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MFG Day at JJC



Coalers ready  
for new season



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## \$6.1 million assessment still deemed too low

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

The Unit 1 School District is again objecting the assessed value assigned to the GE Hitachi site in Goose Lake Township, and others are likely to follow.

For 50 years, GE Hitachi has been providing nuclear plant operators with storage space at its facility on Collins Road.

Its deep water pools hold 3,217 fuel assemblies, 753 from the nearby Dresden Generating Station. In total, the site provides storage for 773 metric tons or 1.7 million pounds of spent fuel with the majority of that being shipped to the site from nuclear facilities located in California, Nebraska, Connecticut and Minnesota.

The school district and other local taxing districts believe there is value there and began looking at the assessed value of the site. The district argues that a substantial increase in the assessment is warranted based on a number of factors.

Five of the seven taxing districts filed an appeal with the Grundy County Board of Review seeking an upward adjustment from the \$3.1 million assigned to the site for tax year 2021.

The objectors—Unit 1 School, Coal City Fire Protection District, Coal City Public Library District, Goose Lake Township and Goose Lake Township Roads—were asking for an assessment of \$81.8 million, a value they believe is conservative based on the revenue stream coming

into the facility.

Reactor owners pay to have their spent fuel stored at the site, a cost that is reimbursed by the federal government.

The storage of spent nuclear fuel is the responsibility of the federal government, but without a central repository the feds have been paying operators of nuclear sites significant amounts to store spent fuel.

GE Hitachi is said to have five contracts with nuclear operators for fuel storage and the tax objectors obtained the company's contract with Southern California Edison and the information contained was used for its basis of last year's tax appeal.

The objectors sought to get the

SEE ASSESSMENT, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

AN OBJECTION WILL be filed regarding the assigned value of the GE Hitachi site in Goose Lake Township.



Photo by Ann Gill

THE BOYS AT Camp Green Lake examine an engraved gold tube they dug up. The significance of that tube will be clear when the Coal City Theatre Department presents the regional premiere of *Holes*, based on the award-winning novel by Louis Sachar. Appearing in the show are [front row, from left]: Derek Carlson, Dane Noffsinger and Chris Collins. Row two: Austin Harding, Jordan Olson, Julian Micetich and Landen Selio. The two-act play will be presented Thursday, Oct. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m. in the Coal City Performing Arts Center.



Photo by Ann Gill

FOUND TREASURE—Zero, played by Buddy Widlowski, holds on to the treasure discovered while digging one final hole.

## Coalers digging *Holes*

Fall Play opens Thursday  
at CCHS

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Stanley Yelnats is a good kid with bad luck, a teenager born into a family plagued by the storied misdeed of his, "no good dirty rotten pig stealin' great-great-grandfather."

Convicted of stealing a pair of expensive sneakers that literally dropped from the sky, Stanley is given the choice between jail or Camp Green Lake and he chooses the later telling the judge, "I've never been to camp before."

So it's off to Camp Green Lake—a juvenile work camp billed as a place for young boys to build their character—and it turns out to be everything Stanley wasn't expecting.

There's no lake at Camp Green Lake where the boys sent there dig holes day after day, each one five feet wide and five

feet deep. Each looking through the dry Texas sand for a bit of treasure that might land them a day off and maybe an extra shower.

What Stanley comes to realize is they aren't digging to build character, but to find something the warden is looking for and it has his name right on it.

The story of Stanley Yelnats will be told in a two-act play when the Coal City Theatre Department presents the regional premiere of *Holes*, based on the award-winning novel by Louis Sachar.

Derek Carlson, a senior at Coal City High School, is taking on the role of Stanley and said he is, "excited to show the audience that Coal City Theatre Department is and will continue to do things no one has seen before."

Not only is this the regional premiere of the show, but the stage is set with sand and there are a few other elements of surprise awaiting audiences.

Carlson is also excited to see so

SEE HOLES, PAGE 2

## A new plan in place

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

At the start of each academic year the Unit 1 School District creates a strategic plan, a blueprint that establishes a common set of goals and objectives.

This year's plan began with input from a wide range of district stakeholders including the board of education, administration, faculty and staff, and community members who came together in July to address various school and community topics.

Lori Grant, director of field services for the Illinois Association of School Boards [IASB] served as the facilitator. Her process had the group working together to develop objectives including academics, finances and facilities.

There were about 50 people at the first meeting and the input provided a starting point.

"We kept breaking it down to where we needed to be," Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

The plan is focused on four themes—facilities, student achievement and curriculum, Unit 1 Community and programs and services with a goal of providing a safe school environment that meets the academic, social and emotional needs of all students and staff.

Each theme has a corresponding goal and two objectives to achieve.

The objectives in each theme are then researched, developed and implemented by the board and administration with assistance from staff members.

At the top of the list is completing a facility improvement plan, a project that is already underway with the district's architectural firm, Cordogan Clark.

The goal is to plan improvements to district facilities prior to the conclusion of the current tax agreement with Constellation, owners of the Dresden Nuclear Generating Station. It includes district school build-

ings and athletic facilities, as well as maintenance and storage structures.

The report is expected to be presented to the Board of Education in December.

The second objective is to complete a plan for the modernization and branding of all buildings and athletic facilities by March 2023. This is a project that will be undertaken by Jason Smith, the district's chief school business official, building principals and athletic directors.

When it comes to student achievement and curriculum, the goal is to access and explore course work opportunities to ensure career and college readiness and life skills—topics that were highlighted by stakeholders at the gathering in July.

Tammy Elledge, the district's director of curriculum and instruction, will oversee the creation of a review process and evaluating compliance with the Postsecondary and Workforce Readiness Act (PPWR Act), Postsecondary and Career Expectations [PACE] Framework and College and Career Pathways Endorsement.

Assisting Elledge will be elementary school principal Taryn Trotter, assistant high school principal Corey Mikula, district counselors and Jennifer Kenney, high school principal and incoming curriculum director.

The goal set to correspond with the theme of Unit 1 Community is to encourage and support all staff to address burnout, work-life balance, and develop future educators.

In order to achieve these goals building principals Travis Johnson and Amanda Davidson will work with the district's Wellness Committee to develop and expand programs for all staff.

The district will develop a

SEE PLAN, PAGE 2



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# Assessment

property valued on the income approach rather than the cost approach.

The cost approach sets a value based on replacement costs whereas the income approach uses the income the property generates to calculate its value.

The Board of Review [BOR] ruled there was insufficient evidence to make a determination based on income and stuck with the cost approach.

But the three member board did agree an adjustment was warranted increasing the site's value by nearly \$2.9 million to \$6.13 million, resulting in roughly \$153,000 more for the taxing districts to split seven ways.

When the county assessor published the 2022 assessment list this month the value of the site was set at the \$6.1 million assigned by the BOR last winter.

With the belief that the site is still under-valued, the Board of Education, at its meeting last week, directed its attorney file an assessment complaint.

The Coal City Public Library District was set to take action to do the same when they met last night, and the Coal City Fire Protection District and Goose Lake Township districts are expected to take the matter under review at their upcoming meetings.

The last day to file a tax objection in Grundy County is Monday, Nov. 7.

The districts are still appealing the 2021 assessment having filed an appeal to the BOR's ruling with the Illinois Property Tax Appeals Board [PTAB] and that case is pending and it could be a few years before the matter is decided at the state level.

# Plan

career pathway that will promote a grow your own program for future educators. This objective will be worked on by director of special populations Luke Kripple, department chairs and school counselors. A report on their work is expected to be presented to the Board in May 2023.

The objectives designed to go along with programs and services will find the School Safety Committee reconvening to investigate, review and make recommendations for updating school safety.

This group will be led by the superintendent with input from intermediate school principal Tracy Carlson and the district's school resource officers. Their report is due to the Board in December.

And, the second objective

will result in an analysis of internal and external support systems for students and all staff.

This is a project that has been assigned to Kripple, assistant middle school principal Rodney Monbrum and the district's health and wellness department. Their report will be delivered in April 2023.

The overall goal is to maintain a balanced budget while providing resources for quality teaching and learning, taking into account current population growth and facility capacities.

"I appreciate everyone from our administration team, staff and community members that were all involved in this process," Spencer said.

"I look forward to working on these goals and objectives, we are all ready to move forward," the superintendent added.

# Two Interstate Eight schools want to join ICE Conference

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

Two Interstate Eight Conference schools looking to join the Illinois Central Eight Conference are being turned away.

Athletic director Dan Hutchings reported to the Unit 1 Board of Education that discussions were taking place with other ICE Conference schools to consider the addition of Plano and Sandwich high schools.

The ICE Conference was established in 2018 with its first season of competition held during the 2019-2020 school year. ICE is comprised of Coal City, Reed-Custer, Wilmington, Peotone, Herscher, Manteno, Streator and Lisle.

Back in 1979 the three local schools

were among the founding members of the Interstate Eight, as was Plano and a few others. Sandwich joined the conference not long after its establishment.

When Coal City, Reed-Custer and Wilmington left the Interstate Eight after 40 years, Plano and Sandwich stayed on and the name stayed with them and the new member districts— and last season those districts joined with the Kishwaukee River Conference for a football only partnership that divided the teams into two groups.

Now it looks like Sandwich and Plano are looking to move out of their long standing conference, but it won't be with the ICE.

Unit 1 Superintendent Chris Spencer informed the Board that the ICE Conference principals met and decided

not to expand conference membership, "so it's a no go," he said.

Hutchings reported the addition of two schools would allow for a closed football conference and eliminate the difficulty in scheduling non-conference games, and it would strengthen the wrestling and track programs, "by adding quality schools with good programs."

The reasons why the principals turned down the requests from Plano and Sandwich were not disclosed.

Interesting to note is that Sandwich did not field a varsity football team this season due to low participation. In fact there were just 12 players—six juniors and six seniors—interested taking the field for the Indians.

# GAVC recognizes outstanding students

One of the highest honors a student can earn at Grundy Area Vocational Center [GAVC] is the Director's Award, and in the past months the award was bestowed on five Coal City High School students.

Every month instructors from each of the center's program areas recognize exceptional students. The honor is based on a student's attendance, leadership skills, citizenship, professional attitude, ability in practicum activities and classroom assignments, teamwork and safety.

Coal City students recognized in the month of September were Christopher Collins, entrepreneurship; Natalie Appleton, criminal justice; Ava Templet, computer graphics and multimedia design; Madison Kapinus, agriculture, and Rachel Hall, advanced teaching methods.

# CCIS elects student council

Students at Coal City Intermediate School had a lesson in elections as each classroom selected a representative to serve on the school's student council.

The first quarter council was elected last month with each student interested in serving sharing their interest with their fellow classmates

through a speech and campaign poster.

Student council meets every two weeks with sponsor Jenn Ness to plan various school activities.

First semester student council members are Ryan Housman, Brody Bitner, Ryder Porterfield, Cody Allen, Tristan Brncich, Cele Gordon, Mitchell Jessen, Sienna Ruffato, Ryleigh Kargle, Lexi Henderson, Lila Symons, Elly Nicholson, Alena Dodge and Aubrie Kavanaugh.

Also, Brayden Brncich, Mackenna Cuddy, Jeremy Little, Rylie Peters, Cyrus Simonds, William Rodriguez, Lilly Connor-Mikos, Matthew Tibble, Callie Lehnus, Brantley Brooks, Pearl Friddle and Kennedy Loughran.

# Braidwood man killed in single vehicle wreck

## STAFF REPORT

The Braidwood Police Department is investigating a car crash that took the life of a Braidwood man on Tuesday.

Will County Coroner Laurie Summers' officer reported the death of Benas Ruzga, 30, at 10:05 a.m. on Oct. 11.

According to the release, Ruzga was involved in a single motor vehicle wreck in the 31000 block of SE Frontage Road in Wilmington Township.

An autopsy is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 12.

The incident is being investigated by the Braidwood Police Department and the Illinois State Police.

A final cause and manner will be determined on a later date pending autopsy, toxicological, and law enforcement results.

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Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon

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

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher  
Ann Gill, editor



Photo by Ann Gill

THE COAL CITY Theatre Department will present the regional premier of *Holes*, a play by Louis Sachar this weekend in the Coal City Performing Arts Center. The show features [from left] Buddy Widlowski, Collin Dames, Derek Carlson and Brecken Johnson.

# Holes

many new students trying theatre this year and one of those is his stage partner Buddy Widlowski, who is taking on the role of Zero.

Widlowski joined the theatre department last year working backstage for the spring musical and decided to giving acting a try and it landed him a leading role.

As audience members will come to discover the two characters have an intertwining

past, and that history carries on to the Warden, a woman who oversees the camp with a purpose.

Senior Brecken Johnson is playing the warden who works alongside Mr. Sir, played by fellow senior Collin Dames, and camp counselor Mr. Pandanzki, a role being portrayed by junior Stephen Byers.

Then there are the camp boys—Magnet, X-Ray, Armpit, Zig Zag, Squid and Twitch roles played by Landen Selio, Chris Collins, Julian Micetich,

Dane Noffsinger, Austin Harding and Jordan Olson respectively.

Mason Natyshok, a sophomore, plays the part of Elya Yelnats and he's the one that started the curse on his family when he failed to follow through on a promise he made to a gypsy fortune teller named Madame Zeroni, a role being played by senior Izzy Kostbade.

In flashback scenes the audience will come to understand the history of the characters and the events decades earlier involving Kate Barlow, played by junior Elaina Patten, that led to the current activities at Camp Green Lake.

Rounding out the cast are Ethan Scrogam, Max Hone, Karli Pearson, Chessa Kuhel, Mason Hamilton, Melody Kinder, Kilen Davidson, Logan Hausman, Gianna Savarino, Bella Byers, Fianna Gregory and Olivia Sage.

"We had a phenomenal group of students audition this year," said director Jack Micetich.

Out of the 26 student performers taking the stage, 14 are participating in play for the first time.

*Holes* will be presented in the Coal City Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 13 and Saturday, Oct. 15 and Sunday, Oct. 16 at 2 p.m.

This will be the first indoor fall play for the theatre department since 2019, and as much fun as performing on an outdoor stage was, the students say they are excited to be back inside for this year's show.

*Holes* is presented through special arrangement with Susan Schulman Literary Agency.

Advanced reserved seat tickets are available online at bit.ly/CCTDTickets or at the door beginning 45 minutes prior to each scheduled performance, cash only at the door.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

**EARLY VOTING SITE - GRUNDY COUNTY COURTHOUSE**  
**General Election - November 8, 2022**

Early Voting will begin on Thursday, September 29, 2022 and continue through Monday, November 7, 2022

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

TIME -	Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (unless noted below)
Tuesday	October 4 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	October 6 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	October 8 8:00 a.m. to Noon
Monday	October 10 CLOSED-HOLIDAY
Thursday	October 13 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	October 15 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	October 18 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	October 20 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	October 22 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	October 25 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	October 27 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	October 29 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Sunday	October 30 8:00 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	November 1 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Thursday	November 3 8:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	November 5 8:00 a.m. - Noon

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

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

KAY T. OLSON  
GRUNDY COUNTY ELECTION AUTHORITY





COAL CITY HIGH SCHOOL students listen to representatives from Constellation (formerly Exelon) during JJC's MFG Day. From left are: Logan Vance, Tanner Phillips, Logan Hootselle, Logan Hawkins, Brady Ehman and Kaelan Natashok.

# Coal City students attend MFG Day at JJC

MFG DAY is a community supported, career exploration day, created for students to explore how local businesses apply S.T.E.M. skills and concepts from local, real life careers.

The Three Rivers Manufacturers' Association (TRMA), in partnership with Joliet Junior College (JJC), is hosting MFG DAY-2022. TRMA's MFG DAY is for 9th - 12th grade students with an interest in a S.T.E.M. career (Chemistry, Biology, Physics) or Applied Technology (CTE) careers or fields of study.

TRMA and JJC will set the stage for the day's learning opportunities and introduce Eric Jackson, a national youth motivational comedic speaker, to discuss how to "Live Well and Lead Boldly" through goal setting, positive attitude, and developing mentors to achieve success in career and life.

Aric makes it a point to say, "don't let your box (the past) hold you back," and will explain how MFG DAY and its numerous STEM demonstrations, and diverse presenters, may be the first step towards a "Live Well and Lead Boldly" career opportunity.

Following the keynote speaker, the students were placed into groups to: Play a fast-paced fun game of Jeopardy, sponsored by Aux Sable, where a panel of experts weave in the value and diversity of the manufacturing industry.

Winning team members receive a prize, an Outdoor Bluetooth Speaker with an IPX6 water resistance rating,

and carabiner attachment, to share music with friends.

Explore the display case for demonstrations of applied S.T.E.M., such as, using chemistry to create the "active ingredient" or using light properties to see inside an object. Science combined with technology are the building blocks of modern manufacturing.

So, students are encouraged to participate in pure science demonstrations and to get up close and personal with the science and technology driving the industry.

Get hands-on opportunities for skilled tasks, such as test welding techniques with a virtual welding simulator, or the ability to drive a big machine using a joy stick, or perform a rigging lift. Do your students have the skills to build or maintain the machines and infrastructure that support industry?

These are just a few of the activities offered in the display show case of manufacturing.

Throughout the course of the day, students met and conversed with industry professionals about diverse and rewarding S.T.E.M.-centric careers in manufacturing and related industries.

Moreover, there were education professionals available to help students plan their next step towards an exciting S.T.E.M. related career with options for certificate, associates or bachelors programs.

The goal is to provide the students with the resources to end up in a place that matters which could include a rewarding career in manufacturing.

# Nearly 40% of Coalers participating in fall athletics

BY ANN GILL  
EDITOR

There are 634 students enrolled at Coal City High School and 247 of them are participating in a fall sport.

"I think that's just great," Superintendent Chris Spencer said.

The fall athletic teams were recently presented to the Board of Education in a report prepared by athletic director Dan Hutchings.

According to the numbers, participation in fall athletics is up 13.8% from the prior year.

Playing football this fall are 102 students—37 freshmen, 17 sophomores, 26 juniors and 22 seniors.

"I know for football that's the most they've had out in a long time," the superintendent said.

There were 86 football players on the field during fall 2021, and when the Coalers took the field the prior spring for a shortened season—a result of the global pandemic—there were 89 students on the roster.

"It's good to see those numbers up

over 100 again," said Board president Ken P. Miller, a long-time Coaler football coaching assistant.

Supporting the Coaler football team this season are 13 cheerleaders and four pom squad members. Cheer team numbers are up this year and the pom numbers are down, a difference of four and three respectively.

There are 44 students playing volleyball this fall. There are six seniors, nine juniors, 15 sophomores and 14 freshmen that make up the Lady Coaler squads.

The participation levels are also up on the volleyball court with three additional players scoring a spot on the team in each of the last two seasons.

Like football, the COVID pandemic pushed volleyball and boys soccer to the spring during the 2020-2021 school year.

There are five additional students kicking around on the soccer field this season.

Hutchings reports the 2022 squad is comprised of 34 players—11 of them are seniors. There are also four juniors, three sophomores and 16 freshmen.

There were 27 soccer players during

the fall 2021 season and 29 in spring 2021.

The Lady Coaler tennis team is made up of 28 students—eight seniors, seven juniors, two sophomores and 11 freshmen. Participation this fall is up by four players.

This year, the Coaler golf team has boys and girls squads with a total of 22 players.

There are six players on the girls team—four sophomores and two freshmen. The boys team has 16 players—one freshman, six sophomores, six juniors and three seniors.

The number of rostered players on the green is down by one from the prior year.

Hutchings reported there are 90 middle school students enrolled in the school's two fall sports—baseball and softball.

Each sport fields three teams—A, B and C.

There are 38 boys playing baseball for the Warriors and 52 girls playing softball.

"To have that many kids out for an activity is great," Spencer said.

# Route 113 resurfacing to begin this week

The resurfacing of 1.58 miles of Route 113 [Division Street] through the villages of Coal City and Diamond is expected to get underway this week.

The \$1.2 million project is being overseen by the Illinois Department of Transportation [IDOT] and is funded through the state's Rebuild Illinois program.

Construction was awarded the state bid for the milling and resurfacing project that will start at Lincoln Street

and proceed east to the Will County line—Will Road in Diamond.

According to information provided by the village of Diamond, the entire roadway will be ground down twice and resurfaced in two layers.

Depending on weather conditions the project could take up to two weeks to be completed. The work should wrapped up by Oct. 31.

Local officials have said the work will result in lane closures and intermittent closures

of select side streets along the route.

"We ask that you reduce speeds within the construction area, use caution and practice heightened awareness of flaggers, barricades and informational signal for everyone's

## Grundy County accepting bids to replace HVAC units at Courthouse

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is inviting sealed proposals from responsible and responsive vendors for the full removal and replacement of existing HVAC units located at the Grundy County Courthouse 111 E. Washington St. Morris, IL 60450 and / or Grundy County Sheriff's Office 111 E. Washington St Morris IL, 60450. Sealed proposals must be submitted in an envelope and clearly marked on the exterior "HVAC Replacement" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee or agent for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 1:00 pm (cst.) October 31st, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 3:00pm (cst.) October 31st, 2022; sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Grundy County is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide all services required for the removal and replacement of the majority of the existing HVAC units at the Grundy County Courthouse, and potentially the Grundy County Sheriff's Office, in the defined areas of the building as outlined in the following scope of work within this RFP document. The vendor shall provide and install new HVAC units/ systems of the same type, same output, and equipped the same as the existing units as listed succeeding. The existing line sets are to be cleaned and reused if as applicable; the new cooling units must be a minimum of 14 SEER; and gas units must be a minimum of 95% efficient. The project will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Maintenance Department, along with the Grundy County Finance Department will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

The proposed project will require full compliance with all Federal, state, and local regulations. You are invited to submit a proposal that includes your qualifications and a work plan for completion of the stated project.

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at [www.grundycountyll.gov/proposals-and-rfp/](http://www.grundycountyll.gov/proposals-and-rfp/) or Demandstar [www.demandstar.com](http://www.demandstar.com). The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website. A proposal bond for 5% of the total proposal will be required. Proposals may not be withdrawn or revoked for a period of 90 days after submission. The successful contractor shall be required to provide a 100% performance and payment bond in the full amount of the awarded contract.

All bidders are advised that this contract is subject to the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act 820 ILCS 130; as disclosed in the following BID package.

The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive technical errors or informalities in proposal.

## Bids being sought to remove asbestos from Grundy Co. Courthouse

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is inviting sealed proposals from responsible and responsive vendors for the full removal of any remaining asbestos material from the Grundy County Courthouse. Sealed proposals must be submitted in an envelope and clearly marked on the exterior "Grundy County Courthouse Asbestos Removal" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee or agent for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction. Sealed proposals will be accepted until 1:00 pm (cst.) October 26th, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 3:00pm (cst.) October 26th, 2022; sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Grundy County is requesting proposals from qualified firms to provide all services for the complete abatement and disposal of asbestos containing materials located within the Grundy County Courthouse in the defined areas of the building as outlined in the following scope of work within this RFP document. The project will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Maintenance Department, along with the Grundy County Finance Department will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

The proposed project will require full compliance with all Federal, state, and local regulations. You are invited to submit a proposal that includes your qualifications and a work plan for completion of the stated project.

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at [www.grundycountyll.gov/proposals-and-rfp/](http://www.grundycountyll.gov/proposals-and-rfp/) or Demandstar [www.demandstar.com](http://www.demandstar.com). The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website. A proposal bond for 5% of the total proposal will be required. Proposals may not be withdrawn or revoked for a period of 90 days after submission.

The County of Grundy reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive technical errors or informalities in proposal.

Chris Balkema  
County Board Chairman  
Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 5, 12 and 19, 2022.

# Grundy County Delinquent Tax List for 2021

## PUBLIC NOTICE

DELINQUENT TAX LIST FOR THE TAXABLE YEAR 2021 GRUNDY COUNTY	
(Note: Due to the fact that tax payments have been received by this office after the copy was forwarded to the newspapers, names of certain people who have paid their taxes will appear on this list.)	
STATE OF ILLINOIS	SS
COUNTY OF GRUNDY	SS
Notice is hereby given that I, TODD KOEHN, Treasurer and Ex-Officio County Collector of GRUNDY COUNTY, in the State of Illinois, will apply to the Circuit Court of said county at 8:30 A.M. on October 27, 2022, for judgement against the lands and lots described in the foregoing for the taxes, interest, and costs due. And unpaid thereon for the year 2021 (And previous years) or any part thereof. Said lands and lots being situated in the county of GRUNDY COUNTY, in the State of Illinois, as set forth in the foregoing list. Simultaneously, I will apply for an order to sell the taxes on the same lands and lots for the satisfaction of thereof, and for judgement fixing the correct amount of any tax paid under protest.	
AND NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the first Wednesday succeeding application for judgement, said date being November 02, 2022, the taxes on all lands and lots in the foregoing list against which judgement shall have been pronounced and for sale of which an order shall have been made will be exposed for public sale at and in the Grundy County Administration Building, 1320 UNION ST., MORRIS, IL. The amount of sale being taxes, interest, And fees thereon. Said sale will commence at 09:00 AM On November 02, 2022.	
Any persons wishing to purchase delinquent taxes at the tax sale must register with the County Collector ten (10) business days prior to the sale And submit a \$250.00 registration fee to be used toward the purchases at the sale. A written registration is required. A copy of the delinquent parcels to be sold is available from the Collector for \$75.00. For more information call the GRUNDY COUNTY Collector at 815-941-3215.	

DELINQUENT TAX SALE	
Situating in the Township(s) Of BRACEVILLE TWP, FELIX TWP, GARFIELD TWP, GOODFARM TWP, GOOSE LAKE TWP, GREENFIELD TWP, MAINE TWP in the County Of GRUNDY COUNTY, State Of Illinois, upon which taxes, special assessments, And special taxes For the year 2021 remain due And unpaid. And are now payable at the County Collector's office in the 111 E. WASHINGTON ST., GRUNDY COUNTY, Morris, IL. Amounts shown are for the current tax plus interest and fees to date. In some instances, mortgage companies are responsible for payment of real estate taxes. Delinquent listings will be in the following order: Parcel Number, Name, and Amount.	
<b>BRACEVILLE TWP, GRUNDY COUNTY, IL</b>	
09-01-101-004	MIKAN CHARLES J.....1,529.18
09-01-128-007	RAJPUT GURSHARN.....27.17
09-01-205-009	SPARROW PAUL C.....475.69
09-01-207-002	MBR NORTHERN ILLINOIS PROPERTIES LLC.....9,437.85
09-01-207-003	MBR NORTHERN ILLINOIS PROPERTIES LLC.....745.56
09-01-226-011	WILDLY CHRISTOPHER L.....3,436.04
09-01-226-014	RAJPUT GURSHARN.....7,951.00
09-01-229-011	STERLING ESTATES SUBDIVISION / HOMEOWNERS ASSOC.....27.17
09-01-279-001	GALBREATH JESSICA.....2,838.06
09-01-400-006	BENSON CRAIG.....3,230.83
09-01-455-019	ROSCOE J PARKS AND BONNIE L PARKS LIVING TRUST.....1,877.77
09-02-101-018	BRANDAU PETER.....1,539.21
09-02-102-009	BOWERS JOHN / BOWERS KARRIE J.....1,590.31
09-02-102-015	SHAW KATHRYN A.....571.30
09-02-104-030	GRAY AMY S.....1,480.69
09-02-126-007	NOFFSINGER MIKE.....2,847.11
09-02-129-027	APPLETON KEVIN T & TANYA M.....5,925.25
09-02-151-005	GCNB TR #1466.....1,244.16
09-02-157-004	ROBLES GEORGE TRUSTEE.....469.66
09-02-202-017	ELLER DANNY R.....48.41
09-02-202-030	B.D.R. PROPERTIES LLC.....719.81
09-02-302-007	WILLS ROGER & YOTT-WILLS LINDA.....1,690.63
09-02-307-005	ODONNELL MICHAEL J.....1,866.92
09-02-353-014	SHABANI ILMI & LIRIJE.....6,751.06
09-03-178-011	SONSET PROPERTIES LLC.....5,247.23
09-03-183-011	FREDIN TIMOTHY J.....496.30
09-03-226-037	VALIENTE TYLER L & VALIENTE DANIELLE K.....27.17
09-03-228-001	PIRC CYNTHIA E.....2,747.19
09-03-229-029	MACK KENNETH L.....1,613.89
09-03-229-032	RAMBO MICHELE P.....2,379.15
09-03-276-001	LEASURE EDDIE.....27.17
09-03-278-012	LACY JONATHAN R.....1,450.60
09-03-280-007	LAZIER JAMES R & ENZA / GUTZMAN JODI.....1,046.51
09-03-326-001	RUSSELL RANDY AND / HORKVAY DAWN.....3,071.18
09-03-330-005	A&A REAL ESTATE HOLDING LLC.....36.78
09-03-331-024	HAMILTON CANDACE.....3,457.35
09-03-354-007	CITADEL DEVELOPMENT LLC.....1,229.20
09-03-354-015	NOFFSINGER MICHAEL.....1,229.20
09-03-377-009	MCCAWLEY ALEXANDER J.....4,141.34
09-03-428-001	FIRST MIDWEST TRUST #1451.....154.15

09-03-431-014	EJCC LLC.....10,525.19
09-14-300-010	FIRST MIDWEST TRUST 9303.....255.60
09-23-153-001	SCHMIDT MICHAEL.....93.33
09-23-302-002	GRUNDY COUNTY TRUSTEE.....93.33
09-23-302-003	GRUNDY COUNTY TRUSTEE.....93.33
09-23-376-002	SZEPELAK THOMAS W & WAYNE A.....736.82
09-23-451-005	SZEPELAK THOMAS W & WAYNE A.....72.09
09-24-300-012	MR G'S ENTERPRISE CORPORATION INC.....382.46
09-24-427-011	DOYLE GERALD & THREASA.....598.33
09-24-452-018	SWISHER ROBERT L JR & PATRICIA L.....685.09
09-24-452-020	GEORGE & MONTE LLC.....333.79
09-25-103-009	PARDON TIMOTHY & SCOTT NICOLE.....2,500.64
09-25-105-002	GRUNDY BANK TR #1486.....1,748.36
09-25-107-001	NEITZER DONALD & MARIE.....820.63
09-25-131-001	KELLER JOSEPH F II.....466.67
09-25-131-005	KOLLER JEFFREY A & WENDY.....7,399.84
09-25-151-016	BUSH ROBERT K.....1,303.21
09-25-153-013	AIMONE RALPH E.....1,086.27
09-25-153-019	AIMONE RALPH E.....2,463.33
09-25-156-003	DECKER KAREN.....2,708.61
09-25-156-011	AIMONE KATHRYN ETAL.....698.85
09-26-202-001	WERKMEISTER ROBERT.....2,521.77
09-26-202-002	WERKMEISTER ROBERT.....34.71
09-26-203-006	ASHBY PHILIP.....329.35
09-26-227-006	AIMONE RALPH E.....1,285.19
09-26-227-010	AIMONE RALPH E.....78.70
09-26-232-002	DOYLE COURTNEY.....944.21
09-26-280-001	WILET JENNIFER.....510.24
09-26-280-002	WORONOWICZ DONALD & GAIL.....3,283.10
09-26-282-005	BYERS RONNI C & CANDACE L.....4,319.46
09-26-283-017	BORELLO BENJAMIN.....758.66
09-26-283-018	BORELLO BENJAMIN.....993.54
09-26-283-019	BORELLO BENJAMIN.....281.39
09-26-284-011	SCHURE WILFRED & ROSE TRUSTEES.....1,893.32
09-26-284-014	BOOKWALTER BEATRICE L & SHIRLEY ANN.....1,870.25
09-26-285-007	INGRAM ALEXANDER R.....1,163.28
09-26-300-003	STAHL JANA.....6,910.72
09-34-200-003	INT-HOUT CHRISTOPHER.....1,907.93
09-34-200-010	INT-HOUT MARY F TRUSTEE.....2,144.20
09-34-200-011	INT-HOUT MARY F TRUSTEE.....2,117.46
09-34-300-001	ZIELKE BONNIE J TRUST.....1,299.47
09-35-100-007	INT-HOUT CHRISTOPHER.....1,655.75
09-21-201-004	WILKINSON WARREN.....1,291.96
09-22-100-001	DEAN HATTEM PATRICIA A.....6,371.96
09-24-200-011	DEARTH JASON & KELLY.....9,216.89
09-27-176-002	GRUNDY BANK.....1,907.25
09-34-476-001	FITZPATRICK RYAN / FITZPATRICK MELISSA A.....2,683.65
09-34-158-009	GRUNDY COUNTY TRUSTEE.....2,756.54
09-34-160-005	LAMB JACQUELINE.....4,658.24
09-34-161-001	FAVERO BLAKE DOUGLAS JAMES / FAVERO DOUGLAS JAMES.....1,903.54
09-34-184-019	SHANNON BRETT A & TINA A.....302.56
09-35-251-002	C A ACQUISITION LLC.....682.92
09-35-251-003	CA ACQUISITION LLC / CHICAGO AEROSOL.....637.14
09-35-327-009	LYONS HENRY A.....2,051.01
09-35-330-001	CHUBB BETTY J.....2,691.93
09-35-360-005	COMBES AMANDA H & TODD A.....1,977.49
09-35-376-016	VAN DUYNEN CRAIG.....2,882.70
09-35-381-013	GROSSI RAYMOND A & ROSEMARY L.....1,638.30
09-35-383-006	VAN DUYNEN CRAIG.....3,701.67
09-35-404-010	CULLEN DAVID C / CULLEN RACHEL A.....10.30
09-35-405-008	CHECKMATE CONTRACTORS INC.....1,566.12
09-35-407-009	BUESCHLE BRAD R.....1,763.61
09-35-459-005	750 E DIVISION LLC.....8,436.03
09-36-351-009	ELENS WAYNE P & MARILYN M.....3,263.40
09-36-354-010	GLOWICKI ELIZABETH.....2,481.21
09-36-384-006	BOWSMAN JACOB.....1,679.96
09-36-460-007	FENILI NICOLETTI LORI.....2,082.17
12-04-377-004	CRATER WELSH CARISSA.....2,491.04
12-04-377-010	DAVIS FLOYD B JR.....4,588.21
12-04-380-002	WISCH CYNTHIA M.....1,179.87
12-04-380-014	WEIKEL MATTHEW D / WEIKEL KATHRYN M.....4,066.75
12-04-408-009	KERN KENNETH E JR TRUSTEE.....912.55
12-04-429-006	FRIEDLE WILLIAM F & LYDIA A.....715.46
12-04-452-014	BYERS CHRISTIAN P & KATHRYN K.....1,978.61
12-04-452-015	ELENS WAYNE P & MARILYN.....3,594.73
12-04-452-016	ELENS MARILYN M.....3,496.20
12-04-453-019	DAMBROSE ANTHONY / DAMBROSE SHANNON.....449.95
12-04-454-006	HOLLOWAY ROGER.....1,781.76
12-04-458-002	MCPHERSON SHERRI.....1,060.32
12-04-458-015	HIBLER LAURIE A.....602.51
12-04-461-010	REED DONALD E.....1,225.94
12-04-462-014	GENTRY RICHARD T & CHRISTINE L.....2,988.86

12-04-477-004	GILTNER JAMIE.....1,693.66
12-04-478-013	SELBY ENTERPRISES, LLC.....3,894.81
12-04-479-001	PHILLIPS JEFFREY MICHAEL.....930.81
12-04-483-029	POURCHOT PAULA M & MARK D / PO BOX 442.....770.53
12-06-400-001	GERRICH TADD R.....1,436.48
12-09-102-012	CHICAGO TITLE TRUST CO 8002373502.....2,539.65
12-09-127-003	WERKMEISTER ROBERT H & RONDA L.....5,533.43
12-09-129-004	VOLLMER SCOTT A.....2,233.64
12-09-210-004	ANDERSON MARY T & CROSETTO JANICE.....3,320.14
12-09-210-005	CARDWELL KEVIN & NANCY.....3,159.63
12-09-226-013	MARKUSIC PETER J & SHARON L.....2,262.66
12-09-228-001	BARRA JR FRANK T.....1,518.39
12-09-229-002	BOLTZ GEORGE H.....1,905.04
12-09-230-011	RHODES JASON L.....1,592.71
12-16-200-007	CHRISTENSEN THEODORE TRUSTEE.....1,860.67
12-16-300-007	BESSEN JOSEPH A JR & KATHLEEN.....1,614.55
12-17-300-006	HARMONI TOWERS LP.....3,547.33
12-21-200-008	HALPIN FRANCIS JR & DEBRA A.....23.73
<b>GOODFARM TWP., GRUNDY COUNTY, IL</b>	
11-08-300-011	CIMBALISTA LAWRENCE.....7,316.09
11-20-100-002	MEYER FAMILY FARMS LLC.....1,292.21
11-20-200-001	MEYER FAMILY FARMS LLC.....3,800.45
11-21-300-003	SALINAS NICOLAS JR & MARY A.....1,661.91
11-23-100-005	BUNDT JOAN.....3,907.99
<b>GOOSE LAKE TWP., GRUNDY COUNTY, IL</b>	
06-01-126-006	REARDON KEVIN T REV TRUST.....7,285.30
06-01-276-074	SMITH CHARMARINE.....3,458.27
06-01-276-080	OWENSBY TERRY W RHONDA R.....2,305.52
06-01-277-047	SELIM HANAN.....4,841.41
06-01-277-080	MCGINTY DIANE M & / MCGINTY PATRICK J / TRUSTEES.....3,230.86
06-09-300-007	KRUG DEBRA A.....7,589.82
06-13-100-001	DNG PROPERTIES LLC.....9,192.73
06-13-100-003	DNG PROPERTIES LLC.....716.56
06-14-300-005	LANPHER EDWARD & HEATHER.....975.13
06-15-155-008	BREAUCHES GREGORY M & DIANE.....4,859.78
06-15-159-005	MAREK BETTY B.....386.48
06-15-159-009	MAREK EDWARD.....1,744.53
06-15-376-010	INT-HOUT MARY F TRUSTEE.....1,046.70
06-16-100-004	ROED AMBER A.....1,462.38
06-16-301-008	ERNAT STANLEY J & WENDY J.....2,379.20
06-17-100-030	KUYKENDALL CALVERT AND / KUYKENDALL KIMBERLY.....25.52
06-19-100-013	SHANNON WESLEY A.....5,403.98
06-31-400-005	FARCUS CHERYL TRUST.....576.88
06-31-400-007	FARCUS CHERYL TRUST.....331.24
<b>GREENFIELD TWP., GRUNDY COUNTY, IL</b>	
12-11-377-004	KIRKLAND WALTER G.....20.25
12-11-377-005	KIRKLAND WALTER G.....3,142.66



# Free Press Newspapers readers

# SOUND-OFF

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

*Sound-Off is a 24-hour phone line provided to give readers a chance to voice their opinions. Calls may be anonymous.*

*The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to edit remarks for taste, length, personal attacks, racism, threatening, calls for boycotts and libel. In cases where the publisher selects not to pub-*

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

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

*Submissions by email to: [courant@fpnusa.com](mailto:courant@fpnusa.com) with "soundoff" in the subject line or go to [www.freepressnewspapers.com](http://www.freepressnewspapers.com), -> Submit Sound-off or call 815-634-0317. Please state the town in which you are calling from or in regards to. Mail comments to Sound-Off, 271 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416 or 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481.*

## Messed up world

SHADOW LAKES—I think we can all agree the world is messed up right now but the Woke White House thinks changing the name of two Battleships and the Atlanta Braves is the answer! Come on man how is this woke agenda going to pay our bills? Eddie

## Seeking justice

COAL CITY—Have you or a loved one been bamboozled and deceived using Cryptagio services or working with its owner? You are not alone as hundreds of thousands of dollars have been mis-used, misrepresented, or spent for personal use. Justice will be served!

## Cruelty never ends

BRAIDWOOD—Remember Kyle Rittenhouse, the 17-year-old who fatally shot two men during 2020 protests, wounded another with an AR-15 style and was acquitted on all counts? The man wounded by Rittenhouse, who shall remain nameless, suffered two years of death threats and recently sought safety for his family by filing a secret petition to legally change his name. But the justice system failed him once again when his attempt to change his name was exposed mysteriously, courtesy of right-wingers. This is MAGA and its unrelenting, ugly evil when the guilty are not held accountable and innocent bystanders are hounded mercilessly.

## Just vote no

BRAIDWOOD—I have yet to find the logic behind approving the Amendment 1 on the ballot on Nov. 8. The Chicago Tribune said not to approve it and Illinois Policy Institute is claiming it will cost Illinois taxpayers over \$2,100 over the next four years. So why would lawmakers even put it on the ballot? It wasn't a change made by the public, it was drafted by lawmakers in Springfield. I'm all for worker's rights but this doesn't make sense because we already have federal laws guaranteeing worker's rights. I don't think they have done a good enough job explaining why it's needed and I think that the people in Springfield who want his passed can't be trusted. Therefore, I am voting no. We can't afford another tax increase to pay for state worker pensions.

## Attend so you know

WILMINGTON—In the last couple of months there has been changes made on the board of the Wilmington area Historical society and they are not positive changes by any means. People who are now on the board and are in charge are not abiding by the wishes of the members. They're doing what they want to

do and they do not have the museum and the interest of the museum at heart. Members need to start attending meetings so we can vote and make positive changes because things are getting very bad.

## Not once

WILMINGTON—Hey road commissioner, what's the deal? Here we are, middle of October, and portions of Cottage Road in Wilmington Township haven't been mowed once.

## Bring it back

WILMINGTON—Since when has burning been approved in the city limits. I stepped outside to let the cat in for the night and there stood my neighbor burning piles of leaves in the dark. Meanwhile, I raked and bagged all my leaves to obey the law. Seems to me if burning is going to happen again, the city should bring back the leaf vac truck. It was a great service for us old timers and the community. I'd like to see my tax dollars put to use in bringing the leaf vac back.

## Just a sham

DIAMOND—Climate change disclosures. Have you heard the expression 97% of climate change is real, man-made and dangerous. Al Gore said it so, Barack Obama did too, but that doesn't make it so. Thousands of real scientist believe that humans, cattle, pigs, sheep or horses have passed enough gas whether methane, carbon dioxide or green house gases, to cause or will cause in the future any catastrophic heating or disruption of the earth's climate. The real key that controls our planet's temperature is the mighty sun. No human activity can change that. Global warming is a sham. We haven't seen any warming in 21 years. The world is actually 1.08 degrees cooler than in 1998. Global warming is dead in its tracks. NASA images of the Arctic Polar ice cap on 8/27/12 and 8/14/14 show a growth of 43-63%. Since 2002, ocean temperatures have fluctuated less than one degree Fahrenheit. Our government has spent \$22 billion, taxpayer money. That's \$41,856 every minute to stop global warming. Perhaps the most expensive and lethal sham in American history. All you tree huggers can go hug an oil well. Sharon.

## Let stockholders pay

Regarding utility rate increases. Shouldn't their stock holders be asked to receive lower dividends to ease utility bills? The consumers don't receive dividends. If companies want to invest then the stock holders should bear the increases.



## Just for votes

BRAIDWOOD—You may have noticed that, per their Facebook site, the city council is considering the installation of a dog park and would like public input on the matter. Isn't that interesting? The city council members are proposing a feel good project at the same time that re-election petitions can be circulated. And believe it or not, they actually want public input. Why didn't they ask for public input when they strapped us taxpayers with a \$1.8 million debt to buy real estate that they are literally giving away? Why didn't they ask for public input when they committed another \$5 million to improve the real estate with taxpayer money? Or when they voted to increase council salaries, or when they increased the administrator's salary, or when they replaced commissioners Hart, Saltzman and Cockream? Why didn't they ask for public input when they vacated a roadway so that hundreds of semi trucks can have an in-town place to park? Oh wait, we did give input on that one, but they went ahead and did what they wanted to do anyway. The list goes on ad nauseam. Don't be fooled. This has nothing to do with public input, transparency or their love of puppies. It has everything to do with re-election.

## By the tracks

COAL CITY—All the plants and flowers in the cement planters on South Broadway are so beautiful. Is there any reason why the dividers by the tracks can't be done with something better? They just look like weed beds.

## They turn silent

WILMINGTON—My brother and I were wondering what sort of person votes for Marjorie Taylor Greene. I realize stupid people deserve representation, but when the issue is science or technology they need to shut up and butt out.

Penny Lane

## How cynical

WILMINGTON—I heard a conservative woman say she didn't care that Herschel Walker paid for an abortion and added she didn't care if he aborted baby bald eagles because Republicans need the Senate. So abortion is OK to save the Senate, but not the life of the mother.

## Fall Festival fun

CUSTER PARK—The girls and I sure enjoyed the Fall Festival held on the North Island Park. Perfect weather, perfect setup and perfect event between friends. Thanks Wilmington Chamber and Steve Evans for organizing it. We'll be back next year.

# Voters will decide on 'right to unionize' constitutional amendment

## Opponents, backers debate the measure's warrants

BY PETER HANCOCK  
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois voters will be asked in November to decide whether the right of workers to form unions and engage in collective bargaining should be enshrined in the state constitution.

The first clause of the amendment contains two sentences. The first would establish a "fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work."

The second would prohibit the state or any local unit of government from enacting "any law that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety."

The provision is intended to prevent passage of any state

or local "right to work" laws, which prohibit employers from requiring workers to be union members to keep their jobs.

The second clause states that the amendment would be controlling over another part of the constitution that spells out the powers of home rule units of local government, meaning those units of government would still be subject to the amendment.

Lawmakers approved putting the measure on the ballot during the 2021 spring session. The resolution passed both chambers with bipartisan support: 49-7 in the Senate and 80-30 in the House.

Like any constitutional issue, however, there is considerable disagreement over what those words mean and what effects they would have if the amendment is adopted.

The proposal is supported by several large labor unions, but it has drawn opposition from groups such as the Illinois Association of School Boards, the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Manufacturers' Association.

To gather a sense of the arguments for and against the measure, the Illinois Associated Press Media Editors convened an online forum with Joe Bowen, communications director for a Vote Yes for

Workers Rights, the only organized political committee campaigning on the issue. They also spoke with Mailee Smith, director of labor policy and a staff attorney with the Illinois Policy Institute, a conservative think tank that opposes the measure.

Bowen and Smith were asked at the outset what they believe the amendment would mean and the implications of adopting it.

"The workers' rights amendment will guarantee your fundamental rights in the workplace to organize and bargain collectively with your coworkers to negotiate for things like better pay, safer working conditions, and crucially, it will also protect Illinois voters from politicians who try to take away their rights in the future," Bowen said.

He said it gives Illinois workers an opportunity "to vote for themselves on Nov. 8." "It will enshrine protections that most of us are already enjoying while extending protection to workers who don't currently have it," Bowen said.

Smith, on the other hand, asserted that the amendment would apply only to public-sector workers because private-sector workers are already covered by the National Labor

Relations Act, which would supersede any state law or state constitutional provision.

As a result, she argued that it would drive up local property taxes by giving public employee unions power to negotiate a broader range of issues, including "economic welfare," which isn't defined in the amendment or other state law.

"And it's not defined in other similar laws like the National Labor Relations Act," she said. "That could mean things like the expansion of affordable housing or positions on rent abatement could be demanded by government unions."

She also said the provision preempting right-to-work laws could have unintended consequences.

"It prohibits lawmakers, as the people's representatives, from ever enacting reforms or fixes," she said. "So if lawmakers decide down the line, 'Oh, wow, we didn't mean economic welfare to mean all of these broad subjects,' they could never go back and define what economic welfare actually is because they'd be prohibited in the amendment itself from doing that."

Bowen countered that the amendment has nothing to do with taxes but, instead, pro-

tests only the right of workers to organize and bargain collectively in the workplace.

If it were adopted, he said, it would apply uniformly statewide to all workers in both the public and private sectors. He also said it would protect workers from politicians who attempt to enact right-to-work laws, a reference to former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner, who tried unsuccessfully to push such legislation through the General Assembly.

As a follow-up, the two were asked to identify what rights workers would have under the amendment that they don't already have under existing law.

Bowen said the amendment would protect existing rights and extend them to "hundreds of thousands" of workers who aren't covered under existing law. He said it's important to guarantee bargaining rights now and into the future, considering "we spend almost half of our lives in the workplace."

"Whether or not you have the ability to earn a good living, to stay safe on the job, it really impacts every part of your life," he said. "So making sure that we guarantee these protections in the Illinois Constitution is critically important."

Smith argued that elevating collective bargaining rights to the level of the constitution would put labor agreements beyond the reach of existing statutes that apply to public employee contracts.

"If a teachers union didn't want to have background checks as part of the job application process, the hiring process, they could write that into their contract," she said. "It could keep government union contracts a secret. They could actually void the (Freedom of Information Act) law that requires government union contracts to be open to the public, simply by writing that provision into the contract."

Constitutional amendments have two paths to passage in Illinois. If the measure receives 60 percent of the vote from those voting on the question, it passes. But if it fails to reach the 60 percent threshold on the question but still musters "yes" votes from more than half of those voting in the election, it would still pass.

Election Day is Nov. 8, but early voting has already begun. More information is available at local election authorities.

## FRIDAY FISH FRY IS BACK!

2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Carryouts Available

**Kitchen Open Wed. - Sun.**

**Karaoke Thursdays**  
7 p.m.  
Open Mic starting Oct. 6

**On Wednesdays**  
Pot Total \$57,706  
Doors open 4 p.m.

**Sunday Funday**  
Free Food & Football & Blood Mary Bar

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# Take the chill off with hot buttered rum

We are now over a week in to fall 2022, perhaps you have the Halloween and/or fall decorations up at your house. Before you know it, Thanksgiving will be here, followed by weeks of Christmas functions.

You may have your grandmothers Christmas cookie recipe and mom's pumpkin pie recipe, but do you have a Hot Buttered Rum recipe?

Seriously, you need a good Hot Buttered Rum recipe. One reason that many of us shy away from Hot Buttered Rum is that many of the

recipes online are too labor intensive and are simply overkill in terms of ingredients.

At the end of the day, the only ingredients that need to be in a Hot Buttered Rum are rum, butter, sugar, and your choice of a few familiar holiday spices.

Hot Buttered Rum is not nearly as popular as it was a generation ago. Visit any thrift store in America and you will find a selection of old mugs from the 60's and 70's with the words "Hot Buttered Rum" printed on the side.

The fascination with this drink goes back further than that. In fact, this love affair began over 200 years ago in the Colonial US. The ingredients in Hot Buttered Rum are representative of the trade routes of the time, all coming together in a delicious warming drink.



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One place that Hot Buttered Rum has remained popular is New Orleans. Mardi Gras is held during a season that can resemble what most of know as winter, and some years it will be rainy, windy, and even downright cold.

Every bar and restaurant in New Orleans will have their own take on Hot Buttered Rum on the menu for the patrons that come in out of the cold.

It may not be the first drink that you think of when you think of New Orleans, but if you find yourself there in the fall or winter, order a Hot Buttered Rum. You will be pleasantly surprised.

We will start with the butter. Use a "soft" butter, preferably real butter. Real butter melts into the drink leaving a warm, rich texture. Sometimes margarine and other altered butter substitutes leave an odd taste when melted, and will not give the consistency that you need.

The ideal sugar in Hot Buttered Rum is brown sugar, or demerara sugar. Cane sugar can be used, but it lacks the depth and the complexity of darker sugars.

The right sugar will melt into the butter leaving you with a perfect butterscotch/caramel flavor. A good rule of thumb for Hot Buttered Rum is to use "baking" spices as opposed to sugar from a packet that is meant for tea or coffee.

Speaking of baking spices, this one calls for both cinnamon and nutmeg. Don't skimp on either one, especially the nutmeg. After all, nutmeg is one of those spices that "tastes like Christmas" and also hap-

pens to pair well with aged rum.

Vanilla extract is extremely potent, start with a few drops and work your way up from there. The vanilla notes should complement the other spices, not overpower them.

Allspice is also potent, so go easy. Don't skip the allspice though, I promise you will miss it if it's not there.

Last but not least, the rum. Any dark rum will work in the Hot Buttered Rum, but some will work better than others. Dark Jamaican rum is best suited for Hot Buttered Rum, look for Appleton Estate, Myer's Original Dark, or Coruba.

Aged demerara rums will also work, such as El Dorado 12 Year, or Pusser's Navy Rum which is a blend of demerara and Jamaican rums.

Steer clear of light rum, as well as high octane over-proof rums in this one.

Keep the preparation simple. Start with a warm mug, add the butter and spices. Mix or muddle the spices into the butter, it's even ok to partially melt the butter at this point.

Once the spices and butter are mixed, add the rum. Give it a quick stir, then top with hot (but not boiling) water.

Hot Buttered Rum is built and served in a preheated tempered mug.

Combine in mug:  
1 small slice soft butter  
1 teaspoon brown sugar  
1 dash ground cinnamon  
1 dash ground nutmeg  
1 dash ground allspice  
Vanilla extract to taste (start with 2-3 drops)  
Muddle spices and butter in mug

Add 2 oz. dark rum  
Add 5 oz. hot water  
Stir and serve  
Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

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# Close-up hawk wins September photo contest

A crystal clear closeup of a red-tailed hawk netted Shorewood resident Joe Viola a win in the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Viola's photo won the month of September after judges selected the top five photos from submissions and members of the public chose it as the best shot of the month. Viola snapped the photo at Hammel Woods preserve in Shorewood.

"I was pulling into the back lot by the river and saw the hawk swoop down and grab a rabbit alongside the road," he said. "I wasn't able to get my camera out the window fast enough to get a shot of it on the ground and it took off and flew into a nearby tree. I parked the truck and was able to get out and get close enough to watch and get some amazing shots of it."

The four other finalists were: Sally Knudson of Channahon for a photo of a



Courtesy photo by: Joe Viola

**SHOREWOOD RESIDENT Joe Viola won September's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment photo contest with this shot of a red-tailed hawk at Hammel Woods. The contest continues with monthly winners through December.**

# Demand for beef, pork expected to grow

BY DANIEL GRANT  
FARMWEEK

Jeff Simmons, president and CEO of Elanco Animal Health, believes plant-based meat will have its place in the market for years to come.

But it certainly doesn't appear to be a major threat to the livestock industry at the checkout aisle.

Simmons projects worldwide demand for animal protein will continue to grow. And, he believes the livestock industry is poised to help address some of the world's top challenges, including hunger.

"The three big issues right now are food insecurity, a global health crisis and climate," Simmons said during the Agri-Pulse Ag Outlook Forum in Kansas City on Sept. 26. "Animals are connected to all three. I believe they're the missing piece to some of the world's biggest problems right now."

About 60% of consumers around the world aren't getting

enough calories, leading to food insecurity, or they're getting the wrong calories, which is contributing to health issues, according to Simmons.

Boosting animal protein output addresses both those issues by reducing food insecurity and increasing the availability of healthy protein choices.

"Animal protein is one of the hottest food segments the last three years, with 50% growth the last 10 years," Simmons said. "You can't disconnect consumer choice, calories or the climate."

Sales of plant-based meat, conversely, could stay flat through 2022 and remain about 1% of the total protein market through 2027, according to Simmons.

Top consumer preferences when choosing their protein include taste, cost and nutrition, he noted.

"Consumers are starting to vote (at the food checkout lane)," Simmons said. "Meat is on demand."

Erin Borror, vice president

of economic analysis for the U.S. Meat Export Federation, noted U.S. beef and pork exports reached a record \$18.7 billion in 2021 and could push \$20 billion this year.

"Beef exports have surpassed \$1 billion six of the last seven months. It really has been demand driven," Borror said. "We have lots of opportunities."

The U.S. could see even stronger demand for red meat as the world's top exporter of pork, the European Union, is projected to reduce output this year by nearly 5% due to disease outbreaks in its herd and policy to reduce animal numbers on farms.

"It's critical to have a diverse export base," said Borror, who noted U.S. farmers must be proactive to maintain their premier animal health status. "That's part of what continues to offer us opportunities as we look ahead."

Simmons also views climate challenges as an opportunity for the livestock industry.

"With a carbon market, it increases opportunities for ag," he said. "Climate-neutral cattle farms are achievable by 2030."

But to get there, he said farmers must do more than tell their story.

"We need action plans on farms," he said. "Climate-neutral farming can happen. I see us changing the game."

*This story was distributed*

green heron with its neck outstretched at McKinley Woods.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird hovering near a blazing star in bloom at Hidden Oaks Preserve.

Les Stevens of Joliet for a photo of the mist at Hadley Valley preserve.

Joe Viola for waddling wood ducks at Lockport Prairie Nature Preserve.

The contest continues through December with monthly winners and overall winners will be picked in January via Facebook voting. Prizes, funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County, range from \$75 gift cards for monthly winners to \$500 for first place in the overall contest.

For contest rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org. To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account, Flickr.com/WillCoForests.

# Garden Club to meet

Have an interest in gardening? Then consider joining the Wilmington Garden Club.

The club's next regular meeting will be 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 19 at the Wilmington Park District, 315 N. Water St.

Meetings are open to all visitors.

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# First United Methodist to host annual pork dinner

The First United Methodist Church will be hosting its annual roast pork dinner on Saturday, Oct. 22, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

It will be held at the church on 401 E. Kahler Rd., Wilmington. The meal will

include roast pork, stuffing, potatoes, green beans, oriental slaw and desserts.

A free will offering can be made to benefit local charities and a silent auction will take place for The Caring Closet of Wilmington.

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# OBITUARIES

## Virgil Clayton Flener

 **BRAIDWOOD**—Virgil Clayton Flener, 71, of Braidwood, passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at Morris Hospital.

Born Sept. 21, 1951 in New Albany, IN, he was the son of Delmer Clayton and Irene Grace (nee Owen) Flener. He was a retired Veteran of the United States Navy, serving during Desert Shield. Virgil retired from Exelon Corporation after many years of employment. After retirement he enjoyed driving around in his Mustang, fishing, and riding his bicycle.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Barbara Ann (nee Kuh) Flener, of Braidwood, who he married July 13, 1973 in Virginia; two children, Joshua (Alison) Flener and Michelle Flener, both of North Texas; three grandchildren: Clayton, Caitlin and Lillian; one great-grandson, Colton; two brothers, William (Tina) Flener, of Corydon, IN and Lloyd (Janet) Flener,



of Indiana; one sister, Carol Kinser, of Corydon, IN and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Cremation rites will be accorded.


Memorial visitation for Virgil was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood. Inurnment immediately followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the American Heart Association would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was entrusted with arrangements.

## Doyle Daugherty

 **STREATOR**—Doyle Ray Daugherty, 73, of Streator, formerly of Wilmington and Braidwood, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 5, 2022 at his residence.

Born Nov. 30, 1948 in Shreveport, LA, Doyle was a son of Oliver Daugherty and Katie (Owens) Ferguson. He was raised in Shreveport until relocating to Lockport, IL. Doyle then enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, serving honorably from 1969 to 1971. On Dec. 19, 1970, he married Aliene Louise Porterfield at the White Chapel in Las Vegas, NV.

Doyle worked at US Steel in Joliet for many years, and retired from Case International Harvester as a millwright. He was also an entrepreneur who owned and operated Continental Amusements from 1982 to 1995, during which time he owned The Mar Theater in Wilmington. Doyle was a member of the A.F. & A.M. Lodges in both Joliet and Wilmington, and was also a past member of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Doyle had many hobbies, including jukeboxes, playing pinball, and movies. He loved visiting Disney World with his family and going for rides on his Honda Goldwing motorcycle,



but Doyle was happiest when he was with the love of his life and "Baby," Aliene.

Survivors include his wife of 51 years, Aliene, and their two children, Bridget "Mouthie" and Adam (Jessica); five grandchildren: Jacob (Brittany), Zakary (Alex), Scott II, Aiddan, and Kennedy; two great-grandchildren, Bentley and Delanie; as well as one sister and brother-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Doyle was preceded in death by his parents, his step-mother and step-father, two brothers, one sister, one nephew, and his mother-in-law.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, October 13, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 11 a.m. until the time of Masonic Funeral Rites at 1 p.m. Burial with full military honors will immediately follow in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Family and friends are encouraged to visit [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Doyle's memorial page via social media.

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

## Leslee Nelson

**SOUTH WILMINGTON**—Leslee Ann Nelson (nee Pomatto), 76, of South Wilmington, passed away peacefully with her family by her side, Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022 at her home.

Born March 4, 1946 in Joliet, she was the daughter of Francis "Bud" Secondo and Cele Lorraine (nee Cinotto) Pomatto. She graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1964. She was a member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Coal City. Leslee was a dental assistant for most of her life. She and her husband, Dr. James A. Nelson, operated a dental office in Coal City for many years. After Jim's retirement she worked for Dr. Kevin Gallagher's dental office in Plainfield, where she eventually retired.

Christmas was Leslee's most favorite holiday. She always enjoyed crafting homemade Christmas gifts and holiday baking, but most of all she cherished the time spent with her grandchildren making G-Shaft candy.

Surviving are her husband, Dr. James A. Nelson, who were together 42 years and mar-



ried for 29 of those years; two daughters, Nicole (John) Corneglio and Marti (David) Bafia, both of South Wilmington; three grandchildren: Joey Corneglio, Gavin and Marissa Bafia; brother-in-law, Richard (the late Linda) Nelson, of Oregon; and dear friends, Kathy Brown and JoAnn Burns, along with many other close friends.

Cremation rites will be accorded. A Memorial service was held at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory in Braidwood. Inurnment will be private in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name directed to Lightways Hospice, Parkinson's Foundation, or the American Diabetes Association would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit her online guestbook, please log on to [www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com) or find them on Facebook.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood was entrusted with arrangements.

## Kenneth Nelson

**JOLIET**—Kenneth Wayne Nelson, 82, of Joliet and formerly of Wilmington, passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, Oct. 6, 2022 at Ascension St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet.

Born Dec. 9, 1939 in Joliet, Kenneth Wayne was the son of Wayne and Irma (Tenn) Nelson. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1958. Ken attended Quincy University on a baseball scholarship before transferring to Lewis University, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education. Ken taught math at Assumption Parochial School in Coal City, before returning to Wilmington to work in the family business. It was in 1967, that Ken, along with his father, transitioned their business which originated with milk, a chicken hatchery, bottled gas delivery, a Maytag dealership and a Royal Blue grocer into Nelson's Furniture. This new offering in addition to carrying furniture held a Zenith TV dealership, Sherwin Williams Paint and carpeting. Today Nelson's Furniture continues to be owned and operated by the family going into the fourth generation, a legacy in which Ken was very proud.



Ken loved baseball, was a fan of the Chicago Cubs, and continued to play baseball and softball into his later years on the Merchants Team. He was an avid card player and throughout the years could be found playing cards at The Corner on most afternoons. Ken enjoyed to golf, and took pleasure in traveling out West, particularly to Las Vegas, Flagstaff and Jackson Hole, which were some of his favorite destinations.

Survivors include his wife, Debbie (nee VanGangler), who he married July 19, 1984; two sons, Steve (Tina) Nelson and Mark Nelson, both of Wilmington; two grandsons, Ryan (Annie) Nelson, of Channahon and Aaron (Sami) Nelson, of Manhattan; two great-granddaughters, Ryanne and Taylee; two sisters, Sis Rodgers, of Avondale, AZ and Barbara Hansen, of Wilmington; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dennis (Cecilia) Rowan, of Mundelein, IL; Sherrie Wheat, of Plainfield; Lorrie Harvey, of Escondido, CA and Al (Toni) VanGangler, of Plainfield; many niece, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and his best friend of many years, John Nunley, as well as his faithful canine companion, Snickers.

Ken was preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Irma Nelson; two daughters, Julie and Diane, and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, Emanuel and Evelyn VanGangler.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022 between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. Funeral services will follow Friday morning, Oct. 14, 2022 at 11 a.m. in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding and Deacon Jay Plese assisting.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ken's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage, 635 S. Main St., Wilmington, IL 60481 or to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, [www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org), which was an organization special to Ken's heart.

Family and friends are encouraged to visit [www.BaskervilleFuneral.com](http://www.BaskervilleFuneral.com) to sign the online guest book, upload photographs and share Ken's memorial page online through social media.

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

## Morris Hospital updates visitor, mask guidelines

Morris Hospital has made another step toward returning to pre-COVID visiting guidelines. Effective as of Oct. 7, hospitalized patients may have up to two visitors at a time, age 12 or older, during 8 a.m.-7 p.m. visiting hours. Prior to this most recent update, visitors were restricted to age 18 or older.

Under the updated visiting guidelines, COVID-19 positive patients are now permitted to have one designated visitor for the duration of their stay.

Patients coming to the hospital for outpatient surgery, endoscopy, cath lab and other procedures are permitted up to two support persons.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) updated recommendations for healthcare providers,

Morris Hospital has also updated its mask policy. At this time, universal masking will only be required inside Morris Hospital and all Morris Hospital patient care facilities, including physician offices, when the Grundy County "Community Transmission" level is high. When the Grundy County Community Transmission level is substantial, moderate, or low, masks will be optional.

As Community Transmission levels are updated weekly by the CDC, signs will be posted at the entrance to each Morris Hospital facility indicating whether masks are optional or required based on current community transmission levels.

Officials at Morris Hospital emphasize that the CDC's Community

"Transmission" level is not the same as Community "Risk Level" and that it is possible for a community to be at a low or moderate "risk" level but a high "transmission" level, in which case masks would be required. Morris Hospital's masking requirement could change weekly depending on the current transmission level.

As has always been the hospital's visiting policy, anyone currently showing signs of illness should not visit or accompany a patient.

Current visitor guidelines are posted at all times on the hospital website under [morrisrhospital.org/visitors](http://morrisrhospital.org/visitors). With the approaching flu season, it is recommended to check the hospital website for current visiting guidelines before visiting a patient in the hospital.

## Morris Hospital's Rhythm of Our Youth returns high schools

Morris Hospital will be offering its free Rhythm of Our Youth cardiac screening at several area high schools this fall, including Coal City High School on Oct. 27. The goal is to identify high school students who may be at risk for sudden cardiac death by screening those who may have undiagnosed cardiac abnormalities.

Rhythm of Our Youth first launched in 2016 as a result of funding provided by generous donors to the Morris Hospital Foundation. Since then, over 8,000 area high school students have been screened through the program.

On the screening day, a team of specially trained volunteers from Morris Hospital perform electrocardiogram (ECG) screenings free of charge to students who have

received parental permission to participate. An electrocardiogram is a non-invasive, painless test that measures the electrical activity of the heart and detects certain heart abnormalities that can lead to sudden cardiac death.

Screenings are typically held during PE class or study hall, depending on student schedules. The test takes about three minutes to complete.

Based on results of the screenings, about three percent of students are referred to their physician for additional follow-up. Typically, less than one percent are found to have a medical problem that requires cardiac intervention. Results are sent home to the student's parents and are not shared with the school.

Parents who wish to have

their child screened should complete an electronic consent form prior to the screening day by going to [www.morrisrhospital.org/rhythmofouryouth](http://www.morrisrhospital.org/rhythmofouryouth).

Reed-Custer and Wilmington high schools are on the rotation for the 2023-2024 school year.

Sudden cardiac death claims more than 2,000 lives of children and adolescents in the United States each year. Most victims of sudden cardiac death have had underlying heart conditions that could have been detected through a simple ECG.

For more information or to volunteer at a Rhythm of Our Youth screening event, go to [www.morrisrhospital.org/rhythmofouryouth](http://www.morrisrhospital.org/rhythmofouryouth).



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## Illinois near the top for best health care

BY KEVIN BESSLER  
THE CENTER SQUARE

A new report on the best and worst states for health care gives favorable reviews for Illinois.

The financial website MoneyGeek analyzed a wide array of statistics, from health outcomes, to health access and cost to determine how states rank in terms of health care.

MoneyGeek also consulted health industry experts to understand some of the potential choices states are making to affect their local health care systems for better or worse.

The report ranked Illinois as the 11th best state for health care with a score of 80.8.

"Illinois ranked 17th for outcomes, 21st for costs and 16th for access," researcher Doug Milnz said.

Illinois recently dispersed \$49 million in federal funding for health care programs and initiatives around the state. Officials said the money will be used in a wide range of programs that aim to keep Illinoisans healthy.

The report said the top three states for health care were Hawaii (99), Iowa (95.4), and Colorado (91.6).

States that fare worse on

MoneyGeek's health care rankings tend to have higher costs for less access and higher rates of medical conditions like diabetes and obesity. The worst states for health care are concentrated regionally, with 8 of the 10 clustered in the South and Southeast.

The report said West Virginia has the worst health care in the nation. Though West Virginia ranks No. 6 for accessibility, it has the worst health outcomes in the country and the highest average private health insurance premiums in the U.S. at \$8,546, with 48% of its population on public health care.



# The good and bad of coffee

BY OSF HEALTHCARE

Did you know that 62% of Americans drink coffee every single day? The strong, fragrant brew is a favorite among young and old, and is enjoyed for both its flavor and caffeine boost.

However, in addition to the caffeine buzz, coffee also contains good nutrition and may provide other health benefits.

Coffee contains several vitamins, minerals and other nutrients, including Riboflavin and Niacin, B vitamins that are important for energy and other functions in the body.

It also contains Magnesium, a mineral with many roles, such as helping the heart and nerves to work properly and building bones. Potassium, which is important for the muscles, nerves and kidneys is also present as well as antioxidants called

polyphenols which stop harmful chemical reactions in the body.

In addition to its nutrition content, some studies have found that coffee may protect the liver and may reduce the risk for heart disease, Parkinson's disease, diabetes, gallstones and cancer.

Coffee does contain a large amount of caffeine. That may cause problems for some, including anxiety, irregular heartbeat and difficulty sleeping.

The dietary guidelines for Americans recommend 400 milligrams of caffeine or less per day, which is equal to three to five cups of coffee.

Pregnant and breastfeeding women should limit coffee to two cups or 200 milligrams of caffeine per day because of possible risks to the baby.

In addition, children and teens, those with reflux, uncontrolled high blood pressure or problems with sleeping

should avoid or limit it.

It may also be wise to avoid or limit drinking unfiltered coffee (like French press) and eating whole coffee beans because they contain a compound that has been connected with higher triglyceride and cholesterol levels.

While coffee may have health benefits, specialty coffee drinks can be significant sources of extra calories, saturated fat and added sugar. You may be surprised by the calories and sugar found in just one drink. A French vanilla latte from Dunkin' with whole milk: 330 calories, 5 grams (g) saturated fat and 31 grams added sugars. A frozen hazelnut swirl: 680 calories, 6 grams saturated fat and 119 grams added sugars.

At Starbucks (Grande drinks) a white chocolate mocha: 430 calories, 13 grams saturated fat and 53 grams sugars or a caramel frappuccino: 380 calories, 10 grams sat-

urated fat and 54 grams sugars.

While drinks like the ones above can be enjoyed as a special treat, it is a good idea to choose them less often. Instead, try a latte, cappuccino or macchiato with skim or almond milk (70-130 calories per medium cup).

Ask for added cocoa or cinnamon in your drink to give the flavor a boost.

Ask for sugar-free syrup if you want a shot of sweetness in your drink or request one pump of regular syrup instead of two or three pumps.

Order coffee black and add your own sugar packets. One packet of sugar equals 4 grams of sugar.

## CC United Methodist to host blood drive

Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will host a Community Blood Drive in conjunction with Versiti Blood Center on Wednesday, Nov. 2, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Anyone willing to donate blood can contact Karen Hart

at 708-217-5808 to schedule a preferred time or you may register online at [www.versiti.org](http://www.versiti.org).

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

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# Price at the pump rises

Will gas prices rise or fall this week? Your guess is as good as any as the local price per gallon, which was falling, was triggered by world events.

Average gas prices increased 25.9 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.40/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices are 38.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 95.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

Braidwood area stations averaged \$4.03/g Monday, according to Gasbuddy.com, while the highest price in the area was \$4.49/g at a Wilmington station on Lorenzo Road. Coal City area stations were \$4.17/g as of Monday morning while in Morris they were \$4.19 and in Joliet jumping to \$4.49.

"With OPEC+ deciding to cut oil production by two million barrels a day, we've seen oil prices surge 20%, which is the primary factor in the national average rising for the third straight week," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$3.48/g Monday while the most expensive was \$9.99/g, a difference of \$6.51/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 13.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.92/g. The national average stands 67.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Some of the refinery snags that have caused prices to surge in the West and Great Lakes appear to be improving, with prices in those two regions likely to inch down, even with OPEC's decision, as the drop in wholesale prices has offset the rise due to the production cut. But where gas prices didn't jump because of refinery issues, they will rise a total of 10-30 cents due to oil's rise, and some areas are certainly seeing the jump already," DeHaan said.

"For now, I don't expect much improvement in prices for most of the country, with California and the Great Lakes as the exception, with down-drafts likely in the days and weeks ahead."



## Molly is looking for a home

MEET MOLLY, she is approximately 2-years-old and is a lab mix. She is house trained and great on a leash. Adoption fee includes spay, rabies shot, distemper, microchip, heartworm test and fecal exam. Please contact Hopeful Tails Animal Rescue if you are interested today at [hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com](mailto:hopefultailsadoptions@outlook.com)

## Scotty McCreery to perform at the Rialto

Country singer Scotty McCreery has been booked for a Jan. 28 appearance at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet, on Friday, January 27 at 8 P.M. Tickets go on sale Friday, October 14 at 10 AM.

Tickets went on sale for the 8 p.m. performance. Scotty McCreery's current album "Same Truck" contains his No. 1 RIAA gold-certified singles "You Time" and "Damn Strait," and his current single "It Matters to Her."

McCreery co-wrote 10 of the 12 songs on "Same Truck." An expanded edition, Same Truck: The Deluxe Album, will be released on Nov. 18, with six additional new songs.

He achieved new heights by earning three back-to-back No. 1 hits from his last album "Seasons Change," which debuted at No. 1 on the

Billboard Country Album chart: the RIAA Double Platinum-certified "Five More Minutes," the RIAA Platinum-certified "This Is It," which stayed at the top of the charts for two weeks, and RIAA Gold-certified "In Between."

McCreery won the 10th season of "American Idol" in 2011; was named the ACM New Artist of the Year in 2011; won the CMT Music Award for Breakthrough Video of the Year and more.

The North Carolina native released his first book, Go Big or Go Home: The Journey Toward the Dream, in 2016. His song "Five More Minutes" inspired a popular movie of the same name which aired on the Hallmark Movies & Mysteries Network during November-December 2021.

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## The use of air conditioners takes a toll

*Dear EarthTalk: Is it true that as the planet warms, it will be the huge demand for and use of air conditioning that will push us all over the edge of cataclysmic warming?*  
— Joseph Still, New York, NY

As innocuous as it may seem, the common household air conditioner is actually a significant contributor to climate change!

According to researchers from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center (PARC), almost four percent of global greenhouse gas emissions are the result of air conditioning use alone.

Even more worrisome, that number is expected to grow. AC usage, especially in countries like India, China and Indonesia, has been increasing steadily as average yearly income increases.

In an analysis by the International Energy Agency, it was found that AC use would likely triple by 2050.

AC usage is of course problematic, but it is also unavoidable, so what can we do? For starters, there are definitely improvements that could be made with regard to the engineering of AC units. Interestingly enough, the technology is quite archaic—in fact, it is nearly the same as it was 100 years ago.

Many air conditioners use a vapor compression cycle to cool the air inside your home. It is a system that requires refrigerants—chemical compounds like chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons—to accomplish the cooling effect. However, most of these refrigerants actually destroy the ozone layer.

Thankfully, more modern air conditioners avoid the use chlorofluorocarbons and hydrochlorofluorocarbons, opting for less destructive refrigerant alternatives. There are dozens available that do not harm the ozone layer; however, they are still considered greenhouse gasses.

Despite these improvements, modern air



conditioners will still need a lot of re-engineering if we hope to ever make them carbon neutral. They are very inefficient, not just use, but in their production and transportation, too.

According to the NREL and Xerox PARC study, of the 1,950 million tons of carbon dioxide (CO2) released into the atmosphere as a result of AC use every year, only 531 million tons are associated with actually cooling the air; 599 million tons of CO2 are associated with the dehumidification process, and 820 million tons are due solely to leakage during production and transportation.

Fortunately, there are a few worthwhile prototypes being tested today that may finally change the AC game for good.

The startup Transaera has been testing what they call metal organic fibers (MOFs), a type of manufactured, highly porous material, that is capable of passively pulling moisture from the air.

Since almost half the energy usage of a traditional AC unit is spent on dehumidification, passive dehumidification would translate into huge energy savings, and therefore, huge carbon savings as well.

Another startup known as Blue Frontier has been working on an AC unit that uses liquid desiccants (drying agents) to passively dehumidify the air that passes through it. In addition, the machine only uses refrigerants to regulate a heat pump that maintains the salt concentration of the desiccants.

This vital change in design separates contact between the air passing through the machine and the refrigerant itself, thereby preventing refrigerant leakage. The end result is an AC unit that contributes 85-87 percent less carbon emissions than traditional AC units!

*EarthTalk® is a 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit [earthtalk.org](https://earthtalk.org). Send questions to: [question@earthtalk.org](mailto:question@earthtalk.org).*

## Barges getting stuck

The unusually low water level in the Mississippi River is causing barges to get stuck in mud and sand, disrupting river travel for watercraft.

A lack of rainfall this past summer has left the river approaching record low levels in some areas from Illinois south to Louisiana. The U.S. Coast Guard reports at least eight groundings of barges in the past week alone.

Officials said it is bad timing during harvest when corn and soybeans need to be transported south.

## Spaghetti dinner planned for Saturday

The St. Rose Knights of Columbus will hold its annual spaghetti dinner on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the St. Rose School gym, 620 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Spaghetti with meat

sauce, garlic bread, desserts, coffee and lemonade will be served. Carry-outs will be available.

Cost is a free-will offering to help the Knights with community service projects.

## Elwood Church to host fundraiser dinner

Elwood Community Church will be hosting a Fundraiser Dinner on Saturday, Oct. 15, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. It will be held at 101 N. Chicago Street, in Elwood.

Pot roast and veggies, coleslaw, beets, and assorted

desserts will be served. Tickets at the door are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children (under 12) Carry out available. There will be a silent auction during the dinner so be sure to place a bid.



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# Website to keep public informed on I-80

The Illinois Department of Transportation has launched a new website, I80will.org, to provide the public with the latest information on the \$1.2 billion reconstruction of Interstate 80 through Will County.

“Our commitment to fixing the I-80 corridor involves one of the most complex stretches of interstate in the entire country,” said Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman. The new website, I80will.org, will provide the public the latest information on how the project is progressing and what they can do to detour around it.

The website includes updates on construction impacts on the public, reports, newsletters and answers to frequently asked questions, construction schedule information and timeline for each

portion of the project, photo and video galleries to view construction progress and more.

As one of the country’s three coast-to-coast interstates, I-80 through Joliet and Will County carries approximately 80,000 vehicles a day, about 25% of which are trucks.

Advance work on I-80 started last year with a \$41.7 million project to replace the eastbound bridges over Hickory Creek, Richards Street and Rowell Avenue/Canadian National Railroad, and westbound over Richards Street, in Joliet, Rockdale and New Lenox, while widening eastbound I-80 from Gardner Street to Rowell Avenue.

Once the eastbound improvements are completed later this year, similar improvements will begin in the westbound direction.

# Calling out Gov. Pritzker on SAFE-T Act

“If we didn’t pass something, we wouldn’t have gotten anything from law enforcement. We wouldn’t have gotten a serious conversation,” claimed Rep. La Shawn Ford (D-Chicago) recently about why the SAFE-T Act was originally written and passed the way it was.

Rep. Ford was speaking about the cash bail provisions within the SAFE-T Act during a public event in suburban Forest Park, according to the Forest Park Review.

Lots of folks on the other side of the negotiations were taking a hard “No” position, so a decision was essentially made to jam the bill through in order to eventually force the other side to the bargaining table.

The cash bail provision is the most discussed aspect of the law. But the original legislation also prevented police

officers from using their body cam footage to write reports. The provision wasn’t designed to be permanent, but was specifically inserted to make the other side adopt a good faith position at the bargaining table. It worked and the provision was removed in a subsequent trailer bill.

The difference between these two topics, of course, is that the end of cash bail has caused big public relations headaches for the Democratic Party in the lead-up to the general election, as state’s attorneys, sheriffs, police chiefs and others have denounced the law in a way that has put the majority party on the defensive. But, the Democrats have such large supermajorities with a new and more favorable legislative district map that they apparently believed they could assume the risk.

Rep. La Ford and others have said privately and publicly that some components of the law will have to be changed. But they are sticking with the overall concepts. And with less than three months before the elimination of cash bail and other provisions of the law take effect, maybe the gambit will work. But it hasn’t come without political trouble for people like Gov. JB Pritzker.

I saw Gov. Pritzker at an

event not long after he refused to answer a question from my associate Isabel Miller about what specific changes he would like to make to the SAFE-T Act. I warned him that, since he agreed the law needed to be changed, Isabel’s question wasn’t going away.

Well, the governor dodged the same question again and again during and after last week’s televised gubernatorial debate, saying only that he wants unspecified “clarifications” to the law.

The governor likely didn’t want to insult the Black Caucus or have any sort of negative impact on the trailer bill discussions by publicly negotiating against his own side. He probably also didn’t want to cave into pressure from disingenuous actors and instead wanted to tough it out through the election and then deal with the issue in the post-election veto session.

Even so, campaigns ought to be about the exchange of ideas and the governor’s refusal to engage deserves to be called out.

Besides, this shouldn’t be that difficult. For example, some are making wild claims about the law’s trespassing language. Hinsdale’s Village President Tom Cauley recently said, according to the Hinsdale Patch, “I guarantee you that

we’re going to find ourselves with people just camped out in parks, and we cannot ask them to leave. They may be in your backyard or in your shed living there.”

Nonsense.

The Illinois Supreme Court’s Implementation Task Force has officially advised law enforcement that they “do have discretion to remove the person from the location of the alleged criminal activity, and then cite and release the person from another location.” Repeated refusals to comply could then easily be interpreted as being a threat, which would allow an arrest.

It just seems to me that tightening up the law’s language to fully reflect the task force’s guidance and resulting inference about arrests would be a no-brainer response to the question about changes he wants to make.

The list of forcible felonies which trigger provisions to hold people without bail could and should also be expanded, which even some proponents are saying behind the scenes.

And so, not long after I challenged Pritzker in my subscriber newsletter to step up, he did finally tell reporters on Friday that he thought former prosecutor state Sen. Scott Bennett’s (D-Champaign) proposed changes were worth a look, but stopped short of endorsing any specifics in the Downstate Democrat’s bill.

Baby steps, I guess.



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### Introducing Special Assistant Layla

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# COALER SPORTS

## Coalers keep the train rolling with fourth straight win

BY JIM SHELTON  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

There was a definite shift in the Coal City (5-2) football team's season and really it started in the second half, week 2 against Bishop McNamara. From that time frame, they have outscored their opposition 204-45.

They rolled into Peotone Friday and came away with a 28-14 win, their fourth straight.

"We were a little dinged up coming out of the Manteno game so we had some guys in different spots, but we made some adjustments after that first drive," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"I thought our offense did a great job all night moving the ball and helping us out defensively."

Peotone got on the board first with a 11 yard touchdown run by Chase Rivera.

The Coalers responded immediately though as quarterback Braden Reilly found Derek Carlson for a 21 yard touchdown reception to knot it up 7-7.

"I was really happy with Reilly Friday night. He did a great job of running the offense and finding Carlson for that touchdown as a response to Peotone's initial touchdown."

"It was a great route by Carlson and a great ball by Reilly to tie it up."

But the senior QB was just getting started. Late in the first half, he escaped a Peotone rush and found Wyatt Wickiser (2 receptions, 36 yards) for a 31 yard touchdown catch. Reilly



THE COALER FOOTBALL team earned its fourth straight win last week with a 28-14 victory over Peotone. The Coalers will host Reed-Custer on Friday.

finished 7-for-13 passing for 101 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. He also added seven carries for 38 yards and a touchdown.

"Reilly was able to escape and threw a great ball to Wickiser who made a great play, attacking the ball in the endzone. It gave us the lead which we fortunately didn't give up."

The Coalers got the ball to start the second half and cashed in a three-minute and twenty second drive with a Landin Benson 18 yard touchdown run. Benson also had runs of 26 and 35 yards as part of his game-high 95 yards on 13 carries.

"Peotone is a very good team, very physical and very efficient so being able to play

from ahead was huge for us," said Loughran. "Forcing them to play from behind really changed the way the game played out."

The Blue Devils were able to make it a one-score game with eight minutes left on a one-yard run by quarterback James Kuypers, but Coal City responded right away helped by an 84-yard kickoff return by

Benson setting up a one-yard keeper from Reilly, to make the final 28-14 in favor of the visitors.

The Coalers amassed 282 yards of total offense compared to 271 for Peotone, but the difference was two interceptions by Kuypers and the fact Peotone turned it over on downs on a five-minute plus drive after the Coalers scored

to make it 21-7.

Braden Young led the receiving corps with two catches for 37 yards and Cason Headley added a 10 yard reception.

Carlson added a 12 yard run, a 47 yard interception return and six solo tackles.

Chase Cora had three carries for 11 yards, Drake Dearth recorded nine yards on four rushes and Austin Davy ran twice for five yards.

Defensively, Crede Skubic led the charge with seven solo tackles. Davy recorded five solo stops and added an interception. Nolan Ness also had five tackles.

Headley, and Jim Feenev were all in on four stops while Young and Tanner Phillips both made three tackles.

T.J. Babcock, Kaelan Natyshok and Michael Gonzalez tallied two stops.

Also recording tackles were Joseph Watson, Silvestre Mayorga, Layne Cuddy and Benson.

With the win, the Coalers locked up their 11th consecutive playoff appearance and their 32nd in the last 35 years.

"We've got the playoff board in the endzone and you want to be on there each and every year," said Loughran.

"It's really a credit to our guys who have gotten better each and every week. They put the time and effort in and they're in the playoff picture because of the work they put in."

The Coalers will welcome unbeaten Reed-Custer to town Friday on Senior Night.

Photo by Ann Gill

## Comets present toughest test yet for Coalers

BY JIM SHELTON  
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

The Coalers will face a difficult task in trying to slow down 7-0 Reed-Custer when they head to Coal City for Senior Night Friday.

The Comets are averaging an astonishing 59.7 points per game and are coming off a 73-14 win over Streator, a game in which they recorded 528 yards of total offense with 304 coming on the ground.

"We've definitely got a challenge this week. Reed-Custer is a very good team. I'm excited for our guys because they will work and rise up to the challenge," said Coaler coach Francis Loughran.

"I know they've running clocked everybody this year, but it's a rivalry game for us and we're hopefully going to keep improving like we've been doing each and every week."

The Coalers are a perfect 3-0 at home and have outscored their opponents 141-20. It's also Senior Night so expect a very fired up CC squad.

"It's October. This is the time of year you play for. It's Senior Night. You have an unbeaten opponent coming

to town," said Loughran. "I want to honor these seniors. A lot of these guys are four-year guys."

The Coalers have 21 seniors on the roster and one of those seniors quarterback Braden Reilly has really impressed his coach the last few weeks.

"Reilly has been a bigger part of our offensive attack and I don't expect anything to change next week."

"I know we're known for running the ball, but the more balanced we can be, the more dangerous we can be."

Still, the Comets have so many weapons and their defense have allowed only four touchdowns to be scored against them so far.

Reed-Custer quarterback Jake McPherson may be their biggest threat, passing for four touchdowns while rushing for 51 yards. But offensive coordinator Nick Klein has been mixing up players and positions to keep teams off guard. You never know who is going to be passing the ball next as they have so many skilled players.

It should be a good battle for both teams.

## F/S Coalers put the game on the line

Own the line and you'll win the game. That's what the Coal City fresh-soph football team did Friday to defeat Peotone, 36-6, to improve their record to 5-2 overall.

"Offensively we were once again led by our eight-man rotation of offensive linemen who stepped up and dominated the line of scrimmage," commented coach Marty Egan. "Our defense battled all game and embraced the bend but don't break mentality as we gave up only 6 points."

The Coalers were in on seven tackles for a loss of yards, frustrating the Blue Devil offense all night.

"Jake Cerutti and Logan Vance anchored the defense all night and were

involved on almost every tackle," noted Egan.

Cerutti finished with 13 tackles including eight solo and two for a loss. Vance had eight solo tackles to finish with 10 total stops.

Also recording tackles were Ayden Housman (9), Rey Gonzalez (6), Will Endrst (5), Adam Collins (5) plus a fumble recovery, Trace Wilson (3), Hayden Porterfield (3), and a fumble recovery and two tackles for Lucas Pfizenmaier.

The Coal City offense was paced by quarterback Zander Meents who was instrumental in scoring four touchdowns, two from rushing and two passing. Meents gained 100 yards in 14 attempts

while passing 8-for-10 for 99 yards.

Gonzalez and Porterfield each made a touchdown catch while Gonzalez also ran one in for a score. He finished with 66 yards in two carries while grabbing four passes for 79 yards. Mason Garner had 32 yards in two attempts. Will Endrst ran the ball five times for 44 yards while Brock Finch recorded three carries for 20 yards. Dylan Young had one three-yard gain.

CC place-kicker Jake Peters had another solid night, finishing 4-for-4 in extra-point attempts.

The Coalers will host Reed-Custer on Friday. The F/S Comets are coming off a 34-22 win over Streator.

## Lady Warriors scratched by 'Cats

The 8th grade Lady Warrior basketball team suffered its third loss of the young season on Thursday, at the hands of the high-powered Wilmington Wildcats.

The Wildcats shot the lights out as they defeated the Warriors 37-20.

Kyla Stark led the Warriors in scoring with 8 points, while Mia McKim and Aubrey Jensen rounded out the scoring with 6 points each.

"We knew (Nina) Egizio was a pretty good shooter going into tonight's game and that we'd have to deal with that, but she shot the ball uncharacteristically well tonight. She scored all 11 of their first quarter points, and ended up with 23 points on the night, including four 3-pointers," said coach Andy Levy.

"It makes it a lot easier to win games in middle school when you have someone who can score like that; she basically beat us all by herself. But we weren't helping our own cause either. We did plenty to make it hard on ourselves, including a few easy missed layups, 2 missed free-throws, poor rebounding, and a couple defensive break-downs. But what really killed us was the 23 turnovers; and most of them were unforced. Mental mistakes.

"So there's 46 potential points that we didn't even get a chance at. I do think we did a decent job of forcing them to shoot outside shots, but

tonight they were just red-hot and knocking everything down. And the shots they did miss, they'd get the rebounds and put them right back in; we were outsize with them underneath the hoop.

"But hats off to Wilmington; they have a nice, athletic squad, and the better team definitely won tonight. I just hope we get another shot at them in the IVC tourney, and can give them a better game...a chance to show them that we can play better than we did tonight. I also wouldn't anticipate them shooting as well as they did tonight. So hopefully we'll get that chance," said Leve.

The Warriors are 3-3.

Beat the Braves

Coal City snapped a 2-game skid with a convincing 24-10 win over the Morris

Braves on Tuesday.

Rileigh Eddy ruled the Warriors' stat sheet with 12 points and 4 steals. Mia McKim also had a big night for the Warriors, posting 6 points, 7 rebounds, and 3 steals. Kyla Stark, Lanie Winke, and Aubrey Jensen also contributed to the win with 2 points each. Maggie Sterba had 3 steals for the Warriors.

"We needed to bounce back with a win like we did tonight after that devastating loss to B.U.G.C. last Wednesday," coach Andy Leve said.

"This game tonight was kind of a confidence boost for us; we needed to show ourselves that we are better than how we played last week. Defensively, we played very well. Morris was playing the perimeter and passing and

cutting to the hoop, and we did a great job jumping to the pass and staying between our girl and the ball on their cuts to the basket."

"We were also great at helping on dribble drives, and we always had someone at the help-line if we got beat on the perimeter; I'm very pleased with our defensive effort tonight."

Rileigh Eddy had a great game for us tonight. Not only did she put up 12 points, but she really stood out on defense. She played their cuts to the hoop perfectly all night. Most importantly though, the game was a complete team effort; everyone got plenty of playing time tonight and was able to contribute something positive to the victory," said Leve.



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THIS IS OUR HOUSE! The vasily Lady Coalers power up before a home match by forming a circle.

Photo by Amy Walker

# Lady Coalers roll through the ICE

With regionals less than two weeks away, the Coal City varsity volleyball players continue to dominate the Interstate Central Eight Conference with a 10-1 record. The Lady Coaler didn't skip a beat on Thursday, upending Streator in two, 25-16 and 25-20. The win improves their overall record to 20-7.

Addyson Waliczek had 10 setting assists and 10 digs. Kayla Henline had 10 setting assists, 12 digs and 1 kill.

Gwen Wharrie had 6 kills, 1 dig and 1 block. Kenzi Henline had 6 kills and 1 dig. Emma Rodriguez had 4 kills. Bella Veraveic had 3 kills, 3 digs, 1 service ace and 1 block.

Jadyn Shaw had 22 digs. Aubrey Mellen had 11 digs and 2 assists. Addison Gagliardo had 7 digs.

The JV Lady Coalers beat Streator in two, 25-13 and 25-18, to improve to 12-9-1 over-

all, 7-3 in ICE.

The Freshmen Lady Coalers beat Streator 25-14 and 25-18 bringing their overall record to 18-1 and 11-1 in ICE.

**Manteno moment**

The Varsity Lady Coalers ousted Manteno 25-18, 25-20.

Kayla Henline had 13 setting assists, 3 digs, and 1 kill. Addyson Waliczek had 9 setting assists, 4 digs, 3 kills, and 1 service ace.

Bella Veraveic had 7 kills, 3 blocks, 2 digs, 1 service ace. Emma Rodriguez had 5 kills. Kenzi Henline had 4 kills and 1 dig. Gwen Wharrie had 3 kills, 2 digs, and 1 block.

Jadyn Shaw had 17 digs. Addison Gagliardo had 4 digs and 2 service aces. Aubrey Mellen had 3 digs.

The JV Lady Coalers lost to Manteno 25-22, 20-25, and 19-25.

The Freshmen Lady Coalers beat Manteno 25-22 and 25-20.



Photo by Amy Walker

BLOCKING THE BALL after it was tipped by a Streator player are Lady Coalers Bell Veraveic (19) and Kayla Henline (13).



Photo by Amy Walker

HERE IT COMES - Lady Coaler Gwen Wharrie fires the ball over during last week's match at Streator.



Photo by Amy Walker

LEAPING FOR A KILL on the ball while playing at Streator last week is Kenzi Henline.

## Lady Coaler golf team makes history



LADY COALER Kylee Kennell finished in 6th place overall in the IHSA Regional with her score of 98.



THE COALER GIRLS Golf team competed in the IHSA Regional as a team for the first time in school history. The Coalers finished in 4th place with a team score of 479. They were just outside of advancing as a team to Sectionals. Team included (from left) Emma Varnak shot 130, Kylee Kennell shot 98, Darcy Ness shot 120 and Dakota Clubb shot 130.



Photo by Eric Fisher

BLOCKING THE BALL with his knee is Coal City soccer player Gavin Togliatti.

## Coalers give Comets the boot on Senior night, fall in regional

Coal City went 1-1 this week starting with a 0-5 loss at Streator on Tuesday. On Wednesday, Coal City defeated Sandwich 6-1. Gavin Togliatti, Mataeo Wilson, Caleb Figueroa, Luke Hawkins, Jackson Wilcock, and Luke Munsterman all scored in the regular season finale.

Nathan Elberts had 3 assists along with Mataeo Wilson Timi Shabani each adding an assist. Coal City finished the regular season 4-13-1 and will play their first round regional game at Bishop Mac Friday afternoon.

**Senior night lights**

Coal City played their senior night under the lights Thursday night and defeated Reed Custer 4-3 in a hard fought game. The game went back and forth til Coal City finally captured the winning goal with 6 mins left.

All four goals were made by 4 seniors: Mataeo Blessing, Luke Hawkins, Nathan Elberts, and Gavin Chernesky. Luke Hawkins had 3 assists and Caleb Chernesky had the other assist.

Coal City ended its season 3-13-1 after losing to Bishop McNamara 6-1 on Friday during the first round of the regional.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY TENNIS players (from left) Emma Kurtz, Kylie Jackson, Abby Stiles, Ana Flores, Ava Solis and Rachel Hall went undefeated and finished in first place during the Mendota Invite on Saturday.

## Lady Coalers captured Mendota Invite, looking to place high in Friday sectional

Over the weekend Coal City took first place at the Mendota Invitational.

Going undefeated and taking first place in their respective categories were Abby Stiles at #1 singles, Ava Solis/Ana Flores at #1 doubles, and Rachel Hall/Kylie Jackson at #2 doubles.

Emma Kurtz took 4th place at #2 singles for a total of 10 team victories for the day.

Abby Stiles looked tough, losing only 6 games total, as she looks ahead to sectional play this upcoming Friday. This brings her overall record to 20-3 as she looks to take one of the top 4 spots in the sectional tournament.

Ava and Ana played the net well and also hope to grab one of the top six spots at sectionals. Rachel Hall and Kylie Jackson returned to play together after an injury kept Hall out for a couple weeks. After a rocky start in their second match, they managed to grab 1st place and show why they played #1 doubles all season up until an injury kept them apart.

The team finishes regular season at 11-5 and hopes to place higher than 4th at the sectional tournament Friday.

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