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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Trustees approve engineering study to start North Broadway makeover

BY MIKE LOOMIS
CORRESPONDENT

Coal City officials approved the next step in the reconstruction of one of the village's main roadways.

The village board of trustees approved a payment of \$205,495 to ComEd for the utility company to conduct an engineering study for the burial of overhead electrical lines along North Broadway Street.

That expense will be credited to the overall cost of the project, which is estimated at \$5.5 million. The electrical lines along the section of the street between Route 113 and North Street need to be relocated underground because they are "in conflict with planned sidewalks to be constructed on the east side of North Broadway," Village Administrator Matt Fritz said at the trustee's meeting on Sept. 9.

The planned improvements also include road resurfacing, new curbs and the installation of decorative poles.

Fritz said that after completing the final design, ComEd will be able to provide an updated estimate on the total cost of the road reconstruction.

Mayor Dave Spesia said he expects bids for the project to go out late this year or in early 2027, with the burial of the electrical lines starting next summer.

Other topics discussed at last week's meeting were:

- The village's annual Fall Fest & Car Show is set for Sept. 18 and 19 on South Broadway Street. Trustee Dan Greggain said the car show, family activities and vendors will open at 3 p.m., and live music is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. The car show typically features over 100 entries, with proceeds from the event going to help support local charitable organizations.

Tammy Moran, chosen as this year's Community Service Award recipient, will be recognized for her efforts and presented with a commemorative plaque by the mayor on

Saturday at 5 p.m. in front of Babe's Tap, 755 South Broadway Street.

The mayor cited her part in organizing the America 250 celebration in June in addition to her involvement in fundraising for local schools and her role on the village's park board as examples of Moran's dedication to serving the community.

Megan's Mission, a 5K run/walk that benefits the Megan's Mission Foundation, will start at 6 p.m. Held to raise funding and awareness for childhood cancer research, the annual race honors the memory of Megan Bugg, a Coal City resident who fought a rare type of cancer before passing away in 2022. During her seven-year battle against the illness, Megan served as a national advocate and raised money for pediatric cancer research and treatments.

- Mayor Spesia appointed Walt Mahaffay to a five-year term on the Coal City Planning & Zoning Board. The mayor also appointed Tammy Moran and Brian Evans to new terms on the Coal City Park Board.

ComEd substation would be built on data center site

BY MIKE LOOMIS
CORRESPONDENT

A new electrical substation is part of the design for a data center proposed in Coal City.

The plans were a main issue last week at a meeting of the village's Planned

Unit Development Review Committee, held at the Coal City Lions Hall. Representatives from Aligned Data Centers and ComEd appeared before the committee to discuss how power would be supplied to the data center, which is proposed for a 300-acre property at the southeast corner of Reed Road and Carbon Hill Road.

A dedicated substation is needed to provide power from ComEd's transmission grid directly to the data center instead of drawing power from existing local distribution networks.

Aligned Data Centers, a Texas-based company that operates data centers at several locations around the country, submitted a planned unit development proposal in July for an 11-building campus that eventually would require a continuous power capacity of 800 to 864 megawatts.

Overall, the project would take about seven

years to reach full build-out, said Joe Giannini, a land enablement manager with Aligned.

When asked by Mark Heinle, the village attorney for Coal City who is part of the review committee, about the project's timeline, Giannini said the substation is an important initial step.

"Our first point of action is the ComEd lot," he said, adding that Aligned would likely oversee excavation and then the utility company would construct the substation.

Since discussions about the proposed data center began in late 2024, the issue continues to create concerns from some residents worried about the impact it could have upon utility costs, water consumption and noise levels. About 10 residents attended the review committee on Sept. 9, including 89-year-old Donald Vilt, who remains skeptical about the project.

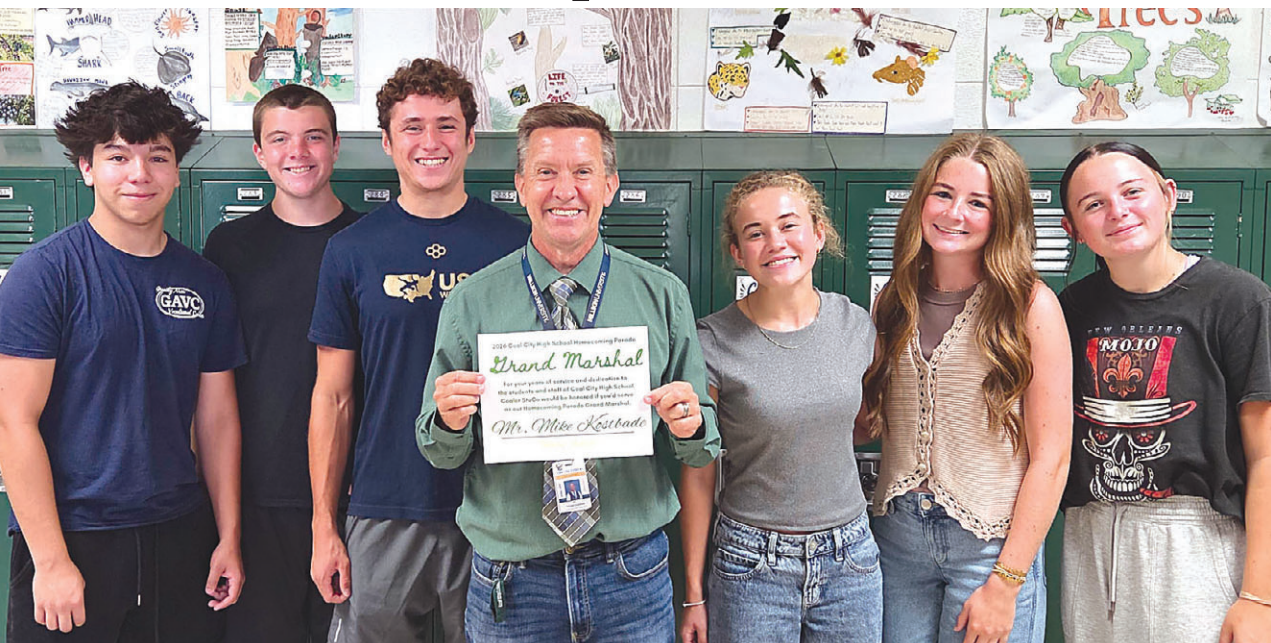
"There are more down sides than up to this," the 1955 Coal City High School graduate said.

Tina Johnson, a resident of neighboring Diamond, said the committee meeting addressed some of the questions she has but also raised others.

"I have some new concerns about construc-

SEE PUD MEETING PAGE 2

Kostbade selected as parade Grand Marshal



Courtesy photo

THE COAL CITY HIGH School Student Council is excited to announce Mike Kostbade as the 2026 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal! This well-deserved honor recognizes a teacher and coach who has made a lasting impact on countless students throughout his career at Coal City High School. As a high school science teacher and coach, Mr. Kostbade has shared his knowledge, encouragement and Coaler Pride with generations of students. As Mr. Kostbade prepares to close out his career at the end of this school year, it's only fitting the Coalers Student Council has selected to celebrate him during Homecoming Week. So, when the parade rolls down Broadway on Friday, Oct. 2, be sure to give Mr. Kostbade a wave and a cheer.

Seeking parade entries....

Are you ready for a homecoming parade?

It's now tradition for Coal City High School to host a homecoming parade and this year's march down Broadway is quickly approaching.

The annual homecoming parade, Coaler Reef, will be held Friday, Oct. 2 stepping off from the intersection of South Broadway and Spring Road at 2:30 p.m. The parade will head north on Broadway to Carbon Street and conclude at the Berst Center on Kankakee Street.

The Marching Coaler Bands will participate as will various high school clubs, organizations and athletic teams.

Once again, the student council invites community businesses and

churches to enter a unit in the parade. There will be a \$100 fee assessed to those entries. No political parties, organizations or candidates for election will be granted entry.

No person under high school age is allowed to participate in the parade with the exception of middle school band members.

All parade entries are to follow the homecoming theme of Coaler Reef/Under the Sea and be school appropriate. Those deemed inappropriate are subject to elimination from the lineup by school administration.

There are a few rules that need to be followed, candy and other items can not be thrown from vehi-

cles, but can be passed out by walkers, and drivers must drive responsibly and cautiously.

Once on a float or in a vehicle there is no getting off once the parade has started, if riding in a pickup truck the tailgate must be closed for the safety of riders, and legs and feet can not dangle from a unit and standing is not recommended.

Participants are expected to clean up any mess or garbage left behind on school property or elsewhere.

The parade will be staged in the high school tennis court parking lot at the corner of Division Street [Route 113] and Carbon Hill Road. Vehicles

and floats can be brought to the high school as early as 7 a.m. on parade day, early drop-off are allowed as long as plans are made ahead of time.

All entries must be at the high school and ready to go no later than 2 p.m., as all units will proceed to the start of the parade route departing the high school at 2:15 p.m.

Questions can be directed to Allison Peterson at Coal City High School, apeterson@coalcityschools.org

The community is encouraged to celebrate homecoming by participating and attending the parade.

Fall Fest promises full day of family fun in Coal City

Coal City will welcome the arrival of autumn with a full day of entertainment, activities, food and community celebration when the village hosts its Fall Fest on Saturday, Sept. 19.

The festival will run from 3 to 11 p.m. with activities spread throughout the downtown area. Organizers are billing the event as "a day & night of fun for the whole family," with a car show, Touch-A-Truck, inflatables, food vendors, a makers court, live entertainment and a nighttime laser light show among the attractions.

The festivities actually get an early start Friday evening with a customer appreciation night at Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire, 60 E. Chestnut St. Beginning at 6 p.m., the kickoff will feature live music along with food and drinks.

On Saturday, the Fall Fest car show will be held from 3 to 6 p.m. along South Broadway. Vehicles can begin lining up at 2 p.m.

Touch-A-Truck will also run from 3 to 6 p.m. on Center Street, giving children a chance to get

an up-close look at large vehicles and equipment.

Several children's attractions will be set up at Campbell Park, including inflatables, games and face painting. Just south of the railroad tracks will feature a dunk tank, Joust and Hungry Hippos and other activities.

Food will be plentiful throughout the festival grounds. The map provided by organizers in this edition shows food vendors including Maricela's Tacos, Lil Deb's Food Truck and BBQ & Baker. Other offerings include Lemon Shake Ups, kettle corn, beef sandwiches and sandwiches from the Methodist Church, turkey poor boys at the Campbell Park concessions by the Presbyterian Church, Boy Scout brats and Cub Scout candy apples.

The Makers Court will be located near the Coaler Corner area next to the post office, while additional

SEE FALL FEST PAGE 2



FALL INTO SAVINGS!

SALE VALID
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& Wilmington
CHECK OUT OUR
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Medallions

BOGO FREE!
Single: \$16.99/lb

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LIMIT 4
LIMIT 1 OFFER*
Price without coupon: \$6.99

Chilean 3lb Bagged Halos

DIGITAL COUPON
\$8.99
EA
LIMIT 1
LIMIT 1 OFFER*
Price without coupon: \$11.99

Frito-Lay
Variety Pack
18 ct.

Fall Fest, continued from page 1

tional vendors and attractions will be scattered throughout the downtown festival grounds. The village has also designated parking areas, including handicap parking near Village Hall. A map on page 2 of the Fall Fest flyer provides the locations of activities, food vendors, parking and restroom facilities.

Community recognition will be part of the celebration as well. The Community Service Award winner will be recognized at 5 p.m. in front pf Babe's Tap.

At 6 p.m., participants will take off for the Megan Bugg 5K Walk/Run. The event honors the late Coal City resident whose battle with childhood cancer inspired the Megan Bugg Global Rhabdo myosarcoma Research Laboratory at Children's Cancer Therapy Development Institute. The race course and starting area will be south of the tracks on Broadway St.

Music will take over Saturday night, with live entertainment scheduled from 6 to 11 p.m. Who Dat Dere Band will perform from 7 to 11 p.m.

One of the night's biggest visual attractions will come at 9:30 p.m. when a laser light show illuminates downtown Coal City near Bob's Advanced Auto & Tire.

The Fall Fest layout also includes Lions Club beer tents, restroom and hand-washing stations and parking locations throughout the festival area.

PUD meeting, continued from page 1

tion traffic," she said later that night during the public comments section of the Coal City Village Board of Trustees meeting. "I live off [Interstate] 55, and that traffic is going to come my way...it's already out there, and now they said there's going to be 450 trips that are made each shift by construction staff."

Village Administrator Matt Fritz said the next meeting of the review committee will probably be held in October. The 16-member committee includes representatives from the village including Fritz, Heinle, Public Works Director Darrell Olson, Chief of Police Mike Imhof, and residents Gary Grunauer, Walt Mahaffey, and Terry Halliday.

If Aligned Data Centers receives final approval from the village to build the data center, ComEd spokesperson John Schoen said construction on the substation would start in early 2027 and the facility would be functional by the end of that year.

Maine Township Supervisors Annual Report on file

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Pam Hazzard, Supervisor of Maine Township, Grundy County, Illinois, being duly sworn and deposed, say that the following statement is a correct report for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025 and ending on March 31, 2026.

TOWN FUND:	
Beginning Balance:	\$ 23,110.05
Revenues:	
Property Tax:	\$20,642.60
Replacement Tax:	\$4,387.63
Bank Interest:	\$237.49
Bank Refund:	\$57.00
Toirma Dividends:	\$261.00
Foia Mailing	\$5.85
Total Revenue:	\$ 25,591.57
Expenses:	
Under \$500 - Free Press Newspapers, Township Officials of Illinois, Bank Fees, TOI handbook, Moderator, Case Biros, Ryan Boudreau	
Under \$1,000 - Denny Christensen, Dave Hauschild, Jim Jackman, Mark Lehnus, Brandt's, Dibble Enterprises, Inc., Com Ed	
Under \$2,000 - Betsy Stahler, Office Supplies, Phil Bajt	
Under \$3,000 - Pam Hazzard	
Under \$4,000 - Toirma	
Under \$5,000 - Kevin Finch	
Under \$6,000 - Mack & Assoc., IRS	
Under \$8,000 - Bill Stahler	
Total Expenses:	\$ 39,482.27
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 9,219.35
GENERAL ASSISTANCE:	
Beginning Balance:	\$ 25,291.00
Revenues:	
Property Tax:	\$ 386.89
Bank Interest:	\$ 809.91
Refund Bank Fees	\$39.00
Bank Fees	\$3.00
Expenditures:	
ENDING BALANCE:	\$ 26,523.80
ROAD AND BRIDGE:	
Beginning Balance:	\$102,777.21
Revenues:	
Property Tax:	\$ 74,785.14
Replacement Tax:	\$ 5,980.59
Bank Interest:	\$ 4,431.59
Toirma Dividends:	\$ 251.00
Reimb. MFT/ Grundy County	\$ 65,453.40
Permits/ Overnight Fees	\$70,450.00
Grundy Bank credit	\$42.00
Returned check/JD Financial	\$379.09
Total Revenue:	\$221,772.81
Expenses:	
Under \$500 - Midwest Trucking, Twp. Hwy. dues, Fisher (Federated Auto Parts), Grundy Bank, Menards, Rick Kibler, Grundy Co. Highway, Phil Bajt, Runnings, Bill Daniels, Sandeno Inc., Cody Hazzard, Salcay Services, Allegra.	
Under \$1,000 - Sistek Sales, J.D. Financial, Grundy County Broadcasters	
Under \$2,000 - Maine Township Drainage, 8th Street Welding, Bill Stahler	
Under \$3,000 - Leake Sandblasting, Lenzie Farm Shop	
Under \$4,000 - HiViz Inc., Grainco FS, Chris Dearth	
Under \$8,000 - Bob McGuinn, Absolute Auto	
Under \$30,000 - Midstate Asphalt	
Under \$110,000 - Scott Biros	
Total Expenditures:	\$178,764.63
ENDING BALANCE:	\$145,785.39

Attorney Wharrie files Super estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF GRUNDY) SS:
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE IN RE: THE ESTATE OF SHAWN B. SUPER, Deceased Case No.: 2026-PR-71
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of SHAWN B. SUPER. Letters of office were issued on August 21, 2026 to DONNA M. PACHETTI, 735 N. First St., Carbon Hill, IL 60416, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie, 105 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.

Notice is given to all known and unknown heirs that the estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under 755 ILCS 5-28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by E-filing or delivering a Petition to Terminate to the Circuit Clerk.

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Probate Division, at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 or with the representative, or both, within 6 months from the date of issuance of letters of office. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it had been filed.

Dated: August 25, 2026.
DONNA M. PACHETTI,
Independent Administrator
Larry G. Wharrie
Wharrie Kieilan, P.C.
105 S. Broadway,
Coal City, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8990
ARDC #2996146
attyIGW@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 2, 9 and 16, 2026.

Meents Law P.C. files Tjelle estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DEREK WADE TJELLE, Deceased; No. 2026 PR 77 CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DEREK WADE TJELLE. Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on August 27, 2026, to Jeni Lynn Tjelle, whose address is 699 W. Trotter Drive, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 10, 2027, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 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 by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

E-Filing is now mandatory with limited exemptions. To E-File, you must first create an account with an E-Filing service provider. Visit <https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble E-Filing, visit <https://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot E-File, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

Jeni Lynn Tjelle
Independent Administrator of the Estate of DEREK WADE TJELLE, Deceased
Frank J. Meents
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 16, and 23, 2026.

Coaler fans of the game



Courtesy photo

THREE YOUNG COALERS were selected as the Coal City High School Athletic Department's Coalers Fans of the Game. The students were celebrated during halftime of the Sept. 11 home football game. The students were selected by their building principal based on their positive behavior, good decision making, and showing Coalers spirit. Representing the Early Childhood Center was Maeva Hadju. Her principal shared she is always excited to be at school and is a wonderful helper to everyone around her, and her positive attitude and kindness make the ECC a great place to be. Andreas Barrett was selected to represent the Elementary School. He loves football and enjoys cheering on the Coalers. His principal thanked him for always showing his Coaler Pride. Brock Bailey was on the field representing the Intermediate School. He's involved in a number of youth sports programs including playing football this fall for the Coal City Miners. Brock plans to pursue athletics throughout his years as a Coaler and hopes to play professionally in the future—football or baseball. His favorite Coaler is his cousin Ella, a cheerleader and track and field athlete.

Coal City man faces sex abuse charges

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

A 21-year-old Coal City man is facing three sex-related charges in Grundy County involving allegations of sexual abuse of three minors.

Ryan Gagliardo has

been charged with aggravated criminal sexual abuse, a Class 2 felony, along with two misdemeanor counts of criminal sexual abuse.

According to the indictment, Gagliardo allegedly sexually abused a minor in the Coal City area

on July 5, 2024.

He is also accused of sexually abusing two other minors. One allegation involves a period between Oct. 11, 2022, and July 5, 2024, while the other allegedly occurred between January and March 2023.

The case was investigated by the Coal City Police Department. Gagliardo was arrested earlier in September on a Grundy County warrant and transported to the Grundy County Jail.

He was subsequently released subject to pretrial conditions.

Coal City police said the investigation remains ongoing and that additional details could be released as the case develops.



RYAN GAGLIARDO

The charges are allegations, and Gagliardo is presumed innocent unless proven guilty in court.

Information in this report was obtained from official public sources.

Coal City Public Library calendar

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

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

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

Thursday, Sept. 17
10am - Terrific Tots - Children 2 years old - 3 years old and their caregiver can attend this fun and interactive class. Each week we will focus on a different letter of the alphabet through stories, songs, a craft, and a nursery rhyme.
11am - Family Story and Play Time - Join us for a short storytime with songs, and then we'll take out some of our toys to play with for the rest of the time. Each week we'll have a new theme and get out different toys to focus on different skills. No registration required.

4pm - Builder's Club
6pm - Terrific Tots
6pm - Lori Bonarek Realty Educational Seminar in Annex A. Purchasing a Second Home with Lori Bonarek and Jen Phillips. Please register for this workshop.

Friday, Sept. 18
9am - Coalers Business Alliance Meeting in Annex A. The Coalers Business Alliance gathers local businesses to plan events and programming in the Coal City-Diamond area to encourage shopping/buying local.

Saturday, Sept. 19
2-4pm - ICash Services. Stop by the Library for the IL State Treasurer's office to assist you with finding unclaimed cash in your name through ICASH.
Monday, Sept. 21
10am - Terrific Tots
11am - Preschool Storytime
1pm - Eager Readers Homeschool
1pm - Epic Quest Homeschool Group
4pm - Eager Readers
6pm - Family Lapsit
6pm - Preschool Storytime
6pm - Dining with Dewey Cookbook Club in Annex A.

Tuesday, Sept. 22
9am-4pm - Paper & More
3:30pm - Art Innovators (3rd-5th Grade)
6pm - Bunco at the Library

Wednesday, Sept. 23
9am-12pm - Senior Health Insurance Program
9:30am - Family Lapsit
9:30am - Preschool Storytime
3:30pm - Fit 4 Life
5pm - Teen Game Night

Thursday, Sept. 24
10am - Terrific Tots
11am - Family Story and Play Time - Join us for a short storytime with songs, and then we'll take out some of our toys to play with for the rest of the time. Each week we'll have a new theme and get out different toys to focus on different skills. No registration required.

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Phillips. Please register for this workshop.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY IN HEAVEN

Gary Lissy Jr.

September 17

**We think about you always,
We talk about you still,
You have never been forgotten,
and you never will.**

**We hold you close within
our heart and there
you will remain,**

**To walk and guide us
through our lives,
We Love you always DAD,
Happy Heavenly birthday
until we meet again.**

**Love you forever,
Ashleigh, Billy, Devun, Dylan, & Arieana
Aimee, Billy, Ryleigh, & Blake
Anthony, Kristin, Kaitlyn, Marlie, Preston, & Grant
Dad, Michelle, & John**

ILLINOIS PRESS ASSOCIATION
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Display Advertising: Friday, noon
News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com
Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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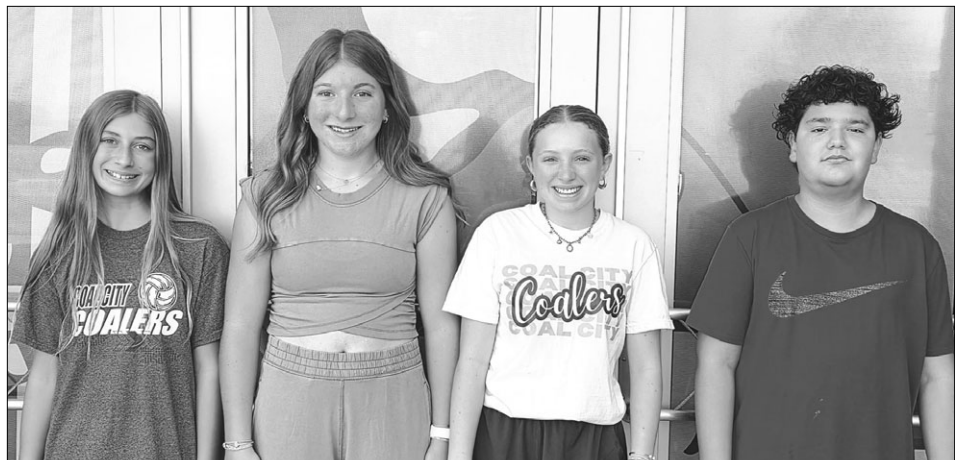
Eric D. Fisher, publisher

Students of the week



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of Aug. 31. Honored were (from left) Jason Xu, nominated by Mrs. Larson; Harper Lardi, nominated by Mrs. Matsko; Draven Summlion, nominated by Coach Bunton and Paisley Edmonds, nominated by Mr. Hitchcock.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY MIDDLE School has announced its Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 7. Recognized were [from left]: Kenley Faletti, nominated by Mrs. Mark; Sienna Ruffato, nominated by Mrs. Wankowski; Aubree Dearth, nominated by Coach Yedinak and Malakai Rios, nominated by Mr. Larson.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 9 are (from left) Isaac Lardi, Lyla Strung and Harper Garner.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for the week of Sept. 9 are [from left]: are Edith Dearth, Rylan Poeschel, Andrew Calderon, Anna Barrie, Kinsley Peddicord, Anna Eberhard, Oakley Sinkular, Reese VanDuyne, Owen Clubb, Skylar Biswell, Waylon Cryder, Sabrina Arcos and Avery Wynn.

HAPPY HEAVENLY
BIRTHDAY

Grandma Judy

September 10

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Public Test

Automatic Tabulating Equipment

General Election – November 3, 2026

The Grundy County Clerk's Office will conduct the required public test of the Verity Scan automatic tabulating equipment and election program that will be used for the November 3, 2026, General Election.

Test Information	Location
Date: Wednesday, September 23, 2026	Grundy County Clerk's Office
Time: 1:00 p.m.	111 East Washington Street, Room 12
	Morris, Illinois 60450

Public Attendance

The public test is open to:

- Representatives of the political parties
- Members of the news media
- Representatives of the Illinois State Board of Elections
- Members of the public

Additional Information

- Cell phones are not permitted inside the Grundy County Courthouse.
- Contact the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222

KAY T. OLSON

Grundy County Clerk

Dated this 16th day of September, 2026.

Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

Savannah Jacobs

Winner of a large 2-item Pizza, carry-out only

Must redeem by Sept. 21, 2026

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 41 years!"

We will have a new Internet winner each week throughout the school year, so watch the Courant each week for the lucky Coaler Fan Winner.

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

Coal City Public Library approves budget and appropriation ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 26-3
BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE
AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING COMBINED ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATING SUCH SUMS OF MONEY AS MAY BE DEEMED NECESSARY TO DEFRAY ALL NECESSARY EXPENSES AND LIABILITIES OF THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, COAL CITY, GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2026, AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2027, AND SPECIFYING THE OBJECTS AND PURPOSES FOR WHICH SUCH APPROPRIATIONS ARE MADE AND THE AMOUNT APPROPRIATED FOR EACH OBJECT OR PURPOSE

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT:

Section 1: The following is the Annual Budget for the Coal City Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027

1. GENERAL:

A. Library Services:

Audio-Visual Materials	\$10,000.00
Book Purchases	\$40,000.00
Emedia	\$50,000.00
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$3,000.00
Library Programs & Program Supplies	\$85,000.00
Library Supplies	\$20,000.00
New Library Equipment	\$30,000.00
Periodicals	\$5,000.00
Photocopy Supplies and Maintenance	\$17,000.00
Subscription, Databases & Software	\$50,000.00

B. Automation:

Internet Connectivity	\$4,300.00
PrairieCat Costs	\$21,000.00

C. Building Expenses and Equipment:

Electricity	\$64,000.00
Natural Gas	\$2,200.00
Real Estate Tax	\$78.00
Sewer, Water & Garbage	\$3,000.00
Telephone	\$4,200.00

D. Administration:

Banking Fees	\$800.00
Contingency	\$1,400.00
Legal Service	\$3,000.00
Office Equipment	\$700.00
Office Supplies	\$4,000.00
Postage	\$10,000.00
Printing	\$7,000.00
Professional Dues	\$3,000.00
Property Appraisal	\$0.00
Publicity and Publicity Supplies	\$10,000.00
Publishing	\$1,000.00

E. Personnel:

Health Insurance	\$44,000.00
Life Insurance	\$1,200.00
In-Service Training, Education & Travel	\$3,000.00

Salaries:

Non-Professional	\$209,000.00
Professional	\$750,000.00

F. Capital Improvements:

Furniture & Equipment	\$15,000.00
Land Acquisition	\$0.00
Landscaping/Property Maintenance	\$3,300.00
Library Building	\$138,986.00

2. SPECIAL RESERVE FUND \$0.00 |

3. ANNUAL AUDIT FUND \$5,300.00 |

4. ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND \$90,000.00 |

5. INSURANCE (LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION) \$35,084.00 |

6. SOCIAL SECURITY TAX \$70,000.00 |

7. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE \$1,000.00 |

8. WORKING CASH FUND \$0.00 || **TOTAL** | **\$1,815,548.00** |

Section 2: As part of the Annual Budget, it is stated:

(a) That the cash on hand at the beginning of the fiscal year is \$2,008,484.00 consisting of the special reserve fund and the working cash fund, both restricted funds.

(b) That the estimated cash expected to be received during the fiscal year from all sources is \$1,865,082.00.

(c) That the estimated expenditures for the fiscal year are \$1,865,082.00.

(d) That the estimated cash expected to be on hand at the end of the fiscal year is \$2,008,484.00 consisting of the special reserve fund and the working cash fund, both restricted funds.

(e) That the estimated amount of taxes to be received by THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT during the fiscal year (pursuant to the tax levy filed November 2025) is \$1,695,600.00.

(f) That the estimated amount of income and revenue to be received from sources other than library taxes for the fiscal year is \$169,482.00.

Section 3: That the following sum of money in the total amount of \$3,868,500.00 or so much thereof as may be authorized by law, be and the same are hereby appropriated for the corporate purposes of THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, as hereinafter specified for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027

1. GENERAL:

A. Library Services:

Audio-Visual Materials	\$15,000.00
Book Purchases	\$60,000.00
Emedia	\$80,000.00
Equipment Repair and Maintenance	\$10,000.00
Library Programs & Program Supplies	\$120,000.00
Library Supplies	\$30,000.00
New Library Equipment	\$70,000.00
Periodicals	\$7,000.00
Photocopy Supplies and Maintenance	\$25,000.00
Subscription, Databases & Software	\$70,000.00

B. Automation:

Internet Connectivity	\$7,000.00
PrairieCat Costs	\$30,000.00

C. Building Expenses and Equipment:

Electricity	\$80,000.00
Natural Gas	\$5,000.00
Real Estate Tax	\$4,000.00
Sewer, Water & Garbage	\$5,000.00
Telephone	\$6,000.00

D. Administration:

Banking Fees	\$1,500.00
Contingency	\$3,500.00
Legal Service	\$40,000.00
Office Equipment	\$2,000.00
Office Supplies	\$6,000.00
Postage	\$15,000.00
Printing	\$9,000.00
Professional Dues	\$4,000.00
Property Appraisal	\$3,000.00

Publicity and Publicity Supplies	\$15,000.00
Publishing	\$2,000.00

E. Personnel:

Health Insurance	\$60,000.00
Life Insurance	\$2,500.00
In-Service Training, Education & Travel	\$5,000.00

Salaries:

Non-Professional	\$300,000.00
Professional	\$850,000.00

F. Capital Improvements:

Furniture & Equipment	\$30,000.00
Land Acquisition	\$350,000.00
Landscaping/Property Maintenance	\$7,000.00
Library Building	\$400,000.00

2. SPECIAL RESERVE FUND \$600,000.00 |

3. ANNUAL AUDIT FUND \$7,000.00 |

4. ILLINOIS MUNICIPAL RETIREMENT FUND \$110,000.00 |

5. INSURANCE (LIABILITY AND WORKER'S COMPENSATION) \$40,000.00 |

6. SOCIAL SECURITY TAX \$80,000.00 |

7. UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE \$2,000.00 |

8. WORKING CASH FUND \$300,000.00 || **TOTAL** | **\$3,868,500.00** |

Section 4: Transfers from one appropriation of any amount specified for any object and purpose, not affecting the total amount appropriated, may be made at any meeting of the Board by ordinance enacted by a 2/3 vote of all Trustees. By a like vote the Board may by ordinance make appropriations in excess of those authorized by the budget in order to meet an immediate unforeseen emergency.

Section 5: The Board has a Special Reserve Fund and the unexpended balances from the proceeds received from library taxes may be accumulated in the Special Reserve Fund.

Section 6: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval and publication as required by law.

ADOPTED this 8th day of September, 2026, pursuant to roll call vote as follows:

AYES: Stahler, Vigna, Crawford, Ludes, Sipple, Trotter
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Smith

Approved by me this 8th day of September, 2026

Debi Trotter
Board President
Coal City Public Library District

ATTEST:
Carol Crawford
Secretary
Coal City Public Library District

STATE OF ILLINOIS } SS
COUNTY OF GRUNDY

CERTIFICATION OF AUTHENTICITY
(BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE)

I, Carol Crawford, do hereby certify that I am the duly qualified and acting Secretary of the Board of Trustees of The Coal City Public Library District of Grundy County, Illinois and as such I am the custodian and keeper of records and files of said Library District.

I do further certify that the attached is a true and correct copy of that certain Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for said Coal City Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 which was adopted by said Board of Trustees at the regular meeting of said Board of Trustees held on September 8, 2026.

I do further certify that the attached Budget and Appropriation Ordinance has not been amended, altered, changed or repealed and is still in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my official signature and corporate seal of said Coal City Public Library District, Grundy County, Illinois at Coal City, Illinois, this 8th day of September, 2026.

Carol Crawford

Secretary

Coal City Public Library District

Grundy County, Illinois

(SEAL)

CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER'S CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED REVENUE FOR THE COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, GRUNDY COUNTY

(July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027 Fiscal Year)

I, Betsy Stahler, do hereby certify as follows:

1. I am the chief fiscal officer of the Coal City Public Library District, Grundy County, Illinois

2. I estimated the revenue, by source of said District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027, to be as follows:

Source	Amount
Library Swag	\$50.00
Book Donation	\$2,300.00
Donations and Memorials	\$1,000.00
Fax	\$2,500.00
Fines	\$8,200.00
General Taxes Levied	\$1,484,130.00
Interest Earned on District Funds	\$25,000.00
Interest Earned on Special Reserve and Working Cash Funds	\$30,000.00
Library Program Fees	\$10,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$30.00
Non-Resident Contracts	\$500.00
Grants	\$19,788.00
IL Replacement Tax	\$4,000.00
Photocopies	\$7,000.00
Special Taxes	\$186,604.00
Special Taxes Fund Balance Transfer	\$14,780.00
Services	\$4,000.00
CPV Distribution	\$64,000.00
E.D.P.A. Distribution	\$1,200.00
TOTAL	\$1,865,082.00

Betsy Stahler

Board Treasurer

Coal City Public Library District

DATED: September 8, 2026

Published in The Coal City Courant, September 16, 2026.

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Pickleball suggestions

COAL CITY—It is so nice to see the pickleball courts at North Park getting used by young and older people. Curious on who maintains them? After speaking to many that play there, they wish they had a better solution for the gaps at the bottom of the courts because balls roll outside the fences. Right now, they stick pool noodles in those areas. Another suggestion is for some type of divider between each court, so balls do not interfere with other courts. Lastly, improve lighting for all the courts. This time of year, the weather is still nice but by 7:15 p.m. you can barely see the ball on some of the courts. The community would appreciate some of the suggested updates to improve our pickleball courts.

Change of tune

WILMINGTON—Trump's two-day Republican Midterm Convention is September 9-10 in Dallas. It may be time to change his entrance song. Instead of Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A.," maybe the President should consider coming in with Carly Simon's "You're So Vain." But since there has been a lot of speculation about the president's relationship with his 35-year-old personal aide, as well as rumors about his past with questionable girls, maybe it is time to use Gary Puckett and the Union Gap's "Young Girl."

Love local history

BRACEVILLE—Thank you Sandy Vasko on the local history of our mining town. It's great to read about our small town.

Aldi, please

COAL CITY—Hey Diamond, we'd like an Aldi now, please. Thank you.

Not so intelligent

SHADOW LAKES—My name is Dan Hill. Watching channel two news about the problem in Michigan with state drivers licenses. Eight thousand people have the wrong identity. They just showed a white, blonde woman's picture on her license as being an African-American. You people that trust in artificial intelligence, I call it

intelligence. Think people.

Tunes: Part Two

WILMINGTON—The president's two day Republican Midterm Convention has concluded in Dallas. As usual, he entered the convention with Lee Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A." I still say that the President should consider coming in with Carly Simon's "You're So Vain." But since there has been a lot of speculation about the president's relationship with his 35 year old personal aide, as well as rumors about his past with underage girls, maybe it is time to use Gary Puckett and the Union Gap's "Young Girl." Then he promised \$5,000 to all Americans if the Republicans kept their majority after the November midterms. That being said, the more appropriate song now would be Three Dog Night's "Liar" or The Little River Band's "Lonesome Loser!"

You can stop war

WILMINGTON—Our next war will not be against Russia or China it will against Islam. It has started with the help of the Democratic Party you can stop it. Vote for your children and grandchildren.

Doesn't make sense

WILMINGTON—How did 30% of this country get infatuated with a Vietnam-Era War draft dodger? This community is 1000% pro military, family histories of generations proudly serving for country. Mohammed Ali was openly denounced and sent to prison for his religious beliefs and draft-dodging. But this tennis playing, avid golfer who is prominently a top three headliner in the Epstein files gets a pass from a majority of this community, his direct family has never been in military since coming to America two centuries ago. Please help it make sense. He has never ever been good for over 80 years. Why are you people so willfully ignorant to this life-long con man? We struggle and he has personally made more than ever for himself in 11 months than in his entire miserable existence. What is wrong with you?



We're not Naperville

BRAIDWOOD—This in response to "Do as we please." You need to read and comprehend what you are reading as well as understand it. I've been a resident of Braidwood for 27 years. My husband and his parents are lifelong residents. So with that being said, the powers that be that want to be like Naperville—where do you think they got the idea for a city center and a splash pad? Duh. And people are tired of hearing the fireworks that are illegal and

need to be enforced. You are probably one of the morons letting them off and if you think you can do whatever you want in this town you sound like an accident that's waiting to happen.

Dee

I'm glad he's dead

WILMINGTON don't condone murder but I'm glad Charlie Kirk is dead. He was nothing but a Christian huckster making money off of people's superstitions.

Commentary

Bring together your neighbors for a welcoming community

BY CARLOS BARCENAS

The internet and expanded access to technology has made our small communities part of a global landscape. Exploring the world is easy from the comfort of our living rooms.

However, your next cultural experience may be right outside your front door. Walk around your community, and a cultural experience may come to life.

That's the case in rural communities across the nation. In Nebraska, an influx of immigrant families from various ethnic backgrounds has meant a change in population. That's a positive sign for jobs and economic impact.

But it also brings its own struggles and challenges.

In newly diverse communities, chief topics of conversation include language differences and a lack of services and resources. How can we confront the challenges when language, religion, and ethnic backgrounds are so diverse?

In my small community, we looked for a common denominator. It began with the idea that "we all live in this community." A conversation centered on working together for the well-being of everyone around us was a great place to start. With that premise, we began to explore how to strengthen our communities by learning about our differences.

Creating an inclusive community is a two-way street. The effort should come from both sides.

During any given week, bring together your neighbors. Start a conversation with local leaders, and get involved to create changes that ignite the process of welcoming everyone in your community.

When people have a sense of belonging in a community, this is a mark of a healthy community.

Carlos Barcenas is a consultant for the Center for Rural Affairs, a private, nonprofit organization working to strengthen small businesses, family farms and ranches in rural communities.

Autumn Harvest Fest family fun coming Saturday

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Finance Commissioner Liz Dixon urged residents to partake in Braidwood's upcoming Fall festival, which will feature family-friendly activities, food and entertainment this Saturday, Sept. 19 at Old Smokey City Park.

Dixon said organizers have arranged for lots of activities for children, food trucks, and a variety of vendors to participate in the event. Local artists will also be involved, including an area art group that plans to offer hands-on activities for children.

"We have two bounce houses and vendors coming and food trucks and the art part," Dixon said. "One of the art groups here in town are going to come. They're going to be there. They're going to do crafts with kids where pumpkins are going to be able to decorate them."

Do you bake the best pecan pie in the

state? Here's your chance to prove it. The festival will host a pie-baking contest.

"We're going to have a pie baking contest, so if you want to enter your pie, just bring it to the park on Saturday...between one and five," Dixon said.

Dixon said she hopes the event draws strong community participation and provides an enjoyable afternoon for local families.

"So I hope we can get a lot of people there," Dixon said. "The kids are going to have a good time."

This family friendly festival offers fun and food for all, and is especially geared to the town's children.

In addition to bounce houses, kids will have the chance to decorate pumpkins and participate in the Scarecrow Contest. Simply bring along your scarecrow for a chance to compete for prizes.

Music, food trucks, and vendors will be on hand for to assure a good time is had by all.

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Interior/Exterior



AMY MILLER'S PHOTO of deer on a misty morning at Rock Run Preserve in Joliet won August's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Joliet woman's deer photo wins August contest

Amy Miller of Joliet won August's portion of the Preserve the Moment ture of three deer following a path at Rock Run Preserve.

Miller said she lives near Rock Run and often heads there with her camera.

"Rock Run has some beautiful spots where the trails meet fields so any time there is fog in the morning, I know that there will be a chance for a more textured photo," she wrote in an email after being notified of her win. "I have a few favorite sunrise spots, and this is definitely one of them."

Photographing deer is a creative activity for Miller, who works as a documentation specialist.

"I absolutely love photographing deer," she said. "To me they are a calming sight. To some people, all deer look the same, but different times of day, seasons, etc., always give me something to capture that is unique to the moment."

Living close to Rock Run and being able to take photos is always a win, no matter how the photos turn out, she added.

"I am grateful for the ability to get out and shoot, to see such beauty in the middle of the city, and to try to better myself," she said. "I grew up with forest preserve all around me, so every time I go out into the preserves to shoot it's like going home. I love the changing of the seasons, so

every season brings a fresh look for photography."

Honorable mentions went to: Michelle Wendling for a foggy landscape shot filled with pink and purple light at Hadley Valley; Mark Hanna for a shadowy shot of an alert coyote at O'Hara Woods Preserve, and Chad Morschly for a glittery golden dragonfly at Isle a la Cache.

The Preserve the Moment photo contest began in February and runs bthrough Dec. 31. Monthly winners will advance to the final round, where they will compete for likes on Facebook in January 2027 to determine the first-, second- and third-place winners overall.

Each monthly photo contest winner will receive

a \$75 gift card. Overall winners will receive Mastercard gift cards worth \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place. At the end of the contest, three participants also will be randomly selected to receive \$75 Mastercard gift cards.

The contest is made possible with support from The Nature Foundation of Will County.

Participants are encouraged to read the rules before entering. Up to five photos can be submitted per month via the District's contest upload page at ReconnectWithNature.org. All photos must be taken at a Forest Preserve District of Will County location.

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OBITUARIES

Norman Heiman

 **BRAIDWOOD**—Norman Arthur Heiman, 85, of Braidwood, passed away on Saturday, Aug. 22, 2026, at his home surrounded by his family. Born Oct. 21, 1940, in Joliet, Norman was the son of Alfred and Alice (née Van Lienen) Heiman.



Norm grew up in Plainfield, IL and was a member of the graduating class from Plainfield High School, Class of 1959. After schooling, Norm joined the United States Navy, continued his career with the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant until its closure, and then was employed at Johns Manville until his retirement.

Norm was a compassionate animal lover throughout his life. He cared for a wide variety of animals including dogs, cats, pigeons, chickens, pheasants, Canadian geese, ducks, rabbits, and ferrets. He was also an outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He took many trips out west and across the northern border to Canada in the hunt for big game. However, as Norm aged, that heart turned soft and he went from hunting deer to feeding them in his backyard.

Norm suffered a major stroke on Nov. 6, 2022, and as a result developed vascular dementia. In true Norm fashion, his hard-headedness prevailed and he fiercely battled dementia for almost four years. His family wishes to thank the several caregivers that aided him along the grueling

journey.

Norm is survived by his former spouse Sharon Heiman of South Wilmington, IL; four daughters, Kristy Sorensen of South Wilmington; Lisa (Randy) Kiefling of South Wilmington; Jennifer Heiman (Jim Cwick) of Elmhurst, IL; and Casey (Brad) Campbell of Waterford, WI; two granddaughters: Caitlin (Bryan Meadors and Jessica Kiefling; two great grandsons: Remy and Drax Meadors; and dear family friends Dale Halpin, Tod DeSonia, and Jeff (Kim) Pachter. Norm is also survived by his furry felines: Scottie, Marmalade, Callie, Kiki, Colorful, Grey Baby, Mama and Scrounge.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Donna Johnson Heiman; his parents, Alfred and Alice Heiman; his uncle, George Van Lienen; his brothers: Jim and Donald Heiman; and an infant son, Steven Arthur.

Cremation rites have been accorded. At a later date, a private gathering will be held involving tacos and Budweiser, two of Norm's favorite things.

If you wish to honor Norm, donations may be made in his memory to the local animal shelter Just Animals, 505 Depot Street, PO Box 275, Mazon, IL 60444 or via the internet at justanimals.org.

To share memories or offer condolences, please visit Norman's online guest-book at www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

Larry Knop



VERONA—Larry J. "Pete" Knop, 81, of Verona, passed away Tuesday, Sept. 8, 2026 at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

Born April 12, 1945 in Shumway, IL, Larry James was a son of Clarence and Lillian (Correll) Knop. He was raised and educated in Mazon, and later served in the United States Army from 1968 until his honorable discharge in 1970. On Nov. 18, 1972, Larry married Sharon Lee Jones at the Ritchey United Methodist Church, and together they raised their family in Verona. He worked for RR Donnelly in Dwight for over 30 years until he formally retired.

While living in Verona, Larry often worked as a farmhand for the surrounding farms in his community and was a member of the Grundy County Farm Bureau. He was a great fan of stock car racing and regularly attended races at the former Mazon Speedway and the Grundy County Speedway on Friday nights. Larry's greatest passion was horseshoe pitching. He was a long-time member of the Illinois Horseshoe Pitcher's Association, was a five-time Illinois State Champion, and was inducted into the Illinois Horseshoe Pitcher's Hall of Fame in 2007. Larry also enjoyed bowling leagues at Echo Lanes in Morris and was a great fan of Western films.

He had a great sense of humor that would keep up with the best of them, a talent that was with him until his final days. Above all else, Larry was a loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather who passed along many important lessons to his family. He was a truly great man who will be missed by all who knew him.

Survivors include his five children: Chuck (Marcy) Hood, of Morris; Venita Hood (Brenda Barnhart), of Yorkville; Mitzi



(Robert) Anderson, of Morris; Ellen (Paul) Page, of Ottawa, and Jami Knop, of Verona; 13 grandchildren: Tim Hood, Ashley Hood (fiancé: Roman Lytovchenko), Carley Hood, Hayley Hood, Steffani (John) Bearden, Alexandra Anderson, Katelyn (John Lilly) Anderson, Donielle Anderson, Elizebeth Knop, Rebecca Page, David Page, Isabella Benson, and Brianna Benson; six great-grandchildren: Nico, Arianna, Matthew, Michael, Piper and Kieran; two brothers and three sisters: Elvera (the late Russell) Merkel, Nancy (the late Marty) Armstrong, Mary Lou (the late Jimmy) Walker, Rich (the late Wanda Bertoglio) Knop, and Mike (Launa Johnson) Knop, one brother-in-law, Vance (Judi) Jones, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Larry was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Sharon Knop, on Feb. 16, 2022; one brother, Eddie (Donna) Knop and one sister, Angie Jewett; his granddaughter, Brittany, and two great-granddaughters: Mia and Madison.

Per Larry's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Fruland Funeral Home, 121 W. Jefferson St., in Morris on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, from 1 p.m. until the time of memorial service at 4 p.m. A private inurnment with full military honors will be held at Wesley Cemetery in Rural Wilmington, where Larry will be laid to rest with his wife, Sharon.

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

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

WHS Class of 1957 to hold Sept. 19 reunion

Members of the Wilmington High School Class of 1957 are being invited to turn back the clock and spend an afternoon catching up with old friends during an upcoming class reunion.

The reunion will be held Saturday, Sept. 19, from noon to 4 p.m. at Nellie's Restaurant and Old School Brewery, 110 Bridge St. in Wilmington.

Organizers say the gathering will provide classmates with an opportunity to see one another again, renew old friendships and spend a few hours reminiscing about their Wilmington High School days.

A \$15 cover charge will be collected at the door and includes a meal of pulled

pork, Italian beef, baked beans and coleslaw.

The invitation is open to members of the Class of 1957 and their guests. Reunion organizers are also asking classmates to spread the word, particularly to former classmates who may not have received an invitation.

Those planning to attend — as well as those unable to make the reunion — are asked to contact Jim Johnston (815) 476-7572 or email johnstonjames132@yahoo.com, or Marilyn 708-289-5613, so organizers can get an accurate count and confirm current contact information.

Illinois could site renewable energy on former strip mines, brownfields

While Illinois continues to work to reach its ambitious renewable energy goals, where to site solar panels and wind turbines along with the associated costs are just two barriers slowing down progress.

But the new Mining the Sun report from The Nature Conservancy shows that repurposing low-conflict sites, like former coal mines, is a financially viable and community-centered option.

Illinois has more than 200,000 acres of former strip mines, according to the report, and several thousand other sites that would make suitable hosts for renewable energy.

Mining the Sun shows Illinois has plenty of otherwise underutilized space, such as old mines and "brownfields," which are former industrial or commercial sites that may have environmental contaminants but are well-suited locations for a field of solar panels or wind turbines. The report says that to make that happen, policy changes likely will be needed.

"Illinois has outstanding opportunities to deploy more clean energy installations without taking over prime farmland or encroaching on open greenspaces," said Tonyisha Harris, Climate and Energy Program Manager for The Nature Conservancy in Illinois.

"Given the progressive policy measures already in place, Illinois is a compelling location for clean energy projects on mine lands and brownfields."

The state's groundbreaking Climate and Equitable Jobs Act of 2021 (CEJA) is forecast to drive nearly five times the current capacity for wind and solar by 2050. Renewable energy incentives through CEJA are significantly bolstered when combined with the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

"If Illinois goes even further with its policy initiatives to fund projects, we're going to see a real boom in renewable energy sources in the state," Harris said.

The IRA, voted into law in 2022, includes a 10% tax credit to site clean energy installations on brownfields, along with \$250 billion to repurpose old coal and oil infrastructure for clean energy.

Passed in 2021, IIJA provides \$500 million for large-scale wind and solar demonstration projects on former mine lands. Grant opportunities such as the Abandoned Mine Land program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Brownfield Program can further reduce the cost of building on former industrial lands,

according to Harris.

In addition to recommendations for Illinois, the report looks at opportunities across the U.S. to build on mine lands and brownfields. Siting on mines and other industrialized areas can be a way for renewable projects to be completed faster and with lower community conflict, which is important to meet U.S. net zero goals by 2050, Harris said.

Across the U.S., there are up to 20 million acres of mine lands and brownfields suitable for new clean energy projects, enough to meet the energy needs of most U.S. homes each year.

"The United States cannot meet its energy and climate goals without the rapid deployment of large-scale solar installations," Harris said.

"Renewable energy development on mine lands is not a silver bullet, but it is an exceptionally promising avenue to produce clean energy in a way that respects communities and local landscapes. We encourage renewable energy developers, electric utilities, policymakers and regulators to read the report to learn more about the opportunities to site clean energy on mines and brownfields in their communities."

Visit nature.org/miningthesun to read the Mining the Sun report.

Early voting in Will County begins Sept. 24

Will County Clerk Annette Parker announced that Thursday, Sept. 24, is the first day Will County voters can take part in Early Voting for the Nov. 3, General Election.

Voters who wish to cast their ballot early may do so from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. beginning Thursday, September 24, through Friday, October 23, at the Will County Clerk's Office, 302 N. Chicago St., in downtown Joliet.

Voting hours at the Clerk's Office will expand to include weekend and early evening hours beginning Saturday, Oct. 24, as Election Day draws near.

Beginning Monday, Oct. 19, voters will also have the opportunity to vote early at 24 satellite Early Voting locations throughout Will County.

Parker encourages voters to review all Early Voting locations and

hours before heading out to vote. Following feedback received through a survey of each Early Voting site, some voting hours have been adjusted to better accommodate the availability and needs of the individual locations.

For a complete list of Early Voting locations and hours, as well as additional information about the Nov. 3 General Election, visit willcountyclerk.gov.

Fossil Ridge Library calendar

Adult Programs

Bingocize, 1-2 p.m. Every Tuesday starting Sept. 1. Looking for a fun new way to be more active?

Bingo + Exercise = Bingocize®, a health promotion program that combines the game of bingo with fall prevention exercise. Play bingo with us and meet new people while learning about techniques to reduce falls.

Tween Programs

Tuesday, Sept. 22- Community Helpers Storytime (Registration Required) 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. 275 W. Main St, Braidwood, on Sept. 15th. 21750 IL-113, Custer Park, on Sept. 22nd. Join us at the Braidwood Fire Protection District for a tour of the fire station. Meet Sparky, the fire dog, and listen to stories read by the firefighters. Registration is required, and a caregiver must accompany their child.

Friday, Sept. 18-Movies on the Green (Registration required) 7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. A movie night under the stars? Sign us up! Join us for Movies on the Green on the lawn of the Fossil Ridge Public Library on Friday, Sept. 18th, as we watch Hoppers (2026). Seating begins at 7:00 p.m., and the movie begins at 8:00 p.m.! Popcorn and light refreshments will be served. Hoppers (2026) - A 19-year-old animal lover uses technology that places her consciousness into a robotic beaver to uncover mysteries within the animal world beyond her imagination. Rated: PG Running Time: 1hr, 44 min

Children & Toddler Programs

Tuesday, Sept. 22- (Registration Required) 10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Play-Doh Playdates Join us for a Play-Doh workshop! Display your creativity using our Play-Doh and tools. This program is for children aged 2-6, and registra-

tion is required.

5:30 p.m.- 6:30 p.m. Sensory Tuesdays, Dive into a world of texture, color and hands-on fun with our new Sensory Bin program!

Perfect for little hands and growing minds, our rotating themed bins let toddlers and preschoolers explore, scoop, and play while building critical fine motor and language skills.

Wednesday, Sept. 23 & 30- (Registration Required) 10 a.m.-10:45

Little Learner's: Let's learn our ABCs! "Little Learners" is a fun, weekly program where preschoolers can master the alphabet through stories, music, and a craft. Join us as we explore the wonderful world of letters, one week at a time.

Thursday, Sept. 17 & 24- (Registration required)

Toddler Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. We welcome toddlers and their caregivers to join us weekly to explore various toys and sensory materials. Toddlers can enhance their gross and fine motor skills, social interaction, and language skills. Caregivers must accompany their little ones throughout the program.

Listen and Create Storytime 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. This program is specially designed for children aged 3-8. Every week, children can explore new books and engage in a fun craft project. Please make sure to dress in clothes that can get messy, as the craft project will involve getting creative with various art materials.

Saturday, Sept. 12- 11:00 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.

Children's Costume Swap: Halloween is around the corner! Swap out the costumes your children have outgrown for something new. Stop by the library to see what you might be able to find! Costumes should be in good condition. Please make sure the items are freshly washed.

Sip smart:

Coffee supports your heart

Are you the type of person who can't wait to kickstart your day with that piping-hot cup of coffee in the morning? If so, there's good news for you.

According to a recent study published in the European Heart Journal, one perk of morning coffee is it's healthier for you than any other part of the day.

Early risers – coffee connoisseurs who pour their first cup of java between 4 a.m. and noon – have a 16% lower chance of dying from any cause compared to non-coffee drinkers.

According to the study, coffee drinkers also had a 31% lower risk of dying from heart disease compared to non-coffee drinkers.

"The study identified that one of the aspects of coffee lowers inflammation, and we have more inflammation in the morning. And so that's why the benefit was shown in this

study," says Nancy Dagefoerde, a nurse practitioner with OSF HealthCare Cardiovascular Institute. "I do agree that that's a good benefit of drinking coffee in the morning."

The research team studied two groups – morning-only coffee drinkers and all-day coffee drinkers.

Researchers focused on patterns of drinking coffee throughout the day rather than the amount of coffee consumed. Dagefoerde recommends drinking no more than two or three cups a day.

Another important aspect of coffee is how it's made. For example, unfiltered coffee that's boiled contains higher amounts of chemicals that can raise triglyceride levels and low density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol levels.

"Filtered coffee is more beneficial. Boiled can actually be more harmful. There are many

compounds in coffee that are beneficial to health in general," says Dagefoerde.

But a cup of brew isn't everything when it comes to heart health. Dagefoerde says there are other things you should be doing including exercising, treating your blood pressure and cholesterol.

"Coffee can lower inflammation, increase your metabolism and decrease the absorption of fats," she adds. "But you definitely want to work on all your risk factors, not just drinking coffee."

It's better to drink black coffee, but if you take it with sugar or cream, make sure you are using the ones that are as healthy as possible such as unsweetened almond milk, raw honey or cinnamon. Cream adds 50 calories and three grams of saturated fat per tablespoon. And a teaspoon of sugar contains 16 calories, which adds up quickly.

Handling Methane to reduce impact of greenhouse gas

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways we can reduce, absorb or convert atmospheric methane to reduce its impact as a greenhouse gas?

-- William Jackman, Troy, NY

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

As global temperatures continue to rise at unprecedented levels, experts are searching for ways to reduce and remove methane, a climate-warming hydrocarbon that can remain in the atmosphere for up to 10 years.

Mainly released from the agricultural sector or human-caused emissions, methane can trap the sun's heat 85 times more than CO₂, according to the World Resources Institute.

Scientists have developed multiple removal methods within the precise limitations of handling methane. "Traditional methane processing typically requires extremely high temperatures, which are costly to produce and harmful to the environment," says Dr. Zhiliang Wang, a materials chemist at the University of Queensland.

One removal method is called "ecosystem uptake enhancement" and fortifies soil with methane-absorbing minerals and microorganisms. Additionally, methane reactors are designed to break down or oxidize methane in air through ultraviolet light, and surface treatments coat large surface areas with metal that breaks down light-exposed methane. These strategies require specific conditions.

There are promising, new methane removal strategies on the horizon. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) has been working on a catalyst that converts methane into formaldehyde through a series of steps.

Formaldehyde is a useful polymer in particle boards and textiles. "Other systems operate at high temperature and high pressure, and they use hydrogen peroxide, which is an expensive chemical, to drive the methane oxidation," says Jimin Kim, a postdoc at MIT leading the study. "But our enzyme produces hydrogen peroxide from oxygen, so I think our system could be very cost-effective and scalable." The clay-like zeolite and enzymes are combined to convert methane into methanol, which is then turned into formaldehyde. Moreover, engineers at University of Maryland are working on a membrane



AS GLOBAL TEMPERATURES continue to rise at unprecedented levels, experts are searching for ways to reduce and remove methane.

reactor that turns methane into chemicals for both large- and small-scale needs. "This is a major breakthrough in the conversion of natural gas to major commodity chemicals...in terms of the high yield achieved," says Eric Washman, director of the Maryland Energy Innovation Institute.

There are challenges facing methane removal advancements. Government funding is being cut, so experts are less interested in investing limited resources into removing methane. Also, there is minimal government regulation regarding methane emissions and removal technology. The

current legal framework would need to be enhanced in order to effectively maintain a clean atmosphere.

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

Garden Club annual membership tea, birthday

The Wilmington Garden Club will have its annual Membership Tea and celebrate its 90th birthday on Wednesday, Sept. 16.

The club's meeting is scheduled for 1 p.m. at the Wilmington Park District 315 N. Water St. If you have an interest in gardening become a member and bring a friend.

For more information call Judy at 815-258-8450.

Morris Hospital Auxiliary to hold annual golf outing

The Morris Hospital Auxiliary will host its annual golf outing on Monday, Sept. 28 at the The Creek golf course, 5355 Saratoga Road, Morris, with all proceeds benefitting the Morris Hospital Patient Transportation program.

The public is invited to support the event by playing golf, attending dinner, or making a donation.

Activities will begin with golfer registration and lunch from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. At noon, golfers will head out on the links for 18 holes of golf. The cost for 18 holes of golf, lunch and dinner is \$150 per person or \$540 for a foursome.

For those not golfing who wish to attend dinner, the cost is \$25 per person and includes a buffet-style

dinner reception featuring pulled pork, coleslaw, rolls and butter, roasted potatoes, corn and dessert. Dinner begins at 5 p.m.

The money raised through the Auxiliary Golf Outing is used to purchase replacement buses for the Morris Hospital Patient Transportation, which provides non-emergent, free transportation to medical appointments for patients who are unable to drive or have limited mobility. The Morris Hospital Auxiliary and Foundation have provided funding for the majority of the Patient Transportation vehicles since the service began in 1998.

Patient Transportation drivers and assistants are all volunteers.

The success of the Morris Hospital Auxiliary Golf Outing is also dependent on sponsors to help make the event a success.

To date, sponsors include the Morris Hospital Medical Staff at the \$5,000 "Top Flite" level; Block Electric Company, Grundy Bank, and The Horton Group-a Marsh & McLennan Agency at the \$2,500 "Eagle" level; and Steve and Kristi Banghart, Busey Bank, Blue Spruce Tree Care, and West Flooring Company at the \$1,000 "Driver" level.

To make a reservation for golf or dinner, go to morrishospital.org/golf by Sept. 14 or call the Morris Hospital Auxiliary Office at 815-705-7024.



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3-6 p.m. Makers Court

5 p.m. Community Service Award

6 p.m. Megan's Mission 5K

7-11 p.m. Who Dat Dere Band

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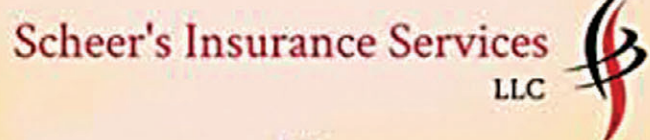
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Legislative Inspector's job needs a major fix

You may know that embattled Legislative Inspector General Michael McCuskey has agreed to resign his post by the end of September.

But this sorry saga shouldn't end there. The Legislative Ethics Commission should im-



Rich Miller

McCuskey with to revisit the cases, for instance.

And that sounds like what they might do. According to the chair of the Legislative Ethics Commission, Rep. Jeff Keicher, "The recent investigations and situations that the LEC has been involved in and the LIG has conducted have revealed points of frustration and pain that the LEC is very interested in closing the gap."

Keicher (R-Sycamore) was referring to the inspector general's investigations into former Rep. Harry Benton (D-Plainfield) and current Rep. Amy "Murri" Briel (D-Ottawa).

Benton was found to have sexually harassed women, but a female lobbyist forcefully complained that she was mistreated by LIG McCuskey during her interview process.

Rep. Briel was accused of sexually harassing a 2024 campaign worker who eventually moved to her House district office staff.

Briel has repeatedly claimed the McCuskey ruled the allegations to be "unfounded," meaning they were without merit.

However, McCuskey actually declared that he had made "no finding," which has no bearing on

whether the allegations against Rep. Briel were accurate or not. Most of the allegations were about the alleged victim Laura Jackson's campaign work experience, and the LIG has no authority to look into those. He also ruled that Jackson was an "at will" employee and he had no jurisdiction in the matter.

Either way, Jackson said she experienced many of the same problems the unnamed female lobbyist reported about McCuskey.

McCuskey's alleged behavior wasn't a "systems" issue. It had little to nothing to do with the state statutes and rules governing his office.

Yet, nobody can tell you with a straight face that the law creating the LIG is adequate. For instance, this one-person quasi-legal tribunal approach to deciding whether sexual harassment allegations are valid doesn't work on its face, no matter who might be in charge of the office.

The first thing that has to be done is to make sure that those claiming sexual harassment or mistreatment are protected from further harm.

Perhaps an ombudsperson could be brought in to help the accusers navigate their paths and maybe even attend LIG interrogations with them (and that interrogation process ought to end as well, of course).

The LIG's office is prohibited from investigating any reports it receives if they are filed more than a year after the alleged wrongdoing. That's pretty ridiculous. As Rep. Mary Beth Canty (D-Arlington Heights) pointed out in a recent WGN TV interview, House terms are two years,

so the limit should be at least that amount.

However, Senators serve two four-year terms every ten years, so there could be room for further expansion.

The LIG is also prohibited from investigating stories he or she may have seen in news media reports, unless and until someone files a complaint. That has to be changed.

The Chicago city council's inspector general has some limited enforcement authority over conduct in city campaigns (using images and video taken at places like city fire stations appears to be a favorite campaign thing). Campaign sexual harassment by a legislator or a candidate should be included in the LIG's portfolio.

And, finally, recent legislative inspectors general have had judicial backgrounds. Those folks are accustomed to lawyers bringing facts and arguments to their courtrooms. The next LIG should have some investigatory skills to get to the bottom of things, rather than just looking witnesses in the eye to discern whether they're telling the truth, as former federal and state judge McCuskey recently described his own process to a Springfield talk radio host.

"This is a bad process in place from an investigatory standpoint, from a research standpoint, from a how do you communicate it, how do you hold responsibility - there are a lot of pain points that we need to fix," said LEC Chair Keicher. Agreed.

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

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Learn why you should have Narcan in your home

Opioid overdose is not something that just affects those who abuse or misuse the drug. Overdoses can happen to anybody who takes opioid-based medications.

Sometimes, an opioid overdose can happen when you accidentally take a medication twice or because you mixed medications with an opioid-related pain medication and can happen to anybody who takes an opioid-related medication.

Naloxone nasal spray, otherwise known as Narcan, can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. It is not dangerous and is a great tool to have in case someone you love experiences an overdose.

Having access to Narcan could not only save the life of a loved one, but also a friend, neighbor or even a stranger.

The Will County Health Department has provided Will County communities with multiple Narcan Distribution boxes where you can get Narcan for free.

Wilmington is home to three of these locations including, the Wilmington Coalition Office (1095 S. Water St.), Wilmington Police Department (129 Robert P. Weidling Dr.), and Wilmington Park District (315 N. Water St.).

Dr. Kathleen Burke, of the Will County Health Department serves as the Director of Substance Use Initiatives and has an extensive knowledge on the present opioid crisis.

The Wilmington Coalition is honored to have her speak during the local farmers market on Thursday, Sept. 17, where she will educate on topics such as the continued opioid crisis, the importance of having Narcan available to you, and how to administer Narcan to someone how is suffering from an overdose.

If you have any questions, you can visit wilmington-coalition.org or call 815-476-1660.

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Resources available for food, meals

With more families being affected by SNAP program cutbacks, anyone in need of supplement food or meals can get help from the following organizations.

The Christian Life Assembly, 2960 E Division St Diamond, offers a food pantry Tuesday 2:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Wednesday 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday 9:00 a.m. to noon. By appointment only 815-578-5441.

Braidwood Food Pantry at Community Care Center. Open Tuesdays 8 to 11:45 a.m. 112 S. Center Street, Braidwood. Info: 815-325-0779

Ignite Christian Church, 1180 W 1st St. Braidwood. Micro-pantry open 24 hours front of church Info: (815)-390-5040

Top Fuel Saloon Food

Pantry. Open Fridays from 1 to 2 p.m. 275 S. Hickory St., Braidwood.

Coal City Food Pantry at Coal City United Methodist Church. (Use south entrance) Closed all Federal holidays. Open Mondays 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays 1-3 p.m. 6805 E. McArdle Road, Coal City. Information: 815-216-3288.

We Care of Grundy County Food Pantry. Office Hours: Mon.-Wed. and Fri.: 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m. Pantry Hours: Monday-Friday 1:00-3:00 by appointment. Please call to schedule your time to come 815-942-6389. 530 Bedford Rd., Morris.

Kuzma Care Cottage, food pantry. 635 S. Main Street, Wilmington. Hours: M-F 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. and the 2nd Saturday of each month, 8-11 a.m. 815-476-2030

Local Meals

St. Vincent Table Hot Meals. Coordinators Cindi Grove 815-735-1432 and Laura Marizza 815-325-8605. Hours for pickup for shut ins 4:00-4:30 p.m. Dine in hours 4:30 until 5:30 p.m.

Throughout September and October, meals will be distributed at Immaculate Conception, 220 S. School St., Braidwood; Nov. - Assumption of the BVM, 180 S. Kankakee St., Coal City. Dec. through Feb. - Closed and will resume in March, 2027.

If you would like to help with this ministry or know of anyone in need of meals, please contact our coordinators for more information.

We are always looking for more churches or organizations to help.

Oktoberfest coming to Braidwood

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood will be hosting Oktoberfest on Saturday, Sept. 26.

Don your lederhosen and break out your stein and join in an evening of food, fun, friends and German bier.

The event will be held at in Fr. White Hall, Immaculate Conception Church, 110 S. School St.

Doors open at 5 p.m., serving food from 5-7 pm with carry outs available. A free will donation for food and a cash bar for the bier.

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Dine In-Carryout-Delivery

Morris Hospital enhances Urgent Care with Save Your Spot

Morris Hospital has added a new feature to its urgent care offering that enables patients to reserve a time before heading to one of its urgent care locations in Diamond, Channahon or Morris.

While patients can still walk in for urgent care services, using "Save Your Spot" in advance of the visit helps reduce wait times once patients arrive, according to Kirsten Gribbin, Manager of Immediate Care at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. Patients can also see estimated wait times on the hospital website.

"Checking wait times in advance and reserving a time for an urgent care visit essentially allows patients

to wait at home, work, or wherever they happen to be," said Gribbin. "We're also very excited to give patients the ability to see wait times before they leave home, which are constantly changing throughout the day."

Patients can reserve a time for an urgent care visit by going to the home page of the hospital website, morrishospital.org, and clicking the Get Urgent Care Now button. After reviewing estimated wait times, patients can reserve a time at the location of their choosing.

Morris Hospital's urgent care is a helpful solution for the diagnosis and treatment of minor illness and injuries including

allergies, back pain, bites, burns, coughs, congestion, earache, fever, headache, infections, rashes, sore throats, stings, sprains and strains, vomiting and more.

Morris Hospital offers urgent care in Channahon at the Morris Hospital Ridge Road Campus, 27240 W. Saxony Drive, just north of Route 6 off Ridge Road; in Diamond at the Morris Hospital Diamond-Coal City Campus, 1450 E. Division St.; and in Morris at 100 W. Gore Road just north of Interstate 80.

To learn more about Morris Hospital's Urgent Care and how to "Save Your Spot," go to morrishospital.org/GetUrgentCareNow.

Mobile food pantry coming to Braidwood

The Village is a church that works with the community to help where it is needed the most.

That is why The Village is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank and will host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Drive, Braidwood, on Monday, Oct. 5, at 5 p.m.

Families in the Braidwood and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for about a week.

Distribution will be first come first served. There is no registration, proof of income or I.D. required.

WE-PTO selling mums

The Wilmington school WE-PTO is taking pre-orders at the Wilmington Downtown Farmers Market on Thursday, Sept 17, from 5-8 pm for garden mums to be sold as a fundraiser for school activities.

They come in six different colors: orange, pink, red, yellow, purple and white. They are 16-18 inches in diameter inside a 9 in pot. Prices will be one for \$12, three for \$33 or five for \$50.

Blue Mass to honor area first responders

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood will host a Blue Mass on Sunday, Sept. 27 at 9 a.m.

All those who work in the public safety field—police, fire, EMS, ESDA, and dispatchers—are invited to join in this Mass of thanksgiving.

This mass is extended to all denominations of faith, or those not of faith, and is the church's way to say thank you for your

service.

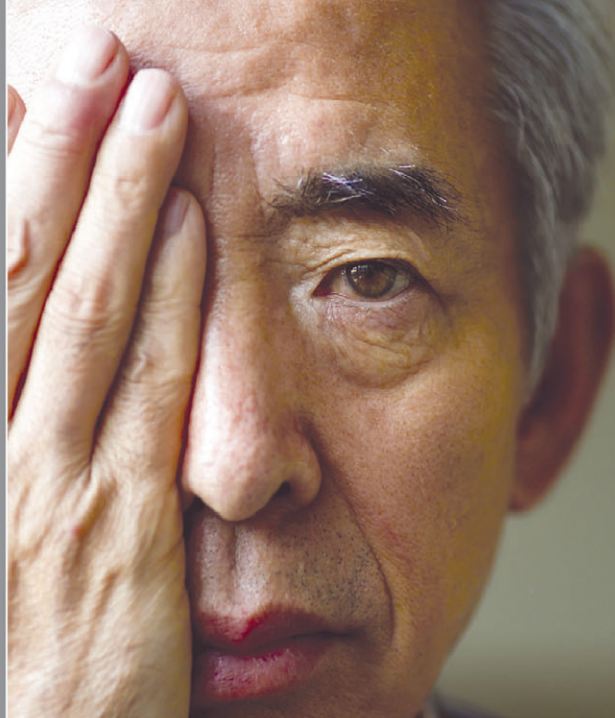
Father Tom Louge will bless all in attendance with a special prayer towards the end of mass.

If possible, please wear your uniform.

Following Mass fellowship and a light breakfast of appreciation will be held in Father White Hall.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Dave Wollgast (815) 705-6229 or Tami Favero (815) 405-0982.

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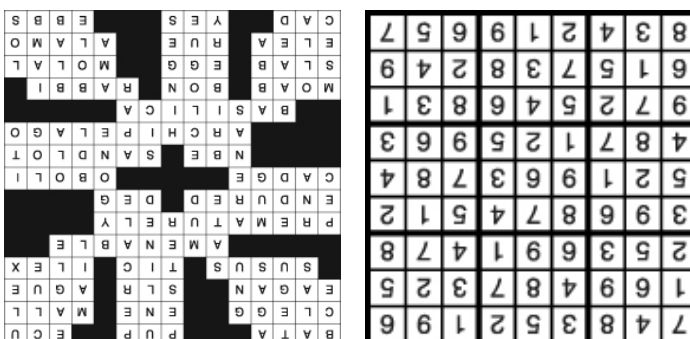


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COALER SPORTS



LADY COALERS Lilly Gerrish (left) and Margaret Carlson block a Manteno hit during Thursday's game. Coal City will host Peotone Thursday.

Photo by Amy Walker

Lady Coalers sweep Comets, fall short in Manteno showdown

Coal City's varsity volleyball team rolled through Reed-Custer before suffering its first conference setback of the season in a showdown with Illinois Central Eight leader Manteno.

The Lady Coalers opened the week Tuesday with a dominating 25-16, 25-8 victory over Reed-Custer, then returned home to battle Manteno in a three-set match. Coal City took the opening set before the Panthers rallied to win 15-25, 25-19, 25-17.

The split left Coal City at 9-5 overall and 3-1 in the ICE.

Against Reed-Custer, the Lady Coalers were in control from the start and became even more dominant in the second set.

Margaret Carlson kept the Comets on their heels from the service line, scoring a team-high 16 points with two aces. Darcie Ladas added seven service points

and an ace, while Avery Male contributed six points and two aces.

Coal City's attack was equally effective. Averie Hodgen led the way with nine kills, followed by Ladas with seven and Leah Aldridge with four. Lilly Gerrish put down two kills, while Ladas and Gerrish each contributed an assisted block.

Ashlyn Siron directed the offense with 16 setting assists.

Defensively, Olivia Ferrari paced the Coalers with six digs. Hodgen and Carlson each had four, while Ladas and Siron finished with three apiece.

Coal City made it a clean sweep at the lower levels. The JV Lady Coalers defeated Reed-Custer 25-18, 25-8, while the freshmen rolled to a 25-10, 25-6 victory.

The challenge became considerably tougher when

Manteno came to town.

Coal City looked ready for the showdown early, taking the opening set 25-15. But the Panthers turned the momentum in the second, winning 25-19 to force a decisive third set.

Manteno carried that momentum into the finale and pulled away for a 25-17 victory, handing Coal City its first conference loss.

The Coalers featured a balanced attack with four players recording at least five kills. Hodgen, Ladas and Carlson each finished with six kills, while Aldridge added five. Siron had one kill to go along with 18 setting assists.

Carlson again led the Coalers from the service line with 10 points and an ace. Ladas contributed seven points and an ace, Siron had six points and Hodgen served five points with an ace.

Siron also led a busy Coal City defense with 10

digs. Hodgen collected eight, Ferrari had seven, Aldridge six and Ladas five.

While the varsity match ended in disappointment, the Lady Coalers showed they can compete with the conference leader. After cruising past Reed-Custer, Coal City took the first set from Manteno before the Panthers answered over the final two.

The JV Coalers came even closer to knocking off Manteno, losing a three-set thriller 19-25, 25-19, 25-27. Coal City's freshmen fell 25-3, 25-13.

Coal City will host Peotone Thursday.

Coalers upend Beecher in soccer

The Coal City boys soccer team defeated Beecher 4-2 Wednesday night on the road.

Dominick Chellino led the Coalers with two goals and an assist, while Carter Hollis added a goal and an assist. Nick Pfeiffer also found the back of the net.

Owen Petersen and Dylan Fatlan each contributed an assist, and goalkeeper Carter Nicholson recorded seven saves in the victory.

This puts Coal City at 5-2 on the season. The Coalers got back into conference action at Reed Custer Tuesday and will host Manteno, who leads the conference 2-0, on Thursday.



Photo courtesy Alyshia Nicholson

LEAPING TO BLOCK the ball for the Coalers is Decklan Castle.

Ponio's career-best 37 leads Coalers to pair of wins

The Coal City boys golf team got back on the winning track Thursday, and junior Frankie Ponio made sure the Coalers did it in impressive fashion.

Ponio fired a career-best 37 to earn medalist honors as Coal City defeated Herscher and Reed-Custer in a three-team meet at Cinder Ridge Golf Course.

The Coalers posted a team score of 170, finishing 15 strokes ahead of Herscher's 185. Reed-Custer was third with a 215. The two victories improved Coal City to 6-3 overall and 4-1 in conference play.

Ponio was easily the best golfer on the course, finishing six strokes ahead of Herscher senior Cooper Meredith, who was runner-up with a 43.

Coal City's depth took care of the rest. Jaxon Duke and Kory Lovell each carded a 44 to tie for third overall, while senior McKale Perino followed with a 45. Those four scores accounted for Coal City's winning 170.

Trevor Walker and Reed Sulzberger also turned in solid rounds with matching 47s. That gave the Coalers six golfers who finished at 47 or better.

Herscher was led by Meredith's 43 and Parker Murray's 44, while Jameson Warner shot a 45. Logan Anderson added a 53.

Reed-Custer's low round came from senior Logan Bean, who shot a 47 to tie Walker and Sulzberger for eighth overall. Johnny Buchanan followed with a 51, Nathan Trucano shot 58 and Josh Creger finished with a 59.

Thursday's victories put the Coalers in good position entering the final stretch of the conference season.

Coal City traveled to Aspen Ridge Golf Course Monday to wrap up its conference regular season against Manteno and Peotone.

The Coalers will then turn their attention to tournament competition Thursday when they travel to Pontiac for the Livingston County Invitational.

Early lead slips away from CCMS

Coal City's eighth-grade softball team jumped out to an early lead Tuesday, but Troy's bats came alive late as the Trojans rallied for an 11-3 victory.

Coal City wasted little time getting on the scoreboard, pushing across three runs in the bottom of the first inning. Riley Aldridge delivered the big hit, driving in two runs, while Emma Hall knocked in another to give the Coalers a 3-0 advantage.

The lead held until the third inning when Troy scored twice to pull within 3-2.

From there, Coal City pitcher Harper Caise kept the Trojans off the board through the fourth and fifth innings, allowing the

Coalers to carry their one-run advantage into the sixth.

That's when the game turned.

Troy erupted for six runs in the top of the sixth to take an 8-3 lead, then added three insurance runs in the seventh to complete the comeback. The Trojans finished with 14 hits compared with four for Coal City, while the Coalers were charged with five errors.

Aldridge led Coal City offensively, going 1-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Caise, Hall and Olivia Vironda accounted for the Coalers' other three hits. Hall drove in a run, while Kenzie Cuddy and Gia Colabuona each stole a base. Coal City drew six walks but stranded

seven runners.

Caise went the distance in the circle, pitching all seven innings. She allowed 14 hits and 11 runs, eight earned, while walking five and striking out two.

Troy pitcher K. Sims settled down after Coal City's three-run first inning and kept the Coalers scoreless over the final six frames. Sims surrendered four hits, walked six and struck out 12 in the complete-game victory.

The Trojans were led at the plate by A. Bibo, who collected five hits and drove in four runs. A. Goutis added a home run as Troy used its late offensive surge to erase Coal City's promising start.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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The Grundy County Clerk's Office is committed to ensuring every eligible voter has the opportunity to vote privately and independently. The following voting aids and services are available for the General Election on November 3, 2026.

Accessible Ballot Marking Device (Verity Touch Writer)

- Allows voters with disabilities and other voters who prefer assistance to mark their ballot privately and independently.

Magnifiers

- Available for voters with low vision.

Accessible Voting Booths

- Available for voters who vote from a seated position or require an accessible setup.

Ballot Buzzers

- Allow voters to summon Election Judges for assistance entering the polling place.

Voting Assistance

- Voters needing assistance may receive help from a person of their choice or from Election Judges, as permitted by law.

Curbside Voting

- Available for voters who are physically unable to enter the polling place. Contact the Clerk's Office for information before Election Day.

Voter Registration

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Contact

For additional information about accessible voting options, voter registration, Vote by Mail, Early Voting, or other election services, contact:

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Kay T. Olson
Grundy County Clerk

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COALER SPORTS



Photo by Amy Walker
TOUCHDOWN COAL CITY!— Maddox Meents (left) and Kole Carpenter celebrate after touchdown.



Courtesy photo
COALER BOBBY RODRIGUEZ scored a 27-yard touchdown run against Streator on Friday night. Coal City shutout the Bulldogs, 57-0.



Photo by Amy Walker
TOUCHDOWN FOR COALERS— Coaler Braden Walker catches a pass for a 26-yard touchdown.

Streator no match for fired-up Coalers

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

This just in. Coal City scored again.

The home side wasted no time as quarterback Connor Henline found Kole Carpenter for a 75-yard touchdown on the opening play, one of five touchdowns in the first quarter.

"Obviously it was a huge and set the tone early. It really got everyone going and the crowd on their feet," said Henline.

"We had that play first for a reason. Just had to look off the safety and give it to Carpenter."

In the end, the Coalers (3-1) scored eight touchdowns, including a punt return and fumble return to cruise to a 57-0 shutout over Streator (1-3).

"The touchdown to Carpenter really set the tone, and defensively we played a lot better assignment football than we had done the previous week," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"Just a good job by our guys, doing their job and being efficient in all three phases. It definitely helps getting off to a fast start."

It was one of the more dominant performances you could see as Streator had more turnovers (four) than total yards (three).

The Bulldogs' first three possessions ended in turnovers as Sam LeRette was intercepted by Cooper Morris two minutes in.

Aiden Scroggum punched in his lone carry

from a yard out.

LeRette then fumbled with a Brody D'Orazio recovery and threw an interception to Bobby Rodriguez on their third drive. Both drives were capped with Logan Natyshok touchdown runs of 12 and eight yards, respectively.

Henline connected with Braden Walker on a 26-yard touchdown pass to close out a 36-point opening frame.

"That's the best part about our offense. Everyone is a threat when they have the ball. All I have to do is sit back and give it to my guys because I know they will make plays," said Henline.

Rodriguez then made his presence felt with a 30-yard punt return for a touchdown. The senior had a huge night overall finishing as the team's leading tackler with six and added a 27-yard touchdown run in the fourth.

Late in the third, Alex Carlson recovered a LeRette fumble and went 37 yards to the house.

"Rodriguez scoring on the punt return was a great job by that group. There were some good blocks out there to open that up. Carlson with the scoop and score off the forced fumble by Liam Marquez was a great play for those guys to get in there," said Loughran.

Henline was very efficient again going 6-for-8 for 148 yards. Carpenter was the top receiver with 83 yards on two catches.

Maddox Meents added two receptions for 21 yards, three rushes for 15 yards and completed a 10-yard pass to Ethan Donnelly.

Scroggum tallied an 18-yard catch. Natyshok made the most of his four carries for 39 yards and Leriyahn Ocasio recorded six yards on three rushes.

"Being able to run the ball with Natyshok and Scroggum and Rodriguez got a score on the ground late, and then also guys like Walker and Carpenter getting touchdown receptions."

"Just a lot of different guys getting involved, and that's what you want to see is just being able to spread the ball around and everybody else taking advantage of their opportunities."

Donnelly, Erron Shouse and Patrick Osipavicius all recorded four tackles and Ryker Long, Theo Fritz and Cameron Minuth all had three and Tyler Phillips, Carpenter, Keaton Berta, Kyle Odam and Marquez all added two and also in on a stop were Tyce Farrell, Walker, Meents, Scroggum, Carlson, AJ McGarvey, Jakob Phillips, Emmett Easton and D'Orazio.

"We were able to get a good rotation of guys in. I thought on the offensive line guys like D'Orazio, Sean Bergin and Gabe Hamilton did a great job with protection and opening up lanes for our backs."

"Defensively, we did a good job with their triple option. Guys like Easton, Cayden Winke, McGarvey and Berta all did their

assignments which allowed the rest of the defense to make plays."

The Coalers travel to Reed-Custer Friday to take on the 2-2 Comets who fell to unbeaten Manteno last week 27-12.

They have rushed for at least 200 yards in every game so far. It will be more assignment football this week.

"They are a difficult offense to defend. They have some misdirection and a number of guys that can run the ball like Nate Vogler, Sam Crotty, Kaiden Klein and Jesse Tresouthick. They are very physical upfront so we've got our hands full this week if we want to stop the run."

With five games left in the regular season, Loughran likes where his team is at, specifically their response this week.

"We had a great week of practice and these guys seem focused. It's a credit to our senior group and our captains, Easton, Natyshok, Henline and D'Orazio. Those guys are pushing the rest of the team to just improve every week and not really be satisfied."

Henline concurred that confidence is high with the Coalers, but there is still room for improvement.

"Obviously our confidence is through the roof but we have to keep picking at the little things and get better every week. Going forward we are going to keep setting the tone early to show the conference how the Coalers play football."



Photo by Amy Walker
COAL CITY'S AUBREY JENSEN swings through during a match against Streator.

Lady Coalers rebound with sweep of Streator

Coal City's girls tennis team experienced both ends of the spectrum last week, following a tough 6-1 loss to Plainfield South with a complete team performance in a 5-0 varsity sweep of Streator.

The Lady Coalers also swept every junior varsity match against Streator, giving coach Leman plenty to like as the team moves through the middle portion of its season.

Against Streator, Melody Leman set the tone at No. 1 singles with what her coach called her best match of the season. Leman dominated Audrey Arambula 6-2, 6-0, controlling points with spin and depth.

"This is exactly how she needs to be playing mid season and I'm excited to see what she can accomplish by the end of her first season," Coach Leman said.

Kayla Stalter had to work considerably harder at No. 2 singles. After blanking Remy Coley 6-0 in the

opening set, Stalter dropped a marathon second-set tiebreaker, 6-7 (7). She regrouped quickly, however, and controlled the deciding supertiebreaker for a 10-3 victory.

Coal City's doubles teams completed the sweep while continuing to show improvement with aggressive net play.

At No. 1 doubles, Kyla Stark and Lanie Winke overwhelmed Adelaide and Isabelle Mahan 6-1, 6-0.

"These two have really elevated their play in the past two weeks and are clicking as partners, which is awesome to watch," Coach Leman said.

Aubrey Jensen and Vanna Liebermann were nearly as dominant at No. 2, defeating Violet Hernandez and Harmony Morgan 6-3, 6-0.

The closest doubles battle came at No. 3, where Brooklyn Adams and Adyson Planeta had to fight through a first-set tiebreaker against Kylie Dennis and Analicia Orozco. The Coal

City duo prevailed 7-6 (4) before closing out the match 6-4 in the second set.

The varsity sweep capped a strong day throughout the program as Coal City's entire JV lineup also earned victories.

That performance came after the Lady Coalers faced a much tougher test Wednesday against Plainfield South.

Despite the 6-1 final score, several matches were competitive, including two that required deciding supertiebreakers.

Coal City's lone victory came from Jensen and Liebermann at No. 2 doubles. They won a tight opening set 7-6 against Ashley Samayoa and Katie Alwood, dropped the second 3-6 and responded with a 10-5 victory in the supertiebreaker.

Stalter nearly added another Coal City victory at No. 2 singles. After taking the first set 6-4 against Ava Gawlik, Stalter lost the second by the same score

before falling 10-3 in the deciding tiebreaker.

Stark and Winke also pushed their No. 1 doubles match to the limit. They won the opening set 6-4 before Aurora Thorson and Layla Flores forced a deciding tiebreaker with a 7-6 second-set victory. The Plainfield South pair eventually prevailed 10-8.

Plainfield South swept the remaining courts. Janelle Bondoc defeated Leman 6-0, 6-0 at No. 1 singles, while Emlyn Meeker topped Charly Gray 6-4, 6-1 at No. 3.

At No. 3 doubles, Emily Judd and Shelby Wright defeated Planeta and Adams 6-0, 6-4, while Caity O'Brien and Angelina Fraley topped Addison Smith and Lauren Jacovec 6-1, 6-4 at No. 4.

After being tested by Plainfield South, the Lady Coalers' response against Streator offered an encouraging sign — with victories coming from every varsity and JV court.