad Harold and brother, Gene literally built the Gardner Fire Department from the ground up. He served on the fire department from 1958 until his retirement in 1999, serving as chief from 1993-1999. This was a role Don truly loved doing while being of service to the community as a volunteer his whole career. In addition, Don also served as a Grundy County Deputy Coroner from 1966-2003.

Don's biggest enjoyment came from his two grandchildren, and attending every event while they were growing up. Later in life, Don's attention turned to cutting grass, whether you wanted your grass cut or not. Don was on it. He loved to be on his John Deere, and more often than not his best friend, Cuervo was on his lap



while mowing. Don did love to go to the Dollar Store where he would spend hours chit-chatting and come out with maybe two things.

Don is survived by his daughter, Barb Jett; grandchildren, Lucas (Paige) Jett and Megan Jett, and his beloved great-granddaughter, Ivy Faye Jett. His best friends, Cuervo and Red Head (Bailey) and his Granddogs, Gypsy and Brady.

Don is preceded in death by his wife, Sandy in 2014, his parents and daughter, Jodi in 1969.

Since Don was a huge Cubs fan, please wear a Cubs shirt or very casual attire, he wasn't a fancy fella. Fire and EMS friends are also encouraged to wear attire representing their respective department.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials should be to the Gardner Fire Protection District or to the family for distribution to charities of their choosing.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 230 Liberty Street in Gardner on Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022 from 12 p.m. until the time of the firemen walkthrough at 3:45 p.m. Funeral services will take place at 4 p.m. with Pastor Jan Chandler officiating. Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Don will be laid to rest with his late wife and daughter.

Pallbearers will be: Lucas Jett, Brian Jensen, John Hill, Tim Hill, Howard "Duck" Lardi and Jeff Bexson. Honorary pallbearers will be: Bob Coleman, Harold Holsinger and Ken Roeske.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Don's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Gardner. [www.ReevesFuneral.com](http://www.ReevesFuneral.com)

## James E. Papesh

MORRIS—James E. Papesh, 74, of Morris, passed away on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in Chicago.

Jim was born on March 28, 1948 in Joliet, to Valentine and Lorraine (nee Ward) Papesh. He served his country honorably in the United States Army, stationed in Germany during the Vietnam Era. Jim worked in mechanical maintenance for Commonwealth Edison and Midwest Generation, retiring after over 30 years. He was a classic car enthusiast and was a member of the Coachman Car Club. He was very proud of his 1964 Pontiac Catalina. A lover of fishing, Jim enjoyed many summers in Minnesota and living on Beaver Lake. He especially enjoyed fishing with his grandsons. He was also a board member of the Goose Lake Association. If you were lucky enough to meet Jim, you know he was a man of many words and a stranger to none.

But out of all his accomplishments, Jim took the most pride in building a home and raising a family with his loving wife of 44 years, Georgene Papesh (nee Cromer).

He is survived by his wife, Georgene; his



daughters, Nicole (Ben) Boresi and Jenna Papesh; his grandsons, Braxton and Boden Boresi; his brother, Gerald Papesh (Martha Harms); his mother-in-law, Joan Cromer (nee Likar); his brother-in-law, Wayne (Karen) Cromer; his sisters in law, Darlene (Chuck) Quinn and Carolyn (Don) Wortman; his nephews: Bryan (Kim) Papesh, Chris (Melissa) Papesh, Doug Papesh, Jeff Jacobs and Bruce Lundborg and numerous cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Valentine and Lorraine Papesh; his brother and sister-in-law, Dale and Barbara Papesh; his sister-in-law, Kathy Papesh; his father-in-law, Kenneth Cromer; his brother-in-law, Gregory Cromer and niece, Celissa Henning.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City. Reverend Joshua Miller officiated. Burial was at St. Joseph Cemetery in Joliet with Military Honors.

Family and friends may sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City were entrusted with arrangements.

## John F. Gubbins

COAL CITY—John F. Gubbins, 72, of Coal City, passed away on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

He was born on Jan. 19, 1950 in Chicago, to John F. Sr. and Jean (nee Walsh) Gubbins. He grew up in Oak Park, IL, and graduated from Oak Park High School. He served his country honorably in the United States Army, serving from 1970-1972 during the Vietnam Era and was stationed in Germany. He married Georgine B. "Gigi" Cutsinger on Sept. 24, 1977 at the Ascension Church in Oak Park. Together, they raised their two sons, Sean and Timothy, in their family home in Coal City.

John worked as an international export agent with UPS, retiring after 45 years. He served as Commander with the American Legion Post 796 in Diamond. John enjoyed fishing, golfing and watching sports on TV, especially Notre Dame Football. Most of all, John loved spending time with family and friends. At gatherings, he entertained all with his sense of humor and everlasting tales.

He is survived by his wife of 44 years, Gigi Gubbins; his two sons, Sean (Nicole) Gubbins, of Channahon and Timothy Gubbins, of



Diamond; his five grandchildren: Kiana Gubbins, Ethan Gubbins, Aidan Gubbins, Tyler Gubbins and Avery Gubbins; his sister, Jeannie (the late Robert) Niemet, of Jeffman Estates; his brother, William (Bridget) Gubbins, of England; cousin, Patricia Gubbins and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, John and Jean Gubbins and his brother, George Gubbins.

Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 17, 2022 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City.

Funeral Service will be from Ferrari Funeral Services on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 at 10 a.m. to Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood for an 11 a.m. burial with full Military Honors. Those wishing to attend services may also meet at the Welcome Center at 10:45 a.m. at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

A luncheon will follow the service.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at [www.ferrarifuneral.com](http://www.ferrarifuneral.com)

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Norma Jean Bessette

PLAINFIELD—Born Norma Jean Kinsley on August 23, 1926, she was the daughter of James and Josephine (Pessina) Kinsley. Norma joined her husband Irving "Sonny" Bessette on August 13th, 2022.

Survivors include her loving daughters: Nora (Richard) Facchina and Amy (Alan) Singletary; sons: Robert (Deb), Patrick and Michael (Elaine), (14) grandchildren; (19) great grandchildren; one great-great granddaughter, and her brother-in-law, Pete (Donna) Bessette.

Norma was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Irving (2000); dear sister, Carol Ballak; fond brother, James (Dorothy) Kinsley, and great granddaughter Kenadie, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and classmates.

Norma was born and raised in Joliet; attended St. Patrick's grade school, and went on to St. Francis (The Academy) High School. Her first job was at the local dime-store, where she walked to work. Norma spent her summers visiting her Italian relatives in Herrin, IL, and taking the train to stay with her wonderful aunts. Everyone who knew Norma knew that it was her Irish heritage that she claimed the most. St. Patrick's Day, corned beef and cabbage, and all things green were her pride and joy!

Norma was a homemaker until the Village of Shorewood called her to fill in. Her temporary position turned into full time, where she served the residents of Shorewood from 1982 until her retirement in 2001 at the age of 74.

She loved lottery tickets, the slot machines



at the gambling boats and spending time with her family. Until her 93rd birthday, Norma lived independently until sustaining a hip fracture. She spent time at the Timbers of Shorewood and the last 2 years of her life at Harbor Chase of Plainfield.

Norma's family wishes to thank Harbor Chase for the kindness and care they gave our Mom, and to Dora and Faye from United Hospice who helped her in her final days of need. Words cannot express how much we will miss her and her funny "Norma-isms". Whenever you scratch a lottery ticket, think of Norma and be certain to drink a green beer on St. Patrick's Day in her honor. It will never be the same without her.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at St. Ann Catholic Church, 24500 S. Navajo Drive in Channahon on Tuesday, August 23, 2022 from 9:00 a.m. until time of funeral service 10:00 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Revered John Klein presiding.

Inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Norma will be laid to rest with her late husband.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Norma's memorial page online.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com)

# Political beat-down just beginning in governor's race

The ongoing uproar over Darren Bailey's 2017 claim that the Holocaust "doesn't even compare on a shadow" to the lives lost to abortion reminded me of a scene in an old movie called "A Bronx Tale."

The claim Bailey made on Facebook exploded into view courtesy of a brutal TV ad by Gov. JB Pritzker's campaign. The ad begins with an announcer previewing an already-used video clip of Bailey saying he would not allow a woman who was raped or a victim of incest to have an abortion. "You may have thought you heard everything that Darren Bailey had to say about abortion," the voice-over person says before the clip is played. "But that's not all Darren Bailey has said," the person continues as the newly unearthed clip is shown to viewers.

The closing tagline of "Darren Bailey, too extreme for Illinois," is then flashed on the screen. That's pretty close to the same language used in Democratic ads which aired during the Republican primary.

There are those who say that, judging from experience, if Pritzker is using something this over the top in August, then oh my goodness he must have some really strong opposition research in store for voters when the campaign cranks up this fall.

That could very well be, and it doesn't help matters much right now that Bailey's billionaire GOP primary benefactor Richard Uihlein has not directly contributed any money to Bailey's campaign since the primary, so attacking when your opponent can't fight back in-kind has its advantages.

Bailey released a response video to another Pritzker TV ad (calling him out for hypocritically taking millions in federal farm subsidies while opposing other government social programs) that has so far received views in the hundreds, not the millions who would see something on TV.

Either way, this is a true political beat-down. And it didn't stop there. Bailey at first walked his comments back by saying, "The Holocaust is a human tragedy without parallel. In no way was I attempting to diminish the atrocities of the Holocaust and its stain on history. I meant to emphasize the tragedy of millions of babies being lost."

Then, the very next day, Bailey told Fox 32's Dane Placko that his words were "taken out of context as they typically are," and blamed

reporters. Then, Bailey was asked by a Fox Valley radio station host if he needed to apologize. Instead of doing so, Bailey laughed and said, "The Jewish community themselves have told me that I'm right," and went on to claim that "the Jewish rabbis" he'd met with had told him he was "actually right."

Bailey inexplicably kept the story alive, and Pritzker took full advantage, pounding away at his opponent every chance he got. And since then, the Pritzker campaign has piled on by providing some opposition research to reporters about other Bailey Facebook posts.

And the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition recently issued a press release complaining that "Multiple social media posts by gubernatorial candidate Darren Bailey and his wife are Islamophobic, anti-semitic, and xenophobic."

And that brings me back to the movie, which follows a young Italian-American boy as he learns life lessons from those around him, including from some mobsters.

In the scene, a biker gang known for busting up bars unwittingly walks into a mob-

owned bar and, after being told they could stay for a couple of beers, begins to cause trouble. The top mob boss tells the bikers to leave. After being rudely rebuffed, he quietly walks to the front door and locks it, then turns around and faces the bikers: "Now youse can't leave," he says.

The mob boss' underlings immediately stream in through the back door brandishing baseball bats, pistols and other implements of destruction and absolutely pummel the bikers, who are then dragged outside and beaten some more, including by bystanders.

And that's basically how the rest of this campaign is going to go, even when/if Bailey's coffers are replenished. Pritzker never took his foot off of Bruce Rauner's political throat four years ago even though he was way ahead in the polls, and he kept whacking Richard Irvin long after Irvin was clearly no longer viable in the recent GOP primary.

It's just how they roll over there. Toss in the fact that Pritzker helped found a Holocaust museum and abortion rights is an issue which appears to animate him, and you can understand the desire to go all-out on this one.

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



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## 50th reunion for Reed-Custer class

A class reunion for graduates from the Reed-Custer Class of 1972 will be held at the Rustic Inn, 108 N. Water Street, Wilmington, on Saturday, Sept. 10, from 6 p.m. to midnight.

The reunion is for the

class of 1972, but other classes around this year are also invited.

RSVP to Mark before Sept. 1 at 815-476-7290 to confirm. There will be a cash bar but free entry. Also a steak dinner will be available for \$25 each.

## Braceville church to hold rummage sale

The Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 West Gould Street in Braceville, will be having a rummage sale on Friday, Sept. 30, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 1, from 8 a.m.

to 1 p.m. at the church.

Also held those days will be a jewelry sale and a silent auction. For any additional information, please call the church at (815) 237-8512.

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## Class of '67 to hold reunion

The class of 1967 from Wilmington High School is having a 55th-year class reunion at the VFW in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 5 p.m., ending at 11 p.m. There will also be a get-together on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the South Island Pavilion from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There is no cost for either event.

## Free Press Newspapers earn state awards

SPRINGFIELD - Illinois' top newspapers were honored recently by the Illinois Press Association during the 2021 state editorial and advertising awards contest that was held last week.

The Free Press Newspaper publications received eight state awards including two 1st place awards, three 2nd place awards, two 3rd place and an honorable mention.

The Free Press Newspapers; including *The Free Press Advocate*, *The Braidwood Journal* and *The Coal City Courier*; compete in the small newspaper division for publications with circulation under 4,000 each.

**Advertising**  
1st place = best health

care ad, The Free Press Advocate. Featured an ad for Fisher-Gentry Eye Center titled, "You can't see glaucoma coming, but we can." The ad was drafted by Eric Fisher and designed by Janet Fisher.

1st place = best garden, yard and agriculture ad, The Free Press Advocate. Designed by Eric Fisher. "Got Mud? Get Stoned!" an promoting bulk stone and mulch delivery for J&D Landscape Supply

2nd place = best classified ad, The Free Press Advocate, drafted by Eric Fisher, designed by Janet Fisher. "Make this your next company vehicle" for Illinois Transport promoting the need for bus drivers.

**Editorial**  
2nd place = sports photo, The Braidwood Journal. Photo taken by Shawn Long of Reed-Custer pole vaulter Evan Pickard clearing the crossbar. Judges praised Long for capturing Pickard's level of concentration.

2nd place = general news photo, Free Press Advocate taken by photographer Alyssa Ohlund. "Last run for Wildcats" taken of Karsen Hansen and Kris Lamaster grasping hands as they ran out of the woods during the final playoff game at home.

3rd place = local editorial, Braidwood Journal, written by Long. "Thank you Comet football!" on the front page of the Journal after they completed the best season in school history.

3rd place = news reporting - single story written by editor Marney Simon, "Never going to be justice for her daughter." Judges commended Simon for a compelling and powerful interview.



**SECOND PLACE** in state! This photo taken by Shawn Long captured second place in the sports photo contest held by the Illinois Press Association. It is of Reed-Custer pole vaulter Evan Pickard clearing the bar.

4th place = sports photo, The Braidwood Journal. Photo taken by Shawn Long of the female trick champion water skier at Water's Edge ski competition.

"Local award-winning journalism if alive and well in the communities we cover," commented Eric Fisher, publisher. "I'm proud of our

employees who won state awards. Considering there were 1,725 contest entries from throughout the state and we were able to garner eight is an accomplishment we are proud of."

The Illinois Press Association, located in Springfield, represents 480 daily and weekly newspapers.

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Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

HER ASSIGNMENT was to attend the semi-final football game between the Wilmington Wildcats and Tri-Valley Down and get a photo symbolic of the biggest game of the season. What photographer Alyssa Ohlund got was an award-winning photo in the general news photo category of the recent Illinois Press Association statewide contest. It took 2nd place in state of Wildcat seniors Karsen Hansen (22) and Kris Lamaster (25) do a high-five hold as they run out of the woods for the last time.

## Gas prices drop but expected to rise

Might the nine-week run of declining gasoline prices be over?

After a week of local gas prices falling as much as 20 cents in Braidwood, the wholesale price nationally is rising again.

"For the ninth week straight, gas prices have continued to fall, but the streak is at great risk of being broken this week with wholesale gasoline prices having bounced back up some 40 cents per gallon as oil prices have rebounded," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"That means the decline in average prices could wrap up soon, with some price increases possible as early as

this week, especially in areas of the Great Lakes. While the West Coast and some areas of the Rockies may see prices continue to drift lower, I do believe the national average could tick higher this week as the better than expected jobs report last week likely means less demand destruction than anticipated."

Area gas prices varying as much as \$1.05 with the lowest recorded price on Monday being \$3.70 in Bourbonnais and \$4.75 at I-55 Shell on Lorenzo Road. Other Wilmington stations were averaging \$4.35 on Monday.

Joliet area stations were priced at \$3.85/g while in Morris the price was \$4.19/g. Braidwood area stations were

charging \$4.28/g, while in Coal City the price was \$4.38/g average.

Average gasoline prices in Illinois declined 12.8 cents per gallon last week, averaging \$4.26/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 79.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 96.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 14.8 cents in the last week and stands at \$5.27 per gallon.

The cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.47/g while the most expensive was \$5.89/g, a difference of \$2.42/g.

**Symerton Homecoming**  
**August 19-21, 2022**

**Fri, August 19** April Reigns Band @ 7 pm  
**Sat, August 20** Liam Durkin Band @ 7 pm  
**Sun, August 21** Antique Tractor Pull @ noon  
**Pedal Pull—Register @ 2 pm**  
**Pedal Pull starts @ 3 pm**

All day long: Kids activities, Mr. K's Chuckwagon, 50/50 raffle, live music and drinks and food at Symerton Tap and Grill.

Presented by:

**SYMERTON TAP & GRILL**

**Symerton Homecoming 2022**

# 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. - \$15; 2 wks. - \$19;  
 3 wks. - \$22; 4 wks. - \$25  
 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

### SERVICE & REPAIRS

**A Thousand Words Photography**  
 385 N. Second Ave.  
 Coal City  
**Mandy Eaton**  
 815-791-2913

**Mike Collins Roofing.** re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big.

**INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

### STORAGE



**815-530-0200**  
 - No Deposit - Starting at \$50  
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

### TRAILERS

2020 black Interstate enclosed trailer, 16' x 7' x 7', side door and fold down rear ramp door. \$8,000. Call or text 815-999-2185. ca32-35

### WANTED

**WANTED SCRAP METAL**

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

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

### WANTED TO BUY

"Wanted/Wanted" Old cars, trucks or motorcycles. Running or not. Cash buyer. Larry



**SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!**

### GARAGE SALES

#### GARDNER

Estate Sale: 7030 S. Woods Rd., Gardner. Friday, Aug. 19 and Saturday, Aug. 20, 8am-4pm. Misc. hand and power tools, misc. barn items, antiques, housewares, patio set and tons more. cc 33b

#### WILMINGTON

211 S. Washington Street, Wilmington, Friday & Saturday, August 26-27 from 8am-4pm. Household items, clothing, some tools, misc. items. ca33-34

316 North St., Wilmington, Fri., & Sat., August 19-20 from 9am-3pm. Pool supplies, pro bingo cards, Bravo XL & other small kitchen appliances, fashion & Barbie dolls, record albums, women's clothes, shoes, purses. Much more. ca33

909 S. Joliet Street (off of Kahler Road), Wilmington, Thursday and Friday, August 18 & 19 from 8am-4pm. Multi family, good stuff, priced to sell. ca33

#### WILMINGTON

\*Estate, Whole House, Garage Sale\*  
 2025 Lakewood Drive, Wilmington, Thurs., Fri., & Sat. 8/18, 8/19 & 8/20 from 8am-3pm. Furniture, art, jewelry, man-cave & she-shed items, holiday decorations, tins, crocks, glassware, one person's lifetime collection, women's clothing. Discounts this weekend. ck33

Shadow Lakes Annual Flea Market and yard sale Non Residents invited

Labor Day Weekend Sat., Sept. 3 8am-3pm Entrance only Gate 3 or 4a off Novy road. Maps available at gates and pavilion. For info: 815-458-3647. (No entry after 2 p.m.) ch33-35

**CHECK OUT THESE GREAT GARAGE SALES!**

### HELP WANTED

VanDuyne Motel is looking for part-time maintenance man/handy man, working up to 25 hrs/week. Also, looking for part-time housekeeper, working 8-15 hrs/week. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyne Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc30b-37b

Wilmington Currency Exchange looking for a full time employee. Stop in or call for an interview. 815-476-0481. cc32-33

Mechanic needed to maintain quads, tractors and track vehicles. General handyman for farm work, drive tractor, cut grass, helping with dog training. Wilmington area, 40 hours wk/12 months. Call 630-399-4982 before 6pm in the evening. cc33-35

Polk-A-Dot Drive In now hiring day staff. Work while your kids are in school. Stop by for an appointment. Braidwood.

### 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

Like new fern green sofa, 3 box cushions with maple feet, slight camel back. \$500. 815-592-0246. cc32-34

Portable Generac Generator, 6500 watt, 30 amp power, transfer switch kit, 6 circuits. \$750. Lumber, 2 x 12 x 14, twelve boards, \$15 each. 815-513-5249. cc31-34

### 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@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

### 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

### HOMES FOR RENT

354 French Street, Braidwood. 3BR, 1BA, 1 car garage. Large deck, large yard renter will maintain. Refrigerator and stove are 3 yrs old, washer/dryer 6 months old. Renter is to maintain repairs or replace appliances. Available immediately. \$1,400 month. 1st, last & \$2,000 deposit. No pets. 779-225-8283. ch32-35

### HOMES FOR SALE

Gardner-4 BR, 2 full BA, 2 car garage, 10x12 shed, completely remodeled from roof to crawl space. All new inside. Call 779-227-3956 or 815-237-2635. ca 32b-33b

### LOTS FOR SALE

Lot for sale, 712 Sandburg Drive, Manteno, IL. Call 312-316-3866. ca30-33.

### MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: 16' fiber glass canoe; clean rustic pallet wood, great for walls & projects. For Free: Corner fit whirlpool tub, good condition. 815-476-2805. ca33-35

### CHILD CARE PROVIDERS

First United Methodist Early Childhood Preschool Program has open registration for the school year 2022-2023. 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. ck29-33

### DUPLEX FOR RENT

One bedroom townhouse with garage for rent in Diamond. Washer/dryer included. Newer building. One small pet is ok. Call 630-383-8198. cc31-34.

### BOATS

Spacious ranch duplex with 2 car garage and full basement. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, volume ceilings. Quiet Diamond neighborhood with easy access to I55. Large yard and very clean. \$1,850.00 month. 815-823-9202.

### ESTATE SALES

Estate and Pole Barn Sale. 316 S. St. Louis St., Elwood, Sat. & Sun., August 27th & 28th, 9am-4pm. Some household furnishings, small tools, power equipment, and many miscellaneous items - too numerous to list. Some items will be priced, the rest no reasonable offer will be refused. 40 x 60 pole barn jam packed and everything must go, so don't miss out! ck32-34

### APARTMENTS FOR RENT

2BR apt. in Diamond, \$650/mo +utilities, no pets, 815-302-4406. cc 33b-36b

### BOATS

Braidwood, 2 BR, stove and refrigerator, w/d hookup, C/A, garbage included, \$1,000 month plus security, no pets, call 815-474-4407. ca32-35

### BOATS

14 foot Lund fishing boat. 8 hp merc, 2 pedestal seats. \$1,550. Call 815-423-6064 or 779-279-4788. ca30-31

## SPORTS WRITER NEEDED

The Free Press Newspaper seeks applicants to fill sports-writing position covering Braidwood, Coal City and Wilmington. Coverage includes attending high school sporting events, some photography, writing features and sports briefs from stats and page design for our print and digital publications. Part-time position with opportunity to expand.

Send resume to: Eric Fisher, Publisher  
 c/o The Free Press Newspapers  
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481  
 815-476-7966, ext. 209 email: efisher@fpnusa.com

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Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker  
1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>MORRIS</b> \$374,900 Charming American 4 square, 3 BR, 2 BA home. Den, eat-in kit, liv. rm, fam. rm. Horses allowed. Call Betty 815-325-7081. PR455</p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>DIAMOND</b> \$370,000 4 BR, 2.5 BA, 3 car garage, appliances. Stamped patio w/tp, full basement. Great kitchen. Call Candie 815-712-7034. FH2160</p>	<p><b>NEW LISTING</b></p> <p><b>MAZON</b> \$349,900 4 BR, 2 BA home. Outbdings/pastures on 5 acres w/woods &amp; creek. Horses welcome. Shawn GC755</p>	<p><b>COAL CITY</b> \$334,900 Better than new, this 3 BR, 2.5 BA home w/full bsmt is the one you've been waiting for. Lorie Toler 815-715-5959 SB909</p>	<p><b>MORRIS</b> \$299,900 4 BR, 3 BA home with 2.5 car garage on a .31 acre cul-de-sac lot on a quiet street. Call/Text Shawn 815-474-6670. OH104</p>
<p><b>MORRIS</b> \$229,000 2 BR, 2 BA brick, 1/2 duplex, 2 car gar, full part fin basement. Lrg size msw/master. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BL2329</p>	<p><b>GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER</b> (815) 942-9190 SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT C21.COM Source: Midwest Real Estate Database, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 by Grundy County Offices.</p>		<p><b>MORRIS</b> \$219,900 2 BR, 2 BA brick, 1/2 duplex, 2 car gar, full part fin basement. Lrg size msw/master. Call Tami 815-325-0550. BL2331</p>	<p><b>SOLD</b></p> <p><b>COAL CITY</b> \$209,900 3 BR, 1.5 BA brick ranch home on a corner lot in desirable Coal City school district. Lorie/Owen 815-715-5959. SS280</p>
<p><b>MAZON</b> \$155,000 2-unit has newer roof, well maintained. Easy to rent property in a highly visible location just off of Rt. 47. Shawn 474-6670. CM303</p>	<p><b>MAZON</b> \$135,000 2 Story, 3 BR home w/stylish sliding vinyl windows, 2.5 car garage and fenced yard. Call/Text Shawn 815-474-6670. CM507</p>	<p><b>VERONA</b> \$110,000 2 story home in small quiet town. 4 BR, 1.1 BA needs work. Lg rooms/yard. Extra 50x150 lot. Call Della 258-6467. AO432</p>	<p><b>COAL CITY</b> \$39,900 Here is your opportunity to own a great lot! Perfect spot to build in an area of other upscale homes! Theresa Lamb 735-8494. PK62</p>	<p><b>RESIDENTIAL LOTS Including Wooded and Waterfront</b></p>

Local Newspapers are **IMPORTANT** Any Way You Look At It

# 42nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Fisher Family is grateful for the support shown over the past 42 years.

With the Advocate approaching 152 years, the Coal City Courant 121 years and the Braidwood Journal 64 years, we've never been more serious about community journalism. *We're proud we're still connecting businesses with LOCAL readers in print and online.*

Clip a coupon and save now thru August 31, 2022.

<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>Pay only \$4.20</b> for a second week ad 2x4 or smaller</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>SAVE \$42</b> on a 2x5 ad Includes the Braidwood Journal, Coal City Courant and Free Press Advocate</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>42-DAY FREE TRIAL</b> digital subscription with a mailed sub. Get access to all three newspapers online</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>Boost your ad to our digital audience for 42 days Only \$42</b></p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>2nd Month FREE</b> Buy 1 month tile ad at freenewspapers.com</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>\$420</b> for 1/2 page ad in the Braidwood Journal, Coal City Courant and Free Press Advocate</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>
<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>500 FULL COLOR Business Cards for only \$42</b></p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>Only 42¢</b> to add a week to your ad in the classifieds</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>	<p><b>COUPON</b></p> <p><b>\$4.20</b> off a one year print subscription (Will or Grundy county only)</p> <p><b>COUPON</b></p>

Coupons must be redeemed before your ads begin, or printing job is started. Some restrictions may apply.

**HOT DEAL - Full Color Copies 42¢**  
 Wilmington office only

Call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315

111 S. Water Wilmington, IL    THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL    THE COAL CITY COURANT    THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE    271 S. Broadway Coal City, IL

# The benefits to upgrading your home to be energy efficient

Dear EarthTalk: I know that upgrading the energy efficiency of my home will make it less expensive to heat or cool, but will it also raise its market value significantly?



**Questions & Answers About Our Environment**

—J.B.M., St. Louis, MO  
That depends on your definition of "significant!" According to a study published in the Journal of Urban Economics, with every 10 per cent increase in energy efficiency, a home's market value increases by approximately 2.2 per cent.

homes in Maryland sold between 2012 to 2015 had a two to five per cent sales price increase, simply because they were deemed energy efficient.

In another set of studies, the government-backed energy efficiency experts at Energy Star found that their certified

This pattern has been observed across the U.S. A six percent increase was seen in the final price tags of Energy

Star certified homes in Austin-Round Rock, Texas (sold 2009 to 2016), and an eight percent increase was found in select housing markets across Oregon, Idaho and Washington (2015).

Why is this happening? To put it simply, the average home buyer has become savvier in the world of sustainability. In a report by the National Association of Realtors (NAR), it was found that 51 percent of agents interacted with clients that were very interested, or at least somewhat interested, in sustainability.

In a related report by Energy Star, the stats showed that 83 percent of home buyers desired more efficient windows, 81 percent wanted more efficient appliances, and 80 percent wanted more efficient lighting.

Undoubtedly, homeowners have come to understand that energy-efficient upgrades translate into lower energy costs.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average family spends approximately \$2,200 annually on energy bills. Thirty percent of that cost can be removed just like that through energy-efficient home modifications.

That being said, the increase in demand for sustainable homes and home upgrades may also be driven by a sense of personal responsibility.

A sweeping study by

Simon-Kucher & Partners covering 17 countries and 10,000 participants revealed that a significant paradigm shift in purchasing habits was occurring. Eighty-five percent of respondents reported that they had changed their spending habits over the past five years to accommodate a greener lifestyle.

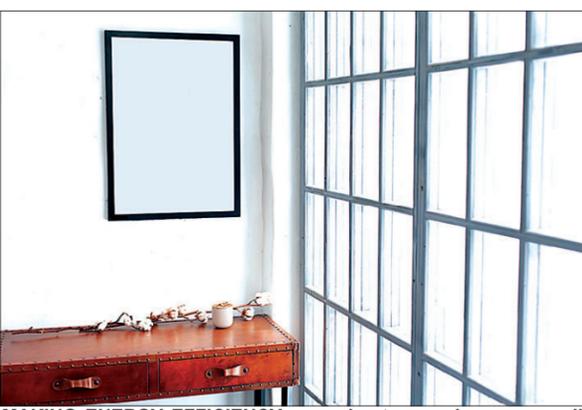
In addition, one-third of the population is willing to spend more for sustainable products or services—as much as 25 percent!

If you're feeling the same inclination, there are many ways to upgrade your home's energy efficiency. Insulating walls is usually where people begin, but sealing air leaks (even the small ones!) with caulking, spray foam and weather stripping can save anywhere from five to 30 percent on energy.

Ducts specifically are known to have leaks that can cause losses of as much as 60 percent of the heated air traveling through them.

Energy efficient light fixtures, windows, doors, skylights, appliances and hot-water heaters are all available for purchase these days, and when used in congruence with a programmable thermostats and smart-device timers, you can save a surprising amount of money in energy savings by the end of the year.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: [question@earth-talk.org](mailto:question@earth-talk.org).



**MAKING ENERGY EFFICIENCY** upgrades to your home now will lower monthly bills moving forward & increase resale value when it's time to sell.

## Class of 1972 seeking whereabouts of classmates

Planners from the Wilmington High School Class of 1972 are seeking information on classmates in order to invite them to a 50th class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Tuffy's Lounge and Patio at 7 p.m.

Does anyone know where the following people are?

John Burks, Mary Ann Calhoun, Carl Favero, John Goodwin, Mary Ann Greer, Mike Hayes, Florence Lamonica, Kathy Lewis, Doris Love, Jane Merrit, Frank Metes, Terry Parsley, Wendell Perry, Ron Richardson, Skip Romines, Dan Root, Bob Rush,

Debbie Smith Golot, Bob Taylor, Don Utke, Roxanne Hawley Dalton.

Please contact committee by Sept. 12th if you are coming: Jim Hankins 815-476-7656, Nancy Sheridan Barbour 815-353-1374 or Peggy Norman Kunz 815-545-0720.

There will not be a ticket price to attend, but a suggested \$15 per person donation will be collected at the reunion to cover expenses. Any amount collected above what is needed will be donated to the WHS Foundation for Excellence.

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815-476-6615

American Standard

## Symerton Homecoming all set for this weekend

STAFF REPORT

SYMERTON — The village of Symerton will host its annual homecoming for three days Aug. 19, 20 and 21 at the town hall and park on Commercial Street.

Children will be entertained by games and activities including bounce houses and kiddie tractor pull on Sunday at 2 p.m.

Symerton Tap and Grill and the Will County Farm Bureau Young Farmers are co-sponsoring a kiddie tractor pull at 2 p.m.

Symerton Tap will be open and serving fare as well

as adult beverages, kicking off the weekend with a Friday night entertainment—the Aprils Reign Band—at 7 p.m.

On Saturday the Liam Durkin Band will perform at 7 p.m. Mr. K's Chuckwagon will also be serving up grub.

On Sunday weigh-ins for an adult tractor pull begin at 9 a.m. The competition will begin at noon.

Be sure to purchase 50/50 raffle tickets as the proceeds will benefit the village park fund.

There is no cost to attend the homecoming. For more information, contact Eli Geiss at 815-592-9987.

## Free mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilmington

Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing free food at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington, on Monday, Aug. 22 at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. (until food runs out) in the church parking lot, rain or shine.

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food (meat, produce and nonperishable items) to people in need.

Participants are asked to

stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org).

## Tommy James and The Shondells coming to Rialto

Tommy James and the Shondells will be at Rialto Square Theatre on Friday, Oct. 28 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, starting at \$45, at Ticketmaster.com

Crystal Blue Persuasion, Crimson & Clover, Mony Mony, I Think We're Alone Now, Draggin' The Line, Hanky Panky, Sweet Cherry Wine, Three Times in Love and Mirage are just a few of the many hits - 23 Gold Records, 9 Platinum albums and over 100 million records sold world-

wide...and 32 Billboard Hot 100 Chart Hits!

Many artists around the world have covered and continue to cover his songs including Prince, Bruce Springsteen, Joan Jett, Billy Idol, Kelly Clarkson, Rem, Dolly Parton, Carlos Santana, Cher, Tom Jones and even The Boston Pops.

Tommy's music can be heard in 55 films, 39 TV shows, and numerous commercials to date.

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### CLUES ACROSS

- Influential Swedish, Belgian clan
- Swiss river
- Nocturnal S. American rodent
- Like coagulated milk
- Lima is its capital
- Lying down
- Jai \_\_, sport
- Egyptian statesman
- Napoleon Dynamite's uncle
- Renovated
- Chadic language
- 18-year period
- Beverage container
- Natural logarithm
- The "mecca" of basketball
- A way to darken
- Mackerels
- Actor Pitt
- Places to buy seafood
- True firs
- Neither
- Fencing sword
- Italian pastas
- Island nation close to the U.S.
- Begets
- Resembles a pouch
- \_\_ student, learns healing
- Sodium
- Indicates position
- The world has one
- Partner to pains
- Photographer
- Chew the fat
- Culture of the British Iron Age
- Weaverbird
- Advice or counsel
- Asian nation
- Brought on board
- German river
- Airborne (abbr.)
- Leaf-footed bug genus

### CLUES DOWN

- Mark left behind
- Cry weakly
- Ancient region in modern Syria
- Farewell
- Blue grass state
- Genus of mosquitoes
- S. Israeli city
- You can get stuck in one
- One who mistrusts others unjustifiably
- First month of ancient Hebrew calendar
- Tigers legend Fielder
- Make more attractive
- Horses
- Slight projection in typefaces
- Male parent
- Jack and Jill are two
- After B
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Missile with about 600-mile range
- Goddesses
- A day kids love
- Oily secretion
- One-tenth of a meter
- A father's male child
- One point east of southeast
- Silk garments
- Cool!
- The color of anger
- Trade profession
- It can get you around
- Mother-of-pearl
- Hurt
- Legendary slugger Hank
- Polio vaccine developer
- Incline from vertical
- Sea creature
- Actress Kate
- Affirmative votes
- Nothing
- Pie \_\_ mode
- Expresses surprise

**Hairagain welcomes a new stylist!**

**Sindy McCormick**

Sindy is a stylist with over 20 years experience. Her dedication and motivation to hair is also a major asset to our salon. She has relocated from Naked Sun in Diamond, IL. She will be working Tuesdays and Fridays and will be offering 10% off any first time service with her. Her first official day at work will be August 9. You can call or text 815-545-1578 to set up your appointment. Let her let you love your...Hairagain.

**Hairagain**  
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# COALER SPORTS

## Coalers poised to make playoffs for 11th straight season

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The football Coalers made it to the playoffs that season but it wasn't easy. They hope this year is a farther playoff push.

The Coalers, who finished with a 6-4 record in third place in the Illinois Central Eight Conference, had their season come to an end in a 36-3 loss to Wheaton Academy that ended up falling in the second round of the Class 4A football playoffs to the eventual champions, Joliet Catholic Academy. Still, Coal City continued their run making the playoffs for the 10th consecutive season. And, considering their schedule and competitive conference, that's a good season for any team.

"Making it to the playoffs is always the goal," said Coal City coach Francis Loughran. "I thought we competed well throughout the season. We had a really tough schedule. The kids competed well and coming off of the spring season, it was nice to get back to kind of normal-ish and we kind of just fell short in the first round against a very good Wheaton Academy team."

The Coalers had trouble scoring on really good teams like Morris and Bishop McNamara, to start the year. But the one thing that did stay consistent was the defense.

"We had some close games there to start the year and offensively, we're a running team. They were able to keep it close for us in a couple of those tight games and luckily, we were able to win some close games and I thought that spoke to the character of the kids being able to grind those out. We kind of evolved and kids got experience. I thought they got better throughout the season which was good to see that improvement and they worked hard this off-season to really get things going early on."

Coal City will be missing some key pieces lost to graduation but will stick to that same defensive standard that the Coalers are accustomed to.

Offensively, they return Braden Reilly at quarterback. Reilly had some growing pains at first but once he got into a groove, he really blossomed. The incoming junior completed 45-of-96 passes for 518 yards with nine touchdowns. He did throw six early-season interceptions. He had a string of four games where he only tossed one interception. This

year, he's back and much more experienced.

"We're excited for him. He's got a year under his belt and it's always good to have a two-year starter at quarterback to lead the offense. He's got a very good arm. Last year, with the team we were fortunate that we could kind of run the ball and control the clock in a number of games so he didn't have to throw. This year, our philosophy doesn't change. Obviously, we want to run the ball but I think Braden has done a lot of work in the off-season to make himself a better passer and it's showing.

"He's getting the ball out and we're moving the ball through the air and on the ground, and he's running the ball really well right now so we're really happy with the progress he's making. On top of that, I think he's done a nice job as a leader. When you're the quarterback, you're kind of looked up to and he's done a nice job as a leader for us."

He'll be backed up by Creide Skubic, who will play a lot of different roles with his versatility.

"He played a lot of different positions at the fresh/soph level and this year he's playing some safety for us. He's going to be playing some backup quarterback and we're excited to have him and have that flexibility."

He will be protected by not the biggest line but like last year, they're fast and agile. The key returner on the line is senior Tyler Hennings.

"He kind of leads our position group there. He converted to offensive line last summer and just really helped us out. This year, he's kind of the leader of that group so he's doing a great job."

Joining him on the line will be another senior Collin Dames, who has improved after seeing some time on the o-line last season.

"He's another one of those guys who has improved providing that leadership on our line for us. We may not be as big as some other schools but I think we've got a good group of guys that seem to really be jelling together right now. They're kind of sorting themselves out as far as whose going to be playing where and it's nice when they're getting off the ball and the athleticism, they can use that to their advantage when you don't have that massive size."

In the backfield, Cason Headley will split repetitions with a couple different backs



**BROKEN UP!**—Coal City's Derek Carlson knocks the ball away from Morris' receiver Myles Johnston during last year's game against Morris. It was one of the pivotal plays in that game. Carlson will be a big part of Coal City's success this year.

but he will be the feature option to play a hybrid-like role. He also plays corner on defense. Headley was the fourth in rushing yards with 209 on 29 carries with two touchdowns. Headley made 11 tackles in eight games. Headley also returned five kicks for 97 yards and seven punts for 76 yards.

"He played some running back and some defensive back last year so we'll be leaning on him even more. He's a good offensive and defensive player. He's got a nose for the ball."

Derek Carlson, another senior, returns at the other defensive back spot. Carlson had 19 tackles with a fumble recovery return for a touchdown. He also returned some kicks and punts, gaining 48 yards on three kick returns with 27 yards on three punts. Loughran said they will try to use his versatility a little better on the offensive side of the ball.

"He was a starter for us at corner last year. He'll be relied on in the secondary as well and he'll be seeing an increase in snaps offensively too."

Defensive tackle Michael Gonzalez also returns for his senior year. He's coming off of a career season where he had

52 tackles with 10 tackles for a loss and two sacks. He will be a big part of their defensive plan.

"He's a good and strong big body in the middle there. Drake Dearth will be opposite to Gonzalez on the line. Dearth is also in his senior year after collecting 26 tackles, five TFLs and two sacks."

"That's going to be huge for us to have both of those guys back at defensive tackle for us."

Braiden Young, another senior returns at tight end and defensive end. Young split time at both spots last year but still managed a tackle with a sack on defense.

Jim Feeney will also be back in a solid secondary. He played corner last season, making 17 tackles. He will mix into the offensive side of the ball this year too.

"We've got some pieces coming back that are going to help us out here and bring those younger guys along."

Joining Headley in the backfield will be Gavin Carpenter. Loughran is really excited about Carpenter with the tools he brings to the team.

"He's going to play line-backer and running back for us. He's a very good player and he knows the game. He's physi-

cal when he plays. He'll also be playing both ways.

Austin Davy adds in to that linebacking core.

"He's another physical kid that is stepping right into a good job this summer."

Tanner Phillips is a guy that play all over the place. He'll play wherever Loughran needs him. He's the type of player that fits the Coal City mold.

"He's played some d-end, some tight end and some linebacker, some fullback--so he fits in nicely with what we're trying to do."

Loughran is happy to have a lot of versatile players who can do a lot of different things. It helps when you have over 100 players in the program.

"We're very fortunate that we have some depth this year. It's unbelievable for a school our size to have 100 kids in the program. On varsity alone, we've got about 47-48 kids so we've got kids that are really competing very well right now and are fighting for reps. I think that's going to make us better overall. We've got a good rotation of guys on the offensive line, defensive line, receivers-wise--it's nice to see with the guys graduating, so many guys are coming up now and trying to fill those roles where we can have different packages of players. The goal is maybe each week someone else steps up and takes advantage of those reps when they get them."

Ultimately, their number one goal is to get back to the playoffs for the 11th straight season.

"It's like every year. We want to make the playoffs and we want to compete each and every week. We feel like our schedule. If we can get through that schedule and make it to the post season, we're going tested pretty well and be very well prepared for the playoffs. Once you get in the playoffs, it's a whole new season and hopefully we can win some games this year."

The Coalers start their season next Friday at Morris. They will host Bishop Mac in week 2 on Sept. 2.

"You try to find that balance. You know your schedule but you're also trying to focus on Week 1 Morris. We're going over there and they return a ton and they're always tough to play over at their place and we're just prepared to go over there and we know we're going to face a really tough team so we're trying to prepare the best we can. We then get Bishop

Mac at home, a perennial solid program. We expect them to come over here and they've got some very nice players as well that they're going to want to run the ball and be physical."

That's all before they take on their long slew of tough conference games featuring Wilmington (9/9), Herscher (9/16), Lisle (9/23), Manteno (Homecoming 9/30), Peotone (10/7), Reed-Custer (10/14) and Streator (10/21) before they'll get another shot at the playoffs which begin on Friday, Oct. 28.

"We're prepared right now and we're telling the kids we're not easing into a schedule. Right out of the gate we've got to get going and we're going to be tested early and we'll see who shakes out where. You look at our conference compared to other ones across the state, top to bottom, we're pretty tough."

"You've got Wilmington whose coming off of a state championship. They're going to be extremely tough. Braidwood coming off their quarterfinal and they return a ton so they're going to be really good. You have Lisle who return some skill players. They have some nice linemen getting some looks at the next level. Peotone is always tough and physical. You've got those four right off the bat and then if you take a look at the other teams, you have Herscher, who they have a new coach but I think they're going to be tough. They're always tough and well coached. Manteno is going to be improved and you've got Streator, they've got some very athletic pieces coming back and they're going to be pretty dangerous. It's going to be really important for us to stay focused each and every week. If you get through our schedule and our conference, you're going to be well prepared for the post season."

Loughran is back for his second year coaching the Coalers and he'll have Jim Looper back at offensive coordinator, Cam Stone back at special teams, Marty Egan and Zach Edgar will run the sophomore team. Mark Masters, Bob McGuinn and Matt Perry will coach the freshmen. Adam Rodriguez will be also an assistant coach at the varsity level. Loughran feels more comfortable in his second year.

"It's good that you can kind of learn from all your experiences--good and bad--you try to keep working with the kids, the coaches and try to build that consistency and

## Lady Warriors pick up wins over Peotone, Hickory Creek, Morris

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City eighth grade softball team came up short in a 16-3 loss to Summit Hill Junior High on Saturday.

The Lady Warriors plated two runs in the first to gain an early 2-0 lead but Summit put up 10 runs in the first two innings to gain a commanding, 10-2 lead.

They would added six in the fourth and Coal City offered little pushback scoring one run in the fifth as Summit held on.

Averie Hodgen took the loss on the mound, giving up nine earned runs on six hits while walking three.

Lily Gerrish pitched 1.2 innings of relief, giving up three earned runs on three hits while walking five.

Alicia Waliczek pitched the final inning, surrendering a run on a hit while walking three.

The offense picked up two hits. Rileigh Eddy had one which drove in on of their runs. She also walked. Reese Symons added the other with a walk and two runs while Ava Hone and Gerish also walked.

### Coal City 11 Hickory Creek 10

The Warriors came back to beat Hickory Creek on Saturday.

After scoring nine runs early on to take a 9-2 advan-

tage, the Warriors were kept off the scoreboard until the sixth. That allowed Hickory Creek to catch up. They scored eight runs to grab a 10-9 advantage.

But the Warriors came back to life and snatched the victory with two runs in the sixth to seal it.

Waliczek pitched the whole game, giving up nine runs on 14 hits while walking four and striking out one to hang on for the win.

Gerish drove in three runs with a hit while Eddy drove in two and Miley Cvitanovich, Lanie Winke and Laynah Pierard also drove in a run. Symons had three hits from the top of the order. Hodgen walked twice while Leah Jensen, Addison Togliatti, Gerish and Winke also drew a walk.

### Coal City 1 Manteno 7

The Warriors were unable to get much of anything going in a loss to Manteno on Saturday.

The Warriors scored a run in the opening frame to take a 1-0 lead but that would be their last run as Manteno would score seven unanswered runs to steal the win.

Coal City did have four hits in the game as Jensen, Eddy, Cvitanovich and Winke had four sharp singles.

Hodgen pitched 1.1 innings on the mound, giving up two earned runs on two hits while walking four in the losing effort.

Waliczek gave up just three hits and walked two in the final 2.2 innings of the game.

### Coal City 1 Reed-Custer 18

The Warriors were unable to keep up with the Lady Panthers in Friday's loss.

Reed-Custer scored in every inning, including a seven-run first inning to grab an early lead.

Coal City's only run came in the bottom of the fourth on a Gerish RBI single.

Unfortunately, that wasn't enough.

Eddy and Jensen had the other two hits while Hodgen, and Togliatti also walked.

Hodgen gave up 14 earned runs on 14 hits while walking four in the loss. Gerish pitched the final 0.1 inning giving up a hit.

### Coal City 13 Morris 12

Coal City scored nine runs in the seventh inning to steal a victory over Morris on Thursday.

Morris gained an 11-1 lead in the first three innings before Coal City would put a three-spot on the board in the fifth to make it 11-4.

They added nine more

runs in the seventh and got no answer from Morris.

Cvitanovich had the big stick with a 3-run double. Eddy also doubled home a pair while Gerish added an RBI double as well.

Jensen, Hodgen, Hone and Pierard also drove in a run.

Gerish and Jensen drew three walks each while Hodgen had two walks. Hone, Waliczek, Togliatti and Kayla Stalter also walked.

Hodgen started the game giving up nine runs on two hits while walking 10 and fanning three.

Waliczek got the win in relief, giving up one earned run on three hits while fanning six and walking one.

### Coal City 17 Peotone 5

The Lady Warriors pounded out 12 hits in a big win over Peotone on Wednesday.

The Warriors started slow but would go on a 16-2 run late in the game to finish off the Blue Devils.

Waliczek got the win on the mound, giving up one earned run on four hits while fanning four and walking four.

Eddy, Gerish (3-for-4) and Hone (1-for-2, 2B) drove in two runs to lead them.

Jensen, Cvitanovich, Waliczek and Jensen also drove in a run while Winke had two hits.

Hodgen added a hit.

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Photo by Ann Gill

COAL CITY'S Caden Tourigny keeps it on the quarterback sweep for a first down during their game with Wilmington on Saturday.

## Miners split levels with Bobcats to start season

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City youth Miners football program split levels with the Bobcats as they won the superlight and light-weight levels while Wilmington captured the JV, and Varsity levels.

The Superlights began the day on a strong note, powering through Wilmington 40-20 behind a strong effort on the ground from Austin Newman.

Newman took the opening kickoff in for a touchdown to put them up a touchdown.

He wasn't done there as he would score two more times on the ground en route to the victory.

Dylan Rich, TJ Wagner and Drake Figge also found the end zone on the ground.

Preston Lissy and Kamden Martino displayed great leadership on defense, leading the Miners to the victory.

The Lightweight Miners followed suit, earning a 19-0 victory over the Bobcats. Easton Horath, John Viano and Ryan Carpenter led the offense, flying down the field into the end zone on long runs all game long.

The Miners corners and outside linebackers John

Viano, Brantley Brooks, Drake Heath, Bainen Durkee, and defensive line Bryson Male helped preserve the shutout swarming to the ball. The special teams play was good as well and there were no turnovers in a great executed game.

The JV Miners fell short in a 19-6 loss to the Bobcats.

Despite the loss, their coaching staff still believes in the potential of the kids.

The Varsity Miners went blow for blow with a tough Bobcats varsity squad and just fell short as they were unable to score.

Defense was the name of the game for Coal City as they forced two fumbles and held the Bobcats off the scoreboard until the fourth and final quarter.

Emmitt Easton led the defense with eight stops while Logan Natyshok picked up seven tackles. Cooper Morris added six while Aiden Scrogam secured five stops.

Brody D'Orazio and Natyshok anchored the offense's ground attack. They were just unable to break through.

The Miners welcome in Sandwich next Sunday for their Homecoming.



Photo by Ann Gill

COAL CITY'S Logan Natyshok wraps up the Wilmington ballcarrier during Saturday's varsity football game.



Photo by Ann Gill

CARRYING THE BALL for the JV Miners during Saturday's game against Wilmington is Luca Chellino.

# Seventh Warriors capture three out of first five games

BY SHAWN LONG  
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City seventh grade baseball team came up short in the second game against Bourbonnais on Saturday.

Bourbonnais hit the scoreboard first with a run in the first to take a 1-0 lead.

The Warriors plated two in the second to take a 2-1 advantage before Bourbonnais finished them off with two runs in the second.

After that, pitching took over, holding both teams scoreless.

Gavin Ziech doubled home a run while Hayden Kennell went 2-for-2 scoring a run.

Talen Vanderwerken and Jack Wren added a hit while Vanderwerken scored a run and Wren walked.

Frankie Ponio began the game on the mound, giving up three earned runs on two hits while fanning three and walking three. He was charged with the loss.

Wyatt Homerding worked two innings of relief, giving up a hit while fanning three and walking two.

**Coal City 12 Bourbonnais 1**

Caden Tourigny went five innings of near shutout baseball on the mound and the offense took care of the rest.

Tourigny went five giving up just one unearned run on two hits while fanning six and walking two.

They scored eight in the first and followed that with

another four in the third to cruise to an easy victory as Bourbonnais offered little pushback.

"Nice win to put yesterday's tough loss behind us," said Coal City seventh grade baseball coach Nate Wills. "Great at bats to start game that helped us jump out to early lead. Tourigny had a solid outing for first time on mound this season. He got ahead in counts and pitched his game."

Dillon Ness (2-for-4, 2B, 2R) had the big stick driving in four runs.

Both Dougie Bedinger (1-for-2, BB, SB, R) and Tourigny (1-for-1, 3 BB, 2 SB, 2R) drove in two runs.

Colten Lynn (2-for-3, SB, R) and Ponio (1-for-3, R) also drove in a run while Homerding also had a hit, walked, stole two bases, and scored two runs.

**Coal City 1 Reed-Custer 6**

The Warriors were unable to keep up with the Reed-Custer Panthers on Friday.

Reed-Custer scored first in the fifth as it well a well pitching game up to that point.

"Well played game by both teams. Game was tied 0-0 after 4 innings. Thought Gagliardo battled hard on the mound and pitched a nice game. We did good job putting ball in play, RC made plays and kept us off bases."

AJ Gagliardo was twirling a gem for the Warriors as he had given up no runs through four innings of work.

He did, however, give up

four runs in the fifth when the Panthers would gain a 4-0 advantage.

They scored another run to advance their lead to 5-0 before the Warriors struck back with a run in the sixth to make it 5-1.

Reed-Custer plated another insurance run and held on for the win.

Gagliardo took the loss, giving up four runs on seven hits while fanning four and walking four.

Jaxxon Duke pitched the final two innings, giving up two runs on three hits with four strikeouts and one walk.

Tourigny had the sac fly that drove in the run. Trevor Walker had their only hit and scored the lone run.

**Coal City 15 Wilmington 0**

The Warriors pounded Wilmington on Thursday.

CCMS hitters erupted taking a 7-0 lead in the first and added eight more runs along the way to complete the blowout.

Ness and Ponio combined for a no-hitter. Ness fanned six and issued four walks through three innings while Ponio fanned two of the final three batters to secure the win.

"Another well played game today by the guys in all aspects of game. Bats came out hot putting up 7 runs in 1st inning. Again, pitchers threw strikes and kept runners off base for most part of game. Defense made plays when needed and loved our aggressiveness on the base paths today."

Bedinger (1-for-2, 2BB, R), Homerding (1-for-2, 4SB, BB, R) and Lynn (0-for-2, BB, R) drove in two runs each.

Walker (1-for-1, 2BB, SB, R) and Kennell (1-for-1) drove in a run while Ness doubled and stole a base with two hits.

**Coal City 24 Peotone 0**

The Warriors erupted for an 11-run fourth to stomp the Blue Devils on Wednesday.

The hits came in bunches and leading the charge were Kory Lovell and Ness who each drove in three runs. Lovell had two hits while Ness doubled.

"Real nice start to the season. Guys had a real nice approach at the plate and hit balls hard in the zone. Bedinger had a great outing on mound. Consistently threw strikes and guys made plays behind him when ball was put in play. Catchers threw out 2 would be base stealers and we also cut a runner down at the plate on a double steal, so the guys executed very nicely on defense today."

Tourigny added a perfect, 3-for-3 day driving in two runs while Wren and Lynn also drove in two runs with two hits.

Homerding also drove in a run with a hit and scored three runs.

Bedinger was nails on the mound, giving up one hit while fanning seven and walking four to complete the four-inning shutout.



Photo by Ann Gill

MINER RUNNING BACK Maddox Meents bolts towards the end zone during a long run in Saturday's game.

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## Military veterans invited to Wilmington vs. CC game

Wilmington High School is extending a special invitation to men and women who have served in a branch of the U.S. military.

A Military Appreciation Night is planned for Friday, Sept. 9 when the Wildcats will host Coal City for the varsity football game.

All military members past or present will get free admission into the game. They also will be recognized prior to the start of the varsity game which is at 7 p.m.

The rivalry game between the 'Cats and Coalers will immediately follow.