



COAL CITY COURANT .com

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER



Photo by Ann Gill

A CEREMONIAL RIBBON cutting was held Saturday, Sept. 18 to mark the completion of the South Broadway Reconstruction project. Mayor Terry Halliday was joined by town officials, village employees, business and community leaders, State Rep. David Welter, Senator Sue Rezin and officials from the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce in cutting the big green ribbon that stretched across the roadway. The \$5.4 million reconstruction was supported by a \$4.5 million federal transportation grant awarded through the Will County Governmental League. The project was designed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. and constructed by D Construction.

Coal City Strong

Mayor delivers state of the village address

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

As people strolled along Broadway taking a look at the classic cars lining the street, Coal City Mayor Terry Halliday stood before a group of residents and community leaders to talk about the state of the village.

For the first time in many years, the village set aside some time for a comprehensive review of the town's growth paying particular attention to recent improvements and the people responsible for the town's progress.

Community investment, dependable infrastructure and people, "each of these factors are important, but leveraged together they create a tremendous value," Halliday said.

The State of the Village Address on Sept. 18 served as a reflection point for the mayor and village leaders who have directed significant investment in the community over the last few years.

Through planning and partner-

ship the village's core business district has witnessed significant changes and what residents don't see, but benefit from daily is an investment in infrastructure.

The village has invested over \$7 million in stormwater infrastructure and plans are in place to upgrade the town's water treatment and conveyance system, as well as sanitary treatment facility.

Back around 1990 the village invested millions in its water and sewer plants, but as the mayor points out it's time for those facilities to be modernized and expanded to accommodate future growth and development.

During its current fiscal year, the village is projected to spend about \$1.5 million on its sanitary treatment plant.

Halliday said this investment will ensure the village is able to treat the nearly 600,000 gallons of waste daily and expand its treatment capacity by 50%.

"This capacity provides for the



Photo by Ann Gill

COAL CITY MAYOR Terry Halliday presented the State of the Village address during the town's Fall Fest on Saturday. The mayor touched on a number of topics including infrastructure, community investment and the people responsible for the day-to-day operations of the village.

future of residential, commercial and industrial development while moving

our plant capacity to a level that will sustain us for many years to come. Without proper infrastructure Coal City will not be able to accommodate future development we want to attract to our community—development that provides affordable homes, living wages, commercial and industrial growth," the mayor said.

The village is also focused on water and as the mayor said, "the future of treated water capacity will steer the capability for a community to grow in the next generation—water is important."

Coal City has applied to double its capacity to treat and distribute water, an investment that is projected to cost over \$4 million to construct.

This work, Halliday said, "is a necessity for growing not only our community, but staying ahead of the fight for water resources"

In an effort to advance its efforts the village works with partner agencies like the North Central Illinois Council of Governments, an groups like the Kankakee River Valley Water

Alliance and Godley Water District that are working with municipalities like Coal City and neighboring Diamond to draw, treat and distribute water from the Kankakee River.

"These entities help strengthen the village's proposal to expand our water facilities before the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency [IEPA] which is necessary for supplying more water," Halliday said.

The water project was designed and is being overseen by Chamlin Engineering including the village's designated engineer Ryan Hansen and Coal City's own Matt Halloran who are part of a team of five that have spent countless hours determining what best fits the town's future needs.

In his address, the mayor also announced a project to ensure the availability of high speed internet connectivity.

"I am happy to announce the Coal City Board shall authorize one of the first franchise agreements in

SEE VILLAGE, PAGE 2

Energy bill signed, Dresden saved



Courtesy photo

A HANDFUL OF local officials looked on as Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Climate and Equitable Jobs act into law on Wednesday, Sept. 15. Passed by both the Illinois House and Senate days earlier, the legislation included subsidies necessary to keep Exelon's Dresden and Byron Nuclear Generating Station's open. Absent legislative action the plants would have closed this fall. Among those attending the bill signing were Unit 1 School Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg and representatives of both the Grundy Economic Development Council, Grundy Chamber, State Senator Sue Rezin and Representative David Welter.

Grundy County using ARP funds to assist public service agencies

STAFF REPORT

Grundy County is committing over \$700,000 to the community's public safety and service agencies by agreeing to cover the cost of implementing new dispatching and records management software.

The cost will be covered through funds the county is receiving as part of the American Rescue Plan [ARP], a federal stimulus plan adopted in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Grundy County is expected to receive a total of \$9.9 million in ARP funding, however utilization of those dollars must meet established criteria, and the software upgrade is considered an

allowable expense.

Knowing the funds were coming, the County Board set out to create a list of internal and external projects that could be funded with the federal dollars.

The Grundy County Emergency Telephone System Board [ETSB] submitted a request for the county to cover the upfront cost of replacing the agencies current computer aided dispatch [CAD] and records management system [RMS] as it's quickly nearing the end of its useful life.

As it was explained to the county's Finance Committee, the current system has been in place since 2007 and its developer has since moved the program into maintenance mode. This means there will be no further upgrades to the

operating system.

ETSB and the E-911 Advisory Board have spent the past 18 months looking for a replacement system to support the dispatching and records management systems utilized by some 18 agencies including the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, Coal City Police Department and Coal City Fire Protection District.

As ETSB explained in a letter to the county, the CAD system automates the process of dispatching calls for law enforcement, fire and emergency medical service and emergency response agencies. Information entered into the CAD system then follows in the records management system—they go hand in hand.

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 2

Airgas project could move forward with board vote

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

When the Coal City Village Board meets this evening, it's expected to take under consideration a request to allow for the placement of industrial storage tanks along South Broadway.

The tanks would be utilized to store inert gas for later delivery to users across the region.

Airgas and UP Acquisitions, LLC. have petitioned the village of Coal City for approvals to move forward with plans to locate a rail

served storage and transload facility on industrial zoned land at 2680 S. Broadway.

Airgas has been interested in locating a facility in the village for well over a year, and its located a parcel on south of Reed Road not far from the rail spur that intersects with South Broadway.

The company's initial plan was to construct a new spur off the north-south rail line to allow argon tankers to be brought on site and unloaded into storage tanks, but that part of the plan has since changed slightly.

Although the initial peti-

tion for the project was withdrawn in response to slight changes in the location of the facility, village officials report the concept remains the same.

"The Union Pacific returned some comments that slightly changed the configuration of the property resulting in less impact upon South Broadway; the total frontage shall increase and the UP is planning up switching its freight to travel parallel to the main line via a new switch as opposed to another east-west spur," said Village Administrator Matt Fritz.

Based on the changes in

the location of the facility, the village's Planning and Zoning Board requested adoption of a conditional use request allowing for installation of the tanks be tabled until all matters were finalized.

The Village Board agreed when they met earlier this month, the matter is back on the board's agenda for

SEE AIRGAS, PAGE 2



Village

Grundy County to provide high speed internet fiber for all of Coal City. This partnership between the village and one of its local businesses—Surf Broadband—is to provide a competitive product to increase the quality of life to all Coal City residents,” the mayor said.

That franchise agreement is on the agenda for board action this week.

The mayor’s address to the community also provided an opportunity to talk about the town’s investment in its core business area, namely the reconstruction of South Broadway.

“It can be difficult to remember what Broadway looked like prior to reconstruction. We tend to quickly adjust to what surrounds us, but the main business corridor has changed greatly,” the mayor said of the project that included not only a new street and related infrastructure, but a new look for the town from brick pavers and light poles to planters and benches.

The \$5.4 million project was offset by a \$4.5 million federally funded Surface Transportation Project [STP] grant the village secured through the Will County Governmental League.

Designed and overseen by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd., the overall look of was developed with input from a panel of local residents and business owners—Gary Spear, Craig Smith, Marvin Perino and Mitch Bailey—and the work completed by D Construction and its various subcontractors.

Throughout the design phase, as well as reconstruction the village collected multiple opinions and ideas and attempted to accommodate as many as possible.

Input from the business community resulted in more off street parking and with the entire community in mind the village was able to incorporate a quiet zone median at the BNSF rail crossing to assist in the federal process of creating a quiet zone corridor in the future.

“And we very much got the public involved in our parkway play which everybody is happy to know did not result in reverse angle parking,” Halliday said, to which the crowd reacted with a few laughs.

The mayor also touched on the planters that were included to be a focal point of the renovation and beautification of the downtown and he took a moment to commend Coal City resident and business owner Donna Regain for her work in designing, planting and maintaining the containers.

“Everyone in the community now knows Donna due to her countless hours spent tending to the plants that line Broadway. Donna made her services available to the Board because we were both attempting to determine exactly what was necessary to make the planters come alive. I have been impressed with her dedication and perseverance,” Halliday said.

The work to keep the community moving forward is an area the mayor took considerable time to address from the day-to-day operations overseen by Village Administrator Matt Fritz to the 24/7 work of the town’s police department headed by newly appointed police chief Chris Harseim.

“In my experience of over 20 years in local government, all of these lofty goals and plans do not occur without the people carrying out the plan for the village.

He touched on the work of the Village Board—Tim Bradley, Sarah Beach, Dave Togliatti, Dan Greggain, Dave Spesia and Ross Bradley—and the many citizens who comprise the Police and Fire, Planning and Zoning and Park boards.

Halliday pointed out the work completed by public works director Darrell Olsen and his crew that includes water operators Tyler Valiente and John Huddleston and supervisor Danny Lewis.

He made note of substantial changes within the police department that includes the addition of five new officers and changes in leadership positions.

“I couldn’t be prouder of the professionalism of our men and women in our police department, as well as our very capable auxiliary police headed by George Hanson,” Halliday said.

And, he acknowledged the staff at the village hall—Pam Noffsinger, Jacque Allen, Linda Sula and Kristi Wickiser—for all they do to serve the village.

“It is the day in and day out dedicated effort of these boards, partners and people upon which Coal City provides service to its residents,” Halliday said.

The mayor also took a moment in his address to acknowledge four individuals—non-residents of the community—who make significant contributions to the village and non more so than their work in the days leading up to the address that resulted in the passage and signing of an energy bill that ensures the continued operation of the Dresden Generating Station for the next five years.

Those individuals Senator Sue Rezin and Representative David Welter who were on hand for the presentation, as well as Senator Patrick Joyce and Representative Jackie Haas.

There were others to thank for their work to support the village and its citizens like the Grundy Economic Development Council and the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry who hosted the address with support from sponsors CBEL, Coal City Bank, a branch of Bank of Pontiac and Chamlin & Associates.

As the mayor expressed none of the investment or plans would occur without the support of the people and organizations that make a difference in the community.

In closing, the mayor made it clear, “the state of the village is strong.”

Bourbonnais woman returns to the scene of the crime

STAFF REPORT

A woman caught on surveillance camera stealing batteries from the hardware store returned to the scene of the crime to take a few more.

On the afternoon of Aug. 19, the staff of Whitmore Ace Hardware reached out to Coal City Police to report the theft of nearly \$500 in rechargeable lithium batteries, the suspect was caught on camera placing them in her handbag.

Surveillance images of the woman checking out some of the smaller items she placed in her cart were shared with the police department who in turn posted them on their social media page and it got results.

Sgt. Jason Clark, the department’s investigator, said he received an anonymous tip identifying the woman in the photos as Jennifer L. McGee, age 41, of Bourbonnais.

Attempts were made to locate McGee then she returned to the scene of the crime just about one month later.

On the afternoon of Sept.

13, police were called back to the hardware store because McGee was there. Clark and patrol officer Kevin Jones responded and approached her as she shopped.

McGee denied having taken anything, but surveillance video showed she had placed two of the costly batteries in her handbag. Through questioning she handed over the two batteries that were in her bag.

Clark then informed McGee she was under arrest for the prior theft and she was transported to the police station for processing.

At the station it was discovered she was in possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia resulting in additional charges.

McGee was transported to the Grundy County Jail.

During an appearance in Grundy County Circuit Court bond was set at \$25,000 and she was appointed a public defender. McGee is due back before a judge on Sept. 23.

In the course of the arrest, police searched McGee’s vehi-



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY POLICE arrested Jennifer L. McGee, 41, of Bourbonnais, on Sept. 13 for theft and possession of methamphetamine and drug paraphernalia. McGee is accused of stealing nearly \$500 in rechargeable lithium batteries locally.

cle and discovered several new receipts. Clark reports this is a matter that remains under investigation.

Garage sales this weekend

Residents in the villages of Coal City and Diamond are setting up for this weekend’s all-town garage sale.

A variety of items are on the selling block including children’s clothing, toys, furniture and knick knacks.

The sales will be held, rain or shine, on Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25 with official sale hours being 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., however some sales may open or close earlier than the posted time and some may start a day or two earlier.

Garage sale listings appear in this week’s edition and a map of sale locations will be available on the day of the sales at village hall, as well as posted on the village of Coal City’s website at www.coalcity-il.gov.

Garage sale shoppers are reminded when shopping for a sale to pull completely off the roadway so other motorists can pass by. Additionally, shoppers should look both ways before crossing the street and motorists should be aware of an increase in foot traffic in neighborhoods.

One final market for the season

STAFF REPORT

As the seasons change and the community bids farewell to summer, it also marks the end of farmers market season in the village of Coal City.

The final farmers market of the season will take place Saturday, Sept. 25 in Campbell Memorial Park. Vendors selling fresh produce, eggs, lavender and handcrafted goods will be set up in the park from 8 a.m. to noon.

The local market—Market Fresh on Broadway—was established in summer 2016 in order to provide area residents with a location to access quality locally sourced produce and unique handcrafted items.

Currently there are seven vendors signed up to participate in this week’s market—although subject to change.

The market is expected to return to the park in July 2022.

County

The software program introduced for implementation comes from Central Square and offers first responders a host of services including integration with the body cameras local police agencies are being required to implement by state law.

The program ETSB has identified also meets newly adopted reporting guidelines and provides additional functions including mobile data for partner agencies, electronic ticketing and a jail management system.

The base cost for the new system came in just shy of \$1.1

million, however the company offered an incentive that if approved by the end of September the cost would be reduced by more than \$380,000.

The final cost is \$715,048 to be paid in three installments—50% at contract signing, 30% when the build team is assigned and the final 20% upon the system going live.

The development of the county’s system is expected to take about one year to complete, meaning the system should go live around October 2022.

With the county covering the cost of implementation, the village of Coal City will save a little over \$20,300 as

Runners, walker do their part to crush childhood cancer



TO SUPPORT HIS granddaughter’s efforts to raise funds for childhood cancer research, 82-year-old James Bugg ran the Crush Childhood Cancer 5K on Saturday, Sept. 18. Megan Bugg looked on as her dad, Kent Bugg, joined Grandpa Bugg in crossing the finish line. Proceeds from the 5K will support research efforts underway at the Children’s Cancer Therapy Development Institute. Close to 300 people signed up for the 5K held in conjunction with the village of Coal City’s Fall Fest. The top three finishers were Ryan Peters of Carbon Hill; Stephanie Stickle of Wilmington and Stephen Byers of Coal City.

Claypool Drainage and Levee District to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS No. 1963TX1836

IN THE MATTER OF THE CLAYPOOL DRAINAGE AND LEVEE DISTRICT. NOTICE TO: ALL INTERESTED PERSONS The Claypool Drainage and Levee District will hold its annual meeting on November 9, 2021 at 11 a.m. at 117 W. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450. All meetings are open to the public.

Robert Koerner, Joseph Brown, Commissioners Charles L. Schmidt, Attorney 117 West Washington Street Morris, Illinois 60450

Published in the Coal City Courant and Braidwood Journal on Sept. 22, 2021.

Attorney Black files Wilhelmi estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2021 P 100

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOUGLAS R. WILHELMI, DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Douglas R. Wilhelmi. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Stephen Wilhelmi, 6720 South Wood Rd., Mazon, Illinois 60444, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

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

STEPHEN WILHELMI INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR Donald F. Black Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street Suite 211 P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 22 and 29 and Oct. 6, 2021.

Attorney Black files Olson estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

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

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

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

KATHLEEN OLSON AND DEBORAH HURST INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS Donald F. Black Black & Black Lawyers 201 Liberty Street Suite 211 P.O. Box 148 Morris, IL 60450 815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 15, 22 and 29, 2021

Airgas

tonight’s meeting and if approved it would advance the project. To date, the Planning and Zoning Board’s review of the plan has been positive, according to the administrator.

If granted village approval to move forward with the project, Airgas could begin operations at the site sometime in 2022.

Knockin’ Boots applies for Class C liquor license

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 18th day of October, 2021 at 7 o’clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: Conditional use to allow Knockin’ Boots to possess a Class C liquor license.

At the following address: 69 S. Broadway St., Coal City, IL 60416.

Legal description of property: Assessor’s SUB of PT N1/2 NW1/4 SEC 2-32-8, 37.5’ X 150’ S PL LT 6 & N PT LT 7 BLK 5 SEC 2-32-8

Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Claudia L. Macias Moreno Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.

Persons many appear in person or by agent. Dated this 13 day of September, 2021. Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 22, 2021.

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News and Advertising: Monday, noon

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor



Courtesy photos

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS AT Coal City Early Childhood Center pose with Vincent van Crow, the school's entry in the Scarecrow Stroll sponsored by the GFWC-IL Morris Woman's Club. The scarecrow will be on display in Morris' Chapin Park this week. Among the students working on the 6-foot scarecrow were Brentley Alcala, Brock Bailey, Eleanor Blustein, Colton Brncich, Charlie Christensen, John Darcy, Rhys Holley, Isaac Lardi, Simeon Leman, Everett Libner, Skylar Martinez, Riley Matsko, Kaden Rhodes, Blakely Riley, Piper Shelton, Sloane Smith, Reid Trammel, Kendall Veronda, Andrew Virona and Evie Wren.

Art students get creative with Vincent van Crow

STAFF REPORT

Vincent van Crow is taking up residence in Morris' Chapin Park this week. A creation of students from Coal City's Early Childhood Center and Elementary Schools, Vincent is a 6 foot scarecrow with the face of Dutch artist Vincent van Gogh.

The students—kindergarten to third grade—created the scarecrow during their art classes with teacher Julie Brncich for entry in the Scarecrow Stroll sponsored by the GFWC-IL Morris Woman's Club in conjunction with the Grundy County Corn Festival.

The scarecrows will be located in Chapin Park, 216 W. Benton St., Morris, during the annual fall festival Sept. 22-25.

The man made of straw features a jacket in the style of van Gogh's "The Starry Night," that was painted by second and third graders at the elementary school and the third graders also created his hat in the style of his "Sunflower" paintings. As for his pants, first graders at the early childhood center drew on them to mimic the movement in van Gogh's brushstrokes and rhinestones and glitter were added as a final touch by kindergartners.

Through the creation of Vincent van Crow the students learned about the life and art of van Gogh, a post impressionist painter who created some 2,100 pieces including some 800 oil paintings that included landscapes and portraits.

According to Brncich, the students were amazed by the way the artist created movement in his paintings by using short brushstrokes.

"Vincent van Gogh's experiences teach us to never give up, and to do what makes you happy," Brncich said.

Along with "The Starry Night" and "Sunflowers" some of his most notable



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Center first graders [from left]: Emmy Hall, Scout Hodgen, Harper Horath and Addie Bitner create a pair of pants for the school's entry in the GFWC-IL Morris Woman's Club's Scarecrow Stroll.

works including "The Siesta" and "The Potato Eaters."

The students' entry in the Scarecrow Stroll will be on display in the park from Wednesday to Saturday.

Scarecrows created for the event have been built by individuals, families, organizations, schools and businesses from across the area.

Ribbons will be awarded in four categories: Best of Theme—"It's Good to Be Back"—Most Creative, Best Youth and

People's Choice.

The People's Choice will allow visitors to vote for their favorite entry through an online voting program using a QR code.

"My students love sharing their artwork, and they are so proud of Vincent van Crow. I love that art projects like this allow the community to see how creative and artistic my students are," Brncich said.

Unit 1 investigates in-house COVID testing program

STAFF REPORT

The Unit 1 School District is investigating an in-house COVID-19 testing option for its students.

"We all want our students in school and we do not want the COVID testing process to be a burden on our families," Unit 1 Superintendent Dr. Kent Bugg stated in a weekly report to parents and guardians.

The superintendent noted that testing provided by local health care sources has changed with one local medical center now requiring payment at time of testing and another needing a medical script before testing is completed. Additionally, there are limitations on testing asymptomatic individuals.

For students who are required by the Illinois Department of Public Health [IDPH] to be excluded for COVID symptoms, close contact with a COVID-positive individual or symptomatic household member, testing can become a burden on families.

The optional in-house testing program could be a choice for symptomatic students and those that face exclusion due to close contact.

As Bugg explains, IDPH guidelines provide a test to stay option that allows a stu-

dent who has been in close contact with a COVID-positive individual to test on day one, three, five and seven of exclusion to remain in school as long as the tests are negative and the student remains asymptomatic.

Last week the number of students excluded ranged from 23 per day at the high school to 7 at the elementary school.

As of Sept. 17, the district had four positive student cases—two at the high school and one each at the intermediate school and early childhood center. There were no staff cases reported between Sept. 8-17.

Due to testing supply issues, the testing company the district is planning to work with expects it could be up to three weeks before an in-house testing option is available.

The in-house program is not a weekly screening of students, rather a test available to students if they are required to be excluded in accordance with the state's pandemic guidelines.

"When we are able to get our in-house program up and running, we will be communicating with parents to help determine if they want their children to participate," Bugg said.

Madrigal royalty named



Courtesy photo

THE MADRIGAL SINGERS at Coal City High School will be led this year by king Aidan Kostbade [left] and queen McKenna Patten [right]. The 26-member group will present its annual holiday concert and play in December. Rehearsals for the 2021 performance are currently underway and show information will be announced in the coming weeks. Along with Kostbade and Patten the group includes Emma Kenney, Chloe Peacock, Shaela O'Keefe, Courtney Meyer, Gabbie Pope, Eli Fritz, Shana Kelly, Caleb Kuhel, Kayla Connelly, Melody Kinder, Izzy Kostbade, Sammy Thackery, Brecken Johnson, Amelia Fritz, Kerrigan Copes, Elaina Patten, Derek Carlson, Jared Counterman, Jacob Nadess, Collin Dames, Logan Hawkins, Colin Leroy, Logan Housman and Mason Natyshok.

Spaghetti Dinner at New Hope Church

A spaghetti dinner fundraiser will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, from 5-7:30 p.m. at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 80 N. Garfield St., Coal City. Cost is \$8 per dinner and will be drive thru pickup only. Proceeds will go towards the Help Raise the Roof fund at the church.

CCUMC to hold drive-up dinner

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, invites the community to a Drive-Up Pork Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The dinner includes: sliced pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, coleslaw and dinner roll. The cost is \$11 per meal. Proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Stop by and pick up a delicious meal.

Unit 1 names its Students of the Week



CARL DAVIS
Intermediate School



ROSA MOE
Intermediate School



VICTORIA GERGITS
Elementary School



STEELE EATON
Elementary School



BRINLEY GIGLER
Elementary School



ELI WIX
Elementary School



DYLAN PERINO
Elementary School



SAMANTHA WYSOCKI
Elementary School



DEVONTE SENNETT
Elementary School



ABI DONNELLY
Elementary School



JORDAN BISGROVE
Elementary School



ROSEY MATTHEWS
Elementary School



REESE WATSON
Elementary School



TIMMY WEGNER
Elementary School



ERON BAKII
Early Childhood Center



ADDISON BLAKE
Early Childhood Center



EASTON BILSKI
Early Childhood Center



NOLAN WREN
Early Childhood Center



ADDIE BITNER
Early Childhood Center



SKYLAR WAGNER
Early Childhood Center



KENNEDY WIX
Early Childhood Center



AYDEN COMER
Early Childhood Center



LINCOLN CONNOR-MIKOS
Early Childhood Center



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Early Childhood Center



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Early Childhood Center



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Early Childhood Center

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All a fantasy

WILMINGTON—Bernie Sanders is canvassing the country for support of the \$3.5 trillion spending plan which is being called Joe Biden's American Rescue Plan. This spending plan will come on top of the \$1 trillion traditional infrastructure bill passed by the Senate, a total of \$4.5 trillion overall. Bernie is telling America how badly the American Rescue Plan is needed to help Americans facing higher medical bills and higher education costs. No doubt, those are real problems dragging down the elderly and our youth. But there is also no doubt that Bernie's plan that billionaires will pay for it with higher taxes is a bunch of hogwash too. There aren't enough billionaires in America to pay for it. The latest Forbes report says there are 724 billionaires in the U.S. with a net worth of \$4.4 trillion. So even if taxes took all of their net worth, all at one time which is impossible, the government under Sander's plan would come up short. The other problem is most of these billionaires own businesses, stocks and real estate, not cash. So higher taxes on them would require liquidation of assets which would drive down valuations. Who will make up the difference? The rest of us taxpayers, the ones already hurting and being taxed out of our houses. It isn't possible for Congress to raise taxes enough to finance the already \$1 trillion deficit occurring now so how are Bernie and Joe going to pay for the \$4.5 trillion American Rescue Plan on top of that? They're living in a dream world that has become a nightmare for the rest of us.

Killing children

SHADOW LAKES—More children have been shot and killed in Chicago in the last year than died of the virus in the whole country. But the Chicago Democratic-run city council will vote today on plastic knives and forks in carry-out food. Priorities. Eddie

No more gaming

WILMINGTON—Another liquor license and video gaming place in Wilmington? That's not what this city needs. There are already too many in this town and with over half of the community's children already qualifying for free lunches, shows you not enough parents can resist these addictive gaming machines. The city council needs to say enough is enough.

Covid at our border

SHADOW LAKES—I have a question. With Biden supporters and all those who hated Trump why is Biden making it mandatory that people in our country get vaccinated for Covid-19 when thousands and thousands of people come across the border who have not been vaxed? They have not been tested and they are not required to get vaccines. If Trump would have done this, ANTIFA, BLM and all of you Trump haters would of had a Jan. 6. Can you answer me why you think Biden is doing a good job, anybody?

Dan Hill

More like dictators

MORRIS—In Australia the government has stated that there is a limit put on all alcoholic beverages that any person can purchase per day and stated that this would conform to the new world order. There are other nations that believe in a new world order to maintain a global economy. It seems to be the same concept that is happening in the USA since Portland, OR is now restricting any type of material or travel to and from Texas. People should go back in time to 1939 when a man named Adolf first wanted the new world order with him in charge and even ordered his troops to commit crimes against humanity to push his new world order theory. Once again we have the political left cancel culture which is the Democratic party becoming more like dictators inspired by Adolf. How many crimes have been committed against the American citizens by our leaders in Washington, DC and around the USA? Dictatorship and confinement are not part of freedom.

Behind bars

DIAMOND—There are a lot of elected officials who should be behind bars with all the crimes they have committed against the American citizens, including the blackout news that has people controlling what type of news they want the American citizens to hear. These people should also spend time behind bars but this will not happen because the wealthy want total control over the lives of the American citizens and what they're allowed to hear and do in their lives. If they do not obey, they will send in their non violent troopers to commit violence against anyone that disobeys. The country of Poland in 1939 had non violent people enter and then the news media and the citizens were controlled by non violent armed troopers. There was also control of education in occupied countries in 1939 which reflects what is being taught in USA's schools today. History of the world does help teach the meaning communist control.

Crime pays politicians

COAL CITY— On the news it was stated that Nancy Pelosi has invested \$20 million in a park in California. It was also stated that Nancy Pelosi was going to receive \$200 million of taxpayers funds to distribute any way she wants to the California park. Any other money could possibly be considered as embezzlement. But nothing will happen to her because just like the

crimes of the Clinton foundation which was millions of dollars when our uranium was sold to Russia and let's not forget how the president's son received money from China when his father was vice president. Ask yourself what would happen to the average American citizen if they pulled any of the stunts like the Democratic leaders have been doing for years without the taxpayers' knowledge of the so called wasteful spending of finances that are only going into our elected officials' pockets. Crime does pay if you're a public servant and they say the rule of law must be obeyed.

Draining the town

WILMINGTON—This is to address the new liquor licenses in the small town of Wilmington. We have the VFW, the Rustic, the Corner Tap, Rt. 66 and Tuffy's who has been there for 34+ years, not to mention the restaurants that can serve alcohol. A few years back our former mayor said "enough licenses" but being a member of the good old boys' club gave them to liquor stores. They all pay taxes and license fees to the city and state. Most, not all, do good things for this town, supporting the schools for sports, plays, projects, fundraisers, first responders, etc. Where does this money come from? Customers like you and me and from the gaming machines which you need a liquor license to have and operate. The so-called profits go to paying the staff and bills. It's not making anyone rich by any means. It's also not about competition; it's about diluting the income of the establishments that are already here. Is our new mayor on a power trip? He's given a new license for downtown and one is in the works for Faletti Plaza. There are enough places to gamble in this town, that's the only reason the for new licenses. Think about it, people who can ill afford to lose money will want to try their luck at a new place and when they don't have money for rent or food who has to take care of them? We do, the taxpayers. Enough is enough. How about the mayor looking to find some other type of business for this town? Keep this in mind the next election. We need someone who cares and will listen instead of doing whatever he wants. In addition, don't any of the aldermen have a backbone to listen to their constituents? I sure hope they're listening.

Thankful in Diamond

COAL CITY—Thank you to Candlight Home Health Care for sending Roxanne RN and Ray PT to our home for the after-care of my husband's fractured tibia. We were quite satisfied for the well being that was shown us. Coal City is fortunate to have this business so available.

The Holmans, Diamond

Whatever happens

WILMINGTON—I understand folks not wanting the dam to go. I wish it didn't have to go as well, and I understand people's concerns about losing their riverfront property. I wonder though if those folks are understanding of the folks who will eventually lose their homes, or have to move eventually because they can't afford any more tax increase? Is this not important as well? The dam is not natural. Our "superior species," as some like to think of us, caused damage years ago to create the dam for a purpose. Nature, as well as our "superior species" adapted. The purpose for existence of the dam no longer exists. Nature, as well as our "superior species" will adapt again. Mayor, I think you are doing a fine job. Thank you for thinking of everyone and nature. I know it is not easy to deal with our "superior species." I, myself, will adapt to whatever happens.

Pandemic by choice

COAL CITY—With 670,000+ Americans dead from Covid, one in five of our fellow countrymen have lost their lives. Some are small children and in Louisiana, a young mother sadly died right after giving birth recently. And some places, like Idaho and Alaska, are rationing care which means that health professionals judge whether you are worth saving. If you're not likely to survive, they make you comfortable until you die. Shocking? But perhaps more shocking is that this advanced state of the pandemic could have been avoided by early action taken at the outset. And now the refusal of vaccines and masks due to politics has put the lid on the coffin. It's been the choice of idiots at the expense of everyone else.

Kurt K.

Unstable, unhinged

WILMINGTON—Thank goodness for General Milley who was keeping an eye on the unpredictable behavior in the Trump administration. We've all heard respected officials describe former President Trump as "moron" and "idiot" which scared us to death because we, the people, saw the evidence too and agreed wholeheartedly. Trump lashed out at everyone, those too weak to fight back as well as the strong who he cut off at the knees if they stood up for what was right and good. And Trump became even more unstable when he saw the presidency slip away from him after the election. When Trump became totally and irretrievably unhinged, General Milley did what others did before him, such as James Schlesinger of the Nixon administration, by protecting our nation. Thank you, sir, for doing so.

Ralph D.

Death threats

COAL CITY—This past week an Ohio

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Republican Congressman, Anthony Gonzalez, is fed up and not running again, and a New Hampshire state representative, William Marsh, switched from Republican to Democrat because he wants to fight Covid with science, not with horse dewormer. Gonzalez is quitting out of fear for his family including young children. He refused to kiss Trump's ring but voted his conscience instead which resulted in death threats ever since. This intimidation happens throughout the country to everyone from poll watchers to Secretaries of State and every position up and down regarding the running of our elections. These honest people don't get paid a lot but are often afraid for their safety if Republicans don't win. Have you heard that our democracy is in danger? It's no exaggeration.

Lenny

Projects that give back

ESSEX—Oh the irony. Four years ago Republicans had no hesitation passing the Trump tax cut for the wealthy which amassed \$7.8 trillion in national debt and which gave the money away to the rich who squirreled it away in foreign countries. Yet now Republicans are cheap Scrooges counting pennies instead of investing in our country both for the present and the future with desperately needed projects that will continue to give back over and over again.

Buckle up

COAL CITY—Please tell your village maintenance employees that it is not acceptable to be driving around in their white village trucks looking at their cell phone and not wearing a seat belt. Every time I see the maintenance workers driving around, it is more than normal to see them not wearing a seat belt than it is to see them wearing one. I'm not sure why the police department can't see this also?

The Flimflams

BRAIDWOOD—While Republicans gripe and complain that we can't afford to pay for services to the American people that were available years ago, the former President Trump continues his grifting and cheating of the taxpayers. Never before did an ex-president get Secret Service detail for adult children and for staff after leaving office. But the wealthy Kushners, Mark Meadows, Steve Mnuchin and others are getting this unprecedented benefit even though they well can afford it themselves. Why? And how does Donald get away with it? Because he can. Because his violations throughout four years has been so blatant, flagrant, pronounced and prominent that only the really big violations are pursued. Good riddance, Donald, and to your flimflam family as well. Ann S.

Pitiful

WILMINGTON—As Arizona's illegal election audit goes beyond the promised three weeks and extends into five months, we see that nothing noteworthy has been found. Besides costing the taxpayers millions of dollars, Republicans in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are launching similar 'defrauds.' This desecration of the voting process is not only a serious breach of democracy but also the pitiful behavior of Republicans over and over again. When Republicans lose elections, they try to cheat.

Vince

To the taxing bodies

COAL CITY—Well, it looks like Dresden Station will not be closing in November due to the signing of SB 2048. That is most definitely good news as the taxpayers of the village would have been put on the hook for the shortfalls of each of the taxing bodies deficits and that would have been financially impossible for some residents. I truly hope that the taxing bodies of the village of Coal City such as schools, fire department, library, etc. can see this as a wake-up call and start living within your means. I'm not talking about any major layoffs or anything like that, but I am more referring to having good sound budgets. As you make your budgets for the year, keep in the back of your minds that someday Dresden will indeed close. That someday you have heard over and over that we need to buy, build or

whatever you think you needed to do while you still had Dresden money coming in. Once you buy, build or whatever, the cost of maintaining everything you did never stops. I, for one, am tired of my tax bill going up every year. I understand that it has to as the cost of living increases every year, but when a tax bill goes up over 25% from one year to the next that is a pill that is very hard to swallow. Again, it is great news that Dresden is not closing this November, but please start preparing your budgets as if it did indeed close. Live within your means. We do it as residents of the village, now it's your turn.

Roberts Rules

BRAIDWOOD—The Sept. 14 meeting of the Braidwood City Council was a prime example of how a meeting should not be conducted. The mayor did nothing but apparently doodle on a piece of paper. The city administrator, a non-elected official, ran the meeting. He is the one who called for motions and seconds. He repeatedly told the mayor and council what he needed and what he wanted and they generally did what he said. And with that, they also rubber stamped his mistakes. Consider the following: Section 2-35 of the Braidwood Code of Ordinances adopts Roberts Rules of Order as the method by which meetings are conducted. Roberts requires that if an issue or vote is to be tabled, it must be by motion, seconded and a vote taken. Nothing of the sort happened when the Ultimate Rides matter was tabled. The administrator simply said it was tabled and that was that. No date to which it was reset, no motion, no second, no vote, nobody questioned anything. The mayor, of course just sat there and doodled away. Actually, if one were to read Roberts Rules, it would appear that tabling is not the correct way to deal with the matter. Rather, there should have been a vote on a motion to postpone. But that didn't happen either. In either case, the administrator can't table or postpone anything. So what difference does it make? Quite a bit actually. Ordinances and rules are adopted to be followed and there are legal consequences for not doing so. But what is really intriguing is that Ultimate Rides is the matter in which Mr. Altieri saw fit to sidestep the city ordinance. The same matter that more than one year ago had to be passed immediately. The same matter that former Commissioner Saltzman was chastised for when he very correctly wanted to proceed with diligence and full knowledge of all the facts. The very short delay that he asked for was not only totally ignored, but he was shouted down by city officials in a very unprofessional manner. Now more than a year later, any delay that Mr. Altieri wants, as improper as it may be, isn't questioned by anyone. I think Shakespeare said it best, "Something is rotten in the state of Denmark."

The reality is war

WILMINGTON—Last week a very angry caller from Morris took me to task for my characterization of the U.S. military. They said it didn't matter if one was enlisted or drafted but having lived through this period I can tell you it did matter. First, we should explain the draft to the younger readers. When a young man reached 18 he was required to register to the Selective Service and prepare to be drafted into military service. One could register as a conscientious objector but that was no guarantee they wouldn't be constricted, have a weapon put in their hands and be shipped halfway around the world in order to kill people. One could be sent to prison for refusing to do so. If one enlisted it implied they were OK with the war but also some knew they were about to be drafted and enlisted so they could pick the branch of which service they would serve in. Also, there were guys who after being found guilty of some petty crime were given the choice of jail or two years in the Army. Some of these boys were fighting for their own freedom, not mine. The same caller took exception to my saying the job of the military is to kill other countries into submission to the United States and America's interest and agendas for the rest of the world. What part about armed forces don't you understand? We are armed and we are going to force you to bend to America's will. Now I'm not so naive to think that some people

SEE SOUND-OFF PAGE 6

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FAMILY

Gilchrists to celebrate 50th wedding anniversary



John and Sharon Gilchrist

John and Sharon (Valiente) Gilchrist, of Diamond, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 24, 2021. They were married on Sept. 24, 1971 at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City. They are the parents of two daughters, Natalie (Brock) Bunton and Abby (Branimir) Dimitrijevic and grandparents of Ilya, Enzo, Maya and Elsa, all of Coal City.

Sensory-friendly program on big birds

The Forest Preserve District of Will County will offer a "Sensory-Friendly Playdate - Big Birds" program for families of children with sensory-processing needs from 10-11 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 3, at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center in Channahon.

Attendees will have a chance to experience the visitor center and its trail on their own terms as well as learn about the big birds, such as pelicans, that visit the preserve.

The program will include games and crafts. Free; ages 3-7. Register online at ReconnectWithNature.org by Oct. 1 or call 815-722-9470.

Join in Stand for Life on Oct. 3

A National Stand for Life will be held in Wilmington on Sunday, Oct. 3, from 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the intersection of Water St. and Rt. 53.

We will meet in the Grundy Bank parking lot near Water St. to pick up our signs. Dress for the weather. If you can't stand for one hour, bring a chair. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The stand is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and The Legion of Mary, St. Rose Church.

United Methodist Church to hold drive-up pork dinner

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, invites the community to a Drive-Up Pork Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 16 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The dinner includes: sliced pork, mashed potatoes & gravy, green beans, coleslaw and dinner roll. The cost is \$11 per meal. Proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Stop by and pick up a delicious meal.

Wilmington Lions to hold monsters meeting

Save the date for Spook Hike Oct. 22 & 23

The Wilmington Lions Club will be having its first Monster/Hike meeting Sunday, Oct. 3, at 2 p.m. at the North Island Park in Wilmington.

Anyone wanting to participate in the Oct. 22 and 23

Spook Hike should attend this important meeting.

Individuals, families or groups of any size are welcome to enlist to volunteer in this important fundraiser. Lions offer costumes, props and lighting for use during the hike if needed.

The Wilmington Lions Club utilizes the proceeds to assist with the purchase of eye glasses, hearing aids and many other community projects.

Many local residents benefit from the dedication of this small but mighty club.

Anyone with the desire to volunteer but prefer not to be "monsters" can help out by assisting with assembly setup and tearing down after the event. These volunteers would be needed "during the day" Thursday-Sunday, availability of even a few hours one or more days would be much appreciated.

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Welter to host kids' fishing derby Oct. 2

Children of all ages are invited to participate in State Rep. David Welter's Fishing Derby with the Illinois Conservation Police and T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors to be held at the Heidecke Lake Fishing Bank located at 6350 E. Collins Rd, Morris, from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 2.

"Our Fishing Derby is a great way for kids to learn how to fish or practice their skills if they have fished before," Rep. Welter said. "I invite every family to come out and enjoy an early autumn morning outdoors with us at beautiful Heidecke Lake."

The first 50 kids to arrive will receive a free rod/reel combo set. Free t-shirts will also be provided.

The Illinois Conservation Police will give a Water & Boat Safety presentation at 9 a.m. Youth Ambassadors and the Youth Council from T.E.A.C.H. Outdoors will be on hand to help bait hooks and reel in fish. Brochures on state and local programs will also be available.

Prizes will be awarded for biggest fish and most fish in addition to a Sportsman Award.

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Cocktails that can be made for all ages

What do Shirley Temple, Roy Rogers, and Arnold Palmer all have in common? In addition to being American icons, all three have famous namesake non-alcoholic "mocktails".

This week we will take a break from adult beverages to enjoy some drinks for all ages, and we will add a dash of history as we always do.

If there were a Mount Rushmore for non-alcoholic drinks, there is no doubt that the Shirley Temple, Roy Rogers, and Arnold Palmer would all be enshrined. The three drinks are favorites of the young and young at heart, and all are part of the fabric of American popular culture.

Fortunately, you do not need to keep any special ingredients on hand to prepare these three famous mocktails. The Shirley Temple and Roy Rogers call for grenadine, but outside of that all that you will need to prepare these delicious mocktails are common soda varieties, lemonade, and iced tea.

The first two mocktails on the list are soda shop classics, perfect drinks for a trip down memory lane. Before we pour the Shirley Temple and the Roy Rogers, I would like to clear up a commonly held misconception around grenadine. Most restaurants serve these drinks with Rose's Grenadine, which is not an actual grenadine.

Rose's is more of a cherry syrup, high in sugar with artificial coloring. Actual grenadine has a rich pomegranate flavor and will take these drinks in a different direction than a cherry syrup.

There's a good chance that the Roy Rogers or Shirley Temple that you remember uses Rose's Grenadine, and if that is what takes you back to the soda shop in your mind, use Rose's. One thing Rose's does particularly well is turn a

drink, any drink, to a bright red. If you would like, pick up a genuine grenadine to compare the two, look for grenadine by Monin, Fee Brothers, Sonoma Syrup Company, or Stirrings.

Let's pour some mocktails! All three will be served in larger "Highball" glasses, filled with true grenadine rich in pomegranate notes, easily discernable from cherry. Try it sometime, pomegranate and cola are an awesome combination.

I could not find a definitive answer as to whether or not Mr. Rogers himself ever consumed his namesake cocktail, but there is a good chance that he did. One thing we do know is that Roy Rogers did not drink alcohol. Use your favorite cola in this one, the classic Coca Cola or Pepsi will work better than the diet or "zero" options.

The Roy Rogers is built in a Collins (tall) glass. Fill glass with ice, then add: 1 oz. grenadine

Top with your favorite cola
Garnish with maraschino cherry

The Arnold Palmer
Last, but certainly not least, the Arnold Palmer. I love the Arnold Palmer, and you would be hard-pressed to find

Roy Rogers
Similar to the Shirley Temple, the Roy Rogers combines grenadine with a popu-



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

lar soda. There is a widely held misconception that the Roy Rogers is a "Cherry Coke". As mentioned earlier, Rose's Grenadine is more of a cherry syrup and would yield what amounts to a Cherry Coke if it is added to cola.

The original Roy Rogers used a grenadine rich in pomegranate notes, easily discernable from cherry. Try it sometime, pomegranate and cola are an awesome combination.

I could not find a definitive answer as to whether or not Mr. Rogers himself ever consumed his namesake cocktail, but there is a good chance that he did. One thing we do know is that Roy Rogers did not drink alcohol. Use your favorite cola in this one, the classic Coca Cola or Pepsi will work better than the diet or "zero" options.

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Top with your favorite cola
Garnish with maraschino cherry

The Arnold Palmer
Last, but certainly not least, the Arnold Palmer. I love the Arnold Palmer, and you would be hard-pressed to find

someone who does not. Arnold Palmer did not invent the drink, he was merely enjoying iced tea with a splash of lemonade during rounds on the golf course as he toured the USA.

In the late 1960s Palmer was having lunch after a round in Palm Springs, during which he ordered his famous iced tea and lemonade combination. A woman at the bar heard the order, and copied it. "I'll have that Arnold Palmer drink" was all she had to say, and the legend was born.

By the way, the Arnold Palmer isn't just "iced tea and lemonade" in an unspecified proportion. Arnold preferred his three parts unsweetened tea to one part lemonade. If you prefer this combo on the sweet side, order a Half and Half for equal parts iced tea and lemonade.

Using fresh brewed tea and homemade lemonade are a surefire way to deliver a next level Arnold Palmer.

The Arnold Palmer is built and served in any glass, insulated mug, or plastic cup of your choice.

Fill cup with ice, then add: 3 parts unsweetened iced tea 1 part fresh lemonade

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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- SEPTEMBER EVENTS -

EVERY THURSDAY	EVERY SUNDAY
LIGHTNING (Members Only) 6 p.m.	QUEEN OF HEARTS (Members Only) 4 p.m.

Wed., Sept. 8	7:00 p.m.	WOTM Meeting
Sat., Sept. 11	5-7:30 p.m.	Steak Fry
Mon., Sept. 13	6-8:00 p.m.	LOOM/WOTM Meeting
Fri., Sept. 17	5-7:30 p.m.	Fish Fry
Sun., Sept. 19	9:00 a.m.	Moose Riders Meeting
Mon., Sept. 27	6-8:00 p.m.	LOOM/WOTM Meeting

EVERY WEDNESDAY
5:00-7:30 p.m.
TACOS & NACHOS

Come and Play Our Machines!

Members & qualified guests — WI-FI Available —

Illinois Valley Area of NA to host meetings

The Illinois Valley Area of Narcotics Anonymous holds meetings Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays for anyone who needs help coping with drug abuse.

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

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

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

Sound-off, continued from page 4

don't need killing and sometimes you have to put the rabid dog down, but even if you peel potatoes in the mess hall you are part of the mission to kill the enemies of the US. My father served in World War II and told me there were two rules: Rule one, stay alive; rule two, kill the enemy. You have no use to your country if you die. The draft ended in 1973 but since 1980 young men between 18-25 are still required to register with the Selective Service because, well you know, just in case. You can glamorize and rationalize the killing but that doesn't change the reality of the purpose of the military.

Tax those on the water

WILMINGTON—I think there should be a special taxing district for people upstream of the dam to cover the liability of when the next person drowns because we all know it's going to happen. Anything over \$500,000, which the city is, should have to fall on the people who benefit from the river north of the dam. Just make a special taxing district. Then you can keep the dam and when someone goes over we'll see how much those people think a life is worth. In Chicago, if the police break into the wrong house the person gets \$3 million. What do you think the people are going to get now if they go over the dam, a known worst and drowning dam? Let's put people before esthetics. It's just a shame that the people of Wilmington would want to keep a murdering drowning machine instead of fixing the river back to where it was. It serves no purpose other than holding back water for a select few who live along the river.

Disregarding the order

SHADOW LAKES—Regarding the northern Mar-a-Lago, the Supreme Court has ordered Mr. Biden to revert back to the Stay in Mexico policy that Trump had enforced because of the overwhelming criminal element, Covid element and illegal people flowing into this border. Biden is disregarding the Supreme Court order. So I would guess that let all of us just go do what we want when we want because if Biden can ignore a Supreme Court order what's good for the goose is good for the gander. After all, the Supreme Court is the highest level in this country. But then again, I guess if you're a Democrat you don't have to obey the law.

A tourist trap

WILMINGTON—Regarding the dam and tourists. I was up at Great America today and I heard kids screaming in lines saying this log ride wasn't scary so they wanted to go see the Wilmington dam and their parents told them no, that's too frightful. You know that's the most dangerous dam in this state. Also, I think we should have a bus tour from Chicago. Who would want to go to Navy Pier when they could come down here and instead of seeing the Gemini Giant at the Launching Pad they would want to go see the Wilmington dam. I think it would be a great tourist addition if we would have a bus tour and maybe put a cemetery in with 15 gravestones or maybe a few more because we really don't have an accurate count but we know it's at least 15 and make it a real spooky cemetery. I think that would be a great idea.

Let's face it

WILMINGTON—I think we should have a referendum on the dam because I know the city council won't be able to make a decision. If they do it will be for a small vocal group and not thinking of the taxpayers of the city. I think the referendum should say: Are the citizens of Wilmington ready to take the financial responsibility for anything over \$500,000 for the next

drowning at the dam? I don't think people will. Why would people who don't live along the river want to spend the money on their property taxes, \$500 or \$600 extra a year which they could use for their family. Some people say oh, the river will dry up. It won't. It will look just like below the dam. Let's face it, it's just a select few who want it.

The good out there

BRAIDWOOD—We so often read in sound-off about all the negative events that are not to our liking. I would like to sound out about something positive. Last Friday five seniors were holding a garage sale. I ran to Burger King in Wilmington and got lunch for our group, five sandwiches, five drinks and five fries. I placed my order inside and it was during their lunch hour rush. I told the person waiting on me I would make a couple trips to the car with the drinks and the food. A worker said no need and he assisted me to the car helping me get all the food and drinks in one trip. So let's start relating the good because it is indeed out there. You will see the good in this world far outweighs the bad.

Legacy starts early

WILMINGTON—Regarding the Wilmington Bobcat organization, I've noticed in the paper that nothing has been written up about the Bobcat games that are being played weekly on the weekends. No articles are being done about the kids' achievements and what they have done while playing the game. If the coaches could be so kind to call in and make a report once a week on Monday after the games are over that would be great so these kids have something to cut out of the paper and put into their scrapbooks because this is where their legacy begins if there is one. I would really appreciate some kind of write-up about the games being played mentioning the boys names and what they did during the games.

Make it mandatory

COAL CITY—I would have to agree with Mark who wrote "Take your pick" in the sound-off column and I would add to it to make the vaccinations and wearing your masks mandatory in the United States.

We agree

WILMINGTON—Hey readers, mark your calendars because this is the day that I, Penny Lane and Mr. Dan Hill are in agreement on an issue, that being the mistreatment of the native people by European invaders. I give the Africans a pass since they were brought here against their will and the Asians that worked on the railroad on the west coast were virtual slaves known as coolies, but he is right to point out that the natives were defending what was theirs. By the way, I don't refer to these people as Indians because they are not from India and Columbus was lost. Kudos to Mr. Dan Hill.

No gains with taxes

SHADOW LAKES—Biden plans to take away the only way for generational wealth for lower and middle class people with the capital gains tax on your house. If you buy a house for \$100,000 and sell it for \$300,000 get ready for a \$200,000 tax bill.

\$10,000 bounty

WILMINGTON—I don't want to hear right wingers talk about freedom while women are forced to be pregnant against their will. You are not pro life, just pro fetus. Maybe Texas can put a \$10,000 bounty on the men who impregnate women and walk away like rapists do.

Penny Lane

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Proposed Will County redistricting map reduces number of board members

WILL COUNTY – At the September county board meeting, Will County Executive Jennifer Bertino-Tarrant presented her proposed redistricting plan for 11 two-member districts, which reduces the size of the Will County Board by four members.

Braidwood and Wilmington which are currently in District 6 would be shifted to what will become District 8.

“I’m proud to present a map that best represents our diverse array of communities, while achieving cost savings through a leaner, more efficient county board structure,” Bertino-Tarrant said. “This plan aligns with the current population trends, keeps local communities intact, and prepares future boards for the continued growth of Will County.”

The county board district lines are adjusted every 10 years to reflect population changes since the last census and ensure approximately equal representation of residents. The proposed redistricting plan utilized 2020 census data, which state that the fast-growing county currently comprises of 696,355 residents.

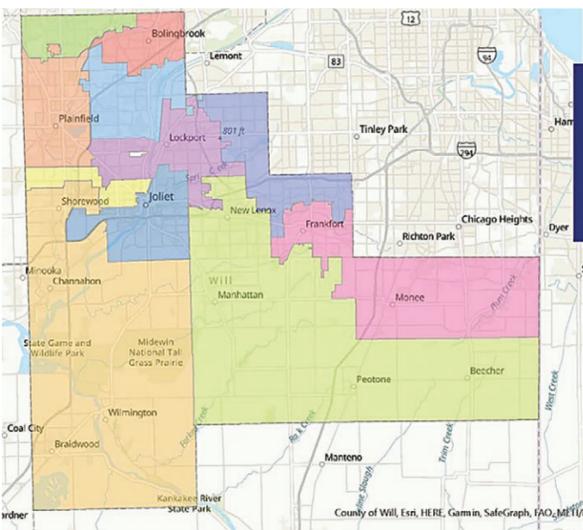
In accordance with state statute, Bertino-Tarrant outlined the principles that guided the redistricting plan, including keeping each district close to equal in population and keeping both municipalities and townships as unified as possible.

“Our plan maintains simple boundaries that keep local governments together, allowing districts to accurately reflect shared community interests. This empowers board members to fully represent the neighborhoods they live in,” said Bertino-Tarrant.

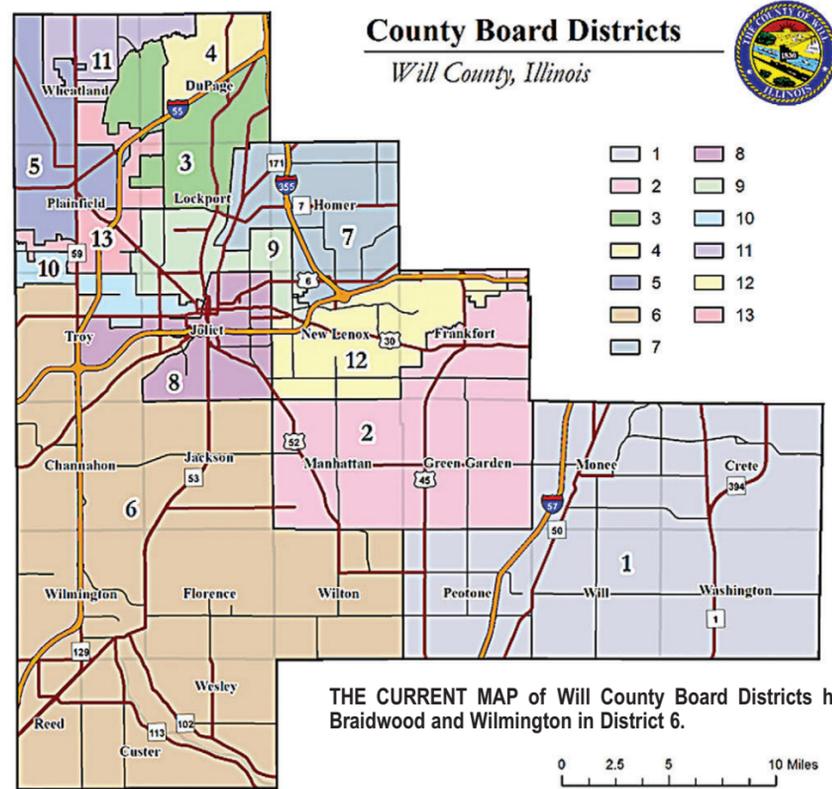
The proposed map includes three majority-minority district and factors in projected growth throughout the county.

The current county board map contains several districts that have an unevenly large population due to consistent growth in the northwestern region of the county, while others have very large land mass land mass with smaller populations such as in the eastern and southern parts of the county.

“It is imperative that our county board district boundaries align with our ever-changing demographics and accurately reflect the diversity of our communities,” Bertino-Tarrant said. “I am confident



THE 2021 MAP of Will County Districts would rename the district for Braidwood and Wilmington as District 8.



that this map factors in the key growth-areas and ensures an equitable spread of future county residents across several districts.”

The County Board is required to hold at least one public hearing to receive public comments and to discuss the apportionment plan. The hearing shall be held at least six days, but not more than 21

days, after the County Executive’s plan was presented to the Board, and the public shall be given notice of the hearing at least six days in advance.

For more information about the County Executive’s Redistricting Plan, visit www.willcountyillinois.com/redistrictingmap.

Presbyterian Women to hold afternoon tea on Saturday

The Presbyterian Women of Braidwood will be holding an afternoon tea Saturday, Sept. 25 at 2 p.m. It will be held at the church on Lincoln Street.

A light lunch will be served and door prizes will be raffled. Entertainment will be provided by professional storyteller Megan Wells, who will be presenting “The Samaritan Women at the Well”.

Admission is \$25 per person. Please call or text 815-790-7134 for tickets.

AA meetings at Masonic Lodge

The Wilmington Masonic Lodge at 311 N. Main St., offers Alcoholic Anonymous meetings on Thursdays at 7 p.m.

Anyone seeking more information can contact Geoge Roesel at 815-509-7001

Class of 1961 plans reunion

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

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

Braidwood Lions to hold annual Candy Day Fundraiser

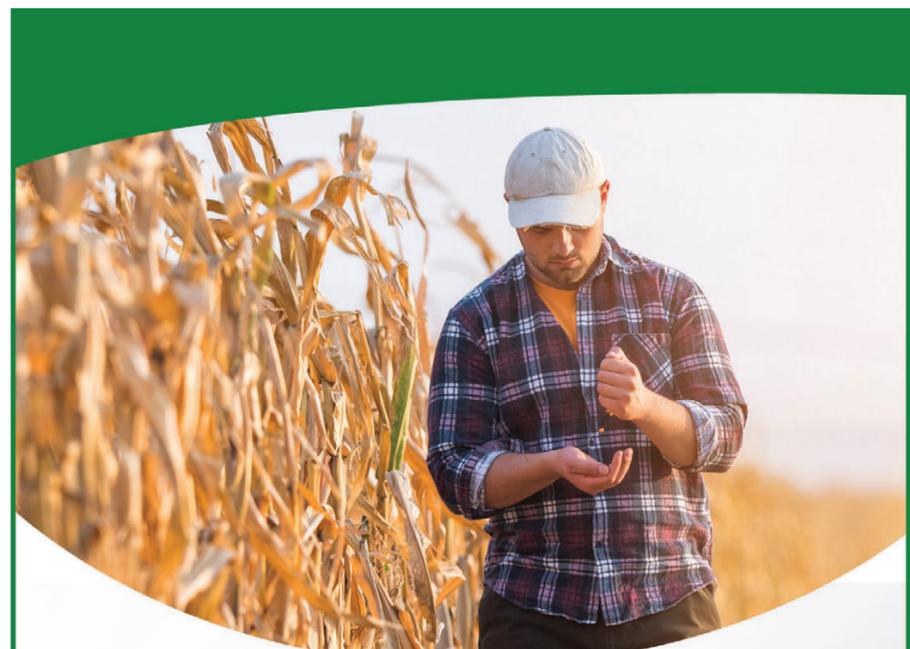
The Braidwood Lions Club will once again be participating in the Annual Lions of Illinois Foundation Candy Day Fundraiser.

Club members and volunteers will be holding a canister collection day on Friday, Oct. 8, from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. on the street corners of Highways 113, 129 and 53 in Braidwood.

As a token of appreciation, all donors will receive a special roll of Lions’ Candy

Day candy. All funds which are raised during the collection will assist the club in providing the much-needed sight and sound humanitarian services to those less fortunate in the Braidwood, Godley & Shadow Lakes communities.

No donation is too big or too small and all are greatly appreciated. For more information visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org.



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OBITUARIES

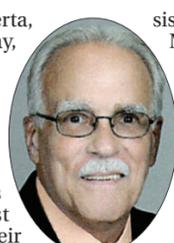
Edmund Berta

COAL CITY—Edmund Michael Berta, 73, of Coal City, passed away Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

Born July 10, 1948 in Joliet, Edmund Michael was a son of Peter and Frances (Korelc) Berta. He was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1966. On July 6, 1974, Ed married Lois Burnside in the Coal City Methodist Church, and together they made their home and raised their two daughters in Coal City. Ed was a member of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church in Coal City, and retired from Welsh Redi-Mix, where he worked for 33 years.

In years past, Ed played saxophone in the BobEds and Footnotes Bands, and in recent years, took pleasure in volunteering for Help for Hope in Coal City. In his pass time, he enjoyed fishing and riding his Harley, but no hobby was greater than that of family. He was a great family man, who worked hard and provided for his family. Nothing made him more proud than to see his grandsons participating in their school sports and activities.

Survivors include his wife, Lois; two daughters, Jennifer (George) Strnad and Leandra (Ryan) Divis, both of Coal City; four grandsons: Brandon Strnad, Blake Strnad, Dylan Hill and Gabriel Letterly; one sister, Janice (Dale) Swisher, of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and



sisters-in-law: Ray (Marlene) Burnside, of Morris; Rita (Tom) Fairbanks, of Effingham; Barbara (Terry) Baker, of Gardner and Debbie Ledford, of Chicago and numerous nieces and nephews, as well as his great long-time friend, Bob Hamilton, of Coal City.

Ed was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Leandra.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 21, 2021 in Assumption Catholic Church, Coal City. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Joshua Miller presiding.

Burial was in Braceville Gardner Cemetery and pallbearers were: Brandon Strnad, Blake Strnad, Dylan Hill, Gabriel Letterly, George Strnad and Ryan Divis.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ed's memory to Help for Hope, Assumption Church Building Fund or to a charity of the donor's choosing.

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

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

Marlin Flatt

WILTON CENTER—Marlin Flatt "Flattie," 86, of Wilton Center, passed away Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee.

Marlin worked for James Tyler and Sons for many years and retired from Farm Services as a truck driver. He was a member of St. Patrick Catholic Church, Wilton Center. Marlin loved to hunt and trap, "BS" with his friends and family and drink Busch Light. He was a Boston Red Socks fan and an avid gardener. To know Flattie was to love Flattie. He was honest as the day is long whether you liked it or not. Marlin has finally found peace in reuniting with his beloved Barb.

He is survived by his loving children: Connie (Doug) Koehn, Joseph Flatt and Judy (Larry) Tierney; his grandchildren: Michele Koehn, Stephen (Stephanie) Koehn, Jackie King, Megan (Becca West) Flatt, Emily Tierney and Sarah Tierney, seven great-grandchildren, his sisters, Donna (Bill) Chellios and Marian (Bob) Edmonson, his brothers and sisters-in-law:



James (Kathleen) Walsh, Carol O'Connor, Danny (Wendy) Walsh, Mary O'Neil, Cathy (Tom) Davis, and numerous nieces, nephews and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marvin and Margaret (Loucks) Flatt and his wife, Barbara (Walsh) Flatt (2018); his parents-in-law, Francis and Evelyn Walsh and his brother-in-law, John O'Neil and his niece, Jennifer Walsh.

Visitation for Marlin will be on Tuesday, Sept. 28, 2021 from 3-8 p.m. at Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, Manhattan. Funeral service will be on Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021 at 11 a.m. also at the funeral home. Marlin will be cremated following his funeral service and laid to rest next to Barbara at Mount St. Patrick Cemetery, Wilton Center.

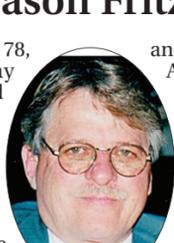
Arrangements have been entrusted to Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, www.forsythegouldfh.com, 507 S. State St., Manhattan, IL 60442.

Jason Fritz

MESA, AZ—Jason Fritz, 78, of Mesa, AZ passed away Sept. 14, 2021 where he had been a resident for 16 years.

Jason was born Feb. 19, 1943 in Joliet to Eugene and Frances (Stariha) Fritz. He was a Local 176 Union Electrician for over 40 years, having served as their business agent from 1977-1983. He joined the Navy when he was 17 to see the world serving on the blockade during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Gene is survived by his spouse of 37 years, Laura (Clifford) Fritz; children: David Fritz, of Plainfield; Aimee Morton (Fritz) and husband, Gary, of Erie, CO; Cary Fritz and wife, Jennifer (Vaughn), of Apache Junction, AZ; Jason Fritz



and wife Caroline (Caverly), of Scottsdale, AZ and Cody Fritz, of Mesa, AZ. Gene was blessed with nine grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a son, Brian Fritz, formerly of Joliet.

Gene's wishes were to be buried in the Veteran's National Cemetery in Phoenix, AZ. There will be a short service at the Veteran's Cemetery prior to burial on Wednesday, Sept. 22, at 1 p.m. A memorial party will be held in Scottsdale, immediately following the service.

Funeral arrangements are being made by Mountain View Funeral Home in Mesa, AZ.

Allen M. Kingman

ESSEX—Allen M. Kingman, 58, of Essex, passed away Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at Morris Hospital.

He was born Dec. 30, 1962 in Morris. Allen graduated from the Gardner-South Wilmington High School with the class of 1981. He was a project manager for Filotto Roofing in Crest Hill where he worked for many years. Allen was a member of the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge #967 in Morris, where he also served on the board. He enjoyed watching sports, was an avid Chicago Cubs fan, and a talented wood maker. Allen was an entertainer at heart and greatly enjoyed DJ'ing for many events. He married Bobbi Nicoletti on Sept. 3, 1994 in Coal City and they both loved to travel. They looked forward to their trips to Mexico, traveling to vineyards and participating in wine tastings. His family and friends will miss him dearly, but are honored to have been a part of his life.

Surviving are his mother and step-father, Lois (Ron) Taylor, of Godley, IL; step-mother, Doris Kingman, of Fort Myers, FL; wife of 27 years, Bobbi L. Kingman, of Essex; four children: Michael (Kathleen) Kingman, of Joliet; David (Caitlin) Kingman, of Land O' Lakes, FL;



Matthew (Olivia) Kingman, of Tuscola, IL and Kaci (Andrew Metheney) Kingman, of LeRoy, IL; eight grandchildren:

Trevor, Rebekka, Conner, Kendyll, Trent, Lillianna, Sydney, Lucas, and one due to arrive in December; brother, Gene Kingman, of Gardner; sister, Cheryl McKinney, of Braceville; two step-brothers, Jeff (Tammy) Berry, of Coal City and James (Mindi) Berry, of Pontiac; one step-sister, Jeanette Jensen, of Pontiac; mother-in-law, Jacquie (William) Roth, of Braceville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding him in death were his father, Walter Glenn Kingman and father-in-law, Eugene Nicoletti.

Visitation was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home and Crematory, Braidwood, Sunday, Sept. 19, 2021. Cremation rites were accorded following visitation.

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

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

Alpha Jensen

JOPLIN, MO—Alpha Fern Jensen, 95, of Joplin, MO, passed away on Sept. 18, 2021 after living an exceedingly full life.

She was born in Monett, MO on Aug. 21, 1926 to J.J. and Alice (Stockett) Lauderdale. She was a lifetime resident of the Joplin area.

Alpha married the love of her life, Harry Henry Jensen on Sept. 25, 1943 and shared over 25 wonderful years with him before he passed away. They created a life together they were proud of, along with raising their son, Harry James Jensen and daughter, Wanda Derrickson. Alpha was a family woman and a woman of God. She was a member of South Joplin Christian Church. In her free time, she loved

knitting and drawing.

Survivors include her son, Harry James Jensen and wife, Sharon, of Coal City; daughter, Wanda and husband, Erick Derrickson, of Joplin; five grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Alpha was preceded in death by both parents and her husband, Harry Henry Jensen.

Alpha will have a visitation on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021 from 6-7 p.m. at the Mason-Woodard Mortuary in Joplin. A graveside service will be held on Thursday, Sept. 23 at Clio Cemetery in Jenkins, MO at 10 a.m.

Arrangements are under the care of Mason-Woodard Mortuary in Joplin.

John Kloski

COAL CITY—John Samuel Kloski, better known as Jay, of Coal City, died unexpectedly on Sept. 13, 2021 leaving his family and friends heartbroken, but having made the world a better place.

Jay was born on May 1, 1957 to John and Chickie Kloski in the shadow of Comiskey Park. Needless to say, Jay was a lifelong White Sox fan. Brought up in Bridgeport, he often spoke of the Pennie Man, sitting outside on the front stoop with his family and watching the fireworks from the baseball park.

He was a successful businessman as the proprietor of Joliet Suspension in Rockdale, IL. He was an active member in the Chicago Eagles Motorcycle Club and an avid fan of drag racing. Jay had a love for boating. You could find him on the lake almost any weekend or holiday sharing his passion with his family and friends.

Jay was a man bigger than life who loved his

family and friends. He had a heart of gold. He will be sorely missed.

He is survived by his wife, Leslie; his children: John (Christina), Alexandra, Brittany (Paul), Rachel and Zachary; six grandchildren: Andrea, Hunter, Lizzy, Mason, Kylie and Madelyn; his sister, Lorretta; his brother, Gerald and his mother, Judy.

He is preceded in death by his sisters, Lisa and Katie; his mother and father, Chickie and John.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 from 5-10 p.m. at Hero's West, located at 1530 Commerce Lane, Joliet IL 60431.

Friends and family are encouraged to sign the online guestbook at www.ferrarifuneral.com

Ferrari Funeral Services of Coal City are entrusted with arrangements.



Ellen Medlin

ELWOOD—Ellen Medlin, 90, of Elwood, formerly of Sikeston, MO, passed away Thursday, Sept. 16, 2021 at Salem Village Nursing and Rehabilitation in Joliet.

Born Aug. 14, 1931 in Charleston, MO, Ellen was a daughter of George and Lucille (nee Hanley) Monan. She was raised and educated in Mound City, IL and graduated from Mound City High School. On Aug. 7, 1948, Ellen married Jesse B. "Buck" Medlin. They lived in Mounds, IL and later moved to Joliet, where Ellen owned and operated the Pink Petal Salon for over 25 years.

She was a former member of Southern Calvary Baptist Church in Joliet and participated in the Quilting and Homemakers Club in Elwood. Ellen will be remembered as a gifted quilter who found great pleasure in sharing her talents with other quilters.

Survivors include her two children, Terry (Karen) Medlin, of Wilmington and Gary (Diane) Medlin, of Elwood; 15 grandchildren: Shawn, Amy and Tyler Medlin; Jennifer and Beth Babcock, Adam Medlin, Carrie (Dave) Harris, Alicia, Mandi, George Jr. and Jesse Medlin; Nikki (Jeremy) Bricco, Paul Summers, Priscilla (Matt) Webb and Kristina Dowe; 34

great-grandchildren, one brother and one sister: Kitten (the late Charles) McCowen, of Vidalia, IL and Robin (Diane) Monan, of Mounds, IL; one daughter-in-law, Helen Medlin, of Joliet and numerous nieces and nephews.

Ellen was preceded in death by her parents, two children, George Medlin and Ramona Bokan and one sister, Nancy (Charles) Garrett.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 20, 2021 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington

Interment immediately followed the funeral service at Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington, where Ellen was laid to rest with her husband, Jesse.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ellen's memory to Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

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

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



Lillie Simenson

WILMINGTON—Lillie Simenson, 79, of Wilmington, passed away Monday, Aug. 23, 2021 at Silver Cross Medical Center in New Lenox.

Born Dec. 15, 1941 in Vista, CA, Lillie was a daughter of Chester and Eva (Sowards) Davis. She was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School. Lillie worked as a realtor selling vacation properties at Shadow Lakes for many years, and was a former member of the Wilmington Women's Club. A truly vibrant soul, Lillie was a loving mother, wife, sister-in-law, nana, great-nana and wonderful friend to many. She was approachable, kind-hearted and empathetic. Lillie had the best stories, a great laugh, sharp wit, and was full of fun, all while always being young at heart. Lillie enjoyed passing her time on Facebook, spending time at her oceanfront home in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, and simply just being with family and friends. She had the ability to light any room she entered, and will be remembered for her grace, humility and kindness. Gone from our sight, Lillie leaves behind a priceless collection of memories that her loved ones will forever hold near and dear to their heart.

Survivors include her children: daughter, Jill (Brian) Gill, of Wilmington and son, Ron (Tammie) Parrish, of Braidwood; grandchildren: Shane (Tara) Longest, Jerrick (Ivana) Longest, Hunter Gill, Bre Parrish, Alyssa Parrish, Rachel Gibson and Mark (Ashley) Vaughn; great-grandchildren: Nashlyn, Kyson, Kade, Khloë, Malena, Makiah, Tyler, Caeden, Nolan, Annistyn, Elliette, Audrey, Lucas, Bailey, Lydia and Zoey; her mother-in-law, Cathryn Simenson and brother-in-law, Steve (Wendy) Simenson, both of Minnesota; nephew, Forrest (Karolina)

Simenson; great-niece and great-nephew, Johannes and Elliot; her former husband and the father of her children, Don (Susie) Parrish, of Wilmington, as well as the entire Parrish family, and her comfort care team, who was so supportive: Judy Marion, Donna Thompson and Gina Parrish and her beloved canine companion, Marley Mae.

Lillie was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, John Simenson, who she married Sept. 26, 1987; one brother, Marc Davis; her great-grandson, Liam Vaughn and grandson, Thomas Vaughn.

Green flameless cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a celebration of Lillie's life on Sunday, Sept. 26, 2021 between the hours of 12 noon and 3 p.m. on The Hill at Harborside Marina, 27425 Will Road in Wilmington. This special date and location is where Lillie and John exchanged vows 34 years ago to the date. In light of Lillie's vibrant personality and love of color, those attending are requested to wear bright vibrant or tropical attire in her honor.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Lillie's memory to a humane society of the donor's choosing.

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

Green flameless cremation and memorial services have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.



Esther Wills

COAL CITY—Esther Wills, 87, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 at her home.

Born Jan. 22, 1934 in Coal City, Esther Marie was the daughter of Peter and Mary Marie (Togliatto) Giacomo. She was raised in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1952. On June 4, 1954, Esther married Donald Eugene Wills in Morris, and together they made a home and raised a family together.

Esther worked as an administrative assistant for the Boy Scouts of America at the Rainbow Council for many years until her retirement, and was a charter member of the Coal City Area Club. A self-taught seamstress, Esther was extremely talented with handiwork on various mediums; knitting, crocheting, quilting and in needlepoint. She enjoyed camping and classic country music, and was an exceptional cook. Esther enjoyed writing to her pen pal Collin of more than 50 years, which later took her across the globe to meet in New Zealand. Family was always important to Esther, and she cherished spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include her children: Melanie Wills-Watson-Williams, of Cary, NC and Mike Wills (Suzanne Fritz), Mitch Wills and Michele (Chad) Payton, all of Coal City; six grandchildren: Katie (Michael) Sinclair, Donald Wayne Watson, Jonathon Wills, Tori Wills, Wills Payton and Abby Payton; three great-grandchildren:

Oliver Sinclair, Isla Sinclair and Branson Mitchell; one brother, Joe (Mary) Giacomo, of Coal City; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Norman (JoAnn) Wills, Paul (Emily) Wills and Martha Jean Walker and numerous nieces and nephews.

Esther was preceded in death by her parents, husband in 2011, grand-daughter, Corrie Watson and son-in-law, Mickey Watson.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of Illinois Route 113 in Coal City on Saturday, Sept. 18, 2021 from 10 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 12 p.m. Per current state and CDC mandate, masks and facial coverings are to be worn while within the funeral home.

Burial will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, where Esther will be laid to rest with her late husband.

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

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

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



Candidate's combat claim needs clarification

Republican gubernatorial candidate Paul Schimpf has mostly followed Ronald Reagan's 11th Commandment and avoided speaking ill of his Republican opponents.

Until now. When a relative unknown named Jesse Sullivan jumped into the race earlier this month with a nearly \$11 million out-of-state-funded campaign war chest, state Sen. Darren Bailey and businessperson Gary Rabine both called him a member of the San Francisco/Silicon Valley "elite" because that's where his business was located and where much of his campaign money came from.

The Silicon Valley angle took hold in segments of the mainstream media. Did Sullivan really live in downstate Petersburg, as he claimed, or did he live in the San Francisco area? Sullivan's campaign pushed back hard on the out-of-state angle, insisting he was a Petersburg guy who had made lots of influential business friends in California and other states.

But Schimpf, a former state Senator, actually welcomed Sullivan into the fray, saying, "another robust campaign spreading the message that JB Pritzker is undeserving of reelection is good news for the Illinois Republican Party."

Schimpf was born on an Air Force base in the Metro East, graduated from Annapolis Naval Academy, then graduated from law school and served 20 years in the U.S. Marines, serving as the chief American adviser to prosecutors in Saddam

Hussein's trial. His service, to my knowledge, has not been questioned, but his ire was raised by some of Jesse Sullivan's campaign claims.

The neophyte Sullivan has peppered his campaign website and announcement with photos of himself in military uniform.

"I proudly served our nation in uniform doing counterinsurgency work in Helmand Afghanistan with the U.S. Department of Defense," Sullivan declared in his campaign announcement speech near Petersburg.

Sullivan was part of what was known as the Army's Human Terrain System, which recruited civilians with social science backgrounds to help military commanders understand the local populations. A 2012 profile of Sullivan in the State Journal-Register mentioned that his team, "left the British military unit stationed in the area with recommendations for strengthening the local police force and reopening a school."

When I questioned Sullivan's campaign about this seeming rhetorical contradiction, they acknowledged that he was an Army civilian without veteran's status who nevertheless "led and participated in combat patrols in Afghanistan."

The Army's unclassified handbook on the Human



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

Terrain Team says its leaders were active duty or retired military officers. So, I asked, how could Sullivan have "led" combat patrols?

Sullivan's campaign responded with a 300-word background statement which claimed Sullivan's Army team leader never left the base. Instead, the campaign claimed, Sullivan led a small team consisting usually of "another human terrain analyst, possibly a social scientist depending on the mission, and an interpreter," which would, "embed with a military unit." Sullivan, "was responsible for translating military objectives into collection priorities, executing the collection mission, reporting back, and advising the military decision-making process."

To me, the long-winded explanation looked more like Sullivan had led a small group of advisers alongside soldiers in combat areas than actually leading what most would consider "combat patrols." That still took courage, so why embellish it?

I sent Schimpf everything I had from the Sullivan campaign along with my own self-directed research. Schimpf was initially reluctant to say anything about Sullivan, but eventually issued this response:

"Although Jesse Sullivan, who is not a veteran and has

never been on active duty, should be commended for having worked in Afghanistan as a civilian contractor, his claim to have led combat patrols flies in the face of Department of Defense regulations and established practices.

"While civilian contractors may be armed and act in defensive roles such as providing security, the use of contractors in contingency operations is specifically limited in DoD Instruction 3020.41 to support operations 'in a non-combat role.'"

"If Mr. Sullivan wants to claim unprecedented combat leadership experience as a civilian contractor, he should identify the officer that he directly reported to while in theater in order to verify this extraordinary assertion. Otherwise, he should correct the misleading language on his website."

Sullivan has managed to make a big splash in the Republican primary. He's a young, handsome made-for-TV candidate and already has way more money than any of his opponents could ever likely hope to raise. But Sullivan should probably stop digging holes that he'll eventually have to fill himself. It's a really bad habit and I've seen it fatally backfire more than once. Like I said before, there's no need to embellish this stuff.

And, for sure, this military combat claim needs to be cleared up right away.

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

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APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Wilmington, upstairs, 3 bedroom apartment. \$1,000/month and \$1,500 security deposit. No Pets. Lease, credit check, references. Call 815-365-2829 and leave message. cc31a-34b

DUPLEX FOR RENT

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FOR FREE

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

FOR FREE

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

BRACEVILLE

Rummage sale at Braceville United Methodist Church, 106 W. Gould St., Braceville. Fri., Sept. 24, 8am-3pm & Sat., Sept. 25, 8am-noon. No food. Funds for Christmas Angels. ca 38a-b

GARAGE SALES

This Week!

HIRING SOON

Entry-Level Police Officer



The Wilmington, Illinois Board of Police Commission is accepting applications for the position of police officer with the Wilmington Police Department.

Starting Salary: \$57k - \$61k
Population: 5,735
Sworn Police Officers: 17 (12 Full-Time and 5 Part-Time)
Will add 2 full-time within next 2 years.

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

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

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

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

General handyman for farm work, drive tractor, cut grass, helping with dog training, light mechanical work. Wilmington area, 40 hours a week. Call 630-399-4982 before 6pm in the evening. cc38a-41b

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

Personal Assistant needed immediately, well organized, detail oriented. Excellent communication & time management skills. Will train the right person. Pay will be based on experience. Please send resume to herman@apexforest.com cc38b-42a

HELP WANTED

The Coal City School District is currently hiring a full-time custodian. To apply visit our website at www.coalcityschools.org or for more information contact Amanda Herrera-Ford at aherrera@coalcityschools.org ch 38a-b

HELP WANTED

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

HELP WANTED

VanDuyne Motel is looking for part-time maintenance man/handy man, working up to 25 hrs/week. Also, looking for part-time housekeeper, working 8-15 hrs/week. Please call 815-476-2801 or stop by VanDuyne Motel at 107 Bridge St., Wilmington, IL. Come to office and fill out application. cc38b-42a

HELP WANTED

Rt. 66 Bar & Grill is hiring for bartenders. Willing to train, please apply in person at 113 E. Baltimore St., Wilmington. ch38a-39b

HOMES FOR SALE

House for sale in Essex. 1,840 sq. ft., \$259,900 or rent. First, last, damage. Call 815-252-8517. Rainbow friendly. cc 37b-39a

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

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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 612-14 S. EAST STREET, WILMINGTON, ILLINOIS, IL 60481 (2 single family apartments in the Building). On the 14th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: LINCOLNWAY COMMUNITY BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING CORPORATION Plaintiff V. MARK R. RAMSEY, TRAVIS DUKES, THOMAS DURNING, JIMMY HARRIS, ALEXA HARRIS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, SABRE INVESTMENT LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY, SI RESOURCES, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OLD SCHOOL INVESTMENTS LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, UNKNOWN OWNERS, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant. Case No. 20 CH 0579 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 402-404 W. 6TH STREET, BRAIDWOOD, ILLINOIS, IL 60408 (Each Building contains 2 single Family Apartment Units). On the 14th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: LINCOLNWAY COMMUNITY BANK, AN ILLINOIS BANKING CORPORATION Plaintiff V. MARK R. RAMSEY, TRAVIS DUKES, THOMAS DURNING, JIMMY HARRIS, ALEXA HARRIS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS, SABRE INVESTMENT LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY, SI RESOURCES, LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, OLD SCHOOL INVESTMENTS LLC, AN ILLINOIS LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY, UNKNOWN OWNERS, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS Defendant. Case No. 20 CH 0579 in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County.

REAL ESTATE

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 29 and Oct. 6, 2021.

REAL ESTATE

In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: Troy & Associates PO Box 606 Channahon, IL 60410 P: 815-467-0756 F: 815-467-6247 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 29 and Oct. 6, 2021.

REAL ESTATE

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REAL ESTATE

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

REAL ESTATE

(H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: POTESIVO AND ASSOCIATES 811 E. South Blvd. Rochester Hill, Michigan 48307 P: 248-853-4400 F: 248-853-0404 PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers Wednesday, Sept. 8, 15 and 22, 2021

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CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

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

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

REAL ESTATE

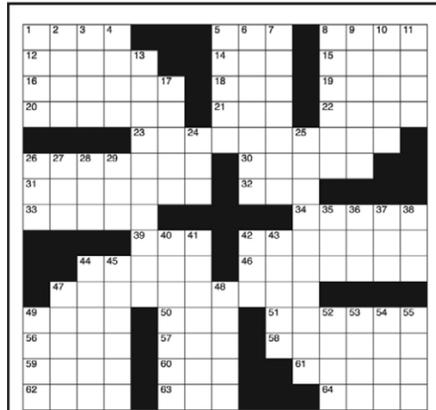
SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 712 W. Eureka Street, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 7th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **PHH Mortgage Corporation Plaintiff V. Lynne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

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REAL ESTATE

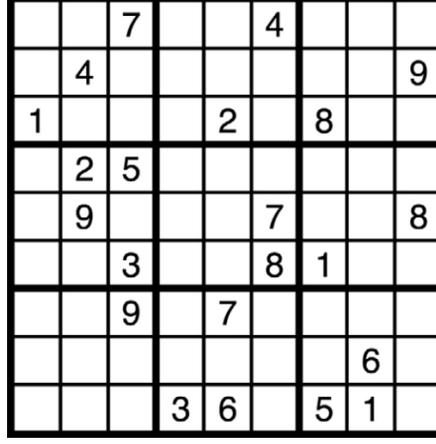
SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 789 West Kennedy Road, Braidwood, IL 60408 (Single Family Home). On the 14th day of October, 2021 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse Annex, 57 N. Ottawa Street, Room 201, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **US Bank Trust National Association, Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For VRMTG Asset Trust Plaintiff V. Robert L. Wicks; Rosa Lee Wicks; Busey Bank as Successor Trustee to Mazon State Bank, as Trustee under Trust Agreement Dated April 16, 1993, as known as Trust #2455; Busey Bank s/b/m First Community Financial Bank s/b/m Mazon State Bank; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant.** Case No. **20 CH 0288** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS

5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact: **Codilis & Associates, P.C. 15W030 N. Frontage Road Suite 100 Burr Ridge, Illinois 60527 P: 630-794-5300 F: 630-794-9090** PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, Sept. 22, 29 and Oct. 6, 2021.



- CLUES ACROSS**
- One of the four Vedas
 - Part of (abbr.)
 - At the peak
 - African antelope
 - Expression of satisfaction
 - Yankees' ace
 - Belittled
 - A baglike structure
 - Utah Jazz coach Snyder
 - Actress Tomei
 - Explosive
 - Formal for "on"
 - Cruelties
 - Country singer Brad
 - Make very happy
 - Binary compound of hydrogen with a metal
 - Albanian currency
 - Subatomic particle
 - Type of salt
 - 007's creator
 - Emerging
 - Railroad flare
 - Observed
 - Capable of reproduction
 - Indicates adjacent to
 - Legendary Notre Dame coach
 - Not wide
 - An embarrassing mistake
 - Pearl Jam's debut album
 - Denotes passerine birds
 - Stumble
 - Midway between east and south
 - W. Indian trees
 - You
 - Pigpen
 - Be aware of

- CLUES DOWN**
- Crease
 - "Honey" actress Jessica
 - Broad volcanic crater
 - Product safety watchdog
 - Southern Colombian city
 - Part of a church
 - Perceptible by touch
 - Profoundly not guilty of criminal charges
 - Hairpiece
 - Variety acts
 - "Mystic River" actor Sean
 - Remove salt
 - Went out with
 - Type of bread
 - Popular Eagles song
 - Philosophy degree
 - Yes vote
 - Passports and licenses are two
 - No seats available
 - Pounds per square inch
 - A way to launch an attack on
 - The lowest cardinal number
 - Popular Miller beer
 - Pokes holes in
 - Closest to
 - Folk singer DiFranco
 - Rivne's former name
 - Flat ruler
 - Lacking the means to do something
 - Cockatoo
 - Dred Scott decision deliverer
 - Explosion exclamation
 - Canadian flyers
 - Houston university
 - At some prior time
 - Red, swollen mark



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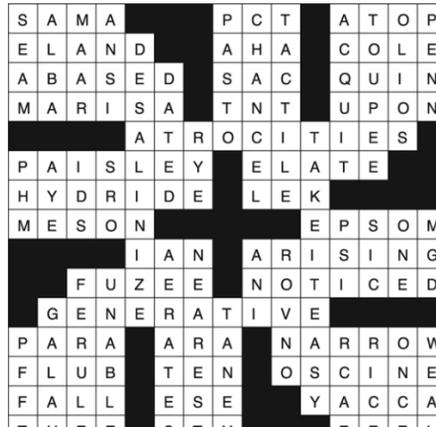
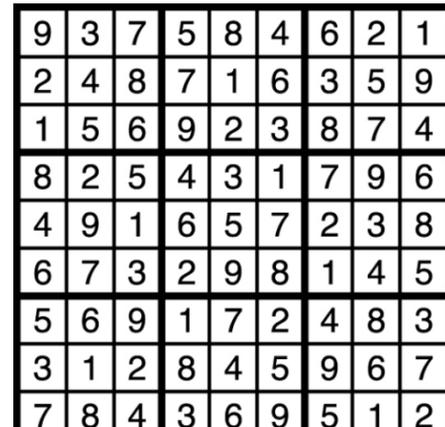
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Four generations of Schumachers gather at the family farmstead site

Hundreds of people visited the Iron Bridge Trailhead at Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie over Labor Day weekend, and two of those visitors grew up at the historic site.

Alvin ("Al") and Robert ("Bob") Schumacher brought together four generations of their extended families to what is now the Iron Bridge Trailhead on Sept. 4 to share their stories of growing up on the Schumacher family farm – "Fairview Farm."

For some of the children, it was the first visit to Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie to hear family stories about farm life in Illinois in the 1930s.

"Those were the years of the Great Depression," Bob recalled. "People would come out from Joliet on foot to work on the farms out here for a dollar a day."

Amid groves of hedge apple trees and black walnut trees, they raised white rock chickens and sold their eggs for 10 cents a dozen. Today, farm-fresh eggs cost about \$5 a dozen.

Al recalled how his dad took a creative approach to cool milk faster at milking time. He attached a milk stirrer to an oscillating pump that was in place as a mechanism for a well. "The action of the milk stirrer cooled the milk much quicker than just setting the eight-gallon can in water," Al said.

His dad, Arthur, was also very knowledgeable about cows. "My father learned from his father that the Holstein breed of cows gave the greatest amount of milk and were the easiest to take care of because of their temperament," Al said. "Other breeds were used for providing cheese and other dairy products."

"The better cows provided two gallons of milk twice a day," Al said.

Al told about the day when a group of men from Joliet made an unexpected visit to the one-room schoolhouse where he went to school. The schoolhouse was located about one mile southeast of the farm, in the area where the bison sometimes graze now. The men had escaped from prison, had survived a big snowfall the night before and now they were looking for a place to warm up. "They picked the wrong day," Al said.

A display of Schumacher family farm items opened Friday at the Joliet Area Historical Museum, 204 N. Ottawa St., Joliet.

Items on display include a cornbread pan with seven individual corn cob molds. A set of three cake pans – each with its own mechanical release lever – and an oval-shaped roasting pan are nods to the popular lemon cakes and baked ham, which were popular in the 1920s and were



FOUR GENERATIONS of the Schumacher family gather at the site where their farm once stood. Robert "Bob" (seated left) and Alvin "Al" Schumacher (seated right) gather with family at the Iron Bridge Trailhead at the USDA Forest Service / Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie north of Wilmington. The trailhead is located where the brothers grew up on the family farm – "Fairview Farm."

Photo by Veronica Hinke, USDA Forest Service / Midwin NTP

featured in the book *The Great Gatsby*. There is a 100-year-old thermos, a glass butter churn with a hand-operated wooden paddle mechanism inside; farm maintenance tools and

more. Historic Schumacher family farm items are also on display at the Wilmington Park District community center located at 315 N. Water St.,

Wilmington. The displays spotlight life in rural America during the era that is widely referred to today as "The Roaring 20s," which ushered in a distinct wave of

new and iconic trends for people living in the cities.

There were waist-length pearls for women and fedoras for men. But while a whole new lifestyle defined a celebratory era in Chicago, Joliet and other major U.S. cities, plenty of rural families still painstakingly scoured the farmlands with horse-drawn fertilizer spreaders. Never since has there been greater contrast between rural and urban life in America.

The same rudimentary tools that were introduced over 30 years earlier – the butter churn, the hog scraper, the milk stirrer and more – remained essential to life every day. Many families were only just first experiencing the luxury of indoor plumbing. Rural residents continued to embrace a necessary resourcefulness.

Here is a old-time family recipe for making pumpkin Pie by Verna Schumacher

- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon cloves
- 1 and 2/3 cups whole milk
- 1 [] cups cooked pumpkin (or 15-ounce can)
- ≤ cup sugar
- [] teaspoon ginger
- π teaspoon nutmeg

Beat together eggs and sugar; then add in salt. Blend all this and pour into a deep-dish 9-inch pie shell. Bake at 425 degrees for 15 minutes, and then decrease temperature to 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

More Schumacher family recipes – for cut sugar cookies, springerle cookies and more – are available on the Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie website.

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Support for Alzheimer's caregivers

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

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

Gas prices remain near high for 2021

Illinois gas prices have risen 7.5 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$3.32/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Gas prices in Illinois are 6.9 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.12/g higher than a year ago.

"Gas prices have been stuck in somewhat of a limbo and remain near 2021 highs long after Hurricane Ida has dissipated. The damage done to oil production has been

left behind and so far has prevented prices from resuming their seasonal decline," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois is priced at \$2.86/g while the most expensive is \$3.99/g, a difference of \$1.13/g. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.18/g. The national average stands \$1.01/g higher than a

year ago. "Ida caused the loss of over 30 million barrels of oil production in the Gulf of Mexico, and with gasoline demand remaining relatively high for the season, oil inventories remain relatively tight, preventing any organized decline in gas prices for the time being," De Haan noted. "As a result, we may have to wait a couple more weeks until hurricane season slows for oil inventories to start to rise and gas prices to fall."

Beef prices rising with China's steep demand

BY DANIEL GRANT FARMWEEK

Substantial growth of U.S. beef exports to China this year could be the start of a new, long-term trend rather than just a flash in the pan, according to a Rabobank report.

U.S. beef sales to China increased more than 1,000% in volume and value (\$622.5 million) the first half of the year. And the market shows no signs of slowing, according to Don Close, senior vice president of RaboResearch and Animal Protein.

"It's been an incredible story," Close told FarmWeek. "If you look at the strength in cattle and beef prices globally, it all points back to just how much beef demand in China is driving the market."

How did beef consumption become so much more popular in China, the world's top producer and consumer of pork? Close believes several factors came together to

enhance the shift. "What's driving it has been, first off, ASF (African swine fever). It drove hog and pork prices to levels that narrowed the price spread in China between beef and pork and stimulated a lot more (beef) sales," Close said. "And then with COVID, people learned to start cooking (beef) at home, and that's where consumption really ratcheted up. Traditionally, beef consumption in China was away from home."

Improved market access under the Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement also helped position the U.S. as a greater player in the Chinese beef market. And, the Rabobank report predicts strong beef sales to China will continue.

"Given the circumstances of changing eating habits and changing taste preferences in China, and their inability to substantially increase their own cattle and beef production, (the Chinese) will be a

major import player on the beef side for quite some time," Close said.

Overall, U.S. beef exports increased 18% the first half of the year, compared to the same time last year, valued at a record \$4.64 billion.

U.S. beef sales to the top two markets, Japan and South Korea, also increased while sales to Mexico, a critical destination for rounds and other underutilized cuts, increased 15% in volume the first half of the year, the U.S. Meat Export Federation reported.

Exports equated to about \$351 per head of fed slaughter in June and could help drive better cattle price opportunities.

"There's no doubt there's been tremendous frustration in the domestic market. It all has to do with leverage," Close said. "The available supply of market-ready cattle overpowered our slaughter capacity and the leverage vastly shifted in favor of the packer. If you take the July cattle on feed and

inventory reports, we've finally worked through the huge backlog of cattle and we've had three months of lower placements," he continued. "As we get to the third and fourth quarters, the available supply of cattle will show a noticeable contraction," which should drive up cattle prices.

Rabobank's China beef market report also found the Chinese generally view cattle as a "sustainable superstar," Close said.

"They're placing cattle with small producers as income enhancements," he added. "And they're paying them to feed a lot of forages and field waste that they traditionally burned."

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit www.farmweeknow.com

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COALER SPORTS

Coalers have to watch out for the big plays

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coalers got another strong defensive effort to improve to 1-1 in the Illinois Central Eight Conference.

Their defense has done a great job so far, allowing just 35 points in four games. While opponents on average are scoring nine points per game, on the flip side the Coalers are averaging just over 10 points a game in scoring for themselves.

The Coalers didn't really need that much offense in a physical, 17-6 win over Herscher but it might be a different story against Lisle, who got ousted Streator 28-14 on Friday.

Lisle, coached by Paul Parpet, won their first two games against Harvard (26-16) and Westmont (51-0) before

losing week three to still undefeated Reed-Custer (42-14).

The Coalers lost their first game of the year to Morris (13-3). They got their new coach in the win column with a 14-6 win over Bishop McNamara in Week 2. They fell in a 10-0 loss to Wilmington in Week 3 before beating Herscher.

Lisle lost to Wilmington in the 2019 playoffs but has been a team that is familiar to the football playoffs, going three of the last six years.

They'll try to run the ball with the Double Wing offense while also trying to spread the field with their speed.

"We expect to see that same thing," said CCHS football coach Francis Loughran. "Double Wing and they have a couple nice wing backs. We're going to have to step up and defend the run game so it all starts there."

The Lions will try to get it to their speedy wing back Tyrese Watson (#10), who can turn on the jets once he hits the edge. The Coalers will need to have a fast team defense to limit Watson. They've done a great job so far. Watson was dynamic in their win against Streator as he broke for a 75-yard touchdown run untouched as he ran for 174 yards on 18 carries with three touchdowns.

Their quarterback is Abe Payne (#5). He throws a good ball when he gets time. When he's hurried there's a possibility he will force the ball into coverage. Payne had 22 yards through the air as they didn't pass the ball all that often. He collected two tackles on defense with an interception.

Their other set of speed backs are Dominic Nigro (#2) and Gabe Quinones (#4).

Nigro ran for 47 yards while Quinones didn't touch the ball. That might change. The Lions also forced Streator into three interceptions so they play fast on defense. Coal City needs to hold the line on offense to allow Braden Reilly time to throw.

Joe Raineri led the defense against Streator as he's the big linebacker. He collected 5.5 tackles with 3.0 tackles for a loss. Raineri (#50) is fast and hits hard.

Coal City uses their power running game and it starts with Ashton Harvey and Nick Seplak.

Harvey carried the load against Herscher with 164 yards with a touchdown. Their gameplan on offense is to feed Harvey and Seplak. Seplak had just 10 yards on the ground. The Coalers are missing Brady Best in the backfield and at

linebacker on defense. Best went down with an injury against Wilmington in Week 3. Harvey leads th backfield with 324 yards and two touchdowns.

"We've got to get our run game going early. We want to try to get off to a fast start. They're going to be quick on the defensive side but the good thing for us is we're seeing a similar defense to the one we saw last week. The 4-4 type so we've got some things to work on this week and hopefully we get off to a better start."

Reilly is their quarterback. He's been good so far and has been improving every week. He passed for 45 yards with a touchdown last week. They will need him to be ready to throw the ball this week as well. He has thrown for 238 yards thus far with a touchdown.

When it comes down to it,

Coal City needs to stop the Lion's big plays in order to keep their offense on the field. Their best offense every week has been a great defense. This week is no different.

"We've got to play fundamentally sound with this offense," added Loughran. "If we don't play gap assignment football, that's where they usually find it and we have to limit the big plays because they do have some athleticism and I saw on the film with Streator, if you give them a crease, they can get some of those long runs on you. They have big play ability and we're going to try to hopefully bottle them up."

Coal City holds the home-field advantage and the last win against the Lions, beating them 34-6 in spring so they will sure be looking to continue that success against Lisle.

Coalers outlast Tigers in physical battle

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coalers mixed things up in the second half of Friday's football contest at Herscher to win 17-6 and improve to 2-2 overall.

Coal City has arguably one of the best defenses in the Illinois Central Eight Conference, limiting Herscher's big bruising running back to negative yards.

Herscher's Cody Lunsford had nine carries for -3 yards. The only player that did any damage was quarterback Brock Wenzelman, who ran for 52 yards in an offensive attack that finished with 157 yards.

"He's a big strong kid (Lunsford) and a fast kid," said CCHS football coach Francis Loughran. "I thought overall on the night. We held the team to 52 yards on 22 carries so we were good in the run game and the quarterback was a nice player. He threw for over 100 yards but were fortunate to pick him off twice so I thought overall a pretty good effort by

our guys."

Herscher scored first and held a 6-0 advantage into the half. That's when Loughran made a few adjustments at the half that helped his offense get going.

The Coalers had a punt blocked on their first possession, giving Herscher good field position around the 15 yard line. The Tigers reached pay dirt so Coal City trailed 6-0 early.

"We started off pretty slow," said Loughran. "We couldn't really get the ball moving in the first half. In the second half we were able to move the ball both on the ground and through the air. We just mixed up some of the play-calling and got some different guys rotating back in there and Herscher's front seven is really tough but we were able to outlast them."

Herscher got the ball to start the second half. That led to a three-and-out, and a punt from the Tigers. The Coalers sputtered during their first drive of the half but with three

minutes left in the third, quarterback Braden Reilly would find Keegan Crater with a dart from seven yards out to give the Coalers a 7-0 advantage with Aydan Murphey's point after touchdown.

"Braden had a nice touchdown pass to Keegan Crater," added Loughran.

After another Herscher punt, the Coalers used a long, methodical drive to get down the field and Ashton Harvey would punch it in from four-yards out to make it a 14-6 with time winding down in the fourth.

Harvey led the Coalers on the ground as they were finally able to give him space to run. The bruising back had 20 carries for 164 yards with a touchdown.

"When we're running the ball well, we control the clock and keep our defense off the field so it was a good second half for us," commented Loughran.

The offensive line led by Nick Latta sure gave him the push he and the rest of the backfield needed.

After the defense was able to make a couple more stops, the offense would churn the clock down to the two-minute mark and Murphey would boot a 35-yard field goal to put this game on ice.

Murphey was solid, converting on both PATs and the field goal.

The Tigers would try to get back into the game in the final two minutes but a Wenzelman pass fell into the waiting arms of Zach Finch who gladly accepted the gift. Murphey also had an interception in this game.

The defense played the Tigers run game very well and they were able to record seven tackles for a loss.

"Our defense has been playing great," said Coal City TE/DE Aydan Murphey. "Everyone knows their job and sticking to assignment football. Friday, our defense played their butts off to help the offense. What makes us so good on defense is we all do our jobs and no one else's. We want as many hats on the ball as possible on every play."

Murphey led the defense with 10 total tackles with two TFLs. He also had an interception. Finch and Harvey had six tackles each. Harvey added a fumble recovery while Finch also had a TFL. Nick Seplak added five tackles with two TFLs and a sack. Antonio Contrerez chipped in four tackles with a tackle for a loss. Nolan Ness had three tackles while Michael Gonzalez, Nolan Berger and Jace Shaw added two tackles. Gonzalez had one TFL. Jim Feeney and Crater also had a tackle.

The Coalers gained 228 yards of total offense with 183 on the ground and 45 through the air.

They were led by Harvey (164). Cason Headley and Seplak each gained 10 yards while Contrerez had eight and Crater had a carry for four yards.

Reilly was 4-of-11 with 45 yards with a touchdown and an interception throwing the football. Loughran has noticed Reilly has made some very noticeable improvements.

"I think each week he is getting better," added Loughran. "He threw a great ball to Keegan Crater for that touchdown. Each week he is learning more and it's been a tough stretch to start your varsity career as a quarterback and he's handled it well."

The Coalers welcome in Lisle (3-1) for their senior night on Friday.

Lady Coalers edge Yorkville by one match

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City tennis team kept their strong run going with a 4-3 win over Yorkville on Wednesday.

Molly Stiles and Trinity Barrus quickly dispatch their singles opponents to give Coal City a quick 2-0 lead on 6-1, 6-1 and 6-1, 6-2 wins.

Emma Kurtz had trouble with Kaitlyn Hix in No. 3 singles, falling 1-6, 3-6 and it was back to a 2-1 match.

Abby Stiles-Ana Flores extended Coal City's lead with a 6-0, 6-3 win over Kylie May-Lizzy Taylor.

"Molly Stiles played exceptionally well, driving the ball through the court with lots of topspin, and then taking control at the net to volley for the point," said Coal City tennis coach Matt Leman. "No. 2 Singles Trinity Barrus also played well from the baseline, driving the ball to the deep court to keep her opponent on the move. #1 doubles Ana Flores and Abby Stiles controlled the net early in the first set, winning easily 6-0.

Yorkville grabbed the next two doubles matches to tie the match 3-3 but Shana Kelly-Alexis Curtis beat their opponents 8-5 to clinch the win.

"After Yorkville adjusted to

the pressure, they were able to take an early lead, but Stiles and Flores adjusted as well to come back from 1-3 deficit to not give up another game and win the 2nd set 6-3. After losing close matches at both #2 and #3 doubles, #4 doubles Shana Kelly and Alexis Curtis were able to clinch the win for Coal City with solid ground-strokes and consistent play."

The Lady Coalers play on the court Thursday when Kankakee comes to town. They'll travel to Lemont on Saturday for the Lemont Invite before returning home on Monday to host St. Bede Academy.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

WIDE RECEIVER Nolan Berger gains ground after making a catch for the Coalers in the fourth quarter on Friday.



Photo by Shawn Long

THE FOLLOW THROUGH—Coal City's Ryland Megyeri looks up as he finishes his putt during a home match.

Coaler golf team paces fourth in Illinois Central Eight tournament

The Coal City golf team competed in the Illinois Central Eight Conference Tournament and did well.

The Coaler boys placed fourth overall with 379 points. Streator won the whole thing with a 335. They were followed by Manteno (363), and Peotone (372). Reed-Custer came in fifth with 383 team points while Lisle (401) and Wilmington (466) finished sixth and seventh.

The Coaler boys were led by Dylan Brown, who shot a 93 to earn a spot on the Illinois Central Eight All-Conference team.

He was followed by Aiden Hansen who shot a 94. Jack Varnek added a 95 while Luke Crater scored a 97.

Ryland Megyeri had a 100 while Ryne Phelan rounded out scoring with a 102. T

The Lady Coaler golf team also competed with Kylee Kennell leading the charge as she shot a 103.

Dakota Clubb followed Kennell with a 115.

The Coaler golf team will be back on the golf course today (Wednesday) when they travel to Kankakee. They will host Reed-Custer at the Creek on Monday.



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COALER SPORTS

GOING TO STATE



Courtesy photo

THE COAL CITY eighth grade softball team beat Bloomington Evans 7-4 during the Sectional Championship game on Saturday to advance to the first round of the Class 3A IESA State Tournament against Chatham Glenwood on Friday, Sept. 24 at Champion Fields in Normal. The Lady Warriors are (from left, seated) Ava Kenney, Sydney Larson, Khloe Picard, Masyn Kuder, Sierra Anderson and Emma Varnak. Middle row: Jaela Vasquez, Sophia Spoto and McKenna Stewart. Standing are Bridget Feeny, Kiera Brodnick, Addison Harvey, Zoe Taylor, Laura Christopher and Bailee Beddinger.

Lady Warriors slide by Bloomington Evans with five-run fifth inning to advance to state

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City Middle School softball team is state bound after earning a 7-4 win over Bloomington Evans on Saturday during the Sectional final held at Olympia Middle School in Stanford, IL.

The Lady Warriors were off and running early, building a 6-1 lead.

Bloomington had their biggest inning in the sixth with two runs scored before the Warriors added another in the seventh to secure their spot at state.

Addyson Harvey drove in three key runs with two hits while Sydney Larson had two base hits driving in two runs. McKenna Stewart added an RBI with a triple while Khloe Picard also tripled home a run. Sierra Anderson went 4-for-4 with a double to spark the offense.

And Masyn Kuder was good on the mound, giving up four runs on 10 hits while fanning nine to get the win.

The Lady Warriors (15-6-1) will battle Chatham Glenwood (13-0) in the Class 3A State Tournament at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday at Champion

Fields in Normal, IL
CCMS 4
Prairie Central 1

The Warriors beat Prairie Central on Tuesday to capture the regional title.

They got an excellent effort from Kuder in the circle. She allowed just one hit on an unearned run while fanning nine and walking two.

The big stick of the game belonged to Ava Kenney, who had two hits with two RBIs. Larson also knocked in a run with a double while Anderson and Picard had two hits. Bailee Beddinger added a hit.

Coaler kickers edge Morris, fall to JCA

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City soccer team edged Morris 4-3 on Saturday, thanks to two-goal efforts from Luke Hawkins and Nate Elberts.

Hawkins hit his two goals early on in the game which allowed them to keep pace with the Redskins.

Elberts had a great second half and ended up with the

game tying goal and the go-ahead goal to win the game.

They were getting feeds from Timi Shebani, Christian Micetich and Carter Nelson who all had an assist.

Colin Hart did his part in goal to keep it close, preventing six would-be goals.

The Coaler kickers will compete in the Rivals Cup which started yesterday (Tuesday) with Chicago Christian. They'll battle St.

Anne today (Wednesday) and Herscher on Thursday.

Coal City 0, JCA 1

The Coal City soccer team played Joliet Catholic Academy to a close loss on Thursday.

The Coalers had chances in the game but were unable to sneak one past a stout JCA defense.

Hart kept 10 shots on goal from going in the net with 10 saves.

Warriors fall to Wilmington in Regional Championship game

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City eighth grade baseball team had their season come to an end in a 10-0 loss to Wilmington on Monday during the Illinois Elementary Association Class 3A Regional Championship game.

The Warriors were held to just three hits with Lance Cuddy, Gavin Berger and Cade Poyner picking up those hits.

Mason Hamilton and Brody Widlowski got on base via the walk and stole second.

Ethan Olson started on the mound, giving up four earned runs on four hits while fanning five and walking three through 2.1 innings.

Connor Henline took over for Olson, giving up four unearned runs while walking two and striking out one.

CCMS 12
Limestone 5

The Warriors pounded Limestone on Saturday to advance to the regional championship game.

Hunter Gill and Ethan Olson (2B) drove in two runs

each to lead the club.

Lance Cuddy and Widlowski drove in a run. Cuddy had a double, while Drake Stewart had a 3-for-4 day with a double and Hamilton also collected two hits.

Hamilton gave up four unearned runs on the mound while fanning six and walking three to earn the win.

Cuddy got the nine-out save, giving up a hit while fanning five in the final three innings.

Lightweight Miners remain perfect with win over Sandwich

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City youth football Miners captured two of the four levels against Sandwich on Saturday.

At the superlight level, the Miners picked up a 21-12 victory over the Indians.

Drake Heath led the ground attack with 148 yards rushing and three scores. Austin Newman added 68 yards on the ground while Brody Bitner led the defense with eight tackles. Jordy Hossack had a fumble recovery as the Miners improve to 2-3.

The lightweight Miners earned a 22-8 win over the Indians to stay unbeaten.

Maddox Meents linked up with Connor Rodriguez from 40 yards out to give them the lead. Rodriguez added the two points on the kick. Meents returned a punt 47 yards for a touchdown to extend their lead to 16-0 with the two points after from Rodriguez.

Ryder Gill caused a fumble right before the half, allowing Kaden Brown to scoop-and-score, and their defense held Sandwich to eight points the rest of the game.

The JV Miners fell to the Indians 14-0, to lower their

record to 1-4.

Aiden Edmonds, Kellen Forsythe, Cooper Morris, and Tyler Phillips all had multiple tackles on defense.

Kole Carpenter, Kellen, Cooper, Trevor Walker and Frankie Ponio all combined for 70 yards rushing

The Miners Varsity fell to the Indians, 34-14 and are now 3-2 on the season.

Brody Widlowski rushed for 82 yards with two touchdowns while Logan Natyshok added 18 yards on the ground. Defensively, Drake Stewart and Aiden Scroggum logged four tackles a piece and Jimmy Norris added two tackles.

Lady Coalers dig out contest with Tigers in two

BY SHAWN LONG
SPORTS WRITER

The Coal City volleyball team claimed a close, 28-26, 27-25 win over Herscher on Tuesday.

The Lady Coalers were off and running but so were the Tigers as the Coalers were leading with about seven points to win. The Tigers made a run and tied things up at 18-18. They kept coming and took the lead. But Coal City fought back to steal the first set.

"It started out flat," said CCHS coach Pam McMurtrey.

"Not a lot of energy but they just kept their head. They never had a ton of energy but they just kept it even and when they pulled it out, they did a great job. I'm proud of them. Their defense was great. When they got some of those little row shots and tipped them up it totally hyped them up and got them excited and they're like, 'they're not going to stop us' and they did a good job."

The second set was the same as the first, back-and-forth before Coal City finally pulled it out with two unanswered serves to improve to 9-

7 with a 4-1 record within the Illinois Central Eight Conference.

The Lady Coalers got a really good overall game from Addyson Waliczek, who was all over the court with 14 setting assists, 12 digs, five kills and an ace. Macaya Garner was right behind her with four setting assists. She scooped out eight digs with a kill and an ace.

"It feels so good every time," said Rodriguez. "All three of them they work so hard to get it there and I'm just proud of them for everything and couldn't appreciate them

more because I couldn't do any of those kills without them."

Mia Rodriguez was strong in the middle and played her leadership role well.

"It was amazing," said Rodriguez. "The energy was amazing out there. It was probably the best thing ever. We worked so hard together. Our coach just keep telling us energy. We needed that from the beginning and that's what helps every game all the time."

Rodriguez hammered down four kills with two digs and an ace.

Courtney Meyer was tied for the team lead in kills with five while Maci Baldauf led the club in digs as she dug deep for nine.

"Maci did an excellent job passing," added McMurtrey. "She pulled out some huge digs. Her and Grace did a nice job. Addison Gagliardo did a really nice job as well."

Gwen Wharrie and Addison Gagliardo had eight digs each. Wharrie added two aces and a kill while Gagliardo hammered down a kill of her own. The libero Grace Norris played some great defense, digging out seven with two aces and a kill.

"They were on," commented McMurtrey. "They did a great job. Addison stayed in. She's normally back row but she put the ball in. That's what we needed tonight and that's what she did. She struggled a little bit on her blocking. We really don't but we're going to get it together for our next game so that we're ready."

Kenzie Henline did well in her fill in role as she pounded back a team-leading two blocks while digging out one and adding a kill.

"Mia did an amazing job in the middle and we pulled up Kenzie Henline tonight and she did an excellent job for her first match. I couldn't ask much more."

The JV Lady Coalers dropped the match to Herscher 15-25, 25-20, 22-25 and fall to 8-3. They won the Coaler Invite last weekend where they beat some really tough teams.

The freshmen Lady Coalers keep on winning, improving to 8-0 with a big, 14-25, 25-20, 25-12 win over Herscher.



Photo by Shawn Long

MS. HUSTLE—Coal City's Addyson Waliczek was all over the floor in their win over Herscher with 14 setting assists, 12 digs, five kills and an ace.

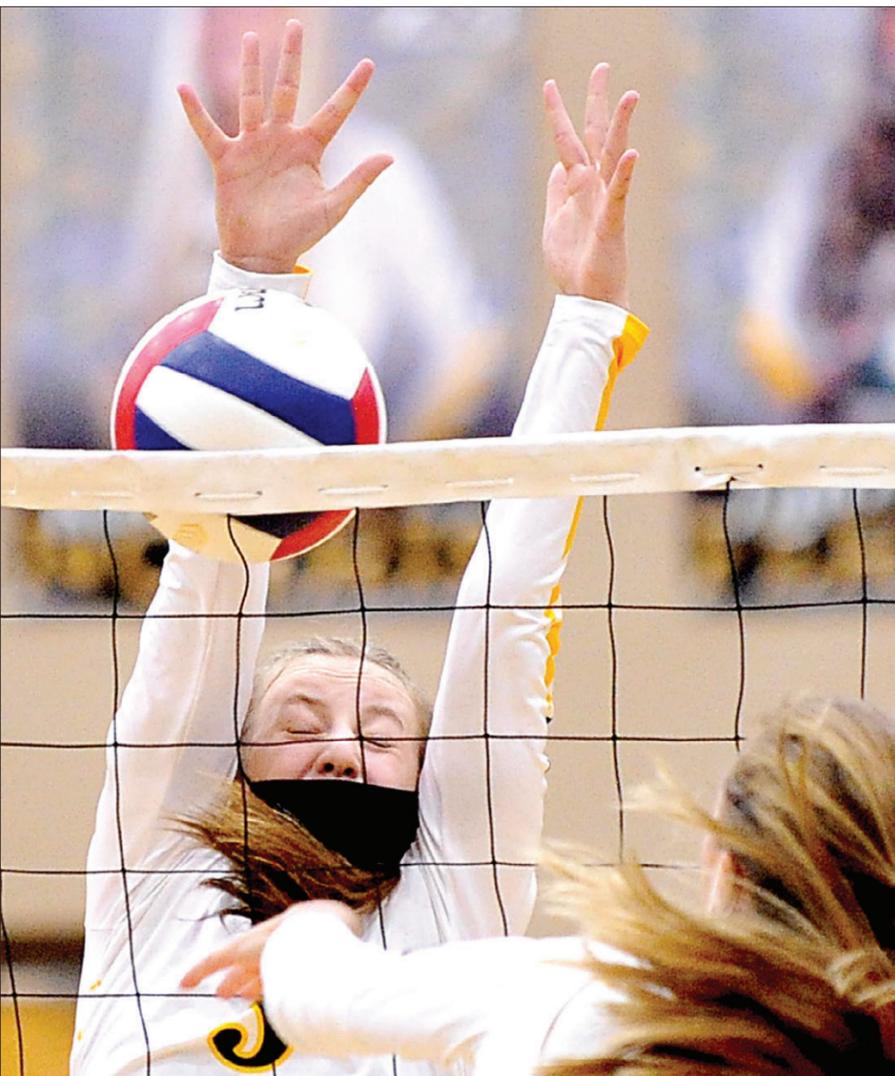


Photo by Shawn Long

HANDS UP—Coal City's Peyton Benson leaps up to attempt to defend Herscher's attack on Tuesday.