

Tips for college freshman



Miners compete in youth jamboree



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COAL CITY COURANT

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A resource for schools

Unit 1, village of Coal City set to adopt updated SRO agreement

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

School resource officer Mike Imhof casts a watchful eye over Coal City High School. His daily mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment for all who walk the halls. It's a task he does well.

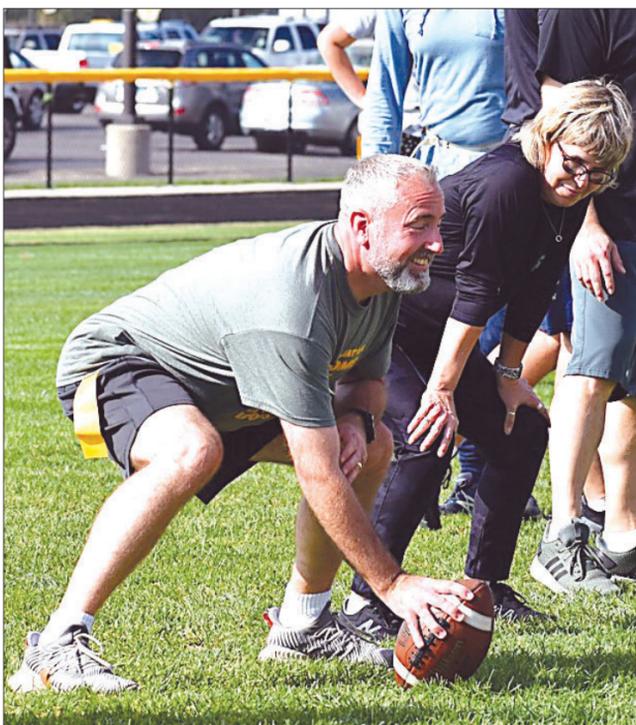
Imhof began patrolling the high school hallways in 2018 and is set to return for another academic year when classes get underway next week. His work in the school is more than just patrolling the hallways, he's become a mentor to students, a classroom resource for educators and a supporter of school and community events.

Imhof says, "It's been an honor serving the Coal City Community Unit School District."

The concept of having an police officer in the buildings was first introduced to the Unit 1 Board of Education by retired police chief Tom Best back in 1998. The Board agreed to pilot the program on a part-time basis for one semester. Best went on to serve as the district's SRO for the next 10 years.

Since first introduced, the Coal City Police Department has had at least one designated SRO working within the school system.

Several years ago, the pro-



File photo
OFFICER MIKE IMHOF does more than patrol the hallways as Coal City High School's school resource officer, he gets involved in school activities—like playing in the Homecoming flag football game—as a way to connect with students and staff.

gram went from part-time to full-time and more recently the school district and village of Coal City came to agreement to add a second SRO.

Based out of the middle

school, the second SRO also works in the lower grade level buildings to provide support to staff and students.

Officer Dave Moran was appointed to the position at the

start of last school year, however when the department became shorthanded, his time in the schools was reduced.

Moran is set to be back working in the schools full-time before the close of the calendar year. It's something he is really looking forward to.

Due to the limited time he was in the buildings and with COVID protocols in place, Moran said it was difficult for the students and staff to get to know him.

"All they really saw of me was my bald head and glasses," Moran said.

Now that face masks are no longer a requirement in school buildings, Moran is ready for everyone to see him and get to know him, and for him to get to know the students and staff in the buildings.

For Moran the duties he assumes range from greeting students as they arrive in the morning to assisting staff and administration with safety issues.

Being a resource to students, staff and administration is a key role both officers take on daily.

Bridging the gap between law enforcement and the educational community is another duty of the SROs, Imhof said.

Through his work at the high school, Imhof is often called on as a classroom resource addressing various topics with students enrolled in the criminal justice program.

As one fully invested in the

SEE SRO. PAGE 2

Firearms stolen from Coal City gun shop

STAFF REPORT

It took just 60 seconds for a band of burglars to break-in to a Coal City business, grab an assortment of firearms and head out of town.

The Coal City Police Department is now working with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives [ATF] on the case that involves the theft of guns from Southland Firearms & Shooting Supply at 692 E. Division St.

It was in the early morning hours of Wednesday, July 27 that police were notified of an activated alarm at the business and by the time officers arrived, the offenders were gone.

Sgt. Jason Clark, the department's investigator, said four Black men gained entry by breaking the front door. After grabbing an undisclosed number of weapons from the showroom, they fled the area in a smaller economy vehicle, possibly a KIA, Clark said.

Since this is an active investigation, the police department would not release many details regarding the crime, but did say it appears to be an isolated incident with offenders who are not from the area.

Clark is working with the ATF on the investigation, the federal agency having jurisdiction over the crime.

Federal firearms license holders must report each missing, lost or stolen firearm from their inventory or collection to ATF within 48 hours of discovery, as well as notification to local law enforcement.

In 2021, the ATF reported there were 10,325 weapons reported lost or stolen nationwide as a

SEE BURGLARY, PAGE 2

Time to head back to class

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Unit 1 School Superintendent Chris Spencer is looking forward to the start of a new school year.

"One of the most exciting days for me is when students return back to the buildings," said the district's new superintendent.

The first day of student attendance is Tuesday, Aug. 16, with teachers returning on Friday, Aug. 12 for the first of two professional development days heading into the academic year.

Tammy Elledge, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, leads

the district's professional development throughout the school year.

On day one, staff will have the opportunity to participate in training programs focused on emergency operations, CPR, diabetes, and social and emotional strategies for all students. Additional programs on the agenda include science training, financial wellness and evaluations. Teachers will also take part in department meetings.

On day two—Monday, Aug. 15—staff will be working in their individual buildings.

This marks the first time in several years that district staff have started with two days of professional develop-

ment after reducing to one day at the recommendation of the teachers union.

"I am happy we are going back to two days, it's something the union now wants. I think it's a good thing and we can get a lot of things accomplished, a lot of great things going on in those two days," Spencer said.

The district's new certified staff will have three days of training—one of those with their mentor teachers.

Elledge also oversees the new teacher training and mentoring program.

In the first two days the new staff members will engage in various train-

ing sessions led by district administrators and staff members, touring the towns that make up the school district, and on the final day working with their mentor.

"As always we are appreciative of the mentors who stepped up and do this job for us. It's a lot of extra work when teachers already have a lot on their plate," Elledge said.

There are 16 new certified staff members joining the district this fall, and each has been assigned a mentor teacher to work with them through their first year.

"ONE OF THE MOST EXCITING DAYS FOR ME IS WHEN STUDENTS RETURN BACK TO THE BUILDINGS."

CHRIS SPENCER
UNIT 1 SUPERINTENDENT

SEE CLASS, PAGE 2



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Morris teen charged with murder

STAFF REPORT

A Morris teenager has been charged with six counts of first degree murder in the Aug. 4 shooting death of a Shorewood woman.

Grundy County officials say Beverly A. Lambert, age 25, was in the 500 block of Twilight Dr. at 4:20 p.m. Thursday to pickup her infant son from the caretaker when she was shot twice in the back of the head with a 9mm firearm.

The teenager charged in her death has been identified as 16-year-old Cortez Rice, of Morris. He is being held at the River Valley Detention Center in Joliet on a \$5 million bond.

"I have never heard of an offender in Grundy County commit a mur-

der at age 16 in the history of the county. This just does not happen here," Grundy County State's Attorney Jason Helland said during a press conference Friday afternoon.

Police were notified of an active shooter, prompting immediate response by the Morris Police Department and Grundy County Sheriff's Office. A rapier box was issued bringing additional law enforcement and support units to the scene.

A perimeter was set up around the area, some individuals were evacuated from the area and local officials issuing a notice to the community to shelter in place.

Morris Hospital was locked down, the victim had been transported to the medical center's emer-

gency room. It was there that she was pronounced dead at 6:55 p.m., according to Grundy County Corner John W. Callahan.

According to the state's attorney, the early investigation determined the offender was in the area of the 400-500 block of Twilight Drive requesting a ride. An occupant of an apartment complex directed him to leave and a short time later the shooting occurred.

The offender took the victim's vehicle, a 2021 Chevrolet. An Illinois State Police Emergency Radio Network [ISPERN] alert was issued for the vehicle.

Through the use of Flock Safety devices located in the city of Morris and neighboring communities, law enforcement officers were able to

track the stolen vehicle and offender to Joliet, where Helland reported the offender fled the vehicle. During a foot pursuit the firearm was located.

Morris Police reported the offender was taken into custody in Joliet at approximately 11 p.m.

Rice was in court on Friday for a bond hearing and is scheduled to appear before Judge Sheldon Sobol on Aug. 18, one day after the Grundy County Grand Jury convenes. Based on the on-going investigation, additional charges could be filed against the offender who has been appointed a public defender.

Morris Police Chief Alicia Steffes offered her thanks to the numerous agencies that responded.

"We are very fortunate to have a tight-knit group of chiefs in Grundy

County. I appreciate all the chiefs that showed up on the scene, especially the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, they are our partners on these events. The Morris Fire Department, MABAS Division 15 for their support, as well as the Will-Grundy Major Crimes Task Force and of course, Joliet and Will County for their work on the other end with the apprehension and numerous other agencies," Steffes said.

A GoFundMe campaign has been organized to support Lambert's family with funeral expenses and establish a fund for her son's care. As of Sunday night the fund had generated close to \$21,000 in donations.

Funeral arrangements for Lambert are under the direction of Leak & Sons Funeral Homes.

Cop calls

STAFF REPORT

The Coal City Police Department's activity log for the month of July shows officers handled 582 calls, a 13% decrease from the prior month.

In calculating total activity, the department combines the number of calls for service —178 in July and officer initiated activity—404. Through the end of July, officers have recorded a total of 3,502 calls. Of the total activity last month, 259 required a written report.

Officers conducted 150 traffic stops last month and issued 42 citations bringing the year to date totals in traffic stops to 693 with 183 citations.

Officers filed 10 criminal charges last month, investigated 18 ordinance violations and issued one citation.

The department's month report will be presented to the Village Board when it meets this evening, Wednesday, Aug. 10.

Sheriff Briley warns public of fraudulent calls

Some individuals have received calls from a non-emergency number of the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, but the calls are not coming from law enforcement.

Grundy County Sheriff Ken Briley reports his office has been notified of the calls, the caller informing individuals they need to take some type of action and leaving a call

back number—815-255-3856—that is not associated with the sheriff's department and should not be called.

In a public statement, Briley said his office will never ask individuals to purchase gift cards to take care of warrants or other police matters.

Anyone in doubt can verify by contacting the office at 815-942-6645.

Unit 1 fills all staffing positions ahead of Aug. 16 start

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A statewide shortage of hiring new teachers brought concern to the Coal City school district who needed 16 staff members to start the school year.

To expedite the process, the Board of Education authorized the superintendent to employee personnel as needed and with the help of building and district level administrators, that is what Superintendent Chris Spencer has done.

As of last week, the district had filled all open positions and is ready to start the school year.

The superintendent's hiring authorization ends on Sept. 7, but with the potential need for additional staffing throughout the school year, board member Quint Harmon suggested keeping the superintendent's hiring power open.

Even though the Board is open to the idea, school code does not give the head administrator that power—it resides with the Board of Education.

In the past month, the superintendent has directed the hiring of the follow-

ing certified staff: Ashley Jackman, special education kindergarten teacher; Adam Macholz, industrial arts teacher; Eusebio [Joey] Rivera, fourth grade teacher; Tracy Schmitz, reading specialist; and Cristina Schultz, social worker/K-5 counselor.

Also hired are Kristen Erhard, reading aide and lunch/recess supervisor; Peggy Feeney, K-5 permanent substitute; Nick Ingalls, 6-12 permanent substitute; Janet Mahlfeldt, three hour reading aid/recess supervisor; Jason McGoldrick, district maintenance; Sabrina Swearingen, three hour food preparer; Sophiya Williams, audio/visual for the performing arts center; and Ashley Meyerhoff, Kathryn Long, Stacey Roach and Shannon Shirley, one-on-one aides.

In other matters from the Aug. 3 Board of Education meeting:

- First grade teacher Tiffany Stewart was appointed as the K-5 social studies department leader.

- Board members adopted the Return to School Plan, a requirement of school districts that have received federal ESSER funds made available through

the American Rescue Plan.

Spencer reported there have been no changes to the plan that was last updated in the prior school year.

- A proposal from Raymond James and Associates to provide the district with its required continuing disclosure report at a cost of \$1,750 was approved. The report is required for district's with outstanding bond debt.

- Cinder Ridge Golf facility will serve as the home course for the high school golf during the 2022 fall season. The cost to the district is \$2,750 with an additional \$550 charge for additional meets.

- The Board accepted the donation of a \$1,587.95 popcorn machine from the Coal City Athletic Boosters.

The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 7 with a study session slated for Wednesday, Aug. 31. Both meetings will be held in the district administration center beginning at 6 p.m. A public hearing on the district's fiscal year 2023 budget will be held at the start of the September meeting.

Campos earns degree from UW-Madison

About 7,700 students received degrees from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May.

Earning a degree from the College of Letters and Science with a Master of Social Work was Leah Campos, of Diamond.

She is the daughter of Ray and Debbie Campos.

All-town garage sales coming in September

Didn't get around to spring cleaning? Garage and home filled with things that have go? Now is the time to hold a garage sale.

The village of Coal City will be hosting its annual fall all-town garage sale next month and it's a prime time to get rid of those items and pocket a few bucks.

Garage sales will be held Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24 with the official hours for

the two-day event set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine.

There is no cost to register a sale with the village and those who do will be included on a map supplied by the village.

Register by visiting Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway. An on-line application will be posted on the city's website.

Buglary

result of burglary, larceny, robbery or other type of loss. Last year in Illinois there were 38 reports filed indicating the theft or loss of 283 firearms with 95 of those resulting from a burglary.

Anyone with information on the crime is asked to contact Sgt. Clark at 815-634-2341.

Class

New staff members and their mentors are: Michael Kren, mentor Lynnae Bontrager; Sonja Minnick, mentor Allison Anderson; Sara Bohac, mentor Sarah Veronda; Richard Taylor, mentor Mike Kostbade; Sara Bell, mentor Melissa George; Kristen Stunga, mentor Katie Ludes; Tyler Schoonover, mentor Tiffany Stewart; Sarah Cykiel, mentor Matt Leman; Emily Halliday, mentor Cassie Spicer; Amanda Gibson, mentor Val Clark; Ashley Jackman, mentor Angie Phillips; Adam Macholz, mentor Mark Fiske; Cristina Schultz, mentor Amanda Patten; Joey Rivera, mentor Neil Nicholson; Lindsey Mattille, mentor Cealy DePersia, and Tracy Schmitz, mentor Amy Gaffigan.

Spencer said he is looking forward to starting off the year with the new staff and acknowledged Elledge for the work she puts into the new staff training program.

"It's very valuable and something I didn't realize until last year. We had follow up with the

new staff and they talked about how well organized it was and how much they appreciated going through that process," Spencer told the Board of Education last week.

He added insight from participants was shared and used by Elledge to enhance the program.

As for the preparations of getting a new school year underway, Elledge said it's a "fun time, exciting time and it's my last time."

Elledge will be retiring at the close of the school year marking a milestone with 33 years of service to the district.

District staffers marking milestones in their careers with the district will be recognized during the opening day breakfast on Friday, Spencer said.

The district calendar is based on 176 days of student attendance with seven early dismissal staff development days and two early dismissal days for parent-teacher conferences. The school year—without the use of emergency days—is set to conclude on Wednesday, May 24, 2023.

SRO

school community, Imhof can often be spotted at athletic contests and fine arts programs, playing basketball at the back-to-school event or flag football during Homecoming Week.

And, he's there at school dances, award ceremonies and commencement. Students regularly coming up to chat with him or request a photo—to which he always obliges.

The SROs are specifically trained—certified through the National Association of School Resource Officers—for the duties that come with working in a school setting.

"It's my job to provide the safest environment possible and to help prepare today's learners for tomorrow's challenges," Imhof said.

The growth and success of the SRO program has resulted in the Unit 1 Board of Education and Coal City Village Board to draft a four-year agreement to ensure the program continues.



SRO MIKE IMHOF



SRO DAVE MORAN

Chris Spencer informed the Board of Education last week that the terms of the agreement were being finalized, saying it was a good agreement.

At its meeting this evening [Wednesday, Aug. 10] the Village Board is expected to review and take action on the agreement, that would then be up for vote by the Board of Education when it meets next month.

The agreement in its tentative form notes the police department will provide the school district with two designated SROs with salary and benefits split equally between

the district and village for the length of the academic year.

Although Moran will not be back into the schools until late fall—due to the training of two new patrol officers—the police department has informed the school district it will have full coverage in its buildings as the department's two sergeants—both certified SROs—will be working in the buildings.

Imhof said he's ready to welcome students back to the high school, and Moran is looking forward to further developing his role as an SRO.

"I want everyone to feel safe at school," Moran said.

Community invited to St. Vincent's Table

The table is set for the weekly St. Vincent's Table dinners.

Dinners are offered each Monday from 4:30-6 p.m. and hosted by various community churches for local residents in need of a nutritious meal.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church is hosting the meals in August at the Berst Center, 180 S. Kankakee St.

New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., will host the dinners in the month of September and in October the dinners will move to Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S. School St., Braidwood.

The dinners will be back at the First Baptist Church in November and Assumption will resume the service in December.

Electronics collection set for Coal City

The quarterly electronics recycling in the village of Coal City is coming up later this month.

Environmental Recycling & Disposal will collect electrical items on Thursday, Aug. 25 and Friday, Aug. 26.

Residents must schedule a pickup by calling the waste hauler directly at 815-725-4555.

Individuals with computer monitors and televisions will be assessed a \$35 per item collection fee.



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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Tips for a college freshman

Heading off to college

BY MADISON HOLCOMB
SPECIAL TO THE COAL CITY COURANT

If you're heading off to college for the very first time, it's okay to be nervous. College is a major chapter in your life. But four months from now, after you complete that first semester, you'll look back and wonder what all the fuss was about.

Sure, it may be your first time away from family and the comforts of home. But with the right mindset and a little preparation it can be one of the more exciting times of your life.

It's also important to expect the unexpected. Depending on your major, socialness, motivation and more, your college experience is individual to yourself, and no one has an identical life in college.

I recently finished my first year of college. Even though I'm not an expert when it comes to having the perfect freshman year, my experiences alongside my peers allow me to provide (hopefully) helpful insight.

Before anything, someone going into their first year of college should be prepared for what comes before the school year starts—packing, university requirements and more.

When it comes to packing, it's important to not overpack. Understand the size of where you'll be living is smaller than your current room, especially if you're sharing that dorm with a roommate. You should only pack essentials that will be useful for the school year, with the exception of a few items that you may use for decorations or that remind you of home. Before moving into your dorm, research the dimensions of the space you'll be living in and plan accordingly.

Many dorms have communal bathrooms shared between a few rooms or an entire floor. This may not sound appealing, but it's not bad once you get used to it. Bring a shower bag so you don't have to carry your bathroom essentials across the hall. Wearing shower shoes to avoid the bacteria that may come from sharing the space with many people is important. Consider buying two pairs to alternate so at least one set is dry.

Before arriving at college knowing your university's student requirements. For example, most schools have student IDs to gain access into certain buildings, scanning for meals at the dining hall and more. Also, some universities are still following COVID-19 safety precautions, like requiring vaccinations and masks. Your university's website should contain information on such requirements.

Before classes begin, you may be anticipating getting all of your class materials on time. Most majors and classes require different materials. You may use scratch paper and a calculator for some and a camera and markers for another. Many university websites list materials needed for specific majors, but you usually won't find out your needed class materials until the first few days of school. Some classes list required textbooks when you sign up for the class, but don't feel obligated to rent or buy the textbook before the class begins; sometimes, the textbook isn't actually needed for the course.

Once you get to campus, it's a good idea to map out where your classes will be held. This will help you from getting lost or being late on your first day.

If your school offers a welcome week for new students, including tours of the campus, social events and live entertainment, force yourself to attend. Most of my closest college friends are the ones I met during welcome week events, so I strongly suggest getting out of your shell for a few days to meet all kinds of new people.

While it's great to meet new people



Madison Holcomb photo

NAVIGATING THE FIRST year of college is pretty simply with the right mindset and preparation. Madison Holcomb, a sophomore journalism major at the University of Illinois, shares some insight and tips for college bound freshman that will have them giving two thumbs up for university life.

and expand your friendship horizons, you shouldn't feel the need to surround yourself with people who don't make you feel like your best self.

Zoe Smith, a friend and high school classmate, also recently finished her first year of college at Illinois State University. "Be around people that you like, not just around people who are there," Smith said.

Understand you don't have to become best friends with your roommate. Yes, it can sometime feel awkward having to share a room with another person your age, so be sure to set boundaries with them to avoid conflict, such as what items can or can't be shared, quiet/study hours and having other friends over.

Universities offer a wide variety of clubs and organizations where you can make friends who are similar to you, gain valuable experience in your major, participate in volunteer work and much more. While there may be 10 clubs you're interested in joining, it can be easy to get overwhelmed with committing to too much at once.

Several upperclassmen gave me a great piece of advice when it comes to joining clubs: start by picking one that associates with your major and one just for fun, then see how much more room you have in your schedule to possibly fit more activities.

Once your classes start, try to find ways to make connections with your professors. This can be done by attending office hours to get help on homework assignments and tests and participating in class frequently. Connecting with your professor not only helps you stand out in their class, but it can also lead you to getting internships and jobs, recommendations and selective classes.

It's important to balance your school life and your social life, and it takes planning in order to do so. Making a schedule at the beginning of each week can help you organize how much time you need to spend doing homework and studying, as well as when you can take time for yourself doing something enjoyable. Try to get your work done as early in the week as possible, or as soon as it's assigned, to avoid procrastination and missed assignments.

One worry that many incoming college students have is exams. Finals, midterms and other big exams are a big

part of most grades, so it's important to set time aside to study and find study methods that work best for you. Don't wait to study the night before your final. Start studying a week in advance to be as prepared as possible.

Once grades start rolling in, it's easy to compare yours with other people in your class. Avoid doing that, there is no sense feeling upset if you are less successful than them. Remember that college is different for everyone, and it's okay to not push yourself to an overwhelming point just to be better than your peers. As long as you're doing your personal best, you're on the right track.

Smith and Ben Kreiger, another friend also attending a 4-year university, have helpful advice.

When asked what she wished she would've known before coming to college, Smith said, "I wish I knew that most people will change their minds on what they want to do sometime in the next four years, and that's okay."

Kreiger also emphasized the idea that you don't have to have your whole life figured out your freshman year of college. "... You have four years to figure stuff out before your next step in life, and you could even use more time after that. Your life will not end if you aren't successful in school or if you don't know what you want to do afterwards, even if it seems like it will in the moment," Kreiger said.

Kreiger, who grew up in Coal City, now attends school in Florida. He said that while he enjoyed going to school away from home because it gave him independence and more unique experiences, there were some difficulties. "Whenever I was homesick, I found it helpful to have something to do to remind you of home; mine was going to Portillo's."

"The biggest struggle is definitely not being able to see your friends from home as much. But at the same time, I feel like this has made me even more confident in knowing who my friends for life will be," Kreiger said.

"College is four years where you really have the opportunity to do practically anything, so this is the perfect opportunity to focus on yourself. While class is of course important, I think these four years outside of the classroom can be the most formative and teach you the most," he said.



THE TERMS OF a property tax settlement agreement between Constellation—owners of Dresden Nuclear Generating Station—and seven local taxing districts is set to be presented for court approval on Aug. 25.

\$26.2 million tax agreement up for court approval

STAFF REPORT

A property tax agreement that will have Constellation Energy—owners of Dresden Nuclear Generating Station—paying \$2 million more yearly to seven local taxing districts is set to be presented for court approval.

Whitt Law, the legal firm representing the taxing districts, is to appear in Grundy County Circuit Court on Thursday, Aug. 25 to present the agreement for certification.

A five-year property tax deal worth \$26.2 million annually was reached in May.

Representatives from the seven taxing bodies—Unit 1 School District, Coal City Fire Protection District, Coal City Public Library District, Grundy County, Goose Lake Township, Goose Lake Road District and Joliet Junior College—began conversations with Constellation [formerly Exelon] in late January.

The seven taxing districts have been negotiating with Exelon over property taxes associated with the Dresden Station site for roughly 25 years. The last agreement was worked out in 2014 and was extended twice with the final agreed to tax payments paid out last summer at a total of \$24.2 million.

The new agreement resulted in a total payout over the term of the agreement of \$131.25 million.

Each of the seven districts receives a portion of the annual tax payment on a percentage basis with the school district receiving 65.8% or an annual payment of \$17,279,255.66 for Unit 1 district.

Coal City Fire Protection District receives 6.9% of the annual payment which for the next five years will be \$1,805,520.56, an increase of \$137,956.56.

The agreement will provide the Coal City Public Library District with an annual payment of \$858,538.36, resulting in an addition \$65,599.36 for library services.

Grundy County receives 14.7% of the annual payment and per the terms of the agreement that will result in a yearly collection of \$3,862,181.28, up by slightly more than \$295,100.

Dresden Station is located in Goose Lake Township and both the township and township road districts receive tax payment at .04% and 2.4%, respectively. The new deal will assure the township receives \$92,366.56 and the road district annual tax receipt will total \$636,644.88.

The seventh taxing district is Joliet Junior College and its percentage of the tax payment comes to 6.5% and for the next five years that will provide the college with \$1,715,492.69 annually.

Food, fun and conversation for Grundy County seniors

STAFF REPORT

Shut down at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Community Nutrition Network [CNN] is ready to restart its bi-monthly gatherings in Coal City.

CNN, a non-profit organization, serves area residents by providing meals and resources to older adults, and twice each month it hosts a gathering in Coal City where individuals can come together for food, fun and conversation.

The bi-monthly events—second Monday and third Thursday—are open to all Grundy County residents age 60 and older.

CNN will re-open

Thursday, Aug. 18 at the Coal City Lions Hall, 480 Illinois St. Doors open at 9:30 a.m. with games and conversation getting underway at 10 a.m. followed by a catered buffet lunch at noon. The Monday gatherings feature lunch at noon with additional activities to follow. Individuals planning to attend are asked to register in advance—at least two days ahead if possible—to 815-941-1590. A suggested donation of \$6 is asked of those participating.

All Grundy County residents meeting the age requirements are encouraged to participate.

July ends up hot with much needed rain

STAFF REPORT

Summer weather took hold in the month of July as temperatures reached into the 90's with a daily high of 97 degrees recorded July 5.

The Grundy County Emergency Management Agency's [GCEMA] weather data division released its monthly climatological data summary last week that indicated there were three days with temperatures reaching 90 degrees or higher. The average monthly temperature was reported at 75 degrees with a low daily temperature recorded at 58 degrees on July 29.

The report further indicates the county received 4.12

inches of rain, up 44.5% from the prior month.

According to GCEMA, the most 24-hour liquid precipitation was recorded on July 9 at

1.35 inches. There were 10 days in the month with measurable precipitation.

July's rain brings the total precipitation for the year to

22.61 inches.

The monthly report further notes the peak wind gust that was recorded July 23 at 32 mph.

Grundy County seeks proposals for audit services

PUBLIC NOTICE Request for Proposal Audit Services

Sealed bids will be received for the contracting of an auditing firm which shall be responsible for audit of the County of Grundy's modified cash financial statements of the governmental activities, discretely presented component unit, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information, including the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the basic financial statements, of the County of Grundy, Illinois as of and for the year ended November 30, 2022. Sealed envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior "Audit Services" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee or agent for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 1:00 pm, August 31, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud at 3:00 pm (cst.) on September 1st, 2022. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

The County of Grundy is soliciting the services of qualified firms of certified public accountants to audit the financial statements for fiscal year 2022. The term of agreement shall be for one (1) year with options to extend the contract period in one (1) year increments through fiscal year 2025. These audits are to be performed in accordance with the provisions contained in this request for proposals and as exemplified in prior years' annual financial reports, single audits, and reports on internal controls; all of which are readily available on the County's website at www.grundycountyil.gov. The Grundy County Finance Director, along with the Grundy County Administrator will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board. Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundycountyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp or online at www.demandstar.com/app/agencies/illinois/grundy-county/procurement-opportunities. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals; and to waive technical errors or informalities in bids.

Chris Balkema
County Board Chairman

Whitehead applies for property variance

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 6th day of September, 2022, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: A variance of 3 1/2 ft. from north lot line 2 ft. variance on NE lot line and 2 ft. variance on west lot line.

At the following address: 900 E. Joseph Ct., Coal City, IL.

Legal description of property: Lot 34 in Meadow Estates subdivision Phase 5, being a resubdivision of Lot 403 in Meadow Estates Subdivision Phase 4 of part of Section 2, Township 32 North, Range 8 East of the Third Principal Meridian, according to the plat thereof recorded June 3, 2020 as Document No. 592964, (except coal and other minerals underlying said premises and the right to mine and remove the same); in Grundy County, Illinois.

Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Dave Whitehead.

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

Persons may appear in person or by agent.

Dated this 10th day of August, 2022.
Published in the Coal City Courant on August 10, 2022.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.

Tenant: Jerrold Miller, 2 Sportsman Dr., Diamond, IL 60416, Unit 330.

If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by August 31, 2022 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.

Published in the Coal City Courant on August 10 and 24, 2022.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 17, 24 and 31, 2022

Notice of foreclosure for 1805 Jana Lane

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

PUBLICATION NOTICE

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

LOT 33 IN HARMON ACRES FIRST ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED JANUARY 13, 1969 IN PLAT BOOK E, AT PAGE 7, AS DOCUMENT #213281; IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS. COMMON ADDRESS: 1805 Jana Lane, Morris, IL 60450 P.I.N.: 02-33-332-005

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

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

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

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

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

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

Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 1125
Chicago, Illinois 60606

Email: ilpleadings@johnsonblumberg.com
Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711
JB&A # IL 20 7870
13200120

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, August 3, 10 and 17, 2022.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

To voice your opinion 24 hours a day, go to www.freepressnewspapers.com or call 815-634-0317

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

The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-

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

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to www.freepressnewspapers.com, -> Submit Sound-off 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 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Respect the flag

SHADOW LAKES—Born and bred in U.S.A. From a family of scouts, we taught our children and scouts to respect the U.S. Flag for what it stood for. What I am seeing in Shadow Lakes is disgusting. Trump all over the red, white and blue on flagpoles; foul language flying freely behind golf carts for Trump supporters. Everyone can have their own viewpoint, but I do not need to hear foul language, nor do I want to see political innuendoes. Be proud to be an American, respect the flag. If I see a tattered and torn flag, I do my best to replace it by leaving a new one on their doorstep. So many vets out there have fought for this country to keep it free! I came in contact with just five vets and they also find the flags offensive and disrespectful. What is wrong with you?

Waterfall of truth

BRAIDWOOD—The naysayers were wrong. Critics of the January 6th Select Committee were certain that the Committee would have no more effect than Trump's two impeachments. But the Committee's work is now being described as a 'waterfall of truth' which had the American people glued to their screens. Republicans served as brave witnesses who told the truth as well as Republican leaders who unflinchingly demanded the truth at extreme personal cost. Superb examples are Republican Liz Cheney who may lose her seat in Congress as a result of her leadership. And White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson showed more courage than men twice her age and seems to be the catalyst for breaking the obstruction by getting key testimony from White House Counsel Pat Cipollone and perhaps others. Jim

Proven leadership

DIAMOND—To "Alaska on notice" from Kurt K. published on 7-27-22. I thought you were doing quite well in your concern for Alaska's vulnerability to the Russian tanks at their border. When Sarah Palin was Alaska's Governor she pointed this out several times. If we who live so far away are concerned, imagine what Alaska's citizens are feeling as they see those tanks. If Donald Trump gets re-elected we would again have strong leadership. I know this, you know this and Putin also knows this. President Trump stands firm in his defense of our country and that includes our 49th and 50th states. He did call Putin a genius, that was an assessment of an enemy's mental faculties. It in no way implies friendship. We should all recognize both strengths and weaknesses of our enemies. Do you cast aspersions on President Trump because you have nothing creditable to say about Joe Biden?

Soul of wit

WILMINGTON—Hey Sharon, your obviously intelligent but didn't anyone ever tell you brevity is the soul of wit.

Illogical

WILMINGTON—After Sept. 11, 2001, Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson claimed the attack was punishment from God because New York City was gay-friendly. When wildfires swept across Florida they claimed God was punishing Disney because they had a gay day at Disneyworld. Using that logic I think the flooding in Kentucky is God's punishment for Kentuckians continued support of Mitch McConnell.

Look up Hyde

WILMINGTON—This is for Sharon. You should research the Hyde Amendment before your next submission. Just trying to help.

The crazy people

WILMINGTON—Dan Hill asked "why do Democrats have a problem with people owning firearms?" That's not exactly true. We have a problem with certain people owning firearms, you know, the crazy people.

Cartoon

SHADOW LAKES—Cute cartoon I'm looking at here in the Illinois Shooter. There is a woman standing with a big sign that says "How many children have to be murdered before you wake up?" Next to her is a man with a baseball

cap and a big beard and he asked her a question, "Are we talking about abortion or gun control?" Dan Hill

Addicted Americans

WILMINGTON—I'm disappointed in Eddie. It used to be conservatives figured if you died due to illegal drugs you got what you deserved. Remember crack and heroin in the 80's and 90's? What about junkies who contracted Aids because they shared needles. Even hippies who smoked paraquat tainted marijuana paid a price. Maybe Eddie would rather blame China and Mexico instead of the decisions made by drug addicted Americans.

Civil Services Act

SHADOW LAKES—Under the Civil Service Act, it states under title five, USC 632, rule five, section 5.3, part one that government employees can be terminated from their employment. So anything that any individual states about not being able to fire any government employee is a pure lie. But the government employees decided that they do not have to use a law that would cause a problem for any government employee. Even if the government employee commits any type of illegal act. Also there is nothing that could be located in the Civil Service Act that allows a union for any government employee.

Pillars of GOP

WILMINGTON—Anger, hate, grievance, resentment, what do these words have in common? They are the four legs of the modern Republican party platform.

Kick them out

WILMINGTON—One take away from the Civil War is states cannot pull out from the union. But I wonder if we can vote to kick a couple of states out?

Another loudmouth

WILMINGTON—I always thought the ex-president was the biggest loudmouth in the Republican Party but that has changed. Darren Bailey said the Holocaust "doesn't even compare to abortion, one of the greatest atrocities of our day." And this fool makes no apology for the quote and wants to be governor?

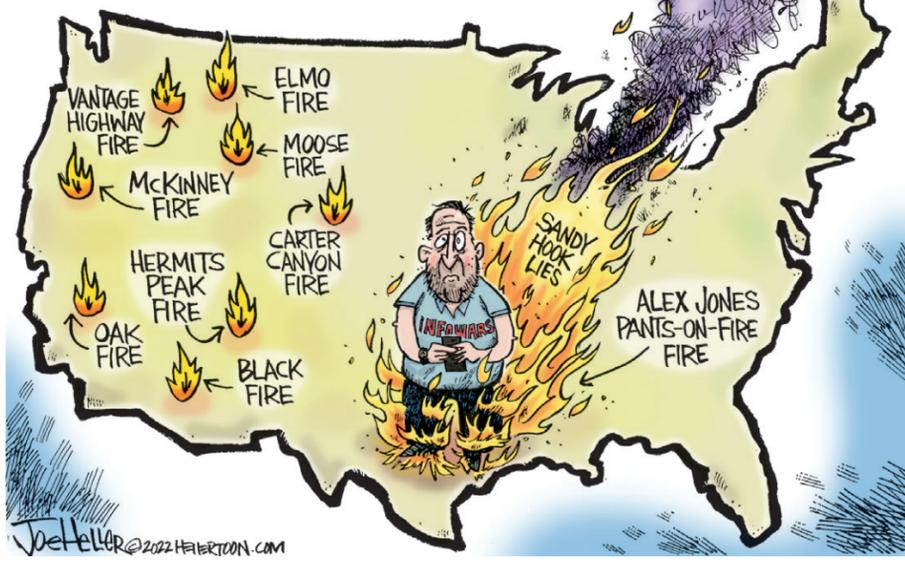
Fact-based history

I would like to thank the author of the "Part of our history" post. I agree with him/her 100 percent. I, too, have a master's degree in history and spent many years teaching in public schools. Critical race theory? What is that? From what I hear, it is a college-level class. I called it teaching my students about the history of slavery in the United States. What? There was slavery in the U.S.? I also taught about the Civil Rights Movement and the Vietnam War. Did they happen? Maybe we should ask Alex Jones. What about Nixon and Watergate? Sound familiar in today's political climate? I also recited the Pledge of Allegiance every morning with my students to start the school day. Maybe if people listened to educated teachers and not some whack job lawmakers from Georgia and Colorado or any commentator on Fox News, the American people might have a greater appreciation and a better understanding on the fact-based history of our nation.

Want to erase history

WILMINGTON—Regarding the Aug. 3 sound-off a teacher wrote called "Part of our history" criticizing Sharon and Dan. We enjoy reading their contributions to sound-off. If you don't like what they have said just don't read sound-off. The young and most college educated minds have been indoctrinated for years on socialism and even Communism Critical Race Theory was being taught in the west and east coast school systems until the conservatives notified the school boards across the country what was being taught in those schools. You have a right to your opinions. Here's mine. We no longer celebrate Lincoln and Washington's birth dates. We tear down statues across our nation of Civil War heroes. Did we not have a Civil War? That's history they're attempting to erase. Don't blame Republicans as you did. Both parties are to blame for what is going on. Read the Epoch Times" and find the truth if you really want to get politically smart. Just because

2022 WILDFIRE MAP



you have a master's degree in history doesn't make you any smarter than Dan or Sharon. Have a good day.

Good-bye gas vehicles

WILMINGTON—Democrat Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg wants all new cars battery-operated by the next 10 years. If you have a car with a combustible engine that guzzles gasoline or diesel they're coming after it. Americans have a love affair with their cars. This new generation of authoritative liberals has a list of things they want to abolish. If the climate change fanatics have their own way your right to choose your own car won't exist.

Stop the spending

WILMINGTON—Our nation is \$31 trillion in debt plus unfunded and Medicare future promises your share as a taxpayer is \$919,000. Ludicrous spending policies are going on year after year. We spent \$352 billion just in interest payments mostly to China. Check out the website at usdebtclock.org. The politicians of both parties have to stop the stupid overseas spending and liberal giveaways until we get our debt under control. Other countries have bought millions of acres of farmland in the US plus foreigners under different names. We must reduce our debt.

Have some pride

CARBON HILL—As a life-long resident of Carbon Hill I am appalled by the way some residents ignore their yards. Driving through town I notice lawns are not cut, weeds and volunteer trees growing everywhere. It is embarrassing when out-of-towners come to our Homecoming, Reunion Palooza, Octoberfest, etc. I've had out-of-town guests ask "What in the world is going on with Carbon Hill?" Please clean up your act. Have some pride in our village.

Upcoming election 2023

BRAIDWOOD—Braidwood residents get ready. Election of a new city council is in April 2023. Will we have the current city administrator for the next four years, meaning until 2027? Is this what you want Braidwood? Residents you need to realize that if any of the current administration wins in this next election, especially for mayor or even the commissioners, the present administrator is definitely in for four more years. Think smart everyone, we don't need yes men for mayor or commissioners that are controlled over what to do by the city administrator. By ordinance the city administrator has no power, no authority to make decisions, or call the shots on how monies are spent. It's an appointed position just like city clerk, police chief, all of which have no executive power like the elected officials. Exactly what Commissioner Fay Smith has been saying to members of the city council for years and he still goes over his head controlling and telling

people what to do. It's not his job.

Benefits ordinance

BRAIDWOOD—An ordinance was passed last year after the fifth city clerk, Hillary Bohac, was appointed by Mayor Jones. In this package it stipulated hours of work. On days when there is no council meeting or other meeting the city clerk is to report to work from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Days when there is a council meeting the city clerk is to report to work from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Question is why isn't the city clerk in the office every day of the week at 8 or 9 a.m.? She comes and goes when she wants. The city clerk needs to be held more accountable but unfortunately both the administrator and mayor are allowing it. These new business deals are getting made and who's benefiting from the sales?

Falling apart

COAL CITY—The village of Coal City should look at the house at 435 S. Mary Street. The yard is a mess. There's a truck in the driveway that has been sitting there for five years or more. The house is a wreck, the gutters are falling off the house and nobody has lived in the house for several years. I think it's a shame we should have to look at stuff like that.

Vote counts

DIAMOND—Joseph Stalin once said, "It's not the people who vote that count; it's the people who count the votes that matter."

Denies there's a crisis

SHADOW LAKES—The Left should be ecstatic that President Joe Biden is giving it everything it wanted. The Left likes inflation. It reduces the value of old money by printing lots of new money. Those who are rich who have it lose the value of their money and those who are poor who don't have any money, well, I guess they just suffer. And yet we have the public that is tired of near record annual increases in murders and other violent crimes. It's sickened by the tsunami of dangerous drugs glowing across the border and millions of foreign nationals entering our country without permission. It's irate that the Biden Cabinet never responds to these disasters. Instead, the administration denies the crisis ever existed or it blames its own self created messes on the Russians or Trump or its own Democratic senators who balked at printing more trillions of dollars. Thank you Democrats. Dan Hill

Better enforcement

COAL CITY—Apparently we no longer have anyone in charge of property ordinances in town any more. We have so many properties in town that are not being taken care of it's pathetic. Yards taken over by weeds and tall grass, junk cars parked in driveways with expired registrations, junk piles in yards and other violations. It's sad that some people just don't take care of their properties but now they can get away with it because nobody enforces the ordinances any longer. w

Inflation Reduction Act criticized for raising taxes

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

As policymakers debate the so-called Inflation Reduction Act in Washington, many are saying claims of no tax hikes on the middle class are not true.

The massive bill includes tax incentives to help with the transition to clean energy, health insurance reforms, and raises corporate taxes on some corporations that make over \$1 billion annually, taxing corporate stock buybacks and funding the IRS to go after tax cheats.

The proposed legislation does not include funding for many staples of Build Back Better, such as extended child tax credit payments, universal preschool or more affordable housing.

During debate, Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin made a promise to the American people.

"No one in America, no one earning less than \$400,000 a year will see any

increase in their taxes," Durbin said.

But the grassroots organization Americans for Prosperity disagrees and points to an analysis by the non-partisan Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT) that shows the legislation would raise taxes. In 2023 alone, the JCT analysis shows that taxpayers earning less than \$200,000 would pay \$16.7 billion more in taxes, and taxpayers earning less than \$500,000 would see a \$30.8 billion increase.

Jason Heffley, Illinois director of the organization Americans for Prosperity, said the legislation has nothing to do with reducing inflation.

"They all have these catchy names, but these bills get so big that rarely the language of the bills mirror the titles that they give them," Heffley said.

He points to the Penn Wharton Budget Model which said the impact on inflation is "statistically indistinguishable from zero."

Another sticking point being debated

involves SALT caps. Current law allows taxpayers to deduct state and local taxes (SALT) paid from their gross income when they file federal tax returns.

In 2017, President Trump's tax overhaul capped how much filers can deduct in SALT taxes, up to \$10,000, that would last until 2025.

House Democrats who were pushing to lift the cap said they will support the legislation even without a provision lifting the SALT deduction cap.

Heffley said the legislation would burden businesses and taxpayers while spending billions of dollars on failed health care policies and clean energy handouts.

"The Democrats in Washington say they are passing the Inflation Reduction Act but really all we are getting is higher taxes and more IRS agents," Heffley said.

The Democrat-controlled House is expected to take up the legislation Friday.

Electronics dropoff event Thursday in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Aug. 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

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 each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital

music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite 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 in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month. An ID showing Will County residency may be required.

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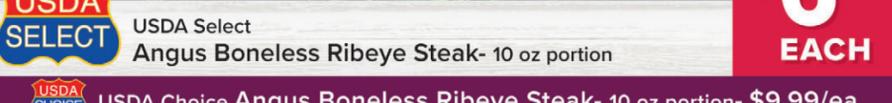
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Philadelphia Cream Cheese- 8 oz

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Kraft Natural Shreds, Crumbles, or Chunks 5-8 oz

Single Price: \$3.29



\$2.29
when buying 5

Entenmann's Donuts- 15-17.5 oz

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Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.

Get ready for football with an Alabama Slammer

The "back to school" sales are in full swing and we're winding down our summer vacations, these are signs of good things to come. That's right, we are literally weeks away from college football!

The official Week 1 Kickoff will take place on Saturday September 3, but if you can't wait that long there will be "Week Zero" action during the weekend of 8/27.

To the surprise of absolutely nobody, the pollsters and the oddsmakers have the Alabama Crimson Tide as the favorite to win it all at SoFi Stadium (Inglewood, CA) on January 9.

Last year's National Champion Georgia Bulldogs enter the season with the second-best odds to win the Championship, ahead of the Ohio State Buckeyes coming in with the third-best odds.

This week we will toast The Tide and the 2022 college football season with one of the most enduring Southeastern cocktails, the Alabama Slammer.

The Alabama Slammer was wildly popular in college bars of the 80s, both in and outside of Alabama. The cocktail is strong, sweet, easy to

drink, and can be served as a highball or as a shooter.

Very little is known about the origin of the Slammer other than it was invented at The University of Alabama around 1975, and that it is the "official" drink of the Crimson Tide.

This is the first Sunday Cocktail of the year to pour the three spirits used in the Alabama Slammer: sloe gin, amaretto, and Southern Comfort.

Sloe gin is a berry-based liqueur, not a traditional "gin." There are many Alabama Slammer recipes in cyberspace that call for grenadine in place of sloe gin due to the limited availability of sloe gin.

The decline in the availability of sloe gin over the last few decades coincided with the decline in popularity of the signature sloe gin cocktail, the Sloe Gin Fizz. Lack of availability may have been an issue up to a few years ago, but it is certainly not the case today.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Sloe gin has made a comeback and several gin distillers are again offering sloe gin as the appreciation for classic cocktails continues to grow. Your local spirits retailer will likely have a few sloe gin offerings, the most widely available brands are Plymouth, Hayman's, and Bol's.

Amaretto: If you do not have amaretto in your home bar, be sure to include a bottle on the shopping list for your next trip to your local spirits retailer.

Amaretto is a sweet almond-based Italian liqueur that can be enjoyed as a stand-alone drink or in one of the many amaretto cocktails. Several distillers produce their own brand of amaretto, but Disaronno is the most widely used brand in US bars and restaurants.

Southern Comfort: "SoCo" is often referred to as whiskey, which it is not. The original recipe was bourbon-based, but included the added sweetness of vanilla bean, cherry,

orange, cinnamon, honey, and a few other ingredients.

Southern Comfort was invented in New Orleans by Martin Wilkes Heron, a bartender at McCauley's Tavern in the French Quarter.

Heron patented his creation in 1889 and Southern Comfort would eventually win a gold medal at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis.

There are several Southern Comfort offerings available in the US, I recommend either the 70 proof or the 100 proof for use in the Alabama Slammer.

The Crimson Tide opens the 2022 campaign at home against Utah State on Saturday September 3, 6:30 PM.

The Alabama Slammer is built in a shaker, served in a Collins (tall) glass.

Fill shaker with ice
Add 1 oz Southern Comfort

Add 1 oz amaretto
Add 1 oz sloe gin
Add 2 oz orange juice

Shake and strain into ice-filled highball glass.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Hairagain welcomes a new stylist! **Sindy McCormick**

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



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First United Methodist Church

Fall Preschool 2022

The First United Methodist Church Preschool Program has open registration for Fall 2022-2023 school year. Preschool classes meet 3 times a week. Monday - Wednesday - Friday mornings from 9 a.m. to Noon. Preschoolers 2 years (by August 1) to 5 years of age may enroll.

PRESCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Thurs., Aug. 18 from 6-7pm

First day of class tentatively Aug. 22 @ 9am

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



Tractor pull a highlight of Symerton Homecoming

STAFF REPORT

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

Eli Geiss, the president of the village of "about 106" people, said the focus is on having a family-oriented event.

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

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

Symerton Tap will be open and serving fare as well as adult beverages, kicking off the weekend with a Friday night entertainment—the Aprils Reign Band—at 7 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Invasive silver carp found 7 miles from Lake Michigan

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee (ICRCC) removed a silver carp from Lake Calumet in the Chicago Area Waterway System. Lake Calumet is approximately seven miles from Lake Michigan.

The fish was captured Thursday by gill netting and electro-fishing crews from IDNR and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers following a reported sighting of an invasive carp. The silver carp was 38.3 inches in length and weighed approximately 22 pounds.

The silver carp capture has triggered a response effort

in the area of the captured fish to determine whether additional invasive carp could be present. It is important to note that the capture of this silver carp does not indicate that a reproducing population of bighead and silver carp exists above the electric dispersal barriers near Joliet or within the Great Lakes.

This is the third time a bighead or silver carp has been captured above the electric dispersal barriers. A silver carp was captured in the Chicago Area Waterway System below T.J. O'Brien Lock and Dam in 2017, and a bighead carp was captured in Lake Calumet in 2010.

Gas from Wilmington landfill to power transportation

Three years ago Will County initiated the process to build a Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) Plant as a far better environmental use of the methane gas being flared off from the county's landfill.

Over this time, several RR&E staff, with assistance from contractors, engineers and others, have been working diligently to turn this vision into a reality. The RNG plant, located at the Prairie View Landfill near

Wilmington will utilize a 5.5 mile pipeline to deliver Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fuel into a pipeline for use in trucks of various types that run on CNG instead of diesel.

This unique project creates a renewable fuel that shall generate revenue for the County for decades to come. Stay tuned for more updates and a ribbon cutting ceremony in the near future.

Huxley is looking for a home



MEET HUXLEY, a 1 1/2-year-old boxer mix. He was returned to our shelter very overweight and afraid. He is fully house trained and has been great with other dogs. He walks well on a leash and is very affectionate once he gets to know you. If you are looking for a fantastic walking partner and companion, this is your guy. Adoption fee includes neuter, rabies shot, distemper, heartworm test, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

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Letter to the editor

Tell the real story about the climate crisis

Dear Editor,

As someone who follows local and national news reports, I must tell you I am worried about the recent extreme heat and wildfires raging across the country. I feel for people who lose their lives and livelihoods to extreme weather, and I'm scared that it's only a matter of time until it directly hits me and my community.

Seeing headlines in local news outlets covering these climate disasters made me realize that most news stories show no connection between them and their main cause: fossil fuels. This is dangerous, because many people will continue to refuse to see that longer, hotter, and deadlier summers are caused and perpetuated by the disastrous coal, oil, and gas projects - and the fossil fuel industry.

The science is clear - the longer we allow coal, oil, and gas companies to dig and burn, the worse the impacts of the climate crisis will be. With every fraction of a degree of warming, we'll see and suffer more extreme heat, droughts, floods, wildfires, and hurricanes.

But the fossil fuel industry continues to ignore these alerts and undermine our chances for a safer future, and CO2 emissions keep rising. We all know this is causing global heating, and resulting in extreme weather events, yet they keep digging, burning, and profiting, with zero accountability.

Climate impacts - like the

recent heatwaves and wildfires - disproportionately affect people and communities who are already marginalized and disadvantaged. People who did the least to cause the climate crisis suffer the worst from its impacts - they lose livelihoods, hope, and worse: their lives - while oil companies continue to hit record profits. This is wrong on so many levels.

Local, regional, and national media have an important role to play - and a

moral obligation to tell the whole truth. It's time to make one thing about extreme weather very clear: it's not a "crisis" that just happens to us - it's a crime, and the fossil fuel industry is to blame. And saying it once isn't enough. Media has an important job to do to turn the tide of public opinion and help the world avoid the worst of the climate impacts.

Please tell the real story about the climate crisis.

Sharon Granger

Coal City

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With Heartfelt Thanks

Words cannot express how grateful we are for the cards, food, flowers, love and support shown by family, friends, neighbors and health care workers during the passing of our husband and father, Ron Bockstahler.

We are so blessed to have all of you in our lives. Ron was a special guy and you all showed your love for our families during his illness.

A special thanks to the Department of Veterans affairs, Lightways (Hospice) and to Matt Baskerville and his wonderful team. Also to Pastor Harriette from the First United Methodist Church & the Moose Family Center.

Judy Wunderlich Bockstahler
and our extended family

Celebrating 40 years of matrimony



Beau and Rose Shultz, of Coal City celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Aug. 7 2022.

They are the parents of Beau Shultz, Erica (Phil O'Gorman) and Kandis (Tyson) Wardlow. They have 10 grandchildren: Beau III, Brady, Aiden, Kaydynce, Liam, Nico, Greenlee, Eli, Clydel and Maeve.

The family plans to celebrate with a trip to Disney World in November.



Turkey vulture picks apart the competition to win July Forest Preserve photo contest

Turkey vultures aren't known for their beauty. But that didn't stop a photo of a vulture at Rock Run Rookery from winning July's portion of the Forest Preserve District's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest.

The photo was taken by Joe Viola of Shorewood. His photo won the most votes on Facebook after being chosen as one of five finalist photos by Forest Preserve judges. Judges were impressed with the vulture photo's painting-like quality.

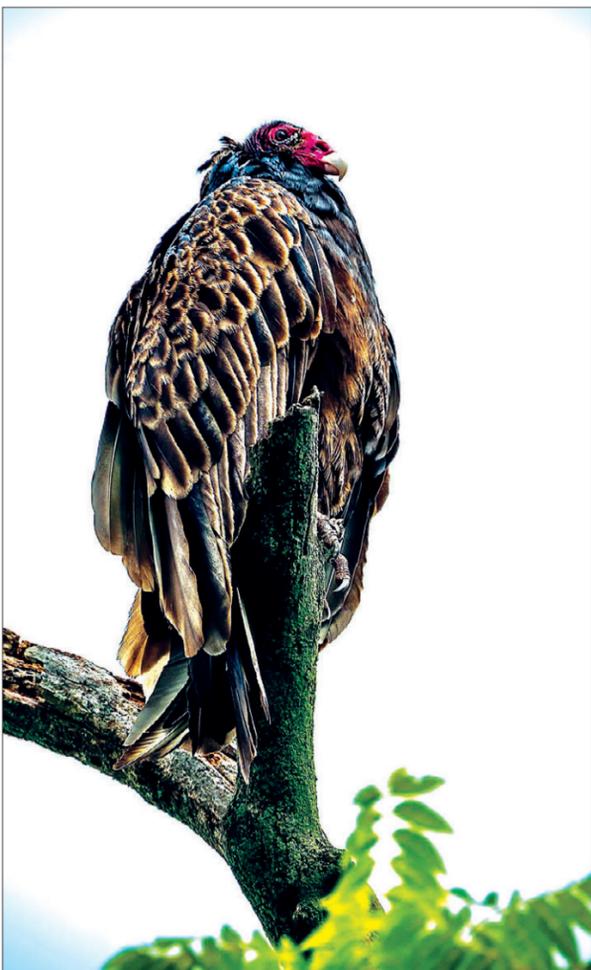


Photo courtesy of Joe Viola

SHOREWOOD RESIDENT Joe Viola's turkey vulture photo won the month of July in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest. The contest continues with monthly winners through December.

Those who voted for the vulture via Facebook appreciated the bird's stance and the clarity of the photo. "Great angle and detail. He looks as if he is king over his territory," wrote one voter. Another said, "He shows us how even a turkey vulture can be beautiful." Other voters said the bird looked "majestic" and even "glamorous" and that the shot was "stunning."

Honorable mentions were awarded to:

Chad Morsch of Romeoville for a great blue heron with fluttering feathers at McKinley Woods.

Ron Hodgen of Morris for a black-crowned night heron surveying its turf at McKinley Woods.

Nancy Mariotti of Plainfield for a hungry cottontail rabbit munching on greenery at McKinley Woods.

Amy Miller of Joliet for a beautiful blue Indigo bunting perched on a branch at Rock Run Preserve.

Viola also won the first month of the contest in May with a photo of a sleepy raccoon. Five more monthly winners will be chosen through December. Every entrant receives a participation gift, and each monthly winner is awarded a \$75 Visa gift card.

Once the contest concludes on Dec. 31, the eight monthly winners will vie for overall honors via Facebook voting. The top photos will receive gift cards of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County.

To view contest rules and photo upload instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org. To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account, Flickr.com/WillCoForests.

Olney Cen. dean's list

Outstanding students at Olney Central College have received academic honors for the Spring 2022 Semester.

Kurtis Erickson, of Wilmington, was named to the dean's list.

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Gas price falls under \$4 locally

A 20-gallon fill-up would have cost as much as \$16 more depending on which way you turned on Monday morning.

Two Lorenzo Road gas stations across from each other had a difference of 80 cents per gallon—Mohsen on the north side was charging \$3.95/g while the Shell station to the south was priced at \$4.75/g.

The Mohsen station is the first locally to lower the price under \$4. Most other stations in Wilmington were charging \$4.42 per gallon, down from the week before as average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 22.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.39/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 81.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand \$1.05/g higher than a year ago.

The cheapest gas reported Monday was \$3.79/g in Bourbonnais and \$3.93/g in Joliet. Morris area stations were averaging \$4.35/g while in Braidwood and Coal City the average was \$4.48/g.

The national average price of diesel has declined 13.1 cents in the last week and stands

at \$5.14 per gallon.

"The national average is poised to fall back under \$4 per gallon as early as today (Monday) as we see the decline in gas prices enter its eighth straight week. By the end of the week, 100,000 stations will be at \$3.99 or less," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.39/g while the most expensive was \$5.99/g, a difference of \$2.60/g.

"Diesel continues to decline as well, and will likely soon fall under \$5 per gallon. We've even seen nearly a dozen stations in low-priced states fall under \$2.99, a welcome return to some lucky motorists in areas of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and Iowa. The groundwork is laid for a ninth week of decline, with areas of the West Coast soon ditching the \$5 per gallon average.

"While I'm upbeat the drop can continue for another couple weeks, we're starting to see some activity in the tropics, which may increase risk of potential disruption," De Haan noted.

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OBITUARIES

John E. Bertone Jr.

WILMINGTON—John E. Bertone Jr., 53, of Wilmington, passed away Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022 at his home with his wife and friends by his side.

Born June 30, 1969 in Melrose Park, IL, he was a son of John E. Sr. and Josephine (Loucks) Bertone. John graduated from Morton East High School, and owned and operated an auto repair shop. On May 17, 2022 he married his longtime partner and love of his life, Michelle McDonagh. John enjoyed fishing, riding dirt bikes and motorcycles. He was a good friend to many, deeply loved and will be dearly missed.

Survivors include his parents, John E. Sr. (Josephine) Bertone; wife, Michelle McDonagh; four sons: John, Michael, Nikko and Dominic Bertone; one sister, Laura Bertone and his two



four legged companions, Darla and Ava. John was preceded in death by his maternal grandmother, Pauline Pellegrino.

Cremation rites have been accorded per John's wishes, and a celebration of life will take place at a later date.

Preferred memorials in John's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society.

Friends and family are encouraged to send online condolences and share John's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Karyn Sue Bludzius

BRAIDWOOD—Karyn Sue Bludzius, 78, formerly of Chicago, Romeoville, Wilmington and Braidwood, passed away on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at her home with her daughter by her side.

She was born Feb. 29, 1944 in Chicago, a daughter to Edward and Lorraine (Dahms) Van-Holt. In 1968 Karyn married John Bludzius in Michigan and together they cherished 42 years until his passing in 2010. Karyn worked as a supervisor for Tel Lab for over 20 years until her retirement. She was a strong independent woman who had great leadership skill, was always willing to help others and who cherished her family.

Survivors include one daughter, Bridget Bludzius, of Braidwood; five grandchildren: Joshua (Samantha) Bludzius, of Virginia; Jayson (Breanna) Conlin, of Braidwood; Melissa (Ron) Teeling, of Romeoville; Jennifer Bludzius, of Romeoville and Jessica Bludzius, of Morris; 10 great-grandchildren, two brothers, Thomas (Ann) Van-Holt and Martin (Karen) Van-Holt; three sisters: Sandra (Robert) Wojciehowski,



Josie (Ray) Anhalt and Sandra L. Van-Holt; one sister-in-law, Sue Van-Holt; one daughter-in-law, Anna Bludzius, of Morris; and many nieces and nephews.

Karyn was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Lorraine; husband, John; one son, Kevin Bludzius, and two brothers, Robert Van-Holt and Edward A. Van-Holt.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Karyn's wishes. Graveside services will take place at 12:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elmwood, where Karyn will be laid to rest beside her husband, John.

Preferred memorials in Karyn's memory may be made to ASPCA.

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

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Homes, 700 E. Kahler Road, in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Lester Bushue

MORRIS—Lester S. Bushue, 50, of Morris and formerly Braidwood, passed away on Sunday, July 31, 2022 at his home.

Born Oct. 17, 1971, in Joliet, he was a son of Darold and Sharon (Brockett) Bushue. Lester graduated from Reed Custer High school and worked as a forklift operator. He was known to have a great sense of humor always making those around him laugh. Lester was a devoted friend to many and an accomplished artist and loved spending his free time drawing.

Survivors include one son, Ashton Bushue, of Joliet; one brother, Brian (Audra) Bushue, of Wilmington; two nephews, Ryan Bushue, of Wilmington and Kyle Bushue, of Bloomington; five nieces: Tiffany and Valarie Bushue, Aaren (Eric) Dillon, of Wilmington; Ellen (Kyle) Davis, of Wilmington and Emily Bushue, of Nashville, TN; as well as other family members, Mia Billings, of Manteno and Brandon Billings, of Bourbonnais.



Lester was preceded in death by his parents, one daughter, Leaya Jo Bushue, and two brothers, Kenneth and Daron Bushue.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022, at 1 p.m. at Island City Baptist Church, 120 S. Vine Street, in Wilmington. Pastor Jeff Logsdon will officiate, and burial of ashes will take place in Oakwood Cemetery at a later date where Lester will be laid to rest with his mother and younger brother, Daron.

Preferred memorials in Lester's memory may be made to Island City Baptist Church, C/O Operation Christmas Child.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook and share Lester's memorial page via social media.

Cremation rites and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Le Roy F. Grell

WILMINGTON—Le Roy F. "Butch" Grell, 79, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022 in his home surrounded by family.

Born Aug. 31, 1943 in Joliet, Butch was a son of Le Roy Sr. and Esther Mary (Barker) Grell. He was raised in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1961. On Oct. 3, 1964, Le Roy married Donna Korelc in Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City.

Le Roy worked alongside his father and together they opened the State Safety Lane in 1959. He then in 1969 went on to purchase his father's business, Grell's Garage which was founded in 1940. Later in the 1970's Le Roy and his son, Ray opened Grell's Recycling. Following the closing of the recycling center, Le Roy went to work for Gana Construction Company as a driver, and later gained employment with Pac Masters, delivering foam packaging. When that company closed he went to work for PT Ferro until his retirement. Le Roy was a member of the Teamsters Local #179.

Butch loved to fish and talk about fishing with all his buddies. He was a member of the Hawg Hunters Fishing Club and fished many bass tournaments. He also enjoyed hanging out at the Island Wilmington House Restaurant with his longtime friend, Gerald Lund. Family was



always of utmost importance, and he loved spending time with them, as well as antiquing with his wife, Donna.

Survivors include the love of his life, high school sweetheart and wife of 58 years, Donna; son, Ray (Tina) Grell, of Braidwood; daughter, Kelley (Mike) Mokry, of Guntersville, AL; granddaughter, Michelle Partak, of Wilmington and grandsons: Hunter (Maggie) Partak, of Somerville, AL and Raymond (Julianne) Grell, of Coal City; great-granddaughter, Evelyn Partak; brother, Mike Grell (Marybeth Schneider), of Marseilles; sister, Pat Grell, of Pennsylvania and niece, Melanie LeBoeuf, of Boerne, TX.

Le Roy was preceded in death by his parents, Le Roy and Esther Grell; grandparents, Fred and Herta Grell; aunt, Wilma Vaksdal and his daughter-in-law, Mary Grell.

Per Le Roy's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded, and there will be no services.

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

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Robert F. Stehlik

BRAIDWOOD—Robert F. Stehlik, 84, of Braidwood, passed away Saturday, Aug. 6, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born on April 11, 1938 in Joliet, he was the son of Gerald and Katherine (nee McElroy) Stehlik. Robert graduated from Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1956. On Aug. 2, 1958 he married Sandra Marie Zinnel in Braidwood where they made their home and raised their family. He owned and operated Stehlik's Tavern and Stehlik's Liquor Store for 19 years and Stehlik's Barbershop for many years. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood, Knights of Columbus #1574, and was the longest serving trustee of Reed Township. He was an avid sports fan whom especially enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs.

Surviving are his son, Kurt (Lynn) Stehlik, of Wilmington; daughter, Sheryl (Steve) Lott, of Mesa, AZ; five grandchildren: Scott (Lara) Stehlik, Kaitlin (Matthew) Slater, Gregg (Kathryn) Alsbury, Eric (Tori) Alsbury and Kristin Lott; and four great-grandchildren: McKenna and Harper Stehlik and Emma and Nathan Slater.



Preceding him in death were his parents, Gerald and Katherine; beloved wife, Sandra Stehlik (Feb. 4, 2009) and one brother, Gerald "Jerry" (Pat) Stehlik.

Funeral services will be from the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory Saturday, Aug. 13, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. to the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. Father Joshua Miller will officiate. Interment immediately following in Mount Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 from 4-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to the American Heart Association or Braidwood Historical Society.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpatersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

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

Raymond Onsen



COAL CITY—Raymond G. Onsen, 87, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Aug. 4, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born June 1, 1935 in Goose Lake Township, Raymond Gary was a son of Harold W. and Anna Vivian (Cushing) Onsen. He graduated from St. Rose Parochial School in Wilmington, and attended Reed-Custer High School. Ray honorably served in the United States Army (1954-1956) and on Oct. 17, 1964 went on to marry Betty Viano in Assumption Catholic Church in Coal City.

Shortly after his honorable discharge from the service, Ray worked for the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant before gaining employment with Olin Chemical from where he retired. One who always needed to stay busy, following his retirement Ray then gained employment with the Coal City Unit #1 School District where he was employed for many years as a custodian. He was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City; the VFW St. Juvin Post 1336, and the Coal City Area Club. He was active with the Coal City Little League Baseball and was also a member of the Coal Valley Old Timers Baseball Club.

Ray loved the outdoors, and was proud to instill the love of nature in his sons. He loved hunting and fishing with his boys and cherished the comradery of the sports with great lifelong friends. Ray was an avid Chicago White Sox fan to say the least, and was honored to have been able to throw out the first pitch at a Sox game. Gardening was a favorite pastime, and Ray will be remembered for his dedication and the work in which he put forth into the flowers and landscaping both at the Veterans Memorial in Coal City, as well as around Assumption Parish and the Berst Center.

A true family man, Ray was a wonderful husband and father. Nothing brought him greater joy than watching his family tree grow with grandchildren, and most recently great-grandchildren. He was his granddaughters' biggest fan, and could be found cheering them on at any school sport or activity he could attend. Gone from our sight, Ray Onsen leaves behind a priceless collection of memories, in which all who knew and loved him are fortunate to continue to carry with them.



Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Betty; three sons: Gary (Sara) Onsen, Thomas (Tammy) Onsen and Timothy Onsen, all of Coal City; four granddaughters: Kimberly (Cody) Clubb, Madison (Devan) Kolthoff, Cassie Clark and Meredith (Johnny) Wren, all of Coal City; seven great-grandchildren: Cole, Trent, Rylin, Mason, Nolan, Hadley and Stella, with another baby boy expected; one sister, Karen (Tommy) Summers; one brother, William "Billy" Onsen (Dee Perona); three sisters-in-law: Pat Onsen, Carol Morin and Kathleen Carpenter, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends, as well as his special neighborhood friend, Jerry Micetich, who went above and beyond to support Ray especially during his illness.

Ray was preceded in death by his parents; special grandmother, Mary Cushing; siblings: James Onsen, Leonard "Swede" Onsen, Jerry Lee Onsen, Faye Legg, Betty Lou Vandygrief, Wayne Onsen, Richard Onsen, and David Onsen, and his granddaughter, Jenna Onsen.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Aug. 8, 2022 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City on Monday, Aug. 8, 2022 with Reverend Josh Miller, Reverend Robert Noesen and Reverend Raed Bader presiding and assisted by Deacon William Dunn.

Pallbearers were: Cody Clubb, Devan Kolthoff, Johnny Wren, Bruce Legg, Lenny Onsen, Rick Onsen and Jerry Micetich.

Green flameless cremation rites were accorded following the services.

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

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ray's memory to the Assumption Building Fund, to Lightways Hospice Home, or to a charity of the donor's choice.

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

Funeral services and green flameless cremation services were made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City. www.ReevesFuneral.com

Theresa A. Slanicky

BRACEVILLE—Theresa A. Slanicky, 83, of rural Braceville, passed away Saturday, July 16, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

Born Oct. 12, 1938 in Chicago, Theresa Ann was the daughter of Thomas and Anne (Hajcak) Buban. She attended St. Rose Grade School in Wilmington; St. Francis Academy in Joliet and was a proud alumni of the College of St. Francis class of 1960. Theresa pursued a career as a teacher in elementary education, first teaching at Bradley West Elementary School and then moving on to Brodnicki Elementary School in Justice. Locally, Theresa was a substitute teacher at St. Rose School, Braceville Elementary, Good Farm School, Coal City Elementary and Gardner Grade School. It was from Gardner Grade School that she retired as a full-time teacher's aide in 2002 after being at the school for 15 years.

Theresa was a long-term parishioner of Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood. In addition to being a very devoted mother, she loved to read and do word searches. Theresa was dedicated to her Catholic faith, praying the Rosary daily. Theresa loved to be with her children and loved even more making and sending "care packages" to her grandson, Nickolas.



Surviving are three children: John and Michael, of Braceville; Rosanne Whyte, of Chico, CA and one grandson, Nickolas Whyte, who was the light of her life; one brother, Tom (Linnea) Buban, of rural Braceville and the father of her children, Kenneth Slanicky.

Theresa was preceded in death by her parents and an uncle, John Vdovka.

Cremation rites have been accorded per Theresa's wishes.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022 from 10 a.m. until time of funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S. School Street in Braidwood. Rev. Joshua Miller and Rev. Stanley Drewniak will preside. Interment of ashes will immediately follow in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Braidwood.

In lieu of flowers, preferred memorials in Theresa's memory may be made as gifts to a food pantry or animal shelter of the donor's choice.

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

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

Ida M. Schopp

GARDNER—Ida M. Schopp, 95, of Gardner, passed away peacefully Friday, Aug. 5, 2022 at Heritage Health in Dwight.

Born May 12, 1927 in Lexington, IL, Ida Mae was a daughter of Leo Walter and Dora Susan (Baumgardner) Burke. She was raised and educated in Chenoa, and on Dec. 22, 1945, Ida married Gordon Francis Schopp in Pontiac. Together, Ida and Gordon settled in Gardner in 1955, where they raised their family.

Ida's employment started at Nationwide Glove Factory in Pontiac, where she earned 45 cents per hour. She later took positions at Ideal Manufacturing in Gardner, where she made baby clothes and then the Coil Factory in Dwight before becoming the Deputy Clerk in Gardner in 1979, where she worked until retiring in 2000.

A dedicated member of the Gardner community, Ida belonged to Church of Hope where she served as a Deacon and Elder, as well as sang in the choir. She was active in the Gardner Beautification Committee, Gardner Legion Auxiliary and the Gardner Lions Club. When her children were young she served as President of the P.T.A. and was also a Scout Leader. Ida was proud to have been the founder of the Gardner Food Pantry at the Church of Hope and remained active until recent years curating the Gardner Archives. Outside of the community she loved so dearly, she was also a member of the Royal Neighbors of America.

Generous and blessed, Ida was constantly crocheting afghans for over 60 years giving nearly every one away. When she saw someone in need, it was always the desire in her heart to meet their need to the best of her ability. Ida truly was a generous and selfless soul.

Some of her favorite pastimes including attending auctions. Ida loved antique dishes, and amongst her vast collection included her countless Jewel Tea dishes. It would also be an understatement to say that Ida loved to garden. Aside from her own meticulous gardens that surrounded her beautiful Victorian home, Ida also created the landscaping and maintained the flowers at Church of Hope for many years. Gardner was proud to have their own Ida Schopp as the Grand Marshall of the Grundy County Corn Festival in 2013, and it was only



fitting that her float was adorned with flowers from her own gardens and flower seed packets were handed out, all signed by Ida herself.

One of Ida's quotes was "Things half done, are never done..."

It is fair to say that Ida Schopp accomplished great things and got a lot done. She did leave this world in a better place because of her acts and deeds. In Matthew 25:23 it is stated: "Well done, good and faithful servant..."

Ida Schopp was a faithful and dedicated servant. She helped the poor, served her community well, and strived to preserve the history of others. Gone from our sight, Ida leaves behind a priceless collection of memories and good deeds that will carry on in the hearts of all of those who were fortunate enough to know and love her.

Survivors include her children: Gordon Schopp (Lorraine McDonald), of Utah; Evelyn (Dan) Jerbi, of Gardner and Kathy Fredrick, of Minooka; her daughter-in-law, Kay Schopp, of Arizona; 25 wonderful grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother, Howard (Emmy) Burke, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ida was preceded in death by her husband, Gordon on Jan. 18, 2001 and one son, Duane Schopp.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at The Church of Hope, 202 N. Monroe St. in Gardner on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022 between the hours of 5 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow Thursday morning, Aug. 11, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the church. Reverend Jan Chandler will officiate.

Burial will be in Braceville Gardner Cemetery, where Ida will be laid to rest with her late husband, Gordon. Her grandsons will act as pallbearers.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ida's memory to Church of Hope, 202 N. Monroe Street, P.O. Box 248, Gardner, IL 60424.

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

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Gardner. www.ReevesFuneral.com

OBITUARIES

Catherine A. Engler

MANHATTAN— Catherine A. “Cathy” Engler, 77, a lifelong resident of Manhattan, passed away peacefully on Friday, Aug. 5, 2022 at her home in the presence of family.

Born April 21, 1945 in Joliet, Catherine Anne was a daughter of Francis T. “Jiggs” and Loretta C. (Green) Long. She was raised and educated in Manhattan; graduated from St. Francis Academy, and went on to earn her degree in sociology and education from St. Francis College. On July 1, 1967, Cathy married Paul Robert Engler in St. Patrick Catholic Church of Wilton Center, and together they made a home and raised a family together.

Cathy’s career in education began at Ludwig Grade School in Lockport, where she taught second grade for two years before gaining employment with Anna McDonald Grade School in Manhattan. It was here that Mrs. Engler taught first grade and Kindergarten for over 30 years until retiring in 2002.

Cathy was a dedicated member of St. Patrick Catholic Church of Wilton Center, where she began playing the organ her senior year in high school, and proceeded to lead the parish in music for the following 59 years, very seldom missing. She was also involved in the CCW and could be counted on to volunteer when needed. Cathy cherished the holidays and graciously hosted Christmas and Easter cooking for family. A dedicated and loving wife and mother, Cathy cherished being a grandmother, and took great pleasure in babysitting and spending time with her grandchildren. Seventy-seven years loved, Cathy Engler was a woman of great faith, and indeed a treasure in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her husband of 55 years, Paul; two children, Tom (Dawn) Engler, of Manteno and Jean (Scott) King, of Knox, IN;



nine grandchildren: Delaney Wragg (Brendan Nahn), Payge Wragg, Kerrigan (Tanner) Swartzentruber, Madison Engler, Conner Engler, Matthew Engler, Jenna Engler, Ryleigh Engler and Madeline Langel; one great-grandson, Oliver Nahn; one sister, Lorretta Robbins, of Wilmington and several nieces and nephews.

Cathy was preceded in death by her parents, Jiggs and Loretta Long; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Clifford and Lena Engler and brothers-in-law, Jerry Robbins and Ken Engler.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at St. Patrick Catholic Church of Wilton Center, 14936 W. Wilmington-Peotone Rd., Manhattan, on Thursday, Aug. 11, 2022 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow on Friday, Aug. 12, 2022 at 10 a.m. in the church. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Rev. Dan Hoehn, and assisted by Deacon Milt Leppert. Cremation rites will be accorded at the conclusion of the Mass.

Pallbearers will be: Conner Engler, Matthew Engler, Steve Robbins, Mike Robbins, Mark Robbins and Tanner Swartzentruber.

A private family inurnment will be in the columbarium at Mount Saint Patrick Cemetery in Wilton Center.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Cathy’s memory to St. Patrick Catholic Church with special intention to the music ministry.

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. www.BaskervilleFuneral.com

Douglas Norris

CARROLLTON, IL—Douglas Norris, 80, of Carrollton, IL passed away Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2022 at his residence.

He was born March 4, 1942 in Delhi, he was the son of Other and Mary Herron Norris. He married Mary Jane Seymoure April 11, 1963 in Joliet. Doug worked for Caterpillar in Joliet for 35 years. He was a master craftsman. He enjoyed fishing, mushrooming, and spending time with family especially his grandchildren.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Jane; a daughter, Tammie (Bob) Carrier, of Crawfordville, FL; a son, Douglas (Jill) Norris, of Limestone; grandchildren: Tyler and Riley Carrier and Logan Norris; a special niece, Patricia Anthony, of White Hall, and many other nieces and nephews.



He was preceded in death by his parents, six brothers: Charles, Cecil, George, John, Robert, and Jim Norris, and seven sisters: Patricia Havlin, Margaret Easley, Dorothy Ashlock, Cornelia Cummins, Bertha Bohanan, Mildred Waters and Sarah Knight.

A celebration of life service was held Monday, Aug. 8, 2022 at Berdan Baptist Church with burial in White Hall Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Berdan Baptist Church, Boyd Healthcare Ambulance or BJC Hospice.

Airsmen-Hires Funeral Home in Carrollton was in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left online at www.airsmen-hires.com.

Recycling pill bottles

Many pill bottles are accepted for recycling but the small ones may fall through sorting equipment.

If you have some of those, consider peeling off the label and donating them to animal shelters or interested veterinarians. You may want to reuse them for small items, such as screws and paper clips. Many children’s toys and games have small parts, or use them for loose coins found in the laundry. Their versatility may surprise you.

Class of 1961 to hold reunion

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

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

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

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

Class of ‘67 reunion

The class of 1967 from Wilmington High School is having a 55th-year class reunion at the VFW in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 24, starting at 5 p.m., ending at 11 p.m. There will also be a

get-together on Sunday, Sept. 25 at the South Island Pavilion from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. There is no cost for either event. Please join your classmates at these events.

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Florence Town Fund and General Assistance Annual Treasurer's Report

PUBLIC NOTICE
Township of Florence
County of Will
Annual Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
Town Fund & General Assistance

Town Fund
Income Summary: Property Taxes \$48,942, Replacement Tax \$20,035, Landfill fees \$19,514, Misc. \$75
Expenditure Summary over \$2,500: Road and Bridge Fund \$20,148, US IRS \$11,583, A. Robbins \$10,110, Wm. Long \$7,397, J. Gill CPA \$6,250, TOIRMA \$5,851, J. Siebert \$3,942, Heritage FS \$2,500, Misc. under \$2,500=\$10,731
Compensation Summary: Salaries \$10,000 and above, A. Robbins, W. Long Salaries Below \$10,000: D. Beeson, J. Siebert, W. Quigley, P. Quigley, K. Dillion, S. Siebert, J. Butcher

General Assistance Fund
Revenue Summary: Property Taxes \$2,744
Expenditure Summary: Under \$2,500: \$1,085

Summary Statement of Accounts

	Town Fund	General Assistance
Beginning Balance	\$44,694	\$41,861
Revenues	\$88,566	\$2,744
Expenditures	\$78,512	\$1,085
Ending Balance	\$54,748	\$43,520

Subscribed and sworn on this 9th day of August, 2022.

William Long, Supervisor Florence Township
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

Florence Road and Bridge, County Aid and Bridge, and Building and Equipment Funds Annual Treasurer's Report

PUBLIC NOTICE
Township of Florence
County of Will
Annual Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
Road & Bridge Fund
Road & Bridge, County Aid & Bridge, Building & Equipment Funds

Revenue Summary: Landfill \$57,017, Property Taxes \$53,267, Replacement Tax \$20,742, Town Fund \$20,148, BP Pipeline \$10,000, Permits \$3,447, Misc. under \$2,500: \$7,186
Expenditure Summary over \$2,500: VCAN Prairie Mat. \$33,933, JR Castle \$23,190, Heritage FS \$14,215, Johnston Trucking \$13,617, FBM \$10,881, TMS Int. \$10,305, Norwalk Tank \$9,868, Hazelton Trucking \$9,710, J. Long \$9,141, US IRS \$8,815, J. Deere \$8,333, Grasso Trucking \$8,209, TRM Services \$4,974, J. Issert \$4,730, Double "G" Exc. \$4,200, Wielgus Drainage \$3,454, Misc. under \$2,500: \$19,972

County Aid & Bridge Fund
Revenue Summary: Property Taxes \$8,302, Interest \$15
Expenditure Summary: 0

Building & Equipment Fund
Revenue Summary: Road Fund \$17,619, Property Taxes \$7,610
Expenditure Summary: JR Castle \$13,830, KKK Trucking \$10,318, Misc. under \$2,500: \$3,789

Summary Statement of Accounts

	Road & Bridge Fund	County Aid	Building & Equip.
Beginning Balance	\$75,013	\$80,897	\$22,244
Revenues	\$171,807	\$8,317	\$25,229
Expenditures	\$197,547	0	\$27,937
Ending Balance	\$49,273	\$89,214	\$19,536

Subscribed and sworn on this 9th day of August, 2022.

William Long, Supervisor, Florence Township
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

Florence-Wilton Multi Township Fund Annual Treasurer's report

PUBLIC NOTICE
County of Will
Annual Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022
Florence-Wilton Multi Township Fund

Revenue Summary: Property Taxes \$9,009, Landfill fees \$3,950, Interest \$138
Expenditure Summary over \$2,500: Cirone Cons. \$8,750, Supervisor of Assessment \$6,685
Misc. under \$1,000: \$4,777
Compensation Summary: D. Bender \$10,000

Beginning Balance: \$17,097
Revenues: \$77,580
Expenditures: \$20,212
Ending Balance: \$70,465
Subscribed and sworn on this 9th day of August, 2022.

William Long, Treasurer, Florence-Wilton Multi Township
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, August 10, 2022.

You are invited to
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Wednesday, Aug. 17
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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If you have questions please call Mary Kay Hays @ (815) 476-9480. EMAIL: gracepreschool@gmail.com

How Macrogrids could improve our energy intake

Dear EarthTalk: What on Earth is a "macrogrid" and how do proponents of the concept think it will improve energy efficiency?
-- T. McGraw, Houston, TX



The term macrogrid simply refers to a power distribution network that spans many regions and connects smaller producers together to maximize efficiencies of scale.

Macrogrids transmitting power produced cheaply in remote rural areas to electricity-hungry users in population centers enhances grid reliability and can save billions in energy costs while creating "green" jobs and helping to reduce carbon emissions.

According to the American Council on Renewable Energy (ACORE), which works to accelerate the transition to a renewable energy economy, looping neighboring electricity suppliers together in a macrogrid increases resilience and threat mitigation, decreases energy supply/demand variability and improves system performance.

Five macrogrids are in use now across North America, connecting power lines from coast-to-coast. Texas, Alaska and Quebec each have their own macrogrids, while larger grids cross multiple state/provincial lines.

Despite their cost and environmental efficiencies, macrogrids aren't always the best choice. When Puerto Rico's island-wide macrogrid failed in September 2017 due to Hurricane Maria's 15-20 inches of rain and wind gusts topping 133 miles per hour, power was out across the entire island for weeks on end.

Electricity wasn't fully restored there for 11 months. Meanwhile, a deep freeze across Texas in February 2021 cut off power for some 10 mil-

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

lion Texans reliant on that state's macrogrid.

Some scientists say these kinds climate-change-driven severe weather events don't help the case for developing ever larger and larger macrogrids, but instead encourage a return to microgrids that, while still able to connect to the larger grid, can also disconnect and operate independently in so-called "island mode" if the overall system is compromised.

As such, microgrids can optimize for supplying power locally no matter what's happening miles and miles away. Microgrids can also be more efficient depending on their design. Larger macrogrid systems convert the electricity they transmit to alternating current (AC) to go long distances and change direction quickly across hundreds of miles of transmission lines.

But there's an efficiency loss in the conversion from the direct current (DC) of the power source. "Some microgrids are designed to use the direct current power directly from the generation source, which has the potential for an additional seven to 30 percent energy savings," Jean Redfield, CEO of NextEnergy, tells Microgrid Knowledge.

Microgrids utilize alternative methods for receiving energy such as through wind turbines and hydropumps allowing for the direct conversion of power from these sources.

In fact, programs to encourage the development of microgrids are already in the works in several states including California, Connecticut, New York and Massachusetts.

But we don't have to wait for our communities to convert themselves to microgrids to start doing something to save energy.

We can all contribute energy conservation by refining our day-to-day behaviors, whether by turning off appliances when they aren't needed or limiting our time in the shower.

The future will certainly contain macrogrids and microgrids, but it's how each and every one of us uses the energy coming in that will determine whether we can conserve our way out of the climate crisis.

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COPS & Kids

In the spirit of National Night Out, the Wilmington Police Department and Wilmington School District invite you to this Back To School Celebration

Sunday, August 28th
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Circle jam on Saturday

There will be a circle jam on 2nd Saturday, Aug. 13, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy. The free event is open to everyone including musicians and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11				12		13		14	
15						16		17	
	18			19		20		21	
				22	23			24	
25	26	27	28	29					
30						31			
32							33	34	35
						38	39	40	41
						43		44	
	45	46	47						
48				49			50	51	52
55				56			57		58
59				60			61		
62				63			64		

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Breezed through
 - Time units (abbr.)
 - Pigeon's murmur
 - Moves aside in fright
 - Partner to "ahh"
 - Taxis
 - Monetary units of Turkey
 - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - Prolific Italian opera composer
 - Restaurants
 - One's grandmother
 - Ancient Greek City
 - Italian mountain ranges
 - Data
 - Acted in an obedient way
 - Autonomic nervous system
 - Not on the up-and-up
 - Mock lightly
 - Mimic
 - Built
 - A neighborhood
 - Inflammation of the kidneys
 - Semitic fertility god
 - Temporary name of Seaborgium
 - Wise people
 - Tear down
 - fi (slang)
 - Diamond weight
 - Frosted
 - Predecessor to EU
 - Makes changes to
 - Some are secret
 - Tooth caregiver
 - Old English poet

- CLUES DOWN**
- Sign language
 - In style
 - Norwegian river
 - People with impaired hearing
 - Large stinging paper wasp
 - Bucharest is its capital
 - River in Ireland
 - Type of TV
 - Double-reed instruments
 - Spanish motorcycle manufacturer
 - Midway between south and southeast
 - French commune
 - Alike
 - A bachelor's apartment
 - Foot part between the ball and ankle
 - Belonging to a thing
 - Japanese classical theater
 - Supervises flying
 - Not even
 - Capital of Saudi Arabia
 - Electronic countermeasure
 - Consumed
 - American politician (abbr.)
 - Sun up in New York
 - Casually looked through
 - Revealed the presence of
 - Peyton's little brother
 - Diana __, singer
 - Study of moral values and rules
 - Civil Rights group
 - Makes less severe
 - Made an emotional appeal
 - Vivacity of style
 - One who is highly skilled
 - Gets around in pursuit of pleasure
 - Famed guitarist Clapton
 - Most common Japanese surname
 - Recipe abbreviation

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First United Methodist Early Childhood Preschool Program has open registration for the school year 2022-2023. Children 2 (by August 1st) through 5 may attend. Program has 1, 2 or 3 day options. Preschool is in session Mon., Wed., and Fri. following the Wilmington school district calendar. For additional information contact Mrs. Paula, preschool director at 815-476-5474. Registration information and forms can be found at www.fumcwilm.com under the preschool heading, or the church office from 9am-2pm M-F. ck29-33

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3 BR Duplex, ranch style. Only 2 units per building. 1/2 mile from I-55 (Diamond). Attached garage, backyard. Oak cabinets, concrete drive, washer/dryer hook-up. All maintenance included. \$1,125.00 per month plus all utilities, avail. Sept. 1. No smoking or pets & year lease. Call 815-351-2494. cc29-32

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

Spacious ranch duplex with 2 car garage and full basement. 2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, volume ceilings. Quiet Diamond neighborhood with easy access to I55. Large yard and very clean. 1850.00/month

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ESTATE SALES

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

FOR FREE

Free pond fish. 779-267-1546. fr30-32

Kittens, free to a loving home. 2 males and 1 female. Call or text 618-383-5870. fr31-32

GARAGE SALE

430 Wabash Street, Wilmington, Friday, August 12 from 9am-3pm. Women's clothes, infant to toddler boy clothes. Lots of misc. ca32

HELP WANTED

Gate guard needed at Coal City Area Club. Applications are available at www.coalcityareaclub.net or at 285 S. Broadway in Coal City. ch 29b-32b

Landscape laborer wanted. Full or part time. Must have valid driver's license. 815-476-9540. ck32

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

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

HOMES FOR RENT

354 French Street, Braidwood. 3BR, 1BA, 1 car garage. Large deck, large yard renter will maintain. Available immediately. \$1,400 month. 1st, last & \$2,000 deposit. No pets. 779-225-8283. ch32-35

HOMES FOR SALE

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

LOST & FOUND

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

LOTS FOR SALE

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

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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

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

PETS

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington., IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

SERVICE & REPAIRS

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

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn/47b

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
 Clementine's Closets
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 - No Deposit - Starting at \$50
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SPORTS WRITER NEEDED

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

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



42nd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

We're celebrating with the best prices of the year

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

HOT DEAL - Full Color Copies 42¢
 Wilmington office only

Unit 1 custodians sign on to new 5-year contract

STAFF REPORT

Custodians for the Unit 1 School District have signed on to a new five-year contract.

The Unit 1 Board of Education and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 73 agreed last month to a long-term collective bargaining agreement that addresses staff salaries.

Approval of a new contract comes 16 months after the Board and union reached agreement on a

three-year extension that was set to expire this year.

The extension focused on salary adjustments specifically related to probationary employees and full-time staff.

"The Board recognized the current status of the economy and the need to attract, as well as retain, employees with competitive wages," said Superintendent Chris Spencer.

The new contract eliminates the differential in pay that was in place for probationary employees, but keeps the probationary time at what

was agreed to in the March 2021 contract extension—120 working days, 60 days during student attendance.

The probationary employee pay was adjusted from \$12 per hour in 2022 to \$15.

According to Spencer, once an employee reaches the end of their probationary period they are granted a \$1 per hour increase.

The new contract also sets the salary for new custodians through 2027, starting at \$15 in 2022, moving up 25 cents each of the next two

years.

In 2025 the salary goes up \$1 to \$16.50 per hour and then to \$17 the following year. In the final year the salary is adjusted up 25 cents to \$17.25 an hour.

The salary starts at \$15 per hour and moves up by 25 cents each of the next two years. In 2025, the starting salary goes up \$1 to \$16.50 per hour and then to \$17 in 2026 with a quarter increase the following year.

As for veteran custodians, those that make more than \$25 per hour will receive a 2% increase retroactive

to July 1.

All other custodians currently in the bargaining unit will receive a one-time \$1.50 per hour increase retroactive to the start of the fiscal year on July 1.

All non-probationary employees will receive an annual increase of 2% for the remaining years of the contract.

"The Board thanks local SEIU leadership for their professionalism and willingness to work with the district to approve this new contract," Spencer said.

COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

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

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

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

In-Person Adult Exercise - Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 a.m. First half hour is cardio and the second half is weights, resistance band and strength training.

Thursday, Aug. 11-Beach Blanket Bingo - 6-7:30 p.m.

CCPLD cardholders can sign up their family for a fun time playing bingo. We ask that you bring a micro pet pantry food, toy or supply item as a donation. Please bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs. Children must be accompanied by an adult. There will be prizes for winners.

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

Tween Lock-In - 5:30-7:30 p.m., 4th and 5th graders can join us for some pizza and fun before school starts up again.

Monday, Aug. 15- Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

Mahjong - 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug 17-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

The art of fishing

Today we are headed a little bit east, to the shores of the Kankakee River. It was a mecca for the people of the coal fields during the hot summer days, and a way to get some free food and perhaps a few extra pennies as well. Get out your poles, it's time to go fishing.

Ever since I was a little girl, I've known many ways to catch a fish. Besides a normal pole, reel, line and hook, there was the branch with a string and a hook tied on to it. I knew many ways to make a net, and the fastest of my school chums could sometimes grab a fish with his hand if the water were clear enough. But among the adults, catching fish with dynamite was always a standing joke.

The joke went something like this: Two men in a boat were arguing about the best way to catch fish. The first said the best way was with dynamite, the second man said he would never do such a thing. The first guy says "Oh, yeah!" reaches under his seat, grabs a stick of dynamite, lights it, then hands it to the second guy and says, "Now are you going sit there, or are you going to fish?"

This might not have been funny during the 1880's when fishing with dynamite had become a problem. And it seems that the people of the coal fields had ready access to it.

Add to that, people were becoming more aware of the changing environment. The passenger pigeon, which was once so numerous that flocks would blacken the sky during migration, was all but gone. The prairie chicken, the elk, black bear, the bison, the cougar, and many others had left Illinois for good. And what was happening on land was also happening in the water.

Well-meaning conservationists tried many things, including stocking the Kankakee with Pacific salmon, rainbow trout, etc. They had no clue that some of the species couldn't live or procreate in our waters. They also got laws passed governing how many fish could be taken and size limits were imposed. The use of seines or nets on sport fish was outlawed.

This was well and good for the sportsmen, but there was a group of people who depended on those fish for an income, or at least a few extra pennies to help make ends meet. Unlike now, almost all of the fresh water fish sold in markets and eaten at local restaurants were locally caught. In the early years, when fish were plentiful it was easy to catch enough fish in an afternoon to feed your family and a few extra to sell in town.

But by the 1880's the river was becoming fished out, not just the Kankakee, but the Des Plaines, Du Page, and Illinois River as well. At first the commercial fishermen used nets, but that was outlawed. It's not that they minded breaking the law, especially if the risk of being caught was low. But using a net was a long process and the chances of being caught were high. It was then that dynamite became the tool of the poacher.

Seeing that the time it took to light a stick of dynamite, throw it in, and scoop up stunned fish was minimal they were



TIME WAS....
Sandy Vasko



ROCK BASS, channel catfish and even a snapping turtle made for a good day's catch for a typical family fishing and camping trip on the Kankakee in the 1890s.

willing to take the risk. By the time someone heard the explosion and got out there to investigate, they were gone.

In May of 1886 a group of concerned citizens meet at the Will County Court House to form the Will County Fish and Game Protective Society. The biggest problem was with the Kankakee River. One eyewitness described it like this, "Bombs were thrown into the Kankakee River, bursting and making frightful havoc among the finny tribe, big and little." The lawbreakers were called "barbarous piscatorial dynamiters" and "finny anarchists."

Hiram Scutt was elected chairman of the new organization, and A.C. Clement was treasurer. Each member contributed two dollars (\$62.50 today) toward a fund that was used to offer a fifty-dollar (\$1,560) award for the arrest and conviction of anyone caught fishing with dynamite.

The results were immediate. Within the first week, six people were arrested and quickly indicted; three of them were from Braceville. Z. Bailey, Jr., Thomas Hall, and George Angell were all arrested for killing fish near the Kankakee Feeder Canal with dynamite. They were caught with several hundred fish in their possession.

This spot, near what is now the Des Plaines Conservation Area, was a prime fishing hot spot at the time. The citizens of Wilmington were outraged. There was even some tar and feather talk going around.

In the end, each was fined \$400 (\$12,500). Because the fines were so high, the practice of using dynamite, at least on such well-traveled rivers, was pretty much eliminated.

Back-to-school events planned

The start of a new school year is less than one week away as Coal City students return to the classroom on Tuesday, Aug. 16. The first week of school begins with some opening events and an early dismissal on day one.

Monday, Aug. 15 - Back-to-School Night

- 3:30-5 p.m.—Early Childhood Center
- 4:45-6:15 p.m.—Elementary School

Tuesday, Aug. 16 - First day of school

First day of school start and dismissal times

- Early Childhood Center—7:55 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- Elementary School—8:10 a.m. to 1:35 p.m.
- Intermediate School—8 a.m. to 1:25 p.m.
- Middle School—8:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- High School—8:20 a.m. to 1:40 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 17 - First full day of school

Daily start and dismissal times

- Early Childhood Center—7:55 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
- Elementary School—8:10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Intermediate School—8 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.
- Middle School—8:30 a.m. to 3:20 p.m.
- High School—8:20 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 23

- 6-7:30 p.m.—Middle School Back-to-School Night

Miners kick-off new season



Photo by Shawn Long

BLOCKING DOWNFIELD FOR the Miners is Ryan Carpenter. The Miners kick-off the 2022 season with a home game against Wilmington on Sunday, Aug. 14.

Miners 2022 Game Schedule

- Aug. 14...Home Vs. Wilmington
- Aug. 21...Home Vs. Sandwich
- Aug. 21...Homecoming
- Aug. 28...Away Vs. Morris
- Sept. 10...Away Vs. Bradley
- Sept. 17...Home Vs. Peotone
- Sept. 24...Away Vs. Chanooka
- Oct. 2...Away Vs. Manhattan
- Oct. 8...Away Vs. Reed-Custer

Registration open for Megan's Mission 5K

STAFF REPORT

Team Megan Bugg is preparing for its second annual 5K run/walk to end childhood cancer.

The Megan's Mission 5K will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 in the village of Coal City.

Proceeds will support the Megan's Mission Foundation that is dedicated to honoring Megan Bugg's goal of ending childhood cancer through advocacy, research and scholarship.

The race will get underway at 6 p.m. in the 600 block of S. Broadway in Coal City. Babe's Tap will serve as the host location for run. The course will take racers south on Broadway to Reed Road and then back north into the village.

The event is being held during Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and in conjunction with the village of Coal City's Fall Fest. A band will be playing until 10 p.m. near the race site and food and beverages will be available for purchase.

The cost to participate is \$35 per person. Register on-



File photo

THE SECOND ANNUAL 5K to end childhood cancer will be held Saturday, Sept. 17 in the village of Coal City. The event will support the newly established Megan's Mission Foundation.

line at runsingup.com/RaceIL/CoalCity/MegansMission

In addition to the 5K in Coal City, there will be a virtual run and participants can sign-up through the on-line registration link. The cost for the virtual run is \$40 per person.

The first 500 to sign-up for the run are guaranteed to receive a gold Megan's Mission stocking cap.

Megan died March 9 after

a seven-year battle with alveolar Rhabdomyosarcoma. During her courageous and inspirational fight, she became an advocate for childhood cancer and she raised \$1.7 million for childhood cancer research Megan Bugg Global Rhabdomyosarcoma Research Laboratory at the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute in Oregon is named in her honor.

Lady Warriors fall in doubleheader with Manteno to start year

BY SHAWN LONG SPORTS WRITER

CCMS 0 Manteno 15

The Coal City eighth grade softball team got off to a rough start, taking a 16-0 loss to Manteno on Saturday.

The Lady Warriors could only muster one hit in the game as Lily Gerish picked up the single

They had three other baserunners as Averie Hodgen, Lanie Winke and Ava Hone all drew walks.

Alivia Waliczek and Hodgen pitched innings within the circle.

The Lady Warriors struggled offensively in the first game of the doubleheader as they were only able to pick up one hit.

Manteno had no problem jumping on the board for four in the first and nine in the second to take a big lead before ultimately coasting to a win.

Aubrey Jensen picked up their lone hit while Rileigh Eddy (2), Miley Cvitanovich and Leah Jensen drew walks.

Waliczek struck out two on the mound.

COALER SPORTS

Coaler golfers swinging for sectionals

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City golf team is coming back off a fourth place conference finish and another successful season. They'll be expecting a bit of the same this season.

The Coalers trailed Streator, Manteno and Peotone in the conference tournament with 379 team points, having Dylan Brown finish with a 93.

"We had two sophomores who qualified for the IHSA Sectional so that's good," said CCHS golf coach Harlan Kennell. "We'll pretty much have five of our six top golfers coming back."

Seniors Ryne Phelan and Luke Crater will likely lead the Coalers.

"It's their fourth year in the golf program. Ryne golfed at the varsity level as a sophomore so I'm looking for big things out of them to lead the team from a standpoint of possibly mentoring the younger golfers. Luke is still looking for that sectional qualifying score so that's one of his goals this year and Ryne Phelan as well so with Phelan being a third year golfer, I kind of expect him to be in the top two scorers.

The Coalers have been golfing all summer and actually took a trip to Burlington, Iowa to golf on Spirit Hollow Golf Course. They loved it and learned so much from golf professionals.

"It was an overnight retreat and then we got to do unlimited golfing. After, we got two lessons from their golf pro there. They give the kids two lessons so me and my assistant coach Joe Micetich went and we got to see the kids during the summer which we usually don't get to see them during the summer much.

Kennell is also looking for big things out of juniors Ryland Megyeri and Dylan Brown.

"They both look really good and they're hitting the ball really well and they've improved a lot of assets to their game. So I look for both of them to have a lot lower scores this year than they did last year as well."

Junior Jack Varnek also returns and he was the second lowest scorer on the team during the ICE Conference Tournament so Kennell will be looking for him to be good for the team as well.

"He's a third year player as well. He has really improved on his game a lot. He's added another 50 yards to his drive so he's gotten



File Photo

WATCHING HIS BALL sail during a golf match last year is Coal City's Dylan Brown. Brown will be one of the leaders on the golf team this year.

much more familiar with all his clubs and he's able to hit the green pretty consistently near that 150 mark so he's definitely one that we're looking for as a fifth varsity golfer that will probably be scoring in the top four scorers pretty consistently."

Culan Lindemuth returns looking to do some good work in his sophomore year.

"He will definitely get some varsity time this year so I'm looking forward to that as well as watching him grow. That's also someone I hope the two seniors can mentor and help him out when he's out on the course."

The Coalers are striving to win conference and get the team to qualify for a sectional.

"We always have the goal of winning the conference and I definitely feel we will be one of the most competitive teams in our conference this year with our depth. I'm hoping we get Eddy to go out which would mean we would have six guys who could hit it in the low 40s. In past years, that's been the teams that have won the conference. I'm looking forward to the season and how it goes and we'd also love to have a team qualify for sectional. We haven't had a team qualify for sectionals for many years now."

The Coalers are blessed by their overall numbers and depth in the system.

"To be able to go six golfers deep, any six of those golfers could have the lowest score in a

match. Usually it's three or four but having six of them, any six can be the best scorer on any given day. That's one of our top strengths. We'll also have three seniors and two juniors. Five of those kids are upperclassmen and all those kids have experience golfing varsity so that's definitely a plus."

Something they're maybe not so sure on is their putting.

"We can always improve our short game. We can get a little more composed and used to playing under pressure. That's something we'll try to implement in practices this year.

Kennell notes Streator is going to be the team to beat in the ICE. Lisle and Peotone are two of the others he mentioned as being very competitive.

"Those are the main teams we're looking at that we have to do better than. Streator lost some good golfers who could hit that 40 or below but they definitely have some younger golfers coming up that will be in the 40s so it'll be an interesting season for sure.

The reason Streator is so good is they focus on golf a lot more. They have a youth golf club.

"They have it over on the golf courses in Streator and they hire a lot of the high school golfers to go out there in the summer so when you've got high school golfers who are going to a golf course every day of the summer, they're definitely going to be spending some time on the course too.

Kennell is going on his seventh year coaching golf and will have Joe Micetich back to help him out.

Kennell and Micetich will see what their team can do when they hit the golf course for the Bill Breeden All-Area Golf Classic which will be held at the Kankakee Elks Country Club on Monday.

They'll host Lisle on Tuesday before getting read for the Streator Golf Invitational (8/22) the next week.

They'll have two straight conference opponents in Peotone (8/24) and Wilmington (8/25) before traveling to Manteno on Sept. 1.

They'll see Streator (9/6) and Reed-Custer (9/8) at Cinder Ridge before the ICE Conference Tournament begins on Monday, Sept. 19. Teams will get geared up for the Regional on Wednesday, Sept. 28.

Best Friday night pork sandwich contest is back

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Be sure to go hungry to high school football games this fall because the Pork & Pigskins Championship is back.

The Illinois High School Association and the Illinois Pork Producers Association are partnering together to again award the best pork sandwiches served at football games.

"We are pleased to be able to partner with the IHSA on this competition again and recognize the volunteers in our communities who work the concession stands and help us to encourage more people to consume these great pork products across the state while supporting our producers," said Illinois Pork Producers Board President Thomas Titus.

While Normal Community's A-Train pork sandwich won the title, Reed-Custer's 'Porksicle' was among the Savory 16 finalists, a few votes shy of making the

Flavorful Four.

The Reed-Custer Porksicle is ranks right up there, in my book, one of the best Friday night sandwiches this reporter-on-the-go ever had. The Porksicle was perfected by volunteer cook Jerry Curl who gets a special cut from Faletti Meats, adds just the right amount of seasoning before throwing it on the grill.

Any IHSA schools interested in entering their BBQ boss in the Pork & Pigskins Championship can do so at IHSA.org beginning on August 15.

Friday Night Lights will be turned on Aug. 26, for the first week of the high school football season. That's when concession stand grills will be fired up and the smell of pork chop sandwiches will fill the air.

"Tradition, community, and amazing food are the ingredients that make-up the Pork & Pigskins Championship," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "The folks behind

these grills volunteer their time and talent to support our high school students and their schools. We appreciate the Illinois Pork Producers Association helping bring their stories to light and providing recognition to these worthy individuals who serve their communities and also cook a mean pork chop sandwich."

The 2022 competition will feature a mix of online fan voting to help determine 16 finalists. At that point special guest

judges will visit each of those schools to determine the final four.

The state champion will be announced on October 22 and then recognized at the 2022 IHSA Football State Championships on Nov. 26 at Memorial Stadium in Champaign-Urbana.

The state champ will receive a prize package from the IPPA that includes a \$500 reimbursement on their pork purchase for next season, a

state championship banner, and the coveted Golden Spatula.

Fans are encouraged to post photos and video of their top pork chop sandwich contenders on social media with the hashtag #PorkandPigskins

The timeline on the 2022 Pork & Pigskins Championship includes:

Presently: Entry to become a guest judge.

Aug. 15: School entry opens until Sept. 13.

Sept. 14 - Oct. 21: Online voting and in-person judging takes place to determine the Savory 16 finalists

Oct. 22: State Champion announced on IHSA Playoff Pairing Preview Show

November 26: Champion receives prizes at 2022 IHSA Football State Championships.

So be sure to hit the concession stands at home and away games this season and cast a vote for your favorite pork sandwich.

Local players, coach help House of Sportz Hustlers win National Baseball Tournament

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Six Coal City players and a Coal City coach helped a travel team called the House of Sportz Hustlers win a National Baseball Tournament which was held at Inwood and Harlow Lockwood Complex in Joliet last weekend.

The tournament with 15, 16 and 17-year-old divisions was hosted by Primetime Baseball. The House of Sportz team went 7-0 over the weekend and captured the tournament championship by upending the No. 1 seed from Madison, WI.

"This was a bittersweet victory for the Hustlers as they learned at the beginning of the season that House of Sportz would be closing their doors at the end of the season. The players from our area and coach Josh (Eddy) helped the organization make it a storybook ending. Good luck to these players this spring as they enter their senior year of high school," said Jim Hazzard, Jr. father of player Cody Hazzard of Mazon.

Coal City's Nolan Eddy, Carter Garrelts, Kaelan Natyshok, Braden Reilly, Braiden Young and coach Josh Eddy made up the team.

Nolan Eddy split time between shortstop and second base, and was as good as advertised as he turned three double plays in one game. He came up with a web gem of a play to seal the victory in the championship game. He was a monster at the plate, getting on base at a .500 clip with a .429 batting average.

Carter Garrelts Garrelts played two roles. Some games he would DH (designated hitter) and others he would pitch. He started two games on the mound and in a span of six innings, he gave up four earned runs on just three hits while fanning eight. Teams were flailing all day against him as they only could muster a .143 batting average against

him. Garrelts belted a home run during the quarterfinal game and came up with some key hits in situations where they needed them most.

Cody Hazzard

Hazzard was Hustlers ace pitcher on the mound as in two games, he pitched 12 innings, gave up an earned run on just four hits while punching out 28 batters with only two walks. Opponents did not see him at all as they combined for an .095 batting average against him. Hazzard threw a complete game shutout during the first game of the tournament when he would fan 19 and walk only one while giving up just one hit in seven spotless innings of work.

Kaelan Natyshok

Natyshok also pitched two

games on the mound, throwing 9.2 innings, giving up five earned runs on four hits while fanning 18 and walking four. Natyshok's stuff was nasty as he produced a .114 OBAA (Opponent's batting average against). He also did well at the plate as he was just under .300 with a home run double and four runs driven in, two of which came during the championship game.

Braden Reilly

Reilly was on fire at the plate, hitting .391 with three doubles and a triple while driving in nine runs with nine hits overall. Reilly drilled one off the bat at 95.5 mph which was good for second in exit velocity during the tournament. He also played a nice relief role on the mound but at the plate was

where he shined.

Braiden Young

Young had a strong bat too as he hit in the clean up spot in the order and cleaned up the bases pretty well. In 25 at bats, Young hit .318 with a double and a homer with seven hits overall. He was also among the leaders in exit velo, hovering among 90-92 mph. It didn't hurt that he was lights out at first defensively. He was a vacuum at first, saving so many errors and key runs.

Josh Eddy

Josh was finishing his 5th year as an assistant coach for the House of Sportz. Josh garnered the first base coaching duties while the Hustlers were batting and helped with defensive alignments and play calling.

Military veterans invited to Wilmington vs. CC game

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

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

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

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

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Player, cheerleader numbers up for the Miners

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Cheerleaders and players on the Coal City Miners will be suiting up Sunday for the home opener against Wilmington.

Coaches of the youth football teams are just as fired up with the number of players and

cheerleaders who came out for this year. The Miners received the most signups they've ever had.

"Numbers are really good," said Miners president Joel Carpenter. "I think it's more of word-of-mouth thing and it seemed like a few years back, when the concussion stuff was hot and heavy in the

NFL, that's kind of faded out and people are just letting their kids play now.

"This is the first year we've had to turn anyone away. We've never had to turn anyone away. We usually average about 110 football players and we have like 135 players I believe," Carpenter said. "I think total with cheer we have 190 kids. That's way above what we normally have."

He noted that while some towns in the youth league struggle to get enough players to man a team, the popularity of Coaler football has made it where the Miners don't seem to have that problem.

That's what happens when the program at the high school level has a tradition of making the playoffs.

The 14-man Dyno roster includes: Teddy Prium, Easton Bilski, Levi Hennessy, Sean Lewis, Michael Tworek, Mateo Nunez, Jaxon Ellis, Richard Eden, Ryder Delk, Brandon Jones, Adam Calderon, Cole Coleman, Leo Rodriguez and Jacob Thrill.

On the 20-man Superlight Miners are Bruce Decker, Eddie Gergits, Ryan Housman, Steele Eaton, Brady Loughran, Izyk Decker, Bradlee Severson, Preston Lissy, Kamden Kerr, Reed Clements, Drake Figge, Kamden Martino, Austin Newman, Dakota Herrera, Cole Watson, Brantley Monshau, Zayden Palmer, T.J. Wagner and Dylan Rich.

The 34-man Lightweight Miners roster includes: Kymani Green, Kam Gabehart, Kaysen Kochenburt, James Davis, Easton Horath, Max Marketti, Ryan Carpenter, Brayden Brncich, Bryson Male, Grady Heath, Brody Bitner, Drake Jensen, Josef Smith, Mason Hurley, John Viano, Blake Jones, Camden Schott, Ryder Sorensen, Charles Eden, Luke Phillips, Bainen Durkee, Zackary Babcock, William Teague, Brayden Sorensen, Colby DeGrush, Brantley Brooks, Talon Zytynowski, Julian Carver, Ryder Schoenwald, Abraham Aguirre, Carter Thill, Jordy Hossack, Corey Childress and Bentley Plotts.

The 35-man JV Miners, who were 3-6 last year, includes: Caden Tourigny, Noah Grant, Maddox Meents, Nicholas, Van Hattem, Timothy Feehan, Drake Carpenter, Braxton Krause, Hunter Lanphier, Hayden Kennell, Parker Murphy, Luca Chellino, Ryder Meyer, Miguel Nunez, Frank Roehr, Kaden Brown, Trevor Walker, Tyce Farrell, Ryker Long, Roman Taylor, Jack Wren, Ryder Gill, Ethan Lanphier, Alexander Nicola,



Photo by Shawn Long



Photo by Shawn Long

COAL CITY'S John Viano takes the hand-off from quarterback Zackary Babcock during Saturday's jamboree.

DRAGGING DOWN the Peotone ballcarrier is Coal City's Bryson Male.

Jakob Phillips, Alan Calderon III, Stephen Burnett Jr., Connor Rodriguez, Dylun Tarman, Jaxen Shimp, Xavier Ramirez, Xavier Banks, Tyler Pelletier, Michael Pershey, Patrick Osipavicius and Jackson Hollis.

The 32-man Varsity squad, who was 4-4 last year, includes: Keaton Berta, Tanner Gullquist, Brady Endrst, Jack Steinhouse, Kole Carpenter, AJ

McGarvey, Brody D'Orazio, Connor Henline, Nicholas Roehr, Kyle Odam, Kellen Forsythe, Aiden Scroggham, Gabriel Hamilton, Tyson Price, Logan Natyshok, Alex Carlson, Gavin Clubb, Landon Bomba, Anthony (AJ) Kenny, Aidan Edmonds, Joey Arnold, Wyatt Chase, Cooper Morris, Keller Favero, Ty Christopher, Theo Fritz, Emmett Easton, Brock

Witherington, Bobby Rodriguez, Tyler Phillips and Cole Russell.

Games on Sunday start at 9 a.m. with the Dyno level. The superlights will take the field at 10 a.m., the lightweights at 11:30 a.m., junior varsity at 1 p.m. and varsity at 2:30 p.m.

The Miners will have an eight-game season before entering the playoffs

CCHS Fall sports schedules

CCHS VARSITY FOOTBALL

Aug. 26.....@Morris HS.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 2.....host Bishop Mac HS.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 9.....@Wilmington HS.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 16.....host Herscher HS.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 23.....Lisle HS.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 30.....host Manteno HS- Homecoming.....	7 p.m.
Oct. 7.....@Peotone HS.....	7 p.m.
Oct. 14.....host Reed-Custer HS.....	7 p.m.
Oct. 21.....@Streator HS.....	7 p.m.
Oct. 28.....IHSA playoffs.....	TBA
Nov. 4.....IHSA playoffs.....	TBA
Nov. 12.....IHSA playoffs.....	TBA
Nov. 18.....IHSA playoffs.....	TBA
Nov. 25.....IHSA Class 4A state finals.....	TBA

BOYS SOCCER

Aug. 23.....host Serena.....	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 25.....@Kankakee.....	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 27.....@Somonauk-Shootout.....	10:30 a.m.
Aug. 29.....@Plano-Bobcat shootout.....	1:30 p.m.
Aug. 30.....@Wilmington.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 1.....host Herscher.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 6.....@Lisle.....	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 7.....@Beecher.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host Manteno.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14.....host Plano.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 15.....host Joliet Catholic Academy.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 17.....host Morris High School.....	10 a.m.
Sept. 20.....@Chicago Christian Rivals cup.....	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 21.....@St. Anne Rivals Cup.....	4 p.m.
Sept. 22.....@Herscher Rivals Cup.....	6:30 p.m.
Sept. 24.....@Crete-Monee Rivals Cup.....	9 a.m.
Sept. 27.....@Peotone.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 29.....host Reed-Custer.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 4.....@Streator.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 5.....@Sandwich.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 11.....@IHSA Regional @Manteno.....	4 p.m.
Oct. 12.....@IHSA Regional @Manteno.....	4 p.m.
Oct. 13.....@IHSA Regional @Grant Park.....	4 p.m.
Oct. 15.....Regional Champ @Grant Park.....	11 a.m.
Oct. 18-22.....@IHSA Sectional.....	TBA
Oct. 25.....@IHSA Super Sectional.....	TBA
Oct. 28, 29.....@IHSA State Final.....	TBA

VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

Aug. 20.....@Plainfield North Invite.....	8 a.m.
Aug. 25.....host Morris High School.....	4:15 p.m.
Aug. 29.....host Bradley-Bourbonnais.....	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 30.....host Streator.....	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 31.....@Bishop Mac.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 3.....host Coal City Quad.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 6.....@Kankakee.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host Gibson City-Melvin Sib.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 12.....host Mendota.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 14.....@Yorkville.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 17.....host Streator/Lisle/Morris.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 19.....@Joliet Catholic.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 22.....@Lisle.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 24.....@Lemont Invite.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 26.....@Saint Bede Academy.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 27.....@Princeton.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 28.....host Romeoville.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 29.....@Kankakee.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 3.....@Lasalle Peru.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 4.....@Ottawa Township.....	4:30 p.m.
Oct. 8.....@Mendota Invite.....	8 a.m.
Oct. 11.....host Pontiac.....	4:15 p.m.
Oct. 14.....@IHSA Sectional.....	1 p.m.
Oct. 15.....@IHSA Sectional.....	9 a.m.
Oct. 20.....@IHSA State Finals.....	TBA

GIRLS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 22.....@Prairie Central.....	7 p.m.
Aug. 23.....@Plano.....	6:15 p.m.
Aug. 25.....host Morris.....	6:15 p.m.
Aug. 27.....@Ottawa Invite.....	8:30 p.m.
Aug. 30.....host Peotone.....	6 p.m.
Sept. 1.....@Wilmington.....	6:15 p.m.
Sept. 2.....@Willowbrook Tournament.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 3.....@Willowbrook Tournament.....	9 a.m.
Sept. 6.....@Manteno.....	6:15 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host Streator.....	6:15 p.m.
Sept. 13.....@Herscher.....	6:15 p.m.
Sept. 20.....host Reed-Custer.....	6:15 p.m.

Sept. 22.....@Lisle.....	6:15 p.m.
Sept. 24.....@Manteno Classic.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 27.....@Peotone.....	7 p.m.
Sept. 29.....host Wilmington.....	6 p.m.
Oct. 4.....host Manteno.....	6 p.m.
Oct. 6.....@Streator.....	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 11.....host Herscher.....	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 13.....@Reed-Custer.....	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 18.....host Lisle.....	6 p.m.
Oct. 25-27.....@IHSA Regional.....	6:15 p.m.
Oct. 31.....@IHSA Sectional.....	TBA
Nov. 5.....host IHSA Super Sectional.....	TBA
Nov. 11, 12.....@IHSA State Finals.....	TBA

SOPHOMORE VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 22.....@Prairie Central.....	6 p.m.
Aug. 23.....@Plano.....	5 p.m.
Aug. 25.....host Morris.....	5 p.m.
Aug. 30.....host Peotone.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 1.....@Wilmington.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 6.....@Manteno.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host Streator.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 10.....host Coaler Invite.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 13.....@Herscher.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 20.....host Reed-Custer.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 22.....@Lisle.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 24.....@Minooka Invite.....	8 a.m.
Sept. 26.....Dwight Cancelled.....	
Sept. 27.....@Peotone.....	6 p.m.
Sept. 29.....host Wilmington.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 4.....host Manteno.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 6.....@Streator.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 11.....host Herscher.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 13.....@Reed-Custer.....	5 p.m.

FRESHMEN VOLLEYBALL

Aug. 22.....@Prairie Central.....	5 p.m.
Aug. 23.....@Plano.....	5 p.m.
Aug. 25.....host Morris.....	5 p.m.
Aug. 30.....host Peotone.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 1.....@Wilmington.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 6.....@Manteno.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host Streator.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 13.....@Herscher.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 17.....@Ottawa Invite.....	9 a.m.
Sept. 20.....host Reed-Custer.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 22.....@Lisle.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 24.....LaSalle Peru Quad/Cancelled.....	
Sept. 26.....Dwight Cancelled.....	
Sept. 27.....@Peotone.....	5 p.m.
Sept. 29.....host Wilmington.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 4.....host Manteno.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 6.....@Streator.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 8.....@Sandwich Invite.....	8:30 a.m.
Oct. 11.....host Herscher.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 13.....@Reed-Custer.....	5 p.m.
Oct. 18.....host Lisle.....	5 p.m.

VARSITY GOLF

Aug. 15.....Bill Breeden All Area Golf Classic.....	
.....@Kankakee Elks CC.....	1 p.m.
Aug. 16.....host Lisle @Cinder Ridge.....	4:15 p.m.
Aug. 17.....host Pontiac @Cinder ridge.....	4 p.m.
Aug. 22.....@Streator Invite/ Eastwood.....	12:30 p.m.
Aug. 24.....@Peotone...Cinder Creek.....	4:15 p.m.
Aug. 25.....@Wilmington...High Point GC.....	4:30 p.m.
Aug. 30.....@Morris w/Serena The Creek.....	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 1.....@Manteno Manteno GC.....	4:00 p.m.
Sept. 6.....@host Streator Cinder Ridge.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 8.....host ReedCuster Cinder Ridge.....	4:15 pm
Sept. 13.....host Kankakee-Cinder Ridge.....	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 15.....Livingston Co. Tourn. @Wolf Creek.....	1 p.m.
Sept. 19.....ICE Conference Tournament.....	
.....@Wolf Creek GC.....	9 a.m.
Sept. 22.....@Dwight Invite Dwight CC.....	1 p.m.
Sept. 28.....@IHSA Regional-The Sanctuary, New Lenox.....	TBA
Oct. 3.....@IHSA Sectional.....	TBA
Oct. 7, 8.....@IHSA State Finals @Prairie Vita GC, Bloomington.....	TBA

Bobcats, Miners, Jr. Comets suit up for football jamboree

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

Manhattan and Bradley hosted the youth football program jamboree where all levels of the Junior Comets, Wildcats, Miners, Bradley, Manhattan and Herscher teams met on Saturday, despite 90-degree heat and high humidity.

Jamboree organizers split the event up into two different sites.

The Jamboree consisted of two teams scrimmaging per field. They took turns running their offense in 10-minute intervals.

Between scrimmages there were five-minute breaks for players to cool down and hydrate.

All four levels of football, from the Superlights to the varsity level, got in a few snaps.

At the Superlight level, the Morris Warriors are returning champions and the Manteno Wildcats are runner-ups.

The Superlight Manteno Wildcats fell short to Morris. The Miners were 4-5. The Bobcats were 1-7 while the Jr. Comets were 0-8.

At the Lightweight level, Chanooka pounded Bradley. The Miners were 7-2 a year ago while the Bobcats were 4-4 and the Jr. Comets finished 0-8.

At the JV level, the JV Bobcats pounded Peotone 26-0 to capture their fifth Super Bowl title. The JV Bobcats had a perfect, 11-0 season. The JV Miners were 3-6. The Jr. Comets were 0-8.

And at the Varsity level, Morris is the defending champions after upending Chanooka. The Varsity 'Cats were 6-3. The Miners were 4-4 and the Jr. Comets were 1-7. The season begins this



Photo by Shawn Long

WRAPPING UP the Peotone ballcarrier during the Lightweight portion of Saturday's jamboree is Coal City's Bainen Durkee.

week with the Bobcats hosting Plano on Saturday while on Sunday the Miners host

Peotone and the Jr. Comets travel to Chanooka.