

A haircut and a craft beer

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Oscar Luevano provides more than the traditional hair cut at his barber lounge. He offers his clients an experience.

“Our goals are to merge traditional barbershop ambiance to what we like to call a barber lounge. You can come in, get a haircut, watch sports or a movie and simply relax with a drink while you wait,” he said in written comments to the village of Coal City’s Planning and Zoning Board.

Luevano is seeking a conditional use request to serve alcohol in his new barber lounge at 435 W. Division St.

Opened in mid-November, the Coal City location is a full-service barber shop offering a variety of services including hair cuts, beard trims and custom hair graphics.

Luevano opened his first barber lounge in 2017 in the city of Morris. He was recently granted a liquor license to serve beer and wine there, and hopes to do the same at his Coal City location.

Walt Mahaffay, a commissioner on the Planning and Zoning Board, said offering patrons the opportunity to consume an alcoholic beverage has become common practice at many salons.

Luevano simply wants to have the ability to sell beverages—like his specialty craft beer—to clients while they wait for their time in the barber chair.

At the request of the Planning and Zoning Board, Luevano provided a business plan that was reviewed prior to a public hearing on Monday.

According to the plan, a small care area will be located in a separate room from the barber stations and waiting area. Within that space will be a handful of bar stools, television and a refrigerator to keep the beverages cold. A bartender would be on duty during the busiest hours of daily operation and servers BASSET [Beverage Alcohol Sellers and Servers Education and Training] trained.

In response to questions presented

by commissioners, Luevano indicated he would welcome the opportunity for package sales, but it is not an issue if not allowed. He has no current plans to offer video gaming—something that is allowed within businesses that sell and serve alcohol.

The business is located in a C-3 community commercial zoning district that allows barbershops, but not bars.

“This is an untraditional pairing for the businesses considered within the zoning code. However, in order to fit with the available types of licensing, this utilization should be considered as a bar,” Village Administrator Matt Fritz

SEE HAIRCUT, PAGE 2

“OUR GOALS ARE TO MERGE TRADITIONAL BARBERSHOP AMBIANCE TO WHAT WE LIKE TO CALL A BARBER LOUNGE. YOU CAN COME IN, GET A HAIRCUT, WATCH SPORTS OR A MOVIE AND SIMPLY RELAX WITH A DRINK WHILE YOU WAIT.”

OSCAR LUEVANO
OWNER, LUEVANO’S BARBER LOUNGE

Getting the lead out

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The village of Coal City is turning to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency [IEPA] for \$ 4 million in financial assistance to replace hundreds of water service lines containing lead.

The village learned during required testing that several homes possess lead within their water.

Lead is rarely found in the source water, rather it commonly enters tap water through corrosion of plumbing material. Homes built prior to the late 1960’s are more likely to have lead within the pipes and fixtures.

“Over the past few years, the identification and capital required to replace existing lead services, which provide treated water from the water mains to each household, has become a priority,” said Village Administrator Matt Fritz.

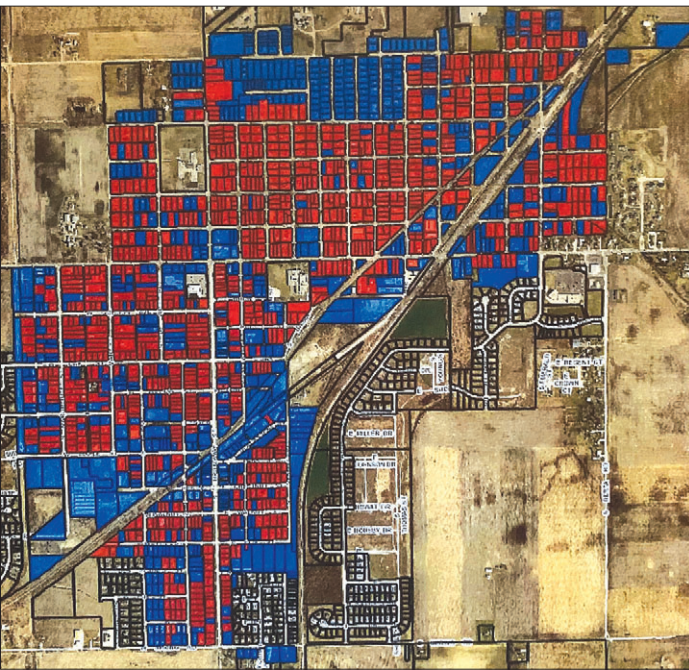
Town officials have been replacing those lines with plastic piping as problems occurred, in compliance with the IEPA.

According to Fritz, there are approximately 1,181 homes estimated to have lead service lines in need of replacement.

The cost to replace those lines is estimated to be millions of dollars. The good news for residents is the village could qualify for financial assistance as the IEPA is attempting to fund as much lead replacement work as possible.

“Due to the work to date by staff and the village engineer, Coal City qualified for up to \$4 million in principal forgiveness

SEE LEAD, PAGE 2



Courtesy image

A MAP OUTLINES areas where lead service lines have been or are in need of replacement within in the village of Coal City. There are approximately 1,181 homes—in red—estimated to have lines in need of replacement. The village will seek financial assistance from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency [IEPA] to complete \$4 million in service line improvements.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY HIGH School students [from left] Kayla Connelly, Mason Natyshok, Stephen Byers and Derek Carlson were selected to participate in the Illinois High School Theatre Festival’s All-State Production of Shrek, The Musical. The All-State Production was held Jan. 12-14 during the annual theatre festival held at the University of Illinois. Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer and theatre director Jack Micetich joined the students following the final show on Saturday. Micetich served as the costume designer for the All-State Production.

Living out their passion for performing

Four Coalers, Director part of All-State Production

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The question is posed in the theme of the 2023 Illinois High School Theatre Festival, “Are You Living or Just Existing?”

For Coal City High School students—Derek Carlson, Kayla Connelly, Stephen Byers and Mason Natyshok—the answer comes in living out their passion for performing as members of the All-State Production, a performance of *Shrek, The Musical*.

As Carlson notes, it’s a program that brings together the state’s best student actors and musicians, a place for those with a common passion for the performing arts.

The local students were among nearly 130 high school

students selected from across the state to participate in the production, 68 of them appearing on stage, 40-plus working behind the scenes and 19 creating the instrumental sound as members of the pit orchestra.

Connelly, a senior, played saxophone in the orchestra. It was an experience she will never forget.

As someone who is on stage in her school’s musicals, performing with a pit orchestra is something that had always interested her. Inspired by classmate Collin Dames, a member of the 2021 All-State orchestra, Connelly audition and landed a spot. Connelly said she would highly recommend the experience to any musician.

The only downfall of being in the pit, is that Connelly and her fellow musicians were unable to see any of the performance.

What most in the audience were unaware of is the orchestra was tucked away in a

room under the stage at the Krannet Center for the Performing Arts where the show was presented last weekend.

The production is the highlight of the annual festival that brings together drama students from across Illinois. The three-day event features workshops, student produced shows and provides college bound juniors and seniors to audition for various college theatre programs.

Coal City had 11 students take part in the festival and they were there to cheer on their peers when they took the stage for the opening performance on Thursday.

The audience reaction to the performances is one of the things Carlson finds most rewarding about the experience. Byers agrees and adds it’s the interactions with audience members after the shows he enjoys the most.

All four agree the best moment in the show features the dragon and a donkey.

Individually, Natyshok welcomed the crowd reaction when his character wearing an oversized head runs into a wall and falls down after greeting Shrek and Donkey on their arrival to the town of Duloc.

For Carlson it was his opening number directing the fairytale creatures to their assigned spots in the bog in his role as Captain of the Guard, and as for Byers it was serving as a tap captain and creating and performing a featured solo as a tap dancing rat.

The All-State experience for the students is unique in that it comes together over the course of five rehearsals—each three day weekend from August to December. The entire production coming together for the three days leading up to the opening performance.

SEE ALL-STATE, PAGE 2





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Final payment made on 2016 road improvements

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The final payment on a roadway improvement project completed in 2016 is set to be paid out by the village of Coal City.

A \$9,938.04 check is being cut to the state of Illinois, funds making the village's 20% contribution for the resurfacing of South Broadway from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail crossing to Spring Road.

The majority of the funding for the work came from the Will County Governmental League's Transportation Improvement Plan [TIP], federal funds distributed to municipalities to fund various road improvements.

The funds came to the village to assist

in improving the road that sustained damage as a result of the 2015 tornado, but was not eligible for Federal Highway Authority or Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance.

The entire project cost was paid out, however the village's total contribution had not been collected.

The village recently received an invoice from the state for its final contribution. Upon review it was determined the amount was accurate since the first payment was remitted to the state in February 2018.

In other matters from the Jan. 11 meeting:

• The Board approved a final payment of \$19,292.45 to D Construction for work related to the 2022 street and alley improvements. The last payment

includes \$13,509.40 from the town's motor fuel tax fund and \$5,783.05 from local funds.

• The mayor announced the appointment of Maria Lewis as chairperson of the village's Planning and Zoning Board. Lewis is a long-time member of the board and replaces Georgette Vota who stepped down upon her election to the Grundy County Board.

• Trustees approved purchase orders totaling \$114,491.25. Included in the payments were \$54,915 to Chamlin & Associates for engineering work on multiple projects, \$5,066.37 in dues to the Will County Governmental League and \$1,909 in tech support for the village hall and police department.

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 25 at Village Hall.

CCIS to host bingo

The public is invited to participate in Coal City Intermediate School's community bingo scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 22 from 1-4 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Bingo cards will be sold for 25¢ each or five for \$1. The event is open to all ages. Hot chocolate for all at no charge. Water, chips and candy will be available for purchase.

All proceeds from the annual winter event will support the school's Muffins with Me and Donuts with Grownups events slated for this spring.

Local students on NIU dean's list

Northern Illinois University announces its fall 2022 Dean's List students. To earn this distinction, students must meet a minimum semester grade point average of 3.5 on a 4.0 scale in the College of Engineering and Engineering Technology or a minimum of 3.75 on a 4.0 scale in the colleges of Business, Education, Health and Human Sciences, Liberal Arts and Sciences, and Visual and Performing Arts.

Local students on the list are Alex Gernenz and Zoe Noonan, of Mazon and Nicole Neumann, of Coal City.

Haircut

said.

However, bars can be established in the zoning district with a conditional use and on Monday, Luevano got one step closer to acquiring the necessary approvals needed to sell his craft beer in Coal City.

Planning and Zoning commissioners unanimously approved—with commissioners Jill Breneman and Amanda Burns absent—forwarding the matter to the Village Board with a positive recommendation.

Village trustees are expected to review and take action on Luevano's request when they meet Wednesday, Jan. 25.

"We hope that we can continue to provide Coal City/Grundy County with an awesome family-friendly experience and for those adults who had a long day at work or those who want to come and just relax, something to also look forward to in this great community," Luevano said.

Lead

related to a lead service line replacement project," Fritz said.

In order to obtain funding, the village will need to apply for a low interest IEPA loan that comes with the potential for 100% principal forgiveness.

"Much like the borrowing related to the water treatment plant expansion project, the village must analyze the cost of the capital project and determine the required payment should the IEPA not provide the anticipated principal forgiveness. However, awarding the contract for lead service line replacement will not occur until the commitment of the IEPA to forgive the loan has been determined," Fritz said.

The state agency is looking for the village to submit a project and to facilitate that the town engineer—Chamlin & Associates—had put forth a contract that would allow them to proceed in designing the bid package, a requirement to qualifying for the IEPA

Stroner files for property variance

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 6th day of February, 2023, at 7 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: request for a solar panel installation to be in a singular, concurrent "L" shape that follows the shape of the roof on the street side of the roof.

At the following address: 1080 E. North St. Coal City.

Legal description of property: Marieville Add. Eileen LT4 & W 1/2 LT5, Blk 2 Sec 35-33-8

Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Sarah Stroner

Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.

Persons may appear in person or by agent.

Dated this 13th day of January 2023.
Published in the Coal City Courant on January 18, 2023.

Attorney Black files Pilch estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2023 PR 1

In the Matter of the Estate of ALBERT J. PILCH, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Albert J. Pilch. Letters of office as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Laura Holman, 24 Lakewood Court, Morris, Illinois 60450 and Denise Hauge, 849 E. North St., Morris, IL 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

LAURA HOLMAN
DENISE HAUGE
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS

Frank J. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 11, 18 and 25, 2023.

EM Lash Studio 844 files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name Publication Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 19, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as EM Lash Studio 844, located at 333 E. US Route 6, Morris, IL 60450.

Dated this 19th day of December, A.D. 2022.

Kay T. Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 4, 11, and 18, 2023.

Attorney Black files Younger estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2023 PR 2

In the Matter of the Estate of ELMO RAY YOUNGER, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Elmo Ray Younger. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Raymader Younger, 220 W. Spring Rd., Coal City, Illinois 60416, whose attorney is FRANK BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

RAYMADER YOUNGER
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR

Frank J. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Jan. 18, 25 and Feb. 1, 2023.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for Jan. 16 are Melody Leman and Brent Stark.

Courtesy photos



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY Students of the Week for Jan. 16 in row one are (from left) are: Zayleigh Becker, Vivian Dunbar, Madilyn Goodwin, Kensley Schomig and Darcy VanDuynne. Harper Knezetic starts off row two along with Layla Olson, Anila Bakii, Abel Hoffmeyer, Conner Lynn and Bentlee Mathena. Not pictured is Nolan Frederiksen.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center Students of the Week for Jan. 16 in row one are (from left) are Front Row-Landyn Matteson, Hudson Mason, Julianna Krawcewic, Tyler Comer, Jack Ekstrom and Braylee Newman. Standing in row two are Maci Reddington, Michael Pogliano, Evelyn Oller, Aaliyah Sennet, Cole Pasteris, Christopher Mireles and Kaden Rhodes.

All-State

formance.

All four students said the process takes discipline and dedication, and they learned a lot about themselves.

"You have to be accountable for yourself," Connelly said.

"You have to be patient," Byers added. And, "you can only control yourself," Carlson chimed in.

Joining the students in the All-State Production was Coal City Theatre Department

director Jack Micetich, who served as the production's costume designer.

This was his first time as a member of the production staff and his efforts resulted in hundreds of custom costume pieces created by a team of local seamstresses and a staff of four student costumers working alongside him.

The pieces created admired by audience members who commented on the colors, details and exemplary craftsmanship and vision that went into each individual item.

For all involved, the All-State experience provided an opportunity to learn something new, meet new people and make connections.

"We became a family," Natyshok said.

Having this experience with his students was a special one for Micetich who shared

how proud he is of each one of them for their handwork and dedication, and for serving as role models not only for their peers at home, but those they worked with through the All-State Production.

Everyone involved agreed it's an experience they would recommend to anyone who

enjoys performing.

"You have to be willing to work hard, you have to be willing to put in 100% and you have to love it and be dedicated to the process," Natyshok said.

After all, it's the state tournament for state performers and pit musicians.

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The Coal City Courant

USPS No. 120-060

Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by

G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC.,
271 S. Broadway St.
Coal City, IL 60416

Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to:
Free Press Newspapers; P.O. Box 327;
Wilmington, IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

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

Advertising and Business Offices:

• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481
(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002
• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

More calls for Coal City Police

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The number of calls for help from Coal City police increased for 2022 so it's a good thing the department has new officers patrolling the streets.

Three patrolmen were hired by the village in 2022, a move that brought the police department's roster back to full force.

The department lost 15% of its officers in the first month of the year with some transferring to other departments. But prior to the end of 2022, the department was back to having 14 certified officers.

Information shared this month with the Village Board shows total officer activity for the year was 6,471 calls, an increase of 8% from the prior year.

Nearly 34% of those calls were dispatched meaning 4,286 calls were officer initiated, an increase of 18% from 2021.

June was the busiest

month with total officer activity logged at 676 calls—222 calls dispatched and 454 officer initiated. Rounding out the top five busiest months were October, September, August and May, respectively.

The month of October had the most dispatched calls—234—followed by June, May, August and September.

The slowest month for dispatched calls was February. January had the lowest number of officer initiated calls at 192.

The total call volume last year resulted in 102 criminal charges, down six from the prior year.

Patrol officers made 1,643 traffic stops last year, handing out 374 citations, up from the 319 reported in 2021.



The report indicates veteran patrol officer Kevin Jones, once again recorded the highest officer activity in 2022 with 1,064 calls—66% being self-initiated. He also continues to lead the department in traffic stops with 597. Jones' work resulted in 151 traffic citations and 24 criminal charges.

Brandon Larson, who joined the department in May, ended the year with the second highest number of calls at 827—651 self-initiated and 278 dispatched.

Patrol officer Casey Roth had the second highest number of self initiated calls at 656.

Overall, officers made five driving under the influence arrests, handled 178 ordinance violations, issued 13 ordinance citations, responded to 78 traffic crashes and filed 2,464

reports.

The department was led by Police Chief Chris Harseim, who marked his first full year in the post in July. In 2021, the village was served by sergeants Tom Logan and Jason Clark, school resource officers Mike Imhof and Dave Moran, administrative assistant Bonnie Wiczorek, and patrol officers Jones, Dave Kashner, Roth, Nick Mazzone, Josh Nugent, Larson, Connor Goron and Koltton Stockdell, as well as Kady Sassenger and Brian Putz who left the department last January. The roster of officers also includes Matt Dillon and five part-time officers who handled a total of 20 calls last year.

The department's annual report, a comprehensive document that includes uniform crime statistics, training hours, and a run down of the department's accomplishments and goals for the coming year is traditionally presented to the Village Board for its review in late February or March.

Crime fighting unit seizes more than 80,900 grams of drugs, 10 vehicles

STAFF REPORT

The Grundy County ProActive Unit has seized over \$21,800 and more than 80,900 grams of narcotics and controlled substances over the past 21 months.

Led by the Grundy County Sheriff's Department, the specialized law enforcement unit has made 241 arrests including 82 on warrants, 37 misdemeanor and 122 felony. Officers have also seized 14 weapons and 10 vehicles since the unit was activated in March 2021.

The data presented comes from the unit's most recent activity report and shared by Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim with members of the Coal City Village Board. The village has supported the unit since it formed.

The unit was conceived by Sheriff Ken Briley on the concept of working cooperatively to combat the multi-jurisdictional trafficking of illegal narcotics, controlled substances, dangerous drugs, guns, illegal street gang activity and other crimes.

The unit has seized more than 75,200 grams of cannabis, 1,677.2 grams of methamphetamine and 1,329 grams of heroin.

In reviewing the data, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday questioned an increase in cocaine seizures.

"Meth and crack are back," Harseim said.

Assigned to the unit are six Grundy County officers and officers from Channahon, Braidwood, Morris and Seneca police departments. Grundy County Chief Deputy Eric Werden oversees its operations.

Immediate repairs needed at sanitary treatment plant

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Few people think about what happens after the dish water drains from the sink or the toilet flushes, but it's a complex system that turns waste into cleaned water with operational cost in the millions of dollars annually.

Coal City's sanitary treatment plant has been undergoing a modernization focused on its Huber Room, specifically the replacement of screening mechanisms and replacing variable speed blowers with more efficient equipment to provide for proper oxygenation within the aerobic digesters.

As explained by the village administrator, water that's been cleaned by aerobic digestion flows over the top of outdoor clarifiers before being discharged into the local drainage ditch.

"This portion of the system has a large arm that skims along the top of the surface ensuring no growth of bacteria occurs on the surface," said Matt Fritz.

This equipment was not part of the modernization project, but needs to be replaced.

"Despite the efforts of operators to utilize replacement motors and parts, this mechanism must be replaced in total," Fritz told village trustees last week.

It's an unbudgeted repair that can't wait until a new budget year begins in May.

Quotes obtained by the village ranged from \$79,000 to \$102,400, with one more slated to be received.

However, given the immediate need to make the repairs, the Village Board authorized the expenditure up to \$79,000 for the replacement equipment and related labor costs.

So where will the funding come from, Mayor Terry Halliday asked?

This expenditure, Fritz said, will come from reserves associated with the \$2.3 million sanitary treatment plant modernization bond that was secured through the Bank of Pontiac.

University of Iowa highlights work of Coal City student

IOWA CITY—As students grab coffee on the way to class and as Iowa citizens commute to work, they may run into a familiar face on—or above—the sidewalks as street banners in downtown Iowa City are now highlighting the work of 70 University of Iowa undergraduates, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers and scholars.

Preston Johnson, an undergraduate student from Coal City, is one of the students whose research is being highlighted. Johnson's research appraises unseen cost of mental illness.

"Every day, these students and scholars pursue research and creative activities that not only prepare them for their future careers but also aim to improve the future for all of us," said Marty Scholtz, vice president for research. "They have applied their knowledge and skills to achieve great things in the classroom and beyond."

Johnson is currently pursuing a bachelor of science degree in neuroscience with a minor in theatre arts and a certificate in clinical and translational science.

The overall goal of his research, he said, is to better understand the development of serious mental illness and what we can do to better predict functional outcomes.



Courtesy photo

PRESTON JOHNSON, an undergraduate student at the University of Iowa, is featured in the college's Dare to Discover campaign.

"A lot of previous work on serious mental illness has focused on treating pronounced clinical symptoms such as hallucinations and delusions, but these

illnesses still have detrimental effects to one's livelihood even if clinical symptoms are controlled. In our lab, we study the impact of other important factors on disability in people with serious mental illness, including informational processing skills, social cognition, and motivation," Johnson said.

"By better understanding how serious mental illness extends beyond clinical symptoms, we can gain a better understanding of the underlying causes of illness and the factors that contribute to daily function, which can guide development of effective intervention strategies," he added.

"Preston is a great researcher and great human, aside from being someone who vastly understates himself. He helped to get this lab going. He was the first member of the lab before any graduate students or postdocs. He loves what he does, and he goes beyond the lab," said Melinda Licht, program coordinator, Iowa Center for Research by Undergraduates.

Johnson, the son of Travis and Lori Johnson, will graduate in May. He plans to continue his education in an MD/PhD program to become a physician-scientist to one day run his own lab while treating patients.

Lorenz named to dean's list

Samantha Lorenz, of Coal City, has been named to the Knox College dean's list of distinguished students for the 2022 fall term. To be named to the dean's list, a student must have earned at least 2.5 credits in the term, with a grade point average of 3.6 or better on a 4.0 scale.

Post 1336 continues holiday tradition

St. Juvin Post 1336 Veterans of Foreign Wars visited with veterans in assisted living, skilled care and memory care facilities in Wilmington, Dwight and Morris with its Blankets for Vets program.

Since 2013, when the first blankets were distributed to Post members World War I vet Bill Finn, Korean War vet Sheridan Bailey and Vietnam vet Gary Simons as a trial to see if the personalized tapestry throws with branch of service logo would be a good replacement for the

usual monetary gifts or gift packages presented to vets, hundreds have been handed out to recognize the military service of area vets.

The program was conceived by Kathy Brown, the wife of former post commander Charlie Brown. The gift proved to be well received by veterans.

While the bulk of the throws are presented during the Christmas season, the program spans the entire year. Each blanket has a custom label that reads "The

members of St. Juvin Post 1336 veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States present this throw to you as a symbol of your service to a grateful nation"

This year 32 blankets were awarded at Christmas and an additional four during the year for a total of 36 raising the nearly decade long program to almost 600 representing about \$33,000 raised by the Post's Buddy Poppy events, raffles and generous donations from special benefactor Tom Fulton and the entire community.

UW Oshkosh fall deans list

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh officials have released the names of students who qualified for the dean's list and honor roll in fall 2022 across its three campuses.

The term grade-point average (GPA) requirement for University Honor Roll is 3.3; the term GPA requirement for Dean's List is 3.75 out of a possible 4.0.

Among those students named is Mickey McDowell, of Coal City.

Scholarships to assist education, journalism majors with cost of college

In honor of Char and Mike Farrell, the Community Foundation of Grundy County is now offering two \$10,000 scholarships to area students attending a college.

Both Char and Mike passed away in recent years. Char was a life-long teacher and Mike was a career journalist, mainly with the Morris Daily Herald. Mike was selected to the foundation's Board of Trustees in 2017 where he was an invaluable member, being able to recall numerous historical facts from his journalistic mind.

As part of their estate, Mike and Char gifted a large amount to the Community Foundation of Grundy County to use at its discretion.

To honor both of them, the foundation has created two large endowed scholarships to benefit Grundy County residents who are juniors and seniors in college in order to help them complete their degree.

One \$10,000 scholarship will go to an education major and one \$10,000 scholarship will go to a student majoring in journalism, communications or a similar degree. Because this fund is endowed, these two \$10,000 scholarships will be available annually, forever.

To apply visit the Community Foundation of Grundy County website at cfgrundy.com.

COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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

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

Curbside Pick Up - Monday thru Thursday 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Friday 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday 9 a.m.-4 p.m. For more information on the procedures for curbside pick up go to our website at www.ccpld.org.

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-10 a.m.

Winter Read Challenge. Calling CCPLD library cardholders of all ages to "Cozy up With CCPLD" this winter. From Jan. 16 thru Feb. 20 log your reading and complete activities through the Beanstack app. Don't want to use the app? Pick up a paper copy at the front desk in the Library. Get prizes for completing the challenge and enter to win a grand prize. Keep going for more chances to win.

Thursday, Jan. 19- Terrific Tots, 10 a.m.

CCPLD Policy meeting, 10 a.m.

We Remember, 1 p.m.

Jr. Artists, 3:30 p.m.

Terrific Tots, 6 p.m.

Cooking demo with Heather Shouse, pizza, 6 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 20- Play Days, 10 a.m.

Bingo, 1 p.m.

Fun Fridays, 3 p.m.

Dungeons & Dragons Game Night, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 21- Teen Artists, 1 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 23- Makerspace Cart

Mondays, All Day

Terrific Tots, 10 a.m.

Preschool Storytime, 11 a.m.

Eager Readers Homeschool Edition, 1 p.m.

Eager Readers, 4 p.m.

Family Lapsit, 6 p.m.

Preschool Storytime, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 24- Happy Scrappers, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mini Artists Hot Cocoa Painting, 6 p.m.

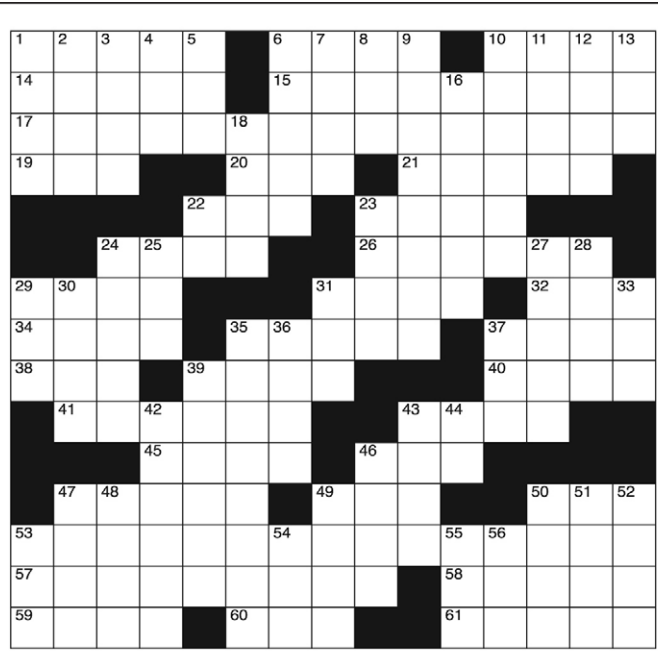
Wednesday, Jan. 25- Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Family Lapsit, 10 a.m.

Preschool Storytime, 10 a.m.

Fit 4 Life, 3:30 p.m.

Teen Game Night, 5 p.m.



CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Not invited | 35. Kin groups |
| 6. Whale ship captain | 37. Philippine Island |
| 10. One point south of southwest | 38. Contrary to |
| 14. Small cavity in a rock | 39. Bluish-gray fur |
| 15. Recidivists | 40. Comprehend the written word |
| 17. City of Angels hoopster | 41. Natural depressions |
| 19. A way to mark with one's signature | 43. Felines |
| 20. OJ trial judge | 45. Breathe noisily |
| 21. Rice cooked in broth | 46. Taxi |
| 22. One point east of due south | 47. Pancake made from buckwheat flour |
| 23. One point east of southeast | 49. Swiss river |
| 24. Complements an entree | 50. Foot (Latin) |
| 26. Grouped by twos | 53. Have surgery |
| 29. Disfigure | 57. Formal withdrawal |
| 31. Woods | 58. Monetary units of Peru |
| 32. Political action committee | 59. Greek war god |
| 34. Longer of 2 bones in the forearm | 60. 2,000 lbs. |

CLUES DOWN

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 1. Green and yellow citrus fruit | 30. Team |
| 2. A bright color | 31. Paddle |
| 3. Thicket | 33. Partly digested food |
| 4. Journalist Tarbell | 35. Most cagey |
| 5. A place to work or relax | 36. Shoppers make one |
| 6. Sharp mountain ridge | 37. Cathode-ray tube |
| 7. Helicopter | 39. Food supplies |
| 8. Mimic | 42. Backbones |
| 9. Suggests | 43. Concern |
| 10. More musty | 44. Blood group |
| 11. Large, flightless rail | 46. Broadway songwriter Sammy |
| 12. Make beer | 47. Dutch colonist |
| 13. Soviet Socialist Republic | 48. Full-grown pike fish |
| 16. People who account for you | 49. Deity of a monotheistic cult |
| 18. Taunt | 50. Type of bread |
| 22. South Dakota | 51. S. Nigerian people |
| 23. Cover the entirety of | 52. Scottish tax |
| 24. Kids' favorite visitor | 53. Young women's association |
| 25. A way to save for retirement | 54. Brazilian city |
| 27. Fencing swords | 55. Hide of a young animal |
| 28. C. China mountain range | 56. Midway between north and northeast |
| 29. Type of sandwich | |

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.

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lish these remarks the newspaper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic.

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Three questions

SHADOW LAKES—Here are three questions to answer. We use 80% fossil fuel to power our economy. How long will it take you to achieve 80% with windmills and solar panels? Next question. How long will it take to get the CO2 levels to their requirements? Question three. What happened if the CO2 levels ever get too low? Always Margot Lane.

The double standard

WILMINGTON—Show her the money! On two separate occasions in 2022 co-host of 'The View', Whoopi Goldberg, apologized for controversial comments relating to race, Jewish people, and The Holocaust. Her first violation in February brought a two week [slap-of-the-wrist] suspension from 'The View', and her December offense for similar remarks merely brought clap-backs and backlash. For her second inappropriate comments, Ms. Goldberg backpedaled by sharing, impart, this apology: "I believe that the Holocaust was about race, and I am still as sorry as I was then that I upset, hurt and angered people." "My sincere apologies again, especially to everyone who this was a fresh rehash of the subject, I promise it was not." Because of modern-day's scrutiny surrounding anti-Semitism, many who've committed lesser iniquities than Ms. Goldberg have had to face termination repercussions. But the privileged and elitist luminary, Ms. Goldberg, will merely be enabled even more empowerment because of the double-standard entitlement inherent to the absolute powered. Nevertheless, the gossip circulating around the studio suggests that if the production company wanted to negotiate her show's departure, they should begin proceedings by depositing the guaranteed summed-settlement stipulated by their contract into her nouveau riche bank account. And, now that the perfect opportunity has arisen in showing Whoopi 'The View' exit-door isn't it time to "show her the money!"

Inability to govern

CHANNAHON—The new Republican House majority is a collection of election deniers, QAnon conspiracists, and political arsonists hell-bent on gaining power at the expense of our democracy. They'll be in control of the House of Representatives for the next two years and have already shown an inability to govern. They couldn't even elect House Speaker Kevin McCarthy without historic chaos. We should all be concerned about their far-right extremist agenda. Already on the chopping block? Our freedom to vote and our right to an abortion. Rather than focusing on kitchen table issues, these MAGA extremists are pledging to focus on punishing anyone who tried to hold them accountable for their attacks on our democracy, including members and staff of the January 6th Select Committee. It's up to us to resist this MAGA House Majority to protect our democracy and our freedoms. We must call out their lies and combat their far-right agenda starting now.

Banning gas stoves

DIAMOND—Democrats have plans to ban gas stoves. Can you believe it? What next?

Close but wrong

WILMINGTON—Not to nitpick Eddie but JFK was The New Frontier. LBJ was the Great Society as usual you were so close and yet so wrong.

On the move

COAL CITY—Bits and Bites is coming soon. Moving to a place near you soon. See you there. Be watching for us. Mr. Coffee, aka Mic.

Classified documents

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. I am curious as to why Biden's classified documents which were discovered this last week are different than Trump's? The American people, if you do not realize it, are losing freedoms by the day. The Democrats are not the Democrats that I grew up with. They are obsessed with Socialism/Communism and this country is becoming very Communist.

Alarmed and concerned

DIAMOND—Prominent Democrat leaders in congress have presented a 28-page document to the Biden White House that demands President Biden to use "executive action" and Department of Justice too. 1) Crack down on conservative Christians especially churches and ministries. 2) Remove Christians from public office. 3) Deny free speech and liberty to Christians. 4) Remove "In God We Trust" from U.S. currency. 5) Fully fund comprehensive sex education. Encouraging children as young as elementary and middle school to undergo gender transitions. I am alarmed and concerned about Democrat leaders in congress denying Christians their God given rights in the constitution but give those rights to encourage sex transition information to elementary and middle school children. Wake up America. Speak up America. Vote with well informed ballot decisions. Petition your representatives with your grievances. Sharon

Almost too late

BRAIDWOOD—It has been exactly two months since the mid term elections and I am still trying to come to grips with the complete lack of intelligence and the ultimate stupidity of most American voters. In particular, the voters of Illinois, especially those registered as Democrats. How else can you explain the re-election of Pritzker, a man who seems to think

criminals should walk free, (the Safe-T Act) which he vows to push through regardless of what the courts say. The passage of Amendment One, which has absolutely nothing to do with workers rights. If you had done your homework you would have known what this is about, but apparently most of you did not have time to do any research. Too bad, good luck with your higher property taxes down the road. And speaking of property taxes and taxes in general, Illinois has the highest overall taxes in the nation. The second highest property tax and gas tax, which again is going up thanks to this clown in Springfield and his Democrat-majority legislature. Maybe you re-elected this clown because you favor higher tax, woke ideology, gender affirmation and the destruction of family and Christian values. This state government and all democrat states are trying to rewrite history and to push the notion that all whites are racists. Maybe you have no guts to stand up for moral values because you are afraid of cancel culture, another Democrat ideology created by the current clown government in Washington. The problem, as I see it, is that most of you focused on one thing: Women's rights and abortion. If that is all you based your vote on, then I am truly sad for your lack of intelligence, because this state and this nation is going to hell right before our eyes. And you, the Democrat, is largely to blame. Oh I'm sorry, have I offended you? Well, your ignorance offends me. Your lack of spine offends me. I'm not letting the Republican voter off easy either. You also seem to believe that just because you voted republican, that everything would work out for you in this election. Maybe you should get a little more involved in your community and speak out about this travesty of state and Federal government and demand change. We are headed down a path of destruction to our way of life as we have been accustomed to. Uncontrolled inflation, open borders with Millions of illegals pouring into our country along with enough drugs to kill every single person on this county. But you don't care as long as you have to right to abortion. God forbid you stand up against this travesty. Wake up America, it's already almost too late. In the words of Simon and Garfunkel " The words of the prophets are written on the subway walls"

Blah, blah, blah

BRACEVILLE—Since when did the Coal City newspaper become a political sound off forum? I'm kinda sick of politics. Whatever happens. I hear dogs barking all night long at my neighbors. I'm sick of my neighbors. I'm sick of the people across the street. Politics is getting really old. Can't we find something else to talk about? How about the world is such a nice place to live. Blah, blah, blah.

Election coming

BRAIDWOOD—You sure can tell there is a local election coming up in Braidwood. If you saw the January 10 city council meeting, then you surely noted the emphasis placed on the Engineer's report and a letter written by a local police officer. Both sang the praises of the city council as if it was the best thing since slice bread. Of course both owe their jobs to the present administration. Maybe that should have been mentioned. I guess the council and administrator figured it looks better to be lauded by chosen employees than to pat their own backs, although they've been known to do that also.

Not all departments

BRAIDWOOD—I couldn't believe my ears when I heard the city administrator say, at a recent Braidwood city council meeting, that if anyone would have told him or Mr. Money they needed new equipment he would have been interested in helping out. Mr. Smith has been telling this city council, in public, that his department needs new trucks and other equipment for the past four years. Another example of the city administrator's refusal to work on behalf of all city departments.

Post the bills/payroll

BRAIDWOOD—Why does the city of Braidwood not make their council meeting minutes and bills/payroll lists available to the public on the city's website? Maybe the city clerk, city administrator or the finance commissioner who run the city's Facebook page and website can answer this question publicly. They obviously know how to post their agendas on their website so there is no excuse for not knowing how to do it. Other government bodies in town and surrounding communities do it, why can't they? Residents should not have to come into city hall, show up at a meeting, file a FOIA or join an emailing list just to access documents which should be readily available. The Illinois Open Meetings Act requires all public bodies that have a website that is maintained by its full-time staff must post on its website the minutes of a regular open meeting of its governing body within 10 days of approval. Minutes must remain posted there for at least 60 days after their initial posting. Why is the city of Braidwood not complying with this law and being transparent with their residents?

Self-serving politicians

BRAIDWOOD—I find it ironic the Democratic Party of this state decided to give themselves a raise after the mid term elections. My opinion, these politicians are self serving and completely out of touch with the taxpayers. This pay raise should have been voted on by the over taxed taxpayers in this state.



Somehow these politicians have conveniently forgotten that we do not work for them. Beats me why 142,000+ people left this state last year. Congratulations to those who voted these people into office.

Our Roman Emperor

SHADOW LAKES—Here is the State of Illinois. With inflation going up and the threat of a recession and layoffs our beloved governor, stands there like a Roman Emperor, throwing coins to the poor. He signs a bill of \$1.7 billion, which includes raises for our hard-working legislators.

Always, Margot Lane

Trip to the border

SHADOW LAKES—China Joe's trip to the border, quote from the Wizard of Oz, "Nothing to see here folks."

Always, Margot Lane

Man who served

BRAIDWOOD—At the last Braidwood city council meeting Ms. Dixon appeared and asked that her father be honored by the city by having a street named after him. I wholeheartedly agree. Jack Bunting served our community in many capacities, always with very little, if any pay. He served as a city commissioner, mayor, member and president of the school board, police chief, and held many positions on our fire department. He set an example that are sadly lacking in the makeup of the present Braidwood council. Today it is all about the money. Back then it was about service to the community. Having known him personally, I am sure that the majority of the present council, and especially their appointed leader, could have learned a lot from him. But then again, judging from their blank stares and lack of an acknowledgment when she was done talking, maybe not.

Residents in the dark, yes

BRAIDWOOD—Trash Talk you're 100% correct. Everything is done behind the administrator's closed door actually the mayor's office which he took over. He's not the mayor, maybe a want-to-be. He tells everyone he's in charge and he's the boss. Not everyone has Facebook to go on the city's site or a computer to watch the recordings of meetings to hear what's going on in the city to now there's a document for viewing on the counter inside city hall. But our town is thriving - not. The car dealers aren't here yet and the hotel/truck stop the administrator has been going on and on about for three years now. When he hears comments being made that he's not bringing in businesses then we once again hear about the hotel/truck stop coming in. We'll believe it when we see it. And we need another liquor store - not. What you don't know residents is that in order to have a gaming license you have to have a liquor license with both the city and the state in order to get gambling. So this is why he's bringing in more liquor establishments. The administrator knows that gaming brings in the most revenue from the state. Another sneak attack was Ultimate Rides, the used car dealer. The administrator was pushing council members in October 2020 to pass that night and wasn't backing down. When the outcasted two commissioners asked to review it a little more before passing they were told by the administrator we need to pass tonight because they want to break ground before the cold weather and that two years ago all that's being done there is moving dirt then changing and moving dirt in another direction. Who wanted to be the general contractor there and who wanted to be sub-contractor for concrete? Take a guess and all you need is one guess. The work there has to be a union job with prevailing wages and neither one of them is in a union. Town is thriving writer you're incorrect as to "You can read them," it's obvious it's always the same author. I believe there are several authors doing sound-offs, so you are incorrect in your statement.

Extremist

WILMINGTON—Every time I see Majorie Taylor Greene I wonder who voted for this under-educated, ill informed extremist. Then I remember, Deliverance was filmed in Georgia. Squeal like a pig America.

Omitted on purpose

DIAMOND—Did you know the Democrat National Convention during the 2020 Democrat Leadership meetings captured on video omitted "Under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance? Sharon

Targeting moral norms

DIAMOND—President Biden has issued over 100 executive orders. Here are just four: 1. Making it all right for transgender biological males to compete in female sports. 2. Send your tax money overseas to organizations that perform abortions (prohibited by all previous administrations). 3. Restore the Obamacare mandate that requires employer provided healthcare insurance. (including churches) to fund abortions including partial birth abortions. 4. Requires Medicaid funds (your tax money) to fund clinics that perform abortions to include Planned Parenthood clinics. Planned Parenthood is America's largest abortion provider. In my opinion these four executive orders target Christians and traditional moral norms. Sharon

Joe in the know

BRAIDWOOD—Last week Joe Biden made the statement that Border Patrol agents had confiscated 20,000 pounds of fentanyl which Biden said was enough to kill 1,000 people. Fact check: 20,000 pounds of fentanyl would kill 4.5 billion people. Just like he said his son died in Iraq...not true. Just like he said he drove a big rig. Never happened. Just like he said he was arrested going to see Nelson Mandela. Never happened. His dad worked in a coal mine? His dad had a car dealership. A high school classmate of his said Joe had a new car every weekend to drive around in to pick up girls. He never marched in civil rights movement but instead was against integration of school. Biden was buddy buddy with Byrd who was at the top of the KKK.

Bill guaranteeing five days of paid leave heads to governor

BY NIKA SCHOONOVER
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—A bill that would guarantee a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year for all Illinois workers passed both chambers of the General Assembly Tuesday, Jan. 10 and will soon head to Gov. JB Pritzker, who says he will sign it.

Under Senate Bill 208, workers begin to earn paid leave on their first day at a rate of one hour of leave for every 40 hours worked, up to 40 hours of paid leave for the year. They can begin using their leave after 90 days, although an employer may allow them to use it sooner.

Once signed, the measure would take effect on Jan. 1, 2024.

Republicans who opposed the bill said it would be bad for small businesses, criticizing the legislation for raising costs.

Representative Jehan Gordon-Booth, D-Peoria, who sponsored the measure, pushed back on that argument.

"The idea that we have to play this zero-sum game of you either support business or you support employees, I refuse to accept that is our reality," she said. "I believe that we can show and have shown with this negotiation that you can support employees, all the while supporting employers by providing the consistency and the implementation of a policy such as this."

Under the law, workplaces would still be able to require their employees to provide notice before taking paid time off. If the paid leave is not used by the end of the year, it carries over.

The bill still needs approval from Pritzker, who expressed his support in a statement.

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FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

St. Rose CCW to host a spa day fundraiser

Beat the winter blues at "Sittin' Pretty", a pamper day hosted by the St. Rose Church Council of Catholic Women. Proceeds will be shared with the Kuzma Care Cottage, the local food pantry. It will be held on Sunday, Feb. 19, from

1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the St. Rose School gym.

The day features Mary Kay facials and make up, mini manicures, hair styling, wine tasting, and coffee tasting. Refreshments will be provided. Make it a day with friends or the ladies young and young at heart in your family.

A children's corner has activities such as face painting, jewelry making, book sale and an ice cream sundae bar. What spa day would be complete without shopping at our vendors offering jewelry, clothing, candles, soaps and more. There will also be raffles and door prizes.

Ticket costs are \$15 per person and tickets are limited. Tickets can be purchased by texting Kristi at 815-263-4158.

Raffle basket sponsors include: Old National Bank, Fresh Face Spa, Lori Bonarek Realty, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Arnie Bauer Chevrolet, Backyard Pools and Spa, El Patron, Grundy National Bank, Frank Meents Law, Wilmington Pharmacy, Berkot's Super Foods and Allied Nursery.

Take flight with the eight-ingredient Test Pilot

Now that we have turned the calendar to 2023, we are one year closer to a NASA's Artemis III moon mission scheduled for 2025. While this trip to the moon is not a "first", it will be the first moon mission witnessed by anyone under 50 years of age. New systems, new technology, a new landing vehicle will all have to be tested.

In the modern era of space travel, these systems and equipment tests are unmanned for the most part. That was not the case during the space race, nor was it the case in the early age of jet travel.

Early advances in jet flight were made during highly publicized tests that were often witnessed by the public. In the time between the end of the Second World War and the first manned space flight, the test pilots ruled the day. This week, we toast the test pilot!

You may have heard of the Jet Pilot cocktail, not the Test Pilot. The cocktail platform that would evolve into the iconic Jet Pilot was once a Test Pilot, and like many first incarnations of popular drinks, they

had it right the first time.

Fasten your safety harness, put your helmet on, we're flying back to the early age of jet air travel!

The most noteworthy of these public tests were conducted out of Southern California's Edwards Air Force base in the late 1940s.

In May of 1948, Captain "Chuck" Yeager broke the world's altitude record in a Bell X-1 flying at an altitude of 60,000 feet. For reference, average cruising altitude of modern passenger jets is 35,000 feet.

Before Donn Beach was tiki cocktail pioneer Don the Beachcomber, he served in World War 2 and remained a supporter of the armed forces throughout his life.

He wanted to capture the energy and excitement around this new age of aviation, what better way to do that than with a tribute cocktail?

Is the Test Pilot exciting? It's an eight-ingredient cocktail and all of the stand-alone ingredients are delicious, so we'll check "yes" next to exciting.

This cocktail was so exciting that upon its release in the 1940s other Polynesian-themed restaurants immediately began to copy the Test Pilot. Rival restaurants had their own versions with their own names such as the Astronaut, Space Pilot, Ace Pilot, and the Jet Pilot.

The Jet Pilot adaptation is the one that is most popular today, but it is a bit more complex using three rum instead of two, and also using a cinnamon infused sugar syrup. The original version is less com-



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

plex, but every bit as delicious.

What's in this thing, anyway?

Like the Mai Tai and most of the tiki drinks of the era, the base rum is a dark Jamaican rum. Lucky for us, Jamaican rum has flourished in popularity over the last half century and you no longer have to visit a Polynesian restaurant to find it. The best dark Jamaican rums for cocktails are Myer's Original Dark, Appleton 12 year, and Coruba.

The Test Pilot also calls a light rum, and your best bet is something smooth. El Dorado 3 year, Flor de Cana 4 year, Cruzan, or Cana Brava are all great options. Bacardi will also work, but if you have the option reach for one of the aforementioned aged light rums.

Pernod is an anise-based liqueur that is used in place of absinthe in recipes of this vintage, be sure to add Pernod by the dropper or by the teaspoon as it will absolutely overpower a drink if too much is poured in.

This drink calls for Cointreau as opposed to a generic triple sec, and Cointreau should always be used when a drink calls for triple sec. There is a reason that Cointreau is found behind nearly every commercial bar in the world. It is not cheap, but in this case you will absolutely get what you pay for.

Falernum is a sweet and sour lime syrup from the West Indies that can be made at home (search recipes online) or purchased in both alcoholic and non-alcoholic varieties. Over-proof rum is commonly added to falernum as a preser-

vative, but not all recipes call for the addition of over-proof rum.

If you are seeking a non-alcoholic falernum syrup, Fee Brothers is the way to go. If you prefer the liqueur version, Taylor's Velvet Falernum is widely available and performs remarkably well in rum drinks.

Whenever a blended drink calls for ice, assume that means crushed ice unless otherwise specified. Using crushed ice in your blender assures a smooth, even texture without leaving large chunks of ice in your drink. Refrigerator ice cubes are simply too tough for most blenders.

Think of the Test Pilot as a tamer version of the Zombie, without the 151 rum and extra spices. A glance at the recipe leads one to believe that the drink would be overly complex, but the drink is surprisingly balanced.

Many home mixologists settle into the Mai Tai and the Zombie as their two main rum drinks, the Test Pilot is a nice change of pace in the rotation.

The Test Pilot is built in a blender and served in a double Old Fashioned glass.

Combine in blender:
1/2 oz. fresh lime juice
1/2 oz. falernum
3 teaspoons Cointreau
1 1/2 oz. dark Jamaican rum

3/4 oz. light rum
Dash Angostura Bitters
6 drops Pernod (or Herbsaint)

1 cup crushed ice
Blend on high for 5 seconds, then pour unstrained into double Old Fashioned glass. Add more ice to fill if needed, garnish with cocktail cherry.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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Immaculate Conception Church to hold benefit for local family

Immaculate Conception Church Braidwood is holding a multicultural fundraiser to help a church family in need.

Lazara Yanira Carrasco, age 35, was hospitalized on a ventilator for seven months due to COVID. She is currently on a waiting list for a lung transplant.

She, her mother, and

brother Enrique are struggling to pay for her insurmounting medical bills. Lazara also has two small children.

The fundraiser is a multicultural potluck Saturday, Jan. 21, in Fr. White Hall, 110 S. School St.

Food will be served from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. with carry outs available. Doors will open at 4

p.m. for anyone wanting to help by donating a heritage dish to pass.

A freewill donation for dinner will be accepted to help offset Lazara's medical bills. Please call Tami Favero 815-458-6802 for more information.

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Food prices expected to climb even more in 2023

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

It looks like U.S. consumers will have to stomach another year of historically high food prices.

The latest food price outlook from the US Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service projects all food prices could increase 3.5% to 4.5% in 2023.

If realized, this year's inflation rate would be much lower compared to 2022, but still higher than average. USDA estimated all food prices increased 9.5% to 10.5% in 2022, with the cost of food at home up as much as 11-12% while prices of food away from home jumped 7-8%.

"Food prices are expected to grow more slowly in 2023 than in 2022, but still at above historical average rates," USDA noted in its December food price outlook.

The 20-year average rate of food price inflation hovered near 2% annually prior to the COVID pandemic and war in Ukraine.

Issues with logistics, high transportation costs and freight rates, labor, soaring production costs and weather have all contributed to the recent price surge.

Some of the largest price hikes by category in 2022 include eggs (forecast to



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

CONSUMERS WILL LIKELY see the cost of groceries continue to rise well into 2023, according to the US Department of Agriculture. Egg prices are likely to increase as ongoing outbreaks of highly pathogenic avian influenza continue to reduce the US egg layer flock.

increase 30.5% to 31.5%), poultry (up 14-15%), fats and oils (up 18-19%), cereals and bakery products (up 13.5%) and fresh fruit and vegetables (up 7-8%).

"The ongoing outbreak of highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) continues to reduce the U.S. egg layer flock, as well as the poultry flock to a lesser extent," USDA noted in its food price report. "This decrease is expected to increase wholesale and retail egg prices for the coming months."

In the first two weeks of

December, USDA reported 4.8 million birds were destroyed to keep HPAI in check, bringing total losses for the year to 57.3 million birds nationwide.

The majority of bird losses due to HPAI (42.5 million) were table egg layers. Roughly 9.4 million turkeys were destroyed since the first of the year, the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report noted.

"Keep in mind there is a lag in price transmission and retailers likely are operating with compressed margins," authors of the Daily Livestock Reported noted. "Given the

trend of the last few weeks, we would expect retail (egg) prices to be sharply higher and unlikely to drop much in January and February."

How does food price inflation affect U.S. citizens? It depends, in part, on your location and income level.

A recent survey-based report released by Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability found stark regional differences about food spending.

The survey of 1,200 consumers across the U.S. found households closer to the coasts are spending much more per week on food. But households farther from the coasts are experiencing higher rates of food insecurity.

"The regional differences are not surprising," said Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor of ag economics at Purdue who leads the center. "The West and Northeast are generally higher-cost and higher-income areas, so we would expect them to spend more on food."

The survey also seemed to indicate consumers reached a choke point in 2022 and responded to rapidly rising food costs by simply purchasing less of it. Grocery spending subsequently levelled off since May, according to the survey.

"There is a similar story for spending on restaurants, but this area still appears fairly robust," Lusk said. "We will watch closely for further declines."

USDA projects the cost of food away from home could increase 4-5% in 2023 compared to a 3-4% rise in food at home.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

Gas prices rise for second straight week

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have risen 10.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.48/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 17.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 6.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Local prices on Monday included \$3.36/g in Braidwood, \$3.19/g to \$3.49/g in Wilmington and \$3.48 in

Coal City.

"We've seen somewhat of a mixed week at the pump with some states seeing gasoline prices rise, while others have stabilized for the time being. The good news as of late has been the continued decline in average diesel prices, which fell over a penny per day last week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"Oil prices have seen a bit of a rally, finishing last week at

nearly \$80 per barrel again as Chinese demand starts to jump as expected, but with Covid cases and deaths now also surging in China, the jump in demand could be short-lived. Gas prices may nudge up slightly in the week ahead in some areas, while others could hold flat. The window on price drops however, appears to be coming up on the horizon as we get closer to what's likely to be a significant refinery maintenance period ahead of summer."

The national average price of diesel has fallen 7.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.56 per gallon. According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.86/g while the most expensive was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.93/g.

The national average \$3.28/g is up 14.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data.

Wilmington Freemason's chili cook-off seeks entries

The Wilmington Freemasons Lodge #208 will be having their 13th annual Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tasting and a bowl of house chili \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over 11 and free for

kids 11 and under. There will also be \$1 hot dogs available.

Wilmington Masonic Lodge is located at 311 Main St., Wilmington.

Think you have what it takes to be the Chili King? Register to be a contestant. Call Ben Stickel 815-370-7331 or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

Mobile food pantry coming to So. Wilm.

Catholic Charities' mobile food pantry will be distributing food Monday, Jan. 23, at 4 p.m., at St. Lawrence Church, 135 Rice Rd., South Wilmington in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver

meat, produce and nonperishable items to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars as a "drive thru" method will be used.

Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

Explore snow with the Forest Preserve

The Will County Forest Preserve's Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon will host a "Rivers of Color - White as Snow" on Saturday, Jan. 21, at 11 a.m. to noon.

Learn all about snow, how it forms, why there are different shapes and if there are different kinds. Free, ages 10 or older. Register by Jan. 20.

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OBITUARIES

Susan Kuykendall

COAL CITY—Susan (Stafford) Kuykendall, 77, of Coal City, formerly of Minooka/Channahon, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family on Jan. 11, 2023, after a valiant battle with ALS.

Susan's greatest passion was her family and friends. She was known as a caretaker to everyone, no matter what their need. Susan was an honored and dedicated wife, mother, Nana, sister, aunt, and friend. She will be dearly missed and continually remembered through the numerous memories she leaves with those dear to her. Susan is well-known for her love of sweets, especially her award winning fudge and her grandchildren's favorite, "crazy cake." Also for playing cards with her family and friends, delivering mail, keeping numerous homes in immaculately clean condition and for her service to many through volunteering with the Martha's serving committee at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Susan is survived by her loving and devoted husband of 58 1/2 years, Ronald; her dear children: Amy Senato, Cynthia (James) Rice, and Ronald (Dawn) Kuykendall Jr.; cherished grandchildren: Kayla (Scott) Thompson, Justine (Trevor) Simonds, Kristin, Kendall and James Rice, Gabrielle Senato; adored great-grandchildren: Cyrus, Owen and Evan; brother and sisters: David (Lana) Stafford, Phyllis (Michael) Feeney, and Margaret "Peg" (Jim) Furto; sisters-in-law: Cathy Kuykendall and Judith Stafford;



brothers-in-law: Floyd (Marcia) Kuykendall, Lloyd Kuykendall and her Aunt Mary Stafford-Webb. Susan is also survived by a large group of admired nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends. Susan was preceded in death by her parents, William and Helen Stafford; parents-in-law, Mabel and Cullen James Kuykendall; brother, William "Bill" Stafford; sister and brother-in-law, Marilyn (Jack) Severson; Ron's siblings: Alfred, Doyle, Karl, Dorothy, Joan, Mary, and Wanda.

A Funeral Mass was held Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City officiated by Reverend Joshua Miller. Cremation rites were accorded following the services. Susan will be laid to rest near her parents during a private family burial at Saint Mary's Cemetery in Minooka, IL.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Susan's memory to the Lightways Hospice 250 Water Stone Circle, Joliet, IL 60431 or the Les Turner ALS Foundation 5550 W Touhy Ave, Skokie, IL 60077.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City.

Thomas Fitzgerald



MAZON—Thomas Charles Fitzgerald, 65, of Mazon, passed away Friday, Jan. 13, 2023 at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood, IL.

Born Jan. 5, 1958 in Valparaiso, IN, Thomas Charles was a son of Randolph Lee Fitzgerald and Clara Maureen (Zarr) Ulm. He was raised in Valparaiso where he graduated from high school, and went on to honorably and actively serve in the United States Army during the Vietnam Conflict. Thomas was a member of the American Legion, Mazon Post, and formerly the Braidwood Post, and continued to hold pride for his service to country his entire life.

He was one who loved the outdoors, and in addition to fishing and his annual fishing trips, took great pleasure in archery, shooting, knife sharpening, and playing disc golf. Thomas was an amazing teacher who thoroughly enjoyed instructing others and sharing his skills, whether it be carpentry, martial arts or the tricks of his hobbies or interests. He loved riding his motorcycle; his fast cars, and watching westerns in his down time. He had a special canine sidekick, Spade, and no greater hobby or interest was more cherished than that of his family, kids and grandbabies.

Survivors include his three children: Shannon Fitch, Jacob Fitch (Jennifer Bossen) and Todd Fitch (Lindsey Wright), all of Mazon;



seven grandchildren: Miya Scott, Dustin Scott Jr., Colton Scott, Zander Lindner, Nathan Lindner Jr., Lyneah Lindner and Dakota Fitch; three sisters: Linda (Clayton) Wireman, Fay (John) Lowry and Mamie (the late Roger) Gainley; one sister-in-law, Tammy Ulm and his Military brother, Rick Wright.

Thomas was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Randolph "Randy" Fitzgerald and Paul Ulm and his Godson, Kyle Wright.

The family will receive friends for a visitation and celebration of life at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 between the hours of 12 and 4 p.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following the visitation.

Thomas will be laid to rest with full military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Thomas' memory to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Blvd., Staten Island, NY 10306.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Thomas' memorial page online through social media.

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

Harold Bissey



DWIGHT—Harold R. Bissey, 95, of Dwight, passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at his residence.

Harold was born March 6, 1927 in Huntingburg, IN, the son of Dwight L. and Lela (Rauscher) Bissey. He married Doris V. Denaple on March 14, 1954, at the United Methodist Church in Dwight.

Harold served in the United States Army during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of Dwight. He was a farmer and dairy farmer. In 1962, he started working for Caterpillar. He retired in 1987 after 25 years and was retired for 35 years. During those years, he farmed out by Ransom which he enjoyed. He also enjoyed showing his 1942 H.

Harold is survived by his children, daughter, Theresa L. Flowers, of Braidwood and son, Ralph W. Bissey, of Odell; grandchildren: Emily Torres, of Herscher; James Flowers, of Braidwood; Brian (Erica) Flowers, of Cullom; Christina (T.J.) Polk, of Baldwin, IA; Nathan (Jen) Bissey, of Diamond; Courtney Jo (Ryan) Rojkowski, of Elburn, IL; Amanda Price, of Coal City; Danny (Hilarie) Grubaugh, of Covington,



IN; great-grandchildren: Ginny, Mariana, Gwen, Leo, Lucas, Logan, Lyle, Cayden, Colin, Trevor, Bekka, Tyson, Hayden, Brock and Rhett; special nieces, Leta Leach and Margo Scott and Garrett and Gavin Leach.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, Doris on April 22, 2019; his two sons, Gail and Floyd Bissey; daughter-in-law, Christina Jo Bissey and sister, Louanna Meyerholtz and brother, Eugene Bissey.

A funeral service was held on Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at United Methodist Church of Dwight with Reverend Mary Arnold officiating. Burial followed the service at Allen Township Cemetery in Ransom, IL.

Memorials can be made to Uplifted Care Hospice of Bourbonnais, Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care, or United Methodist Church of Dwight.

This obituary can be read and condolences made at www.hagermemorial.com or find their Facebook page.

Hager Memorial Home was in charge of the arrangements.

James Perkins



DWIGHT—James Willard Perkins Heynow,, 67, of Dwight, formerly Gardner, Plainfield and Pontiac passed away on Sunday, Jan. 8, 2023 at Park Pointe in Morris.

Born April 24, 1955 in Joliet, he was a son of Willard "Bud" and Dorothy (Papach) Perkins. James was raised in Gardner and graduated from Plainfield High School with the class of 1973. He enlisted and honorably served in the United States Air Force. Upon his discharge, James worked for Caterpillar, retiring in 2020 after 39 years of dedicated service. He was a former member of UAW Local #2096. On Sept. 28, 2012 he married Mary Smith in Pontiac, she survives.

An avid concert enthusiast, Jim loved live music, especially the Grateful Dead. He enjoyed reading and playing both board and video games. His children will struggle enjoying Monopoly or Mario Kart 64 without him. Jim was quite the crafter, having enjoyed both woodworking and tie dying projects. Through the years, he enjoyed playing Dungeons and Dragons, was an avid bowler, enjoyed fishing and loved golf. Trivia with friends and family was one of his favorite pastimes. Trivia team CRS will acutely feel his loss. Jim was a caring, loyal friend. Most importantly, he will be remembered as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and brother who cherished time spent with his family.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Perkins, of Dwight; four children: Stephanie (Michael)



Morehead, of Florida; Sean (April) Perkins, of Florida; Mike Perkins, of Plainfield and Katie (Scott) Mackinson, of Dallas, TX; two step-sons, Michael (Jessica) Galbraith and Brian (Hilary) Dobbs, both of Dwight; 13 grandchildren; one brother, Thomas (Karen) Perkins, of Gardner; one sister, Patricia Weiskop, of Joliet; numerous nieces and nephews; as well as many close friends.

James was preceded in death by his parents, father-in-law Leslie Smith; one niece, Kali Sue Perkins Croy; brother-in-law, G. Lee Weiskop; sister-in-law, Julie Smith and his grandson, Rocky.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 Liberty St., in Gardner on Friday, Jan. 20, 2023 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. A Celebration of Life will take place on Saturday, Jan. 21, 2023 at Victory Lanes Bowl, 410 E. Main Ave. in Dwight between the hours of 12 and 3 p.m. Casual attire is encouraged (tie-dye welcome).

Graveside services along with full military honors will take place on Monday, Jan. 23, 2023 at 10 a.m. in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, IL.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share James's memorial page via social media.

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd in Gardner.

Jimmy C. Holm

DWIGHT—Jimmy C. Holm, 80, of Dwight, passed away Jan. 10, 2023 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Jimmy was born Nov. 30, 1942 in Morris to Curtis and Florence (Carlson) Holm. He married Jackie Fredrick in 1977 in Pontiac. He attended local Gardner-South Wilmington Schools and later managed the Braidwood Recreation Club and the South Wilmington Fireman's Club. After he retired he worked for Walmart to keep busy. Jimmy had a passion for small engines and could always be found tinkering in his garage.



He is survived by his wife, Jackie, and his brother, Delmar Holm, both of Dwight and some nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Dace Holm.

Cremation rites will be accorded and graveside services will be held at a later date at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Memorials in honor of Jimmy may be made to the Livingston County Humane Society.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in charge of arrangements.

Michael R. Johnstone

WILMINGTON—Michael R. Johnstone, 59, of Wilmington, formerly of West Chicago, IL, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2023 at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield, IL.

Born Oct. 3, 1963 in Evergreen Park, IL, Michael was raised in Winfield and graduated from West Chicago High School. He worked for Armbrust Paper Tubes, Inc. for over 25 years where he would become president of the company. Mike was proud to work for his family's business and loved working alongside his mother until she passed away in 2006. In his free time, he liked going for rides on his Kawasaki motorcycle, and he loved music, particularly talented guitarists such as Stevie Ray Vaughn and Eric Clapton to name a few. Mike had a great sense of humor and loved telling jokes, even if he had told you the same joke countless times. He was a gentle, kind, compassionate man, who was an outstanding father and who cherished his granddaughter.



Survivors include his wife of 34 years, Stacey Johnstone; three children: Nicholas Johnstone (Katy Wheeler), of Channahon; Garrett (Kelly) Johnstone, of Camden, TN and Katherine Johnstone, of Bradley; one granddaughter, Kaya Johnstone; one sister and two brothers: Linda Johnstone, of Carol Stream; Mark (Kim) Johnstone, of Freeport, IL and Jim (Denice) Johnstone, of Portland, OR and several nieces and nephews.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents, Dorothee and Gordon Johnstone.

Per Mike's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a memorial service is being planned for a later date.

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

Cremation rites and memorial arrangements are being made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Sharon Hart

WILMINGTON—Sharon Hart, 80, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Jan. 16, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 3, 1942 on Jefferson Barracks Military Base in Missouri, Sharon Marie was a daughter of Robert G. and Arielle (Roberts) Miller. She was raised and educated in Missouri and graduated from Fox High School in Arnold, MO. On Valentine's Day of 1962, Sharon met Patrick Hart who she went on to marry June 16, 1962 in Arnold. Together they made a home and raised a family.

One whose life was centered on family and faith, Sharon was always active in church, throughout the years having been active with First Baptist Church in Downers Grove, IL; Grace Baptist Church in Lombard, IL and most recently Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. For many years, Sharon and Patrick wintered in Florida, spending more than the past decade in Arcadia, where she also assisted as a secretary at Riverside Church. In addition, Sharon was active with AWANA for many years as a coach and leader and assisted as a cookie coordinator.

Sharon had a deep love of reading, took great pleasure in traveling, and created many memories throughout the entire United States, particularly enjoying to visit the west. Colorado was a favorite destination, as was Rocky Mountain National Park, Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons. This was in line with her appreciation of outdoors and love of hiking and biking.



Gone from our sight, Sharon leaves behind a collection of special memories, as well as a legacy of being a loving and caring wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, who cherished her family.

Survivors include her husband of 60 years, Patrick; two sons and daughters-in-law: Patrick Mark and Janet Hart, of Kernersville, NC and Michael Robert and Deborah Hart, of Gurnee, IL; four grandchildren: Glenn Hart and Nicole (Cory) East, both of North Carolina and Bonnilyn Hart and Nathan Hart, both of Gurnee and two great-grandchildren, Levi and Olevia East.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Island City Baptist Church, 120 Vine St. in Wilmington on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 from 2 p.m. until the time of service at 4 p.m. Pastor Jeff Logsdon will officiate.

A private family inurnment will follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood, where Sharon will be laid to rest in the columbarium.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Sharon's memorial page online.

Cremation services and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Michael Thompson



WISCONSIN—Michael "Mike" Thompson, 73, was born Aug. 6, 1949, and passed away peacefully surrounded by his loved ones on Dec. 2, 2022.

Mike spent his life loving his wife of 52 years, Lenore. He built a beautiful life with her and for his two children, Lisa and Tommy. Mike was a decorated Vietnam Veteran, who served our great country with honor. Mike worked hard and played hard. He was a talented classic car craftsman who built over 10 street rods with his own hands through ground up restoration. He enjoyed snowmobiling and riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle in his spare time. When he lived in Illinois, Mike was a successful Snap-on Tool Dealer. When he moved up to Wisconsin with his wife, he opened a new business as a Cornwell Dealer, from which he retired after 13 prosperous years. Mike loved his grandchildren with all his heart, they were his pride and joy.

Mike is survived by his loving wife, Lenore Thompson; his sister, Cindy (Bruce) Dunbar; his children, Lisa (Dave) Stuart and Tom Thompson; his grandchildren, Zoe (Annie) Stuart, Anthony Corrado, Vincent Corrado, Abby Thompson, and David Stuart; nieces, Wendy Dunbar and Bonnie (John) Carroll; nephews: Jeff Dunbar, Darren Thompson, Steve



Thompson and Shawn Thompson as well as too many incredible friends to list.

Mike was preceded in death by his father, Albert Thompson; his mother, Frances Thompson; his sister, Jerrie Mercer; his brother, James Thompson; and his first grandchild, Michael Corrado.

Mike will be forever missed by his family and friends who loved him so much. His memory will live on through the legacy of strength and dedication he passed on to his children and grandchildren and the amazing life he built with his wife.

The family will receive friends at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington on Jan. 19, 2023 from 10 am until time of memorial service at 1 pm. Pastor Bob Walker will officiate and graveside services with full military honors will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at 2:30 p.m.

Preferred memorials in Michael's memory may be made as gifts to American Heart Association.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Michael's memorial page via social media.

Memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Linda Roberts

GODLEY—Linda Roberts, 76, of Godley, passed away Jan. 16, 2023 at her home.

She was born Sept. 18, 1946 in Kokomo, IN. Linda was raised in Kokomo and went on to earn her bachelor of arts degree from Ball State University. She served as an educator on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona before returning to Illinois where she gained employment with Exelon. She had a love of antiques, shopping, fishing, and most all nature activities. Linda was an avid art collector, particularly of Native American Art, and she enjoyed sports.

Linda is survived by her partner of 42 years, Dorothy Stedman and two nieces, Cindy (Walt)



Roberts, of Florida and Brenda Ryan, of Australia and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, and two brothers.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Linda's memory to the American Cancer Society or to the American Diabetes Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Linda's memorial page.

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

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Essex Township Request for Proposal for Cemetery Mowing and Trimming

Essex Township is requesting proposals for cemetery mowing services at the two township cemeteries for the period April 1, 2023-March 31, 2024. The two properties total 4.5 acres combined.

Please supply quote on a per-time basis to include mowing, trimming, small debris cleanup, and blowing clippings off markers/monuments. All services will be done on an as-needed basis, not to exceed 3 times per month. Also supply quote for spring and fall cleanup as well as outlining any additional costs or fees. Provider must include proof of liability insurance with proposal.

Quotes due no later than January 30, 2022

Mail quotes to:
Essex Township Supervisor
PO Box 309, Essex, IL 60935

For any questions call: 815-351-3554 or email:
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Wilmington, 2 bedroom apartment for rent. Move in ready. \$800/month. Call and leave a message, will call you back. 815-274-6065. cc3-6

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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

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Seeking Qualified Applicants for Firefighters/Paramedics

The Wilmington Fire Protection District is seeking qualified applicants to establish an eligibility list for the position of Firefighter/Paramedic with the District.

Starting Salary: \$58,275.00

QUALIFICATIONS

- Applicant must be at least 21 years of age and under 35 years of age at the time of submission of an application unless otherwise provided by state or federal law
- Be a citizen of the United States
- Have a high school diploma or equivalent (GED)
- Possess a valid class B non CDL driver's license in the State of Illinois
- Be certified as a Basic Operations Firefighter or Firefighter II through the Office of the State Fire Marshall in the State of Illinois prior to conditional offer.
- Be certified as a Paramedic in the State of Illinois (IDPH EMT-P) prior to conditional offer.

Applications will be available to qualified candidates January 17th, 2023 - February 17th, 2023 between the hours of 8:00am-3:00pm, Monday-Friday at Station #1, 501 N. Main Street, Wilmington, IL. \$30 non-refundable processing fee (Cash/check only) is due upon receipt of application.

A valid driver's license must be presented in order to obtain an application. Only one application per candidate will be given.

Completed application shall be returned to the above address no later than 3:30 pm on February 17th, 2023. Failure to complete the application in its entirety shall be grounds for rejection from the process. Applicants must attend the following:

- Orientation/Written Exam: Friday, February 17th, 2023 at 6 pm Sharp (No one will be allowed in the room after 6 pm)
- Oral Interviews: February 22nd and February 24th, 2023.
- Physical Ability: Must have a CPAT card with ladder climb issued no more than 365 days prior to conditional offer.

The Rules and Regulations of the Board of Fire Commissioners, Wilmington Fire Protection District, will govern all facets of the hiring process, a copy of which is available for viewing at the District's Station#1. If you have any questions please call (815)-476-6675.

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COALER SPORTS

Coalers have a tough go at it

The Coalers boys basketball team had a rough week with two losses despite good attempts.

On Friday Coal City fell to Lisle at home 62-50.

They trailed 17-16 after one before Lisle went on an 18-9 run in the second quarter and never looked back. Lisle made eight three-point shots and shot 73 percent at the free throw line as they out-rebounded Coal City 30 to 24.

Cason Headley paced the Coalers with 19 points, seven rebounds and four assists. Carter Garrelts scored 12 points while Jim Feeney chipped in with 11. Owen Wren put in five points while Carson Shepard contributed three points.

Last Tuesday the

Coalers had a shot at tying Seneca but the visiting Irish walked away 56-53 winners.

Coal City led 14-13 after one and 25-23 at the half before Seneca applied full pressure to go on a 14-8 run in the third. The damage was already done even though Coal City outscored Seneca 20-19 in the final frame.

Feeney led Coal City with 15 points including three treys. Headley helped out with 13 points while Garrelts tallied 10 points and had six rebounds.

Also scoring were Shepard with eight points, Owen Wren with three and two points each for Garrett Keeley and Nolan Ness.

The 6-12 Coalers will host Wilmington Friday and Manteno on Tuesday.



IVC TOURNEY CHAMPIONS - The Coal City 7th grade basketball team won the IVC trophy. Team members include (from left, kneeling) Colton Lynn, Talan Vanderwerken, Brady Noffsinger, Caiden Tourigny, Wyatt Homerding, Frankie Ponio, Angel Diaz and Cody Sheer. Back row: Coach Harlan Kennell, Jaxon Duke, Dillion Ness, AJ Gagliardo, Hayden Kennell, Caiden Winke, Tyce Farrell, Trevor Walker and Coach Chad Larson.

JV Lady Coalers still perfect in ICE

Add two to the win side as the fresh-soph Lady Coalers remain undefeated in the ICE conference with an 8-0 record.

Coal City improved to 12-3 overall after defeating Wilmington 44-24 on Thursday and Peotone 36-22 last Monday.

"We played really well this week. Some of our sophomores really stepped up and had some big games while our freshmen have done a great job of improving each game and really adjusting to this level of basketball," said coach Brad Boreis.

On Thursday at home the Lady Coalers had no problems upending Wilmington thanks

to a game-high 20 points from Emma Rodriguez.

Also helping out were Kylee Kennell with 12 points, Chloe Pluger contributed 4 points and two points each from Rylee Walker, Calleigh Hamilton, Becca Hall and Sydney Larson.

At Peotone the Lady Coalers dismantled the hosts with a stellar effort from Kylee Kennell who scored 14 points, D'Arcy Ness who chipped in 12 points, Emma Rodriguez who put up 6 points and Sydney Larson and Becca Hall who finished with 2 points each.

Coal City hosts Reed-Custer Thursday and Manteno Monday.

JV Warriors beat RCMS for IVC tourney trophy

The Coal City 7th grade boys basketball team won the IVC tournament Friday night over Reed-Custer, 28-26. The Warriors came out a little slow, but picked up the defense in the second half, holding Reed-Custer to 8 points that half.

Tyce Farrell finished with 7 points, including a big 3 pointer in the 4th quarter. Hayden Kennell finished with 7 points, scoring 5 in the 4th. AJ Gagliardo had 5 points, and Dillion Ness had 4 points. Caiden Tourigny finished with 3 points, while Wyatt Homerding had 2 points.

Trevor Walker did a great job rebounding in the second half. Jaxon Duke was tremendous coming off the bench and taking care of the ball. Caiden Winke's first half defense helped keep the Warriors in the game. It was a tremendous team effort for the Warriors to get the big win! The last time Coal City has won the tournament was 7 seven years ago.

The Warriors are now 13-3. "One of our team goals from the first week of practice was to win the conference tournament. It is great to see these players work so hard in practice every day and then accomplish one of their season goals," commented coach Harlan Kennell.

"I am extremely proud of this team, and how they have overcome adversity in games all season and how they execute plays in key moments of games. We had a game plan,



COAL CITY 7th grader Caiden Tourigny plays tough defense against Reed-Custer.

and they stuck with it for four quarters. We did not play our best in the first half as we were down 11 points at halftime.

"We got some players in foul trouble, but I was proud of how we had players step up. I thought AJ Gagliardo and Tyce

Farrell had their best game of the season, as AJ did a great job of defending one of Reed-Custer's best players."

Coach Kennell praised Farrell for coming off the bench to make some really big shots in the second half.

"I am very proud of Caiden Tourigny and Hayden Kennell, after getting into foul trouble in the first half they took over the game in the 4th quarter to lead us to the victory.

Wyatt Homerding had done a great job all season at the point guard position and taking care of the ball. He stepped up and made some key plays on offense and defense. As a team we did not allow Reed Custer to shoot a free throw in the second half, and only allowed 2 points in the 3rd quarter.

The 7th grade Warriors started the IVC tournament with a great team victory against Morris Grade School, 33-31. Wyatt Homerding hit several big shots and finished with 12 points.

Hayden Kennell did a nice job causing turnovers on defense and finished with 12 points. Dillion Ness hit a big 3 pointer in the 3rd quarter and had 5 points. AJ Gagliardo did a great job coming off the bench, and had 2 points.

Tyce Farrell and Caiden Tourigny finished with 1 point each. Caiden hit a very important free throw at the end of the game, and did a tremendous job defensively in the second half. Caiden Winke came in off the bench to provide key rebounds and defensive stops.

"The team played really well defensively and I was very proud of their effort,"

Lady Warriors fall despite good serving

The CCMS 8th grade volleyball team suffered its second loss on Wednesday, falling in three games to Wilmington.

The Lady Warriors lost the first game 15-25 but rallied in the second to win 25-13. The toss up game went to 21-25 before Wilmington claimed the win.

Coal City was led by Alivia Waliczek with 11 points, seven aces and one kill. Avery Housman fired across 10 points including three aces. Maisy Franklin recorded eight points with two aces while Averie Hodgen scored three points and two aces.

Kill leader for CCMS was Mia McKim with three while Liz Nadess had two.

Coal City is 0-2 overall.

McDowell motivates G-SW Tigers

The GSWB Varsity Club recently had Mickey McDowell speak to the group.

Mickey was a 2019 Coal City High School graduate where he played golf and baseball. In addition to those sports, he was on Student Council and a Student Ambassador.

After his days as a Coaler came to a close, he moved his baseball career to Illinois Valley College. He said he had

to prove himself again as it was a new beginning. In his freshman season, his team jumped to a 4-1 start in Myrtle Beach when they learned their season was canceled due to Covid.

Like many people, this would change many things for him such as school, baseball and daily life.

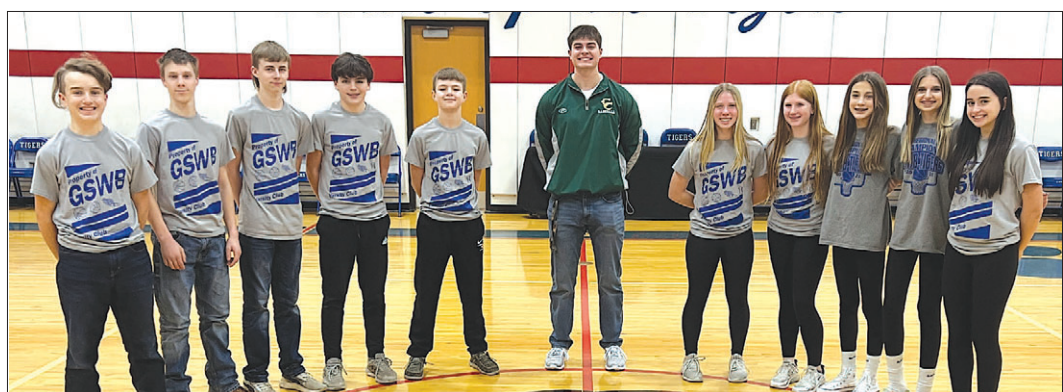
After his two years at IVCC, he played for the University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh where he is majoring in

PE.

Making time for class and his personal life has been challenging but is very important. Aside from daily classes, there are about 30 hours of baseball activities on an average week ranging from study tables, weights, and practices.

For McDowell, having a routine has been beneficial to being successful in the classroom and on the field.

He reminded the GSWB Varsity Club that you choose your own path, and what counts is what you do when nobody is watching.



COALER GRADUATE and University of Wisconsin-Osh Kosh baseball player Mickey McDowell recently spoke to the GSWB Varsity Club.

Lady Warriors fall in opener

It took three games to decide a winner in the season-opening volleyball match for the Coal City Middle School 7th graders. In the end it was visiting Saratoga who won.

The JV Lady Warriors lost on Saturday 25-13, 23-25, 16-25 despite having 14 aces and nine kills.

CCMS was led in scoring by Victorya Morales with 10 points including five aces. Kaylin Walker, Ashlyn Siron and Sydney Jonas fired across four points each and had one kill each. Serving three points each were Miley Cvitanovich and Maggie Carlson while Lilly Garrish and Rese Symons

The 8th grade Lady Warriors fell in two, 16-25, 11-25.

Scoring for Coal City were Averie Hodgen (5 points), Alivia Waliczek (4), Sophie Smith (2) and Maisy Franklin (2). Kyla Stark tallied three kills while Kyah Hawkins and Franklin made one kill each.

Coal City Coalers Team Pride

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A LEG UP on the competition for Coal City's Braiden Young who lifts Wilmington's Hunter Hayes at 195 pounds before winning by 3:31 fall.



ON HIS BACK—Coal City's Jack Poyner turns Wilmington's Parker Adams on his back to get a 3:31 fall during Thursday's match at home. Photos by Alyssa Ohlund

Coalers, Comets to battle for ICE title Thursday

It will be a clash of titans on Thursday when Coal City travels to Reed-Custer to likely decide who will be the Illinois Central Eight Conference wrestling champions.

Both teams are undefeated in the ICE and have full rosters to boot.

The Coalers are 37-2 overall and are formidable, having won the 60-team Abe's Rumble dual team challenge in Springfield, IL last month and claiming the esteemed Princeton Invite Tournament Jan. 7, with enough individual wins for first by a 57-point margin.

Reed-Custer, 17-5 overall, finished a respectable 11th at PIT, missing the top 10 by half a point. And they're on a roll with two big wins last week before hosting the 23-team Comet Classic tournament on Friday and Saturday, in which they placed fourth.

The Comet Classic included several ranked teams from across the state as they squared off in the beautiful RC Fieldhouse.

There's no doubt Coal City is more battle-tested with 17 more matches so far on their schedule with their only losses to defending 2A state champions Joliet Catholic and 2A Lincoln-Way East. On Saturday they stood up to Dakota, a 1A powerhouse with a 2020 state championship in a dual at Princeton. The Coalers led most of the way before Dakota took a 31-30 lead with only two weight classes left. Coal City got back-to-back pins at 220 and 285 to win it 42-31. Don't be surprised if Dakota will be in their path later during the dual team state finals. They also beat Princeton 52-25. Double winners were Brody Widlowski, Jack Poyner, Joey Breneman, Braiden Young and Drake Dearth.

On Thursday at home the Coalers shutout Wilmington 82-0 and defeated Herscher 72-9. After Thursday's toss up match at

Reed-Custer, Coal City heads to Wilmington on Saturday for the ICE Conference tourney. Regionals start Feb. 4.

Coal City 42, Dakota 31

106—Lindemuth, Culan (CC) over White, B fall 1:44
113—Munsterman, Luke (CC) over forfeit
120—Widlowski, Brody (CC) over Kinney, H fall 1:51
126—Silva, Tj (Dakota) over Finch, Brock fall 0:52
132—Blakely, P (Dakota) over Greggain, Evan fall 1:30
138—Bowers, J (Dakota) over Widlowski, Brant 7-5 OT decision
145—Blessing, Mataeo (CC) over Alexander, T fall 5:00
152—Arellona, A over Kramer, Zakk (CC) maj dec 10-2
160—Poyner, Jack (CC) over Vincent, G 6-4 decision 6-4
170—Breneman, Joey (CC) over Rockey, C 8-7 decision
182—Pineda, L (Dakota) over Poyner, Cade (CC) fall 2:14
195—Bowman, T (Dakota) over Feisley, Andrew (CC) fall 6:31
220—Young, Braiden (CC) over Wenzel, N fall 4:15
285—Dearth, Drake (CC) over Bowers, A fall 1:47

Coal City 52, Princeton 25

106—Swanson, A (P) over Lindemuth, Culan, fall 4:17
113—Widlowski, Brody (CC) forfeit
120—Kenney, Aidan (CC) over Gibson, K by fall 3:22
126—Finch, Brock (CC) over Nutter, G (P) Fall 1:23 18-6
132—Christiansen, A (P) over Greggain, Evan, decision 7-0
138—Widlowski, Brant (CC) over Benavidez, C., maj dec 12-4
145—Christiansen, A (P) over Blessing, Mataeo, maj dec 10-1
152—Etheridge, c over Kramer, Zakk (CC) fall 4:30
160—Poyner, Jack (CC) over Arkelis, P fall 3:38
170—Breneman, Joey (CC) over Etheridge, C fall 1:23
182—Poyner, Cade (CC) over Berlin, E fall 0:33
195—Young, Braiden (CC) over Morris, I fall 3:49
220—Dearth, Drake (CC) by forfeit

285—Odell, C (P) over Porth, Tyler fall 3:57
Coal City 72, Herscher 9

106—Lindemuth, Culan (CC) by forfeit
113—Widlowski, Brody (CC) by forfeit
120—Kenney, Aidan (CC) by forfeit
126—Finch, Brock (CC) over Astle, B, fall 1:01
132—Greggain, Evan (CC) over Osenga, G, fall 2:57
138—Widlowski, Brant (CC) over Jones, M, fall 1:00
145—Blessing, Mataeo (CC) by forfeit
152—Stratham, P (Herscher) over Dehler, Chase, fall 1:52
160—Kramer, Zakk (CC) over Mulikin, H, fall 1:10
170—Poyner, Jack (CC) over Painter, J, fall 1:00
182—Breneman, Joey (CC) over Strahan, Q, fall 4:13
195—Young, Braiden (CC) by forfeit
220—Dearth, Drake (CC) over Stone, M, fall 1:18
285—White, T (Herscher) over Porth, Tyler, decision 7-5 (OT)

Coal City 82, Wilmington 0

106—Lindemuth, Culan (CC) by forfeit
113—Widlowski, Brody (CC) over Dooley, L, maj dec 17-5
120—Kenney, Aidan (CC) by forfeit
126—Finch, Brock (CC) by forfeit
132—Greggain, Evan (CC) over Adolfini, Blake, fall 1:10
138—Widlowski, Brant (CC) over Adolfini, Brandon, fall 1:13
145—Blessing, Mataeo (CC) by forfeit
152—Kramer, Zakk (CC) by forfeit
160—Waliczek, Alec (CC) by forfeit
170—Poyner, Jack (CC) over Adams, Parker, fall 3:41
182—Breneman, Joey (CC) by forfeit
195—Young, Braiden (CC) over Hayes, Hunter, fall 3:31
220—Dearth, Drake (CC) by forfeit
285—Porth, Tyler (CC) by forfeit



Put your health first this New Year!

Start the New Year out right by scheduling your annual check-up with your primary care provider! Annual check-ups help you monitor existing health issues, keep you up-to-date on vaccinations and screening tests, and increase the likelihood of detecting new health issues before they develop into something serious.

If you have fallen behind with your routine check-ups, the New Year is the perfect time to get back on schedule.



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Lady Coalers rebound in shootout

Like every good coach, Coal City's Brad Schmitt knows playing bigger teams educates your players.

The Lady Coalers battled two bigger foes Saturday in the MLK Shootout, beating one and losing to the other. It's experience that counts with regionals approaching in just over three weeks.

Coal City (15-6 overall, 5-3 conference) lost to Marian Catholic 48-29 in a contest that felt like they could buy any points.

Marian went up 18-6 after one quarter and 31-11 at the half to steal the momentum early. But Coal City switched gears in the third to go on an 8-3 run to gain some respect. But that would be as close as they would get as Marian came back in the fourth with a 14-10 run.

The Lady Coalers shot 32% from the field while Marian made 58% of their shots including five treys. What hurt most were 20 turnovers.

Paige Walker stepped up to lead Coal City with nine points including 4-for-5 at the line and a three-pointer. Makayla Henline put up eight points and pulled down five rebounds. Abby Gagliardo tallied five points, Kerrigan Copes four and Mia Ferrias three.

Back on track

They bounced back in the shootout with a 52-42 victory over Pontiac.

The two teams exchanged blows through three quarters, yet Coal City stayed in front 41-39 entering the final frame. They contained Pontiac to just three points in the fourth while scoring 11 to insure their win.

Mia Ferrias kept up the pressure with a pair of three-pointers to lead with 13 total. Right in step was Makayla Henline who put in 11 points with five rebounds. Abby Gagliardo helped out with nine points, Audrey Cooper chipped in with seven points and five rebounds while Makenzie Henline grabbed 13



Photo by Amy Walker

NO FOUL - Coal City defender Kerigan Copes holds her hands straight up to avoid fouling Wilmington's Kaitlyn O'Donnell on Thursday during a 57-30 victory at home.

rebounds and had six points.

The Lady Coalers could have done better at the line with 5-for-19 free throws while Pontiac made 15-for-25.

Total team approach

The Lady Coalers held Wilmington to just four points in the third quarter to coast to a 57-30 victory on Thursday.

In their most balanced attack to date, Coal City had 10 players score points, led by Mia Ferrias with 15 including a pair of three-pointers.

The Lady Coalers got right to business, grabbing a 15-10 lead in the opening stanza and stretching it to 31-19 at the break. A pressure defense helped in the third frame when the home team went on

a 17-4 run to ice the win.

Coal City shot 41% from the field, showing up the Lady 'Cats who struggled with 29%. They went 10-for-25 at the line to finish off their Wildcat rivals.

Audrey Cooper had one of her better games with 10 points and four steals, Kylee Kennell chipped in with nine points and four rebounds while Makenzie Henline grabbed nine rebounds to go along with her five points.

Also scoring five points were Abby Gagliardo and Makayla Henline. Peyton Benson, Abby Stiles, Tanna Curry and Kerigan Copes tallied two points each.