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WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2024 | A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



THE MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND marches in the Coal City Homecoming parade on Friday, drawing applause for their music and showmanship as Shelby Bianchetta tosses her flag as does Racheal Higgins who is directly behind her.

Photos by Eric Fisher



GRAND MARSHALS of the Coal City Homecoming parade was the family of Mary Gill, a long-time school board member who recently passed away. Riding in the parade in memory of Mary were her husband Bill Gill, daughter Ann Gill and son Bill Gill and her grandsons Hunter and Ryder Gill.

Coal City Hoco a riot with 'Welcome to the jungle' theme



HOMECOMING HUG! Friday's parade was fun for everyone including this young lady who upon recognizing a walker, ran up to her for a hug.

Former Angels pitcher savors his glory days



Courtesy photo

GREG WASHBURN was a pitcher with the California Angels, playing until 1969.

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Those of us of a certain age maintain a store of memories from the "glory days" of our youth. When we start yapping about that time we got Robert Plant's autograph, everyone finds a reason to leave the room.

When 77-year-old Greg Washburn of Diamond talks about glory days, not a soul leaves the room. That's because he's achieved true glory, all by himself.

Washburn was drafted by the California Angels out of Lewis University in Romeoville in the first round of the 1967 amateur draft as the 19th overall pick.

As he recounts his years in Major League Baseball (MLB), pitching for the California Angels, hobnobbing with the likes of Billy Williams, Ron Santo and Ernie Banks and playing ball in Hawaii, there's not a peep (or yawn) to be heard.

As a child, Washburn virtually breathed baseball. All he ever really wanted to

"I HAD A FRIEND WAS A BIG BASEBALL PLAYER
BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL.
HE COULD THROW THAT SPEED BALL BY YOU,
MAKE YOU LOOK LIKE A FOOL, BOY"
GLORY DAYS
BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN

be was a MLB player. Sure, plenty of kids dream about playing in the Major Leagues, but Washburn had the raw material to make his dream come true.

Even as a child, Washburn was a natural. Taller than average and coordinated, he never went through a clumsy stage.

By the time he was a senior at Coal City High School, Washburn had grown to six feet, and was trim, but muscular. The girls of Coal City High School kept a close eye on Washburn, hoping he'd ask them to the prom. In unison, they'd gasp as he pitched a fast ball and sigh as he studiously pulled his ball cap down over his eyes.

Another female had her eyes on Washburn, too. Her name was Lady Luck.

Though Washburn has nothing against female

admirers, his mind was on reaching the big leagues. The year 1965 was a fine one in Washburn's young life.

Yes, the admiration from his adoring fans was all fine and well, but even at the tender age of 17, Washburn wanted more. And Lady Luck – as charmed as the rest of the girls – granted his wish.

It seemed Washburn couldn't lose. While most seniors in high school don't have a clue about the future, Washburn knew exactly where he was going, and boy, was it ever gonna be great!

"I had a pretty good record," Washburn said. "I'd have about 15 scouts at every game," he said. "The summer after graduating high school, I was drafted by the Cleveland Indians."

Father knows best

While most struggle after high school, feeling lost in the adult world, Washburn never doubted his place in the world.

"They were going send me to Dubuque, Iowa, to join the team there in the minor league in the Midwest League," Washburn said, grinning.

Before he could pack up his favorite mitt and hightail it to Iowa, Washburn got a wee dose of reality from his father, who recommended his son not take the first offer.

"My dad talked me out of not doing that," Washburn said. "I really, really wanted to go, but I listened."

Biding his time, Washburn enrolled at Lewis University, majoring in accounting.

"I was good at accounting, and what I learned served me well in the future," Washburn said.

SEE GLORY DAYS PAGE 3



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Coal City teachers shine bright

One could say teachers in the Unit 1 School District are out of this world, and when it comes to lighting up education there are a few that shine bright among their peers.

In recognition of all they do for their students and the school community, five district teachers—one from each academic building—were selected by their colleagues as Star Teachers.

The recognition program was established by the Coal City Community Unit Education Association—the union that represents the school district's certified staff. Members of the union were provided an opportunity to nominate a teacher at each building, the recipients being featured in the union's entry in the annual Coalers Homecoming parade.

Selected as this year's Star Teachers—Julie Brncich, Early Childhood Center; Cris Bormet, Elementary School; Jenn Ness, Intermediate School; Lori Moir, Middle School, and Mary Kay Stay., High School.

"We are proud of all of our union members, and it was great to see the support and positive comments given to colleagues," stated CCCUEA representatives. In all, there were 41 nominations submitted across the five academic build-

ings.

Julie Brncich is the art teacher at Coal City Early Childhood Center and according to a colleague, "the kids absolutely adore her and love going to her class." It was noted that on dress like a teacher day last year, several students dressed up to be her, showing how much she is admired in their building.

Her classroom at the ECC is a colorful and inviting space where the building's kindergarten and first grade students get to showcase their creativity through various forms of art.

In their nominations, fellow teachers also said, "this teacher has the best attitude about her very, very busy schedule. She loves being creative and sharing that with all of her many students. She goes out of her way to help other teachers with projects both for school and outside of school. She has the biggest smile on her face all the time. She is so patient and kind to all our youngest students."

Brncich also teaches second and third grade art at the Elementary School.

Selected as the Elementary School's Star Teacher was Cris Bormet who is currently in her 19th year of teaching in the Coal City School District. She is described as the teacher

who is all about going above and beyond for students and colleagues, as well.

In their nominations, fellow teachers report Bormet will hang out a recess with kids who struggle there, and she will hang out with another teacher's class to help in the hallways.

"She's an amazing teacher who goes out of her way to make sure everyone—students and colleagues—are taken care of. Cris is so caring, kind and always fun to be around. She would do anything to help out a friend or coworker."

Her fellow teachers also say, "she has fabulous connections with her students. She is an incredible teacher and person."

Jenn Ness takes on different roles all year long. Her colleagues report she serves on many committees to keep the focus on her students as well as the building's students who she always puts first.

"Her students are her number one priority and she makes lifelong connections with them," stated one of the nominations received by the union.

Ness teaches fourth grade at the Intermediate School, serves as its Student Council sponsor and facilitates the district's Learning Leadership Team [LLT].



THE MEMBERS OF the Coal City Community Unit Education Association [CCUEA]—the union representing the school district's certified staff—annually nominate five teachers [one from each academic building] as Star Teachers. These educators stand out to their colleagues as individuals who go above and beyond for their students and co-workers. This year's Star Teachers are [from left]: Cris Bormet, Jenn Ness, Mary Kay Sthay, Lori Moir and Julie Brncich.

Fellow educators also said, "she organizes many positive activities for our school, where the students are contributing to our community! I admire my nominee because she is constantly seeking new ways to become a better teacher and share them with the rest of the teachers in the building."

Sixth grade math teacher Lori Moir, "has made impacts on so many of her students over the years," stated one of the nominations for her selection as the Middle School's Star Teacher.

Moir, teachers say, "makes an effort to support students by attending sporting events. She is a colleague that I have gone to for advice because of her experience and knowledge. She is caring, hardworking, selfless, and a great friend to work with. This teacher works hard everyday to make sure her students are successful in her classroom. She tutors students both before and after school on a regular basis without pay."

Moir has been in the

field of education for over 30 years and her colleagues say that even at the end of her career, "she keeps looking for new ways to engage her students and to make her class fun."

Additionally, "she is kind, patient, caring and compassionate. She is a tremendous positive influence on CCMS staff and students. From coming in early every morning to help students with their math homework, to baking homemade treats to share with her coworkers, she truly embodies what it is to be a self-less, caring, giving person. She is an asset to the middle school by volunteering for various committees and is responsible for organizing whatever is put in front of her."

Coal City High School faculty say Mary Kay Sthay is hands down one of the top teachers in the building

"She has a level of academic and behavior expectation in her classroom, but has the compassion of each of her students to help them meet those expecta-

tions," noted one of the nominations submitted in her honor for Star Teacher.

Fellow staff members also point to her work and understanding of the importance of social emotional learning [SEL] in high school.

"Every Monday during CCT she incorporates something SEL. This is not administrative directed. This is Mary Kay seeing and understanding that social emotional learning can have just as big of an impact as academic skills. The students have come to love it and expect it, and we've seen growth in so many because of it. I've often said I wish every teacher was Mary Kay. She is absolutely making an impact on our students academically and socially. Moreover, Mary Kay is a positive spark among staff, as well. She's a leader in what she does and maintains a positive vibe consistently. We need more Mary Kays in our buildings," the nominations stated.

Austin Pratte petitions for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

In the matter of the petition to change the name of AUSTIN EDWARD PRATTE to the new name of SCARLET FAYE PRATTE, Case No. 2024 MR 34

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of herself, Austin Edward Pratte adult, shall appear in the Grundy County Court Annex Building, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450 courtroom USC at 8:45 a.m. on the 21st day of November, 2024 before the judge assigned to hear said matter, and then there present a petition requesting the name of AUSTIN EDWARD PRATTE be changed to SCARLET FAYE PRATTE.

/s/ Austin Edward Pratte

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Oct. 9, 16 and 23, 2024.

Smith applies for name change

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In re the Petition to Change the name of: ANDREW LOUIS SMITH No. 2024 MR 36

Petitioner

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned on behalf of himself shall appear in the Circuit Court for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450 on the 12th day of NOV. 2024 at 8:45 a.m. before the Judge assigned to hear said matter and then there present a Petition requesting the name of ANDREW LOUIS SMITH be changed to ANDREW LOUIS BIANCOFIORI.

Signed: Andrew Louis Smith

Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 2, 9 and 16, 2024.

Southard Drainage District to host annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

Southard Drainage District Meeting Schedule Meeting Time 6 PM
Waukonsee Township Building
September 16, 2024
November 18, 2024
Annual meeting
March 17, 2025
June 16, 2025
September 15, 2025
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 9, 2024.

Village of Carbon Hill audit report available for inspection

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS
An audit of the funds of the Village of Carbon Hill for the year ending April 30, 2024 has been completed by the audit firm of Mack & Associates, P.C., Certified Public Accountants. A copy of the audit report has been filed with the Grundy County Clerk's Office and is available for public inspection. Please contact us if you have any questions at 815-942-3306.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 9, 2024.

Hometown Storage to dispose of property

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Lien
Hometown Storage, 2920 E. Division St., Diamond, IL 60416, 815-634-3333 hereby is asserting a Possessory Lien in pursuant to your contract and the State of Illinois Self-Service Facility Act.
Tenant: Carol Marcus
C3 Corporation, Unit 403.
If unpaid rental charges, late fees and associated charges are not paid for in full by Oct. 31, 2024 the property will be sold to satisfy the lien.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 9, and 23, 2024.

Attorney Black files Payton estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE THIRTEENTH
JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE
No. 2024 PR 67

In the Matter of the Estate of JAMES MILTON PAYTON, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of JAMES MILTON PAYTON. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to Andrea D. McCollough, 175 DesPlaines Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416, 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.
ANDREA D. MCCOLLOUGH
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
ATTORNEY DONALD F. BLACK
BLACK & BLACK
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594

Published in the Coal City Courant on Sept. 25, and Oct. 2, and 9, 2024.

Village of Diamond audit report available

PUBLIC NOTICE

Village of Diamond Annual Audit Report Available for Public Inspection

An audit of the funds of the Village of Diamond for the year ending April 30, 2024 has been completed by the audit firm of Mack & Associates, P.C., certified public accountants. A copy of the audit report has been filed with the Will and Grundy County Clerk's offices and is available for public inspection upon request at the Diamond Village Hall, located at 1750 E Division Street, Diamond, IL 60416. Village Hall Hours: 7:30 am to 4:00 pm) or on the Village of Diamond website at www.villageofdiamond.org.

Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 9, 2024.

September recorded as a hot month

September was a hot month with 16 days in the 80s or warmer, and six days in the 90s, including Sept. 23, when the mercury hit 93 degrees Fahrenheit.

It was mostly a dry month, with almost no measurable precipitation until Sept. 22. Total precipitation for the month was 1.57 inches, with nearly an inch of raining falling on Sept. 23.

The weather recap shows no thunder for the entire month, and peak wind gusts reached 35 mph

on Sept. 27.

Precipitation for the year comes to 36.21 inches.

Drivers only had to worry about fog three days in September, 24, 25, and 30.

Though September was a relatively hot month, the average temperature was a comfortable 69 degrees, with the lowest temperature at 52 degrees on Sept. 3, 4, 9, and 26, according to the Grundy County EMS weather recordings.

Carbon Hill Planning & Zoning hearing to consider application for permit requested by BAP Power Corp. d/b/a Cenergy Power

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
(ZONING MAP AMENDMENT, VARIANCE, CONDITIONAL PERMITTED USE)

Notice is hereby given of Public hearings to be held before the Village of Carbon Hill Planning & Zoning Board at the Carbon Hill Village Hall located at 695 Holcomb Street, on Tuesday, the 29th day of October, 2024, at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the hearing is to consider an application for zoning map amendment, variances, and a conditional permitted use requested by applicant, BAP Power Corp. d/b/a Cenergy Power. The applicant requests that the below cited property be rezoned to the M1 Manufacturing District. Also, the applicant is requesting variances from Chapter 253, Article II of the Village of Carbon Hill Zoning Code regarding the setback requirements and the maximum allowable height of a solar panel. The applicant further requests a Conditional Permitted Use from Chapter 253, Article II, Section 253-8 for a Large-Scale Solar Energy System. Said Zoning Map Amendment, Variances and Conditional Permitted Use, if approved, shall affect the following described property:

Common Address: The property located North of the Village of Carbon Hill, bordered on the West by N. Carbon Hill Road and Cameron Street to the South, Carbon Hill, Illinois 60416; PIN: 06-34-101-003

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will be given an opportunity to be heard. Questions or comments may be submitted to the Village of Carbon Hill orally, in writing or both.

All interested parties are invited to attend the Public Hearing and will be given the opportunity to be heard. The applications for the Zoning Map Amendment, Variances and Conditional Permitted Use are on file with the Village Clerk for the Village of Carbon Hill. Questions or comments may be submitted orally, in writing, or both.

By Order of the Village of Carbon Hill Zoning Board
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 9, 2024.

Statement of Ownership Management and Circulation

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

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Glory Days, continued from page 1

"You really can't go wrong with an accounting background, right?"

Still, at the tender age of 19, Washburn wasn't fantasizing about a future of balancing ledgers, no siree. He knew what he wanted, and Lady Luck was still batting her eyelashes at him. Like magic, a scout from the California Angels swooped in to grab him before he flew away.

Becoming an Angel

"I went to Lewis and I played for the two years, and after my second year I was redrafted because I hadn't signed previously," Washburn said. "This time I was the number one draft choice of the Angels."

If Lewis University minded that Washburn dropped out, they didn't hold a grudge. In fact, he was inducted into the Lewis University's Hall of Fame in 2005, as the first Lewis baseball player to play in the Major Leagues.

"In '67, right after I had signed, I was the number one draft choice and we were playing the Boston Red Sox affiliate out of Waterville, IA," he said. "And, I'll be darned; my manager brought me in to finish it with the bases loaded."

While his manager had supreme confidence in Washburn's abilities, Lady Luck was apparently feeling neglected.

"Ted Simmons and Jerry Reuss, who became two great Major League players later, were there," Washburn said. "He brings me into pinch hit, and Jerry Royce gets me, Simmons, too. So I know he's going to back me up a little. Well, he hit right towards my head and it hit me in my wrist and broke it."

Before the pain even registered, Washburn found himself on a jet heading back to California to heal for six weeks. He was finished for the season.

Spring training couldn't roll around quickly enough for the likes of Washburn. In his youthful exuberance, he was impatient to share his budding greatness with the world.

Following spring training, Washburn was a ball of fire, pitching a few games in the California league, and making big impressions all around. He was in his element. Nothing could stop him. Lady Luck begged to differ.

Being a good citizen, Washburn had signed up with the Army Reserve. Who would guess he'd get a call while right on the precipice of fame and fortune?

"I got called to do my active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for six months," Washburn said. "That took me out of the picture for that whole year."

Not again

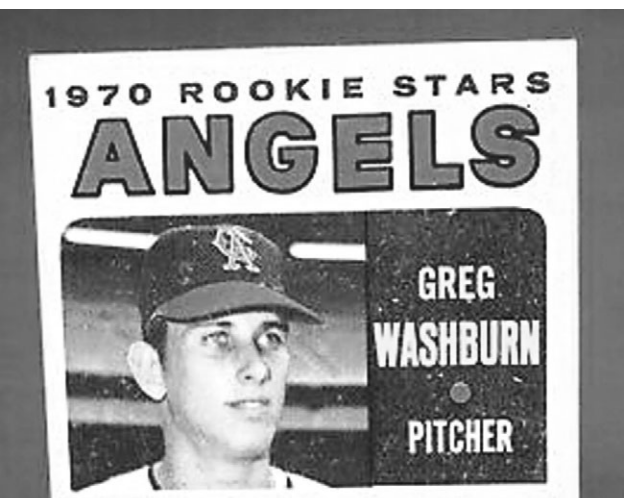
Even though Lady Luck seemed to have given up on her star baseball player, the California Angels held tight, and Washburn returned to spring training in 1969.

"I had to fly home in March for a Reserve meeting back in Illinois," Washburn said. "At lunchtime some guys wanted to play softball. This guy's up. It's a line drive right back at me - hits my pitching finger, drove the bone right off the side of my pitching finger."

It was a moment of truth for Washburn. He looked around, trying desperately to locate Lady Luck. Where had she gone? Had he neglected her? Had she packed her bags and left him?

"So, I stood up there and wondered if someone was trying to send me a message," Washburn said. "I had to fly back to Palm Springs and tell the Angels that I'm out of commission for a good six to eight weeks, at least."

Time passed, and



Courtesy photo

You can find baseball cards and other Washburn memorabilia on Ebay and other sources.

Washburn healed, feeling better than ever. He put a halt to the negative dialogue in his head. He began feeling fit and strong, and life was looking good. His confidence soared, and Lady Luck returned to cheer him on.

Early in his college days, Washburn had taken a wife. One of two sons had just been born. For the first time ever, he wasn't wholeheartedly looking forward to spring training.

"I did come back the strongest I could be, and actually I went up pitching on big leagues in June," Washburn said. "I was sent to Hawaii to play. But, I was also torn."

Though Washburn had no complaints about his career, he did find himself missing his family, and the Angels apparently noticed. Before opening day, the Angels spent their last days in spring training playing the Los Angeles Dodgers. Washburn performed phenomenally well, and looked forward to opening day.

"My manager calls me in and he asks me how I'd like to see my new son, and, oh gosh, I really wanted to see him," Washburn said. "He told me we were going to open in Chicago, and when we were in Chicago, I could see my wife and son, and return to Anaheim, and I'd also be playing in Hawaii and the Pacific Coast League."

At this stage of his life, Washburn had achieved goals beyond his dreams. He finally had it all - a MLB career, a beautiful wife and a handsome son. His star was on the horizon.

"I think I'd won probably six or seven games at least in Hawaii," Washburn said. "Then they called me up to the big leagues. The first appearance in the big leagues was Cleveland Stadium - 80,000 people. I struck out the first guy. I'd made it."

Yet, the pressure was on. Though still in his 20s, Washburn was no longer the fresh-faced high school senior willing to do anything for fame and fortune. He had a wife and child, and the voice of small town life beckoned.

"I made a couple starts in the big leagues. It's about 13 games in relief," he said. "It's fairly good in relief actually, but I was a long way from Coal City."

Is that all there is?

In 1971, Washburn injured his arm, but tried to keep on forcing it.

"In '72, we won the Caribbean Series down there, which is the winners of Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, and Mexico," he said. "I came home and I think I probably pushed my arm a little bit more by not resting it during the winter. I just kept going."

Later that year, Washburn underwent surgery, which sidelined him for the rest of the year.

"I tried to come back in '73, but I didn't quite have the natural feel," Washburn said. "I got released in September of '73. And that was that."

In eight games, Washburn had posted a won-lost mark of 0-2 with

five games finished. In 11 1/3 innings pitched, he permitted 21 hits - 10 earned runs, and five bases on balls, and recorded four strikeouts. His seen-year career in the California Angels' organization officially concluded in 1973.

Following his MLB career, Washburn spent little time mourning what might have been. Unlike most budding athletes, he got a shot at the big time, and he packed his memories away and got busy living his life.

"I worked as a carpenter," he said. "Jack Ronchetti taught me a lot. I enjoyed carpentry work."

After a few years of honing his carpentry skills, Washburn spread his wings and went into building houses for a living.

"Unfortunately, I took it on in 1980, which is right in the middle of the recession," he said.

As he did with his baseball career, Washburn stowed away memories of his carpentry work and home building. Always an optimist, he knew he would find work he loved.

"Luckily, I was able to get work at Exxon Mobil and I worked there for 30 years," he said. "That was a good career. I started as a field mechanic, and ended up becoming a turnaround planner and best practice facilitator."

Though not quite as glamorous as MLB, his work at Exxon Mobil took him to exotic locales all over the world. Now, he's retired and loving every minute of his life.

Washburn doesn't regret a single thing. He enjoys it when someone recognizes him, and plenty of people do. He's hot on Ebay where you can bid on Washburn baseball cards, autographed baseballs, and other memorabilia. He's also featured in the book, "A Bitter Cup of Coffee" by Douglas J. Gladstone.

Gladstone pointed out that Major League players today receive a salary of \$740,000 per season. With a pension up to \$275,000

Attorney Meents files Riebe estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GREGORY A RIEBE, Deceased;
No. 2024 PR 57

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Greg Riebe, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on September 16, 2024, to Justin M. Riebe, whose address is 312 N. May Street #3i, Chicago, Illinois 60607; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 26, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Justin M. Riebe
Independent Executor of the Estate of Greg Riebe, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law P.C.
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and 9, 2024.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week of Sept. 23 are (from left) Sawyer Hodge, Daxton Carey, Grace Medina-Flores and Frank Moraza III.



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for Sept. 23 in row one [from left] are: Boden Boresi, Eden Nicola, Abigail Mailhot, Eleanor Blustein and Ava Kirchne. Lillian Herbold is in row two with Natalie Nowak, Landon Wozniak, Norah Agamy, Addison Reszel, Braylee Newman and Hayden Veronda. Not pictured: Yarezi Alarcon.



COAL CITY Early Childhood Center named the students of the week for Sept. 23. Students include (sitting, from left) Mrs. Nowdomski, Landon Sinkular and James Somerville. Kneeling: Autumnn Abdelshaheid, Live Kratochvil, Gavin Brown and Aiden Weigand. Standing: Andreas Barretski, Lily Ceranski, Ronald Boniecki, Anthony Boudreau, Giden Blustein and Rylie Brown.

When Washburn played he made between \$9,000 and \$12,000.

Thanks to men like Gladstone, Washburn is getting a \$10,000 per year pension for his years with the Angels. Yes, he sometimes wishes he'd been drafted by the Angels a little later, but he's not bitter. That's not his nature.

And though Lady Luck has always been a fickle figure in his life, she never truly abandoned ship. In the end, she showed him what was truly important, leaving him with some pretty great "glory days" tales.

Attorney Meents files Butler estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DANIEL GRANT BUTLER, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 63

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Daniel Grant Butler, Letters of Office as Independent Executor was issued on September 16, 2024, to Carol Diana Anderson Jarosik, whose address is 3684 Rivervail Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43221; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 26, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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Carol Diana Anderson Jarosik
Independent Executor of the Estate of Daniel Grant Butler, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law P.C.
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
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Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Sept. 25, Oct. 2 and 9, 2024.

PUBLIC NOTICE EARLY VOTING SITES

GENERAL ELECTION - NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Early Voting will begin on Thursday, September 26, 2024 and continue through Monday, November 4, 2024.

LOCATION - Grundy County Courthouse (Lobby)
111 East Washington Street, Room 12
Morris, IL 60450

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

TIME - Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (unless noted below)

Tuesday	October 1st	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 3rd	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 5th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	October 8th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 10th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 12th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	October 15th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 17th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 19th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	October 22nd	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 24th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 26th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	October 27th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	October 29th	8:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	November 2nd	8:00 a.m. to Noon

Early Voting will be offered at the below locations for the following hours only:

LOCATION	LOCATION
Village of Minooka (Community Room A) 121 E. McEvilly Rd. Minooka, IL 60447	Coal City Library (Annex Building) 85 N. Garfield St. Coal City, IL 60416

Available only during dates/times listed below:

Tuesday	October 15th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 16th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 17th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 19th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Wednesday	October 23rd	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Thursday	October 24th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	October 26th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Sunday	October 27th	8:00 a.m. to Noon
Tuesday	October 29th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	October 30th	3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Saturday	November 2nd	8:00 a.m. to Noon

Please call the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, if you have any questions.

KAY T. OLSON
GRUNDY COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

Harold Vota

11-5-24



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Grundy County Board

Paid for by Harold Vota

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World War III

COAL CITY—Well buckle up! Thanks to the brain dead president and his cackling fool of a vice president giving Iran billions of dollars, we now have front row seats to World War III. Iran just attacked Israel with ballistic missiles. Thank you so much. Also we have a major strike starting at shipping ports. Think prices are high now just give it a couple of days. But go ahead and keep voting for Democrats! KL

The uneducated

SHADOW LAKES—Those people who don't believe that tariffs make everything more expensive need to go back to school. Anybody that knows basic math should be able to understand that adding a tax, also known as a tariff, to a product is going to make it more expensive. In one of his speeches Trump once said he loved the uneducated. I can see why.

Braidwood babble

BRAIDWOOD—To the handful of people who keep trying to stir up trouble at the Braidwood city council meetings and on Facebook. You're pushing more and more people away from your message and goal because you go on the attack to anyone who doesn't have the same views and beliefs as you. You're going to get the exact opposite reaction for sure. Good luck getting people to side with you when you degrade their viewpoints and treat them like they're ignorant. Learn how to convey your message properly and maybe more people would side with you.

Not so bad

SHADOW LAKES—So you believe you live in a terrible country where everything is expensive. Gas is over \$3, and milk around the same. And then you say things were cheaper four years ago, well yeah and they were even cheaper 10 years ago. What is the longest time you have gone without having any thing to eat? When was the last time you walked with no shoes on your feet? When was the last time you didn't have a roof over your head and when was the last time a bomb got dropped on your house. Compared to the conditions many people live in other countries, we are in paradise.

Mother Nature unleashed

WILMINGTON—Can you imagine your home destroyed by a storm so terrific as Hurricane Helene, the second most destructive hurricane in American history? Even worse, a loved one gone forever? But scientists have been telling us for decades we can expect more of this to come and we pretend not to hear it. And we refuse to consider that FEMA pays as much as 80% of hurricane damage and then we wonder why the national debt soars. It bothers me that 'climate change' is rarely mentioned as the most important issue in the election and then when we are hit with a terrible blow from the sky, we wonder why. But thank goodness the Biden administration had the wisdom to give it an elevated priority, because the good news lately is that a small amount of progress has been made protecting our blue planet according to leading scientists who say we are headed in the right direction. We are advised to continue the hard work otherwise the conditions of habitat for all life on earth will continue to degrade. Of course, during his presidency Trump took us in the opposite direction as he crippled the EPA by rolling back more than 100 of its directives and threatens to close the doors on the EPA completely if re-elected. And Trump's Project 2025 states that he will eliminate the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) which monitors the activities of hurricanes. The absence of NOAA's warnings would mean even more lives would be lost, more heartbreak due to property damage. And all due to the irredeemable irresponsibility of Trump. Irene

Follow the rules

COAL CITY—I don't care who you are voting for but for those of you who put your political signs and "no horns" sign in the parkway, it is illegal to put them in the parkway in Coal City. You need to move them onto your own property. So if your signs go missing, don't complain!

It's the money

COAL CITY—The Grundy County Circuit Clerk reported a decrease of \$218,000 in revenue because of the Pretrial Fairness Act. Did she just admit the County was counting on funding and revenue from arresting people? Not people who have been found guilty mind you, but the county was budgeting the money from people who didn't want to sit in jail

while awaiting a trial. No wonder all these towns were against the Pretrial Fairness Act, I thought it was for safety, when along it's the money.

An eyesore

BRAIDWOOD—Why won't anyone make that junk yard on south Division clean it up? I live on Division St., that place is a hazard to children and everyone. The city won't make him clean it up. He can, something needs to be done. It's a dangerous hazard.

Time to change?

BRAIDWOOD—Many Republican Party voters are facing a challenging reality. Do you vote for the Republicans, or do you vote against the party because it has changed from the principles you believe in. The current MAGA Republican Party no longer adheres to the principles like conservative fiscal responsibility, country over party, patriots, honor, integrity and compromising with Democratic in the best interests of all Americans. Today the MAGA Republicans led by Trump condone and participate in: Hate, bigotry, sexism, violations to the rule of law, affiliations with dictators Russia's Putin and Hungary's Viktor Orban. No past Republican presidents support Trump. One half of his former cabinet secretaries have not endorsed Trump. Past Republican Vice President Dick Chaney and his daughter Liz Chaney have endorsed Kamala Harris. More than 700 current and former National Security Officials back Harris. Former Arizona Republican Senator Jeff Flake endorses Kamala Harris and points out the following: "The political process should be to debate and persuade. Not to disparage or demonize the other party. Those of other political party are our fellow citizens. Not the enemy and we should be people that seek to unite our country rather than divide us." There is "nothing more conservative than putting country over party." So now current Republicans have to decide: Will they vote Republican because they have in the past or will they vote out all current Republicans that have followed non-Republican characteristics including a lack of patriotism, honesty, empathy, courage, restraint, humility, discipline, unity for all Americans. It is time to decide what principles you will follow.

Admit it

COAL CITY—Some of the Democratic voters should explain why there is no money to aid victims of the last hurricane when \$1 billion of FEMA money was given as aid to people in the USA illegally. Which means our government prefers illegal activity and it shows that administration does not care one bit about any Americans. So keep putting the same people into office and you may discover that the us citizens are expendable to them, but not the people from foreign countries. A lot of people think that the taxpayers' money is not being used to aid the people in the USA illegally. It's time for you Democratic voters to eat a bowl of crow and admit that you were wrong in your thinking. Take some money and buy some much needed common sense instead of buying into propaganda by our leaders in Washington, D.C.

Congress has control

SHADOW LAKES—Republicans who keep complaining about how expensive and how bad everything is in this country and then blame president Biden for it, obviously don't know how government works. Read the Constitution or at least read the first three articles. There you will learn that Congress has more power than the president. So at the very least the current Republican-controlled congress should share some of the blame.

Violent day coming?

BRAIDWOOD—Trump is at it again, asking for widespread police brutality against the people. But why? According to the American Bar Association, crime has consistently dropped since the 1990s due to increased imprisonment, less trafficking of crack cocaine, an aging population, tougher gun control laws, the strong economy and increased policing. We are at the threshold of the 2024 election and yet Trump is still fighting the 2020 election in the courts despite his admission that he lost the 2020 election. When will we ever be rid of this crazy guy? Trump is not fit for the presidency. And it's not necessary to go to the Internet for this information. It was published long ago and has been sitting on the shelves of public libraries for years.

Need to vote

WILMINGTON—It was truly a beautiful thing to see how the candidates treated

Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. The comments stated are the opinions and ideas of the callers and not that of the newspaper. Information may not constitute the actual events or facts of a particular topic. Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com with "soundoff" in the subject line or visit www.freepressnewspapers.com, or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481. There can be only one submission of 250 words or less per person during any given week.



each other during the vice president debates. They acted like gentlemen, like human beings and like Christians and it was really a nice thing to see. Say what you wish about Vice President Harris, she showed grace during the presidential debate by walking right up to Trump and shook hands with him. So whatever you think about her as a person or a vice president, or a possible president, she showed grace in the way she approached him and offered to shake his hand. It's really disgusting when politicians have to act like babies and can't act like human beings. I have been to meetings where people in office call former people that were in office names. I see it on the news and it is not the way to act. It's very disrespectful. So I thank the two candidates for Vice President and Kamala Harris for the way they acted. I hope everyone that calls into Sound Off will put their money where their mouth is and vote. That's the only way we are going to heal this country and get back to normal is to vote, not just run our mouths. We need to vote in November.

Avoided answering

DIAMOND—Someone wrote in last week that Kamala was never fact checked in the debate because you don't fact check the truth. The truth is that Kamala does not answer the questions, she talks around them. Her first question was "when it comes to the economy do you believe Americans are better off than they were four years ago?" She never answered that question.

Where's the giant?

WILMINGTON—When is the Gemini Giant returning?

Promoted

BRAIDWOOD—There have been four recent promotions within the Braidwood Police Department. These were officers that were promoted to Sergeants. Not sure why four were promoted when we had three Sergeants prior, doesn't make sense to me. People are questioning why is it that one of those Sergeants was put on administrative leave with pay a few months ago? Hasn't been seen on patrol. Looks like the answer is at the upcoming council meeting on Oct. 8 under the commissioner of Public Health and Safety's Report #1 and #2 on the agenda.

Friends and family

BRAIDWOOD—Residency requirement. Over the last five years people have questioned how can an appointed position live outside our city limits. The position in question is the Zoning Chairman who lives outside our city limits. By our city code, Article 1, Sec. 2-2, Sec. 2-2- residency requirement for appointed officer and employees. (a) All appointed officers of the city shall establish domicile within the city no later than four months following their initial appointment and shall continuously maintain domicile within the city thereafter. (b) all employees of the city shall establish domicile within 25 miles of the city no later than 18 months following their initial employment and shall continuously maintain domicile within 25 miles of the city thereafter. (c) Failure on any employee or appointed officer to establish or maintain required domicile shall constitute grounds for discharge. This individual has been a close friend of a former Mayor and was appointed by him. This mayor has been out of office since 2023 and did Mayor Hart make his appointment after being sworn into office? Should not of been

appointed since the Zoning chairman lives outside city limits by our ordinance. The hiring and appointing of friends and family needs to end, there are too many as it is now.

Praying for the U.S.

WILMINGTON—Praying for our country since there is so much division. I understand a lot of it, but some I don't. So when you say President Trump is only in this for himself, explain that. He is a rich man and could just stay home and golf. Everyone says they were better off financially under Donald Trump. Kamala Harris talks about all she will do on day one. What about the last four years? So how are we now better off with our borders wide open. Please think of all who you are voting for. Once again praying for this country.

Point of Order

BRIADWOOD—I watched the recorded video of the Sept. 10 council meeting where the mayor, after looking at the administrator, advised the resident beginning to speak under public comment to stop under Point of Order. In fact she hadn't really begun to speak before being shut down. So my question is why did the mayor stop her from speaking but did not address the hecklers, significant others of council member and administrator as they were laughing, using fowl language and seen making faces at those who were speaking during public comment? They should have been addressed as well, significant others or not.

Needs censorship

WILMINGTON—Democrats always say it's a threat to democracy but let's look at last week's news. John Kerry says the first amendment needs censorship because of disinformation. Adam Shiff who lies for a living said the Internet needs censorship because of disinformation. Think about that. The first amendment is free speech not just one point of view that's why it's the first. Without it this paper would not have a Sound-off. So who is the real threat, democracy?

Deserve the truth

WILMINGTON—Why do the Republicans always scream election interference when they are fact checked? Don't the American voters deserve to hear the truth and not lies?

Until judgment day

BRAIDWOOD—Who do you trust? This election is our future. What is the most important issue for you? The border, should be closed. The economy, can you take four more years of high prices? Abortion, was not ended but turned back to each state. So what has Kamala Harris really done to qualify her to be president? Don't want to even talk about Walz. Really look at what Harris stands for. If you are a Christian you need to think how you will be judged on your last day if you support abortion.

FEMA aid

WILMINGTON—People on the right are claiming that Biden is withholding FEMA aid from red states which is false. The reason they think that way is projection, accusing others of acting the way they do. During COVID Trump told Jarred to withhold ventilators and other aid from blue states, How quickly they forget. By the way project 2025 wants to eliminate FEMA. Those red states love to hate Washington until they need them. Hypocrites.

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Saturday, Oct. 19

401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington
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YUM! Roast pork, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green beans, cole slaw and desserts. **YUM!**

- Carry-outs will be available -

The community is invited to attend.

Cost: Free-will offering to benefit local charities

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\$1 EACH

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Democrats, Pritzker spending on county board races

Last year, the Democratic Party of Illinois and Gov. JB Pritzker targeted local school board races to defeat candidates who wanted to ban books and/or were receiving support from right-wing political organizations.

The governor ended up claiming victory in more than 70 percent of those campaigns.

The push was unusual because the state's Democratic Party, like the state Republican Party, had for years been solely focused on processing direct mail for mainly legislative candidates so that those candidates could receive a discount on postage. The total federal discount every year was usually enough to finance mailers for at least one and maybe two additional campaigns.

But when the governor effectively took over the Democratic Party two years ago by electing a new chair, he promised to focus lots more on down-ballot races. Last year's school board contests, which cost the party about \$300,000, were the first visible signs that the party was moving in a new direction.

This year, the state



Rich Miller

party claims it is pushing 80 county-wide and county board candidates in 19 counties where they think they can flip seats to their side.

It's not known how much the party intends to spend on those races, but since June 30th, DPI has raised more than a million dollars above and beyond the \$5.5 million it's taken in from legislative leaders for direct mail. And about half that million bucks came from the governor.

The idea is not just to get supporters to the polls, but to encourage voters to cast votes in down-ticket races. "It's a drop-off prevention program," a party official, who asked not to be named, told me.

Lots of people will vote for the presidential candidate of their choice and some other hot races, but tend to drop off and not vote in as large numbers for lesser-known candidates for, say, county board, or even countywide offices.

The county candidates the Democratic Party is backing are in Bureau, Champaign, DeKalb, DuPage, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Macon, Madison, McHenry, McLean, Peoria, Rock

Island, St. Clair, Sangamon, Will and Winnebago counties. Several of those counties also have contested legislative and congressional races, and party leaders say they will help coordinate another targeted 35 state legislative and congressional campaigns with any county efforts in those areas.

The plan is to shore up specific vulnerable local Democrats who may need protection as well as go hard in "partisanship transitional districts where we think we can flip some seats," I was told.

The party has hired year-round staffers to help with this effort, "which means we've been able to attract some pretty serious and expert campaign folks," the DPI official claimed. They're supplying communications services to candidates, including pushing any opposition research to local news media outlets. They've also hired eight field organizers, have four regional directors, and have "onboarded four campus fellows" in university towns, who are all recruiting and supervising precinct volunteers.

"We've actually been successful at mitigating a good deal of redundancy in each of these regions where you might have a House caucus candidate knocking the same door as a Senate caucus candidate on the same day. Or a targeted county board district calling through a phone list that a state Senate candidate is calling through that same day," said the party

official.

"Rather than trying to sprinkle new volunteer shifts across 10 different events and support 10 different candidates, we're able to group those folks together into coordinated walks and phone banks."

In addition, the party is organizing car caravans and renting buses to send volunteers to swing states like Wisconsin and Michigan.

But is that out of state effort undermining the county race focus?

"No, not really," I was told. "A lot of the energy we've seen directed toward Wisconsin and Michigan has come out of parts of our state where there aren't targeted races." And for those who want to volunteer out of state where they have local targeted races, the party is actively trying to convince them to stay in their neighborhoods.

The Democratic Party has a billionaire governor and cash-rich labor unions to fill its coffers.

The Illinois Republican Party, on the other hand, no longer has a reliable cadre of wealthy party members to help fund campaigns.

They've mostly retired, moved to year-round golfing areas or, sadly, passed away. So, it's not surprising that almost all of the money the state GOP has taken in since the end of June will be redirected into the traditional mail program.

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

Weather, war will bump up gas prices

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 7.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.40 per gallon, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 13.1 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 26.5 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel stands at \$3.54 per gallon.

In Wilmington, expect to pay \$3.06/g at Mohsen, and up to \$3.34/g elsewhere. In Braidwood, gas prices range from \$3.34/g at Casey's to \$3.39/g at Marathon. In Coal City, Shell is selling gas for \$3.29/g while it's \$3.35/g at BP.

As usual, gas is less further afield. In Morris, gas will cost you \$2.93/g at Casey's and \$3.29/g at Amoco. Bourbonnais is also offering gas for under \$3 per gallon at Gulf where you'll pay \$2.92/g, but expect to pay more at Gas & Wash where gas is \$3.14/g.

"While the national

average dipped slightly in the last week, Iran's attack on Israel has at least temporarily caused oil prices to surge to the highest level in months, which could cause the declines to cease for now and could lead to a rise in gas prices for many Americans," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

In addition, Hurricane Milton is now heading toward a likely landfall in Florida. As a result of potential evacuations, GasBuddy's Fuel Availability tracker will remain online for areas likely to be affected by Milton. For now, motorists in most areas can expect to see more increases in gas prices primarily due to tensions in the Middle East, but I remain hopeful that a \$2.99 national average remains possible this fall."

According to GasBuddy, the cheapest station in Illinois was \$2.75/g Sunday, while the most expensive was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$2.04/g.

Gardner Lions to host pancake breakfast

The Gardner Lions will be hosting a pancake breakfast on Oct. 13, from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the American Legion Hall in Gardner.

Adults will have a \$9 fee, kids (5-10) \$5 and under 5 is free. Breakfast will be pancakes, sausage, eggs, toast, bacon, biscuits and gravy.

A spooky craft lab weekend

The Forest Preserve will be hosting a Spooky Craft Lab weekend on Saturday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 13, from noon to 3 p.m. at the Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, in Channahon. It is free and for all ages.

Creatively craft a collection of decorations, toys or games all in the spirit of Halloween. Examples and instructions will be on display. All supplies will be provided.

Garden Club to meet Oct. 16

The Wilmington Garden Club will talk about the restoration of the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and native plants during its monthly meeting at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 16.

The garden club meets monthly at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St. Meetings are open to the public so come along and bring a friend.

It is open to anyone who has an interest in gardening.

PEO Chapter GK to meet Oct. 14

Wilmington PEO Chapter GK will meet in the home of Tricia Knowles for a meeting Monday, Oct. 14 with social time at 7 p.m. followed by business meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Oakwood Cemetery cleanup

Oakwood Cemetery in Wilmington is in need of volunteers for its fall cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 2, starting at 8 a.m.

Anyone who can help is asked to meet at the shed for coffee, doughnuts and instructions.

Oakwood Cemetery is located at Williams and Oak Streets.

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Wilmington Fire Protection District passes Budget and Appropriations ordinance

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE NO. 24-08-001
AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE BUDGET AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING APRIL 30, 2025

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT have prepared or caused to be prepared in tentative form, a Budget and Appropriation Ordinance, and the Secretary of this Board has made the same conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to the date hereof; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Budget on August 21, 2024, and as said District lies within Will County, Illinois, notice of said hearing was given at least thirty (30) days notice prior thereto by publication in a newspaper published in Will County and having general circulation within said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, and all other legal requirements have been complied with.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT, in the County of Will and State of Illinois:

SECTION 1: That the following budget containing an estimate of revenue and expenditures and the appropriations contained therein be and the same is hereby adopted as the Budget and Appropriations for said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for the fiscal year ending on April 30, 2025; and the following sums of money, or as much thereof as may be authorized by law, is hereby appropriated to defray the necessary expenses and liabilities of the WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for its fiscal year ending April 30, 2025 for the respective objects and purposes, as hereinafter set forth, namely:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS		
Cash on hand at beginning of fiscal year	\$6,133,894.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (corporate)	\$1,016,937.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (ambulance)	\$1,016,937.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (tort/liability insurance)	\$756,132.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (audit)	\$10,514.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (social security)	\$1,460.00	
Taxes received in this fiscal year (pension)	\$338,785.00	
County tax adjustment	\$18,984.00	
Personal property replacement tax	\$40,000.00	
Service Fees	\$500,000.00	
Foreign Fire Tax	\$28,000.00	
Ambulance fees	\$650,000.00	
Interest income	\$50,000.00	
Grants	\$12,100.00	
Tower Rental	\$43,000.00	
Waste Management	\$20,000.00	
Annual services fees (Ridge Port)	\$220,000.00	
Fire Recovery	\$15,000.00	
TOTAL ESTIMATED RECEIPTS	\$10,871,743.00	

CORPORATE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Contractual service	\$212,500.00	\$255,000.00
Full time salary	\$525,000.00	\$630,000.00
Dispatching Fees	\$31,250.00	\$37,500.00
Medical insurance	\$112,500.00	\$135,000.00
Maintenance equipment	\$6,000.00	\$7,200.00
Maintenance radio & pagers	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Maintenance vehicles	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00
Maintenance building	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Maintenance office equipment	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Utilities	\$21,250.00	\$25,500.00
Gas & Oil	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
Office supplies & postage	\$1,250.00	\$1,500.00
Operating supplies & tools	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
Uniforms	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
District signs/supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Office equipment	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Fire equipment	\$57,031.00	\$68,437.00
Radio equipment	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Vehicle Purchase	\$137,500.00	\$165,000.00
Improvements to B & G	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Public education	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$6,250.00	\$7,500.00
Administrative expenses	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Loan payment	\$250,000.00	\$300,000.00
Personnel benefits	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Grant expenditures	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00
Building and equipment fund	\$2,942,267.00	\$3,530,720.00
Donations	\$6,108.00	\$7,330.00
TOTAL EST. CORP EXPENSES	\$4,455,406.00	\$5,346,487.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for corporate purposes.

AMBULANCE

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Contractual services	\$637,500.00	\$765,000.00
Full time salary	\$525,000.00	\$630,000.00
Dispatching Fees	\$31,250.00	\$37,500.00
Medical Insurance	\$112,500.00	\$135,000.00
Ambulance billing fees	\$50,000.00	\$60,000.00
Maintenance equipment	\$18,000.00	\$21,600.00
Maintenance radio equipment	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Maintenance vehicles	\$40,000.00	\$48,000.00
Maintenance building	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00
Maintenance office equipment	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00

Utilities	\$63,750.00	\$76,500.00
Gas & Oil	\$45,000.00	\$54,000.00
Office supplies & postage	\$3,750.00	\$4,500.00
Operating supplies & tools	\$11,250.00	\$13,500.00
Uniforms	\$15,000.00	\$18,000.00
Medical supplies	\$30,000.00	\$36,000.00
District signs/ supplies	\$1,500.00	\$1,800.00
Office equipment	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Radio equipment	\$10,000.00	\$12,000.00
Medical equipment	\$96,545.00	\$115,854.00
Vehicle Purchase	\$137,500.00	\$165,000.00
Improvements to buildings & grounds	\$5,000.00	\$6,000.00
Public education	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$18,750.00	\$22,500.00
Administrative expenses	\$60,000.00	\$72,000.00
Loan Payment	\$250,000.00	\$300,000.00
Personnel benefits	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Grant expenditures	\$7,500.00	\$9,000.00
Building and equipment fund	\$2,942,267.00	\$3,530,720.00
Donations	\$6,108.00	\$7,330.00
TOTAL AMBULANCE EXPENSES	\$5,189,420.00	\$6,227,305.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the proceeds of a special tax for ambulance service purposes and are in addition to all other Fire Protection District taxes as provided by law.

AUDIT

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Audit Expense	\$24,044.00	\$28,853.00
TOTAL AUDIT EXPENSE	\$24,044.00	\$28,853.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for audit purposes.

SOCIAL SECURITY

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Social Security	\$59,343.00	\$71,212.00
TOTAL SOCIAL SECURITY EXPENSES	\$59,343.00	\$71,212.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for social security purposes.

TORT/LIABILITY

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Liability Insurance	\$80,000.00	\$96,000.00
Worker's Compensation	\$120,000.00	\$144,000.00
Legal fees	\$20,000.00	\$24,000.00
Training expense	\$25,000.00	\$30,000.00
Salary (30% of Chief, DC, Lts, FF/Medic, Kurtz)	\$502,171.00	\$602,605.00
Dispatching fees	\$62,500.00	\$75,000.00
TOTAL TORT/LIABILITY EXPENSE	\$809,671.00	\$971,605.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for liability insurance purposes.

PENSION

ESTIMATED EXPENSES	Budgeted	Appropriated
Pension	\$333,859.00	\$400,631.00
TOTAL PENSION EXPENSES	\$333,859.00	\$400,631.00

The foregoing appropriations are appropriated from the above revenue sources including the general property tax for pension purposes.

RE-CAP OF ESTIMATED BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS for the fiscal year 2024/2025

	Budgeted	Appropriated
CORPORATE	\$4,455,406.00	\$5,346,487.00
AMBULANCE	\$5,189,420.00	\$6,227,305.00
AUDIT	\$24,044.00	\$28,853.00
SOCIAL SECURITY	\$59,343.00	\$71,212.00
TORT/LIABILITY	\$809,671.00	\$971,605.00
PENSION	\$333,859.00	\$400,631.00
TOTAL	\$10,871,743.00	\$13,046,093.00

SECTION 2: It is estimated that no cash will be on hand at the end of said fiscal year.

SECTION 3: All unexpended balance of any item or items of any general appropriation made by this Ordinance may be expended in making up any deficiency in any item or items in the same general appropriation made by this Ordinance.

SECTION 4: If any item or any portion thereof of this Ordinance shall for any reason be held invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this Ordinance.

PASSED in lawful session of the Board of Trustees of said WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on August 21, 2024.

/s/ Heidi Hermes
President, WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Attest:
/s/ Robert Bland
Secretary, WILMINGTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Oct. 9, 2024.

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Harvest progressing ahead of average pace

BY RHIANNON BRANCH
FARMWEEK

Illinois crops matured above the average pace for most of the season, so it is no surprise to see some combines rolling a bit sooner than usual. But a drawn-out planting season could delay the start of harvest until October for some farmers.

USDA reported 7% of corn was harvested statewide compared to 5% at the same time last year, and the five-year average of 3% as of Sept. 16. Most of the crop (63%) reached maturity on the same date, 23 percentage points ahead of average.

Soybean harvest was 6% complete as of Sept. 15, well ahead of the average and last year's pace of 1%. Meanwhile, 62% of the crop was dropping leaves, 31 percentage points ahead of average.

Crop Watcher Ryan Frieders of DeKalb County began harvesting soybeans on Sept. 11 and said it was the earliest start date on his farm since 2012.

"The soybeans were planted the last week of April and they were earlier



Photo by Catrina Rawson of FarmWeek

CORN HARVEST progresses in Mason County on an unseasonably warm September day.

to average maturing varieties for our area," he said, noting that soybean moisture has been very low. "With no dew at night, harvest could have continued all night long as the bean straw never became tough."

Frieders said yields are below last year and slightly lower than their 5-year farm average so far.

At the southern end of the state, Crop Watcher Ken Taake said harvest timing was about usual on his farm in Pulaski County.

"With the spread-out planting season, I thought it would be a long harvest season," he said. "But with the dry weather in August and so far in September, crops are maturing rapidly."

As of Sept. 17, he had more than one-third of his corn and 20% of soybeans harvested and noted slightly above average yields so far, but said the dry weather has put stress on the late-planted soybeans.

And even though harvest has started, an LG

Seeds agronomist said field scouting duties aren't over.

Robby Meeker, who covers east-central Illinois, said farmers should be scouting for disease, pests and intactness to protect corn yields.

When looking for leaf diseases, he said growers should pay close attention to the third, fourth and fifth leaf below the ear. "The majority of time, symptoms start below the ear," Meeker said.

Farmers should also keep an eye out for anthracnose, which can rot stalks and cause stalk death above the ear in the weeks after pollination.

Meeker said at this point in the season treatment options are likely limited, but knowing what's going on within your fields is important to prioritize which fields need to be harvested first and to plan for better results next season.

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

Electronics dropoff in Wilmington

Will County's free electronics drop-off event will be held Thursday, Oct. 10, 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.

Morris Hospital Radiation oncologist to speak on cancer prevention

The community is invited to a Cancer Education and Prevention program with Morris Hospital Radiation Oncologist Suzan Cheng, M.D., on Thursday, Oct. 24, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Morris Community YMCA, 320 Wauponsee Avenue, Morris.

Dr. Cheng will discuss a variety of cancer topics, including the latest scien-

tific recommendations on screening for breast cancer and familial genetic testing in breast cancer patients.

She will also explain how exercise, Vitamin D, and a healthy diet can help prevent cancer. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask their own questions about cancer prevention and treatment.

The program is open to the community as part of

the Morris Community YMCA and Morris Hospital's Healthy Happens Here health and wellness seminar series.

To register for the free programs, call the Morris Community YMCA at 815-513-8080, or go to www.morrishospital.org/ev events and look under the YMCA Healthy Happens Here event category.

St. Rose 77th annual turkey dinner Nov. 3

The 77th annual St. Rose turkey dinner will be held on Sunday, Nov. 3, to give thanks and share a meal as a parish family and community.

Dinner will be served at St. Rose School, 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington

will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and carry-outs will be from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The cost is a suggested donation of \$15 (free-will offering).

Everyone is invited to attend.

Ladies, how long has it been since your last mammogram?



There's no question mammography helps reduce deaths by detecting breast cancer early when it's most treatable and long before it can be felt.

For women at average risk of breast cancer, the American College of Radiology recommends an annual mammogram beginning at age 40.

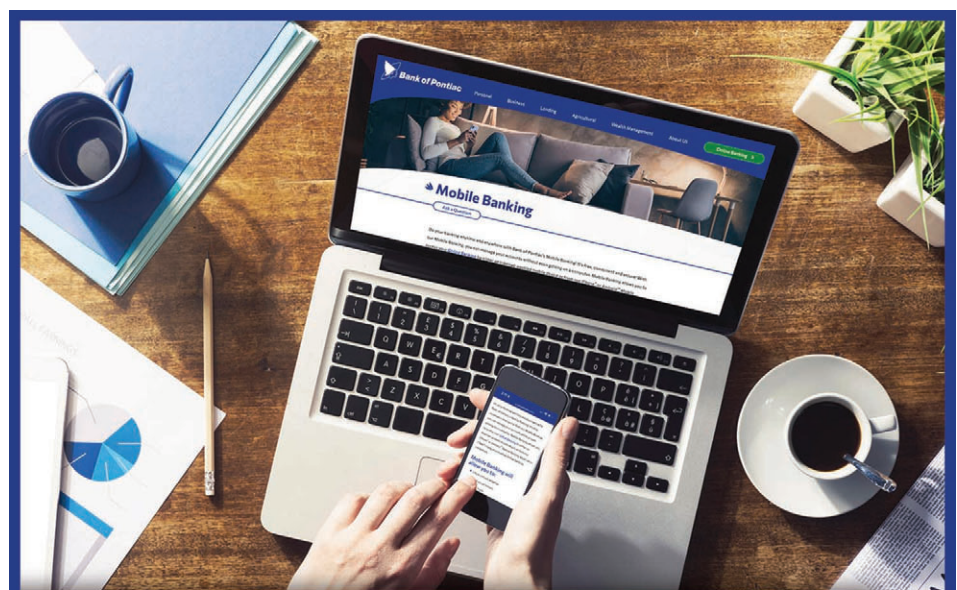
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Bridge milestone reached on I-80 rebuild

Gov. JB Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) were joined by community leaders Friday to celebrate the completion of several key bridges in the \$1.3 billion reconstruction and modernization of Interstate 80.

To create more opportunities for minority- and female-owned firms to do business on I-80 and other projects, Gov. Pritzker also announced the opening of a new local resource center in Will County for IDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.

"By making smart investments in the bridges that working families and businesses depend on, we're building a better future for the entire region," said Gov. Pritzker. "Today, I am proud to see these investments come to life with the modernization of several I-80 bridges and the opening of the new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Resource Center. Thanks to Rebuild Illinois, we are revitalizing

our infrastructure and creating economic opportunities for communities across the state."

The I-80 project is replacing the more than 50-year-old infrastructure along a 16-mile corridor in a booming territory for logistics and freight, adding multiple safety and capacity enhancements.

The bridges carrying both directions of the interstate over Hickory Creek, Richards Street and Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad are now substantially complete, a \$96 million investment that kick-started the I-80 project.

While the bridges will stay two lanes in each direction with expanded shoulders until all of the I-80 work is finished, the new structures eventually will accommodate three lanes each.

Also, IDOT has opened a new DBE Resource Center, 858 Center Court, Unit A, in Shorewood. Furnished with a computer lab and office equipment, the resource center will act

as a free one-stop shop offering one-on-one assistance for firms that want to become certified DBEs and learn about contracting opportunities in the area without having to travel to meet with IDOT staff in Chicago or Schaumburg. For more information, visit https://idot.click/DBE_Resource or call (815) 630-3400 to make an appointment.

"An investment in infrastructure is an investment in people, with the I-80 improvements positively impacting a vital area of the state for decades to come," said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omar Osman.

Since the I-80 project started, bridges over I-80 on Shepley Road and Wheeler Avenue have been rebuilt, as well as interchanges reconstructed at Houbolt Road and U.S. 30.

This spring, ground was broken to rebuild and widen 11 mainline miles between Ridge and River roads, River Road and Wheeler Avenue and from Rowell Avenue to Gougar Road.

The bridges carrying Briggs Street and River Road over I-80 also are being replaced. Richards Street is being reconstructed with a new bridge deck over Hickory Creek, with all bridges crossing I-80 except Shepley Road including new or improved sidewalk and bicycle accommodations, removing the interstate as a barrier for people who walk, bike and roll.

Major elements remaining are new interchanges with I-55 and Larkin Avenue (Illinois 7), which will break ground next year. The final pieces are new Chicago Street (U.S. 52/Illinois 53) and Center Street interchanges as well as new bridges over the Des Plaines River, all anticipated to begin in 2026.

The entire project is anticipated to be substantially complete by the end of 2028, with landscaping, demolition of the Des Plaines River bridges and miscellaneous work extending into 2029.

Grundy County Senior division will no longer provide some services

The Grundy County Health Department-Senior Division will no longer be providing the following services since they have transitioned to Catholic Charities, which will now oversee their delivery.

The services include Medicare Assistance, license plate discounts, flexible community spending programs, information and assistance.

All inquiries regarding these services should now be directed to Catholic Charities (815)523-9918

We understand there may be questions about the services we continue to provide. As of now, the Senior Division will continue to manage the Community Care Program.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation during this transition. We are confident that Catholic Charities will continue to offer exceptional support to the seniors of Grundy County.

Thank you for your understanding and continued trust.

Braidwood Presbyterian Women to host scrapathon

The Braidwood Presbyterian Women will be holding their annual Fall Scrapathon Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the church on 106 S. Lincoln Street.

The cost is \$40. This year's theme will be pump-

kins. Delicious food will be served throughout the day along with some great raffles and door prizes.

Anyone interested in signing up and reserve your spot before they are gone please call or text Elizabeth Bell at 405-820-5944.

Volunteers needed for seed collection

The Forest Preserve District of Will County is seeking volunteers for seed collection on Oct. 17 at the Kankakee Sands Preserve near Custer Park.

Help your community by signing up for a fall Volunteer Morning program where you gather seeds for future restoration efforts.

Help is needed for Volunteer Morning programs in the Braidwood, Wilmington, Crete and Monee areas.

Seed collection programs are from 10 a.m. to noon at the following sites:

Registration is required. Complete a waiver online. For information, contact Emily Kenny at 815-722-7364 or volunteerservices@fpdwc.org.

The programs are for ages 10 and older.

Women's safety seminar on Oct. 14

Braidwood will host a "Women's Personal Safety" presentation from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14.

The presentation is sponsored by the U.S. Concealed Carry Association (USCCA), located in West Bend, WI.

Women will learn to create an expert-guided defense plan to avoiding looking like an easy target.

Topics include:

Choose the right tool: Including an information introduction to firearms and other use of force options

Critical steps to take to keep yourself safe, not mat-

ter what happens next.

Five powerful situation awareness tips to avoid threats or looking like an easy target.

How to properly and justifiably defend yourself in every self-defense situation.

A question and answer session with a USCCA-certified instructor.

The presentation will be held at Braidwood City Hall, 151 W. Main St.

The seminar is free, but space is limited, and registration is recommended. To register, call (815) 458-2333.

The Village Christian Church to hold mobile food pantry

The Village Christian Church is partnering with Northern Illinois Food Bank to host a Mobile Food Pantry at the Reed-Custer Middle School, 407 Comet Dr. in Braidwood on Monday, Oct. 14, at 5 p.m.

Families in Braidwood

and surrounding communities will be able to get enough groceries (bread, dairy, meats, veggies) for a week or two.

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

Exercise more important as you age

With age comes physical limitations. But it's important to stay active, says John Rinker, MD, an internal medicine physician who specializes in geriatrics at OSF HealthCare.

When you keep moving, it helps reduce the risk of things like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, cancer and neurocognitive diseases like Alzheimer's.

In other words, Dr. Rinker says, it's not fun to live long if you're not well. Your lifespan versus your health span, as he puts it.

"It really, really pays to maintain exercise and be in good physical shape as you age. It reaps huge dividends on how long you live," Dr. Rinker stresses.

Regardless of your age, the American Heart Association (AHA) generally recommends 150 min-

utes of moderate physical activity or 70 minutes of vigorous physical activity each week, spread out over several days.

A brisk walk would qualify as moderate intensity (also called zone two training), while running, swimming or riding a bike would be vigorous. Vigorous exercise is associated with a term called VO2 max, referring to maximum use of oxygen. In layman's terms, you're breathing hard and conditioning the heart.

"Most of that type of [vigorous] training is at a higher interval. You're going to get breathing really hard for three to five minutes while you sustain a pace that's rather difficult. Then you're going to rest and let that heart rate come back down. Then go back to the hard exercise," Dr. Rinker explains. "That back

and forth with the heart rate really helps to train how well your heart can pump blood to muscles. That's a really good marker of how well conditioned you are."

The AHA also recommends two days of strength training per week. That could be lifting weights, using resistance bands or calisthenics, where you use your body weight for resistance rather than equipment.

"I really like the strength training piece," Dr. Rinker says.

"It doesn't take a lot as you age to tension a muscle enough to maintain muscle mass. We really find that people who are able to maintain more muscle mass as they age are going to do much better with those health span and lifespan issues," he adds. "So, the goal isn't to make every-

one a huge bodybuilder. The goal is to decrease the rate of decline as we age."

On the days you do strength training, aim for 30 minutes per day. Dr. Rinker says if you really want to lean into this area of fitness, consider getting a personal trainer.

It's important to work around your ability and not push through pain, Dr. Rinker says. If aging has brought back or leg pain, skip the treadmill and try swimming or a weightlifting session while seated.

"Most of your day-to-day exercise [as an older adult] should be just basic activity," Dr. Rinker says. "Think of a brisk walk. Walking at a pace for about 30 minutes where you could still hold a conversation with somebody, but it would be difficult to sing a song."

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Grundy Bank hosting coat drive

Grundy Bank is hosting its annual winter coat drive now through Friday, Nov. 15 during regular banking hours.

The bank will be accepting donations of coats that are gently used or new for men, women, and children of all sizes and can be dropped off at the main branch located at 201 Liberty Street, Morris or 120 S. Main Street, Wilmington.

Coat drives play an important role in supporting local communities, the initiative to collect new or gently used coats and distribute them to local nonprofits has been something

that Grundy Bank has been doing for years and enjoys seeing the community come together for such an important cause.

"When a community unites for a common cause, it demonstrates the incredible power of collective spirit and shared purpose. Together, we can achieve extraordinary things and make a lasting impact that benefits everyone," said Kevin Olson President & CEO with Grundy Bank.

All winter items donated will go to We Care of Grundy County in Morris, Our Caring Closet in Wilmington, and The

Forgotten Garden in Braceville.

We Care of Grundy County is dedicated to supporting the community through various services, including rental and mortgage assistance, holiday support, and a well-stocked food pantry.

Our Caring Closet offers household goods and clothing in a dignified manner, ensuring everyone feels respected. Additionally, The Forgotten Garden initiative aims to provide essential necessities and support to those in need, fostering a sense of hope and care for the less fortunate.

"Every year, we are incredibly proud to witness our local and surrounding communities come together through generous winter donations. The winter months can be stressful for some families, and if our efforts help to lessen their burden even a little, we have made a difference," said Christine Mendez Marketing & Sales Director with Grundy Bank.

For more information on Grundy Bank's winter drive contact Mendez at cmendez@grundy.bank or call (815) 513-2241.

Coal City Methodist church to host Oct. 30 blood drive

The Coal City United Methodist Church will host a community blood drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Oct. 30 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone who would like to donate blood should contact Karen Hart at 708-217-5808 to schedule a pre-

ferred time or register online at versiti.org/il.

Walk-ins are also welcome, but appointments are recommended. Please bring a photo ID, eat a good meal, and be sure to drink plenty of water before donating. Please consider giving blood, one pint of blood can save up to 3 lives.

How to avoid toxins in your food packaging

Dear EarthTalk: Are we really all exposed to many hazardous chemicals that come off the packaging our food travels in? What can we do to minimize our exposure to these potential toxins in our food?

-- William Freleigh, Newark, DE



A large percentage of our food packaging contains toxic Food Contact Chemicals (FCCs), which are chemicals that come into contact with foods during manufacturing, packaging or transportation.

Notable FCCs include BPA, BPS and BPF, all commonly found in soda and soup cans, plastic food linings, and DVDs, and plasticizers or phthalates, which are widely used to make plastic products more flexible and durable.

At least 25 percent of FCCs, including BPAs and plasticizers, can be found in the human body due to exposure to food packaging, and can be extremely hazardous to our health.

Some health risks include harm to the immune system, cancer, liver toxicity, thyroid effects and reproductive toxicity. BPAs are especially hazardous for women, as they are also toxic to the ovaries and uterus.

Due to the prevalence of FCCs in so much food packaging, it is impossible to fully avoid them. However, there are ways to reduce our exposure to toxic chemicals in our food. For one, buy food that is stored in glass jars or BPA-free boxes instead of metal



LOTS OF FOOD packaging contains toxic chemicals that come into contact with foods during manufacturing, packaging or transportation.

cans and plastic containers, which are more likely to contain FCCs.

Also, wash your hands often and always before eating, steer clear of fast-food and fatty foods and eat fresh, unprocessed foods, especially organic fruits and vegetables. You can also reduce risks when preparing food by using wooden, stainless steel or silicone kitchenware, and avoiding non-stick pans, disposable packaging, packaging with recycling codes 3 or 7, and black plastic kitchenware.

FCCs are also prevalent in cleaning products and other household items. You can reduce your exposure to chemicals in these products by using glass or stainless-steel reusable water bottles, buying fragrance-free soaps, cosmetics and cleaners, refusing paper receipts and avoiding vinyl carpets and fabrics. It is also recommended that you keep your windows open for ventilation whenever possible, as synthetic chemicals often deteriorate into dust particles that are easily inhaled.

Unfortunately, the only way that we will be able to permanently get rid of FCCs is to campaign for them to be banned by the

government and by national retailers. Several volunteer-led campaigns have already spoken out on the issue, and a lot of headway has been made in banning specific toxic chemicals, including BPAs, in California. If you would like to help canvas for the banning of toxic chemicals in food packaging, consider volunteering for Take Out Toxics or other local campaigns that are pressuring their local governments and retailers to call for chemical bans.

EarthTalk® is a Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org



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WILMINGTON COMPREHENSIVE CITY PLAN & MASTER PARKS PLAN

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE #3

Date: Tuesday, October 22, 2024
Time: 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm
Place: Wilmington City Hall, Council Chambers
1165 S. Water Street

As part of the City of Wilmington's process to update its Comprehensive City Plan and prepare a new Master Parks Plan, this third open house will focus on gathering community feedback on recommended strategies for the following core City Plan elements:

- :: Vision, Goals & Objectives
- :: Future Land Use Plan
- :: Corridor Subarea Plans
- :: Residential Development
- :: Commercial Development
- :: Office Development
- :: Industrial Development
- :: Transportation
- :: Public and Civic Uses
- :: Parks and Open Space

For more project information, please visit the project website:
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Check out these great garage sales!

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GARAGE SALE

Braidwood, 159 W. Reed Street. Saturday, October 12, 8am-4pm. Memorabilia: Sports, comic books, coins, stamps. Miscellaneous items. ck41

GARAGE SALE

Braidwood, 555 N. Lincoln Street. Thurs., Oct. 10, 3pm-6pm, Fri., Oct. 11, 9am-5pm, Sat., Oct. 12, 9am-noon. Chairs, stool, firepit, Christmas trees, 2 lamps, metal Christmas sleigh, Shark vacuum and a little of everything. ca41

Braidwood, garage and craft sale. 200 S. Division St. Thurs. & Fri., Oct. 10-11, 9am-4pm and Sat., Oct. 12, 9am-2pm. Good assortment of household items and kitchen utensils (Pots, pans, utensils, Pyrex, baking dishes, some Corning Ware) Handcrafted items (Quilts, afghans, hats, scarves, washcloths, amigurumi crocheted animals) Quilting material, yarn and quilting thread. Barbie dolls, watches (new and used) too much to list. ca41

Coal City - 792 Quail Run. Thursday and Friday, October 10-11, 9AM-1PM and Saturday, October 12, 9AM-11AM. Misc. items. ca40-41

MISCELLANEOUS

6' wooden ladder \$10, 12' fiberglass ladder \$25, Frigidaire frost free commercial freezer (white) \$50, refrigerator \$75, Pecan and leaded glass square living room table, just re-finished \$45, Green Leather couch (like new) \$100, 10 Piece Bassett Formal Dining room set, Cherry finish, \$500 (includes protection pads), Ethan Allen China Hutch- Maple finish, like new, \$150, Italian heavy duty glass and tables(2) (\$25 each) and coffee table \$25, 3 glass living room lamps, \$10 each. 815-630-2897 cc40-43

Hall Rental - Available for parties, showers & meetings. Seats 100 people, full kitchen available. If interested call New Hope Presbyterian Church in Coal City, 815-634-8332. ch 27a-tfn

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SITUATIONS WANTED

Wanted: Stories about local people, organizations and events. If you know a neighbor with an interesting hobby, collection or cause, give the editor a call at 1-815-634-0315 or 1-815-476-7966. tfn

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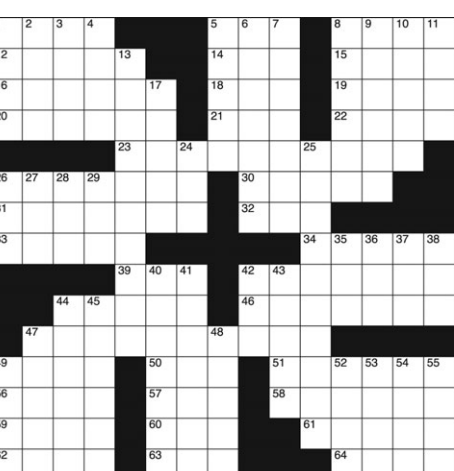
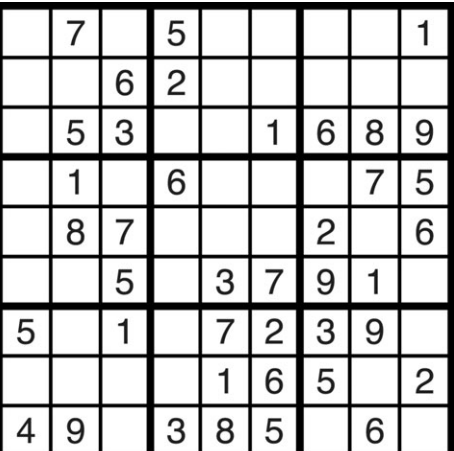
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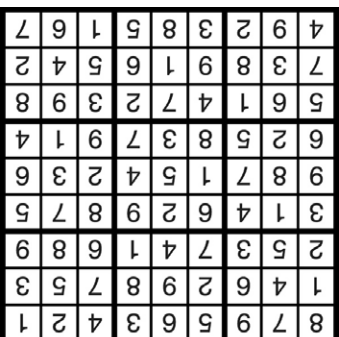
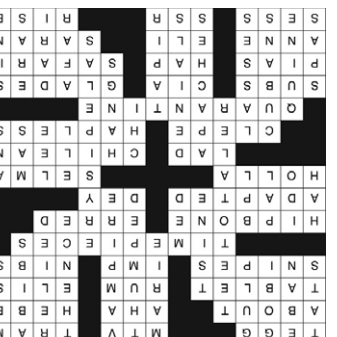


CLUES ACROSS

1. Unsheared sheep
5. Rock TV channel
8. Streetcar
12. Concerning
14. Exclamation
15. Greek goddess of youth
16. Popular type of device
18. Alcoholic beverage
19. Ancient Olympic Site
20. Sharpshoots
21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
22. Pointed ends of pens
23. Measuring instruments
26. Midsection body part
30. Made a mistake
31. Adjusted
32. "Partridge" actress Susan
33. Yell
34. Civil rights city in Alabama
39. Young boy
42. Type of sea bass
44. To call (archaic)
46. Unfortunate
47. Separate oneself from others
49. Hero sandwiches
50. Spy group
51. Florida is famous for them
56. Irritating individuals
57. Luck
58. Hunting expedition
59. WWII diarist Frank
60. Peyton's younger brother
61. Type of wrap
62. Type of overseas tax or levy
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. Wake up

CLUES DOWN

1. Works of body art
2. Israeli politician Abba
3. Renowned desert
4. Eat greedily
5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
6. Beat
7. Bloodsucker
8. From a place already noted
9. Counted on
10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate World Schools
11. Something one can make
13. One who abstains
17. Wild ox
24. Type of student
25. Bacterial infection of the skin
26. Expresses surprise
27. What engaged couples ultimately say
28. Crony
29. Where one begins (abbr.)
35. Architectural designation
36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
37. More (Spanish)
38. Autonomic nervous system
40. Indigenous peoples
41. Deflections
42. Circulating life force
43. Executes with a rope
44. Natives of an island nation
45. Girls
47. Logician and philosopher
48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
49. Relaxing spaces
52. From a distance
53. Form of Persian language
54. Amounts of time
55. Mathematical designation



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COALER SPORTS



Photo by Alyshia Nicholson
COALER PARKER JACOVEC gets entangled with a Peotone opponent during Tuesday's game but came out on top with the ball.

Coalers shutout the Comets on Senior Night

Coal City defeated Reed-Custer Thursday night 6-0. This was Coal City's senior night and also homecoming game. The boys came out with a ton of energy and made their mark with a 5-0 1st half score.

Scoring on the night for CC was Dane Noffsinger (2), Julian Micetich (2), Adrian Dames and Dylan Fatlan. Assists came from Carter Hollis, Adrian Dames, and Julian Micetich.

The defense, led by senior Sam Sterba, played an excellent game earning the shutout. Coal City finished conference play yesterday against Streator.

The Coalers will host a four-team regional starting Oct. 19 when Manteno (2) will battle Peotone (6) at noon followed by a 2 p.m. match between Coal City (3) and Herscher (5).

The winners of those matches will square off Oct. 22 at 6 p.m. for the championship. The winner of that contest advances to the sectional at Manteno on Oct. 25 at 6:30 p.m.

Coal City defeated Peotone 5-2 earlier in the week at Peotone. Scoring for the Coalers were Carter Hollis, Dane Noffsinger, Julian Micetich, Kaleb Reinert and Adrian Dames. Assists came from Julian Micetich, Adrian Dames and Parker Jacovec.



Photo by Alyshia Nicholson
TAKING ONE OFF the head is Coal City's Evan Greggain during Tuesday's game against Peotone.

JV kickers edge Manteno

The JV boys soccer team continued its winning ways, beating Manteno 2-1. Man of the Match was Decklan Castle who scored the first goal for the Coalers. Owen Peterson scored the game winner.

The JV Coalers are now 9-3-1 on the season.

Lady Coalers defeat two ICE teams

The Varsity Lady Coalers beat Peotone 23-25, 25-17, and 25-22 bringing their overall record to 14-10 and 7-2 in ICE.

Sydney Larson had 36 setting assists, 7 digs, and 1 kill. Addison Hodgen had 12 kills, 2 service aces, and 1 dig. Abby Viano had 10 kills and 2 blocks.

Aylie Castle had 4 kills, 2 digs, 1 service ace, and 1 block. Maggie Carlson had 3 kills, 1 dig, and 1 block. Ava Kenney had 8 digs, 5 kills and 2 service aces.

Lilly Feisley had 8 digs and 2 service aces while Keirsten Gabehart had 8 digs and 1 service ace.

The JV Lady Coalers beat Peotone 23-25, 27-25, and 26-24 bringing their overall record to 5-14 and 4-5 in ICE.

The Freshmen Lady Coalers beat Peotone 25-20 and 25-12 bringing their overall record to 6-8 and 3-6 in ICE.

Upend the Lions
The Varsity Lady Coalers beat Lisle 25-19, 24-26 and 25-15.

Sydney Larson had 26 setting assists, 13 service points with 3 aces, and 3 digs. Emma Rodriguez had 9 kills, 5 digs, and 4 service points with 2 aces.

Addison Hodgen had 7 kills, 5 service points, 2 digs, and 1 block. Alys Fite had 5 kills and 5 service points with 2 aces.

Abby Viano had 3 kills and 2 blocks while Ayile Castle finished with 1 kill and 4 service points including 3 aces. Riley Walker had 1 kill. Lilly Feisley had 9 digs and 3 service points. Ava Kenney had 4 digs and 1 kill.

The JV Lady Coalers beat Lisle 25-23 and 25-17.

The Freshman Lady Coalers lost to Lisle 23-25 and 13-25.

Wilmington hosts Coal City on Thursday for Volley for a Cure night, continuing the battle for Megan's Mission Foundation and funding childhood cancer research.



Photo by Eric Fisher
SETTING THE BALL for the varsity Lady Coalers is Naomi Rodriguez.

Turnovers hurt CCMS 8th graders

A slow first quarter and turnovers cost the 8th grade Lady Coalers their fifth win of the young season on Oct. 2.

The Coalers found themselves down 8 points to the Bourbonnais Tigers at the end of the first quarter and at the half, but they came out in the third quarter and chipped away at the lead and eventually tied things up.

The Coalers gave up a late bucket in the third quarter to take a 2-point deficit into the final period of play. The Coalers knotted the score with the Tigers two more times before Bourbonnais hit a big 3-pointer late in the quarter to take a 3-point lead.

The Coalers kept fighting, but eventually fell to the Tigers by a final score of 20-14.

Darcie Ladas was top scorer for the Coalers with 6 points and 4 rebounds. Liv Ferrari followed with 4 points, while Avery Male and Kendall Shute finished off the scoring for Coal City with 2 points each. Male and Shute also grabbed 3 rebounds each for the Coalers.

"We didn't take care of the ball against their press very well in the first quarter, and that really hurt us in the long run," said Coach Andy Leve.

"Being down 8 points at half could've gone either way really; we could've laid down or fought back. We talked about that in the locker room, and I am very proud of the fight the girls put up in the second half.

The Coalers dip to 4-2 on the season.

CCMS ladies fall to Limestone

The 6th Grade Coalers were defeated by Limestone last week, 37-18.

Leading scorer for Coal City was Hailey Fisher with 7 points (3 of them coming from a 1/2 court shot) while Raelyn Aldridge scored 5. Katie Funes added 4 points and Raegen Enerson chipped in with 2 points. They are now 1-4 on the season.

In the second game, the Coalers B team won 9-6. Lilly Harney led with 4 points while Emily Munsel added 3. Haileigh Case scored 2 points in the win. They are now 3-0 on the season.



Photo by Eric Fisher
AT THE NET for a kill attempt for Coal City is Jori Tucker. The Lady Coalers travel to Wilmington on Thursday.

Superlight Miners win as all teams advance to round 2

The Superlight Miners youth football team advanced to the 2nd round of playoffs by beating the Morris Chiefs on Sunday, Oct. 6. All other levels (LW, JV & Varsity) had a first round bye, so the Superlights were the only ones to play this past weekend.

The SLW Miners defeated the Morris Chiefs 33-6. The offense was ran by quarterbacks Cole Coleman, Leo Rodriguez and Cooper Lardi.

Lardi had a 40-yard touchdown run, with an extra point added by Adam Calderon. Reid Trammel had a 25 yard touchdown. Coleman threw a 10-yard touchdown pass to Oakley Parks.

Coleman also added a scramble touchdown run and extra point along with a defensive touchdown stripped ball 45-yard run.

The Miners' offensive players that added positive yards were Ryder Delk, Nico Padovano and Noah Maldonado.

Defensive tackles were led by Levi Hennessy and Cooper Lardi. Other notable tackles were made by Easton Leigh, Jacob Thill, Cole Coleman, Brandon Jones, Reid Trammel and Mikey Tworek.

Fumbles were caused by Adam Calderon, Mikey Tworek and Cole Coleman.

The Superlights look forward to taking on Manteno on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1:30 p.m. for round 2.

The Lightweights will play Wilmington on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 9 a.m. JV will play Reed-Custer on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. while the varsity will play Manteno on Saturday at 9 a.m. All round 2 playoff games will take place at Morris High School.

12U baseball player needed

The 12U Coal City Travel Baseball team is looking to finalize its roster with one more coachable and motivated player for the upcoming 2025 season from surrounding areas.

The 2024-2025 roster so far consists of players from Coal City, Mazon, Minooka & Herscher.

Contact Coach Brent Davy 815.685.2674 for more details. 35-40 games (includes 5-6 tournaments - Ripken Pigeon Forge), 2 uniforms and offseason training.



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COALER LANDIN BENSON runs the ball against Reed-Custer during Friday night's game. Benson had two touchdowns and a total of 111 yards.

Record holders to face off during Coalers vs. Cats

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Dark green, white and gold. Purple and white. Babe's Tap vs Hayden's Crossing, Landin Benson vs Kyle Farrell.

The latter both recently became their respective school's all-time leading rusher and Friday is the final time the two will square off on the gridiron.

Wilmington has won 19 straight games and is averaging 45.3 points per game while allowing only 10.2.

Coal City has won five straight and is also averaging 45.3 ppg while allowing 9.3.

The two teams entered last year's meeting in similar spots and it was all Wildcats as they recorded a 28-0 shutout and didn't allow a first down.

"Wilmington is going to challenge us in all three phases. Obviously they are on a winning streak and are the defending state champs in 2A," said Coal City coach

Francis Loughran.

"We have to play assignment football, be very disciplined and do our job defensively. We know how fast and physical they are. It's going to take a lot of really good prep this week in practice."

While the headliner of the Wildcat offense is Farrell and his 11.7 yards per carry, he's only recorded more than 12 carries in a game once this season.

Junior Ryan Kettman is averaging 13.7 ypc and can make plays in the receiving game as well. Then there's fullback Hunter Osipavicius and Shawn James and the list goes on and on...

"That's the tough part about stopping Wilmington. They have multiple guys that can run the ball and they've shown the ability to pass the ball as well."

"It's really important for us defensively to be sound and not overplay things."

Loughran knows the

focus will be on Benson which means other guys will need to step up.

"We need to spread the ball around and show that we can do different things. If we're one dimensional, it will be very difficult for us to move the ball."

Wilmington coach Jeff Reents know Friday will bring the biggest test for his team so far and a matchup that could very well decide the conference championship.

"This is the one you get ready for every year," Reents said. "It's not just a conference championship type of game, it's a rivalry game. Coal City does a great job, and it's going to be a whale of a game. It'll feel like a playoff atmosphere."

The Wildcats know the stakes and are preparing accordingly. "We need to have a great week of practice," Reents emphasized.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. Friday at Jeff Reents Stadium behind the Wilmington Middle School.



COALER QUARTERBACK Zander Meents runs the ball during Friday night's game against Reed-Custer. Coalers won 50-0.



Regional championship a 1st

COAL CITY GIRLS Golf made school history by becoming Regional Champions. Players include (from left) Coach Harlan Kennell, Dakota Clubb, Peyton Gibson, Kylee Kennell, Madi Peterson, D'Arcy Ness, Livia Sultzberger and Coach Tim Gabeheart.



SENIOR DYLAN YOUNG breaks away for Coal City during Friday's game against Reed-Custer. Coal City will be at Wilmington this Friday.

Coalers shutout Comets for 5th straight W

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Homecoming is often a football coach's worst nightmare. All the distractions throughout the week can be hard to manage come Friday night.

If Coal coach Francis Loughran was worried about a Homecoming let-down from his team against a winless Reed-Custer squad, they put those doubts to rest, scoring touchdowns on all seven of their possessions en route to a 50-0 shutout in front of the Coaler faithful.

"It was a good night all the way around. I thought the defense stepped up after the initial kickoff," said Loughran.

The opening kickoff took a bounce in the Comets' favor but their drive stalled out and then the Coaler offense went to work.

Landin Benson had 46 yards rushing on the opening drive which ended in a three yard touchdown run for the senior.

"They came out and smacked us right in the mouth. They took every opportunity they could," said Comet coach Gavin Johnston.

Special teams went to work next. After a 19-yard sack by Cade Poyner, R-C was backed up to their own one-yard line. John Keigher blocked the punt out of the endzone for a safety.

"I thought special teams set the tone for the game with that safety," said Loughran.

It also got the momentum firmly on the home side and they took advantage.

"They came into the game definitely not overlooking us. It was their Homecoming game and they captured the momentum and rolled with it," said Johnston.

Benson closed out the first quarter with a highlight reel 58-yard run which featured a wicked stiff arm and cutback. He cashed in from a yard out for a 16-0 Coal advantage. He finished with nine carries for 111 yards.

The second quarter was the Gabe McHugh show as the senior scored a pair of touchdowns in three minutes, a four-yard catch after a 52-yard punt return and a 47-yard punt return for a touchdown.

Special teams have been just that for the Coalers this season as they now have six touchdowns on that side of the ball.

"Our special teams are a strong point for us and our guys take pride in it. Coach Jim Looper has done a great job this year," said Loughran.

The Comets lost quarterback Jake Reardon and wide receiver Collin Monroe to injuries in the second half which made their offense very run heavy.

"Coal City is a very tough team to run on, especially when they know it's coming. We were able to move the ball here and there," said Johnston.

Coaler quarterback Zander Meents got his first start since Week 1 and completed 5-of-6 passes for 68 yards and two touchdowns, including a six yarder to Logan Natyshok in the third. He also recorded seven yards rushing.

Connor Henline had a 62-yard touchdown pass to Gavin Berger and completed 6-of-7 passes for 111 yards. Brody Widowski added a 14 touchdown run in the game's final minute as the Coalers recorded 323 yards of total offense.

"I thought our guys really fought in the second half. There's a lot of pride out there and you can see that," said Johnston.

The win secured a 13th consecutive playoff appearance for the home side.

"Obviously every year the goal is to make the playoffs. We have a strong playoff tradition and the guys want to get as good of a playoff seed as they can,"

said Loughran. "It was a good win with Braidwood and Homecoming, but now we need to really refocus as we head to Wilmington."

Landen Robinson led R-C with 51 yards on 11 carries and Brady Tyree had 10 rushes for 41 yards. Jeremy Eggleston added 14 yards on six carries and Monroe had two catches for eight yards.

"Tyree has really progressed throughout the year. He's not the biggest running back, but he gets his shoulders down and hits the hole," said Johnston.

"Robinson and him did a really good job kind of controlling the tempo for us."

Coal City had six different receivers catch a pass. McHugh had two receptions for 43 yards, Rey Gonzalez recorded 27 yards on three catches and Natyshok added two receptions for 24 yards. Dylan Young also had a 21 yard catch.

Defensively, Jake Cerutti led the Coalers with seven tackles and Emmett Easton tallied six. Keigher, Ladas and Poyner all recorded five and Widowski and Mason Garner both made four. McHugh added three and Drake Stewart, Noah Houston, Rowan Fitzpatrick, Alec Waliczek and Trace Wilson all had two and also recording a stop were Brock Finch and Benson.

R-C was led by Dominic Eddy's four tackles. Dominic Alaimo had three and Budick and Tyree both made two. Also in on a stop were Eggleston, Donny Rice, Hudson Cook and Mark Martinez.

The Coalers (5-1, 4-0 in conference) travel to Wilmington Friday to take on the 6-0 Wildcats. The Comets host Lisle on Friday, both teams are looking for their first win.



COAL CITY had one golfer, Jerry Carlson (84), qualify for the IHSA Sectional on Monday at the University of Illinois Golf Course.



LOOKING TO PASS is Coal City's Connor Henline who completed 6 of 7 passes for 111 yards including a touchdown on Friday.