



## Side Tracks

your  
express  
route to  
upcoming  
VG events

VGJH BBB @ IESA 7th grade  
Sectional Championship  
game at Champaign St  
Matthew  
1/30 at 6:30 pm

VGJH  
VGH GBB @ Martinsville  
1/31 at 6:00 pm

VGH Frosh BBB @ GRF  
1/31 at 6:00 pm

VGJH VB @ Tuscola  
1/31 at 6:00 pm

VGH BBB @ Oblong  
2/1 at 6:00 pm

VG Devilettes & Jr.  
Devilettes @ Tuscola  
Competition  
2/2 times TBA

VGH Frosh BBB vs Heritage  
tourney 2/2 @ 10 & 11:30 am

VGH GBB @ IHSA Regional  
Tourney 2/4-2/8 time,  
location TBA

VGJH VB vs Shiloh  
2/4 @ 6:00 pm

VGH BBB Vs Tri County  
2/5 @ 6:00 pm

VGH GBB @ IHSA regional  
Tourney at Warrensburg vs  
Maroa-Forsyth  
2/6 at 7:30 pm

VGH Frosh BBB @ Uni High  
2/7 at 6:00 pm

VGH BBB vs Pal-Hut  
2/8 @ 6:00 pm

VGJH VB @ Heritage  
2/8 at 6:00 pm

IDTA Solo Competition  
2/8 times TBA

VGJH VB @ LOVC tourney  
at Tuscola  
2/9 times TBA

VGH BBB vs Arcola  
2/9 @ 12:00 pm

VG Devilettes and Jr.  
Devilettes @ IDTA State  
Finals at Springfield  
2/9 times TBA

VG FCC Family Fun Fest  
2/10 @ 12:00 pm

If you have an upcoming  
event that you would like to  
see featured in Sidetracks,  
email us at [vgnews@mchsi.com](mailto:vgnews@mchsi.com)  
or call us at 832-4201

# Always Teaching, in the Classroom and on the Court

By Tony Hooker  
Staff Writer

Corey White has a plan.

The head basketball coach for the Villa Grove Heritage Hawks has plenty of ideas in mind for his team, for his career, and for his life. I recently had a chance to sit down with Coach White to learn a little more about him and what's on his mind.

You grew up in Newman, correct?

I grew up in Newman. I went to Newman grade school until sixth grade, and then the consolidation happened and I finished up my career at Shiloh. I graduated in 2000.

Then you went to Eastern?

Yes, I went to Eastern Illinois and spent four and a half years down there, going through the education program for Math. While I was down there, I was a student assistant for the men's basketball team under Coach Rick Samuels. I learned a lot of things, doing that!

Family-wise?

I'm married to Shawn and I have two step kids, Austin and Teagan and then two boys of my own, Rylan and Kaden. They're fourth and fifth graders.

Are they ballers?

Yep! <smiles> Rylan's playing fifth grade basketball here in Villa Grove since we don't have a fifth grade team at Heritage. Kaden's been practicing with them, getting some skill work in. He helps them out in practice.

Have you always taught at Heritage?

No, I spent ten years at Shiloh as a math teacher and then a job opened up at Heritage. I was living in Homer, and knew the kids were going to be going there, so I applied



Coach White with his team.

for the position and got it. This is my fifth year, now.

Have you moved from the teaching role into administration?

A little bit. I still teach for five periods out of the day, and then for two periods, I'm a Dean.

Is that something you hope to transition to, down the road?

I'm hoping to transition to something a little bit further down the road, maybe a principal's position. We've gone the last couple of years with a Superintendent/Principal at the high school. Hopefully we'll move toward a full time principal and I'm hoping to maybe take that position if it's available and offered.

I know you were a thousand point scorer in basketball at Shiloh. Did you play other sports?

Yes, I played football, and baseball there at Shiloh in

addition to basketball. I started all three sports from my sophomore year on. I earned all-conference recognition in football and basketball.

Shiloh was part of a co-op then?

Yes, East Central. That actually started when I was a sophomore. It was football and tack only, at that time. Later on, after I graduated they added baseball. The first season, when I was a sophomore, it was just called "the co-op"! <laughs> It was kind of the strangest thing ever. I think I still have a ball cap that has "co-op" on it, with an H and an S on it.

So you're no stranger to these co-ops, then, are you?

I've been involved in co-ops pretty much my entire high school career and my coaching career. My sophomore year of college, I started coaching football, back with East Central. Then, for about six years,

I coached golf and helped out with the baseball team. Then when I made the move, it just happened to be into another co-op situation with Villa Grove Heritage.

What's your favorite sport to play?

Basketball's always been my favorite sport to play. It's always been my passion.

What is your role with the football team?

I'm an assistant coach. I've been working with the linemen the last couple of years. I've worked with receivers and linebackers in the past.

What position did you play?

I started out on the offensive line and then moved to tight end as a senior. Defensively, I started on the line and then moved to linebacker my senior year. That's where I made all-conference, was at linebacker.

Let's talk about your team this year. Off to a really good

start, but as a coach, I'm sure you aren't ever satisfied, right?

I always tell our kids, "You always want to strive to be perfect, even though no one is ever going to be." We're off to a great start. We took third place in the Thanksgiving tournament, even though we were probably the second best team. Then we came back and won the Christmas tournament, here at home, and that was a plus.

I saw you get pretty emotional after the win. Why did it mean so much to you?

I think it was just all the build-up. After 15 years of coaching and all the work we put into it, we wanted to build a program and I think we're on our way to doing that. It was just a culmination of seeing it happen, winning the championship with a group that's really bought in to what we're trying to teach them. It just kind of took over. It's a tough tournament, with 5 games in 3 days, and it just kind of took an emotional toll.

How good can you be this year?

I'm not sure. I don't think we've played our best game yet. It seems like if we're hitting from outside, we're struggling inside, and if we're doing well inside, we're struggling outside. I don't think we've put it all together yet. Once that clicks all at once it could be interesting to see what happens. It's been nice to have balance.

Do you still have your passion for teaching?

Oh yes. I've always enjoyed helping kids out. I think my patience sometimes has been what's most helpful, especially teaching math. I like to try to change things up from year to year to

Cont. pg. 5

# Peering Into The Past



Photos: Left - Engine at Villa Grove Turntable Right: C & El Depot, Villa Grove 1893. Pictures provided by Villa Grove State Bank, celebrating 100 Years.

## "Signs of the Season"

By Jim Balmer



Geese enjoying a crisp winters morning in the semi-frozen waters of the Embarras. Photo by Jim Balmer. To comment on any of the photos featured in Signs of the Season email us at [vgnews@mchsi.com](mailto:vgnews@mchsi.com) or send a letter to Villa Grove News PO Box 20, Villa Grove IL 61956. Comments may be published in future editions of the newspapers.

## It's Time: 2019 Illinois Tax Filing Season

IDOR Continues to Save State Tens of Millions Through Fraud Prevention Efforts

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Department of Revenue ("IDOR") will begin accepting 2018 state individual income tax returns on Monday, January 28, the same date that the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") begins accepting federal individual income tax returns. IDOR is reminding taxpayers that filing tax returns electronically and requesting direct deposit into a checking or savings account is still the fastest, most secure way to receive a refund.

IDOR's continued focus on identity theft and fraud prevention resulted in the prevention of more than \$66 million in refund fraud in

2018. IDOR will continue to work with the Internal Revenue Service and other states to strengthen protections for tax payers from tax fraud and identity theft.

As a part of IDOR's ongoing fraud prevention efforts, taxpayers who receive an identity verification letter may now authenticate electronically through IDOR's free online account management program, MyTax Illinois. In the past, identity authentication required written documentation sent via paper mail, creating a time-consuming process for the taxpayer and IDOR.

MyTax Illinois will begin accepting individual income tax returns on January 28. Taxpayers can file their Forms IL-1040 for free using

MyTax Illinois. Individuals may also utilize MyTax Illinois to make payments, check the status of their Illinois Individual Income Tax refunds using the Where's My Refund? link, and look up their IL-PINs, amounts of any estimated tax payments they have made, and (when necessary) amounts reported on Form 1099-G.

IDOR anticipates direct deposit refunds will be issued approximately four weeks from the time an error-free electronically-filed return is submitted.

For the most up-to-date information, forms, schedules, and instructions for the 2018 tax year, please visit IDOR's website at: [tax.illinois.gov](http://tax.illinois.gov).