

Theatre Dept. to stage fall play



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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2021

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER

Dresden saved

In the 11th hour, legislators pass energy bill to keep nuke plants open

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Monday was a good day. At about 2:20 p.m. the Illinois Senate approved an energy bill that keeps the Dresden and Byron nuclear generating stations open and stabilizes the Braidwood and LaSalle facilities for at least the next five years.

Not long after the vote was taken, Exelon reported it was preparing to refuel the two nuclear plants based on the action taken by the state legislature to enact an energy bill.

The company was set to begin shutdown procedures at Byron on Monday and Dresden in mid-November.

"For over two years, we have spent countless hours fighting to preserve our state's entire nuclear fleet. On the day that the Byron Generating Station was scheduled for decommissioning, we finally passed a bill that makes that a reality," said State Senator Sue Rezin.

The legislation was approved in the Senate by a vote of 37-17 (36 votes were needed for passage) with Rezin and Senator John Curran, of Downers Grove, being the only Republicans to support the bill's passage.

Republican Senator Brian Stewart, who represents the 45th District that includes the city of Byron and the generating station, voted against the energy bill, saying he believes the legislation as presented will raise electric rates



Courtesy photo

THE ILLINOIS LEGISLATURE has passed an energy bill that provides subsidies to keep the Dresden [pictured] and Byron nuclear generating stations open and stabilizes the Braidwood and LaSalle facilities. The 11th hour vote came on the day Byron was set to begin the decommissioning process and two months ahead of a planned closure at Dresden.

and eventually work against nuclear power. He did note that had a measure just related to preserving the nuclear plants been presented, it would have gotten his vote.

"While I don't agree with everything that is included in Senate Bill 2408, it does keep our

nuclear plants online, saves thousands of Illinois jobs, and puts our state on a realistic path to 100% clean, carbon-free energy," Rezin said.

The House approved the bill on Sept. 9 with eight Republicans including Rep. David Welter

and Rep. Jackie Haas in support.

"We achieved our shared goal of protecting local jobs, keeping our nuclear fleet online, and cementing Illinois' status as a leading energy-producing state now and into the future," Welter said following the House vote last week.

The comprehensive bill focuses on myriad of topics from wind and solar generation, transmission lines and getting the state to 100% clean energy (a run down of the bill can be found in this week's edition), but for local residents the key measure in the bill was the \$694 million in subsidies it provides to keep the nuclear plants operating.

"This is a hard-fought victory for all the hardworking men and women of Dresden who never lost hope and advocated so strongly and effectively for our nuclear plants and the vital jobs and tax base they support. I was proud to stand with them from day one," Welter said.

Exelon reports its nuclear plants put out more than 60% of Illinois' electricity consumption and approximately 90% of its clean energy comes from its six nuclear stations.

It was 12 months and two weeks ago when Exelon announced that despite being among the most efficient and reliable units in the fleet, the company planned to retire the generating stations as they faced revenue shortfalls in the hundreds of millions of dollars because of

SEE NUCLEAR, PAGE 2

Strike up the band



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

THE MARCHING COALERS took the field Friday night for the Coalers home football matchup with Wilmington. Tuba player Collin Dames [pictured above] pulled double duty during the game as a member of the band and varsity football squad. The Marching Coalers, under the direction of Hope Connelly and drum majors Shana Kelly and Chloe Peacock, have a busy couple of months ahead with participating in parades, competitions, homecoming and field shows. This year's field show, "No Day But Toady," features songs from the Pulitzer Prize winning musical, "Rent."

Coal City Police getting a free squad car

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

The Coal City Police Department is getting a new squad car and thanks to D'Orazio Ford it's coming with little to no cost for the village.

D'Orazio Ford has been supplying the police department with vehicles for several years. Its recent offer to donate a vehicle will allow the department to extend the usefulness of its fleet.

The department currently has 10 vehicles. The most recent one was acquired this year and already has 12,123 miles.

With no vehicle purchases scheduled until fiscal year 2024, police chief Chris Harseim was looking for a way to acquire a car to cut back on the number of miles officers were putting on the fleet.

Three of the 10 vehicles the department owns are two-man vehicles meaning they are assigned to both a day shift and night shift officer.

Those three two-man vehicles were acquired in 2017, 2018 and 2021. The oldest of those is nearing 100,000 miles and, according to the chief, the department typically looks to replace cars at 110,000 to 120,000 miles.

"If we keep these two-man cars rolling they will be obsolete by the time 2024 rolls around," Harseim said.

So in looking at his options, the chief reached out to D'Orazio Ford who offered up a vehicle from its inventory of police interceptor units.

Valued at about \$43,000, Harseim said the vehicle, "has pretty much everything we need, a ready for the road package that comes right from Ford."

The Wilmington dealership has the vehicle ready to go. In fact they told the chief he could take it last week.

Harseim said, "I told them I wasn't taking anything without the [village] board's approval."

The chief received the approval of trustees on Sept. 8, who expressed their appreciation to the dealer for once again helping the department serve and protect the community.

This is the second vehicle the dealership has donated to the police department. The previous donation was a 2017 Ford Taurus that serves as the chief's vehicle.

SEE SQUAD CAR, PAGE 2

Fall Fest

Music, car show, 5K and ribbon cutting part of Saturday event

STAFF REPORT

The village of Coal City will kick-off a new season with its first Fall Fest, an evening of events that include both fun and fundraising.

There is a lot on the agenda for the Saturday, Sept. 18 event that is being organized by the Coal City Park Board. This will be the first large scale event in the village since 2018.

Activities get underway with a car show along South Broadway from Campbell Memorial Park north to Oak Street—further north if necessary to accommodate vehicles. The display of vehicles from old to new will run from 4-7 p.m.

Mayor Terry Halliday and village officials invite the community to join them in Campbell Memorial Park at 4:30 p.m. for the State of the Village address to be presented by the

SEE FEST, PAGE 2

No stopping now Union Pacific crossings closer to exempt status

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

For a community that sees (and hears) an abundance of freight trains passing through on a daily basis, news that the Illinois Commerce Commission is close to ordering an exemption of at least two of the town's 11 crossings is good news.

Every day dozens of commercial vehicles are required to stop at train crossings even though a few of those lines haven't seen a locomotive pass through in a decade or more.

Village Attorney Mark Heinle reports the ICC is expected to issue an order this week that would declare the Union Pacific rail crossings on Division Street [Route 113 at Second Avenue] and Fifth Avenue as exempt.

As a result, commercial vehicles like

semi-trucks carrying hazardous materials and school buses with children will no longer have to stop and check for oncoming rail traffic on those abandoned tracks.

The village was a co-petitioner with the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) on a petition submitted in March seeking ICC approval to declare the two crossings, along with a third at Spring Road exempt.

"The UP essentially agreed they had no objection to Route 113 and Fifth Avenue. They have indicated they still sporadically use that Spring Road crossing," Heinle told village officials last week.

The UP, as the village understood when submitting its petition, no longer utilizes the Spring Road crossing as trains making deliveries into the Hoffman Transportation project stayed south of the crossing. However, it

appears the railroad may utilize the crossing for switching maneuvers.

Without definite proof the crossing is unused, Heinle said the ICC would not require the railroad to shut down a crossing it's still using.

"It's likely they will grant the two the UP is OK with and probably say not now, not yet on Spring Road until the UP is done using it," Heinle said.

If the village could prove the crossing has not been used for an extended period, Heinle said the village and IDOT could fight back on that crossing not receiving the exemption.

SEE CROSSING, PAGE 2



Nuclear

declining energy prices and market rules that allow fossil fuel plants to underbid clean resources in the PJM capacity auction. PJM is the operator of the electric grid. Dresden failed to clear the capacity auction back in 2018, and Byron sold just a small portion of its power at that time.

Since announcing its intent to shut the two generating stations down, and the potential for the closures of the Braidwood and LaSalle stations, proponents of nuclear stepped up to rally for the plants to be saved, as did those who would be most impacted by a shut down.

From a coalition within the labor community known as Climate Jobs Illinois to Friends of Dresden Nuclear Station, as well as the Fair Assessment Information Resource Committee (FAIRC-OM) and the Save Dresden group, a lot of work was done to get a bill across the finish line.

Coal City Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg said many legislators have mentioned the impact of witness slips, phone calls and personal stories shared with them about the impact of the nuclear stations.

When called upon, local officials say the community stepped up and did their part to get the message across in Springfield that nuclear is an important component to the future, not only of their communities but the state as whole.

The four plants—Dresden, Byron, Braidwood and LaSalle—support some 28,000 direct and indirect jobs and contribute more than \$38 million to the state's gross domestic product.

Dresden Station pays \$24 million annually in property taxes to seven taxing bodies—Unit 1 School District, Coal City Fire and Library districts, Grundy County, Goose Lake Township and Township Road District and Joliet Junior College. The school district's share of that is equal to half of its annual budget.

The loss of Braidwood

Station would have impacted the Reed-Custer School District, Braidwood Fire Protection District, Fossil Ridge Library, Godley Park and Godley Water District.

“Reed-Custer CUSD 255 is thrilled by the passing of the omnibus energy bill, SB2408. We praise the Illinois legislators who helped pass this historic legislation. Special thanks must be given to our local legislators, Senator Sue Rezin and Representative David Welter, both of whom worked tirelessly over the past two years to preserve the Illinois nuclear fleet,” Reed-Custer Superintendent Mark Mitchell said in a statement to the Free Press Newspapers.

Bugg also commended time and effort put in by Welter, Rezin and State Senator Patrick Joyce to ensure the measure got across the finish line.

“Senator Rezin advocated for us tremendously well, she took a stance that might not have been extremely popular in her party bus she stood up for our region and she spoke for the legislation, she has been at the table every step of the way, she has been an advocate and we are thankful to her,” Bugg said.

In his own right, Bugg played a significant role in the passage of the bill. As president of FAIRC-OM, Bugg represented the interest not only of his own district, but that of 32 district's across the state of Illinois.

With legislation passed through both chambers, the bill just needs the signature of the Governor JB Pritzker, who has stated he will sign the measure and that could come as soon as today, Wednesday, Sept. 15.

“We commend the Governor, the General Assembly, our partners at IBEW Local 15 and the coalition of labor leaders and members who worked so hard to pass this road map for rebuilding our economy and addressing the climate crisis by investing in clean energy in a way that ensures that jobs and environmental benefits are shared equitably,” said Christopher Crane, president and CEO of Exelon.

Coal City Theatre Department prepares for fall play

STAFF REPORT

For three evenings in October a cast of 23 high schoolers will present “Alice in Wonderland.”

The Coal City Theatre Department will present the play based on the children's tale penned in 1865 by Lewis Carroll.

The story follows Alice, young girl who catches a vision of clothed white rabbit with its eye on pocket watch, and in following the creature she falls down the rabbit hole to a world with a mysterious cat, a smoking caterpillar, a not so friendly queen and a hatter, to name a few.

The role of Alice will be played by Coal City High School senior McKenna Patten. Eli Fritz, a fellow senior, will appear as White Rabbit.

Also taking the stage are Landen Selio - Mad Hatter; Stephen Byers - Hare; Emma Kenney - Queen of Hearts; Shana Kelly - Duchess; Derek Carlson - Cheshire Cat; Ava Houston - Dormouse; Caleb Kuhel - Mock Turtle; Izzy Kostbade - Gryphon; Dylan



Courtesy photo

THE COAL CITY Theatre Department held a first reading of its upcoming fall play, “Alice in Wonderland.” Cast members attending the reading on Aug. 31 were [clockwise] Eli Fritz, McKenna Patten, Izzy Kostbade, Emma Kenney, Landen Selio, Derek Carlson, Collin Dames, Chloe Peacock, Ava Houston, Stephen Byers, Jacob Zickefoose, Logan Hausman, Kylee Kennell, Shana Kelly, Elaina Patten, Skyler Milinkovic, Collin Leroy, Ethan Scrogam, Dylan Ludes and Jack Micetich, director.

Ludes - Knave of Hearts; Collin Dames - King of Hearts; Skyler Milinkovic - Margaret; Jacob Zickefoose - Caterpillar, and Brecken Johnson and Elaina Patten as Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

Rounding out the cast are ensemble members Chloe Peacock, Collin Leroy, Ethan Scrogam, Melody Kinder,

Kylee Kennell, Mason Sunday, Oct. 17. Natyshok and Logan

In order to accommodate a live audience, the school's fall play will take place outdoors. This year it will be under the catalpa trees at Carbone Hill Park. The shows will be presented Thursday, Oct. 14, Saturday, Oct. 16 and

General admission tickets are \$5 per person. Those attending need to bring a lawn chair or blanket for seating. Since this is an outdoor event face masks are not required during the show. However, in accordance with state mandates, they must be worn inside village buildings.

Multi-state outbreak of salmonella hits Grundy County

The Grundy County Health Department has identified cases of salmonella in the county and they appear to be linked to the same restaurant.

As of Sept. 9 the health department had identified at least eight salmonella cases linked to La Mex, 115 E. Jefferson St. in Morris.

“This outbreak does not appear to be directly correlated to operating error or issues in this establishment, but with the food sold by their supplier,” stated a release issued by the county health department.

The business has voluntarily closed and is cooperating with public health officials during the investigation.

“We are hopeful to have answers soon about a situation that is out of our control. We are cooperating fully with the health department because we care deeply about the safety of our customers,” the restaurant posted on its Facebook page.

According to the health department, the cases are associated to food consumed at La Mex between Aug. 31 and Sept. 7.

“If you ate there on the dates mentioned and have been ill, the county is asking that you see your doctor and get tested for the pathogen,” the health department stated.

Most people infected with salmonella develop diarrhea and stomach cramps 12 to 72 hours after being exposed to the bacteria. The illness usually lasts four to seven days, and most people recover without treatment.

However, in some people the diarrhea may be so severe that an individual needs to be hospitalized. The infection could spread from the intestines into the bloodstream and then to other places in the body.

Children younger than five years and adults older than 65 years, and those with weakened immune systems are more likely to have a severe illness.

Even if one recovers completely after contracting the bacteria, there are long term health complications that could occur.

Individuals with these symptoms who ate at the restaurant are advised to see their doctor as they may be a part of the outbreak.

The health department reports the Illinois Department of Public Health is investigating the outbreak, and it was further reported the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are also involved in the inquiry.

For now the restaurant is closed until further notice.

Squad car

Along with securing the donated squad car, Harseim acquired an anonymous \$10,000 donation to help equip the new vehicle.

The cost to outfit a squad with equipment—lights, radios, cameras, radar, computer—typically adds about \$25,000 to \$30,000 to the total cost of a vehicle.

Harseim plans to pull some equipment from the two school resource officer vehicles which should save the village another \$10,000 or so.

The SRO vehicles—Ford Taurus’ acquired in 2013 and 2015—see minimal use.

“The auxiliary uses them from time to time, but they are parked at the schools and only used to transport students if needed. The only cost of those cars right now is a little bit of gas now and then,” Harseim said.

Prior to being designated SRO cars, the vehicles were patrol units and have a combined 213,000-plus miles on them.

Given the anonymous donation and utilization of existing equipment, the village's cost for the new vehicle could be between \$5,000 and \$10,000. Village Administrator Matt Fritz expects it closer to the low end and the funds will come from the police department's operations budget.

“What I am trying to do is make sure our fleet is sound until 2024. I appreciate the advancement on the squad car. A little bit of work goes a long way and I'm glad we can secure this at minimal cost to us,” the chief said.

Fest

mayor. At 5 p.m. the group will move on to South Broadway for the official ribbon cutting marking the completion of the roadway reconstruction.

After the ribbon cutting, activities will get underway on the south side of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe railroad crossing starting with a kids fun run at 5:30 p.m.

Morris Community YMCA is sponsoring the fun run for any child age 10 and under in conjunction with the Crushing Cancer 5K organized by Team Megan Bugg that steps off at 6 p.m.

All children taking part in the free fun run will receive a participation medal.

The Crushing Cancer 5K is a fundraiser to support Megan Bugg's efforts to fund childhood cancer research. Funds raised through the run will be directed to the Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute

[CCTDI].

Runners and walkers taking part in the 5K will travel south on Broadway from the 700 block, make a left turn on to Reed Road and circle at Cardinal Transport to head back into the village.

Both events will be held in the 700 block of S. Broadway with Babe's Tap serving as the headquarters. Registration for the 5K and children's fun run is open and links for on-line registration can be found on the Team Megan Bugg Facebook page.

The YMCA will also provide supervised children's activities during the 5K.

Entertainment for the evening gets underway at 6 p.m. with Cadillac Grove playing until 10 p.m. in the parking lot west of Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire.

Several businesses in that area will be open with food and beverage, a food truck is scheduled to be selling barbecue and the Coal City Lions Club will operate at beer stand

near the band. The village's waste collector Environmental Recycling and Disposal has donated single use cups for the event and other businesses are considering participating in various ways.

Earlier in the day, Geo's Pizza will hold a vendor show in the empty lot on the north side of its building in the 700 block of S. Broadway and part of that will be silent auction featuring a variety of gift baskets. Funds generated from the basket auction will go to support the CCTDI's child-

hood cancer research and an expansion of the Hope Helps all-inclusive playground in Coal City's Lions Park.

South Broadway will be closed for most of the late afternoon and evening and will reopen as events wrap up.

“I hope everybody comes out and enjoys the day, and we get some good weather,” Halliday said.

For the record it looks to be a good day as the weather man is currently predicting 86 degrees and sunny, with an after dark low of 63 degrees.

Attorney Adler gives notice of Telfer Estate

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
COUNTY OF GRUNDY
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF
GENE K. TELFER, DECEASED NO.
2021P90

PUBLICATION NOTICE AND NOTICE OF CLAIMS

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Gene K. Telfer. Letters of Office were issued on August 24, 2021 to Cynthia Adler as Independent Executor. The attorney for the Independent Representative is DANIEL J. ADLER, 1616 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Notice is given to the heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in this proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition, that an Order was entered by the Court on August 24, 2021, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act. You also have the right under 8-1 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the Court within six (6) months after admission of the will to probate.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the representative or with the Circuit Clerk's Office, Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., #30 Morris, IL 60450 or with the representative, or both, on or before the 1st day of March, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred unless otherwise permitted by law. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney of record within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

JAYNE UBSTUEN
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 1, 8, and 15, 2021.

Crossing

“For me that is a fight for another day. I want to get those other two—Fifth and definitely 113 open,” Mayor Terry Halliday said.

The village was approached by IDOT to partner with them on the petition to the ICC.

Attorney Black files Lewis estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2021 P 93

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
LANETTE M. LEWIS,
DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of LANETTE M. LEWIS. Letters of office as Independent Administrator were issued to Jayne Udstuen, 2905 W. Minooka Rd., Morris, IL 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

JAYNE UBSTUEN
INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 1, 8, and 15, 2021.

Heinle said it remained unclear what the final ICC order will look like, but is slated to be delivered this week.

It's also unclear what measures will be taken once the crossings are deemed exempt and if the tracks and signals will be removed.

The village could be responsible for road improvements if the tracks are

Attorney Black files Olson estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2021 P 99

IN THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
JOAN A. OLSON,
DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of JOAN A. OLSON. Letters of office as Co-Executors were issued to KATHLEEN OLSON and DEBORAH HURST, 945 Johnson Drive, Aurora, IL 60506, whose attorney is DONALD F. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

KATHLEEN OLSON AND
DEBORAH HURST
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS
Donald F. Black
Black & Black Lawyers
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 15, 22 and 29, 2021.

removed, and most likely will have to cover the cost of signs noting the new designation.

“The UP is probably not going to invest money in repairing the road, but the ICC technical department will dictate that and IDOT may have something to say on that as well, particularly with [Route] 113,” Heinle said.

“The best case for me is if they took the signals down. So we will wait and see what the order says and we will follow suit with that,” the mayor said.

The final order is expected to be presented to the Village Board on Sept. 22.

Time for a year-end investment review.

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

A new tradition

Coalers to host Homecoming parade

**BY ANN GILL
EDITOR**

Coal City High School student council has announced it is starting a new homecoming tradition—a parade.

Principal Chris Spencer reports the high school has been discussing the possibility of a parade for a couple of years, “and this year it looks like it will come to fruition.”

The first homecoming parade will be held Friday, Oct. 8 stepping off at 2:30 p.m. from the intersection of North Broadway and McArdle Road [North Street]. The parade will then make its way south on Broadway to Center Street—Campbell Memorial Park.

The Marching Coaler and Marching Warrior bands will participate as will various high school clubs, organizations and athletic teams. For its inaugural year participation in the parade will be limited to high school groups with the hope of expanding participation in the future.

Groups participating in the parade will have their entries judged and the winners will receive a cash prize from student council.

In order for students and their families to participate in this new event, the district will dismiss school early on Oct. 8. The first/last day schedule will be utilized for this meaning high school students will be dismissed at 1:35 p.m., as will the elementary school. Coal City Early Childhood Center will dismiss at 1:15 p.m., intermediate school at 1:25 p.m. and middle school at 1:45 p.m.

Along with viewing the parade, student council and building administration encourage businesses and home owners along the parade route to show their support with Coaler and homecoming themed decorations to boost the spirit of the activity. This year’s homecoming theme is—carnival.

“We are very excited for this and hopefully it will be the start of a new tradition,” Spencer said.

Coal City spent \$344,000 less to bus students during a pandemic year

STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 School District paid out \$1.76 million for student transportation during the 2020-2021 school year, a portion of that will be reimbursed by the state of Illinois.

At the close of each academic year the district ads up its transportation costs and submits a report to the Illinois State Board of Education [ISBE] seeking reimbursement for eligible busing expenses.

Based on the state’s formula the district expects to recoup 37% of its total costs.

The anticipated reimbursement of \$655,658.49 will cover a portion of the costs associated with regular, vocational and special education transports.

The report submitted to ISBE shows the district spent \$989,262 to transport regular education students with an allowable reimbursement of \$231,432.34.

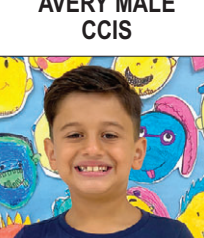
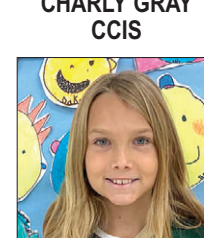
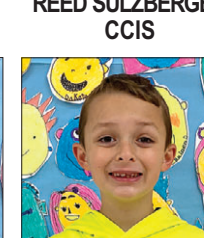
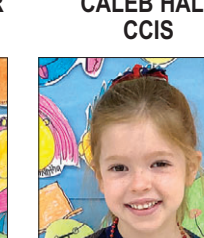
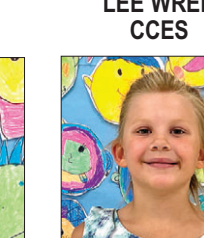
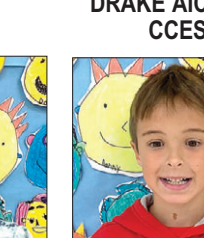
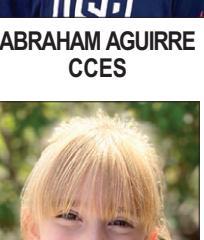
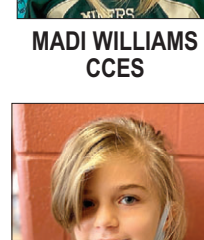
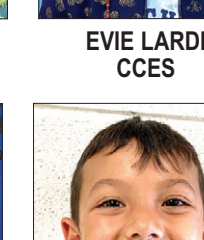
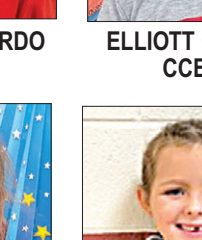
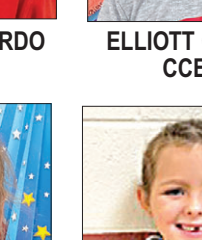
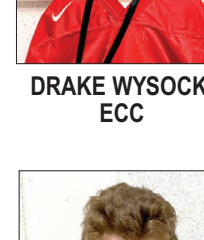
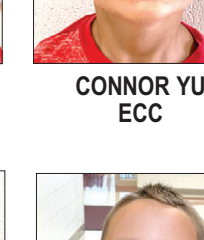
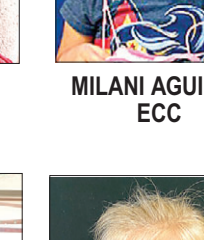
The cost of transporting vocational students to and from classes cost the school \$62,794 with an expected reimbursement of \$40,690.51.

An additional \$591,876 was spent on special education student transports with a reimbursement slated to come in at \$383,535.64

The non-reimbursable transportation costs of the district came in at \$123,017. Those costs are primarily associated with getting students to and from extra-curricular events.

The district spent about \$344,000 less in transportation costs last school year compared to its total 2019-2020 expenses. The biggest decrease in cost was related to those extra-curricular transports which was down by more than \$220,000.

Unit 1 Students of the Week

 AVERY MALE CCIS	 CHARLY GRAY CCIS	 REED SULZBERGER CCIS	 CALEB HALL CCIS	 LEE WREN CCES	 DRAKE AICHELE CCES	 ALAINA ANGELUS CCES	 TYLER SHUMAKER CCES	
 AIDEN RODRIGUEZ CCES	 ABRAHAM AGUIRRE CCES	 MADI WILLIAMS CCES	 WYLDER EPLIN CCES	 EVIE LARDI CCES	 ELLA CVITANOVICH CCES	 JACK GAGLIARDO CCES	 ELLIOTT OLSON CCES	
 JACKLYN RESZEL CCES	 PEYTON THOMPSON CCES	 KAYLEE AHLINE ECC	 ANILA BAKII ECC	 DRAKE WY SOCKI ECC	 CONNOR YU ECC	 MILANI AGUILAR ECC	 BLAKELY RILEY ECC	
 LILYANA CERNY ECC	 LOGAN ARROYO ECC	 TOBY ZIMMERMANN ECC	 NICHOLAS AGAMY ECC	 REMI AICHELE ECC				



Happy Heavenly Birthday

GRANDMA JUDY

Sept. 10

Love & Miss You,
Devun, Dylun, Arieana,
Ryleigh, Blake,
Kaitlyn, Marlie, Preston, & Grant

Coal City looking to fill seats on planning, pension boards

**BY ANN GILL
EDITOR**

Mayor Terry Halliday is looking for two people willing to serve the citizens of Coal City, one as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board and the other on the Police Pension Board.

The mayor announced last week he received a resignation from Irv DeWald after serving numerous years on the Planning and Zoning Board.

“I want to thank him, he’s been on there for quite a while and has done a lot of good work there,” Halliday said.

The seven member Planning and Zoning Board meets twice a month—first and third Mondays—to address and make recommendations to the Village Board on matters related to zoning, building and development projects, as well as research, review and assist in the drafting of new additions and amendments to the town code.

Halliday said he received a verbal resignation from Dave Greggain who was recently appointed to the Police Pension Board.

Greggain is stepping down due to his work load and job commitments. Greggain will stay a member until the mayor can find a replacement.

The pension board meets four times a year and is comprised of town residents and members of the police force.

Police chief Chris Harseim offered the mayor the names of some potential replacements.

“It’s difficult to find people to serve on these boards,” the mayor said. He asked for any volunteers to contact him.

In other matters addressed during the Sept. 8 meeting of the Coal City Village Board:

- “We have a flurry of activity in town with contractors,” said village engineer Ryan Hansen in reporting the various road improvement projects are underway.
- A chip seal contractor was in town last week and, at the time of the meeting, had completed work on Carper Road, Valerio Road and was set to improve Carbon Hill Road.
- Additionally, D Construction is working on the state motor fuel tax funded street improvements. Crews were slated to wrap up that project late last week.
- The final phase of road work will be focused on Reed Road.
- The replacement of a culvert was completed late last week, and the next part of the project will include an upgrade of the roadway and installation of a guardrail along the deep ditch east of Carbon Hill Road.

Warning level remains high for COVID in county

STAFF REPORT

The spread of the coronavirus remains high in Grundy County says the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH].

For a fourth straight week, the county is at an increased risk for the virus based on metrics associated with the number of new cases, test positivity, testing, and the percentage of intensive care unit [ICU] availability.

The county did witness a decrease in the past week—based on available data from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4—in the number of ICU admissions, according to IDPH.

As of Tuesday, the number of positive cases in the county had reached 6,868 since the virus was first detected in March 2020 with 81 deaths attributed to complications of COVID-19.

About 54% of the eligible population is fully vaccinated, or 46% of the county’s entire population. According to IDPH data 4,433 residents in the 60416 zip code have received at least one dose and 3,948 residents are fully vaccinated.

Vaccination efforts continue through the Grundy County Health Department and local retail pharmacies. Appointments for the Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine are available each week by appointment through the health department and can be scheduled by calling 815-941-3404.

Cases of COVID-19 remain low among school age kids

STAFF REPORT

Since the first day of student attendance the Unit 1 School District has tracked all positive student and staff COVID cases, and the numbers are low.

In his weekly letter to parents and guardians, Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg shared the district’s COVID mitigations continue to keep kids in school.

“Our internal COVID-positive data are below what the rest of Grundy County is experiencing, which hopefully shows that our health and safety practices are minimizing risks for students and staff,” Bugg said.

As of Sept. 10 the district had eight student cases—half of them among high school students while the remaining cases involve students at the early childhood center, elementary and intermediate schools. As for staff cases, the superintendent reported one positive case has been identified involving a high school staff member.

In the past week the average number of students in quarantine due to close contact on a daily bases has ranged from three to 17.

“The positive cases we are experiencing are being contracted outside of school and are usually multiple children from the same household,” Bugg said.

The district continues to ask parents and guardians to symptom check their child each morning before school and to keep them home if they experience any COVID-related symptoms.

Gardner man killed in motorcycle crash

A motorcycle crash claimed the life of a Gardner man early Sunday morning in unincorporated Grundy County.

Tyler E. O’Neill, 32, was pronounced dead at the scene of the crash at 9 a.m. on Sept. 12.

The motorcycle was discovered in a grassy area off Berta Road north of Braceville Road.

Preliminary investigation appears the driver was approaching a curve in the road when he failed to negotiate the curve and went through a ditch and into a large grass area on the westside of the roadway.

The accident is under investigation by the offices of the Grundy County Coroner and Sheriff.

Services for O’Neill are under the direction of Hager Memorial Home in Dwight

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Services for O’Neill are under the direction of Hager Memorial Home in Dwight

Heritage Day canceled this year

Due to a lack of vendor participation, the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman’s Club has announced its Heritage Day festival has been canceled for this year.

The club made the announcement on Friday, Sept. 10 saying the amount of participation was not enough to successfully host the event on Oct. 2.

For 35 years, club members hosted an annual fall event centered around a craft show. For the first 33 years it was Octoberfest in downtown Coal City, but when the village began its reconstruction of South Broadway the festival was moved to Carbon Hill Park and it got its new name—Heritage Day.

In making its announcement, the club offered its thanks to the community for its support over the years.

Happy Heavenly Birthday

Gary Lissy, Jr.

Sept. 17

HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN

Birthday wishes, sent to Heaven from your family below
We miss and love you dearly and we wanted you to know.

Your Birthday’s not forgotten and your memory lives on
We celebrate the life you had even though you’ve gone.

If we were given just one wish one that would come true
We’d wish you back beside us to spend this day with you.

We will always love and miss you and will often shed a tear
Especially on your special day year after year.



Love You Forever &
Miss You Always,
Ashleigh, Billy, Devun,
Dylun, Arieana, Aimee,
Billy, Ryleigh, Blake,
Anthony, Kristin, Kaitlyn,
Marlie, Preston, Grant,
Dad, Michelle and John

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

Time to stand together

SHADOW LAKES—Comment to Comment...People wake up! This is no longer Trump vs. Biden, Republican vs. Democrat, left vs. right, mask vs. unmask, vaccinated vs. unvaccinated. This is us fighting amongst each other and allowing our government to cause division. It is about the American people watching as our nation is destroyed. This is about our soldiers getting killed! This is our leaders not standing behind our soldiers. This is our leaders being cowards and taking orders from the Taliban. This is heartbreaking. We need to stand together. Stand firm, and fight for our nation. America is stronger together. Always, Margot Lane

About the absurd

WILMINGTON—The position of anti-choice yet pro-death describes the absurdity of Texas' Governor Abbott especially considering his anti-mask mandates. Abbott also opposes common sense by allowing anybody and everybody in Texas to purchase a gun without proper training in the use of a deadly weapon. Health care in Texas is nearly the worst in the nation and Texas' horrible energy system forced many people to burn their furniture in order to stay warm during the winter of 2020. Recently Abbott signed unconstitutional legislation which not only makes it more difficult for people to vote, which is un-American, but also unleashes vigilantes against women who get an abortion as well as against those who help the women in any way regardless of rape and incest. Abbott will find that the courts will be messing with Texas in short order. Irene D.

The bribery bailout

MORRIS—This is plain out bribery. So ComEd wants \$800 million to keep Byron and Dresden open. This is bribery. Our electric rates will go up, for property tax owners about \$3.50 to \$4.00 a month. Why don't the taxpayers in Illinois get a property tax break? We cannot get a property tax break but we can go give all these big companies money and tax incentives to stay in the state. The property tax owners in Illinois should stop paying their property taxes. Maybe then these school board members would stop giving out these big pay raises and raising property taxes. I don't care if the nuclear plants shut down, let them shut down. Like I said before this is plain bribery. Do not vote for the bailout for Dresden and Byron.

The violent Left

MORRIS—My name is Jack L. I'm watching Fox news where a leftist mob attacks Larry Elder who is a Conservative news host possibly running for governor. Yes he was somewhat rebel but BLM and the leftist rebels have attacked more people in this country than QAnon ever did. Why is it leftist are so violent when rightist are not. Can anybody out there answer me? I would love to hear your answer, because the only answer you can give is you want socialism in this country. Thank you.

Let's ride

WILMINGTON—Is anybody going to the capitol on the 18th? I might need a ride.

They're irrelevant

WILMINGTON—A frequent caller referenced the Ten Commandments and I'd like to remind the readers unless you are a Jew or a Christian the Commandments are irrelevant. Or to quote a famous pirate movie "they are more like guidelines." Glad I could clear that up, Benny Lane.

Please explain

WILMINGTON—Hi, Penny Lane here and I'd like to address the caller who said I had indirectly insulted them. Please call back and explain what I said that set you off. Thanks for your compliment on my use of words. I take pride in my vocabulary and writing and I got straight A's in my college English class. It's nice to be noticed. As far as the rest of your sound-off regarding voting and not voting, I got lost in the rambling incoherent gibberish. So maybe you could explain that too. Again, Penny Lane, Wilmington.

The dam meeting

WILMINGTON—Calling about the recent meeting at city hall regarding the removal or keeping of the dam. It's clear to see that our newly elected mayor is not the captain of the ship when IDNR personnel had to get control of the meeting with people speaking out of turn. I would think that would be the charge of the mayor and not a guest speaker. Thank you.

Segregate our kids

WILMINGTON—To ease parent concerns, I suggest we bring segregation back into the schools. Masked kids will learn together in one section of the school. Unmasked kids will learn

together in another part of the school. At no time will these two groups interact with each other. Happy now??

Ungrateful couch warriors

MORRIS—There was an article in the sound-off column on Sept. 1, 2021 about someone that wanted to know if Dan Hill was drafted or enlisted in the US army. And no matter what the answer, there would be something nasty said. So did the caller that wanted the answer ever serve in any branch of the military? It does not matter if he was drafted or enlisted he served in a war zone to protect your freedom and what have you couch potato warriors ever done except to degrade the military and the veterans ever since the Vietnam war. Now claiming that the goal of the military was to kill people in their own country, which means that you are saying the veterans and all military personnel are hired guns to kill people in the USA for money. You cancel culture people are a disgrace to humanity and you have about as many brains as an empty tea bag. You are an insult to this nation with all the bigotry and lack of common sense and you seem to some very ungrateful people about your life in America. So why do you move to Afghanistan and see how much freedom you will have under the Taliban rule.

His son's rosary

WILMINGTON—President Joe Biden wears his dead son Beau's rosary around his wrist next to his watch. Right wing parrots claim he was checking his watch at the Dover Airbase when he was actually praying for the dead Marines. And remember Trump called dead soldiers suckers and losers.

Ignoring the shame

WILMINGTON—The problem with Republicans is there is no shaming them.

Pushing their ideas

COAL CITY—The cancel culture people have tried to push some of the most idiotic ideas on people that have common-sense and the ability to see that the cancel culture people appeared to have the mind of a floating cloud that has no substance to hold a common-sense thought while whatever blows in the wind drifts right through their brains and we could classify them as air heads. Without the ability to realize the truth but instead they accept the propaganda of the communistic agenda instead of being an independent thinking human being that is capable of being able to enjoy freedom instead of having our government employees dictating how another human being should live their life. They continue to destroy the sovereignty of the USA with no objections by the airheads.

Mar-A-Lago North

WILMINGTON—Are Democrats and liberals allowed to live in Mar-A-Lago North, I mean the gated community of Shadow Lakes?

Singling out golf cats

WILMINGTON—I read in the Free Press this past week that the topic of golf carts made the paper again. So I ask this question again. Are motorized bicycles and motorized skateboards allowed to cross 53 legally? For that matter, how is riding a regular bicycle or walking across 53 safer? I would like clarification on this topic as it seems golf carts and ATVs are being singled out. The Free Press article made reference that the only legal intersection is at Kahler Road and 102. I disagree. There is one more legal intersection but I'm sure the city would argue this. I contend there is another legal intersection at 53 and Water Street Lights. By looking at a street sign traveling north on 102, 102 ends at the intersection of Jefferson Street. So a golf cart could legally cross 53 traveling south and take a left hand turn into the Free Press alley, the Grundy Bank parking lot, or at Jefferson Street and be legal. Most everyone assumes 102 ends at 53 but, again, that's not what the sign says. Is this picky? Of course it is but there are more serious issues in town than a golf cart crossing 53. Personally, I would love the state to put in a 4-way stop sign somewhere near the Launching Pad or anywhere before the 4-way stoplights if nothing more than to slow traffic down a bit. I think the Wilmington police have done a fantastic job not ticketing every violator with a golf cart and I thank them for their understanding.

Signs, signs, signs

WILMINGTON—Please take down those old political signs and enforce the current sign ordinances. Just like the house with grass a foot high, nobody wants it in their neighborhood. Place your signs up a few months then down after an election. Most of us are sick of politics. Let's not see anymore signs until April Fools.

Garage sale lady

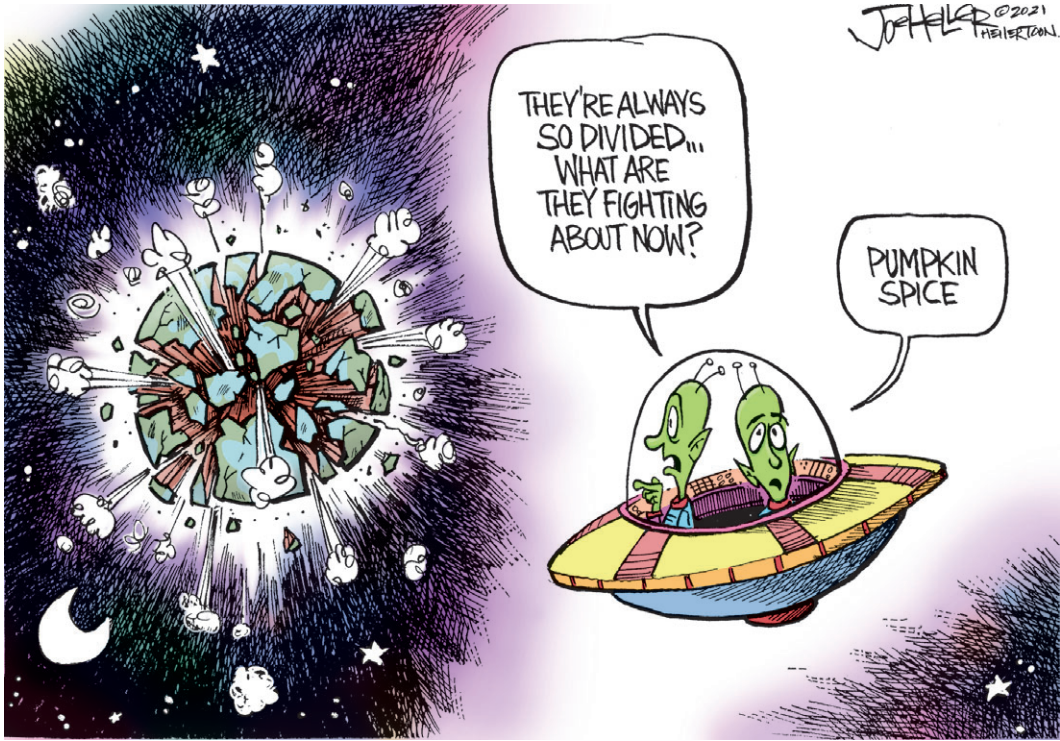
Love the dam

WILMINGTON—We are the Island city. If it wasn't for the lay of the land, Wilmington would not exist as we know it today. This is the treasure our great-great grandfathers and great-great-grandmothers shared with the public for over 150 years. It is so sad to think that a handful of people can wipe out our proud town's rich history with a stroke of a pen or a yes vote. Why keep our dam? Our town makes thousands of dollars off visitors. Has anyone conducted a study on Yorkville's revenues years prior to dam removal and after? They were a big fishing town, but not no more. Then Asian carp will easily assess our upper Kankakee River with abundant numbers. Over the last 10 years several Asian carp have been caught by Custer Park even with the dam intact. Where are the Ducks Unlimited to protect our hunting grounds. The dam has been a wildlife viewing area

paper makes every effort to forward unpublished comments to the parties to whom they are directed.

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

To voice your opinion, please go to



and a great food source for many generations. Let's not change that. DNR will not remove the dam with citizen opposing the removal. Persist.

Take your pick

COAL CITY—We are ordered to obey speed limits on highways. We are ordered to carry vehicle insurance. We are ordered to smoke outdoors in public. We are ordered to prevent our sewage from running onto our neighbor's property. Thank heavens for these laws which protect us. The same way vaccines have been protecting us since George Washington ordered smallpox vaccinations for his troops during the Revolutionary War. If not for vaccines, we might still be under British rule and there would be no USA. The point is, get vaccinated and slap a mask over your face. Or would you prefer 20 years of quarantine that typhoid Mary was forced to endure a hundred years ago because she refused to wash her hands after using the toilet? Take your pick. Mark

Barefoot and pregnant

BRAIDWOOD—When Texas Governor Abbot was asked why he denies abortions to rape victims, he dodged the question with some real jaw-droppers. He said rape is illegal in Texas and will be stamped out entirely. Really? Does Abbott know that every 68 seconds a rape occurs in America and Texas usually has more rapes annually than any other state? All I can say is, if Abbott believes rape can be eliminated entirely in Texas, he must be smoking some strange and powerful stuff. And if Abbot thinks it's so easy to stop all rape, why hasn't he tried to stop it already? Records show that Texas law enforcement has an excess of unused rape kits and those that are being used and processed result in few convictions. Maybe it's because Texas is a land of macho gun-slingers where the preferred role for women is to be barefoot and pregnant. Ann S.

Gates of hell

BRAIDWOOD—When South Carolina Governor McMaster says he will fight the vaccine mandate "to the gates of hell," maybe that's where he will end up. How many Americans have died due to Covid? So far 660,000 overall and lately about a thousand per day. If Governor McMaster fights the vaccines, he will be responsible for thousands of deaths. Why would he want people to die and their families to grieve? He should strive to be his brother's keeper both as a Christian and as a governor. Perhaps McMaster is a bad governor and not a true Christian. The gates of hell may be beckoning for Governor McMaster of South Carolina. R.K.

Here's my vote

WILMINGTON—If such a thing really existed I would vote for Democrat Communist over any Republican with the exception of Liz Cheney and Adam Kinzinger.

Asian carp invasion

WILMINGTON—Concerning the removal of the dam. A wise person once said if we remove the dam we may be the Asian Carp capitol of the world. Number 2: I thought the state of Illinois was short on money. Number 3: If you can't read, don't go by it.

It's still a liability

WILMINGTON—Regarding the dam meeting, I thought it was very interesting and informative. I also thought more interesting was the majority of people that I knew were there don't even live in the city limits. They live north of the dam. Now to me, if you don't have any skin in the game such as property taxes and liability for the dam it's easy to say to keep it. I don't think those people should have a say in the decision on a dam that they don't live by. If they want to be annexed into the city and be liable for the cost of any future lawsuits because of that which is coming then get in the game. Sooner or later someone is going to go over the dam again floating down, God forbid. Put a special taxing district for along the river north of the dam and pay for the liability insurance the city can't get. In the city of Chicago if the police break into the wrong apartment and the plaintiff is given \$4-\$5 million. What do you think is going to happen if someone goes over the dam and down the river and God forbid gets killed and you have the most dangerous dam known in the state of Illinois and you didn't do a thing about it? Give the dam to the state. Get rid of the liability. The river is not going to dry up. It's flow is safe. Maybe the people upstream won't like it but it's still the flow.

www.freepressnewspapers.com, --> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. If mailing comments please direct them to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.

Their land taken away

SHADOW LAKES—I watch a lot of American history and read about it and one thing, even though I fought in Vietnam, is why doesn't this country stick their nose in other people's business? A prime example is the American Indian. This was the American Indian's land and we came here and took it from them. Why did we destroy them when they were only defending their own land? Is that any different than us defending our land and governments from Russia or China? No, it's not. The American Indian owned this land and I am sorry to say that the European, African and Asian took that land from them.

Dan Hill

\$85 billion left behind

Thank President Biden and the generals. The U.S. left behind \$85 billion of taxpayer money in planes, Humvees, guns, special equipment in Afghanistan after we pulled out of the country. Now the enemy has it all for free to use against us. What a disaster. We will never know the true number of Afghans who helped Americans during the 20-year war and were left behind and probably will die.

SS drying up

I read the Social Security Trust Fund benefits decline 24% unless Congress intervenes by 2033. That's 12 short years away. Far too many are living far too long. When the Social Security Fund was set up most elderly died between 65-70 years old. Now, with the huge baby boomers class going into retirement the fund has problems.

The step down option

WILMINGTON—I attended the meeting to listen to the people of Wilmington talk about the dam removal. It was interesting and somewhat informative. One thing I find interesting is that the Braidwood Nuke Plant was not there to let us know their future plan. Will they continue and take the rest of the water? They, too, depend on the river for their cooling process because they came to Wilmington at some point and said "We will help the Kankakee River Water. It will be cleaner which will help vegetation grow for the fish." Tell that to my neighbors in Resthaven who now have an island of sludge in front of their homes. Yes, there is more vegetation and if you take a ride you will see that is closing up the river banks. That is every day, not on drought summer days. They did not help our waterway. The sludge in front of the Mill Race looks terrible. This makes our city look terrible. This is 2021, the business people of Wilmington are trying hard to make our city look nice since we also have Route 66 Corridor coming through. Wilmington is sitting on a gold mine but not using the resources we have been blessed with. So now the government is coming back to you Wilmington and saying "We will help you" by paying the entire price of taking out the dam. They, too, will destroy this beautiful waterway. The Kankakee River was a creek and still is in Indiana. The Army Corps of Engineers came and built this dam to help the city of Wilmington. Do you really want just a trickle of water going through our town? The design was done so many years ago. Now, with the new knowledge and technology, which the step down option is so much safer than the circular, pull back motion that we now have. I also found interesting that the people that live on the river have no say in this decision. But we can vote and remove the people that will be making this decision on the basis of free money and from the fear of lawsuits from families that were told to stay away from the dam. Please consider the step down option so we can keep the dam and the river, yet keep our families and friends safe. Help our business people and the homes that are affected get rid of that sludge. I say we don't need their help. Our city council will do the right thing. Keep people out of the water at the dam area. Remember anybody can drown, anywhere. Thanks for listening.

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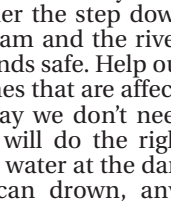
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Deanna McDowell

860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
815-458-3300

3,800-mile journey includes local stops in book

STAFF REPORT

The true tale of a voyage that broke a man down and built him back up, with the help of one special horse is being told in the newly released book "On the Hoof."

At 37, Jesse McNeil—at times carpenter, commercial fisherman, dabbler in real estate—decided to buy an untrained horse, make himself into a horseman, and ride all the way across the United States, from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.

His 3,800-mile route passed through Grundy and Will Counties including a stop in Wilmington where he met barber Bert Niehls who offered his yard for the horse to graze and a haircut and shave.

A fiercely independent traveler, McNeil had navigated previous coast-to-coast trips solo journeys by moped, bicycle, and small airplane. This time, however, he had a partner: a five-year-old Tennessee Walking Horse named Pepper.

An inexperienced horseman with an equally inexperienced mount, McNeil would quickly discover the immense challenges of his new undertaking. Over the course of eight months and 14 states, beginning in Oregon and ending on a beach in New Hampshire, he would be tested many times over as he learned not only what it took to keep Pepper



File photo
THEY STAYED in Wilmington eight years ago and now Jesse Alex McNeil has written a book about his 3,800-mile journey across the U.S. with his horse Pepper. The author is pictured taking a break in the yard owned by Bert and Charlene Niehls on South Kankakee Street.

Gas prices fall as demand weakens

Illinois gas prices have fallen 5.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Gas prices in Illinois are 7.2 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand \$1.01/g higher than a year ago.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.55/g while the most expensive is \$3.89/g, a difference of \$1.34/g.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 1.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.15/g. The national average is down 2.8 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 97.7 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Sagging U.S. gasoline demand along with continued recovery after Hurricane Ida have helped gas prices edge slightly lower in most

states from where they were a week ago. But with Tropical Storm Nicholas threatening another key area of refineries in Houston with significant rain, we could see the decline in prices hit the pause button," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

"While Nicholas would appear to be a minor storm, we could see a deluge of water - the same issue that caused some significant damage in Ida's wake to refineries in Louisiana. Combined with the earlier storm, Nicholas could make things more challenging.

"However, as gasoline demand has now fallen for four straight weeks, there is more breathing room even if some capacity does temporarily go offline. It's too early to tell, clearly, but motorists should be aware."

Who has the most loyal fans driving the roads of Illinois?

You may be surprised at which professional sports team has the most loyal fans when it comes to cruising the roads of Illinois.

Not the Chicago Cubs.
Not the Chicago Bears.

Try the Chicago White Sox
White Sox fans have purchased the most license plates in the sports team series offered through the Illinois Secretary of State's office.

More than 71,000 sports team license plates have been purchased since its inception in 2002, raising more than \$13 million for Illinois public schools.

"I am thrilled to report that this program has generated \$13,011,300 million for our public schools throughout Illinois. It is a win, win situation for our students, teachers and sports fans," commented Secretary of State Jesse White.

The White Sox plate leads all others with 21,890 sold. Second most popular is the Chicago Blackhawks plate with 19,848. Chicago Cubs fan plates sold is at 13,970, followed by the Chicago Bears: 8,620; St. Louis Cardinals: 3,555; and Chicago Bulls: 3,416.

The public may order the Sports Team Series license plates by visiting www.ilsos.gov. Fans may order random number, personalized or vanity plates. It will take approximately six weeks to receive license plates in the mail after ordering. Each license plate sale and renewal raises \$25 for the Professional Sports Teams Education Fund and is earmarked for the Common School Fund, which supports public schools throughout Illinois.

The cost to purchase a

random number sports plate for a currently titled vehicle with valid Illinois registration will be \$69. Pricing varies for vanity and personalized license plates.

White noted that the St. Louis Cardinals Illinois license plates purchases have already surpassed the number of St. Louis Cardinals specialty plates sold in the state of Missouri. There are 1,214 St. Louis Cardinal license plates registered in the state of Missouri, according to the Missouri Department of Revenue.

"The Cardinals have built a strong legacy in the Metro East and throughout Illinois," said White. "Fans have expressed their pride for the Missouri team here in our great state, and the sales of these license plates benefits Illinois public schools."

safe and healthy, but the true value of qualities that he had once easily dismissed: patience and companionship.

The generosity of strangers, from helpful ranchers and storekeepers to suburban families, shaped the pair's journey east. And while at some points the miles didn't unfold as Jesse hoped, others yielded unexpected events that changed his perspective—and quite possibly, his future.

Written with honesty, grit, and grace, "On the Hoof" captures an arduous voyage that broke a man down and built him back up, with the help of one special horse.

After years crafting wood as a carpenter, he's now shaped words into his first book, "On the Hoof, Pacific to Atlantic," chronicling his journey across the country with Pepper.

The author and Pepper live in the San Juan Islands of Washington State where they continue to explore hills and fields and daydream of new journeys ahead.

The book is available now from Trafalgar Square Books.

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Meet the firefighters, paramedics & EMTs
Take a tour of "Tanzilla"

- Child passenger safety seat inspection 11 am to 1 pm
- Automobile extrication demo at 1 pm
- Will County Dept. of Substance Abuse Rapid Response
- Smoke detector sign-up for Custer Park residents
- Wilmington ESDA drone and search & rescue dogs

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Serve up this favorite to game day guests

The 2021 NFL season has begun! This season fans are back in the stands, and possibly in your living room as well.

What are you serving at your game day gathering? Game day cocktails are always nice, but someone always ends up playing bartender all day instead of spending quality time with friends. One solution to this problem is to prepare large batches of cocktails to be served in a punch bowl, and in recent years the most popular game day punch is the Moscow Mule Punch.

There are tons of options when it comes to punches and batched cocktails, why the Moscow Mule? The Mule is one of the best "all around" cocktails, in every sense.

It is not overly heavy like a Martini or Manhattan, but it has more kick than a Mimosa. It is a popular afternoon drink which is when most football games or tailgate parties take place, and the Moscow Mule has fans from sea to shining sea.

The signature flavor of the Mule is easily replicated in a large batch, which is difficult to accomplish with other cocktails. Even with a bit of dilution from melting ice in a punch bowl, the Mule still maintains its classic flavor profile of ginger and lime.

The Moscow Mule Punch is identical to the Moscow Mule cocktail, but with a twist. Mint leaves are a commonly used garnish for a single-serve Moscow Mule, but in the punch adaptation mint is used in the actual drink. I realize that a cup of mint leaves (plus more for garnish) is quite a lot of mint, but it's absolutely worth it. The crisp, clean mint flavor is a perfect complement to the ginger and lime.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

As is the case with nearly all mixology applications, a sweet mint is the best option when mixing drinks. Spearmint is not ideal for use in cocktails as the menthol flavor will overpower nearly any drink.

The shopping list for the game day Moscow Mule Punch is straightforward, with one caveat. When it comes to ginger beer, not all is created equal. There is "regular" ginger beer, and diet or "light" ginger beer. In almost every case, the Moscow Mules served in commercial bars use the traditional ginger beer unless otherwise specified.

If you want your home-made Moscow Mules to taste like the Mules from your favorite bar, use the standard ginger beer. The light ginger beer maintains a ginger flavor in the same way that Diet Coke tastes like cola, but to many fans of the Moscow Mule the lighter or diet ginger beer tastes a bit watered down.

That's not to say there is not a wonderful diet ginger beer out there. If you have a favorite ginger beer, use it, but know that the ginger beer is the "make or break" ingredient. If you do not have a ginger beer preference, search for Fever Tree, Goslings, Reeds, or Cock'n Bull.

Don't break the bank on a premium vodka for any large batch cocktail or punch, stick with the standard Smirnoff, Tito's, Svedka, or Ketel One.

Fresh is always best when it comes to the mint and lime, if you have a juicer, you should be able to produce a cup of fresh lime juice with ease. A typical lime will yield nearly 1 oz. of juice, add a few extra to the shopping list for garnish. If you have mint in your herb garden, here's your chance to put it to good use.



THE MOSCOW MULE is a popular game day drink when it's served from a punch bowl into copper mugs.

When it comes to serving, presentation matters! Have some fun with this one. Moscow Mules are traditionally served in copper mugs, pick up a dozen or so wherever you can find them. Many local supermarkets and spirits retailers are carrying Mule mugs, they are also available online. If you have a restaurant supply store nearby, you may be able to pick up a box of mugs at a reasonable price.

A standard punch bowl and ladle will work, make sure the bowl has enough volume to hold the recipe below.

Next to your punch bowl, arrange your mugs. You know, in such a way that your guests will snap a pic and post to their social media. Also, set out two smaller bowls with the garnishes of mint and lime wheels. An ice bucket of extra bar ice is also helpful for the designated driver's ginger beer on ice. Ginger beer, by the way, is non-alcoholic.

One note on keeping your sliced lime garnishes fresh:

always keep your sliced limes in a cup or bowl of club soda. This will keep them from drying out and will not change the flavor or nose of the lime.

Looks like the Bears are starting the 2021 campaign 0-1. They will have a chance to get back in the "W" column next week vs. Cincinnati at Soldier Field, noon kick on Sunday.

Moscow Mule Punch is built in a punch bowl, served in copper Mule mugs.

Combine in punch bowl:
4 cups of ice
3 cups of vodka
4 cups of ginger beer
1 cup of fresh lime juice
1 cup of mint leaves (optional)

2 limes, sliced into wheels
Combine ingredients in bowl, ladle into copper Mule mugs

Garnish with lime wheels and mint sprigs.

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Midewin Tallgrass Prairie announces hunting season updates, safety reminders

The USDA Forest Service's Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie announces updates and safety reminders for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons.

There are separate times identified based on the type of hunt. Dates for 2021-2022 hunting at Midewin NTP are as follows:

- Deer Archery Oct. 1, 2021 through Jan. 16, 2022
- Shotgun Nov. 19-22, 2021
- Shotgun Dec. 2-5, 2021
- Muzzleloader Dec. 10-12, 2021

Licenses for shotgun and muzzleloader hunting are awarded through the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (I-DNR) lottery system.

The I-DNR lottery is already complete for the 2021-2022 hunting seasons.

Hunting at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie is available on all lands open to the public with some exceptions.

Midewin NTP is managed by the USDA Forest Service and is a federal facility. State hunting laws as outlined in the Illinois Digest of Hunting and Trapping Regulations are enforced at Midewin NTP with the additions specified in the Special Hunt Area Rules.

Additional rules have been developed for all hunting at Midewin NTP consistent with USDA-FS policies and guidelines for recreation, public access and use. All of these conditions combine to provide a unique recreational experience at Midewin NTP for all visitors.

Hunters can go directly to trailheads and sign in near where they park. Additionally, there is no longer an introductory video. This updated process was introduced in 2019 and will remain in place at Midewin NTP for forthcoming hunting seasons until further notice.

As in previous years, each trailhead serves as a sign-in location specific to a hunting area at Midewin NTP. Now, hunters can go directly to a

trailhead parking area and sign in at the seedbed kiosk at the River Road Trailhead. ("P3" - River Road & Boathouse Road); at the Explosives Road Trailhead ("P5" - IL State Route 53 & Explosives Road); at the Iron Bridge Trailhead (IL State Route 53, just south of Hoff Road); and at the Hoff Road Trailhead (Hoff Road & Chicago Road). Please reference the trail map: https://www.fs.usda.gov/Interpret/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd551074.pdf.

Hunters must be at least 150 yards away from parking lots and trails while hunting.

Safety for Hunters

- Check weather reports before your visit.
- Tell someone where you will be hunting and when you will return.
- Be familiar with the area.
- Dress properly and be prepared for the worst possible conditions.
- Check hunting equipment before and after each outing and maintain it properly. Familiarize yourself with its operation before using it in the field.
- Carry a spare set of dry clothing. Use layering techniques to prevent moisture while retaining body warmth. Always bring rain gear.
- Carry a first aid kit.
- Clearly identify your tar-

get before shooting.

- Put hunting plans in writing (dates, times, location and expected time of return).

- Be alert when hunting near developed areas and trails.

- Wear hunter orange or another highly visible color.

Safety for Non-hunters

- Make yourself more visible: Wear colors that stand out, like red or orange, and avoid white, blacks, browns, earth-toned greens and animal-colored clothing.

- Don't forget to protect "Fido"; consider bright colors for dogs.

- Make noise. Whistle, sing or carry on a conversation as you walk to alert hunters to your presence.

- Hunters should be listening for any sounds of animal movement.

- Be courteous. Once a hunter is aware of your presence, don't make unnecessary noise to disturb wildlife. Avoid confrontations.

- Make yourself known. If you do hear shooting, raise your voice and let hunters know that you are in the vicinity.

- Know when hunting seasons are. Continue to hike, but learn about where and when hunting is taking place.



DEER ARCHERY HUNTERS can harvest deer at Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie near Wilmington. Dates for hunting at Midewin have been established and hunters can go directly to trailhead parking area to sign in when they hunt.



Forest Preserve hosts Pelican Watch

Learn all about the pelicans that gather in Will County during fall migration from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center. Guided hikes and pelican presentations will be offered from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Pelican presentations are scheduled for noon-12:30 p.m. and 1-1:30 p.m. Lil Deb's Mobile Eats will be serving food from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Register online by Sept. 24 for the guided hikes and presentations or call 815-722-9470.

Junk-in-the-trunk, farmers market vendors wanted

The Braidwood Lions Club will be holding their final Junk-In-The-Trunk & Farmers Market of the year on Sunday, Sept. 19 from noon to 6 p.m. in the north end of the Braidwood City Park.

Farmers, vendors, crafters, bakers and more are invited to participate with a 15ft x 15ft space costing just \$10. Pre-registration is not

mandatory but is highly encouraged.

To pre-register, please email marykaminsky55@gmail.com or call (815) 791-8093. There will be other family activities taking place throughout the park during the day. More information is available by visiting www.braidwoodlionsclub.org

Owning your age seminar offered

Are you living large or just treading water? As a wise man once said, "To know how to grow old is the masterwork of wisdom and one of the most difficult chapters in the great art of living."

The senior years can be very challenging, even daunting. The First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington is offering a four-part seminar to explore these challenges and

suggest ways of meeting them.

The meetings will be in the Fellowship Room of the First Presbyterian Church of Wilmington at Van Buren and Kankakee streets.

Beginning Sunday, Sept. 12, the seminar will start at 9:30 a.m. and last 45 minutes. All are welcome. There is no fee and reservations are not required.

Illinois Valley Area of NA to host meetings

The Illinois Valley Area of Narcotics Anonymous holds meetings

Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for anyone who needs help coping with drug abuse.

On Tuesdays, "Fight for life" meeting can be found in Coal City at the United Methodist Church on 6805 E. McArdle Rd., from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

On Wednesdays, "Working the steps" meeting is in Channahon at the United Methodist Church, on 24751 W. Eames St. The meeting is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Saturday's meeting is "Making amends" and will be located at the United Methodist Church in Coal City. Meeting times are 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Planning a community event?
Invited the public by placing an ad here.
Call 815-476-7966

Class of 1961 reunion

After skipping a year due to the pandemic, the Wilmington High class of 1961 is getting together for a 60th-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 1, at Wilmington's South Island pavilion.

The city rents the pavilion from noon to dusk, so plan to eat around 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 per person. There will be meat provided and everyone is asked to bring a dish to share. Anyone with questions can call Sharon at (815)-861-6534.

Grace Lutheran starts suicide support group

Grace Lutheran Church is now holding a suicide support group on the second Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the church at 907 Luther Dr., in Wilmington. The next meeting will be on Oct. 12.

If you have lost a family member or friend to suicide, please come and join us as a way to heal. Bring a picture of your loved one with you.

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Marley

PLEASE DO NOT chase,
call, or whistle as this may
cause her to run in fear and
into danger. **If sighted, please**
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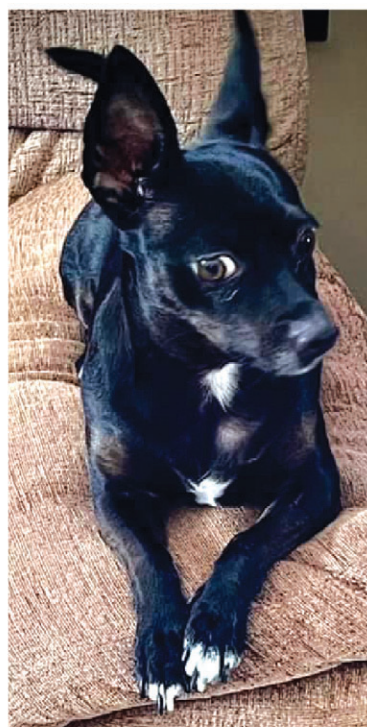
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VILLAGE OF COAL CITY'S

FALL FEST

SEPT. 18 4-10 PM
BROADWAY STREET IN DOWNTOWN
COAL CITY

1-7 PM CRAFT VENDOR SHOW & RAFFLE IN LOT NEXT TO GEO'S
4-7 PM CAR SHOW ON BROADWAY
4:30 PM MAYOR HALLIDAY'S STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS AT CAMPBELL MEMORIAL PARK
5 PM RIBBON CUTTING WITH GRUNDY CHAMBER FOR S. BROADWAY
5:30 PM MORRIS YMCA KIDS FUN RUN FOR AGES 10 & UNDER AT BABE'S TAP
6 PM CRUSH CHILDHOOD CANCER 5K AT BABE'S TAP
6-10 PM CADILLAC GROOVE BAND AT BOB'S ADVANCED AUTO LOT ON BROADWAY
FOOD TRUCKS & BEER AVAILABLE

OBITUARIES

Timothy J. Hanley



MORRIS—Timothy J. Hanley, 40, of Morris, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021.

Born June 19, 1981 in Joliet, Timothy James was the son of Kenneth James and Mary Carroll (Davidson) Hanley, of Morris. He was raised in Morris; graduated from Morris High School with the class of 1999 and went on to serve in the United States Army.

Tim was most recently employed with Costco until his declining health forced him to leave. In years past he took pleasure in dirt biking and four wheeling, however music was always his passion. Tim was a self-taught musician, loved to play the guitar, and played in a band. He enjoyed movies and will most be remembered for the love he had for his daughter, who was the drive and inspiration, in which he lived for each day.

Survivors include his parents, daughter, Lani Hanley, of Morris; sister, Erin Hanley, of Ottawa; aunts and uncles: Roger (Donna) Hanley, of Tampa, FL and Judi (Craig) Nettlesham, of Ottawa; niece and nephew, Ty



Muffler and Libby Muffler, both of Ottawa and several cousins, as well as the mother of his daughter, Dawn (Zach) Misener, of Morris.

Tim was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Maurice "Buck" and Anne Davidson and paternal grandparents, Francis and Louise Hanley.

Private family services will be held and Tim will be laid to rest with military honors in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Preferred memorials in lieu of flowers may be made as gifts in Tim's memory to Operation St. Nick or to Immaculate Conception School in Morris.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Tim's memorial page online through social media by logging onto: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Timothy-Hanley

Services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris.

Linda Yott-Wills

COAL CITY—Linda Yott-Wills, 62, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Sept. 10, 2021 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Born April 14, 1959 in Chicago, Linda Sue was a daughter of Ronald and June (Fiene) Yott. She was raised and educated in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago, and in 1997 she moved with her family to Coal City. Linda was a hard worker and held several jobs over her years, making sure she was able to help support and raise her family. She was a member of the Coal City Area Club and founded a Grandparents Support Group devoted to helping grandparents who were responsible for raising their grandchildren. This cause was near and dear to Linda's heart, and she was proud to have impacted so many other grandparents' lives and make life-long friends along the way. In her free time, she loved solving jigsaw and online puzzles, as well as playing online bingo and spending time on Facebook. Linda devoted her life to being the best wife, mother and grandmother she could be, and cherished any time that she could spend with her loved ones.



Survivors include her husband, Roger Wills, who she married on May 3, 2008; two children, Keith Loher, of Dwight and Heather (Richard) Harwood, of Kansas City, MO; four grandchildren: John Wills, of Coal City, who she raised and adopted as her own son in 2008 and Joseph, Nicole and Lilli Harwood, all of Kansas City; one brother and one sister, Carol (Mickey) Niemczyk, of Saint John, IN and Ronald Yott, of Minneapolis, MN and several nieces and nephews.

Linda was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City.

Burial followed at Braceville-Gardner Cemetery in Braceville.

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

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

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

Sharon Kay Lacy

FLORIDA—Sharon Kay Lacy, 78, of Seminole, FL passed away Feb. 14, 2021 in Las Vegas, NV. She was born March 3, 1942 in Joliet to Kenneth Lacy and Ione Harter Lacy.

Sharon is survived by one son, Kenny Turan, of Washington, formerly of Wilmington; brothers, Kenneth Larry Lacy and Michael Lacy, of Wilmington, seven grandchildren and a spe-

cial niece, Shannon Wujek, of Channahon.

She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Tammy Alloe and grandson, Kyle Alloe.

Graveside services will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington on Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Christopher Kavanaugh

FLORIDA—Christopher S. Kavanaugh, 47, passed away on Aug. 21, 2021 at Melbourne Regional Hospital in Florida due to Covid.

He was born July 3, 1974 in Joliet. He married Rachelle Maquiniana in February 2019 in the Philippines and she joined him in the United States on July 4, 2021. Chris opened his business, Dockside Marine Inc., in 2002. He also owned CK Transporting Inc. business in 2014.

Chris is survived by his parents, Diane and Tim Thomas, of Palm Bay, FL and Kevin and Dawna Kavanaugh of Wilmington and Grandfather, Jack (Louise) DeWalt, of Palm Bay, FL; siblings: Amber (Shawn) Ingram, children, Alexia and Bradley, of Portland, TN; Jeana (Maickon) Carrico, children, Aislynn and Logan,



of Wilmington; Chad (Shelby) Kavanaugh, children Conner and Corvin, of Loudon, TN and Lora Kavanaugh, of Tacoma, WA.

Chris was preceded in death by his grandparents, Helen DeWalt, Norma Jean and George Kavanaugh.

A celebration of Chris' life will be held at a later date this year.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the family.

Anyone wanting to send the family a message or share a story is asked to visit Chris' page at www.davisseawinds.com.

A go fund me page has been set up for Chris' family at www.gofundme.com/f/Donations-for-Christopher-Kavanaugh-Family.

Candi R. Steinhilber

GARDNER—Candi R. Steinhilber, 55, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Sept. 9, 2021 at Regency Care in Morris.

She was born in Morris to Theodore and Linda (nee Kociss) Christensen. She was fun and outgoing with an enthusiasm for life. Candi had a love for Harley-Davidson Motorcycles. She was a good cook.

Candi is survived by her son, Aaron Paquette of Gardner; her grandson, Braxton Paquette; and her father, Theodore Christensen.

She was preceded in death by her mother,



Linda Christensen.

Visitation will be on Saturday, Sept. 18th, 2021 from 9:00 am to 10:30 am at the Ferrari Funeral Chapel, 1044 Ferrari Drive, Coal City, IL 60416 with funeral service beginning at 10:30 am, also at Ferrari's. Burial will follow at Braceville Gardner Cemetery.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Todd T. Sula

GOOSE LAKE—Todd T. Sula, 49, of Goose Lake Twp. passed at his home on Sept. 6, 2021.

He was born on July 22, 1972 in Berwyn, IL. to Thomas and Judith (nee Cada) Sula. He attended Coal City Schools, graduating from Coal City High School. He married Linda Kratochvil and together they raised their two sons in Goose Lake. Todd was a sheet metal worker with Local # 265. He was a hard working man who was always willing to lend a hand to his family and friends. When he had some spare time, he enjoyed golfing with his buddies. Todd was a Coal City High School football player who continued on to coach the Miners. He was so proud of his young men and his Super Bowl winning team. Todd loved his family more than anything. He had a heart of gold and will be forever in his loved ones hearts.



He is survived by his loving wife, Linda Sula and their two sons, Trent and Dane Sula, all of Goose Lake; his parents, Thomas and Judith Sula; his brother, Trevor (Amy) Sula; his nieces and nephews, Tanner Sula, Carolyn Nowak, Paul (Ashley) Kratochvil, Nicole (Doug) Sparks, Holly (Josh) Brown, Bethany Kratochvil, Hannah Kratochvil, Renee Kratochvil and his great-nieces and great-nephews, Lianna, Natalie, William, Raelyn, Mason and Morgan.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

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

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.

Schedule of Events

24th Annual Prairie Day

Saturday, September 18, 2021

10:00 a.m. -Opening with outside exhibits including the American Indian Exhibit, the Conservation Police Wildlife Exhibit, Park Amenities and the Gift Shop in Center.

10:30 a.m. -Scales and Tales with Beth Wagner (Auditorium) First Prairie Wagon Ride (*Reservation booth on patio in front yard. Everyone must have a ticket to ride. No prior reservations accepted.*)

11:00 a.m. -Food Tent opens in Front yard.

12:00 noon -Second Prairie Wagon Ride. Have your tickets ready.

12:30 p.m. -Coal Black Exotics with Bill Bradley (Auditorium)

1:15 p.m. -Third Prairie Wagon Ride. Have your tickets ready.

2:00 p.m. -"Grundy County Weather" by the Illinois Storm Catchers with Nick Barlith. (Auditorium) (*Food Tent closes at 2:00 p.m.*)

2:30 p.m. -Fourth Prairie Wagon Ride. Have your tickets ready. Drawing for the Prairie Partner Homemade Lap Quilt.

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As pandemic winds down, animal shelters fear a rise of pets

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

They call them "Pandemic Puppies," pets that were adopted during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic that are now being returned to Illinois animal shelters.

An estimated 23 million people around the country adopted pets in 2020.

Jane Kahman, manager of the Humane Society of Central Illinois, said county-run shelters all over the area are seeing a spike in returned pets.

"We take in a lot of pets from all over Central Illinois, all the different animal controls, and they are just stuffed to the gills," Kahman said.

The central Illinois branch has taken in nearly 500 animals this year, she said. Some owners explained that they can't care for the pet because they are heading back to the office, Kahman said.

"I have this puppy. I'm back to work and I have no time for training," Kahman said she has been told. "So they will ask to relinquish the pet."

Erin Buckmaster, director of the Knox County Humane Society, reports they are full as well, but are taking a proactive approach for adoptions on their Facebook page.

In other areas, there doesn't appear to be a surge in surrendered pets.

"Last year, when COVID was more impactful, the num-

bers of animals entering shelters fell quite a bit. This year, we are higher than last year, but still not back to the intake numbers that we had seen in years prior to COVID," said Becky Spencer, director of the Peoria County Animal Protection Services.

At DuPage County Animal Services, operations manager Laura Flamion said intake is steady for dogs and cats, but they have seen a significant increase in the number of unwanted pet rabbits.

Buckmaster has a reminder for those who adopted pets last year.

"They were there for you during the pandemic. Now it is time for you to be there for them," Buckmaster said.

Energy bill proves there's a new way in Springfield

"This is what decentralized, collective leadership looks like," declared House Speaker Chris Welch's spokesperson Jaclyn Driscoll not long after the chamber approved the climate/energy bill on an unexpectedly lopsided 83-33 roll call on Thursday.

The vote was without a doubt a spectacular victory, especially considering the Senate was unable to put together its own package that could pass both chambers and be signed into law.

Not only did all but one House Democrat vote for the bill after starting the day miles from that point, but 11 House Republicans ended up on board even though House Republican leadership had said the day before that there was "nearly zero" support for it and only two Senate Republicans had voted for their chamber's version.

The House Black Caucus has for years specialized in blowing up important bills in order to pry concessions loose for their constituency. So, Speaker Welch put Assistant Majority Leader Marcus Evans, an African-American South Sider, into the lead negotiator's role after the Senate punted the issue to his chamber.

And when the Black Caucus expectedly demanded more concessions, Leader Evans was able to make some changes and then convincingly explain to the caucus how Black folks were getting a decent deal.

Speaker Welch probably could've tried to strong-arm the climate/energy bill through the House with the absolute bare minimum of 71 votes (a three-fifths majority), and he might have been successful.

Instead, Welch told Gov. JB Pritzker that he had to finally come to terms with Assistant House Majority Leader Jay Hoffman, who had been relentlessly advocating for an approach that would bring the state's two municipally owned coal-fired electricity plants to a neutral bargaining position. Hoffman was one of Pritzker's earliest supporters in the 2018 campaign, but the Metro East Democrat's strong advocacy for coal-related jobs had put him on the outs.

Hoffman had made his pitch to Welch, but his cause was aided by House Republican Leader Jim Durkin. Welch needed votes and he asked Durkin for help but was turned down because Durkin opposed the bill. The Republican did, however, say that coal was a big issue for his caucus.

At Welch's behest, Pritzker immediately dispatched his point-person, Deputy Gov. Christian Mitchell, to Rep. Hoffman's office. The Senate Democrats claimed for months that Mitchell was the main obstacle to closing a deal, but Mitchell and Hoffman were able to fairly quickly work out an arrangement.

Assistant House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel, Welch's third point-person on the climate/energy bill and the most liberal of the bunch, listened closely to the envoiros and effectively communicated their wants and had the political savvy to turn those wants into a doable reality. Her strong credibility also ensured that the envoiros stayed in line when a deal was cut that was not close to everything the greens wanted. Leader Gabel's role cannot be understated. This simply doesn't happen without her.

So, yeah, Driscoll was right. This was a collective win. But Welch still deserves an enormous amount of credit for masterminding this thing across the finish line. And, frankly, for all the moaning about how Mike Madigan would've sealed the deal earlier, I don't think there's any way the former House Speaker could've ever gotten that many votes on a bill like this. It's a new day and a new way.

The governor, too, played his cards right in the end. As we all know, Pritzker and Senate President Don Harmon still have, um, issues, so the two men apparently couldn't bring themselves to make a deal with one another when the bill was in the Senate.

Harmon finally accepted that reality and agreed to kick the ball to the House, where Pritzker was obviously more comfortable and willing to do whatever it took to work with Welch, including taking a deal that he might possibly have rejected if it had been made by the Senate (some insist the House bill wasn't as strong as Harmon's best effort last month).

Also, in retrospect, it was probably a good thing for the governor that talks with the Senate broke down at the end of May. If the bill had passed back then, the entire focus would've been on the huge bailout for Exelon's nuke plants. Instead, the public conversation shifted to coal and climate change, which is a far more politically advantageous spot for Pritzker.

Whatever. It's over now. Harmon graciously accepted the terms, and we won't have to deal with this issue again until the inevitable "cleanup" bills surface.

Rich Miller also publishes *Capitol Fax*, a daily political newsletter, and *CapitolFax.com*.



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Nearly 40% of U.S. suffering from drought

Dear EarthTalk: What are the environmental implications of the current drought across the American West and how does it compare with past dry spells?

S. Diamond, Methuen, MA

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association's U.S. Drought Monitor (USDM) database, found on Drought.gov, reports that as of Aug. 31, 39 percent of the U.S. is in drought, with 30 states experiencing moderate drought or worse.

The USDM uses a five-category system to classify drought severity, from abnormally dry to exceptional drought. The percent area of the western U.S. in extreme to exceptional drought peaked at 59.5 percent on July 20, 2021, while the percent in moderate to exceptional drought peaked at 90.3 percent on July 27, 2021.

This value exceeded the previous peak in the 21-year USDM record that occurred in August and September of 2003.

These significant drought conditions have dropped several bodies of water in the Western United States to record-breaking lows. On July 23, the Great Salt Lake in Utah, one of the largest bodies of water in the U.S., reached its lowest water level since the U.S. Geological Survey began taking measurements in 1875.

The previous low was set in 1963. Additionally, as of August 22, Nevada and Arizona's Lake Mead reservoir

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
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had dropped to just 35 percent of its capacity, and the Lake Powell reservoir that spans across Utah and Arizona is now at just 31 percent of its capacity.

This current lake elevation data comes from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, which manages the Lake Mead and Lake Powell reservoirs, and other portions of the Colorado River watershed. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation recently decided that, given the historic drought, the Lake Mead reservoir will operate in what is called a Level One shortage condition for the first time ever in 2022. This will mean reduced water throughout 2022 to Arizona, Nevada and Mexico.

As water levels drop and become hotter during drought, cyanobacteria in algae blooms thrive. These toxic algae blooms, which can appear blue-green in color, or sometimes a reddish-brown color, can harm the nervous system and liver, and can be fatal if ingested.

The 2015 study "Drought-Induced



THE DROUGHT IS at its worse in the Western states where lake beds have turned dry. Just two years ago this dog would be swimming in this lake. Today it is bone dry.

Reduction Cyanobacteria Blooms in Tropical Shallow Lakes" projected a warmer and drier climate in the future will reduce water quantity and quality, increasing the risks of cyanobacteria blooms.

The Idaho Conservation League reported in August 2021 that heat waves, drought, and excessive pollution are contributing to what could be the worst year ever for toxic algae in Idaho.

This summer's drought conditions are also contributing to poorer air quality and a spike in aggravating adverse allergy and respiratory symptoms. According to the Centers for Disease Control and

Favors Prevention, the dusty, dry conditions that accompany drought increase the number of particulates suspended in the air, irritating bronchial passages and lungs.

Increased air pollution may potentially play a part in surging mortality rates from COVID-19, according to recent studies out of Harvard. A separate study out of Stanford University in 2014 warned of the rise of amplified air pollutant accumulations due to drought and increased difficulty in meeting air quality goals.

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Capital program aimed at revitalizing main streets

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

Illinois has a new economic recovery program aimed at revitalizing commercial corridors that were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced last week a \$50 million capital program designed to spur investments in main street areas statewide. The latest installment of the Rebuild Illinois capital program will leverage funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to provide grants for construction, repair and modernization of public infrastructure and amenities.

"We are inviting cities, towns, chambers of commerce, private developers just to name a few, to apply for these funds that will revitalize their communities and the local economy," said DCEO spokesperson Aly Grady.

Projects eligible for the grants must be located in a commercial center or downtown area. They could include roadways, parking and public way improvements, parks and plazas for public use, and transit-oriented development.

Project awards will range from \$250,000 to \$3 million in funding. The program incentivizes local match with private businesses or organizations required to provide a minimum 50% match. Public projects will receive higher

priority if they include a local match component.

Smaller towns and their businesses in downstate Illinois have been hit hard by the pandemic, and attracting more people to live there will be a challenge in a state that is losing residents. The total population in Illinois is about 12.8 million, a decline of over 18,000 since the last census count. Only two other states, West Virginia and Mississippi, lost residents.

"While Illinois has made significant progress in combatting COVID-19 and reopening our communities, we know that more work is needed to restore economic activity to the places hit hardest during the pandemic," said DCEO Acting Director Sylvia Garcia.

Attorney Berardi files Gerace estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT,
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of KAREN S. GERACE, Deceased. Case No.: 21P517

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Karen S. Gerace of Shorewood, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on September 1, 2021 to Robert Petrouski as Independent Executor.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before March 15, 2022, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, 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.

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 <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Dated: September 1, 2021.

Robert Petrouski, Independent

Executor
Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law,
Attorney No.: 6305463, 14919 Founders
Crossing, Homer Glen, IL 60491. (708)
942-8030 Email: mark@berardilaw.com

Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 22 and 29, 2021.

Attorney Berardi files Calt estate notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE
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COUNTY, ILLINOIS -
IN PROBATE

In the Matter of the Estate of JOHN CALT Deceased. Case No.: 2021 P 655

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of John Calt of Mokena, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 20, 2021 to Timothy Calt as Independent Administrator

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Will County Court House, 14 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the first publication date of this Notice, which is on or before March 15, 2022, or if mailing or delivery of this notice from the personal representative is required by Sec. 18.3 of the Probate Act of 1995, 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.

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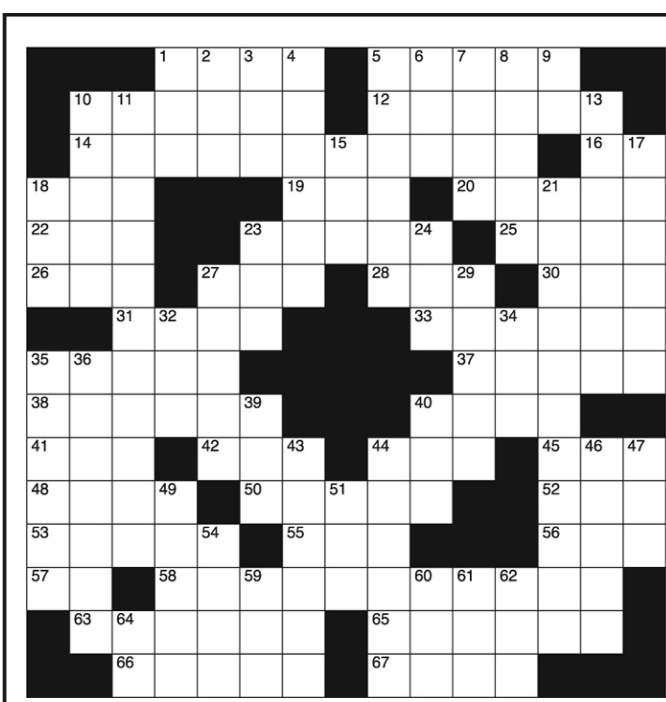
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Timothy Calt, Independent

Administrator
Mark M. Berardi, Attorney at Law,
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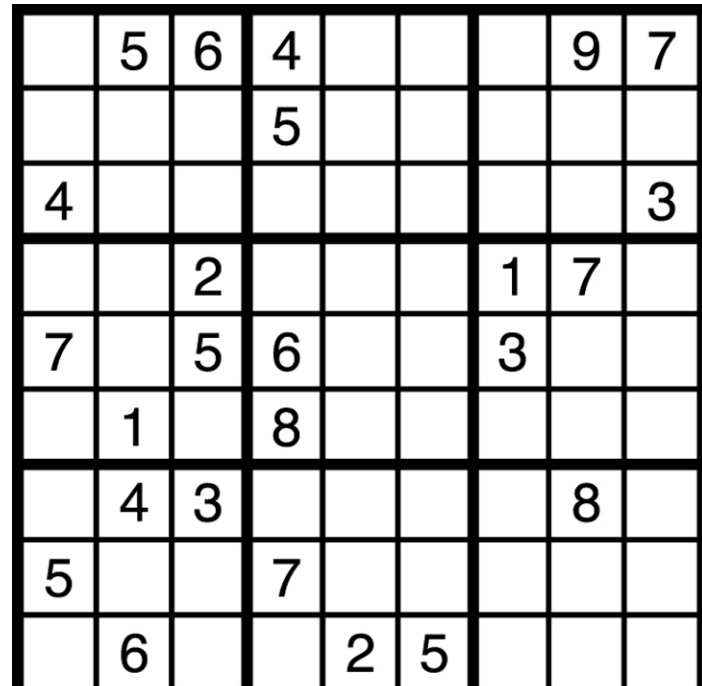


CLUES ACROSS

- Religion native to some in China
- Nursemaids
- Coats a porous surface
- Garment of long cloth
- Containing a broader message
- University of Dayton
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Insane
- Bristlelike structures in invertebrates
- Taxi
- Trainee
- Comedian Carvey
- Some couples say it
- Belong to he
- High schoolers' test
- Young goat
- You drive on one
- Denotes a time long ago
- Space between two surfaces

CLUES DOWN

- Split pulses
- Brew
- Ask humbly
- Distinctive smells
- Digressions
- Partner to cheese
- Father of Aethyrea
- Made a cavity
- Tin
- Appetizer
- Presenting in detail
- Compound in guano and fish scales
- Cool!
- "__ than a doornail"
- Popular literary form __ fi
- Be the most remarkable
- "Final Fantasy" universe character
- Buffer solution
- Muslim physician using traditional remedies
- By and by
- A way to sell
- A line left by the passage of something
- Indicates near
- Where wrestlers compete
- Prosecutors
- Body part
- Soluble ribonucleic acid
- Indicates silence
- NFL's Newton
- Ancient Roman garments
- Drunkard
- Expression of satisfaction
- Thus
- Noisy viper
- Plants of a particular region
- Communicated with
- Latches a window
- Swarm with
- Fantastical planet
- S. American plant
- Domesticated animal
- The tops of mountains
- Expression of disapproval
- Skeletal muscle
- Game show host Sajak
- One's interests
- Identify the existence of
- Partner to "oohed"
- Does not accept medical help (abbr.)
- Hammerin' Hank
- Lowest point of a ridge between two peaks
- Elaborately draped garment
- Check
- Car mechanics group
- One point east (clockwise) of due north
- Austrian river
- A command to list files



Armyworm invasion marching across Illinois

BY KEVIN BESSLER
THE CENTER SQUARE

Fall armyworm caterpillars are getting fat at the expense of farmers and homeowners in Illinois.

The pest is found in the Midwest nearly every year, but this year multiple generations came up from the southern states and Central and South America to mate and lay eggs.

"This just happens to be one of the worst outbreak years for the fall armyworm that we have seen in the eastern U.S. really in many, many years," said Nick Seiter, University of Illinois Extension field ops entomologist.

The caterpillars appear brown, green or black in color, with light colored lines running along its back from head to tail.

They get the name "armyworm" because they march in large numbers before devouring a field in a few days. They are known to eat alfalfa, pastures, corn and small grains and can infest lawns and gardens. In hayfields or lawns, the affected area often appears as brown or burned out patches, resembling drought damage.

Seiter said the fact that the pests arrived late this year is good news for soybean growers.

"These insects do like to feed on tender, growing plant

tissue, and a lot of our soybeans in Illinois right now are sort of past that point," Seiter said.

It is a different story for double-crop soybeans that were planted following wheat. Those fields that were planted late are in particular peril.

Fall armyworm infestation is best controlled when the caterpillars are a half inch or smaller. Seiter said insecticide failure has been reported in parts of Illinois and in the south.

Illinois continues to lead the nation in soybean production, according to 2019 USDA estimates. Illinois soybean farmers raised over 532 million bushels of soybeans in 2019 on nearly 10 million harvested acres with an average yield of 54 bushels per acre.

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SAW-TABLE TOP SHAPER-O/B END WRENCH SETS- 4
DRAWER TOOL BOX-ROLLAWAY TOOL CHEST)-

STANLEY ROUTER- DELTA SCROLL SAW-SMALL
WOOD LATHE- NIKOTA 18V CORDLESS POWER TOOL
SET- NEW SUMP PUMP-WEN RECIPROCATING SAW-
BENCH EMERY-DEEP WELL SOCKETS-TAP & DIE SET-
22 CAL RAMSET NIB-DRILL BIT SHARPENER-
NUMEROUS HAND TOOLS- -CAR CARE SUPPLIES-
TRAILER HITCH-JACK STANDS-WERNER LADDER-
TOOL BOXES-600 LB. HAND TRUCK-YARD AND
GARDEN TOOLS-WHEEL BARROW-

FISHING EQUIPMENT-OLDER FISHING LURES-
FISHING POLES-GIRLS BIKE-GOLF CLUBS-
FOLDING CHAIRS-NUMEROUS ITEMS IMPOSSIBLE
TO LIST ALL.

HINTZE AUCTION SERVICE INC.
ROBERT HINTZE AUCTIONEER LIC#440000682
PHONE 815-228-7634 or 252-1911

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines

Classified Display
The Prairie Shopper - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Fri., 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
All Newspapers - Thurs., 4 p.m.
Paid Newspapers - Mon., Noon

Reach over 19,300 homes with a classified ad in The Free Press Newspapers
• The Prairie Shopper
• The Braidwood Journal
• The Coal City Courant
• The Free Press Advocate

Cost
Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
1 wk.- \$21; 2 wks.- \$25;
3 wks.- \$28; 4 wks.- \$30
\$1.20 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.



APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Braidwood, 344 Oak St., upstairs apartment, 1 bedroom. No Pets, \$500/mo. plus security deposit and utilities. Stove and refrigerator furnished. 815-458-6861.

Wilmington, upstairs, 3 BR apartment. \$1,000/month and \$1,500 security deposit. No Pets. Lease, credit check, references. Call 815-365-2829 and leave message.

BOATS

1986 Lund 16.5 ft. fishing boat, 50hp Evinrude motor, Minn/Kota Maxxum 55/sc trolling motor, 2 depth finders, 2 live wells, on board battery charger, new tarp, garage kept, \$6,500, 815-258-1399.

GARAGE SALES

BRAIDWOOD

141 S. Office St. Braidwood, Fri., 9/24 & Sat. 9/25 from 9am-3pm. Household items (end tables, plant stand, costal mirror & more) plus a large 3,000 car+ (new in the packages) Hot Wheel/Matchbox collection. cc37b-38b

5 family garage sale - 175 Harbor Landing, Braidwood, Thursday & Friday, Sept., 16-17 from 8am-5pm and Saturday, Sept., 18 from 9am-noon. Books, variety of sizes of clothing, housewares. ca37ab

COAL CITY

713 Trotter Dr., Coal City, Thurs., Sept. 16th, 3pm-6pm, Fri., Sept. 17 8am-4pm. Household items; decor including some Fall/Halloween and Christmas decor; boys clothing, mostly Under Armour size medium to large; boys winter coat; men's clothing XL-XXL; women's clothing small to medium. Lots of miscellaneous. Cleaned out basement and shed. Adding more items daily! cc37ab

HELP WANTED

I will baby-sit full-time in your home. I am 59 years old and have no criminal background. Non-smoker. Great with children. Rate 13.00/hr. Kimberly 815-302-8482.

FOR FREE

Fish tank, 72" long, 22" high, 19" wide, holds 130 gallons. Two Eheim filters, Call 815-573-1647 or 815-458-2467. fr37b-39a

Free - 2 small abandoned dogs need a home, no small children, needs someone to be permanent owners. Call 815-476-6481.

FOR INFO TO PLACE A GARAGE SALE CALL 815-476-7966!

DIAMOND

2555 Sterling Ct., Diamond, Thurs.-Sat., Sept 16-18, 8:30am-4:30pm, name brand clothes; boys 8-10, girls 8-12, juniors xs-med, women's XL-XXL, men's LG-XL, wood counter stools, futon, weight bench with weights, lighting, holiday, household, bedding, Halloween costumes and much more. cc37ab

WILMINGTON

2 family garage sale - 23027 W. Kankakee River Dr., Wilmington, Wed., Thurs., & Fri., Sept. 15, 16 & 17, 9am-4pm. Books, clothes, wheelchair, antiques, kitchen wares, small appliances, new sheets, new comforters. cc37ab

19581 W. Ballou Rd., Wilmington, Fri., Sept. 17 & Sat., Sept. 18, 10am-3pm. Two bicycles, a portable sewing machine, a portable outdoor fire pit, furniture, decorative items, dog ramp and steps. Much miscellaneous. No baby items or toys. cc37b

6555 N. Will Rd./off of Lorenzo Rd. end of road across from Harborside Marina. Fri., Sept. 17 & Sat., Sept. 18, 9am-4pm; Sun., Sept. 19, 9am-2pm. Too much to list. Sale also Oct. 1, 2, 3 same times. ca 37b

HELP WANTED

Applications are being taken for one, full time 12 month, 8 hours per day Custodial/Maintenance position. Please contact Jim Habing at jhabing@209u.net or phone 815-926-1725. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Jim Habing Wilmington High School 209U Wildcat Court Wilmington, IL 60481 Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which District 209U receives federal assistance. ch37b-39a

City Pizza and Sub Co., 300 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington, seeking a driver and cook. Apply within. ck36b-40a

Goose Lake Association is looking to hire a Bar manager and Bartenders. Contact office at 815-942-4879. cc37a-40b

Applications are being taken for one, part time-9 month, 4 hours per day Custodial/Maintenance position. Please contact Jim Habing at jhabing@209u.net or phone 815-926-1725. Resumes should be sent to: Mr. Jim Habing Wilmington High School 209U Wildcat Court Wilmington, IL 60481 Wilmington Community Unit School District No. 209U is in compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which states that no person in the United States shall, on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicapping condition be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity in which District 209U receives federal assistance. ch37b-39a

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VanDuyn Motel is looking for part-time maintenance man/handy man, working up to 25 hrs/week. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyn Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc34a-37b

HELP WANTED

The Coal City School District is currently hiring for cafeteria employees. There are multiple positions open. If you want to work with a great team & have excellent hours, please apply at www.coalcity-schools.org & click the district tab Employment Opportunities or e-mail Amanda Herrera-Ford at aherrera@coalcity-schools.org ch 37b-39a

Hiring fry cook & cashiers. Apply in person at Nelly's, 140 Bridge St., Wilmington. ck32b-40a

Optometric Vision & Eye Health Care, Joliet Practice seeks experienced Optometric Assistant leading to Management. Wages* are negotiable to Credentialed applicants with experience. Position requires at least two afternoons/evenings (7 or 8pm) and Saturdays (3 or 4pm). NO SUNDAYS. Optometric Vision and Eye Health Care experienced; customer service, E.H.R., professional office skills, internet, Microsoft Word, Excel, software use, etc. ordering glasses, with basic billing experience, etc. *Wages commensurate with experience and confirmed resume. Semi-Retirees Welcome. Submit resume with references. adfor-helpwanted@yahoo.com cc35b-39a

MISCELLANEOUS

4,000 # PSI power washer with 12' ext. wand. Lincoln 220 arc welder. 815-476-2805.

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.

Thetford port-a-potty #92306, Alpicool 21qt portable refrigerator/freezer, Clam quick set traveler screenroom, Outland portable propane firepit 19", Renogy suitcase 100w solar panel and flexible 100w solar panel. Karen 815-386-0378, leave message. ca37b-38a

PETS

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

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PUBLIC STORAGE
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815-530-0200
- No Deposit -
Starting at \$50
515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL
• Farm Machinery
• Garden Tractors
• Snowmobiles
• Appliances
• Anything Metal
Free pickup 7 days 815-210-8819

HOMES FOR SALE

House for sale in Essex, 1,840 sq. ft., \$259,900 or rent. First, last, damage. Call 815-252-8517. Rain-bow friendly. cc

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

MOBILE HOMES FOR RENT

1, 2 or 3 BR mobile homes available for rent or sale. Rent from \$709-\$909. Includes water, sewer & trash removal. Please call & talk to Eric about financing options. Call 815-237-2290 for more information. cc37a-40b

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 712 W. Eureka Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 7th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: PHH Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff V. Lynne Lessman; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 21 CH 0133 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and

legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2021.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 35025 Cemetery Rd., Braidwood, IL 60408 (Residential). On the 7th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: The Bank of New York Mellon, F/K/A The Bank of New York as trustee for registered Holders of CWABS, Inc., Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2005-13 Plaintiff V. Lowell E. Lide; et. al. Defendant. Case No. 19 CH 1926 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the

purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 22 & 29, 2021.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 916 N. English Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (single family). On the 30th day of September, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: U.S. Bank National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2006-BNC3 Plaintiff V. Roy E. Mack; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc., as Mortgagee as Nominee for Lehman Brothers, FSB, its Successors and Assigns; Townes of Braidwood Homeowner's Association Defendant. Case No. 20 CH 0687 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS

605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: POTESTIVO AND ASSOCIATES 811 E. South Blvd. Rochester Hill, Michigan 48307 P: 248-853-4400 F: 248-853-0404 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wednesday, Sept. 8, 15 and 22, 2021

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Bradley Pest Control Termite/Pest Specialist. Real estate inspection Rodent Control and Exclusion Call Phil at 815-405-5020 cc42a-42a

Gas Fireplace Repair. 38 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you. cc31a-30b

Handyman service, small jobs wanted. Electric: replace electric switches & plugs, ceiling fans or broken lights. Plumbing: leaky faucets or running toilets, no problem. Repair decks. Call Richard, 219-407-1356. cc 36a-39b

GOT GRASS Lawn Care Jim Baudino 815-342-6394 cc 26a-41b

Now taking orders for our NEW line of Flake Floors, multiple colors & sizes, NEW pigments & Metalics. A floor to fit your budget. All commercial grade Epoxy Resin. Call Chicago Crew, Inc., 815-634-0150. ca 36a-39b

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Julie's Remodeling Siding, soffit, roof repairs, painting, welding repairs, seamless gutters, fencing, tree removal, lawn care, Complete Handyman service! Bonded and Insured, 20 yrs., call 815-791-5731.

Mike Collins Roofing re-shingles and modified rubber and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. cc17a-16b

PAINTING Interior only, 20 years experience, referrals available. looking for 1-3 rooms Call 815-585-0904.

D&N LAWN CARE Braidwood Mowing, trimming, edging, no job too small, affordable rates. Call 815-341-8564. ca35b-39a

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

HIRING SOON

Entry-Level Police Officer



Wilmington Police Department, Wilmington, Illinois

The Wilmington, Illinois Board of Police Commission is accepting applications for the position of police officer with the Wilmington Police Department.
Starting Salary: \$57k - \$61k
Population: 5,735
Sworn Police Officers: 17 (12 Full-Time and 5 Part-Time)
Will add 2 full-time within next 2 years.

The Wilmington Police Department is proud to announce that they are now certified by the United States Department of Veterans' Affairs for the Police Officer on-the-job Training Program. Please visit http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/onthejob_apprenticeship.asp

All applicants must meet the following minimum requirements established by the City of Wilmington:

- U.S. citizenship;
- No felony convictions;
- Possess a valid state-issued driver's license with good driving record;
- Must be a minimum of 21 years of age and UNDER 35 years of age at the time of application unless otherwise exempt by State Statute 65 ILCS 5/10-2.1-6;
- Possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. equivalent;
- Possess a valid NIPSTA card - OR - equivalent criteria as per the State standard, issued within 12 months of the written exam date (October 2, 2021);
- POWER Test Cards issued by NIPSTA, Triton College or Joliet Junior College will be accepted.
- Applicants must present the POWER Test card NO LATER than the written exam date (October 2, 2021).
- Successfully pass a written examination with a minimum passing score of 70% on each of the (4) sections;
- Successfully complete an oral interview with the Board of Police Commission;
- Successfully complete a background investigation, polygraph, and psychological testing;
- Successfully complete a medical physical, to include drug and alcohol screening;
- Pay a \$45.00 non-refundable application processing fee.

To apply for this position or obtain additional information, please visit the following website: <http://www.applytoserve.com>

The City of Wilmington is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Call Us At 942-9190 or Log on to C21.com
Shawn Hornsby, Designated Managing Broker 1802 N. Division St. Morris, IL 60450

SOLD MORRIS \$425,000 Beautiful 3 BR, 3 BA ranch home on 3 acres with a private stocked pond! Shawn 815-474-6670. BB4200	MAZON \$225,000 4 BR, 1.5 BA ranch on 5 acres. Updated kitchen, new plumbing, in-ground pool. Call/text Teri 815-474-1575. GG420	DWIGHT \$195,000 3 BR ranch w/full bsmt. Many new, en suite master. 2 Car deck, fenced yard. Jim Maskel 693-0180. PM315	MAZON \$175,000 Completely remodeled 4 BR home with new electric, plumbing, windows, flooring and more! Text Shawn 815-715-6670. NM1016	BRACEVILLE \$159,900 Solid 3 bedroom, brick ranch completely renovated and ready for you to make it your own. Lorie 815-715-5959. VB510	
MAZON \$128,000 Nice 2-3 BR home with newer furnace, central a/c, roof, siding, windows, etc and 2 car garage. Shawn 815-474-6670. EM402	WE ARE OPEN AND SERVING OUR CLIENTS! • We are Showing homes to Buyers. • We are Listing homes for Sellers. • We are Selling Homes every day! Our office is open seven days a week and we continue to work full time serving our clients! 815-942-9190			DWIGHT \$109,900 3 BR, 2 BA Home is all ready for you to move in. Full basement and 2 car garage. Lorie 815-715-5959. DP116	GARDNER \$104,500 All brick 1/2 duplex, 1008sf, many updates, 2 lg BR, spacious LR/DR, ref, range, 1 car gpg. Rod Baudino 674-2583. JB112
MAZON \$103,000 2 BR home with 3 car garage. Newer furnace, a/c, windows, kitchen and more on a large lot. Text Shawn 474-6670. JM619	GARDNER \$99,500 All brick 1/2 duplex, 987sf, many updates, 2 lg BR, spacious LR/DR, ref, range, 1 car gpg. Rod Baudino 815-674-2583. JB110	MAZON \$98,900 Attention Investors! Excellent investment opportunity! Upstairs has four fully rented, apartments. Chrissy 815-693-5757. DH518	MAZON \$94,900 Office/storefront, downtown business dist., 3250 sq. ft., zoned B2, 725 traffic count, 2 BR, 1 BA apt. Rod 674-2583. DD508		

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- SEPTEMBER EVENTS -

EVERY THURSDAY LIGHTNING (Members Only) 6 p.m.	EVERY SUNDAY QUEEN OF HEARTS (Members Only) 4 p.m.
Wed., Sept. 8 7:00 p.m. WOTM Meeting	
Sat., Sept. 11 5-7:30 p.m. Steak Fry	
Mon., Sept. 13 6-8:00 p.m. LOOM/WOTM Meeting	
Fri., Sept. 17 5-7:30 p.m. Fish Fry	
Sun., Sept. 19 9:00 a.m. Moose Riders Meeting	
Mon., Sept. 27 6-8:00 p.m. LOOM/WOTM Meeting	

EVERY WEDNESDAY
5:00-7:30 p.m.
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Attorney General seeks public input on Joliet Police

Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul launched an investigation into possible patterns or practices of unconstitutional or unlawful policing by the Joliet Police Department. The civil investigation follows requests made by the Joliet mayor and members of the Joliet City Council.

The Attorney General's office will examine the Joliet Police Department's policies, training, practices and supervision as they relate to traffic and pedestrian stops, searches, arrests, and uses of force.

Career attorneys from Raoul's Civil Rights and Special Litigation bureaus will review of the department's policies, reports, documents and trainings. In addition, the investigative team will conduct interviews and meetings with Joliet law enforcement officers, city government officials, Joliet

residents, advocates, and other stakeholders.

"It is clear that a formal investigation is needed to look at whether the department has engaged in patterns or practices of unlawful or unconstitutional policing," Raoul said. "In the coming weeks, the Attorney General's office will conduct a thorough, impartial and independent review of whether reforms are needed under the law."

Attorney General Raoul's investigation follows a request by Joliet Mayor Bob O'Dekirk and members of the Joliet City Council in June 2020 to conduct an investigation. In response to this request, the Attorney General's office requested information from the city of Joliet and the Joliet Police Department.

The Attorney General's office will take specific inci-

dents into account during the investigation; however, the investigation's questions, findings and conclusions will be focused on whether systemic problems exist within the Joliet Police Department. The investigation is civil in nature and will not reconsider criminal charging decisions within the jurisdiction of local prosecutors.

A review of the Joliet Police Department's policies and training will be done. Raoul's office will also inspect department reports resulting from traffic and pedestrian stops, searches and arrests. Of particular interest will be the Joliet Police Department's policies and practices related to the use of force and supervisory and department reviews of these incidents. In addition, Raoul's attorneys and experts will investigate the depart-

ment's handling of misconduct allegations against officers by reviewing complaints from the public, the department's investigations into those complaints, as well as any resulting corrective or disciplinary action.

Attorney General Raoul's staff will seek input from the public on their interactions with Joliet law enforcement in public and private meetings. Raoul's office will convene a virtual town hall meeting in the coming weeks, and additional information will be released to the public at a later date.

Raoul is encouraging individuals who have information relevant to the investigation to email input.joliet@ilag.gov or call the Attorney General's office at 833-243-1498.

Morris Hospital Auxiliary golf tournament will be virtual

Due to the increased COVID incidence in the community, the Morris Hospital Auxiliary has changed its 26th Annual Golf Tournament that was originally scheduled for Sept. 20 to an all virtual event running from Sept. 20-Oct. 22. Proceeds support Patient Transportation and Lifeline®, two very important Morris Hospital programs that serve a vital role in the community.

The auxiliary has been supporting these programs through its annual golf outing for more than two decades. The Patient Transportation program provides community members free rides to medical appointments, while Lifeline® is an emergency response system that provides instant access to emergency assistance and peace-of-mind for individuals who live alone.

Those participating in the tournament can play golf at a course of their choice from Sept. 20-Oct. 22. Golfers will

keep track of their own score and then take a picture with their scorecard and submit it electronically to the Morris Hospital Auxiliary office or in-person to the Morris Country Club Pro Shop if playing at Morris Country Club or The Creek.

The cost to enter the 18-hole virtual tournament is \$50 per person and does not include greens fees at the golf course chosen by the participant. While golfers may play at any course of their choosing, as golf course sponsors of the event, Morris Country Club and The Creek in Morris are extending non-members the opportunity to play on either course for a \$50 greens fee, which includes a cart. Weekends are excluded at the Morris Country Club. Participants should mention the Morris Hospital Virtual Golf Tournament when scheduling tee times.

The golfer with the best score will receive a \$500 cash prize, second place is \$250, and third place is \$100. Golf results

and winners will be posted online on Oct. 25.

Anyone 18 years of age or older can support the event by entering a chance to win a \$1,000 cash prize in the Golf Ball Raffle. Chances are \$20 for once chance, \$50 for three chances, or \$100 for seven chances. Outright donations to the Patient Transportation and Lifeline programs are also accepted.

The deadline for submitting scorecards and pictures for the Auxiliary Virtual Golf Tournament is Oct. 22 at 5 p.m. Sponsorships are still available. To register, view sponsorship opportunities, or purchase Golf Ball Raffle chances, go to www.morrishospital.org/golf. For more information, contact the Morris Hospital Auxiliary & Foundation office at 815-705-7002.

Support for Alzheimer's caregivers

The Alzheimer's Association, Greater Illinois Chapter would like to invite those that are caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia to a monthly Caregiver's Support Group held the first Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Rt. 113 in Coal City. The church is located one mile west of Coal City on Highway 113.

For more information, contact Becky Haldorson at 815-791-2658.

Library to hold Bingo

The Wilmington Public Library District will offer a fun afternoon of Bingo for adults on Wednesday, Sept 15, at 1 p.m.

Adult services has been offering many make and take crafts when in person programming hasn't been possible throughout all of the restrictions, but the staff is looking forward to seeing patrons come out for an afternoon of fun and prizes.

Please register for this program by stopping by the library, 201 S. Kankakee St. or calling the library at (815) 476-2834.

Class of '70 planning Oct. 2 reunion

The Class of 1970 is having its 50th (51) Reunion on WHS Homecoming weekend at the Wilmington Moose Family Center on Saturday, Oct. 2 from 1-4 p.m.

Organizers are still looking for seven classmates: Mark Enz, Judy Favero, Dennis Heatherly, Danny Hogan, Cathy Morrison, Mike Strole and Beth West.

Anyone with any informa-

tion on them is asked to contact any of the committee members: (all 815) Kathy Bock Hill 739-1634, Sandy Gordon Carley 530-0037, Greg Hansen 931-3783, Patti Proffitt Meents 210-1071, Diane Prosser Aros 530-9898, Skip Tarran 245-7443 or Bonnie (Bambic) Tarran 245-7444.

We look forward to seeing all of our friends (even if it is in masks).

Junk in the trunk flea market in Morris

Junk In The Trunk or JITT flea market will take place the 3rd Sunday, Sept. 19th, 2021 at 100 Commercial Dr. in Morris. This location is just west of Rt. 47 behind the BP AMOCO station.

Set up time is 8:30 am, sale is from 10-4. This is a charity flea market and all donations and vendor fees are given to a different charity each month.

Participants will need to read and agree with the rules pertaining to attending the

event. The fee per spot is \$20.

This is a fun, family oriented, event where many treasures are found. This is a good place to find that special antique, gift, toy, decoration, collectable or tool.

No commercial or home based businesses or mass produced imported items are allowed at this flea market.

For more information contact Ken at willis824@comcast.net or call 815-942-2032, no texts on this number. All participants do so at own risk.

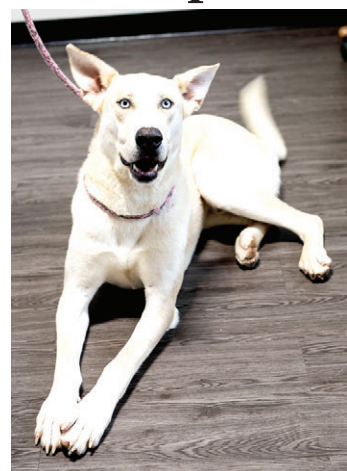
Welter to host coffee with constituents

Local residents with questions, concerns or feedback on state issues are welcome to attend any of three upcoming coffees hosted by State Representative David Allen Welter to be held in Yorkville, Sheridan and Morris.

Representative Welter is hosting coffees to update constituents on recent legislative action taken in Springfield and to give local residents an opportunity to share their priorities and questions directly with him.

The Morris event will be held Tuesday, Sept. 21 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Weits Cafe, 213 Liberty St.

Constituents who are unable to attend the coffee but still wish to provide feedback to Representative Welter can do so online by visiting repwelter.com and clicking Contact on the homepage. For questions or more information, please call Representative Welter's office at 815-416-1475.



MEET FORREST, affectionate, smart, loyal and playful. These are just a few traits our handsome blue-eyed boy, Forrest, is known for by staff and volunteers. To set our love bug up for success we are looking for a potential adopter to have Shepherd/Husky experience. He is a little over 1 yr. old and weighs 80lbs. Adoption fee includes neuter, rabies shot, distemper, microchip and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com.

Get help finding a job

The Workforce Center of Will County (WCWC) offers a wide variety of services to assist both job seekers and employers with employment needs. These services include classes on resume writing, practicing interview skills, and updating computer proficiency. The center also provides information about career scholarships and on the job training. These services are available from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday in the center's Resource Room.

"Our Resource Room is filled with state of the art computers and copy/fax machines to help connect our residents with local employers," said Michelle Stiff, director of the WCWC. "We also have certified staff on site who can assist our customers update their

resume, participate in a mock interview, and learn new computer skills. There are many good job opportunities in our county and we want to help prepare our customers for these jobs."

The center offers On the Job Training at 10 a.m. on Mondays in September to offer job seekers new skills training for a wide range of high demand industries. These sessions are offered virtually or in person. Contact Tiana Griffin for more information or to register at tiana.griffin@eesforjobs.com.

From 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., each Wednesday, job seekers can pick up a "Job Fair in a Bag" filled with job listings with Will County employers and resources for a job search including sample resumes, interviewing tips and more.

For job seekers who want in person training, a variety of services are available in the Resource Room including these special workshops:

Successful Interviewing, 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 16.
Video Conferencing, 2 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 21.
Transferable Skills, 2 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 23.
LinkedIn Lab, 10 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 29.

All of these workshops are available on the WCWC Facebook Page: [WorkforceCenterofWillCounty](https://www.facebook.com/WorkforceCenterofWillCounty). The center also offers traditional computer skills training in Microsoft PowerPoint, Word and Excel.

For more information about the services available at the Workforce Center of Will County, visit www.will.works.

COALER SPORTS



Photo by Shawn Long

WATCHING HIS BALL sail during Thursday's away match at High Point Golf Course is Coal City's Dylan Brown.

Coalers place third at Indian Creek Fairbury

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City golf team placed third on Monday with 185 points against Prairie Central (166) and Watseka (183).

The Coalers all shot in the 40s with Jack Varnak and Dylan Brown (T-4th) leading the charge with a 44.

Ryne Phelan (8th) had a 46 while Aiden Hansen and Luke Crater (14th) added a score of 51.

Ryland Megyeri (18th) chipped in a 53.

Their junior varsity team place fifth with a score of 256.

Culan Lindemuth led the JV team with a 60 while Ethan Bach had a 62 and Blaine Doss a 65. Bradley Burla had a 69 while Buddy Widlowski (72) and Logan Hawkins (84) rounded out scoring.

The Coalers golfers will be back on the golf course today when they'll host Manteno and Peotone at the Creek in Morris.

**Coal City 177
Reed-Custer 202**

The Coalers got back on track on Thursday with a win over the Comets.

Hansen, Phelan and Brown were the top scorers as all shot a team-high, 43.

Crater and Widlowski chipped in a 48 while Megyeri added a 51.

Coal City 187, Streator 167

The Coalers golfers shot the ball really well on Wednesday but Streator shot it even better to pick up a win.

The Coalers were 20 strokes behind a very good Streator team that had one of its golfers shoot a 38 and the others weren't far behind him.

The Coalers' best golfer was Ryne Phelan, who had 44.



Photo by Shawn Long

LINING UP a shot is Coal City's Luke Crater during Thursday's 177-201 win over Reed-Custer.

Dylan Brown followed with a 46 while Ryland Megyeri chipped in 48 and Luke Crater,

and Jack Varnak had a 49. Aiden Hansen added a score of 50.

Coaler kickers just one shot away

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City soccer team fell to Lisle on Monday.

After leading 1-0 after the first half of play, the Coalers were in prime position to bounce back from two straight losses but they were unable to

manage Lisle's pressure as the Lions knocked in two unanswered goals to get the 2-1 win.

Luke Hawkins kept on scoring as he hit a beauty of a goal, getting the feed from Gavin Brewick off a corner kick.

Colin Hart was solid again in goal, stopping 14 would-be goals.

The Coalers travel Thursday to Joliet Catholic Academy. They'll battle Morris on Saturday in Morris.

Coal City 1, Manteno 2

The Coalers were edged by Manteno on Thursday.

It was a great game defensively by both Coal City and Manteno.

Dylan Hunter provided the lone goal for Coal City and Hart had a terrific night in goal, stopping 17 would-be goals.

Coal City 2, Beecher 3

The Coalers were unable to put away a tough Beecher team, falling by just one goal.

Craig Alstott and Luke Hawkins provided the goals.

Hart provided the support within the goal, saving 13.

See more
game photos at
[freepressphotos.
smugmug.com](http://freepressphotos.smugmug.com)

Lady Coaler tennis shuts out GCMS, edges Mendota

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City girls tennis team edged Mendota 3-2 on Monday.

Molly Stiles and Trindidy Barrus beat Alex Streamlau and Alexis Finley with the same score, 6-2, 6-4 to give the Coalers a 2-0 lead.

The No. 1 Doubles team of Ana Flores-Abby Stiles stole one in three sets over Zoe Finley and Lizzy Bresley, 6-0, 3-6, 10-8 to give the Coalers a win.

Mendota's two and three doubles beat the Coalers but they were too little too late.

The Lady Coaler tennis team will be back on the court today (Wednesday) when they host Yorkville. They will welcome in Streator, Lisle and Morris on Saturday before host Joliet Catholic Academy on Monday.

**Coal City 5
GCMS 0**

The Lady Coalers picked up another shutout over Gibson City-Melvin Sibley on Thursday.

Everything was working for Coal City as Molly Stiles and Barrus took care of their No. 1 and No. 2 singles opponents.

Stiles and Katie Steidinger had a good match as Stiles edged Steidinger by a nose 6-3 in the first set, and followed that with a quick, 6-2 winner.

Barrus had no trouble with Audrey Iverson, sending her back to Gibson City with a 6-1 victory in both sets.

Then, the doubles' girls followed suit to keep the shutout intact.

The No. 1 doubles team of



Photo by Shawn Long

COAL CITY'S Molly Stiles fires back a return volley in her No. 1 singles match with GCMS. The Lady Coalers captured the match itself with a 5-0 shutout.

Abby Stiles-Ana Flores quickly dispatched London Hixson-Emily Hood, 6-2, 6-1.

Ava Solis-Kylie Jackson followed that with a 6-1, 6-2 win over GCMS doubles pair Lexi

Darbutt-Syda Schickman.

That set things up for Rachel Hall-Erica Esparza to finish off the shutout with a 6-1 victory Kadence Crowley-McKenna Crowley.

Lady Coalers collect two three-level sweeps

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City volleyball team improved to 8-7 with a 26-24, 25-18 win over Streator on Thursday.

Addyson Waliczek and Macaya Garner set things up for the Lady Coalers with eight and, two setting assists. Waliczek also hammered down three kills with four aces and three digs while Garner had three digs, an ace, and a kil.

Mia Rodriguez added another monster kill day with six kills. She also had one big block and two digs.

Peyton Benson hammered down five kills while Meyer added four.

Grace Norris was the digs leader with eight and an ace

while Addison Gagliardo added three digs, and a kill.

The JV (25-22, 25-20) and the freshmen (25-22, 25-20) completed the three-level sweep of Streator. The JV team improved to 5-2 while the freshmen are still unscathed at 7-0.

The Lady Coalers play next on Tuesday when they travel to Reed-Custer.

**Coal City 17, 25, 25
Manteno 25, 14, 15**

The Lady Coalers swept the Manteno Panthers in all three levels on Wednesday.

The varsity took the match in three.

Waliczek led the Coalers with 18 setting assists. She hammered four kills with one block while digging out eight.

Garner added eight assists

with two kills and four digs.

Rodriguez was fantastic in the middle as she led the team with a season-high 13 kills. She also served up an ace and added seven digs.

Gwen Wharrie chipped in five kills with a block and dug out three. Courtney Meyer added three kills with two digs.

Norris was the digs leader, digging deep for 14 while also serving up an ace.

Gagliardo banged down two kills and added 10 digs while Maci Baldauf also had nine digs.

The JV Coalers beat the Panthers 25-15, 30-28 to improve to 4-2.

The freshmen Coalers stayed undefeated with a 25-21, 25-15 two-set win as they improved to 6-0.

Miners sweep Reapers

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City youth football Miners picked a four-level sweep against Plano.

The Miners superlights beat Plano 25-13 to start the day.

Drake Heath led their rushing attack with 135 yards and four touchdowns. Austin Newman added 112 yards rushing while Drake Figge chipped in seven tackles and Bainen Durkee added six tackles.

The lightweight Miners followed that with a 12-6 win.

Maddox Meents scored first as he coasted in from 13-

yards out on a halfback stretch. Meents hit Connor Rodriguez on a tightend pop pass and Rodriguez did the rest, taking it 33 yards for a score. The defense was led by Rodriguez and Ryder Gill who both had eight tackles.

The JV Miners shutout the Reapers, 12-0.

Tyson Price, Kellen Forsythe, Aiden Edmonds, Tanner Gullquist, Tyler Phillips, Bobby Rodriguez and Cooper Morris all contributed in multiple tackles.

The JV played smart defense all day only allowing three first downs. JV also had Kole Carpenter with a brilliant punt to down it inside the 5-

yard-line. On offense, Morris and Carpenter led the team in rushing yards. Rodriguez and Carpenter scored the touchdowns.

The varsity Miners dominated the Reapers 20-6 to secure the sweep.

Brody Widlowski led the way on the ground with 87 yards with two touchdowns. Brock Finch added 66 yards on nine carries. Carter Gill had a good day in the air completing two passes to Donnie Ladas for 50 yards. Defensively the Miners were led by Cade Poyner with five tackles, Aiden Kenney had four and Peyton Vigna added two.

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Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

BREAKING THROUGH the Wilmington line for a short gain on Friday is junior Coaler Cason Headley (10).



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

STANDING HIS GROUND while blocking out Wilmington's Dominick Dingillo is Coal City senior Nick Latta (66).

Coalers hope to cage the Tigers rushing attack to get back on track

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coalers have been great on defense over the past three weeks but they haven't really been able to get their offense going.

That's going to be a problem if they hope to make it to the playoffs for a 10th consecutive season.

They're coming off of a 10-7 loss in a defensive battle with the Wilmington Wildcats. It was a game when they were limited to 131 total yards with only 55 rushing yards.

This week, they will play a much improved Herscher Tiger team, who is coming off of a 45-40 loss to a talented Streator team.

"They're going to be a good running team but they will be balanced with a good passing game as well," said Coal City football coach Francis Loughran. "They moved the ball really well against Streator last week. They kind of just ran out of gas."

The Tigers won their first two games, beating Dunbar with a 61-0 shutout and Rochelle in a 29-27 shootout before their loss to Streator.

The Tigers will be ready to run the football. They're led by coach Dan Wetzel and the run has been a huge part of his offense for the 19 years he's been there. Wetzel led the Tigers to the playoffs last in 2018. Before that, it was almost automatic for them, going every year since the 2014-15 season so they're no stranger to the playoffs.

"We want to be able to stop the run and make those adjustments in the passing game and take away their receivers and all that."

The Tigers bring back a sound running back in senior Cody Lunsford who has carried the load in the first three games, busting for 12.5 yards per carry with 324 yards on 26 carries with five touchdowns. Lunsford (#24) is the prototypical power runner who doesn't go down easily. He doesn't have a whole lot of size at 6-0 190 pounds but he will use all of it when he hits defenders. He'll also play line-backer on defense.

"He did not play last week but I imagine he'll be back and he's a really good running back for them," added Loughran.

Lunsford is their biggest threat but they also can throw the ball pretty well when they have to and it starts with quarterback Brock Wenzelman. Wenzelman (#1) has already completed 11-of-14 passes for 144 yards with two touchdowns so he doesn't throw the ball a lot but when he does, it's usually short, quick passes.

"The quarterback is a nice player," commented Loughran.

Wenzelman's favorite target is junior receiver Clay Schultz, who has caught five passes for 111 yards with two receiving touchdowns. Schultz (#22) is a little slot receiver at 160 pounds who can fly.

"They have a tight end that they split out to receiver who does well. They've got some nice players and they spread the ball around well."

Coal City is coached by Francis Loughran, who picked up his first win as a coach in a 14-6 win over Bishop McNamara after falling to Morris 13-3 to start the year. The Coalers qualified for the playoffs in 2019 and were 4-1 in the spring. Like Herscher, they're

also a consistent playoff team as they've qualified the last nine years.

The Coalers are a run heavy team and start with the quarterback under center but can switch to shotgun sets when passing the football.

"We kind of know that everything starts with our running game and we're going to look to work on that this week and I think Braden Reilly has been progressing well through the first three weeks so it's going to be a big week for us in practice."

They use the big three runners at running back with Ashton Harvey (44), Nick Seplak (11) and Brady Best (15).

All three play both ways and offer the same kind of power running as Lunsford and the Tigers.

Harvey led the rushing attack with 37 yards on 14 carries with a touchdown while Seplak had 19 yards. Seplak caught four balls for 37 yards while Best hauled in four passes for 26 yards. Best had 8.5 tackles on the defense while Harvey added five tackles and Seplak 3.5.

Herscher holds homefield advantage but the Coalers hold the series, winning seven out of the last 10 matches against the Tigers.

This will be another defensive game for the Coalers. If they can get something going and limit Lunsford, they can pull this one out, and get back on track.

"I think it's going to be physical. Their offensive line is traditionally pretty good technique-wise so we're going to have to be physical so hopefully by doing that, we can limit them on offense."



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

COAL CITY DEFENDERS Drake Dearth pulls down Wilmington running back Colin James during Friday's home contest.

A game of respect

BY ERIC FISHER
PUBLISHER

During the Middle Ages it was highly improbable the Saxons and Vikings stood around embracing each other once the battle was through.

But that was the case Friday after the Coalers and Wildcats clashed on the football field. Several seniors on both sides embraced their opponents out of respect. Both teams had their big hits, it just happened that Wilmington walked away 10-7 victors.

Old school football at its best, Coal City coach Francis Loughran agreed. "It was your typical Coal City vs. Wilmington clash in a nutshell. But unfortunately we ended up on the wrong end," he commented.

"We had a couple of opportunities from their miscues, but we just couldn't finish those drives. We couldn't really get any momentum going other than the drive before the half. That was frustrating."

Trailing 10-7, the Coalers were gifted the ball to start the third quarter. The Wildcats were on their own 24-yard line when the ball popped free and senior Coaler Aydan Murphey sprung on it at the 19-yard line.

Coal City was backed up a yard on the first play so they elected to pass on second down and it was incomplete. On fourth-and-11 they attempted a field goal to tie things up but the ball sailed wide left.

Coal City missed out on another opportunity in the fourth quarter. The Wildcats were just beyond midfield fac-

ing fourth-and-six when they lined up to punt. The ball was hiked over the head of Wilmington punter Allan Richards who chased it down 20 yards away. Miraculously, Richards still got off a kick but it didn't go far. Just when it looked like the Coalers had some momentum, they fumbled the ball away.

"That was a tough one, a self-inflicted wound we talked about after the game. Penalties and turnovers, if we can get those things cleaned up we can definitely turn things around here," the coach said.

Credit the Coaler defense for protecting their turf in the final minutes. Twice the visitors were driving the ball when they turned the Wildcats away. They got as close at the 30-yard line but the boys in green stopped them on fourth down.

With 1:28 left Wilmington lined up to punt on fourth-and-four near the 50. Again the hike went over the Wilmington punter's head and a sea of green chased after him. Richards got off a hurry-up kick that went out of bounds. The Coalers found themselves only 28 yards from the goal for one more final drive.

But good intentions were interrupted on second-and-7 when Coal City quarterback Braden Reilly fired the ball over the middle and was picked off by Richards. All Wilmington had to do then was take a knee and let time tick away to improve to 3-0 while the Coalers fall to 1-2.

"My hat's off to Coal City as you guys saw, a lot of effort was left on the field tonight," commented WHS coach Jeff Reents. "That's what



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

MUTUAL RESPECT - Wilmington's Karsen Hansen (22) and Coal City's Brady Best embrace with high regard for how hard each other played on Friday.

Wilmington vs. Coal City football is all about. That's our rival, and their kids played hard. It was a great game for us in a playoff-type atmosphere. It came down to big time players stepping up at

big times for us and we're fortunate to get out of here with a win."

It was Richards who stepped up from the start, kicking the ball for a touch-back to set up Coal City deep

into their own territory. After a four and out the Coalers were punting the ball away.

The Wildcats got the ball and burned up 9:00 of the clock by with running plays that would get them 76 yards to as close as the 1-yard line. On 4th-and-1 the 'Cats were flagged for a false start forcing them to settle for a field goal. Allan's kick of 23 yards gave Wilmington a 3-0 lead.

"We knew coming in the game would be won by who best controlled the like of scrimmage," said senior Wildcat Dominick Dingillo. "Their line was hard to move, I didn't expect that at all. Some of their juniors stepped up big time on that opening drive and I give them a lot of respect for that. They took a stand and held us at bay."

Wilmington hit pay dirt with 5 minutes left before half-time. Jacob Friddle had his longest run of the night when he broke for 21 yards. He followed that with another 9-yard jaunt before two plays later scampering 10 yards to pull ahead 10-0.

But the Wildcats paid a price during the series when starting quarterback Kaden Humphries was taken out due to a knee injury.

"That kinda hurt us mentally when Kaden left for good," Friddle admitted. "But our line really stepped up and helped with some nice holes. There was a lot a heavy-hitting on both sides of the line and we were the ones with an edge."

He credited backup quarterback Ryder Meents, a junior, for stepping up too.

"He took over in the second quarter against the toughest opponents we've played so far and got the job

done. Not everyone can handle the situation we were put in but he did."

Coal City answered before the break with an 80-yard, 17-play drive that included a two-yard plunge by senior Ashton Harvey with :52 seconds left before the half. Aydan Murphey's PAT kick was true making it 10-7, and what would become the final score of the night.

"Who knew it was going to be such a dog fight in the second half?" Dingillo said. "That's Wildcat vs. Coal City football, we tend to keep it interesting."

Wilmington finished with 252 yards of offense, all from rushing. Coal City tallied 131 yards overall, 76 yards passing, 55 on the ground.

Reilly was 12 for 23 passing and one interception with main targets being Nick Seplak (five catches for 40 yards), Brady Best (five for 24) and single catches by Murphey (7 yards) and Nolan Berger (5 yards).

Friddle led all rushers with 136 yards in 23 attempts while Wildcat Colin James had 116 yards in 20 tries.

For the Coalers Harvey had 14 carries for 37 yards while Seplak had 19 yards in six attempts.

Wilmington was led by Richards with 11 tackles while Colin James and Karsen Hansen were in on eight stops each.

The Coaler defense was anchored by Brady Best with nine tackles while Zach Finch had six tackles and Ashton Harvey five.

Coal City plays at Herscher Friday while Wilmington hosts undefeated Peotone.