



West Nile Virus local warning

Lady Coalers down Peotone



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VETERANS ATTENDING the Operation Firm Handshake picnic on Saturday in Coal City passed under the flags representing every branch of the military. The flags stood out against clear blue skies on a weather-perfect day. They are (from left) U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Space Force, U.S. Air Force, the American flag, Navy, Marines and Army. Photo by Eric Fisher



A WALL OF veterans is expanded every year to recognize those who served their country and stands before the lunch line for the Operation Firm Handshake picnic in Coal City.

Operation Firm Handshake SUCCESS!

It was a picture-perfect day Saturday for the 11th annual Operation Firm Handshake veterans picnic held under the pavilion at the Coal City Area Club. "It turned out to be a wonderful day with ideal weather and a volunteer group that really loaned their support, said Scott Sines, vice president for the non-profit. Illinois' largest free veterans picnic this year attracted 1,280 veterans and their family members. Sines estimated there were 80 volunteers who setup and did the cooking that included a pig roast, grilled burgers and hot dogs and all types of homemade sides. "We've kind of plateaued around 1,300 attendees over the past three years," Sines said. "We're always striving to attract more veterans and active service men and women. He said it takes about \$12,000 to fund the event and they couldn't do it without the generous donations from area businesses.



OVER 80 VOLUNTEERS contributed in putting on the 11th annual Operation Firm Handshake veterans picnic on Saturday at the Coal City Area Club Pavilion. Here volunteers man grills cooking hamburgers and hot dogs.



MEMBERS OF THE Memorial Squad at the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery are treated to lunch after the presentation of the colors and a rifle volley to remember veterans who gave of their life. Guard members include (from left) John Hill and Mike Sloan. Photo by Eric Fisher

Traffic stops increase, thievery decreases

BY ROSE PANIERI STAFF WRITER

Despite the hype about Illinois – and especially Chicago – being the most violent state, there's not much evidence to back it up. According to World Population Review, Illinois is not even in the Top 20 for violence. In our little corner of the world, crime is the

exception and no the rule. Coal City Police Chief, Christopher R. Harseim keeps the peace. Next March, Harseim will have served in the police department for 30 years. He knows what he's doing, and it's his goal to keep the peace. Crime isn't a major issue in Coal City, not with Harseim at the wheel. The FBI agrees. Back in 2019,

the last time the Bureau took notes, there were four violent crimes, two rapes, one robbery and one assault in Coal City. According to Harseim, traffic crimes tend to be more of a problem. "We've seen a lot of more traffic instances where someone's driving on a suspended driver's license, suspended license plates, stolen vehicle, or a

vehicle used in and felony crimes," Harseim said. "A lot of that happened after COVID, when people weren't getting out and offices were closed." There have also been scofflaws who attempt to outrun police. "We actually had a guy run on a motorcycle last Thursday, and we finally caught him about a hour later," Harseim said. "I just

think they figure if they don't stop, there's nothing we can do – they're just, they get off scot-free. That just not the case." Small town, Big Brother Though a few wily scofflaws may attempt to outrun police, the vast majority of the time they're caught. Automatic license plate readers or Flock cameras are a surveillance system that reads

license plates. When a vehicle passes a Flock camera a photo and video is taken. All technology pulls the license plate number and categorizes the vehicle characteristics. If you aren't wanted by SEE POLICE PAGE 2



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Police, continued from page 1

the police, your information is logged in a database for 30 days. If you are wanted location data is flashed over to appropriate law enforcement.

"Coal City has one license plate reader, and it's a Motorola version; we got in a grant," Harseim said. "We also have vehicles with license plate readers on top of them."

As of Jan. 1, 2025, all police officers will be required to wear body cameras, and Harseim is on it.

"We do have body cameras for each person," Harseim said. "With training, we'll probably roll it out sometime in October."

Police body cameras are small cameras with microphones worn on an officer's chest or head to record interactions between the officer and the public. According to Brittanna ProCon, cameras improve police accountability and lower reports of police misconduct.

The cameras are said to be especially useful in domestic violence cases, making the victim feel safer and credible.

The most significant drawback to cameras and license plate readers is invasion of privacy. Victims of crimes and those with mental health conditions may be further traumatized being recorded.

And police cameras are expensive, Harseim shared that he hopes there will be grant funds forthcoming.

Losing officers
Like Braidwood and Wilmington, Coal City tends to have a turnover of officers. Some officers leave small town stations for excitement of big city departments. Others simply don't realize the risks, hours, and dedication expected of police officers.

"About a year and a half ago we had four guys leave and that really put pressure on the rest," Harseim said. "I've hired

seven officers in the last four years."

Thievery down
While traffic crimes are up, Harseim has seen a distinct drop in property crimes.

"We've have really declined property crimes like theft from properties, burglary, motor vehicles thefts, and that sort of crime," Harseim said. "There's a big drop in people rummaging through cars looking for money and credit cards and things like that."

Harseim considers the reduction in property crimes unusual, considering the state of the economy. He credits the drop to continual advice from law enforcement agencies about locking doors, keeping lights on, and bringing valuables and electronics into the house rather than leaving them in the car.

By the book
With a huge number of YouTube and reality TV videos of clashes between suspects and police, it's Harseim's responsibility to make sure his officers make stops according to the book.

"I've made hundreds, maybe thousands, of traffic stops in my career and my skill set is always the same," Harseim said. "I greet them and introduce myself and the police department. And I tell them exactly why I pulled them over."

According to Harseim, to avoid being stopped don't drive distractedly, don't speed, and don't break rules of the road. Be sure you're plates are up to

date and your brake lights work. And, most importantly, do not attempt to make a run for it.

"Now, we don't ask everybody to exit the car, but if I see or smell or hear something that makes you want to distance the driver from the car, I will ask them to exit the vehicle," Harseim said. "If my 'Spidey sense' kind of tingles, I know something is going on."

You want to get that person away from that vehicle so they can't take off or grab something in the vehicle and use against you."

Don't be a victim
"Always be aware of your surroundings," Harseim said. "When you go to a restaurant, I sit so I can see the door no matter what, just because I want to know what's coming at me. I always put myself in a position wherever I am that I can kind of observe what's going on. That way, I can take action if I need to."

Harseim also credits the success of his police department to the support he receives from citizens and leaders.

"We've got great mayor and trustees and everybody at the village, every employer has been wonderful," Harseim said. "Everybody's so pro police. They, they want to make sure that we succeed and do everything right. We very rarely get complaints. If we do, obviously we handle them appropriately and reeducate the officer on what to do better next time."



Photo by Eric Fisher

BACKHAND VOLLEY—Coal City's Lanie Winke keeps the ball in play during Doubles action last week.

Lady Coalers edge Streator

In an exciting night of tennis the Lady Coalers defeated Streator by a narrow margin of 3-2, playing four tiebreakers, winning 3 of them, with #1 singles Becca Hall clinching the last point with a powerful serve to give Coal City the win.

Also winning matches on the night were #2 singles Kyla Kohler and #3 Doubles pairing Kamryn Hansen/Liv Weatherbee.

At #2 doubles Lanie Winke/Kyla Stark looked sharp in the first set with strong groundstrokes and volleys, but cooled off in the 2nd set, and were unable to capture the momentum needed in the 3rd set super tiebreaker to nab the win.

Singles: No. 1 - Rebecca Hall, Coal City def. Maddie Wahl, Streator (Twp.) [Coop], 5-7, 7-6 (7), 11-9;

No. 2 - Kyla Kohler, Coal City def. Isabell Gutierrez, Streator (Twp.) [Coop], 6-1, 3-6, 10-7;

Doubles: No. 1 - Joyce Walking, Streator (Twp.) [Coop] - Indyana Hernandez, Streator (Twp.) [Coop] def. Camryn Planeta, Coal City - Bridget Feeney, Coal City, 4-6, 3-6, 7-5;

No. 2 - Audrey Arambula, Streator (Twp.) [Coop] - Adelaide Mahan, Streator (Twp.) [Coop] def.

Kyla Stark, Coal City - Lanie Winke, Coal City, 6-3, 4-6, 9-11;

No. 3 - Kamryn Hansen, Coal City - Olivia Weatherbee, Coal City def.

Aubry Demoss, Streator (Twp.) [Coop] - Annika

Michlik, Streator (Twp.) [Coop], 3-6, 6-2, 10-4;

Attorney Black files Olson estate claim notice

Attorney Black files Stinnette estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2024 PR 61
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROBERTA ANNE OLSON, Deceased

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2024 PR 62
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF BEVERLY STINNETTE, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of ROBERTA ANNE OLSON. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Tracey Anne Schurtz, 1067 Shadow Wood, Morris, Illinois 60450, whose attorney is Donald F. Black, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Beverly Stinnette. Letters of office as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Kathryn Watland, 417 Liberty Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 and Lisa Jesiolowski, 1012 Oneida Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435, whose attorney is Frank J. Black, BLACK & BLACK, LAWYERS, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

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

TRACEY ANNE SCHURTZ
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Donald F. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
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Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

KATHRYN WATLAND
LISA JESIOLOWSKI
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS
Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
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Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

West Nile Virus collected in Coal City

The Grundy County Health Department has recently collected mosquitoes in Coal City that have tested positive for West Nile Virus.

These are the second batches of mosquitoes to test positive in the Grundy County this year. The mosquitoes were collected

during the first week of September.

Although summer is wrapping up, the Grundy County Health Department wants to encourage everyone to continue to take steps to avoid becoming a victim of West Nile Virus or other mosquito-borne viruses.

Dingman Drainage District gives notice of annual maintenance assessment increase

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 1966TX3429

In the Matter of:
Dingman Drainage District
DRAINAGE NOTICE
On the 23rd day of August, 2024, a Petition to Increase the Amount of the Maximum of the Annual Maintenance Assessment was filed in the Circuit Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois, Judge Sheldon Sobol presiding. The name of the District affected by the Petition is the Dingman Drainage District. The commissioners of the District seek to increase the amount of the maximum annual maintenance assessment levy. Currently, property in the District is assessed at a maximum of \$5.00 per acre, provided that every parcel in the District, regardless of size, is required to pay the greater of \$10.00 or an amount equal to the amount of the maintenance assessment multiplied by the number of acres in the owner's parcel. The amount of the maximum per acre annual maintenance assessment proposed to be levied is \$10.00 per acre, provided that every parcel in the District, regardless of size, is required to pay the greater of \$30.00 or an amount equal to the amount of the maintenance assessment multiplied by the number of acres in the owner's parcel. The monies raised will be utilized to perform annual maintenance work, to pay obligations incurred by the district for incidental expenses, current expenses, and obligations incurred in protecting the district, and for other lawful purposes. The Petition will be heard by Judge Sheldon Sobol or such other judge as may be sitting in his stead, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, upstairs courtroom, on October 8, 2024 at 9:30 am. An annual maintenance assessment roll was filed with the Petition. The total amount of damages sought is: none; The total amount of compensation proposed is none; The total amount of maximum annual maintenance assessment is \$22,111.00.

Roger Long, Robert Trotter, Aaron McWilliams, Commissioners of the Dingman Drainage District.
/s/ Charles L Schmidt
#6207698
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, Illinois 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

Claypool Drainage and Levee District petitions to annex 12 properties

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS 2024GC2

In the Matter of:
The Claypool Drainage and Levee District
DRAINAGE NOTICE

On the 23rd day of July, 2024, a Petition to Annex was filed in the Circuit Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois, Judge Sheldon Sobol presiding. The name of the District affected by the Petition is the Claypool Drainage and Levee District. The commissioners have determined that land lying outside the district has been connected to a district drain or has been or will be benefited or protected by any district work done or ordered to be done. The commissioners have petitioned the court to annex the land to the district pursuant to 70 ILCS 605/8-3. The properties to be annexed are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| PIN | Owner of Record |
| 06-28-300-001 | Corbin Irrevocable Trust |
| 06-28-300-003 | Corbin Irrevocable Trust |
| 06-33-100-015 | Richard M. & Joyce Corbin |
| 06-33-100-006 | Corbin Irrevocable Trust |
| 06-33-100-014 | Joe Ersham |
| 06-33-100-008 | Clarence K & Barbara A Hulbert |
| 06-33-100-009 | Richard J. Marizza Jr and Laura L Marizza Living Trust |
| 06-33-100-010 | Timothy R Jezik |
| 06-33-100-011 | Linda S & Edward E Wendler |
| 06-33-100-016 | Corbin Irrevocable Trust |
| 06-33-100-013 | Napolean S & Irene A Karnezis |
| 06-33-100-005 | Christian & Amanda Ceja |

The annexed properties should be subject to assessment for their just proportion of the cost of work done or to be done by the district. Consistent with this Court's order of June 16, 2021, the District should be authorized to levy a maximum annual maintenance assessment levy of \$3.00 per acre on the annexed properties. The District should be further authorized to levy a minimum annual maintenance assessment not to exceed to exceed \$26 per parcel. The monies raised will be utilized to perform annual maintenance work, to pay obligations incurred by the district for incidental expenses, current expenses, and obligations incurred in protecting the district, and for other lawful purposes. The Petition will be heard by Judge Sheldon Sobol or such other judge as may be sitting in his stead, at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, upstairs courtroom, on October 3, 2024 at 9:30 am. An annexation roll was filed with the Petition. The total amount of damages sought is: none. The total amount of compensation proposed is none.

Robert Koerner, Joseph Brown and Ronald Maland, Commissioners of the Claypool Drainage and Levy District.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

Winke petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In re the Petition to Change the name of:
Madyson Gabrielle Winke
No. 24-MR-30
Petitioner

NOTICE
Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself shall appear in the Circuit Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 on the 17th day of September, 2024 at 8:45 a.m. in Courtroom US-C before the Judge assigned to hear said matter and then there present a Petition requesting the name of MADYSON GABRIELLE WINKE be changed to MADYSON GABRIELLE TOGLIATTI.
/s/ Madyson Gabrielle Winke
Published in the Coal City Courant on Aug. 28, Sept. 4 and 11, 2024.

Attorney Harrop files Mahler estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
In the Matter of the Estate of MARJORIE D. MAHLER, Deceased. Case No.: 2024 PR 56

CLAIM DATE NOTICE
NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Majorie D. Mahler, and Letters of Office were issued on the 7th day of August, 2024, to Richard S. Mahler, 540 S. Poplar Circle, Manteno, IL 60950, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is JOAN N. HARROP, 220 West Main Street, Suite 300, Morris, Illinois 60450.
The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

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 <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/get-help.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Probate Division, Grundy County Court House, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 20, 2025. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Richard S. Mahler
Independent Executor
Joan N. Harrop, #6237262
GOMIEN & HARROP, LTD.
Old National Bank Building
220 West Main Street, Ste. 300
Morris, Illinois 60450
(815) 942-0071
joanharrrop@sbcglobal.net
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 11, 18 and 25, 2024.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Miners split with the Wildcats

The Miners Superlights fell to the Wildcats 14-18. Cooper Lardi scored two touchdowns. Cole Coleman and Mikey Tworek each put an extra point on the board. Coleman also caused a fumble turnover. Defense was led with sacks by Adam Calderon,

Levi Hennessy, Cooper Lardi and Reid Trammel. Many assisted tackles by host Miners. The Superlights continue to improve as a team and look forward to taking on the Peotone next. The Lightweightes suffered their first loss of the

season, falling to the undefeated Wildcats, 27-18. The heavy hitting contest saw the Miners take the lead twice, however, ultimately the Wildcats were on top when the clock struck zero. Led by Drake Figge at QB and a ferocious offensive line, the scores for the

Miners came from TJ "Choo Choo" Wagner with two TDs and Brady Loughran with a single score. Austin Newman assisted the offense with several spectacular special teams returns, setting up the offense for success. The Miners look to rebound on Saturday, when they travel to Peotone looking to secure a first round bye in the playoffs with a win.



Courtesy photo

MINERS TACKLE—Lightweight Miners Drake Figge and Austin Newman bring down the Manteno ball runner on Saturday.

The Junior Varsity Miners defeated Manteno 8-0. The Miners moved the ball very well. A few mistake kept us out of the endzone. Cody Allen and William Rodriguez did a great job blocking. Easton Horath and John Viano ran the ball hard.

Ryder Schoenwald kicked our extra point. The defense held Manteno to a shutout. The defensive line, led by Bryson Male, closed hole all game. Our linebackers Ryan Carpenter, Drake Heath, Bainen Durkee, and Zack Babcock were able to keep the pass game under control.

The JV Miners will play Peotone on Saturday for the conference championship. The Varsity Miners improve to 4-0 on the season with a 24-0 victory over Manteno. This is the 4th straight game the defense has held their opponents to a scoreless game.

DE Carter Wix and Safety Maddox Meents led the team in tackles. The upfront play of DT- Jaxen Shimp, Nick Miller, Cody Kozlowski and Cade Krull set the tone for the defense early.

Defensive Coordinator Rob Leisure said "The boys came to play today." Running back Levi Marshall crossed the goal line for the first 2 scores and WR Kenny Tazelaar put the final points on the board. Kicker Spencer Vaira split the up-rights 3 times to go 3-3 on extra points. A late 4th quarter interception return for a TD by Maddox Meents sealed the deal for the team.

The Miners will travel to Peotone on Saturday, to take on the Blue Demons.

JV kickers beat Bradley

JV Coaler Soccer defeated Bradley Bourbonnais 4-1. Owen Peterson had 2 goals and an assist, also scoring were Colten Lynn and AJ Kenney. Assists from Jake Munsterman, Dom Chellino, and Dexter Castle. Christian Castillo had 1 save, Tommy Poole had 2 saves. Player of the game was Owen Peterson. Coalers are 3-1 on the season.

CCMS girls score early to beat PJHS

The Coal City Middle School softball team defeated PJHS Warriors last Tuesday, 16-3.

The Lady Coalers started with a big lead in the first and second innings scoring 12 runs, four in the top of the first and eight in the top of the second. The Warriors added three insurance runs in the bottom of the third but the effort was a loss cause as Coal City kept putting runs on the board ending the game under mercy rule at the bottom of the fourth, 16-3. Ava Mills started the game pitching for Coal City

with four strikeouts and gave up two hits. Kenslee Baldauf relieved Mills after two innings. Baldauf only pitched one inning with three walks and gave up one hit. Charly Gray pitched the last inning with one strikeout, two walks and gave up one hit.

Lady Coaler Ava Mills did great at the plate with three RBI's and went 2-for-2. Kenslee Baldauf went 3-for-4 with two RBI's. Charly Gray went 2-for-2 with one RBI and one walk. Gray, Mills and Lynn each had a double.

CCMS 7th graders win one, lose one

The Coal City seventh grade baseball team improved their record with one win this week while adding their first loss of the year. On Wednesday, Coal City lost to Minooka, 13-0.

Minooka jumped to a 3-0 lead in the first inning. In the top of the fourth, Minooka scored another run and took the win in the top of the fifth scoring eight runs ending the game early.

Coaler Derek Maxwell started the game at the mound with one strikeout, five walks and gave up seven hits. Jaxon Shats relieved him after three innings. Shats had one strikeout, six walks and gave up two hits. Chase Cubb finished the game with two strikeouts and gave up one hit.

Mitchell Jessen, Chase Clubb went 1-for-2. Liam Ratazak went 1-for-1. Coal City defeated MVK in three innings last Tuesday. The Coalers did

well at the plate scoring big numbers in runs. In the top of the first the scored 6 runs to take an early lead. In the top of the second they scored double digits putting 10 more runs on the board. In the top of the third Coalers scored 5 more runs to give them a 21-0 lead which ended the game early thanks to mercy rule.

Coaler Laim Ratazak pitched two innings with four strikeouts and gave up one hit. Josef Smith relieved Ratazak for one inning with two strikeouts and one walk.

Derek Maxwell led the Coalers offensively batting 4-for-4 with five RBI's and a double. Mitchell Jessen went 3-for-4 with four RBI's and one walk. Carter Shain went 3-for-5 with one RBI. Ty Gigler went 2-for-2 with four RBI's and two walks. Chase Clubb and Cody Allen went 2-for-3 and each had a double.

Coaler kickers off to good start

Coal City finished their week out with a win over a tough Herscher team 3-1.

After being down 1-0, Creed Macaluso tied the game up towards the end of the first half. In the second half, Dane Noffsinger had a fantastic goal to put the Coalers ahead and Julian Micetich finished with a late goal.

Luke Munsterman and Dane Noffsinger each had an assist on the night. The defense played well and Carter Nicholson had 8 saves in the goal. Coal City has finished the first 2 weeks 6-0-1 and will face Lisle next Tuesday

Coal City was able to hold off a late surge against Mommence to win 4-3 Wednesday night. Julian

Micetich had 2 goals, with Dane Noffsinger and Luke Munsterman each adding a goal.

Dane Noffsinger and Julian Micetich also had an assist on the night. Adrian Dames and Kaleb Reinert also had an assist. The boys will head into conference play tomorrow in a tough home game against Herscher.

Coal City soccer went into and defeated Westmont Tuesday afternoon 5-0.

Luke Munsterman stayed hot with 2 more goals. Adrian Dames, Dane Noffsinger, and Dylan Fatlan each adding in a goal. Dane Noffsinger also added an assist in the game.

The defense played well together to complete the shutout. Carter Nicholson had 3 saves on the night and played well around the box to eliminate opposing attacks.

Coal City is 4-0-1 to start the season.

JV COALERS
JV Coalers defeated Herscher 8-0. Goals were scored by Owen Peterson (2), Colten Lynn (2), Charlie Pfeifer, Dexter Castle, Shane Spoto, and Dom Chellino.

Assists were credited to Chellino (2), Pfeifer, Spoto, Drake Carpenter, and Sean Langer. Christian Castillo had 3 saves in a shutout win. Players of the game were Dom Chellino and Colten Lynn.

Coaler A team improves to 12-2

The Coaler A Baseball team grabbed a nonconference win at home versus St. Rays (Joliet) on Saturday at Coal City Middle School, 8-0.

The Coalers (12-2 overall) extended an early lead with two runs

in the bottom of the third thanks to RBI steals of home by Connor Rodriguez and Jaxon Ksiazak. Jace Ratazak earned the win for Coal City allowing just four hits and zero runs over six and two-thirds innings, striking out two and walking two.

Carter Shain appeared in relief to get the last out. Jonah Micetich (double, RBI), Maddox Meents, and Rylan DeMichele (double, 2RBI) led offense for the Coalers. Caleb Hall, Connor Rodriguez, and Kiptyn Dearth added hits in the win. Micetich, Dearth, and Meents each stole multiple bases for the Coalers.

In the 5-inning junior varsity game that followed game 1, the Coaler A Baseball team overcame a 5-0 deficit to earn a dramatic, 9-8 walk-off victory over St. Rays (Joliet) at Coal City Middle School.

The game was tied at

eight in the bottom of the fifth when Phoenix Senodenos singled, driving in the winning run. The Coalers piled up 12 hits in the game. Senodenos, Ethan Lanphier, Daniel Bergin, Braxton Krause, and Carter Shain each collected two hits for Coal City.

Lanphier and Shain each drove in three runs. Jace Ratazak (double) and Roman Taylor added hits in the win. Taylor, Jaxon Brewick, and Christopher Titus all saw time on the mound in the win.

Coal City 2, Herscher/Limestone 7
The Coalers dropped a nonconference game to Herscher/Limestone on Friday at Herscher High School.

Herscher/Limestone got on the board in the bottom of the second inning after a Coaler error and a wild pitch, each scored a run. The Coalers battled back to tie the game at two in the top of the fourth.

Herscher/Limestone took a 3-2 lead in the bottom of the fifth, and added 4 more runs in the 6th to win it. Connor Rodriguez was the tough luck losing pitcher for Coal City. The

starting pitcher went five and one-third innings, allowing five runs (one earned) on five hits, striking out six and walking three. Carter Wix (RBI) and Maddox Meents each collected one hit for Coal City.

Coal City 19, Ottawa Shepherd 2
CCMS traveled to Ottawa Shepherd and left with a 19-2 win in 3 innings on Wednesday. Jace Ratazak got the win on the mound hurling the first 2 innings allowing 2 runs on 3 hits with 6 strikeouts and 3 walks. Caleb Hall came on to toss the final inning allowing 0 runs on 0 hits while walking 2 and striking out 3.

The Coalers were led on offense by Daniel Bergin(3RBI) and Dearth(2RBI) with 2 hits each. William Bloomfield, Rylan DeMichele (double), Connor Rodriguez(double), Maddox Meents, and Jonah

Micetich all added hits in the win.

Queen of Apostles 1, Coal City 8

The Coalers scored five runs in the third inning, enroute to defeat of Joliet Queen of Apostles on Tuesday. Maddox Meents earned the win on the mound for the Coalers. Kiptyn Dearth came on in the 5th to throw two innings of shutout ball.

The Coalers amassed 12 hits. DeMichele provided pop in the middle of the lineup with two runs batted in.

The number three hitter went 2-for-2 on the day. Jonah Micetich led the way with three hits in four at bats including a double. Connor Rodriguez also doubled and collected two hits in three at bats, and Meents was 2 for 4.

Phoenix Senodenos, Ethan Lanphier, Kiptyn Dearth, and Jaxon Ksiazak all added hits in the win.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC TEST OF AUTOMATIC TABULATING EQUIPMENT

Notice is hereby given that the Public Test of the Verity Scan, in-precinct tabulating equipment and program to be used at the November 5, 2024 General Election, will be conducted in the office of the Grundy County Clerk, Room 12, Courthouse, Morris, Illinois at 1:00 p.m., on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. As prescribed by the Election Code, this test is open to representatives of the political parties, the press, representatives of the State Board of Elections and the public.

Please Note: Cell phones are not allowed in the Grundy County Courthouse.

Dated this 10th day of September, 2024.

KAY T. OLSON
Grundy County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE GRUNDY COUNTY ELDERLY AND HANDICAPPED VOTERS

Please be advised that the following voting aids are available to assist elderly and handicapped voters in the General Election November 5, 2024:

VERITY TOUCH WRITER Allows handicapped and elderly voters to vote independently and in private with this ballot marking device.

MAGNIFIERS to assist voters who have visual problems.

HANDICAPPED VOTING BOOTHS for voters who must vote from a seated position.

BALLOT BUZZERS to allow voters to summon Election Judges to help them enter the polling place.

VOTING ASSISTANCE Handicapped and elderly voters requiring help may be assisted by a friend, relative or by the Election Judges.

CURBSIDE VOTING Available for voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place. Call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at 815-941-3222 for information.

VOTER REGISTRATION Call the County Clerk's Office at 815-941-3222 for locations throughout the county, for the Registrar nearest you, or if special arrangements need to be made.

VOTE BY MAIL Voters who wish to cast a Vote by Mail ballot may contact the County Clerk's Office to obtain the necessary forms if voting by mail or directions to the Early Voting location if voting in person.

Kay T. Olson
Grundy County Clerk

Dated this 10th day of September, 2024.

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, 2024, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of the Braceville Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois:

"Shall the Residents of the Braceville Fire Protection District approve an increase in the Corporate (Fire) Tax Rate not to exceed .35% of the value of all taxable property within the District. The current rate is .30%. The average property owner would see an increase of less than \$50 dollars on their tax bill if the tax rate increase is approved. The additional revenue is needed to replace outdated equipment, cover increasing payroll and insurance costs, and cover Starcom/dispatch system fees."

The polls of said **General Election** shall be open continuously from 6:00 o'clock A.M. to 7:00 o'clock P.M. on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**

Dated at Morris, Illinois on this 10th day of September, 2024.

KAY T. OLSON
Grundy County Clerk

NOTICE OF ELECTION

NOTICE IS ALSO GIVEN, that at the General Election to be held on Tuesday, the 5th day of November, 2024, the following proposition will be submitted to the voters of the Village of Seneca Grundy and LaSalle Counties, Illinois:

"Shall the Village of Seneca amend its ordinances to allow for the keeping of backyard chickens within the Village, to be subject to restrictions set forth by ordinance?"

The polls of said **General Election** shall be open continuously from 6:00 o'clock A.M. to 7:00 o'clock P.M. on **Tuesday, November 5, 2024.**

Dated at Morris, Illinois on this 10th day of September, 2024.

KAY T. OLSON
Grundy County Clerk

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Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. 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 visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, 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. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.

A temper tantrum

BRAIDWOOD—The few Braidwood residents who were called out in last week's soundoff apparently realized that the shoe being described fit on their foot. Once again, someone put them in their place so they decided to take to Facebook, stomp their feet and throw a temper tantrum. They have outright admitted their own ignorance and put it out there for public display. The only people they're embarrassing are themselves.

e-learning plan

COAL CITY—I really wish the school district would get with the times. How does every district around us have e-learning but we still don't. The school is already scheduled past Memorial Day then add on some snow days. Let's catch up with these other schools who have had it figured out for a couple years now.

Kamala stalling

SHADOW LAKES—I hope you watched Vice President Kamala Harris 17-minute interview. She will really be classified as one of the world's great orators. How can you talk and say nothing? I believe this is her plan. Very soon it will be mail-in ballots time. She is hoping she can stall this out until the mail in starts. Then she will come out with the surprises. After this takes place, you will have people say, "if I had known this, I would have not voted for her." Obediently yours, Margot Lane

Time to move

BRAIDWOOD—Why do they keep moving from town to town? Do they wear out their welcome? They sure move fast. They've got two buildings and they got daddy, we need a new building. Time to move to a new town. Wore out your welcome. Thanks Barb.

Educate yourself

BRAIDWOOD—Does anyone read books anymore? Trump loves Elon Musk, two dictators who love to fire people. Read part of proposal 2025; very scary; plan to get rid of thousands of workers and rid Medicare and Social Security. Don't listen to TV propaganda; read and educate yourself. Why is Bush and Liz Cheney not voting for Trump? Since when are veterans losers? Trump is the biggest bully and loser; loves to call people names. Did you ever hear Reagan or Obama call people names? Think about it.

Americans first

DIAMOND—Someone should explain why tax dollars are being given to the people in the USA illegally. They receive free rent, food stamps, benefits from the Social Security administration, debit cards with money and everything else in the USA free while American citizens are being forced into poverty and to live in the streets without any funds. So why can't the American citizens receive everything free like the people that crossed our borders without proper authorization. But not one of our leaders will dare answer this question and Democratic voters will not answer unless they were forced into poverty which shows that they do not honor any American citizens or the freedom of the USA.

Vote on policies

WILMINGTON—Never heard Trump repeatedly promise to be a dictator when asked if he would be. The only thing he said was that he would be one only on the first day back in office to reverse the Biden administrations restrictions on drilling for

our oil. This is so important for us because it will cause gas prices and many other prices to go down and be affordable again. Also, the only Supreme Court Justices who seem to be activist instead of strict constitutionalists are the three who were appointed by Democrats. Project 2025 was a product of a conservative group and not a project of President Trump. His name is not on it. Although he is not in favor of abortion generally, he believes it should be allowed in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother because most of the citizens of the U.S. agree with these conditions. This election in November is very important because our President will be making decisions that will affect our lives in many ways. Vote policies and not personality.

Just a campfire

BRAIDWOOD—Over the last several weeks I've been listening to the Braidwood police and fire department's radio feed on a scanner app and one thing that has stuck out is the ridiculous number of illegal burning complaints that are being called in from someone living over on Third Street. It seems like the same person is calling in 3-4 times a day with complaints of someone burning something in their yards. Most of the time these complaints seem to be unfounded or are a result of someone enjoying a small campfire in their backyard. When we moved to Braidwood 12 years ago we moved here because of the small town feel which includes being able to have camp fires, burn our leaves and have a wood burning stove. But it seems that someone is trying to put an end to all of this. There should be a law against constantly calling the police or fire department with unfounded complaints like this. To the constant complainer, if you don't like the smell of smoke then move to a bigger city because you're going to be in for a real treat now that it's fall time.

Stand together

BRAIDWOOD—This is in response to the Sound-off in the Sept. 4 issue titled Enough is Enough. Just to let you know there are hundreds of citizens unhappy. Two years ago the citizens came out and voted for change and won. This April 1st the citizens of Braidwood will win again. Stand together, fight together and we will win together and we will put the clown back on the train.

The fine print

COAL CITY—Coal City citizens and board members. Regarding the Senior housing project. Are we victims of gaslighting by the developers? Sounds good, looking at the headlines, but if you read the content it's extremely deceiving. If you are a senior well enough to stay in your paid-for home, why would you want to move to this development? And if you are not well enough, perhaps you are looking into assisted living, which I don't believe this project entails. The developer indicates there are no citizenship requirements to qualify. What exactly does that mean? Is this a senior development or are we going to house illegal aliens? I quote, "Applicants may be disqualified if they have a poor rental history, poor credit report, criminal record, or if documents are falsified." The article reads "May be disqualified" not Will be disqualified. Which leaves the door open to someone's discernment. Is the developer aware that this property was once part of, or extremely close to the city dumps? Back in the day there were no rules as to which dangerous chemicals could be dumped there. Has the area been decontaminated?



This project appears to contain a lot of loopholes.

Middle class suffers

SHADOW LAKES—Trump's 14% corporate tax cuts have been in place for the last six years up until now and apparently into the near future. If these tax cuts are beneficial to the working class why are all the Republicans complaining about how bad things are in this country. Why aren't they instead talking about how good we have it thanks to the corporation tax cuts? Sure they tell you that cutting taxes on the rich benefits everyone, but those are Republican lies. The reality is that the rich are getting richer and the middle class is shrinking. The Republican control congress propose a bill that included immigration reform. The Senate reviewed it, approved it and sent it back to Congress to be voted into law. Trump knowing this would lower his chances of being re-elected ordered the MAGA Republicans to reject it. This is true it was well publicized in the media. With many real Republicans in disbelief.

No billionaires

DIAMOND—A big high five for the writer that stated we have this billionaire that never had to worry about money in all his life like the rest of us and wants to be president. I could not have said it better myself. Let's not stop there though. We have the governor Pritzker that never had to worry about money in his life already elected. After you all helped him get elected the first thing he did was to double your gas tax as well as raise other taxes and fees. He does not understand how he hurt people. Why? Because he can't understand it. I've stated in Soundoff before, I would rather see one of the elected officials in our small towns be in these positions because they understand how we live and what we need. No billionaires allowed!

Trump's tariffs

SHADOW LAKES—Before people decide who they're going to vote for in the next election. They should take some time and do some research, about the impact that Trump tariffs had on the economy. All you have to do is Google Trump tariffs impact on the economy. You need to know this because it has impacted the price you pay for almost every thing you buy at the store.

Make no mistake

Does it bother you that Trump drags America through the mud and trashes the Constitution? Project 2025 would destroy the Constitution, dismantle American freedoms and transform our nation into the darkness of Russia, North Korea, Hungary and other dictatorships where the people must sit up at attention and take orders without question. In fact, on July 28th at the Turning Point Action event in West Palm Beach, Florida, Trump told his supporters they would never have to vote again if he wins. This is a warning from a wannabe dictator in accord with Trump's previous threats and with Project 2025 which states that the President's power would expand beyond the Oval Office. Also, the Supreme Court's immunity ruling on July 1st states that the President would be above the law and he could assassinate his political enemies without punishment. There is no mistaking it. Your vote for Harris-Walz is essential to ensure that there will be elections in our future.

Hunter pleads

SHADOW LAKES—So Hunter Biden falls on the sword and pleads guilty to tax evasion to avoid a trial that would have shown Trump was right about the Biden crime family. Not to worry, he will not spend time in jail like any of us would, daddy will handle it. Remember the Democrats always say no one is above the law. Watch

Tariffs rebuttal

WILMINGTON—Tariffs are not the reason things are so expensive today; things are expensive because of the care-less spending and printing of money by the current administration. Corporate tax decreases results in corporation buying new equipment and hiring Americans. It has a chain reaction of hiring in all facets of our economy because people are finally working. On the other hand, Kamala wants to tax all Americans for unrealized gain. Can you afford to come up with

\$100,000 or more to pay for unrealized gain on your house? I can't. She wants to control our grocery stores. That will only lead to shortages worse than during covid. I prefer Trump's single digit inflation, no wars, oil independence, safe borders, criminals go to jail, etc. Kamala has done nothing to help the American people.

Cheney endorses Harris

BRAIDWOOD—Why is Dick Cheney's endorsement of Kamala Harris so significant? Cheney's reputation far outstrips any Republican, including Trump, and is considered the toughest Republican of all Republicans earning respect throughout our nation as well as the entire world. When Cheney speaks the world listens. Cheney states that in our nation's 248-year history Trump has proven to be the most dangerous man to our nation's democracy, a "threat to our republic" and a "coward." Cheney's daughter, Liz, sacrificed her political career by standing up to Trump when she served on the Jan. 6 committee to tell the American people how Trump staged a bloody coup thereby reducing our noble country to a lowly third world nation. Fortunately Trump failed but continues his traitorous rampage to burn down democracy and embrace dictatorships throughout the world.

Think twice

COAL CITY—Tariffs are good for the USA, it not only stops manufacturers from moving out of the country but brings manufacturing back. Goods may be a little higher but better jobs will bring higher pay. So think twice before you want to stop tariffs. Face it, other countries from becoming rich while we get poorer and losing jobs. Also, be sure to notice how much time Kamala gets on the biased mainstream media compared to how much time Trump gets. Also, they always show her or Biden smiling while Trump is always shown with a frown on his face or a mean look. They sure do their best to sway the country their opinions that are paid for by the swamp. Don't believe everything you hear on the news and take note how biased it is.

The childcare word salad

WILMINGTON—Once again Trump insulted the American people when he gave an answer Sept. 5 to the Economic Club of New York on how families will get access to child care. Considering Trump's rambling answer, parents should know better than to expect a check in the mail anytime soon if Trump wins the election. Trump agreed that child care is very important but then babbled on and on about how much money tariffs will bring into our coffers, at least if the economic experts are ignored. If Trump meant tariffs will pay for child care, how does that work? How do parents get to dip into those coffers and get their piece of the pie for child care? Trump didn't say and that's the problem. Is he ignoring the fact that legislation must be written and then debated repeatedly in the House and the Senate after which modifications are made and the whole cycle repeats itself endlessly before it ever lands on the President's desk for signature? In other words hard work is necessary to get the money to go to the proper place. But perhaps Trump forgot about the hard work of passing legislation to improve the lives of the middle class because during his presidency Trump was too busy creating chaos and continues to do so today. Irene

Our first responders

WILMINGTON—I would like to thank the Wilmington Fire Department who came to my house late on Sunday evening because the detectors in my house started going off. They found that there was a leak in my furnace and gas was seeping into my house. They took care of the problem, they opened up windows, they ran fans to clear the air and had me stay outside until they contained the gas leak. I truly appreciated them coming and I felt so bad that I called them so late at night. It was after 11 p.m. and they were probably all sleeping but they were very kind and courteous, just amazing young men. We are lucky to have the first responders we have in Wilmington, the police, fire department and ESDA. I don't know what I would do without them. Sheri Michaels

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Third term for Gov. Pritzker may be up to his wife

"It seems crazy, but it's true that when I serve out the end of this second term, I will be the longest-serving Democratic governor in the history of Illinois," Gov. JB Pritzker said last month during the Democratic National Convention. I looked it up and it's true. Pat Quinn served about six years as gover-



Rich Miller

nor, replacing Rod Blagojevich, who also did six years before doing time in prison. Dan Walker served four years before he also went to prison. Otto Kerner left before the end of his second term to become a federal judge, then went to prison. Sam Shapiro filled out the remainder of that term. Adlai Stevenson did one term and then ran for president twice. Henry Horner

died before the end of his second term, which John Stelle completed. Edward Dunne, John Peter Altgeld and Joel Matteson were all one-termers. Augustus French served seven years because of a change in the new state constitution. The five Democrats before that served one term or less. The state's earliest governors were members of the Democratic-Republican or Republican-Democratic parties. None served more than four years. What people wanted to know last month, though, was whether Pritzker wants to try for a third term in two years. I'm told that one priority for a potential third term could be finally addressing why Illinois has historically lagged the nation in employment. The state's unemployment rate in July was 5.2 percent, which is widely considered to be "full employment" but was still almost a point higher than the national average. And that's consistent with history. Pritzker in a recent

interview with me pointed to the state's relatively high labor force participation rate as a reason, but our participation rate really isn't that much different than lots of other states that have lower unemployment rates. The governor talked about a third term during a state delegates' convention breakfast, but cautioned his audience that his wife, MK, was his "term limit," explaining that if people want him to run again they'll first have to convince her. MK grew up in a political household. Her father was chief of staff to South Dakota Gov. Richard Kneip and then ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. She was a U.S. Senate staffer in D.C. when she met the future governor. This stuff is in her blood. Mrs. Pritzker has kept a fairly low profile the past six years, fiercely guarding her family's privacy, particularly during the pandemic. She's probably best known for throwing huge, swanky parties (including convention-week's Salt Shed soiree featuring John

Legend) and for finishing the task of decorating the governor's mansion and publishing a book about the official residence. But she made a rare appearance at a bill signing event this summer to talk about her involvement with incarcerated women. The bill her spouse signed into law provides free identification cards for newly released inmates. Mrs. Pritzker took up the cause of incarcerated women at the beginning of the Pritzker administration. MK helped set up an ID pilot program at Logan Correctional Center back in 2020, and told reporters at the event that she'd visited women's prisons more than a dozen times since Gov. Pritzker was sworn in. She said her focus since her first prison visit in January of 2019, "has been on ensuring incarcerated Illinoisans are treated with respect and dignity, and that they are given a real opportunity to rehabilitate and return to post-incarceration life with a chance at avoiding recidivism and making positive change." There are no current

signs that Mrs. Pritzker is ready to move on to private life. And her spouse clearly appears to be enjoying his current job, regardless of what just happened to his national ambitions with Vice President Kamala Harris' elevation to presidential nominee. So, does MK want to move back to Washington, D.C. if VP Harris wins and if Gov. Pritzker is offered a Cabinet position? Or would she want to continue her work here in Illinois? And would Gov. Pritzker himself be happy working for someone else after years of leading a large state? Or does she just want it all to end? Those are a lot of ifs, starting with Harris' election and then an actual Pritzker appointment and if he'd want it. I've gone back and forth on this. I thought for a while that I had a good handle on it, but now I'm not so sure. Let's see what their options look like in a few months. Rich Miller also publishes Capitol Fax, a daily political newsletter, and CapitolFax.com.

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Illinois saw increased visitor spending in 2023

Heritage Corridor Destinations announced the area generated a local economic impact of \$1.6 billion and contributed to an increase in visitor spending across Illinois in 2023.

In addition, this boost in tourism contributed \$54.4 million in local tax revenue while directly supporting more than 12,200 jobs in the tourism and hospitality industry, according to the latest data provided by Tourism Economics.

"I'm thrilled to see our six-county region continues to provide significant economic impact from visi-

tors to the region - celebrating the 175th anniversary of the I&M Canal, the beauty of Starved Rock Country, and the nostalgia of The First Hundred Miles of Route 66 Illinois," said Robert Navarro, President & CEO of Heritage Corridor Destinations.

"Visitors are spending over \$1.6 billion on transportation, lodging, attractions, food & beverage and other tourism related services in our region - that translates to over 12,000 jobs and more than \$54 million in taxes for our local communities."

Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitor who spent \$47 billion in 2023 - an increase of 1 million visitors and \$3 billion in spending from 2022. Visitor spending in 2023 surpassed 2019 levels for the first time, reaching 4% above its pre-pandemic benchmark.

Economic Impact of Domestic Travel by County:

- Bureau travel expenditures-\$55.6 million (4.9 decrease) Local tax revenue-\$1.4 million
- Grundy travel expenditures-\$119.8 million (.34% increase) Local tax revenue-\$3.3 million
- LaSalle travel expenditures-\$323.6 million (.9% increase) Local tax revenue-\$9.8 million
- Livingston travel expenditures-\$51.2 million (1.9% increase) Local tax revenue-\$1.7 million
- Putnam travel expenditures-\$10.1 million (4.1% increase) Local tax revenue-\$1 million
- Will travel expenditures-\$1.037 billion (.5% increase) Local tax revenue-\$37.2 million

Fast Facts
 • Illinois welcomed 112 million domestic and international visitors in 2023, an

increase of 1 million visitors from 2022

- Visitor spending resulted in \$47 billion in 2023, an increase of \$3 billion from 2022
- State and local tax revenue from visitor spending generated \$4.6 billion in 2023
- Visitor spending supported 278,200 tourism related jobs, an increase of 7,600 jobs from 2022
- Illinois reached its highest-ever hotel tax revenue figures in FY24, \$322 million - a 4.5% increase over the previous record set in FY23

Heritage Corridor is a destination of six Illinois counties (Will, Grundy, Livingston, LaSalle, Bureau, and Putnam) including the first 100 miles of Route 66, I & M Canal towns and Starved Rock Country.

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THE FREE PRESS ADVOCATE THE BRAIDWOOD JOURNAL THE COAL CITY COURANT

Immaculate Conception Church to host October Fest

Don your lederhosen and break out your stein. Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood is hosting Oktoberfest Saturday, Sept. 28, in Father White Hall 110 S. School Street.

Doors open at 5 p.m. with a cash Bier Garden. Starting at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. a variety of German cuisine will be available for a free will donation for you to enjoy. Carry outs available.

New this year is a German Potato Salad contest, enter your favorite recipe and you could win a prize. We will also be having a German costume contest - dress your whole family and join in on the fun.

Any question please contact Tami Favero 815-405-0982.

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Rare sighting of swallow-tailed kite in Will County forest preserve

A bird that has never been reported in Will County in the past was spotted and photographed recently in and around the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Hadley Valley preserve.

A photo of a swallow-tailed kite was posted to the District's Will County Wildlife [2] Facebook group on Monday, Sept. 2, by Kara Senders Morales. According to eBird maps, this is the first time the bird has been reported in Will County. The 854-acre Hadley Valley is in Joliet, New Lenox and Homer townships.

Swallow-tailed kites spend the summers in the southeastern United States, primarily in Florida, then migrate south to South America for the winter. These raptors have been described as "the coolest bird on the planet," according to Cornell Lab of Ornithology's All About Birds website.



A SWALLOW-tailed kite.

Photo by Kara Senders Morales

The birds are easy to identify due to their bold black-and-white plumage. Swallow-tailed kites spend

most of their time in flight, which can make them easier to spot.

According to the

Cornell website, "The kite's aerial acrobatics while on the hunt are something to see. It continually flicks and rotates its tail, switching from a straight course to a tight turn in an instant as it scans for prey. Sometimes it rolls and dives backward to catch an insect behind it. Adults swallow their food while flying, rarely perching during the day."

Other rare birds that have been spotted in the Will County area include a cinnamon teal, great kiskadee, painted bunting, red-throated loon and black-legged kittiwake. Birds can make their way far outside of their range for a variety of reasons. They can be thrown off course by weather, or they may be first-year birds that have migrated in the wrong direction.

For more information on the Forest Preserve District of Will County, visit ReconnectWithNature.org

Gas prices fall sixth straight week

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 10.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.52/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois

Prices in Illinois are 36.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 44.1 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has declined 4.5 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.62/g - the lowest since early 2022.

In Wilmington, expect to pay \$3.16/g at Mohsen, up to \$3.63/g at stations in town.

Braidwood is holding out, with gas at \$3.57/g at

Casey's and \$3.63/g at Marathon.

Coal City is selling gas for \$3.51/ at Shell, and \$3.53/g at BP.

You can find gas for \$3.19/g at Pilot for \$3.17/g, and \$3.24 at Shell in Morris.

In Bourbonnais, expect to pay \$3.19/g at Gas N Wash, and \$3.41 at Road Ranger.

"Impressively, for the sixth straight week, gas prices have dropped to their lowest since winter. GasBuddy now counts 11 states and over 45,000 stations with gas prices below \$3 per gallon," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"With oil prices falling

below \$70 per barrel, their lowest since 2021, there's solid room for gas prices and diesel to continue falling for some time. We expect the national average could fall below \$3 per gallon as early as October for the first time since 2021, which would be music to the ears of motorists and certainly to politicians who are angling to be elected this fall."

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.79/g while the most expensive was \$4.95/g, a difference of \$2.16/g.

Take a hike in pursuit of spiders

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is hosting a Spider Hike on Friday, Sept. 13, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon.

Search in the moonlight for local spider species and learn their benefit to the environment and some of their amazing adaptations. Free, all ages. Register by Sept. 12.

Electronics dropoff Thursday

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Sept. 12, 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.

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OBITUARIES

June B. Cora

DIAMOND—June B. Cora, 86, of Diamond, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 at the ARC of Dwight.

Born on June 12, 1938, in Allegan County, MI, June Barbara was a daughter of Joseph and Anna (Scharf) Levy. She was raised in Chicago and proudly graduated from William Jones Commercial High School with the class of 1957. June went on to earn her CNA certification at Joliet Junior College and dedicated many years to her work at St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, retiring in 2003 as a Telemetry Tech.

Affectionately known as "Grammie," June cherished her role as a grandmother, taking great joy in participating in her grandchildren's activities. Her talents as a cook were well known, and she lovingly crafted many crocheted blankets over the years. June was also a gifted artist, enjoying painting and finding delight in music, board games, and working on puzzles during her leisure time.

An avid fan of the Chicago Bears and Bulls, June embraced her later years as a devoted television enthusiast, often found watching music-themed films with a remote control in hand. June will be fondly remembered for her infectious laughter and her unwavering dedication as a mother and grandmother, leaving behind a legacy of love and cherished memories.

Survivors include her children: Kathie



(Doug) Favero, of Wilmington; Teri Cora, of Naperville; Joe (Lori) Cora, of Braceville and Jan (Mark) Keefer, of St. Petersburg, FL; nine grandchildren: Blake Favero, Jordan (Josh) Brainard, Lonnie (Stefanie) Henline, Sean Spillane, Michaela Phillips (Matt Johnson), Alana Phillips, AnnMarie Cora, Katie Keefer and Madison Keefer; eight great-grandchildren: Keller, Jaxon, James, Makayla, Makenzie, Connor, Macklan and Merrick and three nieces.

June was preceded in death by her parents, husband, John Cora, who she married Oct. 15, 1966, and one sister, Joanne (Richard) McElvain.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a private family graveside will be held in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington, where June will be laid to rest with her late husband, John.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in June's memory to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Joan Adams

OTTAWA—Joan Adams, 92, of formerly of Wilmington, IL, passed away Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at Pleasant View Lutheran Home. Following Joan's wishes, no services will be held. Cremation rites have been entrusted to Ottawa Funeral Home.

Joan was born May 21, 1932, in Elliott, IL, to Bernice and Marcelin (Logan) Goad. She married Charles Adams on July 9, 1950. He preceded her in death on March 15, 1988.

She worked as a health care worker. She was an avid reader, enjoyed watching game shows, doing word searches, and crocheting blankets. She was extremely fortunate and was able to see five generations of her family.

She is survived by her children, Terry (Russell) Cable, Charlene (Mark) Hickok,



and Tony (Tami) Adams; nine grandchildren; eleven great grandchildren, eight great great grandchildren; and her siblings, Richard Goad, Larry Goad, Ronald Goad, and Pamela (Steven) Ritter.

Joan was preceded in death by her parents, Bernice and Marceline; her husband, Charles; a son in infancy, Charles Adams Jr.; a daughter, Cathy Fitzgerald; and her siblings, Beverly Williams, Deloris Cantrell, Donald Goad, Dennis Goad, and Chester Goad.

The online guest book may be viewed and remembrances shared at www.ottawafuneralhome.com. Ottawa Funeral Home & Crematory, 1111 LaSalle St., Ottawa Illinois 61350.

Renee Blasier

TEXAS—Renee Marie Blasier, 59, passed away peacefully with family at her bedside on Sept. 5, 2024, after a courageous battle with colon cancer.

Born March 1, 1965 in Harvey, IL, she was the youngest of five children born to Laurin Ray and Rita Adele Blasier.

Renee, along with her family, grew up in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School in 1983. She pursued a career in nursing and became a traveling Registered Nurse working in Intensive Care Units across the country. She ultimately landed in San Diego, CA, and enjoyed the area so much she opted to quit traveling and reside there. She eventually found her way to Texas in 2018, to be closer to family and settled in Waco, TX.

Renee was an avid animal lover and often went to pet stores and animal shelters just to visit them and provide comfort. She loved tennis and followed the sport closely. Renee also enjoyed the outdoors; hiking, kayaking, and camping.



Renee is survived by her sisters: Susan Gleason, Laura Bottens, Rita Brady, and brother, David Blasier; her nieces Laurin Weicht and Rachel Bottens; her nephews, Justin Gleason and Ryan Bottens; great-nieces, Rylan and Adelyn Weicht and great-nephew, Everett Bresnan. Renee was a wonderful sister and aunt.

She was preceded in death by her father, Laurin Ray and mother, Rita Adele Blasier.

A Memorial Mass will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024, at St. Louis Catholic Church at 2001 N. 25th Street, Waco, TX 76708, where we will celebrate her life and the everlasting impact she had on those around her.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Colorectal Cancer Alliance (colorectalca.org) or the Fuzzy Friends Rescue (fuzzyfriendsrescue.com) in her memory.

Rest in Peace, Renee. We love you.

Dwayne Edward Haemker

SYMERTON—Dwayne Edward Haemker, 59, of Symerton, IL, passed away on Thursday, September 5, 2024, at the University of Chicago Medical Center. Born on January 24, 1965, Dwayne is a son of Doris (Haemker) Yehling of Wilmington. He grew up in Chicago Heights and went on to build a respected career with the Boilermakers Local One out of Chicago, where he was a dedicated and hardworking employee.

On July 15, 1989, Dwayne married Lynn Hlinko. Together, they made a home in Symerton and raised their family. Dwayne's life was filled with the joy of simple pleasures. He was an avid motorcycle enthusiast, and his love for the outdoors, grilling, and cruising around in his golf cart brought him a great deal of happiness. He also had a passion for woodworking.

Above all, Dwayne cherished his time with his family, especially his grandkids, who were the light of his life. His love and loyalty were unmatched, and he was always there to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. Known as a jack of all trades, Dwayne could fix or build just about anything, and his honesty and dependability were his hallmarks.

Dwayne leaves behind a legacy of love, devotion, and hard work. He will be remembered as a devoted husband, a loving father, and a proud papa whose greatest joy was being with his family. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of



those who knew and loved him.

Survivors include his wife of 35 years, Lynn; children: Heather Haemker (Ryan McKinney) of Coal City and Eddie Haemker (Kimberly Barton) of Symerton; two grandchildren, Addison Pellack and Caleb Haemker; his mother, Dee; one brother, Ricky Haemker; two sisters: Missy (Pat) Wheeler and Robin Tutterow; one sister-in-law, Chris (Brian) Carlisle of Lansing, Illinois; several nieces and nephews, and his dear life-long friends: John Goodwin, David Crandall and Ernie Heiser, as well as beloved garage cat, Mac.

Dwayne was preceded in death by his grandfather, Edward Haemker; sister-in-law, Jackie Haemker; nephew, Dustin Dransfeldt and his mother-in-law and father-in-law, Marge and Mike Hlinko.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 East Kahler Road in Wilmington on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 from 4:00 p.m. until time of remembrance at 7:00 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services.

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

Funeral and cremation services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Susan L. Boresi

COAL CITY—Susan L. Boresi, 72, of Coal City, passed away on Thursday, Sept. 5, 2024 at Ascension St. Joseph Hospital in Joliet.

She was born on Nov. 9, 1951 in Joliet to Leslie E. and Dolores (nee Gagliardo) Hertenstein. She was raised in Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School class of 1969. On Jan. 7, 1972 Susan married William J. Boresi Jr. at Assumption Catholic Church. Susan and Bill were born in the same hospital, were baptized on the same day, graduated from the same class and were married at the same altar at which they were baptized. They spent a year together as newlyweds in Frankfurt, Germany, then returned to Coal City to start a family. They lived their whole lives as they always had...together.

The child of a talented husband and wife photography team, Susan held a profound appreciation for the arts. She worked for many years as a dance instructor and administrator for Major School of Dance. Susan instilled her love of the arts in her family, raising a daughter, Gina, who was a dancer and aspiring chef, a son, Matt, who is an opera librettist and theater instructor, and a granddaughter, Viva, who became a professional actress by the time she was six years old. Susan never missed a performance by any of them.

She is survived by her husband of 52 years, Bill Boresi Jr.; her son and daughter-



in-law, Matthew and Melissa Foster Boresi, of Evanston; her granddaughter, Vivian L. "Viva" Boresi; her mother, Dolores Hertenstein, of Coal City; her sister, Sherrie (Michael) Taylor, of Morris; her sister-in-law, Mary (Bruce) Lane, of Cary; her brother-in-law, Doug (Susan) Boresi, of Coal City and numerous bright and caring nieces and nephews. Susan was loved deeply by her family and loved them deeply in return.

She was preceded in death by her father, Leslie E. Hertenstein and her daughter, Gina L. Boresi in 1999. While the death of a daughter is a wound from which no one can truly heal, Susan gave her child as much support and adoration as any mother could. With her striking blue eyes and bottomless well of affection, she was a beautiful creature inside and out.

Memorials may be made to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A "Celebration of Susan's Life" will be from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024 at Ferrari Funeral Services, 1044 Ferrari Dr., Coal City.

Inurnment will be private at Braceville Gardner Cemetery.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrari-funeral.com.

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Edward Valdez Sr.

COAL CITY—Edward Valdez Sr., "Eddie," 79, of Coal City, and formerly of Plainfield, passed away Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024 at Arcadia Care in Morris.

Born April 7, 1945 in Mercedes, TX, Eduardo was a son of Enrique and Martha Consuelo (Ramat) Valdez. He was raised in Texas and spent his career working for Allied Van Lines in mix state transportation.

One who loved the outdoors, Eddie enjoyed the Coal City Area Club, where he spent time boating and camping with his brothers. In addition he took pleasure in being with friends at Spivey's socializing and playing the games. Eddie cherished being a grandfather and was a constant presence at the kids activities.

Survivors include his children: Edward "J.R." Valdez Jr., of Minooka; Ruben (Anna) Valdez, of Bolingbrook and Rosa Cantu, of Plainfield; four grandchildren: Brendan and Jaden Valdez, Veronica (Alexis) Sarabia and Amalia (Daniel) Martinez; several great-grandchildren; five siblings: Jesse Valdez, of Coal City; Teresa



(Roberto) Cortez, of Diamond; Manuel Ramat, of Joliet and Maximo (the late Mikie) Valdez, of Coal City; one brother-in-law, Ben Minor, of Joliet and many nieces and nephews.

Eddie was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Carmen Minor.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway in Coal City on Sept. 21, 2024 from 11 a.m. until time of service at 1 p.m.

Inurnment will be private.

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

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Jerry L. Weldin

WILMINGTON—Jerry L. Weldin, 74, of Wilmington, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 3, 2024 at the Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.

Born Feb. 24, 1950 in McLeansboro, IL, Jerry Lee was a son of Emory and Lorene (Kelley) Weldin. He was raised in Southern Illinois, where he attended a one room schoolhouse until his family relocated to the Joliet area. Jerry graduated from Lincolnway High School with the class of 1968, and he would gain employment with the Exxon Mobil Joliet Refinery where he worked for over 25 years until he retired.

He was an avid outdoorsman who found great joy with being out in nature. Jerry was a member of the Will County Sportsman's Club and he especially enjoyed visiting Grand Teton National Park. He was a sportsman, taking great pleasure in fishing and going on deer hunting trips to Southern Illinois. Jerry loved going for rides on his Kawasaki motorcycle and piloting Cessna airplanes. He was a hard working man who loved his



children more than anything else.

Survivors include three children: Julie Weldin, of Cabery, IL; Scott Weldin, of Port Orange, FL and Maggie (Andrew Drummond) Weldin, of Longwood, FL; one sister, Rachel (the late Jack) Carroll, of Chicago; one sister-in-law, Nadine Weldin, of Missouri and several nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Ron Weldin and Guy (Kathy) Weldin, and one sister, Kay (John) Giles.

Private family services will be held and Jerry will be laid to rest at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com to upload photographs, and share Jerry's memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Stephen Samuel



WILMINGTON—Stephen Samuel, 86, of Wilmington, passed away Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 at the Renwick Nursing and Rehabilitation Home in Joliet.

Born June 23, 1938 in Chicago, Stephen Frederic was the son of Stephen and Julia (Fetter) Samuel. He was raised and educated in Chicago and graduated from Gage Park High School. Steve served honorably in the United States Army and was an electrician for his entire professional career. He was a proud union electrician and a member of St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. Steve enjoyed spending his time shooting and was a true patriot, proud of his military service and the service of others. More than anything, nothing was more important to him than the role of husband, father, and grandfather.

Survivors include three children: Joseph (Diana) Samuel, of California; Kathryn (John) Reilly, of New Lenox and Laura Samuel, of Schaumburg and two grandchildren, Emily and Sean Reilly.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents, Stephen and Julia and his wife, Diane (Gaida) Samuel, who he married Aug. 1, 1966, and their long-time friends,



Phil and Joan Wojtonik. The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Sept. 12, 2024 from 4-8 p.m.

Friends and family are welcome to meet at Baskerville Funeral Home on Friday, Sept. 13, 2024 at 8:30 a.m. and will proceed to St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St., in Wilmington for funeral services at 9:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding, and interment with full military honors will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Stephen's memory to: Wounded Warriors Project, 230 N. Monroe Street, Suite 200, Chicago, IL 60606.

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

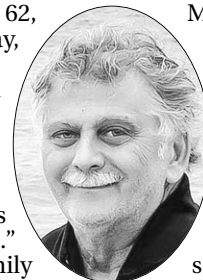
Funeral arrangements and services have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory.

Dean W. Novy Sr.

GODLEY—Dean W. Novy Sr., 62, of Godley, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 at his home.

Born on Feb. 16, 1962 in Joliet, he was the son of Daniel and Donna Rae (nee Davis) Novy. Dean was formerly employed at Cardinal Transport as a driver and mechanic. He was known to be a "Jack of All Trades." He was always willing to help family and friends fix anything. He loved riding motorcycles, building models, going to concerts and movies, and especially spending time with family and grandkids.

Surviving are his partner, Karen Brassard, of Godley; three daughters: Tracie (Brian) Olson, of Wilmington; Sara Novy, of Godley and Ashley Novy, of Rest Haven; one son, Chris (Whitney) Novy, of Kansas; seven grandchildren: Dean, Natalie, Hunter, Rylee, Shawn Jr., Dixie and Kinslee; two brothers, Dennie Novy, of Wilmington and Dale Novy, of Port Huron,



MI and several nieces and nephews. Preceding him in death were his parents, his son, Dean W. Novy Jr.; sister, Debbie Sue Tryner and brothers: Danny Novy, Tim Novy and Kimmy Novy.

Visitation will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory on Friday, Sept. 13, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. with funeral service at 12 p.m. Pastor Mike Strunga will officiate. Interment will be in Wesley Cemetery in Ritchie, IL.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in his name may be directed to Lightways Hospice.

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

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

OBITUARIES

Diana Bremer

MORRIS—Diana Lynn Bremer, 72, of Morris, passed away peacefully on Monday, Sept. 9, 2024, at Arcadia Care of Bloomington.

Born in Christopher, IL she was the daughter of the late Robert and Mary (King) Hargis. Diana was raised and educated in the Chicago area. She worked for the former Standard Bank in Morris for many years before retiring while it was First Midwest Bank, Now Old National. She enjoyed gardening, the outdoors, and fishing with her husband from time to time.

Diana is survived by her loving husband, Carl; daughter, Dawn (William) Miller and family.

A visitation for Diana will be held on Saturday, Sept. 14, 2024, from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 1201 W. Route 6 at Deerpath Drive in Morris. As it was Diana's wish, cremation rites will be accorded after services. Inurnment will be held at a later date in Evergreen Cemetery.

For information, visit her Memorial Tribute at www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Fred C. Dames Funeral Home is entrusted with arrangements.

Cheryl L. Myers

PLAINFIELD—Cheryl L. Myers, 62, and a lifelong resident of Plainfield, passed away on Sunday, Sept. 8, 2024 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet.



Born on Nov. 11, 1961, in Joliet, Cheryl was the daughter of Richard Laverne and Dixie Florence (McCulley) Myers. Raised in Plainfield, Cheryl graduated from Plainfield High School with the class of 1979, where she began to form the deep roots that kept her connected to the community throughout her life.

Cheryl's professional life centered around retail and service, where she built lasting relationships through her roles at Toys R Us, Eagle Foods, and the Plainfield School District's Food Services. Most recently, she was employed at Wal-Mart in Shorewood. Cheryl was an avid outdoorswoman with a particular love for fishing. Whether it was casting a line or playing softball, she enjoyed being active and always found a way to stay involved in the things she loved. A true sports fan, she faithfully cheered on the Chicago Cubs and Bears, sharing her passion for the game with those around her. Her love of the outdoors extended to her garden.

In years past, Cheryl enjoyed attending concerts, embracing her love for music and the joy of being part of a lively crowd. She will be remembered for her infectious spirit, her love of having a good time, and her ability to bring laughter and joy to any

situation. Cheryl's legacy is one of love, friendship, and a passion for life. She leaves behind cherished memories with those who knew and loved her.

Survivors include her loving life partner of 22 years, Randy Miller, of Plainfield; two brothers, Rex (Jeannie) Myers, of Channahon and Kevin (Sandra) Myers, of Manlius Township; two nephews, Russell Myers and Richard Myers; one niece, Katherine Mia Myers and several great-nieces and great-nephews, as well as her lifelong friend, Gail Schwab Work.

Cremation rites have been accorded and Cheryl will be privately laid to rest in the family lot at Plainfield Township Cemetery with her parents.

A celebration of life will follow on Friday, Sept. 20, 2024 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the Plainfield American Legion Marne Post 13, 24741 Renwick Road in Plainfield.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Cheryl's memory to Lightways Hospice or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

IDNR to host CWD deer meeting in Wilmington

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) will host public meetings throughout northern Illinois on the status of chronic wasting disease, its effect on future deer populations and IDNR's ongoing efforts to control the disease.

Chronic Wasting Disease has been found in deer living in Grundy, Kankakee, Will and 18 other Illinois counties.

IDNR staff will be available to answer questions about the disease, commonly referred to as

CWD. Landowners, hunters and concerned citizens are encouraged to attend.

Among eight meeting locations will be one in Wilmington at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 26, at the Des Plaines Conservation Area, 30550 S. Boathouse Road. A 45-minute presentation will be given with discussion to follow.

CWD is an important issue that will continue to dominate future deer management discussions in northern Illinois.

CWD is an always fatal neurological disease that

threatens the long-term health of white-tailed deer in Illinois. First documented in Illinois in 2002 near Roscoe, CWD has been detected in 21 counties across the northern edge and northeastern portions of Illinois, as far south as Ford and Livingston counties.

For more information about the meetings or about CWD, contact Chris Jacques, wildlife disease program manager by email at chris.jacques@illinois.gov.

BEACH PARTY

is back at Tuffy's

Sat., Sept. 14

Music by **ST. JUPITER**

8pm-midnight

LIMBO CONTEST

How low can you go?

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If 5 or more contestants...
A Bikini Contest! Cash Prizes

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Wilmington**

2024 Fall Festival

September 14, 2024

DOWNTOWN COAL CITY

EVENTS

- 3-6 p.m. Car Show
- 3-6 p.m. Makers Court
- 5 p.m. Community Service Award
- 6 p.m. Megan's Mission 5K
- 4-7 p.m. Fine Tunes Center for the Arts
- 8-11 p.m. Snap Shot

FOOD & DRINKS

- Picture Me Smokin' BBQ
- Lil Deb's
- Grill Masters, Trackside Grill
- New Hope Presbyterian Church
- Turkey Poorboys & Bake Sale
- Boy Scout Brats
- Cub Scouts Candy Apples
- Lemon Shake Ups
- Methodist Church - Pie ala mode
- Downtown Restaurants & Bars will be Open!

ACTIVITIES

- Free Inflatables
- Touch-A-Truck
- Games & Mini Golf
- Rock Wall
- Giant Joust and More!

SEPT. 13TH

Friday Night Sponsor Kickoff 6pm

At

Advanced Auto & Tire, Inc.

60 E. CHESTNUT COAL CITY, IL 60416

6-10PM - Live Music By
The Sumthins

9:00 p.m. FIREWORKS

Gardner Lions to serve breakfast Sept. 15

The Gardner Lions Club will serve breakfast on Sunday, Sept. 15, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m., at the Gardner American Legion Hall. Breakfast will consist of pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, biscuits and gravy, toast. Cost is \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 5-10 years and under age 5 is free.

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Make your home greener

Dear EarthTalk: How can homeowners make their homes greener and more efficient to cash in on rebates and incentives available under Biden's Inflation Reduction Act?
- Bill O., Dewey, OK

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

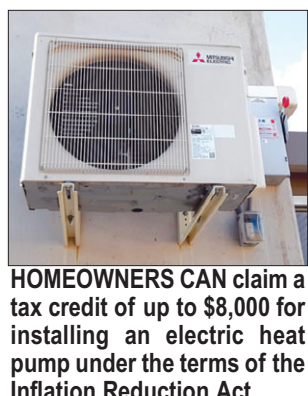
Joe Biden's 2022 Inflation Reduction Act created \$8.8 billion in tax

credits and rebates to help lower- and middle-income homeowners contribute to the country's emission reduction goals. As with prior housing policy, the act defines lower- and middle-income Americans as those making 150 percent or less of their Area Median Income, or the midpoint of their local area's income distribution. The bulk of these incentives come from federal tax credits which, like the act's state-based rebates, are available through September 2031, and can be applied retroactively to purchases and installations after August 2022.

The Residential Clean Energy Tax Credit covers up to 30 percent of installation costs for alternative energy sources including solar panels, small wind turbines, geothermal heat pumps and battery storage systems. The \$3,200 Energy Efficient Home Improvement Credit, on the other hand, covers upgrades to existing energy sources. The credit can be applied with a cap of \$1,200 for new windows and skylights (up to \$600), new doors (up to \$500), and

improvements to insulation (up to 30 percent). Out of the 23 total states that have applied for rebate program funding, eight have recently been approved: Arizona, California, Hawaii, Indiana, Maine, New Mexico, Rhode Island and Washington. Two more, New York and Wisconsin, have already begun distribution. The Department of Energy expects that several states will join them later in 2024 beginning with the Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES), which will offer rebates of up to \$8,000 and \$4,000 respectively for low- and middle-income households that can cut energy usage by 35 percent or more.

The Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate (HEAR) boasts a cap of \$14,000 in rebates per household and is expected to follow implementation of HOMES. Under HEAR, low and middle income homeowners can expect 50-100 percent point of sale coverage on several appliances including up to \$8,000 for electric heat pumps; \$1,600 for insulation and air sealing; \$2,500 for electric wiring; and \$840 for electric stoves, ovens and heat



HOMEOWNERS CAN claim a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for installing an electric heat pump under the terms of the Inflation Reduction Act.

pump clothes dryers. Energy upgrades have the potential to save homeowners money far beyond installation. For example, more efficient homes can mean reduced energy bills. Furthermore, green homes can qualify for benefits such as a \$5,000 tax credit if they meet the Department of Energy Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) standards. A qualified home energy auditor can help homeowners looking to cash in on the myriads of incentives determine which upgrades fit best with their homes and budgets.

EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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9 AM - 2 PM

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1	2	3		4	5	6	7
8			9			10	
11						12	
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34							
36							
38							39
40							41
42							43

- CLUES ACROSS**
- Engine additive
 - A type of test
 - Curtail
 - Irish surname
 - The opposite of good
 - Got rid of
 - Central parts of a church building
 - Stylistically
 - Intestinal
 - Negative potential outcomes
 - Lived up to a standard
 - Snag

- Time units (abbr.)
- Ad ____
- "Partridge" actress Susan
- For each
- ___ Paulo, city
- League titles
- More intensely black
- Slang for lovely
- Petrarch is known for them
- Old Eurasian wheat
- Body part
- Swedish rock group
- They're worth avoiding
- Rising and falling of the

- voice
- Wings
 - Enzyme import for respiration

- CLUES DOWN**
- Idyllic
 - South Pacific island nations
 - Shrub of the olive family
 - Boundaries
 - Encircle
 - Weights
 - Samberg is one
 - Sheep sound
 - European country
 - Respected group of people
 - Trigraph
 - Prosecutors
 - Assign a nickname
 - Huge size
 - Partner to cheese
 - Fastballs
 - Principle underlying the universe
 - Distinct units of sound
 - Title of respect
 - Against
 - Foot (Latin)
 - One point east of due south
 - Concerning the blood
 - Type of pentameter
 - North American peoples
 - Layers of rock
 - Georges ____, French philosopher
 - Lengthy tale

Spend the day with the Goose Lake Prairie Partners. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, bug spray, sun hats and enjoy the day!

26th Annual Prairie Day - September 21, 2024

Prairie Grove Picnic Area* at Goose Lake Prairie State Natural Area
5010 North Jughtown Road, Morris, IL 60450

From 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Sponsored by Dresden Clean Energy Center
Assisted by the Goose Lake Prairie Partners & the GLPSNA Staff

*Events of the Day - 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

- Falcon Show and Tell, with Richard Escutia.
- Illinois Conservation Police Wildlife Mobile Exhibit with Conservation Police Officer Wessels assisting.
- Jackie & Gerrik Grove explaining Animal Rescue & Rehab.
- Louis P. Aiello, Jr. teaching from the American Indian Traveling Exhibit
- Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Staff giving Program Information on Midwin
- IDNR Fisheries - Learn basic casting techniques & play casting games.



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



Prairie Blazing Star

A Raffle for the Insects.

"An Insect Backpack" raffle will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the Gift Shop tent. Raffle tickets are \$1.00 each & six for \$5.00. Ticket sales are in the Gift Shop until the drawing. (More information on our website) Winner may pick up the Insect's Backpack Prize after the 2:30 p.m. drawing. The Pack must be picked up by October 5 or another winner will be drawn.

NOTE: Cragg Cabin Will Not be open but take a peek in the windows. The Visitor Center is closed indefinitely.



Driving Directions: Take Route 47 South of the Illinois River to Pine Bluff Road; East about 5 1/2 miles to Jughtown Rd. Watch for park sign. Take I-55 South of Kankakee River; take Lorenzo Rd West 6 1/2 miles; watch for park sign. Turn North on Jughtown Rd. Continue on to the Prairie Grove.

5			9	2				
6								4
					3			
8	6		3					
			8		5		9	
9				4		7		
					9	8		3
	3							6
		4				2	1	

SUDOKU - Here's how it works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle.

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Classified Word Ads
 Mondays - noon

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 3 wks. - \$25; 4 wks. - \$29*
 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified
 *plus .0399% with credit card

The Braidwood Journal — The Coal City Courant — The Free Press Advocate

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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

Two boat motors with stand. 9.8 Merc, 2 stroke, long shaft. 1998 Evinrude 3.3, 2 stroke. \$350 for all. 46" snow plow blade fits Cub Cadet riding mower LTX42. Model # 190-833C-OEM 9236, \$100.00 815-954-6853

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Mandy Eaton
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6	9	1	2	3	6	4	8	7
9	7	2	8	9	4	6	3	1
3	4	8	6	7	1	9	5	2
8	3	7	9	4	2	5	1	6
2	6	9	9	1	8	7	4	3
5	1	4	7	6	3	2	6	8
7	8	6	3	9	9	1	2	4
4	2	5	1	8	7	3	6	9
1	6	3	4	2	6	8	7	5

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D	E	G	H	N	D														
N	V	N	O	H															
V	T	E	B																

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Large one bedroom apartment in Gardner for rent. On second floor with private entrance \$625 per month. One year lease required. One month deposit required. Water, sewer and garbage included. Tenant pays electric. Available October 5. No dogs. No washer, dryer connection. Criminal background check needed. Text preferred. 815-277-6018. cc37-39

BOAT FOR SALE

For Sale: 1998 StarCraft 1709. Fish and Ski with 115 Mercury and trailer. Minn Kota Power Drive v2 bow mount trolling motor, with quick release and protective cover to clear the way for comfortable riding on the cushioned bow. Hummingbird 587 ci HD down imaging depth/fish finder with GPS. Integrated ladder on swim platform to easily board the boat. Transom saver for smooth towing. \$6,000. Call or text 815-347-7760.

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 177 S. English Street. Thursday, Friday & Saturday, September 12, 13, 14 from 8AM-6PM. Huge 4 family sale! Household tools, women and girls clothing, some of everything. cc37

GARAGE SALES

Braidwood - 346 W. Cermak. Fri., & Sat., Sept. 13 and 14 from 8AM-1PM. Hostas, perennials, china, crystal, milk glass, clothes, women size 10 shoes, purses, 10x10 tents, misc. cc37

GARAGE SALES

Carbon Hill, 790 N. 7th Street. Saturday, September 14th from 10AM-3PM. Furniture, rototiller, pots, pans, much misc. cc37

GARAGE SALES

Wilmington - 410 Daniels St. Thursday & Friday, September 12-13, 9AM-4PM. Saturday, Sept. 14, 9AM-2PM. Housewares, beauty/personal care, Fiesta-ware, Christmas & fall decor, winter apparel, toys, books, DVD's, craft supplies, more! ca37

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Looking for a landscaping carpenter to build decks, docks, timber walls, etc. Must have driver's license. Call 815-476-2012. cc34-37

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 3BR, 2.5BA Cape Cod home with detached two and a half car garage. Saratoga School District. Shawn 815-474-6670. CJ2730

COAL CITY \$340,000
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SOLD

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SOLD

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COALER SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

DIGGING THE BALL for the Lady Coaler varsity is Lilly Feisley.

Lady Coalers upend Peotone

The varsity Lady Coaler volleyball team beat Peotone 20-25, 25-19 and 25-23 bringing their overall record to 5-3 and 2-0 in ICE.

Sydney Larson had 41 setting assists, 9 service point, 4 kills, and 4 digs.

Emma Rodriguez had 12 kills and 1 dig.

Addison Hodgen had 7 kills, 5 service points, 2 digs, and 1 block. Riley Walker had 6 kills.

Jorie Tucker had 5 kills and 2 digs. Abby Viano had 4 kills and 4 blocks. Lilly Feisley had 19 digs and 8 service

points with 1 ace. Naomi Rodriguez had 7 digs and 11 service points with 3 aces.

The JV Lady Coalers lost to Peotone 16-25 and 17-25 bringing their ICE record to 0-2.

The freshmen Lady Coalers beat Peotone in three games bring their ICE record to 1-1.

The Varsity Lady Coalers beat a tough Lisle team 25-18 and 26-24.

Sydney Larson had 27 setting assists, 5 digs, 4 service points with 3 aces, and one kill.

Emma Rodriguez had 16 kills, 6

service points with 2 aces, and 1 dig. Jorie Tucker had 3 kills, 3 service points with 1 ace, and 3 digs.

Abby Viano had 3 kills and 1 block. Addison Hodgen had 2 kills, 2 service points and 3 digs.

Lilly Feisley had 13 digs and 4 service points with 3 aces. Naomi Rodriguez had 6 digs and 3 service points.

The JV Lady Coalers lost to Lisle 22-25 and 20-25. The freshmen lost to Lisle 21-25, 29-27, and 24-26.



Photo by Eric Fisher

JUMP SERVE—Firing the ball for the varsity Lady Coalers is Ava Kenney.

Coalers overpower Little Giants

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

A long road trip to Canton was just what the doctor ordered to get the Coal City football team on track.

They scored touchdowns on eight of nine possessions and cruised to their first win of the season, 53-6.

"After the opening series, the offense looked great. We were able to spread the ball around," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"Landon Benson did his usual thing with three touchdowns, but we also had Logan Natyshok with a couple touchdowns."

Sophomore Connor Henline made his first start at quarterback in place of Zander Meents who hurt his hand against Morris. He

hooked up with Gabe McHugh on a short screen pass and the senior did the rest, racing 67 yards for the game's opening score.

Benson added a one yard touchdown run late in the first and finished with 12 carries for 88 yards.

Midway through the second, Natyshok scored on a five yard run. He also recorded 88 rushing yards and an eight yard catch as the Coalers accounted for 262 yards on the ground.

Just before half, Henline connected with Dylan Young on a 25 yard touchdown for a 34-0 advantage. The sophomore was very efficient throwing the ball, going 10-for-15 for 175 yards.

"Getting a week's worth of practice and preparation really showed. He kind of got thrown in the fire last week." "He was poised, made good deci-

sions and it was encouraging to see just how much command he took over the offense."

Early in the third, Benson powered into the endzone from 19 yards and Natyshok recorded a 72 yard score.

The home side broke up the shut out bid with a six yard touchdown run early in the fourth. Brody Widlowski put a bow on the night with a 61 yard touchdown run.

Canton was held to just 95 yards on 26 carries and 108 yards overall. "A strong point for us is our defensive line. We had great efforts by Alec Waliczek, Emmett Easton, Cade Poyner and Donnie Ladas. They were able to get pressure on their offense and mess with their reads a bit," said Loughran.

"Guys like Mason Garner, John Keigher and

McHugh did a great job in the run game. After last week, we saw improvement in the secondary and just a good effort overall."

Offensively, Ayden Housman rushed the ball three times for 15 yards and Rey Gonzalez added a six yard carry and three receptions for seven yards. Gavin Berger recorded a 30 yard catch.

Easton was the top tackler with eight, Garner had seven and Jake Cerutti made five.

McHugh added three stops and Brock Finch, Keigher, Ladas, Poyner, Waliczek, Trace Wilson and Theo Fritz all recorded two. Also in on a stop were Widlowski, Drake Stewart, Benjamin Watson, Noah Houston, Housman, Gavin Vestal, Rowan Fitzpatrick and Bobby Mitchell.

CC golfers challenged at Blackberry Oaks

The Coal City varsity golf team fell to 2-8 overall Monday, losing to Yorkville at Blackberry Oaks 187 to 165.

Lowest scoring Coalers were Griffin Winke and Jerry Carlson with a 46. Jaxon Duke shot a 47, Culan Lindemuth shot a 48.

JV also lost to Yorkville 245 to 191. Kory Lovell led the Coalers with a score of 56. Drake Dodge followed with a 58. McKale Perino shot a 65 and Talan Vandewerken shot a 66.

The Coal City team

traveled to The Creek on Thursday to take on teams Morris and Seneca. They lost to both, Morris shooting 168, Seneca 170 and Coal City 184.

Griffin Winke led the Coalers shooting a 43. Culan Lindemuth followed not far behind with a 44. Frankie Ponio shot a 48. Jerry Carlson shot a 49.

JV also joined varsity at The Creek and lost to both teams shooting a 241. Seneca shot 228 and Morris 198.

Coaler Kory Lovell shot

a 52. Trevor Walker shot a 60. Cody Scheer shot a 63. Sawyer Bennett shot a 66.

Last Tuesday Coal City traveled to Aspen Ridge and lost to Manteno by one shot 190 to 189. Lowest scores for Coal City were Culan Lindemuth with a 46. Jaxon Duke, Jerry Carlson and Frankie Ponio each shot a 48. Griffin Winke with a 49 and Trevor Perino with a 51.

Coal City JV also lost to Manteno 261 to 237. Coaler Kory Lovell had the lowest score, 51. Cody Scheer shot

a 62. Ethan Sikora shot a 69. Austin Harding and Jack Wren each shot a 79. Jack Steinhouse shot a 80.

The Coal City girls golf team defeated Manteno last Tuesday at Aspen Ridge. Coal City shot 200 and Manteno shot a 262.

Lady Coaler Kylee Kennell had the lowest score of 42. Darcy Ness shot a 50. Dakota Clubb shot a 52. Madi Peterson shot a 56. Liv Suizberger shot a 61. Peyton Gibson shot 62.

JV gridiron Coalers shutout Canton

JV football game against Canton finished as a 42-0 win for the Coalers.

The offensive line dominated the line of scrimmage and opened up a bunch of holes for the running game.

Coal City finished with almost 200 rushing yards as a team, led by Aiden Scrogam who had 9 carries for 109 yards and 2 touchdowns. He also chipped in on defense with an interception and punt return 80 yards.

Defensively the Coalers dominated from start to finish, allowing just 21 total yards of offense and forced multiple turnovers. Tyler Phillips led the way defensively with 7 tackles.

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