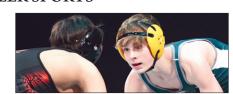


Regional champs as expected





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# COALCITY COURANT is

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A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

# Everyone is a Coaler

## Warrior mascot being retired at Coal City Middle School

BY ANN GILL

The saying, "Once a Coaler, always a Coaler," has never been more true as the Unit 1 School District is adopting a single mascot.

Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year Coal City Middle School will transition from the Warriors to the Coalers, a move to unify the district under a single mascot.

Superintendent Chris Spencer said there has been some discussion over the past few years of coming together under one mascot, but

"I will tell you at first it was something some people were hesitant of, but the more we

there was never any movement.

Then last summer, athletic directors Dan Hutchings and Brad Boresi came forward with middle school administration to discuss the possibility of making a change.

Needing to gather more information, the

concept was presented as a discussion item for the district's Learning Leadership Team [LLT] comprised of district administration, staff, students and community members who make recommendations to the Board of Education.

talked about it and Mr. Boresi and Mr. Hutchings spoke about it the positives of it made sense," Spencer said.

He noted during his time as principal at the lower grade buildings there was often questions about what mascot they identified as.

We even talked at the elementary school if we should select a mascot as something for our kids to look up to, and now this unifies the dis-

trict and everyone as a Coaler," Spencer said.

There is an on-going effort in the district to boost school spirit across the board from students to community members.

In his opening day address, Spencer shared that his vision is to see everyone in Coal City green, gold and white on Fridays.

Spencer pointed out there are not many school districts in the area that have separate mascots for their middle and high schools.

There should be minimal cost associated with the transition as the school's uniforms simply say Coal City and there is not much around the building that designates the middle school

as the Warriors. Spencer said there are some championship

SEE MASCOT, PAGE 2

# The Princess Anastasia



COAL CITY THEATRE Department will present its spring musical, "Anastasia" over two weekends—March 10-12 and March 17-19 in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. The cast of 34 students will take the stage to tell the story of Grand Duchess Anastasia anov, played in this production by Elaina Patten. The musical opens as the Grand Duchess is bidding farewell to her grandmother, the Dowager Empress as she leaves Russia for a new home in Paris. As the opening sequence comes to a close, word arrives in Paris that Romanov family has been killed, but the question remains did Anstasisa survive the invasion of the Bolsheviks. The answer comes in the telling of the story and the first performance will be at 7 p.m. on Friday, March 10. Reserved seat tickets for "Anastasia" are available on-line at bit.ly/CCTDTickets. Members of the Romanov Family and palace staff include [from left] Kilen Davidson, Jordan Olson, Amelia Fritz, Chris Collins, Patten, Bella Byers, Mason Natyshok, Evelyn Wills, Jackson Steinhouse, Jared Counterman, Mae Connor, Ethan Scrogham and Logan Hausman.

# A new principal for Coal City **High School**

**BY ANN GILL** 

Arthur Stafford has been hired as the new principal at Coal City High

"I feel he is going to do a really nice job, and fit in well at the high school with the staff, students and administrative Superintendent Spencer said.

Stafford will fill the position on July 1, taking over for Jennifer Kenney who is transitioning into the role of director of curriculum and instruction.

Stafford comes to Coal Plainfield from Community Consolidated School District 202 where he holds the position of assistant principal of students services at Plainfield North

The district received 11 applications for the position

and instruction on July 1. and nine individuals were offered an initial interview.

Each candidate met with three groups—six interviewers in each—one comprised of administrative staff, another with faculty and students, and a third that included a faculty, food service personnel, student services and an athletic director.

SEE STAFFORD, PAGE 2

ARTHUR STAFFORD has been

hired as principal of Coal City

High School starting with the 2023-2024 academic year. He will

assume the post from Jennifer

Kenney who will assume the

duties of director of curriculum



THE UNIT 1 Board of Education is taking its tax assessment complaint over the assessed value of the GE Hitachi facility to the state's Property Tax Appeals Board. The move comes in response to a decision by the county's Board of Review to maintain the assesed value of the site at \$6.1 million. Located in Goose Lake Township, the GE Hitachi operation is the only permanent high level radioactive nuclear waste storage site in the country.

# 'We are not going to quit"

Unit I Board of Education taking its property tax complaint to the state

BY ANN GILL

The Unit 1 Board of Education is going higher up the ladder in its quest to prove the multi-million dollar GE Hitachi site on Collin Road is still under-assessed.

The district will take its assessment complaint to the state's Property Tax Appeals Board and other local taxing bodies are likely to join in.

The move comes response to a decision by the Grundy County Board of

Review [BOR] that maintains the assessed value of the site at \$6.1 million, an amount the school district and a few other taxing bodies believe is too

"I would challenge any-body and let's start with the county to show us a single piece of property thats value did not change from last year to this year, not by \$1. Even if they did have others it's probably a handful and because of a property tax settlement agreement that's been pre-approved," Board vice presi-

dent Shawn Hamilton said.

The decision of the threemember BOR, in Hamilton's

words, "makes no sense." This is the second consecutive year the district has appealed the facility's value with the BOR. Last year's request resulted in an increase of just under \$3 million. However, the objectors believed that number was still too low and took the case to the state PTAB. The matter is still pending and could be for quite some time.

Now at the school board's

direction-a formal vote to come at a special meeting on Feb. 22—a complaint on the 2022 assessment will be going

to the state.

"Our stance is that we just want GE Hitachi to pay their fair share just like every other taxpayer has to do, and unfortunately that is not the case. We are trying to protect our

SEE APPEAL, PAGE 2







Bourbon, Buffalo, BBQ, Plain, Garlic Buffalo Half Pan- 25 ct - \$14 each Full Pan- 50 ct - \$27 each



Nabisco Ritz Bits Sandwiches- 8.8 oz Fudge Covered- 7.5 oz Snack Crackers- 11.6-13.7 oz Regular Sale Price: 2/\$5

## Mascot

signs up in the gymnasium that state Warriors, but that will stay as it's part of the school's history.

Overall, the superintend-

ent believes it will be a smooth transition into a unified mas-

"I think it makes sense for us to be uniform, if we're going to be a uniform district, then let's do it that way," Spencer

## **Stafford**

Based on the feedback that came from the interview groups, the superintendent called two candidates back to speak to him and other district office staff. Those interactions went on for about 75 minutes and resulted in Stafford being recommended for the position.

At its meeting on Feb. 1, the Board of Education offered Stafford a one year contract with a salary of \$105,000 and benefit package that includes Board paid teacher retirement contributions and premiums for health, dental and vision insurance, as well as vacation and sick leave.

It was Stafford's experiences that set him apart from the field of candidates.

While in the Plainfield School District, Stafford taught high school social studies and served as the head of that department and then transitioned to the division chair for English. He's served in his current role for the past eight years.

Social emotional learning is one of the goals outlined in the district's strategic plan, and according to the superintendent, the incoming principal's experience in that area is something that set him apart from the other candidates.

His extensive experience in curriculum and social emotional learning will be important in the continued development and implementation of the Board's strategic goal of providing a safe school environment that meets the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and staff," the Board said in a release announcing Stafford's hiring. Stafford, Spencer said, is focused on building relationships.

"He talked a lot about that and we need someone who is going to continue to build relationships with the staff and stu-

The new principal has extensive experience in building a master schedule, analyzing data and using that to improve delivery of curriculum. According to Spencer, one thing that set Stafford apart in

the interview process was his demeanor and desire to get to know the students and school community. Overall, I think because of his demeanor and building rela-

tionships it should be a smooth transition," the superintendent Stafford, who is set to meet with the high school staff in the

coming days, has indicated to the superintendent how impressed he is with the school district, especially the high Stafford will be assisted in his duties by assistant principal Corey Mikula and dean of students/assistant athletic director

'I'm excited for him to get started," Spencer said, with the Board adding they look forward to him continuing to build on the excellence the high school and school district are known for.

## Appeal

taxpayers with having GE Hitachi pay their fair share,' Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

The six other taxing bodies that receive property tax payments from the site include Coal City Fire Protection District, Coal City Public Library District, Goose Lake Township, Goose Lake Township Road District, Grundy County and Joliet Junior College. They are considering if to join in the PTAB complaint. The complaint must be filed within 30 days of the BOR's written notification which would put the deadline around Feb. 26.

The position of the disshould be assessed based on the income approach—rather than the cost approach—that is currently being used by the county's assessor when placing a value on the site.

The cost approach sets a value based on replacement costs, whereas the income approach uses the income the property generates to determine its value.

Owned and operated by GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy, the facility is the only permanent high level radioactive nuclear waste storage site in the country.

It provides storage space for 3,219 fuel assemblies within deep water pools at its facility along Collins Road. In total, the site provides storage for 773 metric tons or 1.7 million pounds of spent fuel. The majority it was shipped to the site from nuclear facilities located California, Nebraska, Connecticut and Minnesota. Dresden

Generating Station also has spent fuel stored there.

Local taxing districts have obtained two of the five contracts outlining what reactor owners are paying GE to hold onto their used fuel rods. Storage of spent nuclear fuel is the responsibility of the federal government, but without a central repository the feds pay operators to store their spent fuel and in this case those companies are paying GE for what they have shipped to the Goose Lake Township site.

taxing districts. through legal channels, are trying to obtain the other three fuel storage contracts.

Based on what is currently known, the taxing districts are of the opinion that the assessed value should be closer to \$80 million

'What a disservice the Board of Review has done to the taxpayers of Grundy and this district, and all others. It's just ridiculous, they need to pay their fair share," board member Quint Harmon said.

"I think the path has been pretty much determined from what we are going to get from the Board of Review, which is no fair and impartial—use whatever phrase you want to use—value of that property out there. So we are going to continue down the road and continue to have Board of Review hearings that will continue to do absolutely nothing and we will continue to file PTAB appeals and maybe someday we will get this thing resolved for the taxpayers we will be made whole," Hamilton said.

We are not going to quit," Board president Ken P. Miller said.

And, Hamilton confirmed, "We are not going to quit at all."

# Family Wellness Night is just a week away

STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 School District's Family Wellness Night will be bigger than before with over 80 vendors scheduled to partici-

After a pandemic hiatus, the popular community event returns with an expanded offering of activities for individuals of es. On the topic of good eating, the event we are glad to be able to bring this will see the return of the food court where

event back, it is such a great event for our community," Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer said. Sponsored by the district's Wellness

Committee, the Wednesday, Feb. 15 event will feature health and wellness services offered by a variety of local businesses, organizations and public service agencies.

The event provides attendees a variety of wellness activities and vendors in the areas of physical, emotional, mental and financial health

As the committee has long pointed out there is more to wellness than good eating and exercise.

samples will be provided.

There will be demonstrations and

kids activities throughout the event that will take place at Coal City High School.

Admission is free. Doors open at 6 p.m. and close at 8 p.m. Everyone attending will be entered into a drawing for prizes provided by the various vendors and local businesses and organizations.

Spencer said he is excited for the upcoming event and the interest its received with new vendors and groups reaching out to be a part of the program. Students

from Grundy Vocational Center will be participating in the event, Spencer saying its a great opportunity for the community to not only see what programs the vocational center offers, but to see the great things students are doing through their studies

"It's a wonderful event and we hope to see everyone on Feb. 15," Spencer said.

# Unit 1 names Students of the Week



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center Students of the Week for Feb. 6 in row one (from left) are: Tobi Kuhel, MacKenzie Sarff, Camden Brueggert and Aarya Dholariya. Emma Stukel is in row two with Raegan Picchi and Greysen Nugent. Completing the group in row three are Isabella Steenson, Oliver Rubio, Liam Santos, Jack Terrel and Avery Swanson.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for Feb. 6 are (from left): Kamden Gabehart, Mortisha Rutherford, Blake Jones and Aubrey Olszewski.



in row one are (from left): Brady Loughran, Santiago Rodriguez, Ethan Magana, Bradlee Severson, Annabella Burnett and Piper Kubina. Standing in row two are Ethan Lambert, Jordy Hossack Kaleb Mcumber, Emma Cvitanovich, Evelyn Gonzalez, Remi Aichele and Rosaria Mugnolo.



**MARINA FIGGE** Middle School



**COLTON BAILEY** Middle School



**MIA MCKIM** Middle School

# Coal City VFW Post 1336 to award scholarship

A scholarship grant is awarded annually to a Coal City High School student or graduate based upon demonstrated academic achievement

and community service. The scholarship is available for a college student who is a qualified Coal City High School graduate, or an honorably separated veteran who has served in the U.S.military active duty, include Reserves or National Guard. A hisgh school applicant must

continue their education in Postal Service. The scholarship The scholarship grant will be the Health Care/Mediacal field which can include Emergency dgrees such as Serice Paramedic/Firefighter, etc. A Veteran applicant is eligible for any type of continuing education that is approved for reimbursement by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

applicant awarded a scholar-

is a monetary grant and does not have to be repaid. The student must maintain a 2.8 grade point average, or equivalent. Payment will be made by check directly to the applicant upon successful completion of a designated semester of study.

An official school tran-The scholarship grant will script or a certificate indicat-be in the amount of \$1,000. An ing successful completion of ship will be notified by the name of the recipient must be selection committee via U.S. submitted to initiate payment.

awarded once to the student or veteran applicants.

An interested applicant needs to call 815-634-2435 or contact the High School Guidance Counselor acquire an application and do the following: complete the application, submit two letters of recommendation, an essay and any other documentation the education/training in the the applicant may deem appropriate.

## Parade entries sought for Carbon Hill Homecoming

The village of Carbon Hill is gearing June 25. up for its 73rd annual Homecoming celebration by inviting community businesses and organizations to be a part of its annu-

The parade will step off from the corner of Rathburn [McArdle Road] and Carbon Hill Road at 1 p.m. on Sunday,

The parade will travel north on Seventh Street to Lacy Street and east on Lacv to First Street where the parade will turn south on to First Street making its way back to Rathburn Street.

The parade is a total of 10 blocks traditionally lined with residents and guests.

Parade applications can be obtained at the village hall, 695 N. Holcomb St. or by contacting the village clerk at vochclerk@sbcglobal.net.

Line up numbers will be assigned and information sent out to all participants one week prior to the parade.

## COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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

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

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

Winter Read Challenge. Calling CCPLD library cardholders of all ages to "Cozy up With CCPLD" this winter. From now 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, Feb. 9- Terrific Tots – 10am

Early Dismissal Movie Day – 11:45am-2pm – K thru 5th graders can watch the movie "The Bad Guys."

Teen Fleece Pillow Making – 12-2pm - Teens 6th thru 12th grade can register to make a Fleece Pillow in the Teen Zone.

Galentine's Day - 2-8pm - It's the 5th Annual Galentine's Day event - Ladies Night Out! Ladies gather your girlfriends and come out for a night of spoiling your-selves this Valentine's Day! Participating locations will give out gift basket tickets to anyone wearing red or pink. Tickets can be dropped in any of the baskets on display here at the Coal City Public Library District between Thur., Feb. 9th and Sat., Feb. 11th at 4pm. The library will also hand out tickets to anyone checking out materials or using our servic es. Minnie's Travel Boutique will be in the meeting room from

Terrific Tots – 6pm Friday, Feb. 10- Euchre - 1-

Fun Fridays – 3pm Tween Lock-In - 5:30-8pm

5pm to 8pm.

Monday, Feb 13-Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

al parade.

Terrific Tots - 10am Country Meadows Group – 10am-12pm

Preschool Storytime – 11am Eager Readers Homeschool Edition – 1pm Eager Readers - 4pm

Family Lapsit – 6pm Preschool Storytime - 6pm Tuesday, Feb 14- Memory Keepers – 9am-4pm

Tween Club - 3:15pm CCPLD Board Meeting - 6:30-Wednesday, Feb. 15-Senior

Health Insurance (SHIP) – 9am–12pm Family Lapsit – 10am Preschool Storytime – 10am Adult Movie Day - Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris - 1-3pm



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> Eric D. Fisher, publisher Ann Gill, editor

# Unit 1 going to bid for facility improvements

The Unit 1 Board of Education is seeking bids for three improvement proj-

of the high school weight/fitness room, parking lot resurfacing and construction of an auxiliary road to the south of the district administration center to ease traffic congestion at the middle school.

We think these are things that we possibly do this summer," Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

the summer break, the Board authorized district staff to seek bids now.

lots would be focused on areas at the early childhood center, middle and high

Architects will determine if the space

around the administration center is suffi- is original to the space that was constructcient for the construction of an auxiliary road. That same group has also suggested expanding the parking lot at the school.

'If we put in this road and put in an additional parking lot for the middle school, and it works out financially and we can get it done, it's something that we would look at. If there is something that we can do to help with congestion at the middle school I don't think it's off the table," Spencer said.

The high school weight/fitness room renovation will include new paint and flooring, and electrical upgrades.

'When people go in there we want them to know it's Coal City Coalers and I think that will be done with some branding items in there," Spencer said.

The focus of the improvement will be updating the equipment—treadmills, exercise bikes and weights.

Spencer said most of the equipment the bids are received.

ed in the late 1990s.

This is an area that is used by a majority of our students. During the day we have weights, yoga and other classes in that space. And, we have kids that come in and use after school and of course we have our sports teams that use the space. It is one of the most used rooms in the

The projects were all included in the facility improvement plan, a blueprint drafted by the district's architects based on needs and wants presented by staff members through a series of focus group

Spencer said the projects being put out for bid are a starting point for what segments of the plan will be addressed.

As for financing, Spencer said there are different avenues the Board could take and much of that will be determined once

# Sectional next stop for Coaler speaksters

STAFF REPORT

The Coaler Speech team finished the first round of the state series in second place, advancing in 12 categories to the sectional competition this Senior Izzy Kostbade was

the regional champion in humorous interpretation and Jacob Cimino took the title in extemporaneous speaking.

Kostbade also took home the second place medal in poetry reading which also earned her a place in the sectional contest. Junior Chessa Kuhel fin-

ond place finish in prose and a third place medal in humorous duet acting with her speaking partner Kevin McConnell. McConnell also medaled and advanced to the sectional

with a fourth place finish in original comedy. Another double regional medal winner was junior Amelia Fritz who took second

in impromptu speaking and third in informational speak-Melody Kinder, a sophomore, advanced to the section-

al having placed third in orato-Third place medals were

also won by Corinna Barklev in special occasion speaking



THE COALER SPEECH team advanced all 14 categories into the final round of the Illinois High School Association [IHSA] regional last weekend at Reed-Custer High School and from that group the team will compete in 12 speaking categories at the sectional tournament this weekend in Morris. Participating at the regional were [from left, row one]: Jacob Cimino, Madison Wilson, Amelia Frits, Chessa Kuhel, Kevin McConnell, Kayla Connelly and Izzy Kostbade. Melody Kinder is in row two with Corinna Barkley, Logan Hausman and Bradley Burla. Sam Vota and Grey Vanek are pictured in row

the round—a group event that Saturday, Feb. 11. only competes in the state

when the team travels to Feb. 17 and 18. The team's performance in Morris for sectional action on

Those finishing in the top series—earned the regional three at the sectional advance local students compete against title and will be back in action to the state finals in Peoria, schools of all sizes.

tioned activities, there is no class system in speech, so the

# Students author a pledge to veterans

BY ANN GILL

Students at Coal City Middle School put pen to paper to convey their pledge to

open to all sixth seventh and ed in the national eighth grade students who are test. asked to write a 300 to 400 word essay on a theme selected by the national command-

pledge to our veterans. St. Juvin Post 1336 sponsors the contest at the local level and works with middle school history teacher Jim Hitchcock to promote partici-

er. This year's theme was, our

pation. There were 225 essays submitted by Coal City students. Entries are judged and the selections forwarded on to the district contest.

Entries are judged at each VFW Post and the selections

Coal City Intermediate

When it comes to

After a week of bitterly

weather in Grundy County, the new year started off

much better than the prior

cold temperatures and bliz-

zard conditions over the

Christmas holiday, the first

few days of 2023 saw temper-

atures in the mid-50's with a

ended with a daily low tem-

perature recorded at nega-

tive 1.8 degrees and about 2

inches of

ground.

However, the month

year and first month ended.

Rain, snow and cold

degrees.

Management

five with rain,

usher in new year

School's fourth and fifth grade

students elected the second

semester student council last

STAFF REPORT

are then forwarded on to the Leman, Jacob Munsterman, district, state and national Abi Rose, Faith Horkavy, James level. Each Post can submit Little, Grace Sitar, Kayla one entry to the district for Kowalski, Cate Rush, Kory judging for each 15 entries Lovell, Lilly Garrish, Kyla Stark

St. Juvin is one of 11 VFW Patriots Pen, a program of Posts in District 18 and among presented with a certificate of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, is them just five posts participatessay con-

In total there were 460 essays submitted to the district contest and the winners at that level advance to the state and national contests.

'Unfortunately, we didn't get any that went to state this year," said James "Hoppy" Phillips, Post 336 commander.

Phillips and several members of Post 1336 attended the Unit 1 Board of Education's February meeting to honor the 15 students who's essays were selected for district judging.

Ryland Clements, Leah Jensen, Emerson Koehn, Jaiden

CCIS elects second semester student council

to serve as representatives on

the council. The group meets

was calculated at 31.5

ly climatological data sum-

mary complied by the

Grundy County Emergency

[GCEMA] there were 15 days

with measurable precipita-

tion-seven with snow and

rain fell in January with 5.6

inches of snow recorded

bringing the total for the sea-

is compiled from records col-

lected and kept on file at the

GCEMA office located at the

son to just under 9 inches.

A total of 1.96 inches of

The weather data report

County

According to the month-

Elected were Hannah

and Jayla Reed.

Each of the students was participation and a power pack from Post 1336, and invited to programs that teach intertake part in a pizza party put on by the district.

"I want to thank the VFW for offering this great opportunity and helping us as teachers offer a segway into patriotism and civics," Hitchcock said.

"This is a great opportunity. Students worked hard and a lot of the time they worked on this paper wasn't just in class it was outside of class. You read some of these papers and talk to the judges, it brings a tear to your eye," Hitchcock said.

Phillips said the success of Those students were the essay program is due to the efforts of Hitchcock and the support of the school district

Bainen Durkee, Canon Wills,

Easton Horath, Ayden Swore,

Brodnick,

Vironda, Vesper Yarshen, Clare Haberzetle, Marilah Kaplan,

Caroline Grunwald and Kolbi

Opyd, Teigan Trofimchuck,

Parker Williams, Addy Hines,

Jake Benson, Raegan Enerson,

Josef Smith, Greyson Fergelec

Notice to disadvantaged

businesses interested

in local well project

**PUBLIC NOTICE** 

NOTICE TO DISADVANTAGE BUSINESSES

Cahoy Pump Service, 202 W. Howard St., Durand, IL 61024, phone 563-

578-1130, is seeking disavdantaged businesses for the Coal City New Well No. 7

Project for subcontracting opportunities in

the following areas: pipe supplies, site

should contact, IN WRITING, (certified letter, return receipt requested) Jonathan Lilja

to discuss the subcontracting opportunities. All negotiations must be completed prior to bid opening February 24, 2023. Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday Feb. 8, 2023.

disadvantaged

and Jacob Moore.

Álso, Collin Ness, Savanah Dick, Grayson Bailey, Lenie

Each class selects students Sinkular, Aubree Dearth,

'This is a good example of how good our teachers are in this community. When you read those essays it puts a little more faith in what our country is headed for," Phillips said.

mediate school students flag history and high school students about military life during the Vietnam era.

update the military photo wall at the high school and annually offers a college scholarship to a graduating senior.

allowing us in, because in some areas the schools do not allow the veterans to come in. Phillips said.

> Cedzidlo estate claim notice

## IN THE CIRCUIT COURT

FOR THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

Sharon M. Cedzidlo,

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Sharon M. Cedzidlo. Letters of office were issued on January 27, 2023 to John V. Magiera as independent executor, whose attorney of record is Charles L. Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450.

filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed within six months from the date of first publication or the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of Circuit Clerk, Grundy County rthouse. PO Box 707. 111 E. Courthouse, PO Box 707, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemp tions. To efile, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/geth-

Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd. 117 West Washington Street Morris, IL 60450 (815) 942-0701

Middle school to kick-off soccer program

BY ANN GILL **EDITOR** 

Soccer will be offered at Coal City Middle School for the first time ever in the fall.

Students in grades six to eight will have the opportunity to participate in the coed program that will be funded for the first three years by the Coal City Soccer Club.

"I think it will be a good opportunity for our kids,' Superintendent Spencer said.

soccer approached the school district in 2021 with the idea of implementing the sport at the middle school. But it came at a time when the district was uncertain about the the possibility that its largest taxpayer — Dresden Generating Station—would shut down.

Now knowing the generating station will remain open, the soccer club's proposal was revisited in December and based on a recommendation from middle school administration and the district's athletic director, the Board agreed last week to give soccer a try.

Soccer is not a sanctioned Illinois Elementary School Association [IESA] sport, but there are a number of schools that offer it including Morris, Minooka, Serena and Millbrook.

The increase in soccer programming at the school level has resulted in difficulties for the youth league.

"Part of the issue that occer came to us with is they are having a hard time getting teams to play in the fall because more and more middle schools are having soccer," Spencer said.

A survey conducted by the soccer club found that out of 174 students surveyed, 155 expressed an interest in playing the sport as part of a school team. The actual number of

students seeking a spot on the team won't be known until the program kicks-off sometime in August. At this time, the district

is looking at a six-week season with the number of games yet to be determined.

Daily practices will be held at the middle school and district officials have

been in contact with the village of Coal City regarding the utilization of the North Park field for games.

Spencer said the costs to be covered by the youth league are, "from start to finish," so that includes uniforms, equipment, coaches, referees and nets. At the conclusion of the

third season of play, district staff will evaluate the program and make a recommendation to the Board of Education if the district should continue the program and assume the finan-In other action from the

February Board of Education meeting:

• Upon a third reading, long term finances based on the Board approved 90 revised district policies as · As required, the Board

approved filing the quarterly dropout report for the quarter ending Dec. 21, 2002 with the Regional Office of Education. • Board

approved renewing its annual membership with the Grundy Economic Development Council [GEDC] at a cost of \$300. · A school site donation

of \$6,166 was received from the village of Coal City and approved by the board. • Approved the employment of Ashley Reszel, one-

on-one special education aide at the early childhood • Emma Brumfield was hired as a full-time custodian

at the middle school.

Brumfield replaces Trisha • At the recommendation of the athletic director, the Board approved Lonnie Henline as a volunteer coach

for the high school varsity softball team. Following legal review, Board members approved moving the minutes of five closed session discussions to Those meetings occurred on Nov. 2, Oct. 5, July 6 and 27 and June 29,

The next meeting of the Unit 1 Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 with a study session of the whole slated for Wednesday, Feb. 22. Both meetings begin at 6 p.m. in the meeting room of the administration center and are open to the public.

# **GAVC** honors students

Four Coal City High School students have been awarded the Director's Award, one of the highest honors a student can earn at the Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC]. Every month instructors from each of the center's program

areas recognize exceptional students. The honor is based on a student's attendance, leadership skills, citizenship, professional attitude, ability in practicum activities and classroom assignments, teamwork and safety. Coal City students selected for the award in January include

Elaina Patten, cosmetology; Brooklyn Elam, agriculture; Zakkary Kramer, criminal justice; and Ava Templet, entrepreneurship

Notice of Foreclosure of 260 7th Avenue

## PUBLIC NOTICE

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

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.; Plaintiff, -v.- JASON R. BROOKS; TARA BROOKS, AKA TARA R. BROOKS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS;

ESTATE OF EDWARD J. MALEK, DECEASED; Defendants, NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Estate of Edward J. Malek, deceased, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit Grundy County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit: Parcel 1: Lot 2 in Block 3 in Out Lot #1, First Addition to South Wilmington, of Chicago, Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company's Subdivision of the South 1/2 of the West 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 11, Township 31 North, Range 8, East of the

Third Principal Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois.

Parcel 2: A strip of land 50 feet in width as now located through the West 1/2 of said Section 11; the center line of said strip being 58 feet East of and parallel to the West line of said Section 11 and running in a Northerly direction and adjoining Lot 2 in Block 3 in Out Lot #1, First Addition to South Wilmington.

Parcel 3: Lot 3 in Block 3 in Outlot 1, First Addition of South Wilmington, Grundy

County, Illinois; also described as Lot 3, Block 3, of Greenfield Township, Coal Company Subdivision of Outlot 1, Grundy County, Illinois; also described as Lot 3 in Block 3 in Outlot 1 of the Chicago, Wilmington and Vermillion Coal Company's Subdivision of the West 1/2 of the South 1/2 of the Southwest 1/4 of Section 11, Township 31 North, Range 8, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois.

Parcel 4: A strip or land 50 feet in width as now located through the West 1/2 or said Section 11; the center line of said strip bring 58 feet east of and parallel to the West line of said Section 11, commencing at the Southwest corner of said Section 11 and running in a Northerly direction and adjoining Lot 3 in Block 3 in Out Lot #1, First Addition to South Wilmington; (excepting from the above parcels coal and other minerals underlying said premises and the right to mine and remove the same), in Grundy County, Illinois. 260 7th Avenue, South Wilmington, IL 60474 12-11-358-002

Now, therefore, unless you, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Estate of Edward J. Malek, deceased, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois, on or before March 24, 2023, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-

file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illi-noiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/geth-

elp.asp or contact the Clerk of this Court. Andrew K. Weiss (6284233) MANLEY DEAS KOCHALSKI LLC Attorneys for Plaintiff
One East Wacker, Suite 1250, Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: 312-651-6700; Fax: 614-220-5613

Email: akweiss@manleydeas.com One of Plaintiff's Attorneys File Number: 22-037247

13212481
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 8 and 15, 2023.

#### Grundy Overall, the average Administration Center in temperature for the month

snow on the

The first projects include renovation

In order to get the projects done over

The resurfacing of asphalt parking

Along with Patriots Pen,

Currently, the Post is supporting an art project to

We do appreciate you

# Attorney Schmidt files

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2023-PR-9 In the Matter of the Estate of

Claims against the estate may be

elp.asp, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. Charles L. Schmidt

grundylaw@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant
on Feb. 1, 8 and 15, 2023.

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

Submissions by courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff in the subject line or go to www.freep ressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Soundoff or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 o. 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

## See the truth

BRAIDWOOD-Why is every article written on the front page about the things the Braidwood administration and police department do for the city is positive and yet every comment written in Soundoff, by the same person, is negative? When the paper writes an article it is written on facts. When this administration took over they spent the first year digging the city out of the huge debt the past administration had created. The administration and the police chief have worked hard to improve the city and help create a caring community. They increased the sales tax revenue by 61% and it will continue to increase as new businesses are built. Young people are moving to Braidwood to raise their families instead of moving out. All this is fact. Please remember, anyone can make up anything. Research and see the truth. The city is in great shape.

Thinking twice
WILMINGTON—Reading the negative comments about the Wilmington Area Historical Society. Are there secret meetings going on at different places within this community? If so what are your reasons for these meetings? Is there something that's not being told to the other board members? Is there a reason for these secretive meetings? Are the ones who meet at these meetings hiding important information from the public, but they can be sneaky without being noticed? Can this board tell the community what is really going on? I was told that there will be a new board in March. Is this because certain board members and members are refusing to obey the bylaws and the constitution? I think throwing out the Robert's rules at a meeting from a gentleman who's just a member. What is your clout in this community besides serving on other boards in Wilmington? As I remember the actions you voting the secretary off the board of the Wilmington Area Historical Society along with others. Prior to my knowledge I never saw you at a meeting until then. Are these the intentions of the board and others to overthrow the current board? Isn't this going against the bylaws and constitution as it's stated? I have some great articles and artifacts depicting Wilmington and its forefathers that has a lot of information that would benefit the museum. I decided the Wilmington Area Historical Society is not worthy of these artifacts and articles I have in my possession until they decide to have a decent board who will be working towards the future for the museum and not against the current board. Don't the residents of Wilmington deserve the truth that's being said behind the scenes? I heard there is a museum in Pontiac depicting history of Wilmington. I don't know how many residents are as disgusted with this museum as I am. Until then I will keep my artifacts and articles that would bene-

## fit the museum. Need for more staff

COAL CITY—In a recent Coal City District 1 board meeting our special education manager was describing the need for more special education staff in our schools due to move ins. One of the board members was noticeably frustrated about the move ins. That is what happens when your district is a light house. It attracts families who need services. Our district is not financially hurting. To provide an excellent education we need staff and decent class sizes not an artificial turf field or a shiny new addition to our schools.

## Work for us

BRAIDWOOD—In response to meeting minutes. It is becoming clear that someone on the Braidwood City Council does not want the Braidwood citizens to know what is said and done at the meetings. What council members and most politicians are forgetting is they are suppose to work for the people and the improvements of the community not just for themselves. I think it's time everyone on the city council be replaced now.

## Just a reminder

COAL CITY—The next Coal City Area Club meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the club office. The senior members changes are on the agenda. Being a former board member myself, in my opinion this matter could have been handled in a different way. Come and voice your opinion. Kenneth Mack

## Santos an excellent pick

As a lifelong proud Democrat I had a good laugh when I heard that Trump is once again running for president. He lost the popular vote in two elections in a row and in 2024 he will get the hat trick. When he runs he will need someone to fill the ticket as vice president. Mike Pence is off the list since he's probably still running away from the mob Trump sent to hang him two years ago. But there is a new face who is a prefect match for trump though it's hard to believe he is more of a fraud and a better liar than Trump. Of course I am speaking of the new congressman, George Santos. Next week I expect him to tell us that he invented the alphabet and that he has walked on the moon on more than one occasion. He is part of the Republican freak show that is now in control of the US House and the Nation's capital. Included in this group are election deniers, a high school dropout, shameless publicity hounds and quianon conspiracy idiots. I can't imagine who votes to put these people in office but just read Sound-off every week and you will discover how crazy the Right Wing nuts are. The Republican party has been promoting stupidity and lies for years and now we are sadly living with the results.

## Smoke and mirrors

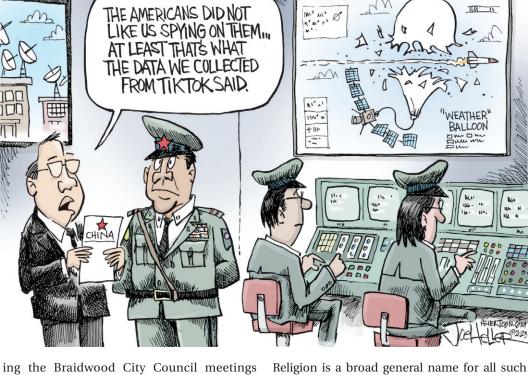
BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood beware. It's election time and you're going to see lots of baited promises and lucrative future offerings by displaying what they want you to believe is yet to come out of city hall. It's all a desperate and elaborate display of smoke and mirrors in an attempt to lure your vote. Don't be fooled by the delicious icing covering the cake because the bakers only know how to cover up and disguise their rotten creations underneath.

## Enemies among us

SHADOW LAKES—For years I have been saying China is our biggest danger, not MAGA Republicans, not white supremacists. It's China and the politicians, movie stars, sport stars that support China because they are getting a piece of the pie. Know your enemy.

## Keep it civil

BRAIDWOOD—Every single person sitting at the head table of the council chambers dur-



should be ashamed of themselves. It is an absolute embarrassment to our community to watch the turmoil unfold and accusations being thrown back and forth for the public to see. From the way our mayor has used profanity to describe some Braidwood residents and the way our city clerk is trying to shame those seeking information, to the back and forth badgering and flogging between the city administrator and the street department commissioner. You are all adults and supposed to be role models for our younger citizens, so start acting like it instead of acting like little immature children. There's plenty of 10 year olds who act more mature, respectful and professional than any of you. The residents of Braidwood are sick and tired of it and we want

## No Christian is hateful

DIAMOND—Regarding "Religion is dying" from Wilmington on Jan. 25, 2023. I can't believe it was your intention that you have started a discussion about the endless struggle between good and evil. As an atheist you do not believe in the existence of God. But He knows of your existence because He created you in His image. God is the utmost authority of love and good. Each and every human born is endowed by his creator with the ability to choose between good and evil over, and over and over each minute, day and year of his or her lifetime. Your mother chose life and love so you could be born. God gave each of us a free will or right to choose. It came from God and only God can remove it. Many people, institutions and governments have tried to remove our God given freedoms, the freedom to speak truth, the freedom to worship God both privately and publicly and the freedom to defend ourselves from evil encroachment. Historically, violence and sin have even involved what is called the "church." There have been and will continue to be "false prophets." They are not instituted by God but mankind's capacity to choose evil.

systems of beliefs from the earliest recorded history to the present day. Whereas Christians affirm the divinity of Christ Jesus, the only begotten son of God, in your own words Christianity is still the dominant religion in America as well it should be as our constitution, the bill of rights and our own very government itself was conceived, designed and dedi cated to Christianity. Christianity is the personal relationship of a single person to Jesus. A A congregation is any number of two or more people of like faith worshipping together. Both the worshippers themselves and the place where they meet are known as the "church. The "LGBTQ Community" was not created by the divine nor was it constituted as part of our country. It is a form of the "nones" you mentioned that don't belong to any form of religion however they are endowed by their creator with the same ability to choose between good and evil as is the rest of humanity. You did mention the existence of heaven and hell. It is neither the duty nor the privilege of any human being to judge or decree where individuals will spend eternity. Jesus is our only judge, seated on His throne at the right hand of God. Jesus will decide where every individual will spend eternal life. As Christ was dying on the cross cov ered with every sin committed by mankind at that time before the birth of Christ and until the end of time. Some of His last words were forgive them Father, for they know not what they do. Christ's resurrection from the dead or the third day was His victory over sin and death. From the time of our birth until the day we die on this earth we have the right to choose good or evil. Jesus commands us to pray for our enemies that they might repent of their sins and seek God's forgiveness. No Christian is hateful, angry nor takes pleasure at what you do, say or the choices you make. "But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you then choose for yourself this day who you will serve. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Commentary

# Illinois state leaders see taxpayers' 'no' as reason to just ask again

BY BRAD WEISENSTEIN

ILLINOIS POLICY INSTITUTE

You've been in the supermarket and seen the beleaguered parent bugged by a child for a package of cookies. "No" is followed by asking again, and whining, and asking

Illinois taxpayers are seeing this scene, only they are the parents and state leaders the needy youngsters.

Voters already said "no" in November 2020 to replacing the Illinois Constitution's flat tax protection with a progressive state income tax. They did so by a nearly 7 percentage point margin.

But some in Springfield are refusing to take "no" for an

The day after the proposal failed, Gov. J.B. Pritzker had his spokesman claiming voters were deceived into rejecting the tax, despite the \$58 million of his own money he dumped into his failed campaign that claimed taking another \$3 billion from Illinois taxpayers was

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a "fair tax."

Duped? More like adults more.' deciding Pritzker & Co. needed denying them a way to conretirees, whenever they want-

And don't forget that pols let slip exactly what the progressive tax could lead to.

"One thing a progressive tax would do is make clear you can have graduated rates when you are taxing retirement income," Illinois Treasurer Michael Frerichs said while voters. speaking in 2020. "And, I think that's something that's worth

The chief House sponsor for putting the progressive tax discussion."

We also heard from indicted former Illinois House Speaker Mike Madigan's successor, Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, when he let the proposal resurface about three months after vectors resistable."

"If you really believe in something, you don't give up months after voters rejected it.

'We need to tell the taxpayers how we will spend this money," Welch said in February 2021 at the Economic Club of Chicago. "Tie progressive tax(es) to paying off pen-

warrenscollisioncenteril.com

Which brings Illinois taxno more cookies - or rather payers to state leaders' latest refusal to listen. On the heels sume taxes from different of giving themselves 18% raisincome groups, including es in their base pay, state lawmakers again are looking for that power to end the state's flat income tax of 4.95% and they expect voters to let them set whatever rates they wish by targeting whatever income groups they wish.

Īt's a progressive tax. They call it fair. And they are fine with ignoring the "no" from

on the ballot recently told Crain's Chicago Business he is planning to bring it back, maybe in a month, now that he's a state senator.

after one loss," state Sen. Robert Martwick, D-Chicago, said about reviving the plot. "It's the right thing to do.'

Right for state lawmakers who want ever more to spend, managing editor of the free even with a record \$46 billion market Illinois Policy Institute.

sion(s). Voters will trust us budget this year? Right for taxpayers who can only be sure their taxes will never go down in Illinois?

Pritzker reacted: "That's not something I am focused on this session." That's far from telling Martwick to stand down, but maybe Pritzker is

getting the message? Illinois lost a record 104,437 residents last year the ninth straight year of population loss. Losses are because people are moving away. They've said they are moving away because of taxes, and for the better job and housing markets lower-tax

states offer. Whether they are insistent, or deaf or just want what they want regardless of the consequences, members of the new 103rd Illinois General Assembly should not take their supermajority status for granted. They may get what they want for now, but they also may get abandoned in the supermarket.

Brad Weisenstein is the

# IL Legislature returns with Democrats in the supermajority

BY GREG BISHOP THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois state lawmakers returned to Springfield

Both chambers have passed new rules for the 103rd General Assembly that began last month following November's elec-

More than 1,300 bills have been newly filed in the Senate. Friday is the deadline for more.

The House has a deadline of Feb. 17 to file bills. There've been nearly 2,200

During debate last week over House rules, state Rep. Patrick Windhorst, R-Metropolis, urged for more in whether Republican bills, with bipartisan support, can get a fair hearing.

'It's no guarantee they would be voted on on the floor, just that they could be heard and voted on in committee," Windhorst argued. "And I think the members on our side of the aisle believe that's just fundamentally fair, it's a matter of fairness.'

State Rep. Davidsmeyer, Jacksonville, said giving the Republican super minority a voice can be as simple as allowing equal time for witnesses during committee hearings.

"We wanted to ensure that all of our members of the committee, as well as all the members of the House of Representatives, have the opportunity to truly hear both sides of the issue,"

Davidsmeyer said. House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside, said Democrats won the supermajority.

"We will not waste the people's time," Welch said. "There are 78 of us on this side of the aisle for a reason.

The voters have spoken.' He laid out what he said is their priorities, like labor issues, access to abortion and election law

among others "They want us to continue balancing budgets and helping working families," Welch said. "That's what we're going to do here. We're gonna do the serious work that we were sent here

The Senate has hearings scheduled this week for committees touching on the judiciary, insurance and higher education this week.

The House has a subject matter hearing today to review the status of the evidence-based funding for K-12 education.

More hearings could be scheduled in the days ahead.

Next week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker delivers his budget and State of the State Address.

Consider placing a freeze on your credit report if you are notified that your identifiable financial information has been compromised in a security or data breach. Doing so is free and can help prevent an identity thief from applying for and receiving approval to create a credit account using your name.

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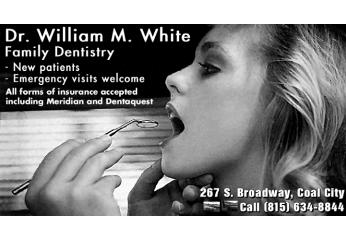
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## Lewis Univ. dean's list

were honored on the Lewis University Dean's List for the 2022 Fall Semester.

To be eligible for this honor, students must have completed a minimum of 12 credit hours during the semester with a grade point average of at least 3.5 and with no "D" or "F" grades.

Crescenti, of Wilmington; Cain Headrick, of Custer Park; Lexi Jessica Leasure, Banas. Victoria Miller, Jevin Reed and Ryleigh Christensen, of Coal City; Nicole Wiltz, of Diamond and Alexander Crickman, Alec Dinh, McKenzie Ellison, Molly Gustafson, Kyla Kjellesvik, Area students on the list Jennifer Murphy and Jon Jaden Christian, Overton, of Morris.





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DRAW (



whiskey and the rum world have been blessed with "cask strength" or "barrel proof" expressions from distillers, meaning that the spirits are bottled higher than the standard 80 proof. In some cases, much higher.

One of the highest-octane expressions in the rum world comes from Jamaican distillers Wray & Nephew. Despite the "overproof" bottling, Wray & Nephew has solidified its place in Jamaican culture as part of one of the most popular Caribbean cocktails, the iconic Wray and Ting. Wray & Nephew began

producing Jamaican rum in 1825 and has marketed many different expressions of their rum with varying degrees of success and staying power. The Wray flagship brand is their overproof white rum bottled at 63% ABV, or 126 proof.

Wait a minute, 126 proof? Is it flammable? As a matter of fact, it is. Outside of Jamaica Wray & Nephew overproof is primarily used as a "float" on top of flaming drinks and

It has culinary applications as well, many chefs use the potent Jamaican rum to flambé desserts. Occasionally bartenders will use it to give a kick to an overly sweet drink such as a Rum Runner or a In Jamaica, they actually

drink the Wray overproof, and they drink a lot of it. Throughout the years I

have heard that 90% of all rum consumed in Jamaica is pro-

wondered exactly how **Jamaicans** were enjoying their Wray & Nephew. Overproof rum has a certain jet fuel burn to it. although it has sweet notes on the front end. The finish is every bit rough as you can imagine.

Sure, it's an acquired taste, but one that is celebrated on the island. Wray & Nephew overproof is a great source of pride for the island and toasting with the iconic spirit is a part of many milestones and celebrations in Iamaican life. It turns out that the most

popular rum in Jamaica is used to make the most popular mixed drink in Jamaica, the Wray and Ting. Wray and Ting? We know

by the name that the drink uses Wray & Nephew, but what Ting is a Jamaican grape-

fruit soda, one that is wildly popular on the island. Many tourists have enjoyed a Wray & Ting on a Jamaican cruise and attempted to replicate the drink at home using Squirt, or a store brand American grapefruit soda. Squirt is not an ideal sub-

stitute for Ting as Squirt is sweetened with high fructose corn syrup whereas Ting is sweetened with pure cane

Brian Rung

complements the white overproof rum in the Wray and Ting, squeeze wedge of lime and you will see what the hype is all about.

Are you ready for a Wray and Ting? I have some good news for you. ŬS distribution for Ting soda is as

strong as it has ever been, it may be in a supermarket near you. Be sure to check the 'international foods" section of your local store if you do not see Ting in the soda aisle.

I picked up a six pack at my local store and had a few sips of the Ting on its own, and it does have a unique and refreshing sweetness to it. I am not a huge fan of soda, but Ting over ice does the trick and tastes like actual grapefruit.

If you are unable to find Ting locally, it can be ordered from Amazon or any number of other online retailers. As mentioned earlier the distribution is getting better, and vou have social media to thank for that

Thousands of Facebook posts depicting vacationers with Wray and Ting has managed to create worldwide demand for Ting.

Pick up some Wray & Nephew overproof, and I hope that you can track down a six pack of Ting. Let's pour one of

that the starting point for this drink is 6 ounces of soda to 1 ounce of rum.

That seems like a bit much on the soda side, but remember that we are dealing with a rum bottled at 63% ABV In terms of ABV, one ounce of overproof rum equals approximately 1 1/4 to 1 1/2 ounces of

standard 80 proof rum. If you want more kick in your Wray and Ting you can certainly turn up the heat by adding more of the overproof

One more thing, and this is important: Don't forget the lime. I prefer to squeeze in at least \_ oz. fresh lime juice, maybe a bit more. Keep in mind that this is a 7 ounce drink on ice, it can take a little

Simple as it may be, the

Wray and Ting is a cultural phenomenon that must be sampled if you are a fan of Caribbean cocktails. Building a dynamite reg-

gae playlist is not a requirement to enjoy a Wray and Ting, but it certainly doesn't hurt either. classic Jamaican The

Wray and Ting is served over ice in a Collins (tall) glass. Fill glass with ice and add:

1 oz. Wray and Nephew White Overproof Rum 6 oz. Ting Grapefruit Soda

Squeeze in juice from one lime wedge Stir and garnish with lime

Ŭntil next week, enjoy

One thing that you will responsibly.

# Illinois' biometric law strengthened by latest ruling

BY HANNAH MEISEL CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – People who've been subject to fingerprinting, face or retinal scans as either employees or customers of Illinois companies have five years to file lawsuits if they believe the business violated a stringent state privacy law, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled last week.

It's the latest in a handful of cases that have reached Illinois' high court in recent years, all refining the state's Biometric Information Privacy Act. Also known as BIPA, the first-of-its-kind law has, since 2008, made Illinois the only state that grants a private right of action to sue over the improper collection and mishandling of biometric data.

Justices ruled BIPA has an The company argued the court the first among thousands of unequivocal five-year statute of limitations on all claims under the law – not a one-year window as employers and business groups had hoped

In this case, logistics company Black Horse Carriers Inc., which has since been acquired by trucking giant Penske, faced a class action lawsuit. A former employee initiated the suit, alleging the company violated BIPA by requiring time clock fingerprint authentication without maintaining a publicly available policy on how the company would treat employees' biometric data.

The suit also claimed notice to employees that the timeclock was collecting their fingerprints, and didn't explic-

should've applied the one-year statute of limitations under Illinois' Right of Publicity Act. But the court unanimously disagreed. In issuing a blanket five-

year statute of limitations for all BIPA claims, the 5-0 majority of the court emphasized that "the full ramifications of the harms associated with biometric technology is unknown.' Without the law, the court wrote, individuals whose biometric data was improperly collected or disseminated might never even know it - at least until they felt the consequences.

Nearly 1.5 million Black Horse failed to provide Illinoisans were eligible for their share of a \$650 million class action settlement with Facebook under BIPA in 2020, itly get employees' consent. a five-year case that was one of

suits filed under the law, with the trend really taking off around 2018, Kays said. Thursday's opinion was

another legal victory for pro-

ponents of BIPA - especially a

handful of law firms specializ-

ing in filing class action cases over biometric data. Those attorneys have made the same basic argument in thousands of lawsuits over the last several years: if someone's identity is stolen, they can obtain a new social security number. But if their biometric data is stolen. it's impossible to get a new fingerprint or face. So far, Illinois' high court

has agreed - as did a federal jury in October, granting \$228 million in damages in a class action BIPA case against BNSF Railways, the first jury test of

## Pritzker says COVID-19 disaster proclamation to end in May

BY HANNAH MEISEL

CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

PRINGFIELD – Exactly 38 months after the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, Illinois will no longer be under a disaster proclamation as of May 11,

Gov. JB Pritzker announced masks in health care settings.

the national public health emergency, which just passed the three-year mark last week.

Pritzker had declared a public health emergency two days before the WHO's pan-demic determination and has renewed his disaster procla-mation every 30 days since

The repeated proclamations gave the governor authority for COVID-related actions such as closing schools, issuing stay-at-home orders and mandating masks and vaccines. But they were a source of consternation for Pritzker's political opponents.

The governor had slowly rolled back his COVID-19 mandates over the past year, including an action in October when he reversed the requirement for vaccines, testing and

the same day seven states with some sort of additional sident Joe Biden will end COVID-related emergency Nutrition Assistance Program proclamation on its books.

> These disaster declarations have allowed those states including Republican-run Texas – to continue benefiting from COVID-era bumps in federal reimbursements for programs like Medicaid, additional benefits for those on food stamps and the ability to quickly deploy emergency workers to respond to areas in need, like hospitals with severely short staffing.

disaster state's "Our proclamation and executive orders enabled us to use every resource at our disposal from building up testing capacity and expanding our health care workforce to supporting our vaccine rollout and mutual aid efforts," Pritzker said in a state-

Pritzker said 1.4 million

children in Illinois received But Illinois is still one of nutrition support under the benefits. He also pointed to the expansion of telehealth during the pandemic under his disaster proclamation, which has largely been adapted into state law after it proved popular with doctors and patients

> Opponents to Pritzker's repeated issuance of disaster proclamations insisted the governor was limited to the 30 days laid out in state law, but legal challenges to that effect ultimately failed after months

> of litigation. The governor's disaster proclamation also allowed for the activation of the State **Emergency Operations Center,** which brokered cooperation between the leaders of different state agencies in response

to COVID-19.

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## As Illinois aims to add more wind farms, concerns raised about wildlife

BY KEVIN BESSLER THE CENTER SQUARE

As Illinois forges ahead with plans to assist in the adding of more wind farms around the state, environmentalists say there is a down-

Hundreds of thousands of birds and bats perish annually in collisions with turbine

blades and other equipment at renewable energy installations. The country's solar farms have a bird problem as well. Utility companies reportedly have been finding bird carcasses littering the ground at their facilities for years. In 2016, a study by

ScienceDirect estimated that the hundreds of utility-scale solar farms around the U.S. may kill nearly 140,000 birds annually. During debate on legislation at the Illinois

statehouse about county control over placement of renewable energy projects, state Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet, cited another study in which a large portion of the deaths involved eagles and hawks.

"Why is that important? Because they're the ones that keep all the other species in check," Rose said. "They are the ones who eat

mice and rats and prevent vermin from spreading disease."

Last year, a wind energy company was ordered to pay more than \$8 million in fines and restitution after at least 150 eagles were killed at its wind farms in eight states, including Illinois. NextEra Energy subsidiary ESI Energy pleaded guilty to three counts of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Conservation biology professor Angelo Capperella at Illinois State University is concerned about bats, which help control insect populations.

The bats are a really huge issue, one that I don't know how the wind farm companies are going to deal with it because bats have been declining for other reasons as well," Capperella

One solution would be to turn off the windmills at night when bats are migrating, Capperella said.

It now appears Illinois will become involved in the siting of wind and solar projects. Gov. J.B. Pritzker is expected to sign legislation which essentially takes away local control from counties for the siting of wind farms. It is a reversal from last summer when Pritzker said the state would not get involved.

# Who makes the best chili?



Freemasons invite you to turn in your best

LOOK WHO'S IN the kitchen. Ben Stickel may have a secret ingredient in his chili but to find out you'll have to come to the Wilmington Masonic Lodge, 311 Main St., Wilmington, on Sunday Feb. 26. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. the Wilmington Freemasons lodge #208 will have its 13th annual Chili Cook-Off to fund the Pedals for Progress program. Tasting and a bowl of house chili is \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids over 11 and free for kids 11 and under. There will also be \$1 hot dogs available. Think you have what it takes to be the Chili King? To register as a contestant call Stickel 815-370-7331 or Matt Lohmar 815-210-9606.

## Dropoff string lights, electronics Thursday

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Feb. 9, from 5-7 recorders, p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water

Holiday string lights that are no longer working may be dropped off for recycling. This is for string lights only, no stand alone LEDs, CFLs or other fluorescent lights. Participants are reminded

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

Items accepted include: Televisions (limit 2), monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets),

keyboards, fax videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satelite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

## Mobile food pantry coming Monday to So. Wilmington

Food Pantry will be distributing food on Monday, Feb. 13, at 4 p.m. at St. Lawrence Church (135 Rice Road in South Wilmington) in the church parking lot (rain or

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

Participants are asked to

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

You do not have to be Catholic to participate. Catholic Charities helps people of all faiths and beliefs. For more information about Catholic Charities, please visit catholiccharitiesjoliet.org.

## SIUE fall deans list

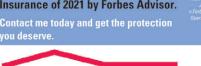
University announced the names of students qualifying for the fall 2022 dean's list, maintaining a grade-point

have 12 hours calculated (B is equivalent to 3.0; A to 4.0).

Among those students were Destiny Dodge and Colleen Feeney, of Coal City; Carley Wilkerson, of Wilmington and Elizabeth Carroll, of Mazon.

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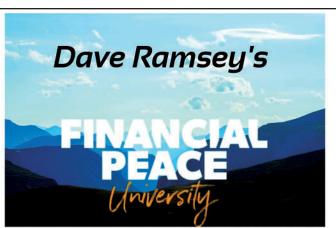
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Take charge of your finances, eliminate debt and build wealth.

Island City Baptist is excited to offer Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University! Class starts Feb. 16 at 6:30 pm and runs every Thursday evening until April 13.

Address: 120 Vine Street, Wilmington, IL Code for enrolling is: fpu.com/1160065

Led by Diane Brannock-Martin.

# McDonough Street bridge to reopen, Jefferson St. to close

The Illinois Department from a central location, creat- closure is necessary to comof Transportation announced that the McDonough Street bridge over the Des Plaines River in Joliet will reopen, weather permitting, Monday,

November as part of ongoing efforts to upgrade the movable bridges in downtown Joliet to weather permitting, the allow them to be controlled evening of Friday, Feb. 17. The Street (Illinois 53).

ing a more efficient system of lifting and lowering the bridges and increasing safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and marine traffic.

Shortly after the reopen-The bridge was closed in ing of McDonough Street, the Jefferson Street (U.S. 30) bridge will be closed until,

plete final testing of the remote-control system that was installed on the bridge last detour will direct

motorists to Raynor Avenue (U.S. 52) and McDonough Street (U.S. 52) to cross the river and reconnect with Jefferson Street via Chicago

# Nutrition experts rank best diets

sticking with that new year's resolution to try to

There's a lot more to it than just grabbing every "reduced fat" item off the grocery store

Karen Whitehorn, MD, an OSF HealthCare internal medicine physician, hears questions all the time about diets. Her first question back is usually: what do you want out of your diet? Do you want to be healthy? Lose weight? Manage a medical condition? Sort through the details, and you'll find the best option.

U.S. News and World Report recently consulted a panel of medical and nutrition experts to rank the best diets. The Mediterranean diet topped the list. Dr. Whitehorn says this diet is based on the eating habits of people who live near the Mediterranean Sea. It's a plant-based diet, incorporating fruits, vegetables, whole grains, brown rice and seafood.

"The Mediterranean diet is actually pretty easy to follow. But you need to make sure you have the right food in your home," Dr. Whitehorn says. "It might be a little more difficult during the winter to get fresh fruits and vegetables. If you can't, frozen is OK. Canned is OK. But we recommend you rinse the canned food first to decrease some of the salt."

Number two on the U.S News list is a plan Dr. Whitehorn recommends often: dietary approaches to stop hypertension, or the DASH diet. It recommends foods that are low in sodi-

One month has passed and are you still um and high in magnesium and potassium.

Some people may incorporate fasting into ir diet. Dr. Whitehorn says fasting, when done in consultation with a medical expert, can work. But she's hesitant to recommend it broad-

'Our bodies need nutrients every couple hours. So to not eat anything for 12 hours can cause other problems," Dr. Whitehorn says. "If you're diabetic and don't eat for 12 hours, your blood sugar could drop too low. Then when you eat, it could go too high.'

Watch out for fad diets on social media, Dr. Whitehorn says. Remember the saying: if it's too good to be true, it probably is.

'Fad diets are not consistent. They're not healthy. They don't provide you the nutrients you need. If it requires you to take a pill or drastically reduce your calories, it's not really a healthy diet. It can only be followed in the short

On the contrary, working out a diet plan with your health care provider has a better chance of achieving long term results.

"A healthy diet gives you the energy you need to do everyday activities," Dr. Whitehorn says. "It has been shown to increase your life expectancy. And it helps prevent chronic medical problems like high blood pressure, dia-

betes, cancer and heart disease."

Visit the OSF HealthCare website for healthy recipes.



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# OBITUARIES

## \_\_\_\_ Kenneth E. Kern Jr. \_\_\_\_\_



GODLEY—Kenneth Kern Jr, 73, of Godley, passed away peacefully on Jan. 30,

He was born Aug. 12, 1949 to the late Kenneth Kern Sr. and Joyce (Kline)

He served time in the U.S. Army and was educated in Morris schools. Ken was a jack of all trades. There wasn't a thing he couldn't fix or didn't have a part for in his garage. He enjoyed spending time with his dog, "Buddy Bud," and was never hesitant to let everyone know that was his favorite child. He was a social butterfly and truly didn't know a stranger. He loved to entertain with stories of the past so outrageous one couldn't help but wonder if they had any merit, but also confident in their truth because he was also well known for his no nonsense honesty. Ken had a way of charming his way in to people's lives. With his piercing blue eyes, his snow white beard, and his infectious chuckle, he held an uncanny resemblance to Santa Claus. He will

forever be missed for his never ending sense of

humor and his gentle hearted nature.

Kenneth is survived by his children: David (Kim) Kern, of Dwight; Robin Esparza and Dottie (Doug) Savarino, all of Braidwood and Cindie Kern, of Joliet; 11 grandchildren and one great-grandson as well as his siblings: Ray Kern, of Princeton; Gary (Linda) Kern, of Princeton; Debra (Eugene) Pfister, of St. Charles, MO and Don Kern, of Townsend GA.

Kenneth was preceded in death by his parents, sister-in-law, Louis Kern and grandson, Ĵensen Esparza.

Cremation rites were accorded. Graveside services will take place at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Friday, Feb. 17, 2023 at 1 p.m. with military honors being conducted. The family invites all their friends and family to join in a celebration of Ken's life immediately following the services at the VFW in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials in Kenneth's name may be made to the family for their distribu-

## \_ Evelyn Fennewald \_\_\_\_\_

WILMINGTON—Evelyn Fennewald (nee Brown), 80, Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 at her home.

Born Oct. 28, 1942 in Joliet, Evelyn was a daughter of Harry Glenn and Genevieve Lucille "Jean" (Muncy) Brown. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School. Evelyn was a former member of First Baptist Church of Wilmington and currently attended and belonged to Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington.

Evelyn had several places of employment over the years including Precision Components, Family Dollar Store and the Wilmington School District cafeterias. Most recently, she had worked for Chicagoland Speedway as a ticket taker. Evelyn took great pleasure in going for walks or dancing, but was happiest when she was spending quality time with her family and friends who she loved so much.

Survivors include her husband, Melvin A. Fennewald, who she married Jan. 8, 2004; one sister: Kathleen (Max) Hoffman, of Channahon; one brother, Edward (Sandy) Scrogham, of Gardner; three step-children: Brenda, Melanie and Melody and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as nieces, nephews and cousins.

Evelyn was preceded in death by her parents, three siblings: Janet Brown, Roland "Ronnie" Brown and Robert (Sarah) Brown.

Funeral services were held at

Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023. Deacon Jay Plese from St. Rose Parish presided, and burial followed in Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington. Family and friends are encouraged to log

onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Evelyn's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Deborah A. Piazza

GOOSE LAKE-Deborah "Debbie" A. Piazza, 70, of Morris (Goose Lake), passed away on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 at Morris Hospital.

Debbie was born on Aug. 12, 1952 in Joliet to Howard A. and Joule L. (nee Heck) Mead. She grew up in the Joliet area, attending St. Francis High School and later Joliet Central High School graduating with the class of 1970. Debbie married the love of her life, James

A. Piazza, on Aug. 1, 1971 at St. Mary Carmelite Church. Together they raised a family of two children. While being a mother and homemaker, Debbie also worked as a tax preparer for H&R Block and also for her own business, TaxTyme, which she ran for over 20 years. Debbie had a variety of interests. She took pride in working on her yard and gardening. She enjoyed time with her family together at the lake with activities like boating, fishing and camping, always with an "Old Style" in her hand. She and Jim spent many years traveling to gulf side Florida beaches. Debbie relished time spent with her family during holidays with Christmas being her favorite. She was a great home cook and was famous for her baked beans, spaghetti, meatloaf and goulash.

She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Jim Piazza; their children, James A. Jr. (Čheryl M.) Piazza, of Belmont, NC and Carrie A. Piazza, of Coal City; their grandchildren: Bryce A.

Easton, Nathan J. Piazza and Nikala M. Piazza; her sisters, Dianna (Chuck) Anderson, of Rockford and Dannette (Jim) Young, of Bolivar, MO; brother, Howard (Mary) Mead, of Monona, WI; sisters-in-law, Chris Mead, of Joliet; Regina (Alex) Orta, of Clearwater, FL Pam (Mike) Coyne, Rutherforton, NC; brothers-in-law, Terry Sr. (Barb) Piazza, of Joliet and Dan (Mary Lou) Piazza, of Sycamore. Also surviving are numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and great-

She was preceded in death by her parents, Howard A. and Joule L. Mead; her sister, Donna Mead; her two brothers, Barry Mead and Jimmy Mead and her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Al and Bernadine Piazza.

Cremation rites will be accorded.

great-nieces and great-great-nephews.

Memorial Visitation will be on Friday, Feb. 2023 from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m. at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City.

Memorials may be directed to the Shriner's Children's Hospital, 2211 North Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60707. www.shrinerschildren.org.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## . Vonda Smith \_

WILMINGTON-Vonda Smith, 65, of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Oct. 7, 1957 in North Kingstown, RI, Vonda Leah was a daughter of Owen and Margaret "Peggy" (Starkey) Webb. She moved with her family to Wilmington where she graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1975. Vonda married Gary Lynn Smith and together they moved to California. They later relocated briefly to Kansas until returning to Wilmington in 1989. Vonda gained employment with Precision Components, Inc. in Wilmington where she worked for over 30 years.

Vonda was very active in her children's extra curricular activities, participating as a coach and scorekeeper with the Wilmington Baseball and Softball Association, and rarely missed one of their games. This commitment carried on through her grandchildren, sometimes traveling through multiple states to support their sporting events. Being a loving and committed wife, mother, and grandmother was Vonda's true calling in life. She loved spending time with her boys going camping and fishing, and always looking forward to their family trips to Missouri. Vonda was also a devoted daughter to her father, making sure he was always well taken care of. She enjoyed reading, especially Stephen King novels, and her regular Friday night card games, but family and friends always came first and she will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her father, Owen Webb, of Wilmington; three children: Dale Smith, of Wilmington; Derek (Tiffany) Smith, of New Lenox and Dustin Smith, of Wilmington; three granddaughters: Kendall, Kali and Kloe Smith, of New Lenox; one sister, Tonya (Ken) Hagemeyer, of Glendale, AZ and one brother, Kevin (Paula) Webb, of Wilmington; four brothers-in-law and numerous nieces and nephews.

Vonda was preceded in death by her mother, Peggy Webb; her husband, Gary Smith and one brother in infancy.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Friday, Feb. 10, 2023 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Road in Wilmington from 4 p.m. until the time of funeral service at 7 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral services.

Vonda will be laid to rest at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood on Monday, Feb. 13, 2023. Those wishing to attend are welcome to assemble at the funeral home on Monday morning beginning at 11 a.m. for a procession, which will depart at 11:30 a.m. Committal services are scheduled at 12 p.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Vonda's memory to a charity of the donor's

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

Funeral services and cremation arrange ments have been made under the direction and of Baskerville Funeral Home in

## <sub>-</sub> Viva Jo Jelley<sub>-</sub>

Ida Hall

CHANNAHON-Viva Jo Jelley, 75, of Channahon, passed away Sunday, Jan. 29, 2023 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Aug. 14, 1947 in St. Clair County, East St. Louis, Viva was a daughter of Clyde Edgar and Elsie Marie (Dreler) Gordon. She was raised and educated in Belleville, IL and on Aug. 28, 1972, she married Bobby Jelley. A dedicated member of Families of

Faith Church in Channahon, Viva enjoyed Bible study, listening to oldies, and watching classic movies. Her life was centered on family, and she cherished the opportunity to care for

Survivors include her husband of 50 years, by: three children: David (Barbara) Iel Harvey, IL; Joe Jelley, of Wilmington and Lisa of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes.

MORRIS—Ida Isabelle "Belle" Hall,

of Morris, and formerly

Wilmington, went home to be with the

Lord on Thursday, Feb. 2, 2023. She

had been a resident at Park Pointe

Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center

On Jan. 9, 1930 in Ripley, TN, Belle

was one of the daughters born into the large family of Stanley and Laura

love of church and family.

(Brown) Minner. She was raised and edu-

cated in Ripley, and on Sept. 4, 1948, Belle married Fedric T. "Fred" Hall Sr. She was a long-

time member of Island City Baptist Church in

Wilmington and will be remembered for her

(Robin) Hall, of Kankakee; Gail Hall, of

Wilmington; Amy (Tim) Suchaczewski, of

Somonauk and Mark (Foog) Sritragul, of

Thailand; seven grandchildren: Ryan Hall

(Fiancé' Cierra Tawney), Zachary Hall, Greg

(Marissa) Hall, Jessica Suchaczewski, Samantha Suchaczewski, Isaac Suchaczewski and Nina

(Eric) Bronson; five great-grandchildren: Ben

and Lucy Hall and Madelyn, Lorelei and Connor

Bronson and one brother, Louis Minner, of

CURBSIDE CARE

Survivors include children: Fedric "Fred" Jr.

Jelley, of Channahon, and two grandchildren, Mikayla Jelley and Matthew Jelley.

Viva was preceded in death by her parents, and one daughter, Amy Lynn

Funeral services were held Sunday, Feb. 5, 2023 at Families of Faith Church in Channahon. Cremation rites were accorded

and Viva will be laid to rest in Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Belleville, IL. Family and friends are encouraged to

log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Viva's memorial page online through social

Funeral services and cremation arrangents were made under the direction and care

Tennessee, as well as several nieces and

Ida was preceded in death by her

parents; husband, Fred Sr. on June 29,

2001; two daughters: Patricia Ann Hall

and Sri-Arun Sritragul; son-in-law,

James Gavros and many brothers and

700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on

Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023 from 2 p.m. until the

be made as gifts in Belle's memory to a church

onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the

guest book, upload photos or share Ida's memo-

been made under the direction and care of

Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to log

Funeral services and arrangements have

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home,

nephews.

sisters

time of funeral service at 4 p.m.

Elwood with her late husband, Fred.

or charity of the donor's choosing.

rial page online.

## Dr. Leon F. Spanbauer

WILMINGTON-Dr. Leon F. "Span" Spanbauer, 81, of Wilmington and formerly of Coal City and Varna, passed away peacefully at his home on Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born on April 12, 1941 in

Glassport, PA to Joseph A. and Rhoda L. (nee Ranta) Spanbauer. He grew up in Pennsylvania, later attending St. Vincent's College and Loyola School of Dentistry. Span married Vonda Hanson on July 15, 1967 in Maywood, IL and together they raised a family of three sons. He opened his Coal City dental practice in 1971 and retired in 1999. After retirement, Span worked at the Edgewood Golf Course in McNabb. He was an avid golfer and also enjoyed hunting, fishing

and stained glass projects.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Vonda Spanbauer; their sons and daughters-in-law, Michael and Tori Spanbauer, Jeff and Amy Spanbauer and Greg and Stephanie Spanbauer; eight grandchildren: Samantha and her husband, Conner Sayers; Joey Spanbauer, Spanbauer, Spanbauer, Abigail Spanbauer, Wyatt Spanbauer, Aidan Bankovic and Andrew Bankovic; one great-grandson, Paul Sayers; his step-sister, Maggie Tyszkiewicz; his brother-inlaw, John Hanson and his sister-inlaw, Rosemarie Hanson. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Spanbauer and Rhoda Spanbauer Kurta.

At his request, cremation rites will be accorded. A Celebration of Life will be held in Memorials in Dr. Spanbauer's name may be

directed to the Grundy County Animal Control, 310 E. Dupont Rd., Morris, IL 60450. Family and friends are encouraged to sign

the online guestbook at www. ferrarifuneral.

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

## Joseph Nyhoff

MORRIS-Joseph "Jay" Nyhoff, 82, of Belle will be laid to rest privately on Friday in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Morris, and formerly of Chicago, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2023, at his Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may

Born Dec. 11, 1940, in Chicago, Joseph James was the son of Joseph James Sr. and Marjorie L. (Powers) Nyhoff. He was raised and educated in Chicago's South Shore neighborhood; graduated from St. Ignatius College Preparatory School; and went on to earn his BA degree from Chicago Teachers College.

On Sept. 8, 1962, Jay married Dorothy O'Kane at St. Phillip Neri Church in the South Shore neighborhood, and together they made a home and raised their four children in Morris. Jay retired following 36 years of employment from the Department of Natural Resources, most recently as the Site Superintendent of Goose Lake Prairie State Park and Heidecke Lake. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, was a life member of the Knights of Columbus, and belonged to the Morris Moose Lodge 967. One who loved nature and was proud to have earned his Eagle Scout rank, Jay enjoyed hunting, fishing, watching the birds at the feeders he took care of in his backyard, and tending to his koi pond. Reading was an enjoyable pastime, and he took pleasure in building models, which included both train models and miniature dioramas. The family created many memories traveling domestically with their camper trailer, and nothing gave Jay greater joy than spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, sharing his love of the outdoors with

Jay had a passion for his work, and will be remembered for his articles which were published in both the Morris Daily Herald, as well as the local paper in Savanna, IL, when he was stationed at Mississippi Palisades State Park. Survivors include his wife of 60 years; their four children: Pamela (Ron) Burton, of Marseilles, IL; Colleen

(Michael) Ward, of Morris; Kevin

Nyhoff (Darla Rahe), of Diamond and

Amelia (Dale) Wren, of Morris; seven

grandchildren: Jessica (Mike) Glaser, Nichole Ward, Brenton (Lindsay) Ward, Hollyn Kupiec, Jacob Zahn, Caleb Zahn, and Ellery Burton; two great-grandsons: Landon Kupiec and Hudson Ward; one sister, Mary Catherine Mierlak, of Morris and his brother-in-law, Michael (Nadine) O'Kane, of

Thiensville, WI. Jay was preceded in death by his parents, Marjorie L. Nyhoff and Joseph James and Elsie (Phillips) Nyhoff.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone offi-

ciating and Deacon Paul Jung assisting. Pallbearers were: Kevin Nyhoff, Brenton Ward, Ellery Burton, Ron Burton, Mike Ward and Dale Wren.

Green flameless cremation rites were accorded following the services, and he was laid rest in Mount Carmel Cemetery in Morris.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jay's memory to Goose Lake Prairie Partners, Inc., 5010 N. Jugtown Road, Morris, IL 60450 or to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church,

600 E. Jackson St., Morris, IL 60450. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs, and share Jay's

memorial page online. Funeral services and green flameless cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes,

Ltd. in Morris.

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## Barge traffic back to normal; lock closures loom

Barge traffic is getting back to normal on the lower Mississippi River for what's typically a slower time of the year anyway.

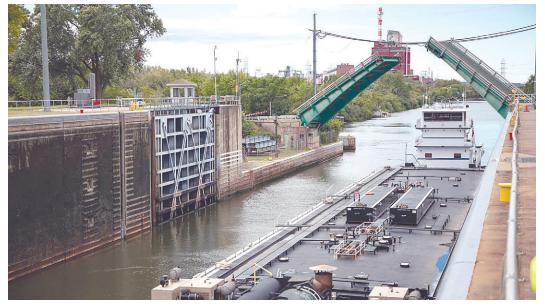
"The water levels are back up to normal south of Cairo versus where it was in September and October," Tom Torretti, of Consolidated Grain & Barge Co., told FarmWeek at the Illinois Fertilizer and Chemical Association's (IFCA) annual convention in Peoria in mid-January. "The low water issue last year was the worst we'd seen since 1988.'

The low water issues, which Toretti said made parts of the mighty river temporarily look like a creek, snarled barge traffic and caused freight rates to skyrocket in 2022.

Fortunately, barges are moving again and freight rates are coming down as the planting season approaches. Much of the fertilizer and other input products used on Illinois farms arrive in the state via barge.

"After harvest, things slow down and then start picking up around February as shippers move fertilizer up the river system," Torretti said. "Bulk rate contracts out of New Orleans are 15 to 20% higher than a year ago. All our costs are up. But what southbound grain freight values do remains to be seen. They're back to normal

When asked if farmers will have access to adequate supplies of inputs moved on the river this spring, Torretti said, "I think so (based on current conditions and barring spring



A TOW ENTERS the lock chamber moving upstream at Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Joliet. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers plans to close four locks on the upper Illinois River at Starved Rock, Marseilles, Dresden Island and Brandon Road for rehabilitation work from June 1 through Sept. 30.

always get their products," he - this time of the planned varicontinued. "Just, maybe not ety. when they want it."

226 new covered hopper locks on the Upper Illinois barges to the fleet last year River at Marseilles, Dresden from previous orders, which will help increase the flow of rehabilitation work from June products on the river system.

But, with the current cost of a new covered hopper barge between \$900,000 and \$1 million, the existing fleet of around 11,800 barges likely won't grow much more any time soon.

Until steel prices come down, we probably won't see known about this for two years many new builds," Torretti and been through this before.

Meanwhile, the barge "The fertilizer industry is industry faces more shipping

The U.S. Army Corps of The barge industry added Engineers plans to close three Island and Brandon Road for 1 through Sept. 30. The

planned closure for work at the Starved Rock lock has been deferred to a later date, yet to be determined. 'There'll be no traffic at

all. You'll have to plan accordingly," Torretti told attendees of the IFCA convention. "We've It is what it is."

The Corps previously closed five locks on the Illinois so good at what it does, buyers issues this spring and summer River at LaGrange, Peoria,

Starved Rock, Marseilles and Dresden Island from July 1 to Oct. 29, 2020, for major rehab and maintenance work.

"The timing of the repairs (this year) is after spring planting and before harvest, so it's probably the best time to do t," Torretti said. "But, when the locks do reopen, it will be a mad dash on all commodities. We potentially could be harvesting grain and will certainly be moving fertilizer to put down for the fall season."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and theIllinois Association. For more food and FarmWeekNow.com.

of the rights of the neighbors,

Richart said. One neighbor

may agree to have CO2 inject-

ed in their land, but the neigh-

bor a mile or two away may not

neighbor will wind up with

CO2 under his or her proper-

to file a new pipeline applica-

Commerce Commission this

month that would specify what

route the pipeline will take.

Opponents are anxious to see

the proposed route, Richart

move," Richart said.

"The CO2 is going to e." Richart said. "The

Navigator said it intends

the

want the risk.

tion with

# New kids programs

District of Will County will host two new programs for kids this month. The first is "Rivers of Color - Winter Greens" Saturday, Feb. 11, from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center Channahon.

Enjoy a short hike and discover the magic of mosses, and then head inside to make

your own plant creation to take home. Free, ages 10 or older. Register by Feb. 10.

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, "Little Explorers - Animals in Winter" will take place at Four Rivers from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about animals in winter with a story, a hike hands-on activities, crafts and free play. Free, ages 3-5. Register by Feb. 14.



Thank you Alex, the rest of the Baskerville crew and Michelle Clark for orchestrating David's service at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery on Friday the thirteenth of January, 2023. David had always wanted a bagpiper playing "Amazing Grace", and you made it happen Alex. The flag ceremony, taps, special gun salute, and personal care from Michelle Clark helped to honor my loving husband of almost 52 years. Our family and I will be forever grateful.

Matthew, Miranda, Mark, Jonah, Libby, Samuel, MacKenzie and Bonnie Huston

# Thank You

Thank you Wilmington Fire Protection Department for your response to my frantic call and for your valiant efforts to revive my husband on February 4, 2023 (and for even putting my groceries in the freezer when I had to hurriedly leave for Riverside). A special thank you to Todd Friddle for your care and compassion. Thank you Donna and Dale Kirk for driving me to Riverside. Thank you to those who gathered around me in the ER and a special thank you for Dr. Lacheta's attention and compassion. Our family has been so blessed by all of the beautiful cards, thoughts, prayers, meals, flowers, kindnesses, donations to David's memorials and love in action (even laundry and housecleaning) of many friends and family. May God bless all of you for your support at this very difficult time.

Matthew, Miranda, Mark, Jonah, Libby, Samuel, MacKenzie and Bonnie Huston and Suzanne and Jim Johnston

# Temporary halt for proposed CO2 pipeline

BY ZETA CROSS THE CENTER SQUARE

A proposed CO2 pipeline through parts of Illinois is on

The Texas pipeline company Navigator has withdrawn its application for a certificate of authority to build a pipeline to carry liquid carbon dioxide through 13 Illinois counties.

Pam Richart, co-founder of the Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines, said Navigator has not been able to persuade landowners in Christian and Montgomery counties that a large repository of CO2 can be safely stored under their farms and land.

"Eighty percent of the in Christian County who are in the sequestration area have refused to sign leases," Richart said to The Center Square.

closely with Montgomery County to help people there understand the implications and potential risks of injecting and storing large quantities of high-pressure injection of the

neighboring CO2," Richart said. Montgomery County, Richart

The goal of the pipeline project is to transport CO2 from 32 different sites across 1,300 miles to central Illinois where the Cambrian-age Mt. Simon Sandstone Formation overlies the Precambrian granite basement of the Illinois Basin. Geologists believe concentrated CO2 can be safely injected underground under the Mt. Simon formation in a saline reservoir where it will take 100 years to calcify. If the CO2 is stored deep under the cap rock in central Illinois, geologists maintain that it will stay there. But there are no guarantees, Richart said.

We are concerned that CO2 they can't guarantee that the sequester, defeating the pur-CO2 will stay put and not pose of the effort. move," Richart said.

Opponents are working There could be fractures in the cap rock that are not mapped they are injecting lesser volthat will allow CO2 to leak.

'The cap rock may be damaged in the process of

Leaked CO2 has the ootential to contaminate local drinking water, Richart said.

When CO2 mixes with water, it creates carbonic acid. That releases heavy metals and toxins from underground that can ruin the local water," she

If leaked CO2 rises to the surface and changes the CO2 levels in the soil, crop yields could be affected, Richart said.

"Plant roots would not be as strong, or as deep and or as dense," she said.

In Oklahoma and Texas, injection of wastewater in the ground has caused earthquakes. Richart Earthquakes would release the that they want to

"They say it won't happen People fear the CO2 could here, but why should we leak through the well itself. believe them," Richard said. "It's happening in places where umes of fluid at lower pressures than they intend to use

reverse down the road. For

now, motorists should enjoy

the decline, but be wary as

And there is the question

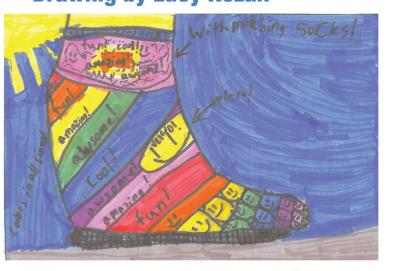
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## **Drawing by Lucy Rozak**



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# Gas prices slowly dropping

trickling down as in Illinois saw prices fall 6.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.59/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois. Prices in Illinois are 21.6

cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 2.2 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 5.2 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.60 per gallon. "For the first time in 2023,

the national average price of gasoline has seen a weekly decline, primarily thanks to a sharp and sudden drop in the price of oil," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

While the decline in both gasoline and diesel prices is terrific, it's not unusual to see prices falling in February,

There are some interest-

Take traffic circles, also

This formation allows

ing changes happening to our

roads and it may leave a few

folks wondering about the rea-

known as Roundabouts.

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with 2 or 4 stop signs or a traf-

fic light; a circle is built where

the streets intersect.

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of traffic roundabouts

Local gasoline prices are which tends to be the month could lead today's declines to with some of the lowest gasoline prices of the year thanks to seasonally weak demand.

The lowest price in the we're likely to eventually see area on Monday was \$3.49/g in increases again down the The lowest price in the Braidwood and Wilmington. road," De Haan said. Coal City stations were \$3.69 to \$3.75/g on Monday.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.07/g while the most expensive was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$1.72/g.

"For diesel, we're likely to see more declines, and potentially much more significant in the weeks ahead as imports of distillate have accelerated, leading to a sell off. And, with warmer weather demand may struggle as well.

"However, especially for gasoline, high levels of coming maintenance and the eventual transition to summer gasoline Prom Dress Collection

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they happen. The advantages are fewer crashes and less severe crashvehicle pollution, lower main-

gracefully making a right turn

to enter the circle. This acts to

slow the traffic overall but

reduces idling and the severity

es, lower vehicle speeds, less tenance costs as compared to a traffic signal, increased land-

vehicles to avoid a full stop scaping opportunities and when no traffic is coming, reducing confusion

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# Own campaign loan backfires for DeVore

State records show that Dan Proft's People Who Play by the Rules PAC spent almost \$36 million during the second half of 2022, mostly on advertising boosting Sen. Darren Bailey's gubernatorial bid and opposing Gov. JB Pritzker.

Of that, \$2.4 million was Uihlein, who was spent on consulting. Former ABC7 political reporter Charles Thomas was paid reporter \$100,000 in two \$50,000 Thomas installments. appeared in some of Proft's ads praising Bailey.

Tyrone Muhammed, the controversial founder of Ex-Cons for Community and Social Change, which bills itself as a violence interruption group, was paid \$250,000 for consulting work.

was also a recipient of almost

But the highest paid consultant for Proft's PAC during the last six months of 2022 was a Chicago company called Salvo Page LLC, which got \$800,000, plus another \$111K for website services.

Salvo Page is not registered as a company with the state of Illinois. The only campaign payments to the company disclosed to the state were made by Proft's People Who Play by the Rules PAC. Google searches turn up nothing. Proft did not respond to repeated requests for comment over several days.

A search of Salvo Page's Chicago address on the State Board of Election's website

shares Salvo Page Chicago street address with Pipeline Media. The Columbia Iournalism Review's Tow Center has done extensive reporting on Pipeline and similar companies. According to

that reporting, the company is run by longtime associate. I wasn't able to reach Timpone. Richard

the principal funder of Bailey's campaign via Proft's PAC as well as some direct contributions, controls a committee called

Restoration PAC, which paid Pipeline and an affiliate company well over a \$1 million last year for various services, CJR's Tow Center reported last October.

And that brings us to Proft's Starfish Consulting Republican Illinois attorney general candidate DeVore.

> When DeVore busted the campaign contribution caps in his race last August with a \$250,00 personal loan to his campaign committee, some thought he might be opening the door to large contributions, perhaps from the billionaire Richard Uihlein. Instead, all DeVore really

did was allow Democratic incumbent Kwame Raoul to take a million-dollar contribution from Gov. JB Pritzker's campaign fund - \$940,100 more than Pritzker could've contributed had the contribution caps been in place. A few labor organizations also contributed sums slightly above the previous cap limit of \$59,900, but it wasn't much.

DeVore received a \$10,000 contribution from James Hoeg in late October, which was \$4,000 more than he would've been able to receive had it not been for the caps being lifted (Hoeg, by the way, recently



Rich Miller

cam-DeVore also \$50,000 contribudesigned to win. But we pretty

much knew that during the

campaign itself. He got

vate and give voice to some

folks on the far right. Shannon

Adcock was a significant

DeVore contributor, kicking in

\$2,500 during September.

Adcock is one of the founders

of Awake Illinois, a far-right group that opposed pandemic

mandates in schools that has

since morphed into firing up

moral panic over gays and

trans people in schools,

libraries and coffee shops.

Vallas spoke at one of her

ing up clients to fund a third

lawsuit against the state's

assault weapons ban at \$200 a

person. He raised more than

half a million dollars with that

same flat fee to fund his first

Capitol Fax, a daily political

newsletter, and CapitolFax.

Rich Miller also publishes

two suits.

DeVore is now busily lin-

DeVore did manage to ele-

thumped by Raoul.

in late September from Anthony Marano Company (which sells produce to Chicago-area restaurants). The contribution was \$38,000

above the by-then-negated limit. And that's it. \$42K is all DeVore appears to have netted

from his cap-busting loan. There's often an expectation when candidates loan money to their campaigns that they'll spend most of it. Instead, DeVore reimbursed himself almost all of that cash. including a \$200,000 payment on Oct. 14th, even though the campaign was entering its final few weeks, and then

election day. DeVore reported \$226,072 in contributions starting the day after he loaned himself that money, which was just about \$11,000 more than what DeVore reimbursed himself.

another \$15,000 the day after

Outside of the loan repayment, DeVore reported spending less than \$142,000 in the fourth quarter, which ended December 31. By contrast, AG Raoul reported spending almost \$1.9 million in the same quarter.

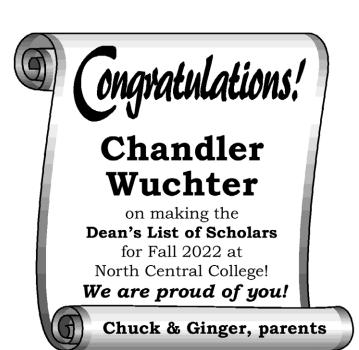
spent DeVore \$8,642.98 on advertising during the fourth quarter. Raoul reported spending almost \$1.7 million.

In other words, DeVore did not run a campaign

## Library to hold Craft Corner

The Wilmington Public Library will be hosting "Kat's Craft Corner" on the second Thursday of every month from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Kat will gladly teach interested patrons how to knit, or you can feel free to bring your own craft project to work on and enjoy some company.



A huge thank you to all who made our Spaghetti Dinner/Wonder Land Camp fundraiser a success.

Wilmington Moose Lodge 241/

781, Women of the Moose,

Wilmington Moose Riders, Wilmington VFW, The Wine Café, Fox's Pizza, Whitmore Ace Hardware, Mar Theater, El Patron Mexican Restaurant, Rosati's Pizza, Hog Wild, Faletti's Meats, Axe Factor, Al's Steakhouse, Crusade Burger, Southern Belle, Advanced Auto Parts, Babes Tap, O'Reilly Auto Parts, Crew Clips, The Purple Monkey, Audacious Ink, Darla's Deli, Magic Nails, Wilmington Pizzeria, Route 66 Bar, Mancuso Cheese, The Body Shoppe, The

donated various other baskets and raffle items. And to all our volunteers, families, friends and especially all the people who attended and generously donated, we thank you tremendously.

Pain & Wellness Group, FOP 94, Trinity Barkery, PMTT,

McWethy's, Riverfront Lanes in Wilmington, and many people who

Thank you!!! Thank you!!! Thank you!!!

The Henry Bilus Family

## Support group for people with oral, head and neck cancer

Morris Hospital will hold its next support group session for people with oral, head and neck cancer on Wednesday, Feb. 22, from 3-4 p.m. at the Radiation Therapy Center of Morris Hospital, 1600 W. U.S. Route 6 in Morris.

The support group is offered the last Wednesday of each month free of charge. Anyone who has experienced a diagnosis of oral, head and neck cancer and their family members are welcome to attend regardless of where cancer treatment was received.

The support group is led by an oncology nurse from the Morris Hospital Radiation

Therapy Center and is held in collaboration with SPOHNC, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to meeting the emotional, physical, and humanistic needs of people with oral or head and neck cancer and their caregivers. People who attend support groups often share experiences and advice in hopes of helping others cope with their life changing event.

Those planning to attend are asked to register online at www.morrishospital.org/events, or call the Radiation Therapy Center of Morris Hospital at 815-364-8915.



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Janet Fisher-Schatz

## Container gardening tips? Hear an expert on Feb. 15

Looking for tips on container gardening? Then you might want to sit in on the next Wilmington Garden Club meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 15, at the Wilmington Park District building, 315 N. Water St.

Special guest will be Gary Ward, a master gardener from Lockport who specializes in container garden-

Ward, former president of the Will County Historical Society, will address all container gardening questions during the free event.

Garden Club meetings are open to the public and bring a friend. For more information call 815-476-

## Morris Hospital hosts community blood drive

a blood drive in cooperation with Versiti Blood Center on Thursday, Feb. 16, from 2-6 p.m. in Conference Rooms 2 and 3 on the lower level of Morris Hospital, 150 W. High Street in Morris.

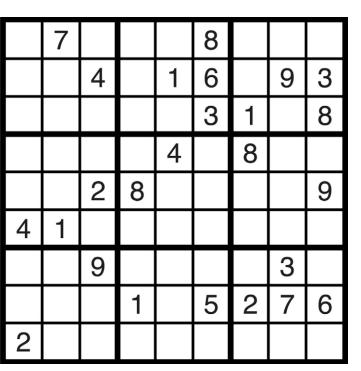
Those who donate will be helping replenish the local blood supply as Versiti supplies blood products for Morris Hospital. All blood types are needed.

Blood donors must be age 17 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health and free from cold or flu symptoms on the day of donation. In Illinois, 16-year-olds may donate with written approval

Morris Hospital is hosting from a parent or guardian.

The entire process for donating blood takes about one hour, including registration, a brief medical screening, blood collection and refreshments.Donors should bring a photo ID with proof of age. Those planning to donate should eat a healthy meal and drink plenty of water before donating. Donors may be required to wear a mask while Morris Hospital depending on COVID community transmission levels.

To schedule an appointment, call Ashley Wagner at Morris Hospital at 815-705-7370. Walk-ins are welcome.



# NFL to reduce it's environmental impact

the National Football League doing to reduce its environmental impact and carbon footprint?

-- Mitch Trevino, Las Vegas, NV

Like any major spectator sport league, the National Football League (NFL) is no darling to environmental advocates. Stadium construction, maintenance and energy use contribute significantly to carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions and resource deple-

Transportation of fans to games, waste generated during games, and production and disposal of merchandise and equipment can also conto environmental tribute

That said, given these points against it, the NFL has made a concerted effort in recent years to reduce its environmental impact, even vowing to become a "net zero" emissions league—meaning it will offset all of its greenhouse gas emissions through a combination of reducing its own emissions and supporting projects that remove or reduce CO2 from the atmosphere—in the near future. Indeed, the NFL has made

a major push to offset CO2 emissions over the past few years, offsetting upwards of 20,000 metric tons of CO2 per year, league-wide. The leading non-profit

Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) is partnering with the NFL on its emissions reduction and offset strategy.

The goal of this unusual partnership is to reduce emissions through improved energy efficiency and the increased use of renewable energy sources.

The league also encourages and promotes sustainability practices—recycling, reducing single-use plastics, and using environmentally-

# Questions & Answers About Our Environment

friendly transportation—at stadiums across the country. And an NFL tree planting campaign also helps reduce the league's carbon footprint.

The league rounds out its emissions reduction strategy by purchasing renewable energy credits to "offset" emissions from energy usage in NFL facilities and events. The league proudly offsets all energy used at major Super Bowl venues. Waste reduction is also a

source of pride for the NFL. Starting in 2019, upwards of 90 percent of the waste generated at and around the Super Bowl was diverted from landfills through recycling and composting. Likewise, the league has

started to take water conservation seriously, implementing low-flow plumbing fixtures and drought-resistant landscaping at various stadiums nationwide, while simultaneously working to educate fans water conservation through its sustainability outreach program.

Another area where NFL planners have made strides is sustainable building and retrofits, implementing green building practices—such as the implementation of energyefficient lighting and HVAC systems and the use of recvcled building materials in several facilities across the coun-

For example, Levi's Stadium, home of the San Francisco 49ers, is LEED Gold Certified and has a 27,000



THE NFL HAS made great strides in the last few years to green up its operations, and will soon become a net zero emissions league.

square-foot green roof (green National Hockey League roofs provide numerous benefits, including stormwater management, improved air quality, energy efficiency, fire retardation and noise reduc-

The NFL isn't the only American sports league fixated on sustainability of late. The National Basketball Association (NBA) has its annual "Green Week" celebration, Major League Baseball (MLB) has its "Green Game" initiative that runs the length of the baseball season, and the

(NHL) has its "Green Initiative" that promotes sustainability year-round.

But the NFL runs the highest profile sporting event on the planet—the Super Bowl—so it has a much larger opportunity to reach fans across the continent and around the world with its messages and examples of sustain

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Answers:

pacifier

 $\mathcal{B}$ .

blanket

C

cradle

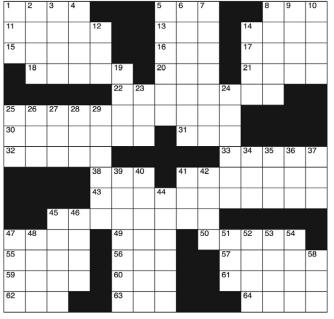
D

111 South Water Street Wilmington, IL 60481 815/476-7966

## Area students named to Uni. of Iowa fall dean's list More than 7,500 underwere Ashley Bollino and

graduate students at the University of Iowa were named to the dean's list for the Diamond, Preston Johnson of 2022 fall semester.

Madeline Bollino Braidwood, Natalie Durham of Coal City, Amelia Earley and Among those students Chloe Sanford of Wilmington.



## **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Functions
- Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
- 8. Trigonometric function (abbr.) 11. Secret political clique
- 13. Type of gibbon 14. Nocturnal S. American rodent 49. Pistol
- 15. Famed American playwright 16. Mesopotamian goddess
- 17. Abba \_\_, Israeli politician
- 18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
- 20. A place to stay 21. Actor Idris
- 22. One who behaves in a
- rebellious way 25. A way to measure movement
- 30. Distinguish oneself
- 31. Type of drug (abbr.)

## **CLUES DOWN**

- Fiddler crabs
- 4. Ethnic group of Laos
- 6 .Book of tickets 7. The last name of "Hermione"
- 9. Helps to heal a cut
- 10. Town in Galilee 12. Actor Horsley

- Emerged 25. Midway between south and
- 26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan 27. Unit of work or energy
- 2. Discount
- 3. Partner to "flows"
- 5. Beloved "Seinfeld" character
- 8. Type of TV package
- 14. "Hocus Pocus 2" actor Ed
- 19. Bird-loving group (abbr.) 23. They respond when someone is sick
- southeast
- 28. Indicates near
- 29. Famed river 34. For each

baseball player

32. Basketball great Baylor

38. Calls balls and strikes

45. Consumes too much

55. Ancient Greek City

in a Scottish game

61. Frogs, toads, tree toads

63. Soviet Socialist Republic

62. School in the northeast (abbr.)

the Man" Musical,

59. Semitic fertility god

47. Island nation

Similar

60. Born of

33. Masses of salivary matter

41. Plant that grows along the ground

43. A recreational activity in the air

50. Mixtures of soul and calypso

57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used

- 35. News organization
- 36. CNN's founder 37. They
- 39. Areas off to the side 40. Satisfies
- 41. A spare bed 42. Legendary singer Diana
- 44. Frothy mass of bubbles 45. A kind of sorcerv
- 46. River in South Africa 47. Philippine Island
- 48. County in China 51. S. American plant
- 52. Beverage containers
- 53. Edge 54. Protein-rich liquids

58. Moved quickly on foot

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z Determine the code to reveal the answer! Solve the code to discover words related to infants.

⊙\*\* △ਿ®♣~● ዻ◇\*☆× ቕ+ ፡፡፡ ❖▲ ℂ \*♂★ ፟ た △ Ω ô

Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 18 = A)

9 21 20 22 18 21 A. Clue: Keeps child calm

B. 5 18 23 1 26 Clue: Provides warmth

22 18 14

Clue: Sleeping spot

19 21 19 Clue: Protects clothes

## WORD SCRAMBLE Rearrange the letters to spell

something pertaining to babies.

# FITNAN

Answer: Infant

# Guess Who?

I am a singer born in Mississippi on February 11, 1979. I grew up in a family of musicians. My younger brother is a performer as well. I gained fame on a hit TV series in the 1990s.

# ALL ABOUT BABY WORD SEARCH

J Ε Ι C L C N C G J Ι 0 Y J U T U T R C U 0 D 0 S R 0 Ε R М 0 R N C Ε C D C Ε Ι M Ρ Н D В Α S N L В 0 C C Н T Ι Y N Α C Α R Ι Α G Ε M Ι U N R J T S Ε М S S C N W D R В Н D D R P М T N R P В Ε R Ε S Y C A R R Ι Ε R В G G S A Ε S U Ι Ε S U N R Α A J Α D D T D L J Ι 0 В Т S R Ι В R R S Α Н U Т Ι W Α P P S N Н M S N G P M N U S N M M Ι М C Υ C В T S 0 R Y В C P P 0 M J G A S Α В W Ε S C Α 0 S Н J Ε Ι M В В C R D P T Υ Υ Ε 0 В P В 0 R Α J Ι R C Т В Ε S N C В W L R N Α 0 D М Ε P S Н T U U U C Α Н J U Ι R N L W A T C W U R J 0 Ι Α T S В T W U Α Ε C L R T Y C В Н R T Ε W Y T P 0 G Ι Ι Ι J S D D C G В T D N Ι Υ C R R J М W N U Ε Т D Υ G U М М L Α М G S L N J N W М Υ N U U R Ι G U G S

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

## **WORDS**

**BABY** BASSINET BATH **BOTTLES BOUNCER** BURP CLOTH **CARRIAGE CARRIER** CAR SEAT CRIB **DIAPERS** HAT **MOBILE MONITOR** ONESIE **PAJAMAS** RATTLE **SLING** SPIT **SPOONS** 

STR0LLER

**SWADDLE** 

**SWING** 

T0YS

# COALER SPORTS







LADY COALER Audrey Cooper grabs a loose ball during their home game against Herscher.

ONE STEP AWAY from scoring for the Lady Coalers is Mia Ferrias who tallied 31 points during a 63-60 overtime win over Herscher.



COAL CITY'S KERIGAN Copes lines up to shoot a home game against Herscher.

# Victory lifts the Lady Coalers just before regionals

If the Lady Coalers begin regional play like they did on Monday, count on them making it to the championship game on Feb. 17.

Coal City was in total control on Monday, beating Lisle

Mia Ferrias.

The Lady Coalers improve to 20-7 overall, 10-4 in the conference, as they'll enter the Prairie Central Regional in Fairbury as the #6 seed.

68-50 thanks to 25 points from lead in the opening quarter

Qurant



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and was up 29-23 at the break. They consistently scored in the second half, going on a 39-27 run, to win their final conference game of the season.

Ferrias had a stellar per-Coal City built a 13-10 formance, hitting five threepointers while shooting 4-for-4 at the free throw line. She had four steals which helped the Coalers turn them into

> Abby Gagliardo chipped in with nine points and four rebounds while Audrey Cooper put in eight points while grabbing seven boards.

> Scoring six points while pulling down seven rebounds Makayla Henline. Contributing five points was Kylee Kennell while Makenzie Henline and Tanna Curry recorded four points each. Abby Stiles was 2-for-2 at the free throw line.

Comet surprise

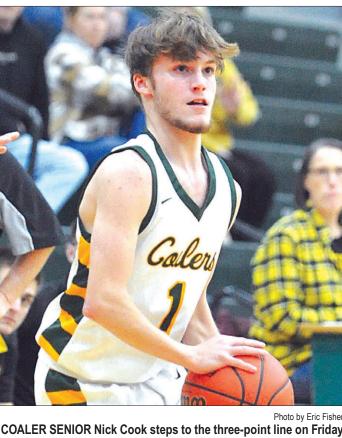
The Lady Coalers gave up too many points in the fourth quarter on Thursday when they lost an away contest at Reed-Custer, 39-36.

It was low scoring affair through three quarters as both teams had single digits in each frame. Up 24-23 entering the last quarter, Coal City was outscored 16-12 as they finished with 20 turnovers.

Ferrias shot a team-high 11 points including three treys while Gagliardo put in nine points. Cooper helped out with eight points, Makayla Henline scored six and Makenzie Henline two to go along with eight rebounds.

The Lady Coalers will host Pontiac (#9) on Saturday at 1

p.m. for the first round of the regional. The winner will travel to Fairbury on Tuesday for a semi-final contest against Peotone (#2) at 6 p.m. The winner will then play for the championship at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 17 in Fairbury.



COALER SENIOR Nick Cook steps to the three-point line on Friday while playing Herscher. Coal City shot seven three-pointers to defeate the Tigers 46-29.

## Wins

Coal City out-rebounded Streator 39 to 16 and blocked three shots to tame the Bulldogs.

Garrelts led all scorers with 22 points and 10 rebounds. Headley was a threat all night, scoring 17

while pulling down four rebounds. Harrington muscled up 14 points while Carson Shepard made 10 from the point guard position.

Feeney also made a buck-

The Coalers travel to Reed-Custer Friday before visiting Lisle on Tuesday.

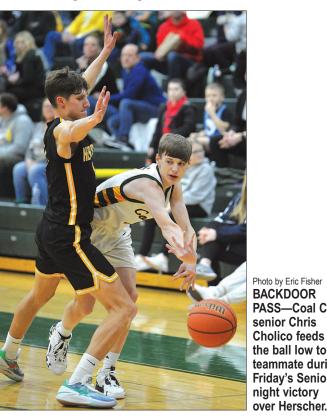


Photo by Eric Fisher **BACKDOOR PASS—Coal City** senior Chris Cholico feeds the ball low to a teammate during Friday's Senior night victory

## F/S Lady Coalers finish conference undefeated

On Monday the Coal City fresh/soph girls basketball team defeated Lisle, 46-22, to remain undefeated on the Interstate Central Conference.

'We have continued to play well and hopefully we can finish strong with a win against Dwight on against Wednesday," said coach Brad Boresi.

"These girls have beginning of the season. Winning games is great, but knowing these girls are better prepared for varsity basketball next year is what it's about."

Émma Rodriguez scored 12 points, Becca Hall scored 9

points, Kylee Kennell scored 7 points, Chloe Pluger scored 6 points, D'Arcy Ness scored 4 points, Jori Tucker scored 3 points, Sydney Larson and Laura Christopher each scored points and Calleigh

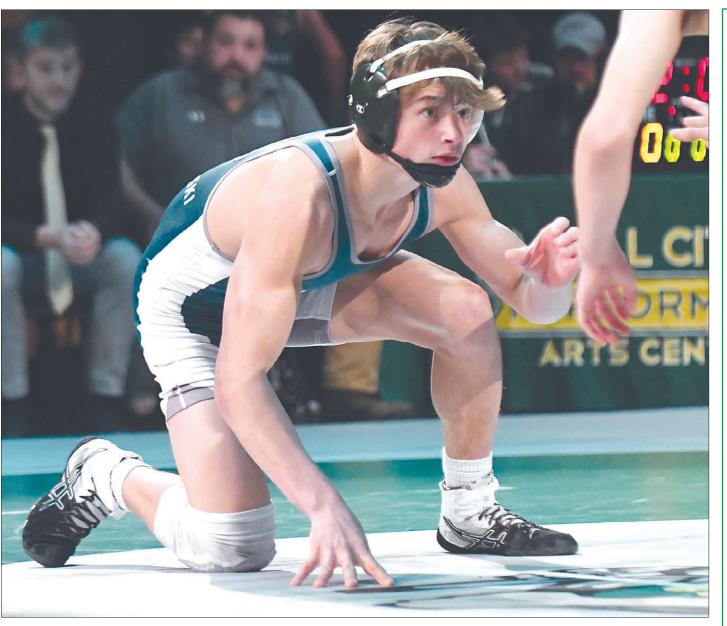
Hamilton scored 1 point. Current Record: 19-3 ICE

Record: 14-0 On Thursday, Coal City (19-3) outscored Reed-Custer 37-4. Kylee Kennell scored 10 improved a ton since the points, Emma Rodriguez scored 8 points, Sydney Larson scored 5 points, Bridget Feeney and Becca Hall each scored 4 points. Jori Tucker, D'Arcy Ness and Chloe Pluger

each scored 2 points.



# COALER SPORTS



REGIONAL CHAMPION! Brant Widlowski won the title at 138 pounds Saturday during the Reed-Custer Regional. He advances to the sectional tournament that will be held Friday and Saturday in Coal City.

# Regional champs as expected

Coal City High School wrestled up to expectations Saturday during the Reed-Custer regional, capturing the team title

The Coalers (286.5 points) crowned eight regional champions, had three place in second and three third. All Coalers who wrestled advance to the Coal City Sectional on Friday.

Reed-Custer finished second in the team standing with 161 points, advancing two champions, four runners-up and a pair of third place finishers.

Wilmington, in seventh place with 50 points, qualified two wrestlers for sec-

Champions for Coal City included 106-Culan Lindemuth, 113-Brody Widlowski, 132-Jake Piatak, 138-Brant Widlowski, 145-Mataeo Blessing, 170-Derek Carlson, 182-Braiden Young and 195-Joey Breneman. Coming in second place were Coalers 120-Aidan Kenney, 220-Drake Dearth and 285-Michael Gonzalez while placing third were 126-Brock Finch, 152-Landin Benson and 160-Jack Poyner.

Lindemuth (37-9) wrestled just two matches winning both by fall. He needed only :26 to pin Thomas Raschke (Peotone) in the semi-final. He then stuck Blake Arseneau (McNamara, 25-8 in 2.58 for the title.

Brody Widlowski (33-1) earned a bye in the quarterfinal before pinning Blake Hemp (Clifton, 30-18) in 0:42. That paired him up for the championship against Landon Dooley (Wilmington, 34-8) who bowed out due to injury default.

At 132, Piatak (7-0) placed 1st after pinning Alex Kostecka (McNamara, 12-19) in 1:16 and Santino Izzi (Peotone, 34-13) in 3:22. He faced Sam Begler (Reed-Custer, 6-1) for the championship, getting busy done in 3:10 with a pin.

Brant Widlowski (20-1) pinned his two opponents. He surprised Cole Kimberlin (McNamara, 17-14) with a 0:48 fall before taking the title with a 4:41 fall over Jeremy Eggleston (Reed-Custer, 34-

Blessing (41-3) had a three-match day by first pinning Joe Carney (Manteno, 5-23 with :26 second pin. In the semifinal, Blessing won by 12-0 major decision over Ian Kreske (Peotone, 33-15). In the cham-



COAL CITY'S Aidan Kenney advances to Friday's Sectional in Coal City after placing second at 120 pounds during the Reed-Custer regional.

pionship he outscored Gianni Panozzo tie breaker - 1 over Alex Cardenas (Central, 37-11) 6-2 to punch his ticket to (Peotone) 33-10 (TB-1 2-1). He then faced

At 170, Carlson (34-5) defeated both his opponents to claim first. He grabbed an 8-3 decision over Austin Burkhardt (Dwight, 24-11) before upending Rex Pfeifer (Reed-Custer, 39-5) with a 3:57 fall.

Senior Braiden Young (38-1) won by 5:42 fall over Logan Smith (Manteno, 8-16) then won by forfeit over Jackson Bergeron (Peotone). In the first place match, Young got a 7-4 decision over Hunter Hull (Clifton, 31-6).

At 195, Joey Breneman (38-5) pegged Maxwell Joseph (Clifton, 20-12) in 1:14, then outscored Chris Peura (Seneca, 41-

Aidan Kenney (28-14) started with a :42 fall over Avery Phillips (Seneca) and beat Trevor Torres (McNamara, 17-16) by 16-0 tech fall. Dwight's Dylan Crouch (30-7) then spoiled things with a 2-0 decision

over Kenney.
At 220, Drake Dearth (33-7) settled for second place after pinning Terry Wilkey (Dwight, 0-2) in 1:28 and won in

got the 2:58 fall to claim the title.

Gonzalez (24-7) also lost to a Comet in the 285 title bout. He started with back-to-back pins (0:44) and (2:27) before squaring off against Gunnar Berg (Reed-Custer, 36-4) who was just too tough. Berg stuck Gonzalez in :28 to claim first.

The third placers for Coal City each started with a victory before suffering a loss and having to win two straight to make the sectional cutoff.

At 126, Finch (35-13) won by 14-4 major decision over Evan Cox (Clifton, 23-11) for third place. At 152, Landin Benson (22-4) lost his second match by injury default before pinning Matt Swisher (Wilmington) and Giona Panozzo (Clifton). At 160, Poyner (36-12) lost a 9-3 decision to Carter Watkins (Manteno, 27-6) after winning his first match. He claimed a 3:37 fall in the semi before getting an 8-0 major decision over Asher Hamby (Seneca, 35-5).



LIFTING HIS OPPONENT during a recent home match is Coal City's Joey Breneman who earned the regional championship at 195 pounds on Saturday.

# E-tickets must be purchased online for wrestling sectional

Coal City High School, 655 W. Division St., will host the IHSA Class 1A Individual wrestling sectional on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11.

On Friday the preliminary-quarterfinal round will start at 5 p.m. Then at 9 a.m. Saturday the first round of wrestle-backs will be at 9 a.m.; 10:15 a.m. will be the semi-finals and 2nd round of wrestle backs; then at 11:45 will be the semifinal wrestlebacks. Lunch break will be 12:30 p.m. Finalist line-up and introductions at 2 p.m. with the finals; session 2 at 2:15 p.m. Times are subject to change.

Doors will open 45 minutes before wrestling begins.

purchased must https://gofan.co/app/school/IHSA. Tickets are \$7 per session with three different sessions: session 1 - Friday night, session 2 - Saturday morning until approximately 2 p.m.; and session 3 - the finals, after 2:15 p.m.

The gym will be cleared after session II on Saturday A video can be watched on how to buy tickets at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tkZqTY5d6Bg.

For IHSA wrestling info visit www.ihsa.org/Sports-Activities/Boys-Wrestling/State-Series-Information-Results For questions on the sectional contact CCHS Athletic

Director, Dan Hutchings at dhutchings@coalcityschools.org.

## Warriors still perfect after clash of champs

A clash of state champi- Cameron Minuth. ons was hosted on Tuesday night as Minooka, the 2A state champions, wrestled the 1A champions Coal City. The Coal City Warriors were once again victorious beating Minooka, 52-45, to improve their dual record to 18-0.

Varsity winners were Ryder Gill, Brantley Brooks, Jake Munsterman, Jason Piatak, Tyson Price, Owen Petersen, Cooper Morris, Alex Carlson, Brody D'Orazio, and JV winners were Gabe

Hamilton, Fabian Hernandez, Zack Babcock, Kory Lovell, Carter Thill, Jakob Phillips, Roman Taylor, Dom Zucarello, William Teague, Krammer, Phoenix Senodenos, Enzo Mugnolo, Connor Rodriguez, Trenton Whitehead, Jack Stienhouse, Patrick Osipavicius, Ryker Long, Tanner Gullquist, and Wyatt Ricke.

# Coalers add two more wins to their record

basketball team picked up two impressive wins last week, beating Streator on Tuesday, 65-57, before romping romping Herscher, 46-29, Friday.

It was Senior Night for the Coalers (11-15) on Friday when Herscher came to town and it took a bit before Coal City found its groove. They trailed 13-7 after the opening

But the tables turned in the second quarter when Coal City went on a 22-10 run thanks to a couple of threepointers by Carter Garrelts and

three made by Jim Feeney. Garrelts would end up with 17 points and nine

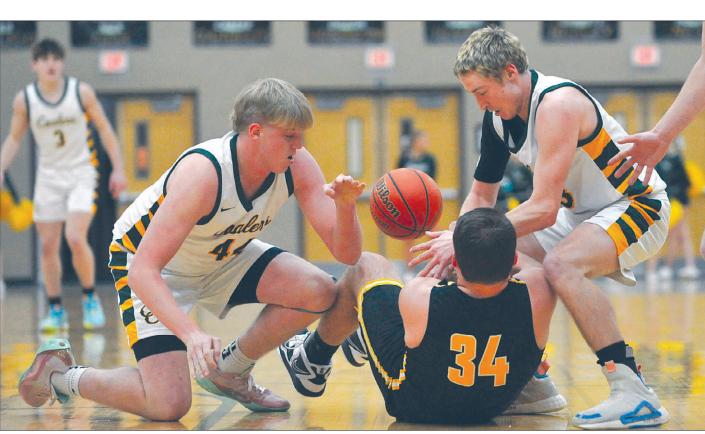
The Coal City varsity boys rebounds for the game while Feeney finished with 13 points and four rebounds.

The most impressive task was holding the Tigers scoreless during the fourth period.

Carson Headley showed his frustration at times yet still ended up with nine points. Owen Wren chipped in with five points while Dillon Harrington scored two. Leash the Bulldogs

At Streator the Coalers grabbed an 18-11 lead and never looked back. They were up 31-20 at the intermission and coasted after three with a 47-31 lead.

SEE WINS, PAGE 13



SWARMING DEFENSE—The varsity Coalers got a 46-29 victory on Friday over Herscher thanks to its quick-attack defense. Going after the ball lost by a downed Herscher player are Coal City's Carter Garrelts (left) and Garrett Keeley.