

Save room for pie at McTeacher's Night

If you remember the McDonald's jingle, you know what Coal City Middle School faculty, staff and administrators will be serving up at McTeacher's Night on Tuesday, Oct. 10. That's right they will be handing out the Big Mac, Filet O Fish, Quarter Pounder and french fries, but be sure to save room for the pies.

The school is teaming up with Coal City McDonald's for McTeacher's Night, an evening when school staff man the lobby counter and drive thru to raise funds to support

school programming.

The fundraising event runs from 4:30-7:30 p.m. and when you say "I'm with Coal City Middle School," 20 percent of the purchase benefits the school. And, 100% of all pie sales will go directly to the middle school.

Someone special will be appearing in a pie costume that evening. The teachers will even be accepting tips.

Stop by Coal City McDonald's, 2 S. Broadway, to support Coal City Middle School.

Food pantry in need of donations

The Coal City Food Pantry is in need of certain food items and is hoping for help from the community. They are in need of some specific items in October including toilet paper, paper towels, toothbrushes/toothpaste, personal hygiene items, baking supplies: cake mixes, flour, sugar and spices. All expiration dates should be verified prior to donating.

Cash donations will also

be accepted or any other type of non-perishable foods. The food can be dropped off at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd. There is a brown wooden cabinet by the south doors. Items can also be dropped off at the south doors during Food Pantry distribution days on Mondays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

GAVC recognizes Coal City student with Director's award

Every month instructors at Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] recognize exceptional students and in the month of September Brianne Durkee was among the select group of students.

The Director's Award is one of the highest honors bestowed on students. Selection is made by the course instructor based on attendance, leadership skills, citizenship, professional attitude, ability in practicum activities and classroom assignments, teamwork and safety.

Durkee, a senior at Coal City High School, is enrolled in the computer graphics and multimedia design course.

The center offers instruction in 15 subject areas and provides students with opportunities to participate in a



BRIANNE DURKEE

variety of vocational student organizations.

Recipients of the award are presented with a certificate and several prizes, and each are recognized during the annual GAVC awards ceremony at the close of the academic year.

Fr. Coalers shutout Comets

The Freshmen Coalers football team completed the sweep of the Comets, beating them 35-0 on Monday.

Theo Fritz led the defense from his linebacker position with 8 tackles followed by Cooper Morris and Tyler

Phillips with 4 each.

Leading the ground game was Aidan Scroggham who ran for 124 yards and a touchdown. Logan Natyshok finished with 97 yards and a touchdown. Also scoring rushing touchdowns were Brody D'Orazio and Loke Carpenter.

Henline threw a 12-yard scoring strike to Scroggham. Coalers are 4-2.



Courtesy photos

COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for Oct. 2 are in row one [from left]: Isabelle Steenson, Addie Bitner, Harper Doogan, Daxton Carey and Kaden Rhodes. Kennedy Enerson is in row two with Alyanna Mrozek-Pokarney, Kennedy Wix, Caitelynn Wintermute, Nick Agamy, Braxton Boresi, Andrew Virona.



Courtesy photo

STUDENTS OF THE week for Coal City Early Childhood Center include (from left, front) Everly Fisher and Londyn Hennessy. Middle Row: Gillian Calderon, Zoey Sonneman, Alaina Becker and Kinsley Peddicord. Back Row: Camden Brueggert, Vivian Cannon, Madison Freis, Madison Cardenas, Russell Derby, Dylan Helfrich and Lana Dedolla.

High school students show kindness



EACH MONTH DURING the academic year students at Coal City High School will be recognized for displaying a selected character trait. The students are nominated by teachers within academic departments and staff. Principal Art Stafford announced the September Students of the Month during an all school assembly last week. The four students selected were nominated for displaying kindness to students and staff. Honored students were [from left]: Emma McMarse, Kylie Jackson and Chessa Kuhel. Not pictured is Jackson Wharrie.

Morris man sentenced for drug induced homicide

The Grundy County Sheriff's Office with the assistance of Grundy County State's Attorney Russ Baker and Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul obtained a guilty plea on Sept. 28 of a Grundy County man for the 2020 drug-induced homicide of Keegan Kenney, of Goose Lake.

Scott Robbins, 28, of Morris, was sentenced to seven years in prison by Grundy County Judge Scott Belt after he pled guilty to one county of drug-induced homicide, a class X felony.

On March 25, 2020, Robbins delivered bags of fentanyl to the home of Kenney who was 25 years-old at the time. She did the next day.

Kenney, who was Robbins former girlfriend, had just returned home from a rehab facility where she was treated for heroin addiction.

Sheriff Ken Briley offered his appreciation to the office of the State's Attorney, office of the Attorney General and detectives from his officer for their investigative work that led to the successful prosecution of Robbins.

"It's been a long three years for the family of Kenney to endure, but we are happy they now have the resolution and can continue to heal from their loss," Briley said.

Coal City kickers shutout Comets

Coal City defeated Reed-Custer Thursday night 1-0 under the lights in Braidwood.

It was a close matchup but Coal City controlled the ball much of the second half. Reed-Custer played solid defense to keep the game close.

Coal City's goal was scored by Gavin Parks, assisted by Trey Buck. Carter Nicholson had 6 saves on the night. It was Coal City's first shut out of the season.

The Coalers will be busy this week getting Peotone, Streator and Sandwich all at home to finish the regular season.

Reed-Custer will host the regional with Bishop McNamara, Coal City, Herscher and Peotone.

Bishop Mac will play at Coal City at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY GOLFER Kylee Kennell medals by finishing 5th place overall out of a field of 52 at the 1A Girls IHSA Regional at Balmoral Woods.



THE COAL CITY golf team shot a 355 to finish in 5th place during the 2A IHSA Regional held last week at The Oaks at River's Edge Golf Course. Advancing to the IHSA sectional which was played Monday were Seniors Ryland Megyeri and Ethan Bach.

Coal Bin to dispose of property

PUBLIC NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to Section 40 of the Self-Storage Facility Act, State of Illinois a sale or other disposition of property by COAL BIN STORAGE INC will be held online at www.BID13.com, auction ending on October 18, 2023 1:00 PM, to sell or dispose of the personal property of the following person, Melissa Hansen, 5730 W. Park View Lane, Glendale, AZ, Unit A27/Location#1, to enforce a lien for storage pursuant to the self-storage facility act, in the amount of \$475.00, plus attorney fees & costs. Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 4 and 11, 2023.

Attorney Black files Pellegrini estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2023 PR 64
In the Matter of the Estate of DONALD F. PELLEGRINI, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Donald F. Pellegrini. Letters of office as Independent Co-Executors were issued to Lynette Pellegrini, 1 Manor Court, Joliet, IL 60436, and Laney Callahan, 1604 Locust Road, Morris, IL 60450, whose attorney is FRANK J. BLACK, BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the 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.

LYNETTE PELLEGRINI
LANEY CALLAHAN
INDEPENDENT CO-EXECUTORS
ATTORNEY FRANK J. BLACK
BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 20, 27 and Oct. 4, 2023.

Village of Coal City to host public hearing on zoning code text amendment

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
VILLAGE OF COAL CITY
ZONING TEXT AMENDMENT
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Village of Coal City Planning and Zoning Board will conduct a public hearing on October 23, 2023, at 7:00 p.m., at the Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL, to consider approval of a Zoning Code Text Amendment that would adopt certain amendments within the Village Code to Criteria for the consideration of variances, Residential Design Guidelines. At the public hearing, all persons interested will be given an opportunity to provide oral and written testimony. Dated this 2nd day of October, 2023. Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 4, 2023.

Halliday applies for variance, new construction

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 23rd day of October, 2023, at 7:00 o'clock p.m. in the office of the Board of Appeals, Coal City Village Hall, 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:
To consider: A 17 1/2 ft. front yard variance to align with other structures and for new construction.
At the following address: Third Avenue Lot.
Legal description of property: Coal Branch Junction Northern half of Lots 17 and 18, Block 12, Section 35-33-8.
Request for the above appeal was applied for by: Terry Halliday.
Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.
Persons may appear in person or by agent.
Dated this 4th day of October, 2023..
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 4, 2023.

Coal City Fire Protection District audit now on file

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE COAL CITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

The Board of Trustees of the Coal City Fire Protection District, Grundy County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning on May 1, 2022 and ending on April 30, 2023 was prepared by our auditors, Mack & Associates, 116 E. Washington Street, Suite One, Morris, IL. The fiscal year 2022-2023 audit has been filed with the County Clerk of Grundy County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Fire District Fire Station #2 located at 1455 S. Berta Road, Coal City, IL from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Coal City Fire Protection District
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 4, 2023.



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A Note of Gratitude

To all of you thoughtful people who took the time to send me a lovely card and encouraging words. Thank You from the depth of my heart. It gave me so much joy to hear from so many of my former students because you hold a place in my memory and in my heart. I am home and well thanks to your prayers and well wishes.

Gratefully, Lucille DeJulie

G.W. Communications, Inc publishes the weekly subscription newspapers named The Free Press Advocate, The Braidwood Journal and The Coal City Courant.

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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

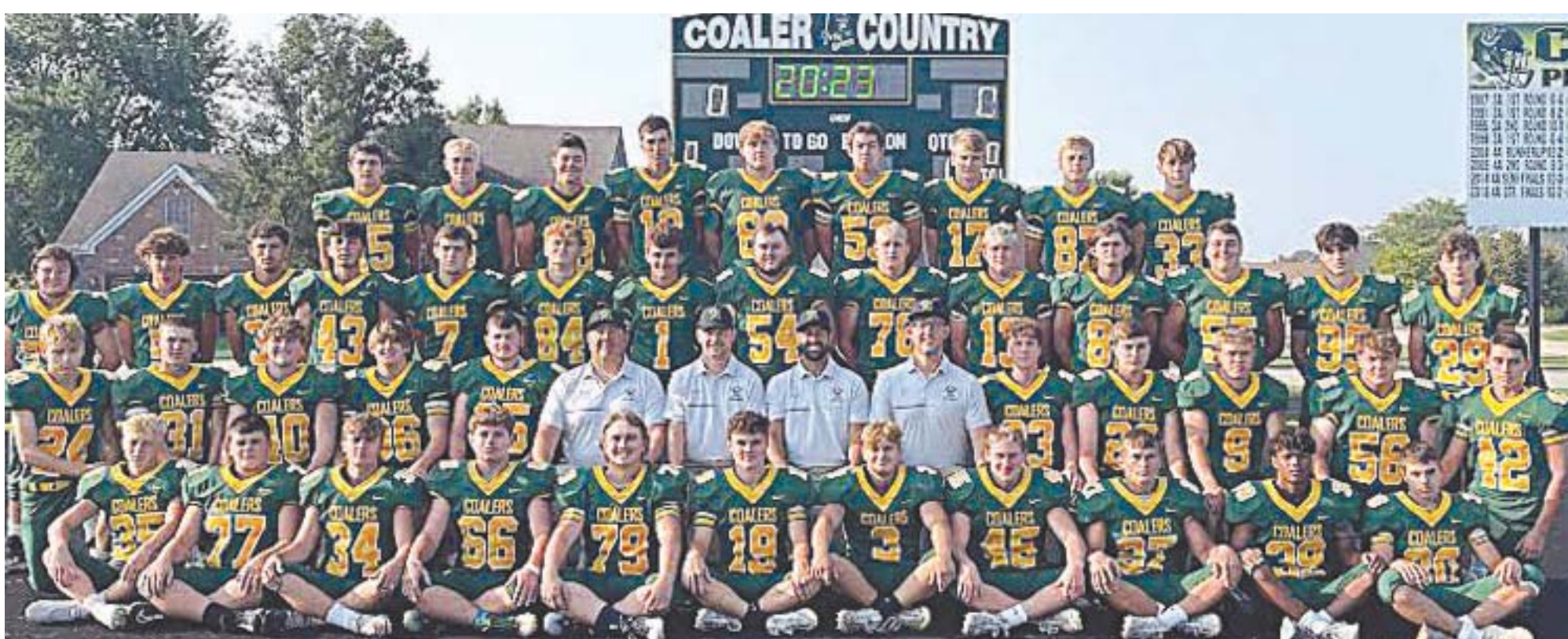
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

GOOD LUCK COALERS!



THE COAL CITY VARSITY football team will host Wilmington on Friday for the homecoming contest. Team members include (from left, front) Will Endrst, John Keigher, Tyler Hogan, Lucas Pfiizen Maier, Wyatt Wickiser, Creide Skubic, Landin Benson, Buddy Widlowski, Rey Gonzalez and Ayden Housman. Second row: Cole Stover, Layne Cuddy, Stephen Byers, Matt Perino, Dakota Pierce, Assistant Coach Adam Rodriguez, Assistant Coach Cameron Stone, Head Coach Francis Loughran, Assistant Coach Jim Looper, Joe Watson, Landon Pollworth, Blake Dillon, Ethan Hennings and Jake Cerutti. Third row: Bobby Mitchell, Zander Meents, Gabe McHugh, Ryan Endrst, Gavin Carpenter, Tanner Phillips, TJ Babcock, Tanner Wallace, Cade Poyner, Austin Davy, Ethan Scrogg, Emmett Easton, Reis Scheer and Hayden Clark. Back row: Chase Dehler, Aiden Christopher, Luke Nolan, Colten Sztapka, Owen Kurdenok, Will Johnke, Dylan Young, Alec Waliczek and Jim Feeney.

We support the COALERS!

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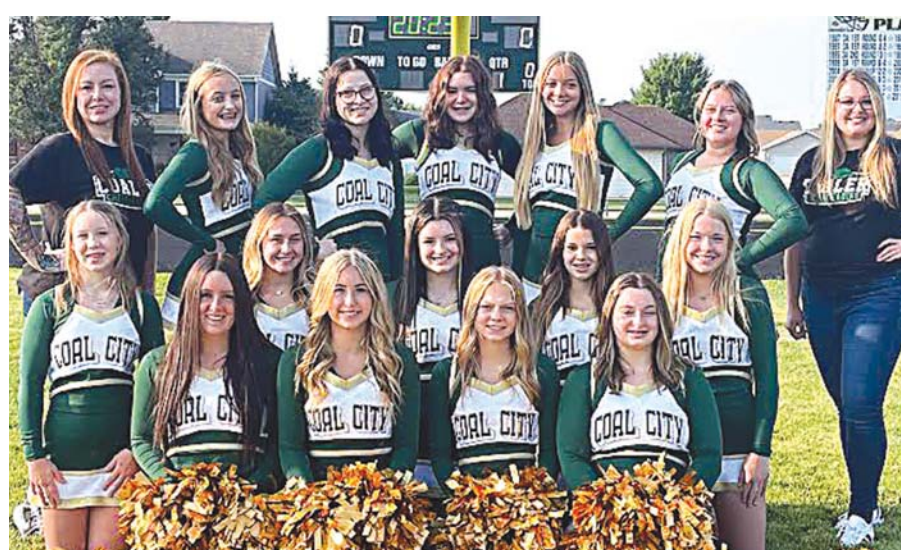
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Good Luck
COALERS!

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THE FOOTBALL CHEER team at Coal City High School for 2023 includes (from left, front) Kilen Davidson, Ava Houston, Avah Housman and Carlie Ellena. Second row: Amelia Collins, Addy Ritchie, Cambree Davidson, Grace Goodwin and Maddie Regan. Back row: Assistant Coach Trish Scully, Ella Edwards, Sydney Hughes, Layla Miller, Ava Garrelts, Calleigh VandeWerken and Head Coach Mackenzie Smolik.



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Destroyed public property

CUSTER TOWNSHIP— After learning of the destruction caused by some of the former members of the Custer Fire Protection District to their fire station after the agreement with Braidwood Fire District was approved, it is obvious that everything they said about how much they cared for their community was nothing more than a lie. Those involved in destroying public property and records which belonged to us, the taxpayers, should be absolutely ashamed of themselves. Any ounce of pity or understanding that many of us had for them has been completely, totally lost. I really hope that the Will County Sheriff's Office is investigating these heinous acts fully and bring criminal charges against everyone involved.

So all can hear

BRAIDWOOD— Hey Braidwood City Council, you can buy a wireless microphone at Amazon for under \$20 bucks. Maybe you should invest in one so people can hear you at city council meetings.

To tax us more

WILMINGTON—The auto workers want more money and President Biden shows up to encourage them on. Joe wants it so the government can tax the working men and women to pay for the \$75 billion he is sending to Ukraine and for freebies for the illegal freeloaders he allowed into the country. Have a great day in the USA ?

Both parties irresponsible

SHADOW LAKES—Reading the comments that people write I find it interesting how some blame the Democrats and others blame the Republicans for everything that they think that is wrong with this country. Well the Republicans have the majority in the House of Representatives and that gives them a lot of power. The Democrats control the Senate and that gives them a lot of power. The truth of the matter is that they are both equally responsible. My opinion is that they are all a bunch of liars. When they are running for office they promise everything under the sun and they all have a plan to solve all the problems, but once they get elected nothing happens.

Close our borders

COAL CITY—It's been weeks since two ladies were shot at Sox Park, and still no answers to where the shots came from? Wow. Just last week two old ladies ages 73 and 74 were sentenced to 11 years in jail for trying to block the doorway of an abortion clinic. Also a person was sentenced to 20 years for Jan. 6 when he wasn't even in Washington D.C. The governor of New York just called up the National Guard to help with processing asylum seekers. They can't even call it what it is, illegal aliens crossing our border illegally. It was fine when they were in Texas, Arizona, Florida and others, but now since those states got smart started shipping them to other sanctuary states now it's a problem. Also, their processing means give illegals a drivers license, so they can mail ballots to illegals come election time. Today Biden went to Michigan to show his support for the UAW workers. What a crock of s***, what a hypocrite. In one breath he tells auto companies they must be all electric cars in a few years, knowing this will put most of those UAW workers out of work, while saying he backs the UAW. Wake up, he just wants your union dues. Lastly, with all the problems facing this country, due to the Democratic Liberal agendas, our Senate finds the time to discuss changing the dress code for one Senator, who is brain damaged as is our president. If he can't or won't wear a suit, guess what, you're fired. But wait, it's all the Republicans fault for this mess.

Solve the problem

DIAMOND— The mayor of New York has decided that the way to pay for the Migrants is

to cut funds for the services for American taxpayers. He's saying that those here in the U.S.A. illegally are more important than any U.S. citizen. This is just a start of how the Democrats are going to solve the problem of migrants sleeping in the streets but nothing for the American citizens. It would be cheaper to close the border and deport the people in the U.S.A. illegally and not to give them work permits to take the American citizens employment. But the Democrats are deaf and dumb to the reality of the truth that the problem could be solved quickly instead of destroying the lives of the American citizens. Do the Democrat public servants work for the U.S.A. or not? How many benefits will be cut from the public servants. Good luck with your taxes.

The quiet zone

COAL CITY—Regarding the quiet zone that the mayor wants to install. Let's face it, there are six railroad crossings in our community and the railroad is required to blow its horn at every crossing. So, if they plan to close the crossing at Kankakee street and improve the Broadway crossing so they don't have to blow the horns at those two crossings, they will still be blowing the horns at 5th Avenue and Division Street before Broadway and just one block later at Mazon Street and Carbon Hill Road. So is he making those two crossings a quiet zone just so they don't blow the horns during the bi-monthly city meetings? Sometimes it is good to take a short pause at those meetings, but the rest of us will hear the horns anyway. What is the cost to the taxpayer? I don't think this will be free. I think this is a waste of time and money. Ask any train engineer, if they think that a quiet zone is safer? I did and they answered no. Let's face it, we have kids that walk the tracks, even if they shouldn't. Are you willing to take that chance? Mrs. Noffsinger is right, if you don't like them why did you move here?

Ex-President fraudster

WILMINGTON—Ex-President Trump likes to call Democrats and President Biden Fascists, Communists, Marxists, Socialists, etc. but he always leaves out dictator because that is HIM! Now dictator can go along with rapist, fraudster, and Donald Duck.

You quit us

CUSTER PARK—Thank you to Custer Park and Braidwood Fire Departments. This lifelong Custer Park resident appreciates all fire departments and the work they do. There was a very good article in last week's Braidwood Journal. Thank you to Trustee Rozak for taking the time to do the math and explain why the IGA was necessary. You made it make sense and everything you said was true. I am, however, hurt that the Custer Park Fire Department walked out on us residents that you said you'd protect until Oct. 1. You quit us. You did not care about us. There was a least one accident this past weekend, Sept. 30 I believe, right by the firehouse. Thank you Braidwood for showing up. Custer Park did not. Hopefully some day soon all of the adults can learn how to get along.

Still have to stop

COAL CITY—I have lived in this town my entire life and close to one of our railroad crossings and I think it is a terrible and very dangerous idea to stop the trains from blowing their horns. The thought of a train running through in silence sounds horrifying to me. What's the big deal? Obviously you are still going to have to stop and wait for the train to go by anyway. I think it's a terrible idea and I'm sure very costly and we simply don't need it.

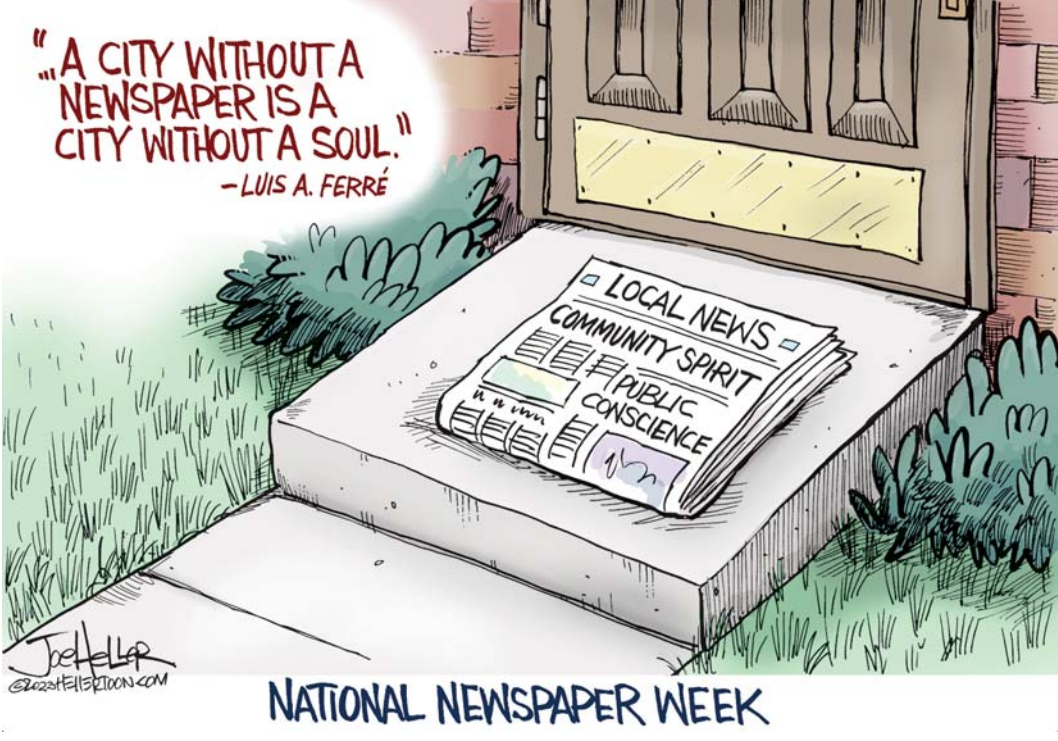
More deception

DIAMOND—Our president has joined the picket/strike line with United Auto Workers and he said he is doing this because he is on the side of the workers against the auto manufacturers. But isn't he the one causing the auto workers to lose their employment by stopping the production of fossil fuel automobile

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

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

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NATIONAL NEWSPAPER WEEK

engines by issuing orders that all auto manufacturers make electric cars which would shut down employment for the auto workers. Just one more Democrat deception for the destruction of the American citizens lives in favor of green energy farce that has been forced upon us. Our president extends one hand for friendship with a knife in the other hand for the backs of the American citizens.

A phone call

With Trump carrying 91 indictments on his back, it's obvious that the Republican Party supports crime when the criminal is one of their own. Instead of shunning Trump as their 2024 candidate, the right-wingers are proud of his alleged dirty deeds and spend their time fabricating faults on the other side to distract from the elephant in the room. Because President Biden spoke years ago on the phone to his son, Hunter, the House Republicans are making it an impeachable offense. Never mind that Beau Biden had recently died of brain cancer at the time, it appears that a double standard exists whereby those who throw temper tantrums get their way. Irene

Shame on them

BRAIDWOOD—Instead of bringing honor to our country, Republicans prefer to reward the gluttony of the super-rich. Perhaps the solution is to reverse Trump's tax cut for the wealthy which has added \$8 trillion to the national debt in less than five years. Meanwhile, heroes that fought WWII, Desert Storm and ISIS are turning in their graves while the degenerate right-wingers tolerate the butchery against Ukraine. And what has been the response to Trump's wailing when he lost the 2020 election? Democracy in our land of the free and home of the brave has diminished as Republican lawmakers in 49 states introduced more than 440 bills to limit the right to vote in 2021 alone. CS

Three people

CUSTER TOWNSHIP—It took the majority vote of the entire Custer Township to get the referendum passed in 2019 to re-open our fire department and it took only three people to shut it down and give away every last thing we had. Thank your township supervisor and his board and those on your fire board who voted your protection and your small town away to Braidwood. I hope whatever you got in return was worth it. Pray for Karma.

They'll pay taxes too

SHADOW LAKES—This is in response to the person complaining about immigrants being allowed to get jobs. First of all, the label immigrants is wrong. They are actually

refugees from Venezuela, the country with the largest oil reserves in the world up until seven years ago. People in Venezuela were doing OK, some of them living very well until the president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez died. The new guy taken over, Nicolas Maduro, refused to have free elections and establish a type of communist dictatorship in response to the United States along with most of the developed countries in the world put sanctions on Venezuela. Those sanctions destroyed the economy of Venezuela to the point where there is no food, no jobs, their currency became worthless and the people of Venezuela started fleeing the country by the millions. They are going to different countries throughout the world with a large number of them coming to the United States asking for asylum. They are not violating any immigration laws. Under certain conditions people from other countries have the right to come to the United States as refugees and ask for asylum. To give these people jobs so they can support themselves, and they can pay taxes like everybody else will be the right thing to do.

Insurance rates rising

CUSTER PARK—Custer Park lost its fire department to Braidwood and already Braidwood is not on post to protect our community. Wow didn't see that coming. LOL. Our insurance rates will go up as there is now no fire trucks available to put out a fire. They don't have enough money to make this work, so our taxes will go up. Just watch your next tax bill and see it go up. Whose bright idea was this and who went along with it?

Be in the know

COAL CITY—Coal City residents should be concerned about what is going to happen with the property located at the Marguerite Street and Hunter's Run location. An out of state investment group is planning to build a 100-unit apartment complex on the property. Do the math, 100 units, multiply that by approximately two to four people per unit, and you have an influx of 200-400 people in a current residential area. Also do the math, if you have a family of one to two children you also have influx of 100-200 students into the school district at once. This project has federal funding; who knows if these residents will be actual Americans or immigrants. It's coming, so be prepared to attend city meetings if you are against this.

99 percent

SHADOW LAKES—Ninety-nine percent of the people don't want to pay for police to come into Shadow Lakes unless needed. Ed

Commentary

Build Illinois is becoming a boost for families and jobs

BY MARC POULOS

In the 4 years since Rebuild Illinois passed, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) has made it clear: Illinois is ready to get to work.

In that time, IDOT has made approximately \$12.1 billion in improvements statewide on 5,339 miles of highway, 533 bridges, and 762 safety improvements through Fiscal Year 2023. The effects of that investment on our labor force in addition to our infrastructure is undeniable.

Each dollar invested in our infrastructure directly supports union jobs. Since its passage in 2019, Rebuild Illinois has made it possible for Illinois infrastructure to support

more than 150,000 jobs. These are jobs that turn into a career and provide benefits, a sense of pride and a well-deserved pension.

Rebuild Illinois and the sustainable funding it provided, prompted some downstate local unions to increase worker training classes for the first time in years. As more projects are set to begin across the state and as the building trades continue to recruit, I expect the number of people employed by trade unions to continue to grow.

Union jobs are not just about supporting one person. These are jobs that build families and communities, provide an opportunity to people for whom college is not the best option, and, increasingly, are opportunities for people from traditionally disadvantaged backgrounds.

According to data from the Illinois Economic Policy Institute (ILEPI), unions lift worker wages by an average of 15% across all industries. One in five Black workers and one in four military veterans is unionized.

Rebuild Illinois' sustainability was evident as much of the world shut down and revenues slowed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The investments of Rebuild Illinois made it possible for the Pritzker administration to invest \$25 million into shovel-ready projects which gave our labor force steady and reliable work when other industries weren't so lucky.

Even as revenues dropped, the work continued. Illinois actually added union jobs between 2020 and 2021, according to ILEPI. This reliability allows for tradespeople to provide for their families, and reinvest their

money into the local economy, helping to sustain jobs beyond their own.

In addition to putting more people to work, Rebuild Illinois also allowed local unions to reinvest in their tradespeople through new and improved training. Additional training is vital to ensuring people are safe at work and that they are up to date on the latest protocols and environmental standards.

Members can sign up for CPR classes, they can learn about the proper way to dispose of materials, and they can earn equipment operating recertifications all of which help to improve the work being done on our roads and ensure that the job sites are as safe as they can be.

This year's announcement of the nearly \$41 billion Multi-Year Program is much more than just an investment

in our state's infrastructure. It's an investment in the hard-working men and women of our local building trades, an investment in our local economies, and an investment in Illinois families.

Governor Pritzker and Secretary of Transportation Omer Osman's announcement is a signal to the industrious men and women that they can count on steady work in Illinois. It's a signal to our building trades that they can and should continue to recruit and invest in their training programs. And it means that our labor force can look forward to job opportunities for years to come.

Marc Poulos is executive director and counsel for Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting.

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Electronics dropoff event next week in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Oct. 12, from 5-7 p.m. at the Wilmington City Hall parking lot, 1165 S. Water St.

Participants are reminded to remain in their vehicles at all times, show ID by holding it

to the window for staff to see and then allow staff to remove items without assistance from each vehicle.

Items accepted include: Televisions, monitors, printers, computers (desktops, laptops, notebooks, tablets), electronic keyboards, fax machines, videocassette recorders, portable digital music players, DVD players, DVD recorders, video game consoles, small scale servers, scanners, electronic mice, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers, cell phones, computer cable, portable digital assistants (PDAs) and zip drives.

Electronic items contain materials that can be recycled countless times while other materials in items are considered hazardous.

The recycling takes place in Wilmington the second Thursday of each month.

ICC to hold Anniversary Mass for all

Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood will hold its annual Anniversary Mass on Sunday, Oct. 22.

We invite all married couples to join us during mass, Father Josh Miller will offer a special marital blessing. Please call Tami Favero 815-405-0982 for information.

Gov. Pritzker asks IL communities to house growing number of migrants

BY GREG BISHOP
THE CENTER SQUARE

Gov. J.B. Pritzker is asking communities outside of Chicago to help house and provide services to the continuing flow of non-citizen arrivals totaling at least 15,000.

Dozens of buses carrying the migrants have arrived in Chicago over the past year. Just this week, the Chicago Tribune reports 27 buses carrying non-citizen arrivals have come since Saturday.

At an unrelated event in Chicago Thursday, Pritzker blamed Republican governors, but was confronted with even Democratic El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser sending migrants.

"You know that they're sending, nope, they're doing it because they're sending them to areas where they think that people will take care of them and where people will put the

resources forward because this is a humanitarian crisis," Pritzker said. "But the reality is that states that are controlled by Republicans ought to be offering the same services."

Republicans have criticized the Biden administration for lax border security efforts and millions of foreign nationals crossing the southern U.S. border, many of them illegally. With their own resources stretched thin, border states and local communities have been sending the non-citizens to so-called "sanctuary cities." New York is dealing with more than 50,000 recent non-citizen arrivals.

Chicago and Illinois are considered sanctuary cities for non-citizens migrants because of laws and policies Democrats at the statehouse have in place restricting cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

The city and state are spending hundreds of mil-

lions of dollars on the crisis on things ranging from housing, to food, to health care and education.

Pritzker said the state is working with both federal and Chicago officials to get taxpayer resources where they're needed. As for the city's plan to spend nearly \$30 million for military-grade basecamp tents for the coming winter months, Pritzker said he's shared his concerns.

"With a lack of existing buildings to put people in, I know the city has looked at this as one of its options," Pritzker said.

Chicago neighborhood groups have shared frustrations with the growing number of migrants being housed in their neighborhoods and the drain on resources.

"We have no more room," Zoe Leigh told ABC7. "You all are embarrassing Chicago as a whole."

At an unrelated news

conference Thursday, Pritzker asked other communities from throughout the state to volunteer.

"I hope that cities will raise their hands and offer assistance," Pritzker said. "We have provided grant opportunities for cities that will do that."

But, he's hedging expectations.

"So when you think about 'let's just move them into the wide open spaces of rural Illinois,' that's not going to happen because these folks do need help and those kids need to go to schools and some of those schools are not big enough to handle the number of kids."

Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security gave Venezuelans here prior to July 31, 2023, temporary protected status from deportation and the ability to get work permits.

Blood supply at dangerously low levels

BY ZETA CROSS AND DONNA ROLANDO
THE CENTER SQUARE

The U.S. is experiencing a blood supply emergency. The emergency exists in Illinois and elsewhere across the country.

Lifesaving blood products that cancer patients, sickle cell patients, hemophiliacs and others need for survival are at dangerously low levels, Dr. Dan Waxman, vice president and senior medical director of the Versiti Blood Center, said.

"We are at such a shortage of daily donations that this is the first time we have gone on appeal in Illinois since the pandemic," he said.

Versiti is a non-profit blood health organization that is the main supplier of blood products for 85 partner hospitals. Versiti has facilities across northern Illinois where civic-minded people can donate blood as often as every eight weeks.

Waxman blames vacations and summer distractions for the drop in donor appointments. Normally, the Versiti Blood Center has a three-day supply of blood products on

their shelves. That supply is down to less than one day of supply. Each donation center has as many as 300 available donation appointments every day that need to be filled.

Hospitals need blood product inventory on hand to meet the needs of regular patients and to cover emergency needs, Waxman said.

The American Red Cross declared a national blood shortage on Sept. 11. Blood product distributions to hospitals are outpacing the number of blood donations coming in. Since the beginning of August, the Red Cross has seen blood supply levels drop by nearly 25%.

It can take weeks for blood product inventories to build back up. The Red Cross estimates that they need to collect 10,000 additional blood products each week over the next month for the blood supply to reach safe levels. Each blood donation creates 3 different blood products that can literally save lives, Waxman said.

People as young as 16 can give blood as long as they have parental permission. Versiti Blood Center of Illinois 800-786-4483.

Musicians invited to Circle jam

There will be a circle jam Saturday, Oct. 14, from 5 to 8 p.m. in the hall under the water tower at the Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee Street, Godley.

Bring your instrument and play, sing or just enjoy.

The free event is open to everyone including musicians

and listeners. Donations will be accepted.

Circle jams are social hours featuring a mix of music from classic country to bluegrass and more. For more information call Randy Kiefling at 815-237-8139 or 815-210-8563.

Tour the old Joliet Prison by flashlight

The Joliet Area Historical Museum is offering a unique way to tour the ground of the old Joliet Prison off Collins Street.

Flashlight Tours are being given at the Old Joliet Prison seven days a week from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. All tours include a souvenir flashlight.

Cost is \$30 for adults; \$10 for children ages 3-10; and children under the age of 3 are free.

Friday and Saturday hours for the month of October will be 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Reservations are recommended, please visit JolietPrison.org to book tickets in advance.

For the safety of staff and guests, the Joliet Historical Society does not allow large bags and backpacks inside the prison. All items must be secured in your vehicle before entering the prison.

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Muffins fit for a king, or in this case, my husband

BY ELAINE OHLUND
FOOD FROM THE SOUL

My family loves food, especially my meat-and-potatoes-loving husband. So when I started on this health journey, I told him he needed to come along so our whole family would be on board.

He was a skeptic and I understand why. He thrived on what I call the bachelor's diet...lots of steak, burgers, wings, tacos, pizza or whatever the daily special was at the nearby fast-food carryout. Opening a can of corn was his version of eating his veggies.

To change his eating habits would require "baby steps" even though they would be man-sized bites. I started by emptying the snack drawer.

Usually anything that you buy in the center snack isles of the grocery store is where you want to stay away from. But of course with growing teenagers in the house and a hungry husband, I started hearing

things like "Mom, I'm starving, we have no food!" And "Hey wifey, where are all the good snacks?"

If this was going to work I'd have to find some snacks more on the healthy side. Which is when I came across zucchini oat chocolate chip muffins.

As a mom I find satisfaction in hidden ingredients that are healthy yet taste great. Sure there are chocolate chips in this recipe but they're justified, I think, with the hidden zucchini and oats.

I love using oats instead of flour because they are 100% whole grain with minimal processing and contain vitamins, minerals and fiber.

This quickly became one of my husband's favorite treats in place of the empty snack drawer. He jokes that they "are fit for a king", which is fine by me, because that makes me the queen.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cup grated zucchini, loosely packed, (squeeze

out moisture after measuring)

- 3/4 cup unsweetened applesauce, you can sub very ripe banana
- 1/4 cup milk of choice
- 1/3 cup maple syrup, or honey
- 2 large eggs
- 1/4 cup avocado oil, or melted coconut oil
- 1/2 Tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups rolled oats, if gluten free is important, make sure the oats are certified gluten free
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/3 cup chocolate chips, plus extra for topping

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and line a 12-hole muffin tin with liners. Take the measured, packed grated zucchini and place it in the middle of a clean dish towel or large paper towel. Wrap the zucchini in the towel and squeeze out as much of the moisture as you can.

Place drained zucchini in a medium bowl. Add applesauce, milk, maple syrup, eggs, oil, and vanilla. Whisk to combine and set aside. Pour oats, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking powder, baking soda, and salt into your blender. Pulse until very finely ground and the oats resemble

a fine flour. I find running my blender for 10-15 seconds, stopping and shaking my blender a bit and running it again helps to ensure that the oats are evenly ground.

Once oat mixture is finely ground, pour it into the bowl with the zucchini and wet ingredients. Stir with a spatula to combine into a batter.

Fold chocolate chips into the batter.

Portion the batter out between the 12 lined muffin tin holes. Sprinkle extra chocolate chips on top of the muffins if desired.

Bake for 20-22 minutes or until a toothpick inserted into the middle comes out clean.

TIP: If you have a food thermometer, bake until the muffins have an internal temperature of 200 degrees. This will ensure your muffins are baked through but not over baked.

Let muffins cool for 10 minutes before enjoying. Baked goods firm up as they cool and will release muffin tin liners easier. If saving for later, allow the muffins to cool completely before transferring to an air-tight container. Store in fridge for 4-5 days or in freezer for up to a month.

Remember, filtering bad snacks with good ones around the house can be done. It starts with baby steps.

Baptist church to host Alzheimer's caregiver support group

If you or someone you know is caring for a loved one with memory problems, you are invited to attend a caregivers support group that meets the second Tuesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the First Baptist Church of Coal City, 4470 E. Route 113 in Coal City.

This meeting is for caregivers only. For additional information, please contact Becky Halderson at 815-791-2658.

Alzheimer's caregiver support groups have many benefits for both caregivers and patients. Caregiving takes a heavy toll on the caregivers' mental and physical health and the health of the patient

with dementia is directly related to the health of his or her caregiver: the healthier the caregiver, the healthier the patient, and vice versa.

Support group participants, value support groups as a place to learn more factual information about dementia. Increased education about dementia makes caregivers more effective: they are better able to respond to patients' needs when they understand and can anticipate them.

Furthermore caregiver depression decreases as caregiver education about dementia increases, and when caregiver depression decreases, patient outcomes improve.



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Lincoln Museum acquires photo Lincoln gave to injured supporter

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum has acquired an original photograph that Lincoln gave to a man who had been gravely injured while preparing for a rally during the historic 1858 U.S. Senate race.

Charles Lane was nearly killed when a cannon went off prematurely the day before a Lincoln political rally in in Pittsfield, Ill. The next day, Lincoln arrived, held his rally and then tried to visit Lane. The doctor would not allow visitors, but Lincoln arranged for Lane to receive a photo that had been taken that day. Lane recovered, and his family held onto the photo for generations. Now his descendants have donated it to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum so that it will be protected and shared with the public.

It will be displayed in the museum's Treasures Gallery starting Monday, Oct. 2.

"Original images of Abraham Lincoln are extraordinarily rare, and images with a fascinating back story like this are even more rare. Lincoln fans everywhere should thank Charles Lane's descendants for this generous donation," said Christina Shutt, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

The photo is an ambrotype, a negative image on glass. The images were displayed on black backgrounds. That background showed through the clear portions of the negative image, creating the illusion of a black-and-white photo. The oval image is 2 3/4 inches high by 2 1/4 inches wide.

Historian Leroy H. Fischer wrote about Lincoln's Oct. 1, 1858, visit to Pittsfield in a 1968 article for the Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Fischer reports that it was common for political events to include the boom of unloaded cannons firing. The day before Lincoln spoke, Lane and another man had been test-firing a cannon. It went off as Lane was ramming gunpowder into the barrel. The blast burned his face, and the ramrod went through his arm, ending up embedded in a tree



a block away.

Lane was rushed to his home, where a doctor administered what treatment he could. The doctor decided not to amputate Lane's arm, a dangerous gamble in an era before antibiotics. Infection set in, but Lane eventually overcame it and recovered. He lived almost 40 years more, dying in 1897.

The day after the accident, Lincoln delivered a two-hour speech in the town square, devoting most of his time to condemning his opponent's position on slavery. He said Stephen Douglas's goal was "to deny the equality of men, and to assert the natural, moral, and religious right of one class to enslave another."

Afterward, Lincoln visited the studio of photographer Calvin Jackson, who made two identical ambrotypes of the 49-year-old candidate.

Before leaving town, Lincoln stopped by the Lane house to express his sympathies and tell the family that one of the ambrotypes would be delivered to them the next day.

"Lincoln's gift was a small gesture, but it reaffirms his reputation as a man of compassion. The photo that has so generously been donated to

the ALPLM is a physical reminder of his kind spirit and concern for others," said Dr. Ian Hunt, head of acquisitions for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. The photo was passed down by Lane's descendants until it was inherited by Mrs. Mary Davidson of Hendersonville, Tenn. She passed away in August 2022, and her children decided the image should come to Springfield, where it could be preserved and enjoyed by future generations.

The other ambrotype made that day is owned by the Library of Congress. The mission of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is to inspire civic engagement through the diverse lens of Illinois history and sharing with the world the life and legacy of Abraham Lincoln. We pursue this mission through a combination of rigorous scholarship and high-tech showmanship built on the bedrock of the ALPLM's unparalleled collection of historical materials - roughly 13 million items from all eras of Illinois history.

For more information, visit www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.gov.

Come out for home-made chili supper

The United Lutheran Church of Gardner will be hosting its annual chili supper on Wednesday, Oct. 11, from 4 p.m.-7 p.m.

The chili supper will take place in the ULC Fellowship Hall at 309 Jefferson Street in Gardner.

Come enjoy home-made

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The agencies will answer questions and assist with enrollment in VA health care.

The Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is expanding VA health care eligibility based on the PACT Act. Veterans are encouraged to apply no matter their separation date.

Veterans who meet the requirements can get free VA health care for any condition related to your service for up to 10 years from the date of your most recent discharge or separation.

You can also enroll at any time during this period and get any care you need, but you may owe a copay for some care.

This event is free and open to all area veterans, no registration is required.

Questions about VA health care, the PACT Act, Camp Lejeune water, and many other veterans benefits and programs can be explained.

Bring a copy of your DD214 and a Photo ID to file a claim for any benefits or services. If you do not have a copy of your DD 214, the Grundy County VAC can assist you with getting a copy.

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GARAGE SALES

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HUGE Moving Sale - Wilmington. 740 S. Kankakee Street (across from tennis court), Friday, Oct. 6, 9AM-4PM. Saturday, Oct. 7, 9AM-1PM. Furniture, home decor, kitchen, holiday, electronics, movies, outdoor equipment, garage storage, tools, power tools, tool chests. Collectibles - Beatles, Elvis, Lucy, M&Ms, Sports, Diecasts. Lots of misc, way too much to list. Shared driveway, please park on street. ca39-40

Wilmington - 1931 Lakewood Dr. Fri. & Sat., Oct. 6-7 from 9AM-4PM. Vintage collectibles, including knick knacks, jewelry, linens, HO buildings, toys, china cabinet. Also, bikes, folding chairs & more. cc40

Wilmington - 930 Maple Street. Friday, October 6 from 9AM-3PM. Housewares, Christmas decorations, table and chairs. ca40

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Growing more food on less land

Dear EarthTalk: What are some ways to grow more food on less land given that human population is growing as the amount of arable land shrinks?

-- Peter B., Washington, DC

It's no secret that Earth is facing a daunting challenge: With human numbers expect-

ed to swell to 10 billion by 2060 and the amount of arable land shrinking at a rate of about 23 hectares per minute (!), finding sustainable ways to produce more food on less land is a pressing concern.

Fortunately, innovative solutions and practices are emerging to address this issue and ensure food security for future generations.

Perhaps the best developed kind of "future farming" is vertical farming, in which crops are grown in stacked layers instead of horizontally like at conventional farms.

Controlled environments in vertical farms allow for year-round cultivation, precise control over factors like temperature and humidity, and significant water savings. They can be and often are indoors.

In fact, multiple floors in tall buildings in big city centers could be devoted to this agricultural technique. Producing food closer to its consumers reduces transportation costs and emissions,

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reducing everyone's carbon footprint from farm to table.

One of the ways vertical farms make do with less water than conventional farms is through hydroponics, whereby plants are grown in small amounts of nutrient-rich water instead of soil, maximizing land use efficiency and offering faster growth and crop turnover cycles.

Hydroponic farming has already shown to be ideal for small or residential growers looking to produce a steady flow of herbs and vegetables.

Besides vertical farming and hydroponics, there is much we can do to optimize conventional farming to make it more future-proof.

Farmers can use advanced technologies like GPS, sensors and drones to optimize crop management, making their lives easier and their harvests more abundant.

By precisely tailoring irrigation, fertilization and pest control to specific areas of a field, farmers can maximize yields and minimize resource usage. This approach ensures that every inch of arable land is used efficiently.



Netherlands-based PlantLab is an innovator in building vertical farms around the world.

Another way to make the most of conventional agriculture land is to diversify the landscape and crop output. To wit, agroforestry and permaculture are holistic farming practices that integrate trees, crops and livestock on the same piece of land.

These systems mimic natural ecosystems and can greatly increase food production while conserving soil, water and biodiversity. Likewise, forward-looking farmers are starting to incorporate techniques like cover cropping, crop rotation and no-tilling to enhance soil health and reduce the need for chemicals while enabling higher crop yields without expanding agricultural land.

Those of us who are not farmers can play a big role in solving the impending food

shortage crisis the world faces. One way to be part of the solution is to reduce food waste and advocate the same to others.

The United Nations estimates that over a third of all food produced globally is lost or wasted each year. By reducing waste, we can make better use of the food we already produce, alleviating some of the pressure on arable land.

Another way to help is to eliminate animal products. Plant-based diets are generally less land-intensive than diets heavily reliant on animal agriculture—and require fewer resources to produce equivalent caloric and nutritional values.

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

Spotted Lanternfly found in IL

Photograph and report it if you find one

The Illinois Department of Agriculture has confirmed the first detection of spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) in Illinois.

Following a report of a live adult on Sept. 16, state, federal, and local officials coordinated a site visit near the area of the report and identified a moderately populated area of spotted lanternfly (SLF) on Sept. 18.



AN ADULT SPOTTED Lanternfly with its wings spread.

Specimens were collected and submitted for identification, and confirmatory results were received on September 26. The spotted lanternfly does not present any human or animal health concerns.

"If there is a silver lining associated with spotted lanternfly in Illinois, it is that we have no reason to believe that widespread plant or tree death will result from its presence," said Scott Schirmer, Illinois Department of Agriculture's Nursery and Northern Field Office Section Manager.

"This is likely going to be a nuisance pest that interferes with our ability to enjoy outdoor spaces and may have some impact on the agritourism industry, including orchards, pumpkin patches, and vineyards."

"Spotted lanternfly has been inching closer to the Midwest and Illinois for close to a decade," said Jerry Costello II, Illinois Department of Agriculture Director. "We have had a multi-agency team working to prepare for this scenario - including efforts on readiness, informing and educating the industry and the public, as well as monitoring early detection."

Spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper native to eastern Asia. First found in the U.S. in southeastern Pennsylvania in 2014, SLF has continued to spread throughout the eastern U.S. and recently into the Midwest. Confirmed identifications of SLF have been recorded in Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, in addition to some eastern and southeastern states.

SLF feeds on a wide variety of plants, including a strong affinity to the invasive tree of heaven (TOH), grapes (both wild and cultivated), and maple trees. These plants should be targeted for any monitoring activities. When feeding, SLF produces honeydew which is a sticky liquid that often coats or accumulates on the foliage and other parts of plants.

SLF is believed to move easily on wood surfaces and products, vehicles such as

trains, outdoor articles, and more - making it a challenging pest to contain and anticipate. Prevention and early detection are vital to limiting its ability to move and intrude upon new areas. Persons are highly encouraged to report any believed sightings of SLF to lanternfly@illinois.edu. Photos are necessary to verify a report and to aid in identification.

"IDOA is working with federal and local partners in an effort to determine the full extent of the infestation," said Dr. Michael Woods, Division Manager of Natural Resources. "Although we cannot determine with any degree of certainty how SLF has arrived here, efforts are being undertaken to better understand its movement and behavior."

The research and regulatory communities are continuing to learn about SLF's behaviors, potential impacts, and effective management strategies - despite ongoing endeavors to minimize its spread and the associated impact on industry and natural resources.

What can you do to help? Report sightings - If you see SLF or suspect it, report it to lanternfly@illinois.edu. A fact sheet, including photos, is available through the University of Illinois Extension.

Remove and destroy pests - crush nymphs and adults, scrape egg masses into a container with hand sanitizer or rubbing alcohol to kill them. Remember to take photos first and report this!

Check your vehicles, boat, camper, outdoor articles, etc. Before leaving an area, do a quick inspection for any life stages. Destroy any eggs or insects found.

Keep your eyes open and spread the word (not the pest)! - We need the public's help to look for and report this pest and to also strengthen the outreach about it. It will likely impact everyone in Illinois one way or another, so the more awareness we have the better.

For more information please visit Spotted Lanternfly (illinois.gov)

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COALER SPORTS

Coal City-Wilmington: Get your popcorn ready

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS

Fans know all the numbers. 5-1. The record of both teams who enter on five-game winning streaks. 2019. The last time Coal City beat their rivals.

12 and 26. The consecutive years Coal City and Wilmington have qualified for the playoffs.

Friday's Homecoming clash in Coal City figures to be a battle for the ages between the long-time rivals. Both teams are 4-0 in the Illinois Central Eight conference and the winner of this game will be in the driver's seat for the conference title.

"There will be a ton of people there. You tell your kids to enjoy it. Not too many players throughout the

state get to play in an atmosphere like we will on Friday," said Wilmington coach Jeff Reents.

"I know a conference title was their goal at the beginning of the season and it was our goal as well so that's what makes games like these so special."

Wilmington is averaging 39.6 points per game over the last five and the defense has only gave up 42 points over that span (8.4 ppg).

Coal City is averaging 44 points per game over the last five and their defense has only gave up 28 points over that span (5.6 ppg).

"They're very good defensively and do a great job of getting to the football. They're very well-coached and they can use their speed and try to go around or they can line up and

come right at you.

"Gavin Carpenter really sticks out to me defensively so we've got our hands full. They're a very good football team, otherwise they wouldn't be going for a conference title," said Reents.

On paper, it figures to be a close, low-scoring game. Wilmington has won eight of the last 10 in the series, but the last three years, the margin has been less than 10 points.

"Saturday morning during film, we told the guys, it's Homecoming week and we want them to have fun, but it's Wilmington week," said Coaler coach Francis Loughran.

"Every year no matter where it falls on the schedule, our guys need to be dialed in and ready to play our biggest rival."

Both teams suffered their lone loss in Week 1. Wilmington dropped a hard-fought game to Seneca 27-21 while Coal City was overpowered by a very good Morris squad 40-3. The combined records of those teams? 12-0.

Junior running backs Landin Benson and Kyle Farrell figure to be the focal points of each team's offense. Farrell has rushed for 997 yards and 16 touchdowns. Benson has accumulated 863 yards and 17 touchdowns.

"Benson is really good. I think he really sticks out to me. Kyle has been our main weapon, but I think we've shown if you gear up against him, we are able to use a few other options," said Reents.

"Braeden Anderson had a really

good night at fullback against Herscher. We had Jake Castle, Ryan Kettmann and Hunter Osipavicius came in and did well. We're fortunate to have some depth at that wingback spot."

Whoever controls the line of scrimmage better will likely come out on top.

"It's super tough to try and slow those guys down. They're always a well-coached team so we need to limit penalties and play a real clean game to compete with them," said Loughran.

"We've got some things to clean up and correct. The guys are excited to go and I'm anxious to see how we prepare this week."

Kickoff will be at approximately 7 p.m.



Photo by Angela Rose

STAYING ON HIS FEET after getting hit from behind is Coal City running back Gavin Carpenter.

Lady Coalers out to upset ICE leaders at home Thursday

The Varsity Lady Coalers will get their chance to upset Wilmington on Thursday when the conference-leading Wildcats come to town.

Wilmington is undefeated in ICE play with a 9-0 record. Coal City is ranked second with a 7-2 league record, hoping to avenge a 25-20, 31-29 loss to the Wildcats earlier this season.

If the stars align properly, Herscher, (6-3) third in conference, beat the Lady 'Cats last night, giving the Lady Coalers a shot of the ICE title on Thursday.

They can beat Wilmington if they play like they did Thursday, beating Peotone 25-11 and 25-19 bringing their overall record to 15-10.

Aubrey Mellen had 10 setting assists, 7 digs, and 2 kills. Kayla Henline had 8 setting assists and 3 digs. Naomi Rodriguez had 2 setting assists and 1 dig.

Emma Rodriguez led the Coal City attack with 7 kills, 2 digs, and 1 block while Paige Walker had 6 kills, 2 digs, and 1 service ace.

Teagan Fox had 2 kills, 2

digs, and 1 block. Jadyn Shaw had 9 digs and 1 service ace. Maddie Gomez had 6 digs. Corinna Barkley and Julia Costello both had 2 digs.

The JV Lady Coalers beat Peotone 25-8 and 25-18 to remain undefeated in the ICE conference at 9-0 and 15-5 overall.

The freshmen Lady Coalers lost to Peotone 19-25 and 18-25 to drop to 7-11 and 5-4 in ICE.

Down the Lions

The Varsity Lady Coalers beat Lisle 25-17 and 25-13 on Tuesday.

Aubrey Mellen had 9 setting assists, 5 digs, 2 kills, and 1 service ace. Kayla Henline had 6 setting assists, 2 digs, and 1 block. Naomi Rodriguez had 1 setting assist, 1 service ace, and 1 dig.

Emma Rodriguez had 6 kills, 1 block, and 1 dig. Kenzi Henline had 3 kills, 3 service aces, and 1 block. Paige Walker and Aylie Castle both had 2 kills. Jadyn Shaw had 5 digs and 1 service ace. Alaina Morales had 5 digs.

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS

Fitting that in a first quarter dominated by defense, it would be a defender who made arguably the biggest play of the game.

Coal City senior defensive back Crede Skubic broke on a pass from Reed-Custer quarterback Jacob Reardon and after a slight bobble, raced 62 yards for a touchdown with 1:34 left in the first.

"I saw him looking at that guy. I gave him a little space and he threw a bad ball. I almost dropped it though," said Skubic.

"I think it was huge because that was our first score."

The Coalers got rolling after that with a strong second half, recording their fifth straight win 35-6, over Reed-Custer (2-4) Friday in Braidwood.

"Skubic's a playmaker on defense. He made a terrific play on the ball and that was the spark that we needed," said Coaler coach Francis Loughran.

The Coaler offense struggled initially to get anything going, failing to record a first down until the 5:30 mark of the second quarter, but three minutes later junior Landin Benson who had been bottled up for nine yards on six carries, broke away for a 55 yard run.

Austin Davy later scored on a four yard touchdown run, for a 13-0 half-time advantage.

"I thought defensively they played a fantastic game.

Results: SLW 21-0, LW 25-2, JV 19-13, Varsity 0-20

The Miner junior football teams won three of four levels against Plano.

The Miners Superlights defeated the Reapers 21-0 to finish out the regular season.

Offensively the Miners were led with touchdown by Cole Watson (2) and Brady Loughran, behind a solid offensive line performance. Defensively, the Miners were led by Eddie Gergits, Levi Hennessy, Cole Coleman, Brayden Plata and Mikey Tworek.

The Miner Superlights will play their first round playoff game on Sunday, Oct. 8 in Peotone.

The Coal City Lightweights had another impressive win, 25-2, over Plano.

Miners defense worked tremendously together for many stops on the line. Drake Heath and Tj Wagner with big stops behind the line.

Andrew Beckers flying in at end with great tackles for a loss, Drake Figge with an amazing interception. Miners offense pulled it together and had some great runs.

Dylan Rich quick to the outside for impressive yards and a touchdown. Austin Newman running the ball untouched down the field, Collin Ness with great ability dragging Reapers down the field.

Bainen Durkee and Andrew Beckers on the quarterback keeps outside for yards and a touchdown. The Coal City Junior Varsity beat Plano 19-13 in our last regular season game. Kenny Tazelaar and Easton Horath each scored a touchdown.

The offensive line led by Cody Allen, Nolan McKinney and Patrick Tibble did a great job blocking.

Coal City too strong in the end

They're really tough upfront, loaded up the box on us and forced us to make adjustments. It was tough sledding early on."

After a R-C three-and-out to start the third, Benson muscled down the sidelines for a 41 yard touchdown run.

Reardon then was in the grasp of a Coaler defender, when Tanner Phillips intercepted and returned the ball 31 yards setting up a Benson nine yard touchdown run.

The subsequent kickoff bounced past Rex Pfeifer and the senior was tackled in the endzone for a safety.

"It's a game of momentum, but we made too many negative plays tonight, had some fumbled snaps that set us back and against a real good Coal City defense, you can't put yourself in those second and long, third and long situations," said R-C coach Gavin Johnston.

"They are going to pin their ears back and their kids made great tackles."

Fatigue was a bit of a factor for the Comets with a lot of their players playing both offense and defense.

"We started playing a little bit high and against a team like that and a kid like Benson that runs that hard, it's not a good combination."

"It's similar to last week. We played hard for a half, but once they get those long drives, the same kids on defense that just busted their tails have to turn around and play offense."

The Comets finally got on the board with 5:39 left on a Reardon 15 yard run. The jun-

ior finished 14-for-25 passing for 91 yards and two interceptions and rushed for 49 yards on 13 carries.

"He rebounded well and made some plays for us, but it wasn't just him who struggled. It was a lot of people, too many negative plays that we couldn't bounce back from."

Benson capped the scoring with his third touchdown of the night, a 15 yarder, part of a 148 yard night on 19 carries.

The story of the game though was the Coaler defense who continued their stout play. Over the five-game winning streak, they have allowed only 26 points (5.2 points per game).

"We have so many contributors all over the field. It's nice to see that on any given play, it can be one of our linebackers, our d-line or our dbs, stepping up and making plays," said Loughran.

"R-C's offense is always difficult to defend and they make you defend the whole field."

Gavin Carpenter (13), Phillips (12) and Skubic (10 tackles) were all over the field. Buddy Widlowski had seven tackles and Tanner Wallace and Gabe McHugh both recorded six.

John Keigher added five stops, Davy, Jim Feeney and Emmett Easton all had four. Stephen Byers and Layne Cuddy both tallied three and Alec Waliczek and Aiden Christopher both made two tackles. Also recording a stop were TJ Babcock, Jake Cerutti, Chase Dehler and Joe Watson.

"We had numerous tack-

les for loss from our defensive line. Waliczek had a nice game. Wallace, Easton and Davy really helped out our secondary and getting the pick from Phillips was huge along with Skubic's."

Carpenter added five carries for 23 yards and a six yard reception and Zander Meents was 1-for-8 passing and rushed eight times for 15 yards. Phillips recorded a three yard run.

R-C actually outgained Coal City 228-199 [1] with Pfeifer leading the way with 69 yards on 20 carries and had two catches for 10 yards.

Collin Monroe had four receptions for 43 yards and Landen Robinson recorded 22 yards on four catches. Cooper Smith added an 18 yard catch and drew the pass interference penalty which set up their touchdown.

Travis Bohac tallied 18 yards on eight carries and had three catches.

Defensively, Pfeifer led the way with six tackles and Konnor Duerling tallied five. Bohac, Matt Gereaux and Jeremy Eggleston all had three stops. Owen Mack and Dominic Alaimo both added two. Also recording a tackle were Monroe, Joe Bembenek, Brady Tyree and Dominic Eddy.

"We just hung with two really, really good football teams the last two weeks. If we can play like that, especially defensively the next three weeks, I feel very confident we can reach our goal of making the playoffs," said Johnston.

Miners better than the Reapers

Our defense scored on one of the three interceptions caught by Ryan Carpenter. John Viano led the team in tackles, followed by Ryder Gill.

The Miners Varsity could not get the offense going during its 20-0 loss on Sunday. Notable defensive standouts were Kal Hogan, Fuzzy Hamilton and Carter Wix. The Varsity Miners recognized all of its 8th grade players during their final home game.

The following players were recognized. Tyce Farrell,

Timothy Feehan, LeRiyahn Hunter, Alex Segerberg, Hunter Lanphier, Hayden Kennell, A.J. Gagliardo, Gabriel "Fuzzy" Hamilton, Trevor Walker, Kal Hogan, Caiden Tourigny, Jacob Phillips, Alan Calderon III, Carter Teague, Cayden Winke, Dylon Tarman, Tyler Pelletier, Frankie Ponio, and Patrick Osipavicius. Defensive Tackle Tyler Pelletier and wide receiver Trevor Walker were recognized with the Heisman award.

This signifies their dedication and participation to the Miners program in all levels of play.

The Varsity Coaching staff would like to thank all the 8th grade players for a great season and wish them best of luck for next year's high school transition.

The Miners will play their first round playoff games this weekend, October 7 & 8, in Peotone.



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COALER HOMECOMING 2023



THE LADY COALER varsity volleyball team will host Wilmington Thursday. Team members include (front, from left) Julia Costello, Madison Gomez, Alaina Morales and Corinna Barkley. Second row: Manager Brooke Mueller, Emma Rodriguez, Paige Walker, Jady Shaw, Naomi Rodriguez, Lilly Feisley, Aubrey Mellen and Manager Alaina Gill. Back row: Assistant Coach Michelle Painter, Makayla Henline, Teagan Fox, Makenzie Henline, Abby Viano, Addison Hodgen, Aylie Castle, Alysia Fite and Head Coach Pam McMurtrey.



THE CCHS VARSITY soccer team for 2023 includes (from left, sitting) Dylan Fatlan, Carter Nicholson and Creed Macaluso. Kneeling are Luke Munsterman, Dane Noffsinger, Trey Buck, Jared Counterman, Carsen Hart, Colton Lemmons and Adrian Dames. Standing are Assistant Coach Todd Painter, Timi Shabani, Gavin Parks, Keaton Stroner, Julian Micetich, Sam Sterba and Head Coach Steve McCleary.



THE COAL CITY boys golf team for 2023 includes (from left, kneeling) Culan Lindemuth, Will McArdle, Ethan Bach, Drake Dodge, McKale Perino, Barney Rivera, Jack Varnak and Ethan Sikora. Standing are Assistant Coach Joe Micetich, Griffin Winke, Trevor Perino, Jerry Carlson, Ryland Megyeri, Scott Manering, Hunter Nettles, Brody Agnoli and Head Coach Harlan Kennell.



THE COAL CITY girls tennis team for 2023 includes (from left, front row) Kyla Kohler, Olivia Weatherbee, Sophie Smith, Bridget Feeney, Olivia Wilcock, Kamryn Hansen, Rileigh Eddy and Delaney Peacock. Second row are Damona Rutherford, Lanie Winke, Kayla Stalter, Kyla Stark, Ella Sorensen, Adaline Dowling, Fianna Gregory, Jayla Read and Melanie Marchese. Third row are Kate Promis, Becca Hall, Elsa Bunton, Calleigh Hamilton, Abby Stiles, Camryn Planeta, Kylie Jackson and Bella Byers. Back Row are Assistant Coach Justin Hayse, Head Coach Matt Leman and Assistant Coach Sarah Cyriel.



THE COAL CITY girls golf team for 2023 includes (from left, kneeling) MaKayla Demarse, Dakota Clubb, Livia Sulzberger, Chloe Anders, Emma Varnak and Madi Petersen. Standing are Giselle Guerrero, Kiley McKim, Kylee Kennell, Gianna Ferrara, Cassidy Jenke, Tanna Curry and Coach Tim Gabehart.

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