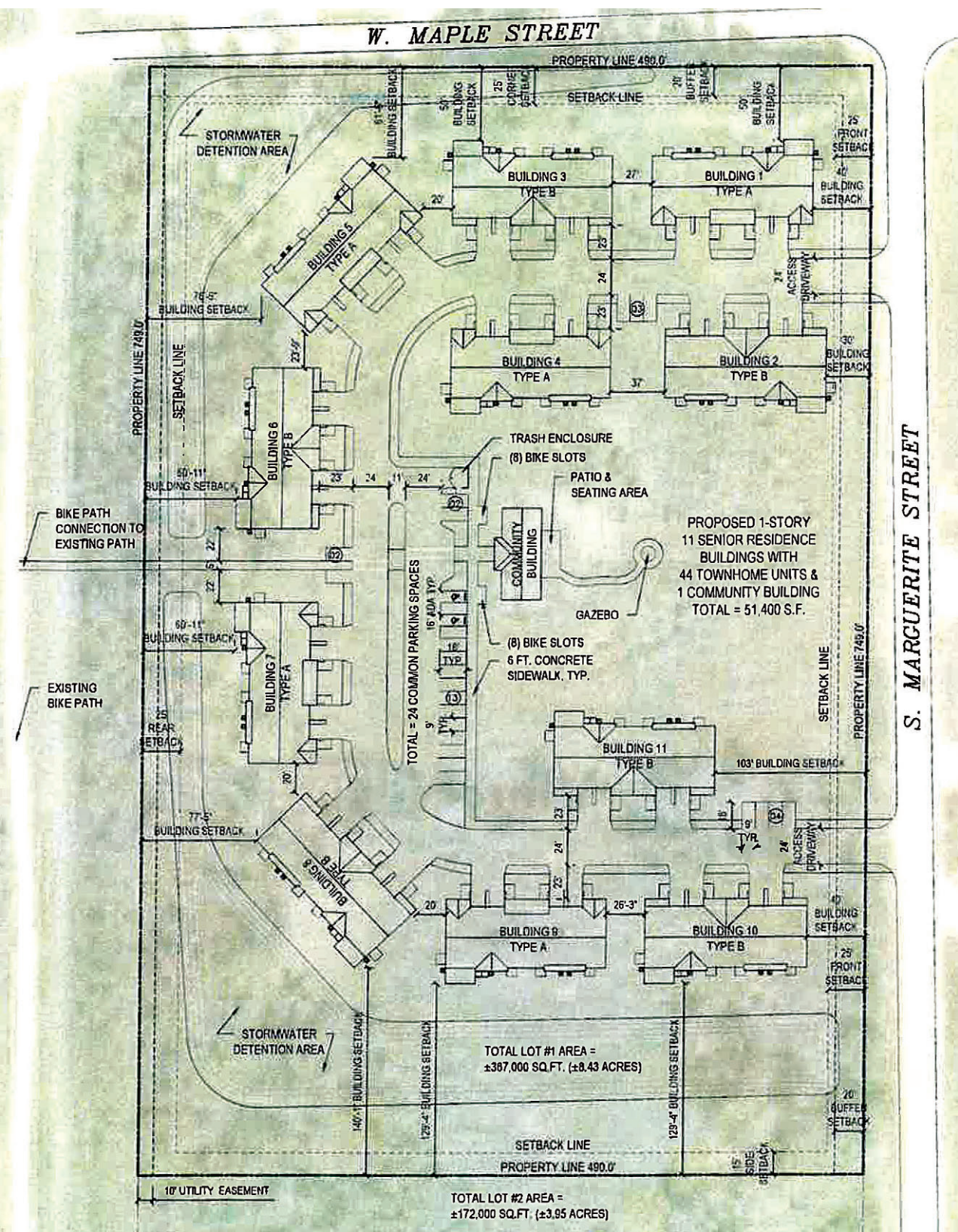




COAL CITY COURANT.com

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2024

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315



THE LAYOUT of the Hunters Run senior housing project now includes green space along the south end of the 11.5 acres that will be developed at West Maple and South Marguerite streets. Project will come back before village trustees for final approval.

Be prepared to give during Nov. 3 food drive

As a member of the Boy Scouts of America, Scouts pledge to follow Scout law that requires them to be, among other qualities—helpful, courteous, kind and loyal.

Through its annual holiday food drive, Cub Scout Pack 466 seeks to display those characteristics and keep their promise to help others.

Every December, Pack 466 organizes the food drive to benefit the Coal City Food Pantry's holiday assistance program for families and individuals in need. No one seems to recall how long the food drive has been going on, but it has become as much a part of the holiday season as Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman.

As in the past, the Scouts are calling on area residents to support the effort by picking up a few extra items when they venture out to the grocery store this week.

On Sunday, Nov. 3 donations should be placed in the sacks and left on doorsteps for the Scouts and their helpers to pick up, beginning at noon.

Donations received will be used by the food pantry for its holiday distribution.

Shopping list

Here are just a few items in need: Bottled juice, can chili, can vegetables, jelly, noodles, pasta/spaghetti, Spaghettios, boxed potatoes, can beef stew, cereal, Mac & Cheese, pancake mix, peanut butter, stuffing, can chicken/Tuna, can fruit, oatmeal, pancake syrup, spaghetti sauce, soup, toilet paper, tooth paste, shampoo, cleaning products, dish soap, tooth brushes, tissue, soap, detergent, hygiene products, paper towels.

All items must be in sealed, original containers and display current dates.

HAUNTED HALLWAYS

Indoor trick or treating

Wednesday, October 30

4:30-7:00pm

Adult: \$4

Child: \$2

2 & Under - FREE

LOCATED AT CCHS



Village trustees like plans for senior housing project

BY MIKE LOOMIS
CORRESPONDENT

Plans to build a senior living subdivision in Coal City are moving along after city officials expressed their support for the project during an Oct. 25 meeting.

Appearing before the Village Board of Trustees, representatives from North Arrow Partners presented their designs for Hunter's Run, a 44-unit townhouse development for people age 55 and older.

"The site lends itself well to a senior community," North Arrow's John Cronin explained. Cronin appeared before the village board along with North Arrow project manager Jonathan Chance.

The \$12 million development is slated for 11.5 acres at the southwest corner of West Maple Street and South Marguerite Street. The project consists of 33, one-bedroom units and 11, two-bedroom units.

It will also feature office spaces, a community room, and a bike path.

Mayor David Spesia said Hunter's Run will offer an affordable local housing option for seniors in Coal

City who are looking to downsize.

"We need something like this in town," Trustee Dan Greggain added.

In exchange for a reduction in permit costs, part of the site will be allocated for green space use. "We would develop the north seven acres and dedicate the south end (of the site) to the city," Cronin said.

Village Administrator Matthew Fritz said Marguerite Street will be used to provide access to Hunter's Run, helping to minimize traffic on Maple Street.

Onsite management will be provided by the Grundy County Housing Authority.

Hunter's Run has already received a recommendation from the Coal City Plan Commission. The

SEE VILLAGE BOARD PAGE 2



THE COAL CITY Public Library District (CCPLD) celebrated a pop up storytime event for Fire Prevention week at the Coal City Fire Protection District Station 1 on Friday, October 4. Firefighters and Ms. Rene read books about fire safety and sent home fun crafts and other surprises with those who attended. Thank you Coal City Fire Protection District for hosting and for all you do to keep the community safe.



SALE VALID 10/31-11/6/24

WILMINGTON 815-476-6272
COAL CITY 815-634-4224
BRAIDWOOD 815-458-2114

CHECK OUT OUR
WEEKLY AD AT
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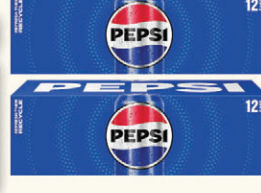
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Price without coupon: \$3.99



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Soda- 12 pk cans

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Berkot's
Rotisserie
Chicken



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Price without coupon: \$7.99 ea

Berkot's
French Bread



79¢
EACH
LIMIT 3*

Berkot's
8 Pc. Chicken- Fried, Baked, or Spicy



\$5
EACH
LIMIT 3*

Village Board,

continued from page 1

issue will likely appear before the board again for final review at their next meeting on Nov. 13.

Based in Villa Park, North Arrow Partners has also developed residential projects in the Illinois communities of Henry and Newton. Financing for Hunter's Run is partially assisted by the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credit program. Cronin said ground-breaking on the project is scheduled for spring 2025.

In other action, the board also:

- Granted conditional use for a new diesel engine repair shop to open at 155 East Division Street. The site was previously occupied by Ultimate Rides who vacated the building for a new one in Braidwood.

Fritz noted that Alex Taylor is opening up the business specializing on repairs for diesel motors and engines. The shop would occupy the back portion of the building.

- Updated an agreement to convert the tennis courts at North Park into pickle ball courts. The trustees approved plans to add another eight to ten feet to the north end of the courts to accommodate for six, official-size pickle ball courts, which would enable the facility to host tournaments. The extra space will allow the flexibility to go back to using the courts for tennis if needed, Fritz said.

- Authorized plans to accept bids for the design of a backup generator for a well on DeWitte Place.

- Approved a payment of \$24,734.28 to Waste Management for disposal of sludge material from the sewer treatment plant. The material is considered specialized waste due to radium content. The sludge has to be removed from the waste lagoons and hauled to the WM landfill in Wilmington every other year.



Photo by Eric Fisher

25 YEARS in the making! Diamond Mayor Terry Kernc (center, wearing pink jacket) address a crowd of employees and dignitaries who attended a ribbon cutting of the new Jewel Osco store in Diamond on Tuesday, Oct. 22. "Someone pinch me," Kernc joked, "because I can't believe this day has finally arrived. It was 25 years ago when we first started this project." With that, JoJo, the Jewel mascot, hustled up to the mayor ready to pinch her which made for a good laugh. Store Director RJ Navarrete thanked the Diamond/Coal City community for being so kind. "Everywhere we've been over the past 30 days buying gas, ordering from restaurants, getting prepared with things we've needed, we've been treated like we are celebrities. That has meant a lot to me and my employees."



Photo by Eric Fisher

A \$3,000 CHECK was presented to Coal City High School by Jewel Osco during the grand opening of their new store in Diamond. Unit 1 Superintendent of Schools Chris Spencer accepts the check from store director RJ Navarrete (right) who also thanked the Coal City Marching Band who played in the parking lot to help kick off the opening on Oct. 22.



Photo by Eric Fisher

RJ NAVARRETE, (left) store director of the Jewel Osco in Diamond, presents a \$1,000 check to Max Valdez of Operation Firm Handshake during the grand opening ceremony of the new store. Valdez expressed his thanks for the donation towards the annual free picnic for veterans held each September at the Coal City Area Club. He noted that it's a year-round effort to raise enough funds to feed over 1,500 veterans.

PUBLIC NOTICE EARLY VOTING SITES

GENERAL ELECTION – NOVEMBER 5, 2024

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Available only during dates/times listed below:

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

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

KAY T. OLSON

GRUNDY COUNTY CLERK & RECORDER

Minit Mart LLC files for liquor license

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 18th day of November, 2024 at 7 o'clock p.m. at Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: A conditional use for an accessory use at a gas station in order to operate a Class B Liquor License under Chapter 112 of the village code according to Chapter 156, Table 9: Group AA(2)

At the following address: 725 E. Division St, Coal City.

Request for the above was filed by: Minit Mart LLC, who is being represented by the prospective purchaser and operator Broadway Coal LLC Brake Time.

Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.

Persons may appear in person or by agent.

Dated this 30th day of October, 2024.

Published in the Coal City Courant on October 30, 2024.

Attorney Wharrie files Bryant estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE

IN RE: THE ESTATE OF BARBARA J. BRYANT, Deceased

Case No. 2024PR59

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION WILL AND CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of BARBARA J. BRYANT, Letters of office were issued on October 9, 2024, to DARLA M. BRYANT 43431 Nola St., Hemet, CA 92544, as Independent Administrator whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie, Wharrie Kielian, P.C. 105 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

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

Dated: Oct. 10, 2024.

DARLA M. BRYANT, Independent Administrator

Larry G. Wharrie
Wharrie Kielian, P.C.
105 S. Broadway,
Coal City, IL 60416
Phone: 815-634-8990
ARDC #2996146
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 16, 23 and 30, 2024.

Flu vaccines available at Health Dept.

The Grundy County Health Department is offering influenza vaccinations by appointment on Tuesday and Thursday 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Residency is not required.

This year the Health Department has Fluzone High Dose trivalent flu vaccine for persons 65 years of age and older. Call the Grundy County Health Dept. at 815-941-3404.

Minit Mart LLC files for liquor license

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Public Hearing will be held by the Coal City Zoning Board of Appeals on the Zoning Ordinance on the 18th day of November, 2024 at 7 o'clock p.m. at Coal City Village Hall, 515 S. Broadway, Coal City, Illinois on the following matter:

To consider: A conditional use for an accessory use at a gas station in order to operate a Class B Liquor License under Chapter 112 of the village code according to Chapter 156, Table 7: Group K(1)

At the following address: 20 E. Division St, Coal City.

Request for the above was filed by: Minit Mart LLC, who is being represented by the prospective purchaser and operator Broadway Coal LLC Brake Time.

Said Board of Appeals will be at said time and place to hear all persons in support of such matter or any objection thereof.

Persons may appear in person or by agent.

Dated this 30th day of October, 2024.

Published in the Coal City Courant on October 30, 2024.



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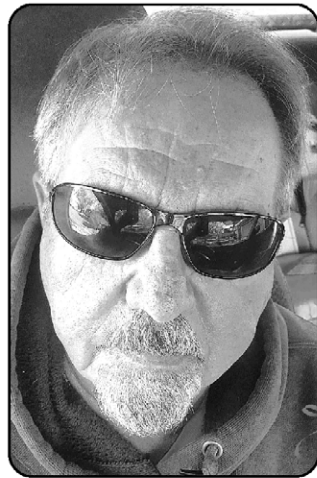
Harold Vota



Grundy County Board

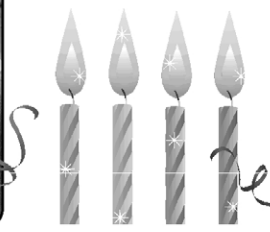
Paid for by Harold Vota

Happy 80th BIRTHDAY.



GARY

November 1st



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

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(815) 476-7966

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(815) 634-0315

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate,

Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

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News and Classified Advertising:

Monday, noon

E-mail: News & News Photos:

news@fpnusa.com

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

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Eric D. Fisher, publisher

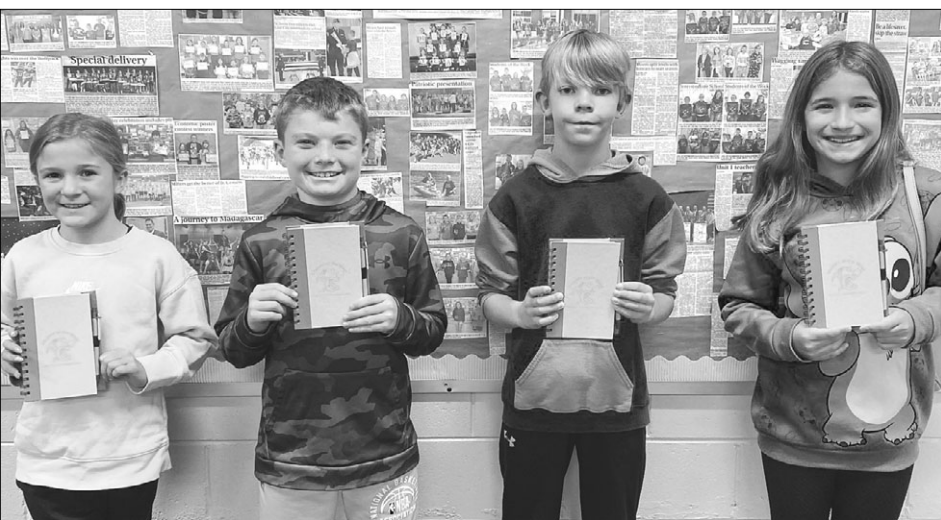
Students of the week



Courtesy photo
COAL CITY MIDDLE School has named its Students of the Week for the Week of Oct. 15. The honored students are: Mackenna Cuddy, nominated by Mrs. Sweeney; Charly Gray, nominated by Senora Aldridge, and Tucker Nowicki, nominated by Mrs. Sobieck.



COAL CITY MIDDLE School has named its Students of the Week for the Week of Oct. 21. The honored students are [from left]: Benjamin Stalter, nominated by Mrs. Piatak; Jelenie Opyd, nominated by Mr. Nicholson; Caroline Grunwald, nominated by Mrs. Dzihan and Ryleigh Kargle, nominated by Mrs. Mark.



Courtesy photo
COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 14 are [from left]: Haley Beckers, Cole Watson, Elliott Erhard and Haven Coldwater.



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 21 are [from left] in row one: Sawyer Chodl, Leighton Begler, Elizabeth Ledesma, Quinn Koehn and Rylee Vasilopulos. Kaylee Ahline is in row two with Brayden Nielsen, Cora Strunga, Ayla Konecny, Elleigh Bute and Allison Darin. Not pictured is Avitt Winn and Steven Cardosi.



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 21 are [from left]: Jorge Crisostomo, Barilla Rodriguez and Blake Longest.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Student of the Week for the week of Oct. 21 is Nico Artega.



Courtesy photo
COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School named students of the week for Oct. 21, students include (from left) Logan Frese, Brynn Mannering and Gwen Little, (not pictured Nico Artega).

CCMS 6th graders defeat Wilmington

The 6th Grade Coalers were victorious last week with a big 30-11 win over Wilmington.

Eight girls reached the balanced scoring column. Leading scorer was Katie Funes with 8 points. Raelyn Aldridge, Sienna Ruffatto each scored 6 points while KayKay Smith, Hannah Sinkular, Sienna Ruffatto and Raegan Enerson all with 2 points.

In the B Game, the Coalers won 25-2. Emily Munsell and Haleigh Casise each had 6 points. Kay Smith added 5 points and Lilly Harney chipped in with 4. Rounding out the scoring were Aubree Dearth and Hannah Sinkular with 2 points each.

The B Team is now 8-1 overall.

IVC wins give 8th grade Lady Coalers top seed

The 8th grade Lady Coaler basketball team staved off a second-half comeback by Reed-Custer last week to win 19-14.

Darcie Ladas led the Coalers with 7 points and 10 rebounds in the low-scoring affair. Liv Ferrari posted 6 points in the Coalers' victory, while Kenslee Baldau and Kendal Shute rounded out the scoring with 3 points each.

"Not pretty, but it doesn't matter; a win is a win, and it seems like that's just how our season is going," said coach Andy Leve.

"It was 7-6 at halftime, and we talked about stepping up our intensity, hustle, and energy in the second half, as well as settling ourselves down a little against their press and taking care of the ball a little better.

"The good news though, is that we met our goal of beating all of the IVC teams, and we will have the #1 seed in the conference tournament."

The Coalers boost their overall record to 9-4 and 4-0 in the IVC.

Upend the 'Cats

The game on Tuesday against Wilmington ended in a 28-20 victory for the

Lady Coalers.

"We looked a little sloppy defensively and gave up a few buckets and put them on the line too many times, and they knocked down 5-of-6 free-throws in the third. They cut the game to 3 points entering the fourth quarter, but we managed to hold them off and close it out."

Darcie Ladas led the Coalers with 13 points and 9 rebounds. Kendall Shute followed with 5 points and 9 boards, while Avery Male and Olivia Ferrari contributed 4 points each to the win. Male was also good for 7 rebounds. Kenslee Baldauf rounded out the scoring with a bucket.

"It's really awesome to see this group grind out games and find ways to win. That's a skill in itself, really," said coach Leve.

Coalers to host Veterans breakfast Nov. 6 at high school

In recognition of the service and sacrifice given by our nation's veterans, Coal City High School invites local veterans to join them for a Veterans Appreciation Breakfast on Friday, Nov. 8.

Principal Art Stafford, the students and staff are looking forward to honoring local veterans at this first ever event for the school.

Breakfast will be served in the high school cafeteria from 7:45 a.m. to 9 a.m. Those attending are asked to park in the west lot and enter the school at the Events Entry.

During breakfast, veterans will have an opportunity to meet and talk with school administration, staff and students. The school's band and choir will perform.

Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP to Principal Stafford by email at astafford@coalcityschools.org or call 815-634-2396 x1703.



Coal City Coalers Team Pride

#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

Karla Tyler

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

Must redeem by Nov. 4, 2024

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"

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

"Support Coal City High School Athletes"

Fall cleanup at Braceville Gardner Cemetery

All grave decorations must be removed by Nov. 10th or they will be discarded. Also, during the year, all wilted, faded and broken grave decorations will be removed. Please use garbage cans located by maintenance building.

Please do not replace decorations until the cleanup is completed. Please read and follow the rules.

Braceville Gardner Cemetery Association Board of Directors



FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

"Proud to be serving the community for the past 39 years!"



39TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

1 X-Large - 2 Topping Pizza
XL Geo's Nuggets, FREE Double Chocolate Caramel M&M's Gourmet Brownie & a FREE 2-Liter of Soda
(Limit 1 coupon per party per visit)

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I want to try it

WILMINGTON—Every Wednesday when I read the Senior Profiles in the newspaper every student says their favorite food on the menu is macaroni and cheese. I wish the high school could do an event like they did a few years ago where people in the community were invited to try the food that the students eat. I remember you had choices and I had the mini corn dogs because the kids used to rave about them. It would be nice if they would do that again and I remember it was a donation they didn't ask for any certain price. They three or four different items that the students had chosen as their favorites. It would be nice if the high school would do that again because I would really like to try the macaroni and cheese.

Vote no

WILMINGTON—The first item on the Nov. 5 ballot is a non-binding advisory question asking Illinoisans whether the state should adopt a 'millionaire' tax for property tax relief. Illinoisans need to know the potential consequences of the referendum if it passes, including allowing lawmakers to bring back a retirement tax. To institute a millionaire's tax, Illinois lawmakers and voters would have to first approve a progressive income tax in the Illinois Constitution, allowing income to be taxed at varying rates. Once this is allowed, Illinois lawmakers could expand it to several kinds of income taxes, including retirement income. The institute found all 32 states with a progressive tax also have retirement taxes. There's no denying having a progressive tax would empower state lawmakers to go after seniors' retirement income because the tax could be easier to impose initially. This would be one of the most detrimental tax hikes Illinois could implement. Illinois constitutional flat income tax is a critical protection for seniors.

Eating plastic

MORRIS—There is now a medical problem for everyone which is plastic to be found in the human body. It seems to be related to sausage that you purchase in your grocery store since the casing of the sausage has been changed to an edible plastic sausage casing. So before you eat the sausage you must remove the plastic casing and when you peel the casing off you will notice it feels like dead skin. If you boil the sausage you may find out that you can't bite through the casing but if you put the sausage on a grill or fry the sausage you would never be able to tell about this casing. Big business has found a way to save money by using an imitation casing for sausage and it does not matter to them about anyone's health since our government has not investigated this or closed any sausage plant so I guess they like eating plastic.

A con artist

SHADOW LAKES—The people that are brainwashed by the biggest con artist in the history of this country claim that they stand by him because food and gas were cheaper when he was president. I don't believe that logic. So you Trump lovers are willing to ignore the fact that he was convicted by a jury of his peers, he is an adulterous that cheated on all three of his wives and he divided this country by spreading lies about the election being stolen from him. You are willing to ignore the fact that he has the personality of a street hustler, name calling and disrespecting anybody that doesn't suck up to him. You are willing to ignore all this because prices were lower when he was president? Trump inherited a thriving economy from president Obama. For the first two years that Trump was president Republicans had the majority in congress they could have passed permanent immigration laws that would have fixed the immigration problem but they didn't. Instead they started a tariff war with the world that made everything expensive. They passed a tax reform that gave wealthy people a 14% income tax cut. If Trump and the Republicans had done something to drain the swamp and all those other false promises they wouldn't have to resort to fear tactics to get votes. If you are a diabetic you are already paying a lot less for medication thanks to Biden and the Democrats. People with cancer paying less for medicine. Do you not see all the work that is being done in infra-

structure? It was well publicized when Trump instructed his maga control congress to kill a bill that was put together by Republicans and Democrats that would have solved a lot of the immigration problems. But Trump wouldn't have it because he needed the problem to blame the Biden administration for it. Biden by executive order passed reform that has made the situation better. Vice President Kamala Harris has an economic plan that will benefit the average American not the billionaires.

Harris unqualified

BRAIDWOOD—This election is very important for our country. Ask these questions. What has V.P. Harris done in office the last four years? Has V.P. Harris really dealt with any leaders from other countries? On day one V.P. Harris is going to do all these things. She has held the second highest office in the land, and what has she really done? V.P. Harris is not qualified to be president of our great country. Please give this a lot of thought before you vote.

Project 2025

WILMINGTON—A Manifesto. If you love America, Project 2025 will scare your pants off. The message in Project 2025 expands presidential powers and attempts to push Americans culturally backwards in time with rules and regulations about how we must live our lives according to the Heritage Foundation. And by whose authority was this written? No authority whatsoever except by the Heritage Foundation and 140 former Trump staffers who took it upon themselves to write a document urging the nation to behave according to family values compared to Trump's despicable immoral behavior with his grifting, vulgarity, womanizing and criminal convictions. For example, the 'no-fault' divorce system which has been in place for more than 50 years and began in 1969 with divorcee Governor Ronald Reagan, would likely be removed thus making it necessary for a spouse to prove their case in court. Endangerment of women by spousal abuse would skyrocket. Regarding education, programs like Headstart would be eliminated but vouchers would be awarded to 'deserving' schools including private schools. Considering that Project 2025 would eliminate the Department of Education who would decide which schools are deserving? And Trump's desire to be dictator would be accommodated by giving the President total power within the executive branch rather than the current system in which the Department of Justice acts independently. Together with the recent immunity ruling by the Supreme Court on July 1, 2024 which gives the President the power to punish political opponents as long as it is an 'official act', Trump would be able to eliminate fellow Americans he considers to be the 'enemy within' and has already publicly announced quite a few names on his list. Irene

Tariffs are terrible

BRAIDWOOD—According to economists, Trump's economic plans including tariffs will raise the deficit by \$7 trillion and raise costs of most things. Trump doesn't even understand that a tariff raises the cost of imported goods to the citizens who buy the goods. The other countries don't pay the tariffs. It just makes their imports more expensive to the country that imposes the tariffs. Considering most goods have at least some parts being imported the result is most goods will cost more. What a terrible idea this is.

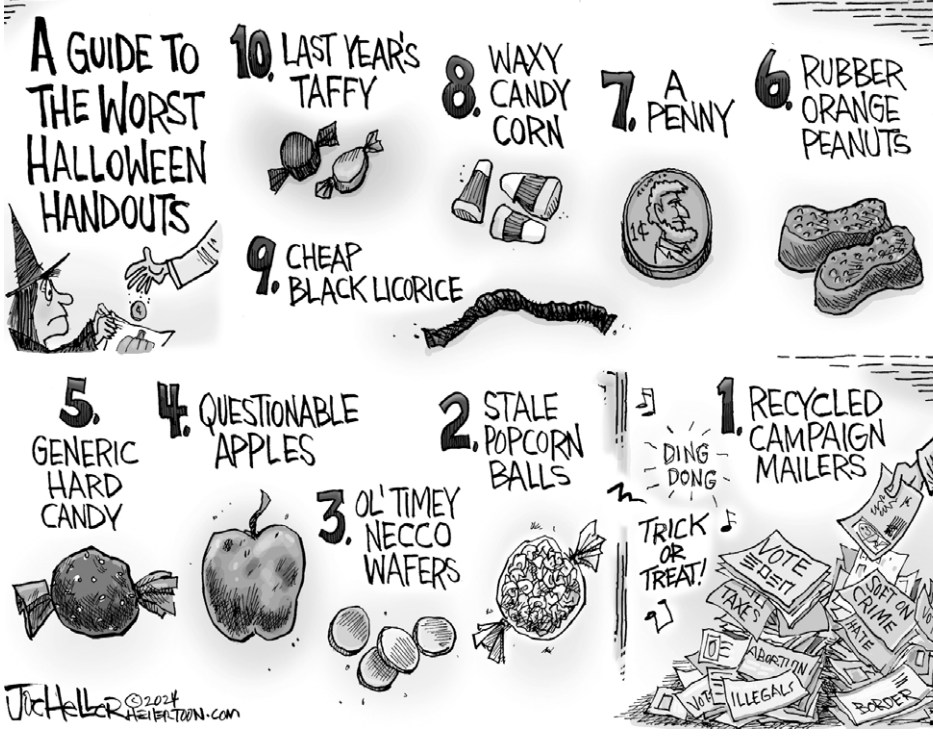
Destroy democracy

BRAIDWOOD—Fascism or Democracy? Trump "promised to prosecute his political opponents". Trump said, he "thought enemies within the United States were more dangerous than foreign adversaries". Trump has been talking a lot about "the enemy from within". Retired chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Mark Milley told journalist Bob Woodward that Trump is "a fascist to the core, the most dangerous person to this country." You can't get more Hitler like than this. If you say the pledge of Allegiance and believe in our Democracy, don't get sucked in to actually voting for someone who clearly wants to destroy our Democracy.

They aren't values

DIAMOND—This is regarding a post

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



called vote for our values in Wilmington. They are holding up President Trump's values like rape, molestation, thievery, lying, stealing and the list goes on and on. If these are the values you want, more power to you but they are not what I consider values.

Fascism

DIAMOND—The interview of General John Kelly nails it. It's proof positive of what we saw and heard throughout Trump's presidency in addition to the cartoon character he is making of himself since. Who can forget Charlottesville, VA in 2017 when Nazi groups marched and Trump said there were good people on both sides despite the death of Heather Heyer? Trump describes "vermin" within our population and he states immigrants are "poisoning the blood" of Americans which are words used in "Mein Kampf." When WWII ended, the world was shocked about the devastation caused by the ideology of fascism and I remember as a kid in the 1950s that calling someone a 'nazi' was the ultimate insult and 'never again' was the common feeling which is why NATO and the United Nations were formed. Trump has publicly denied his statements to General Kelly but considering that Trump is a pathological liar, General Kelly has the last word.

Tough guy

WILMINGTON—It has been said that some Americans approve of Trump because he talks tough. Haven't they noticed that Trump wears more makeup than his female opponent and that Trump's tough talk is perhaps compensation for feelings of his own inadequacy? Real men don't have to talk big but rather should learn to wear humility well. Otherwise they will look foolish as age takes it toll and, of course, ditto for women. Just like Saddam Hussein, Trump would do well to be aware of the grip of power which not only corrupts but corrupts absolutely.

Pray every day

GARDNER—Soon we'll find out whether we'll continue to live in a Democracy or end up in a dictatorship. Personally, I'm scared to death. I pray every day that democracy wins out, but I know all hell will break out when Trump loses. Jan. 6 was just practice and they've been filing lawsuits like crazy to jam up the courts. They just want to cause trouble and make people think there is something wrong. Poll workers now have to be protected and they've been threatened like crazy. Since when is this ok?? Hoping that everyone is prepared for more lies and disinformation. Please vote for Democracy because although you might think the other is so much better, after a while you will learn the hard way what you've lost by listening to the lies. Trump has said that he only needs your vote one more time and then he doesn't need you anymore. Can't make it any more transparent than that.. He goes after anyone who doesn't agree with him, and he has destroyed this country. It will take a long time to recover if it's even possible. It's hard to think that so many people believe that cruelty to our fellow human beings is

ok. Republicans, once the party of law and order, nominated a convicted felon. Republicans, once the pro-military party nominated a draft-dodger who calls our soldiers and veterans suckers and losers. Republicans, once the party of patriotism, nominated a guy who incited a violent insurrection and says out loud that he was on the side of the insurrectionists. Republicans once a party of Christian values, nominated a guy who grabs women, was found liable for rape, paid off a porn start (and is still trying), who mocks the disabled, denigrates immigrants (we're all immigrants by the way), and takes money from his supporters to pay his legal bills. There is no Republican party anymore. Two healthy parties are needed in this country, so I hope they can burn it down and start over again, but who knows. Hundreds of Republicans are voting for Harris and that should tell you something. A lot of them are people who worked for him, so they know what he tried to do last time and no one will be there to stop him this time. Project 2025 is a highway to hell that he keeps saying he knows nothing about. Funny thing, though, all the people working on it works or have worked for him. They keep bragging about how he'll proceed with it. He breathes, he lies. There will be a national abortion ban and more women will die. There will be no contraception or IVF no matter what he says. Women are just vessels for producing kids and they will eventually take away our right to vote. God help us all and God bless America and our troops.

Courage to stand up

BRAIDWOOD—In reading all the Braidwood Soundoffs I just have to laugh. My family and friends get together often and find ourselves talking about what's happening to our once beautiful and quiet town. We're glad that those people find the courage to stand up and speak against the city council and administrator. The one woman knows first hand the administrator. She was his puppet a few years ago and spoke out against Mr. Smith and Mr. Saltzman. No one stopped her as she yelled at them and she went on longer than the limited time. Guess what, "What goes around comes around." FOIA information will help get the real truth out and those requesting them need to keep it up. If the city clerk is so overwhelmed then she should consider looking for another job because that's all part of her position.

Send him packing

COAL CITY—Today anyone who wants a job can find one and unemployment is at a 50-year low. The stock market is near an all time high. The restaurants are full, highways are full, the airports are full, the football stadiums are full and the concerts are full. But Trump tells us the economy is a disaster and America is failing and our beloved country is a garbage can. How can anyone say we were better off under Trump? Do you remember when the schools, churches and gyms, theaters and other businesses were closed and thousands were dying each day because Trump thought he was smarter than the doctors? It's time to send him packing once again.

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Sherri Favero Lestina 815-250-8883

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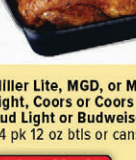
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Illinois taxpayers need to pay attention with public transit nearing ‘fiscal cliff’

One of the most important legislative debates next year will be about reforming, restructuring and finding a way to fund Northeast Illinois' public transportation system.

Statewide taxes could possibly be raised to pay for this, so you should pay attention no matter where you live.

Gov. JB Pritzker has said he's not endorsing current legislation which would force the consolidation of the various transit systems. The Chicago



CAPITOL FACTS

Rich Miller

Metropolitan Agency for Planning has two separate proposals about how to accomplish a reorganization ahead of an impending “transit fiscal cliff” of \$730 million in FY26 that will rise to \$1.2 billion over the following five years.

The public appears open to at least the concept of consolidation, according to a new poll conducted by Global Strategy Group for the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, which supports transit agency consolida-

tion. The polling and consulting firm works for Gov. Pritzker's campaign, among several others in Illinois.

According to the poll of 600 likely voters conducted September 16-19, respondents backed the general idea 46-21. That's more than two-to-one, but a third (33 percent) didn't know enough to say.

Transit riders supported consolidation 55-20, non-riders supported it 34-23, Chicagoans supported consolidation 54-27, collar county voters backed it 53-19, suburban Cook County folks approved it 49-21 and labor union households supported consolidation 42-18.

But this isn't really surprising. People naturally favor broad concepts like consolidating government agencies, even if they know nothing about the specifics. And that sentiment intensifies if they're told consolidation will save big bucks.

Seventy-two percent told the pollster that potential consolidation savings of \$200-250 million a year was a convincing argument. The savings range is claimed by the Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition, but the Regional Transportation Authority says they have no idea

where those savings numbers are coming from.

Half of Chicagoans, by the way, gave the Chicago Transit Authority a favorable rating, while 48 percent had an unfavorable view of the system. That's somewhat surprising, given all the negative press about the CTA over the past few years.

Also last week, leaders of the Chicago-area public transit agencies gathered together on WTTW's Chicago Tonight program and for the umpteenth time publicly rejected any managerial reforms while demanding a \$1.5 billion increase in taxpayer funding.

That didn't go over well with Sen. Ram Villivalam (D-Chicago), who chairs the Senate Transportation Committee, is sponsoring the consolidation bill and has held numerous hearings on the topic.

“I have said from the beginning that we need to provide adequate funding for public transit,” Sen. Villivalam told me. “It is good for our local economy, public health, quality of life, mitigating climate impact and much more.”

However, the Villivalam continued, “With that said, I have heard from

colleague after colleague. The appetite to vote on this unprecedented amount of funding without reform is just not there. Period.”

More from Villivalam: “We need specificity on how they plan on using funds to make public transit more safe, reliable, accessible, coordinated, environmentally conscious, and economically strategic. There must be accountability and transparency.”

He's not wrong on any of this. And the word “coordinated” is important because the transit agencies have long resisted a seamless payment system and synchronized scheduling, which is a major benefit of Germany's transit system governance, known as Verkehrsverbünde.

Germany's regional transportation associations don't actually operate that country's innumerable transit systems. Instead, the associations simply enforce and oversee unified fares and ticketing, and they synchronize the transit systems' schedules. That might possibly be where the reforms here are heading, and a fact-finding trip to Germany is apparently in the works.

Even organized labor is

taking a look at the German model, I'm told.

Despite strong public statements this year against consolidation from the Illinois AFL-CIO and the Chicago Federation of Labor, organized labor has worked over the past few months to bring together a multitude of smallish transit unions to quietly work on a solution.

Bringing those union locals together wasn't an easy task by any means, because unions often sid with their employers' Statehouse positions.

The pitch from above was to organize against attempts to divide and conquer them by peeling off a few of the larger unions to support a solution that would benefit some and not others. That approach is apparently working.

The union locals want lots more money for transit. But the German governing model is something that could work for them because the various agencies would continue running their systems. Still, it's way too early to say the unions could jump on board.

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

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Local gas prices hovering above \$3

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 9.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.27/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 21.2/g lower than a month ago and stand 27.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

In Wilmington expect to pay anywhere from \$3.08/g at Mohsen, all the way up to \$3.24/g at Shell. Meanwhile, Braidwood stations are all at the \$3.24/g mark. Coal City is offering gas at \$3.09/g at Shell, up to \$3.12/g at BP.

Further afield, Morris won't save you much, with gas at \$3.19/g at Casey's, up to \$3.29/g at Shell.

Bourbonnais, by far, has the cheapest gas, with a gallon going for \$2.90/g at Gulf, and topping out at \$2.99/g at BP.

“In addition to gasoline prices falling to their lowest level since January,

the average price of diesel has now fallen to its lowest level in over three years,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

“With winter gasoline soon to reach the rest of California, and demand continuing to decline as Americans grapple with colder weather, the drop in demand is pushing gas prices down—not politicians on either side, as much as they might like to think they do. I expect the decline in gas prices will continue into and even beyond the upcoming election.”

The national average price of diesel has declined 2.6 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.54 per gallon—the lowest level in over 1,100 days.

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.69/g while the highest was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$2.10/g.

Trick or treat party planned in Essex

Ghosts and goblins will be allowed to roam the streets in Essex on Saturday, Nov. 2. Trick or treating runs from 4 p.m. until 7 p.m.

There will be a community party at the Essex Community Center, 217 N. Paris St. from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The costume contest will be at 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Olivet Cemetery clean-up

Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Wilmington will hold its Fall Clean-Up starting Nov. 3, (weather permitting). We ask that you remove any items you wish to keep, including shepherd hooks, at least one week prior to this date.

Shepherd hooks may

not be placed in the cemetery during winter months. Please do not put out any new decorations until clean-up has been completed.

For complete list of cemetery rules, please contact St. Rose Parish Office.

Chamber seeks entries for Christmas parade

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce will host a lighted Christmas parade Saturday, Nov. 30. The parade will start at 5 p.m. at Wilmington Middle School and travel on Ryan to Water Street to the post office. Community groups and local businesses are invited to enter for free. This year's theme is “A Charlie Brown Christmas”. We kindly ask that no entries feature no live Santa Claus as the Chamber has already received confirmation from the North Pole that Santa will be attendance.

Deadline to sign up by Saturday, Nov. 22. Information will be sent to parade entries including map with the lineup. For additional information contact Marty Orr at wilmingtongchamberparade@gmail.com. Line up at 4 p.m.

Organization/business: _____

Contact person: _____

Email: _____

Phone number: _____

Type of entry (float, equestrian, walkers, antique vehicle, decorated vehicle, if other, describe): _____

Is your entry political, No - \$0, Yes - \$50: _____

Total dimensions of entry (including vehicle pulling float, trailer etc): _____

If there will be any type of sound (siren, music, horns, etc) please describe: _____

Coal City Methodist Church to host trivia afternoon

Coal City United Methodist Church will be hosting a Trivia Afternoon on Nov. 3, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

There will be multiple rounds of trivia, food and beverages will be provided (no alcohol allowed).

The registration fee is \$160 per table with up to 8 participants per table (\$20 per person for a table of 8). Registration forms are available by contacting the church office at 815-634-8670.

Table participants are

encouraged to dress in costume and/or to have a theme. A prize will be awarded to the best theme of the event.

The winning table of the trivia contest will also win a prize. Spectators are welcome for \$5 admission at the door as space allows.

Doors open at noon and trivia begins at 1 p.m.Proceeds from Trivia Afternoon will go toward their Youth Mission Trip in July 2025. Deadline to register is October 31.

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Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes honored nationally as Best of the Best

Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes have been awarded the prestigious 2024 Pursuit of Excellence Award by the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA).

This accolade is a testament to the unwavering dedication, innovation and service that has been the cornerstone of their practice for a century. They are one of only three funeral homes internationally to receive the esteemed Best of the Best Award in 2024.

The Pursuit of Excellence Award recognizes funeral homes that demonstrate exceptional proficiency across key areas of funeral service, including adherence to stringent ethical standards, community involvement and providing exemplary programs to bereaved families. This recognition reflects their commitment to continuous improvement and excellence in serving the families and communities of Grundy and Will counties, and beyond.

The Best of the Best Award was earned through our innovative "Forever in our Hearts" program, which honors the role of beloved pet family members during times of loss. This initiative highlights our dedication to acknowledging every member of the family, understanding that pets grieve too.

"Receiving this honor, especially as we celebrate 100 years of service, is incredibly humbling," said Matt Baskerville, carrying forward the legacy of the Reeves family. "Our commitment is to provide compassionate care and innovative services that meet the evolving needs of our community. We are honored to be recognized by the NFDA and remain committed to serving with dignity and respect."

Reeves Funeral Home,



MATT BASKERVILLE (left) accepts an award from National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) President Dutch Nie during the NFDA 2024 International Convention and Expo recently held in New Orleans, LA.

Coal City's oldest business, has been a pillar in the community since 1924, when Wilfred and Anna Reeves first established their funeral service. Their sons James and Charles followed in the family business, as did James' son Leo into the third generation. With a rich history of service and a forward-thinking approach, they continue to be a leading force in funeral service excellence.

Baskerville joined Leo and Karen Reeves in 2003. "We went a long time without Matt, because there wasn't a Matt available. I couldn't have taken someone into the family business that I wasn't comfortable with," said Leo Reeves, who compliments Baskerville's work ethic and dedication to the communities.

The funeral homes have since acquired funeral homes in Gardner and Wilmington. Matt is proud to be a part of significant growth over his two plus decades, and this also included the addition of a crematory in 2023. Transitions Crematory, Ltd

was incorporated into the Gardner funeral home and offers onsite cremation for all.

"I have done my best to continue to be a trailblazer in funeral service, no different than our founder, who was one of the first area funeral directors to take wakes from the family's homes to a stand-alone funeral home facility," stated Baskerville. "So many of the service details consumers expect as mainstream today, such as a funeral home website, video tributes, life story obituaries, funeral service celebrants, on staff certified therapy dog, and flameless cremation (to mention a few), all were piloted and introduced at our funeral homes."

Matt has been an advocate for funeral service on the state and national level. He is the immediate past president of the Illinois Funeral Directors Association.

His work over the past seven years with the state association has had a significant impact on every funeral home provider in

the state. In addition, he serves on the National Funeral Directors Association Spokesperson Team Workgroup, which works with media outlets to ensure the best representation of the profession.

Reeves and Baskerville Funeral Homes perform approximately 250 funerals each year, and over the past 20 years, cremation as a form of disposition has gone from 5% to nearly 50%.

"It has been an interesting era of funeral service, having seen such changes in the business, with more expected to come in the years ahead," said Baskerville.

"Every day our commitment is witnessed firsthand by people who have lost loved ones, and every year we have been blessed to be recognized by our colleagues and organizations locally, nationally and worldwide," says Baskerville.

"As we commemorate 100 years of service to Grundy, Will and the surrounding counties, we are humbled to be only a select few distinguished funeral homes to not only be a Pursuit of Excellence recipient, Readers' Choice Best of the County, Illinois Funeral Home of Distinction and now Best of the Best. Our greatest honor however is working with area families in their time of need. We are grateful to the communities and families who call on us every day. This is simply just our first century of service," Baskerville concluded.

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Coal City church to serve up a soup supper

The Coal City United Methodist Church, located at 6805 E. McArdle Rd., invites the community to join them for a Soup Supper on Saturday, Nov. 2 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will serve their

delicious homemade Chicken Noodle & Stuffed Green Pepper soups. Each meal includes your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert. Carry-outs will be available.

The cost is \$15 for ages 13 & older; \$5 for children ages 3 - 12; and children age 2 & under eat free. All proceeds will go to the church's building fund. Tickets will be sold at the door.

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WINTER

Coat Drive

COATS | SCARVES | BOOTS | GLOVES

Grundy Bank is accepting a variety of new and gently used winter items, including coats, boots, scarves, hats, gloves, and snow pants for men, women, and children of all ages.

Your generous donations will make a significant difference in keeping our local communities warm this winter season. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to making a positive difference.

Donation Times & Date

October 7 - November 15

Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sat 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Drop Off Location:

201 Liberty Street, Morris

120 S. Main Street, Wilmington

GRUNDY BANK

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OBITUARIES

Phyllis Bruno

COAL CITY—Phyllis Bruno, 95, of Coal City, passed away peacefully on Saturday, Oct. 26, 2024, at Lightways Hospice in Joliet.

Born March 12, 1929, in Joliet, Phyllis was the daughter of Henry and Ann (Groff) Bertagnoli. She was raised in Joliet until the age of six when her family moved to Coal City, where she graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1947. On Aug. 21, 1949, Phyllis married the love of her life, Louis "Bud" Bruno, and together they made their life and raised their family in Coal City. She worked at Uniroyal for many years before transitioning to secretary for several administrators at the Coal City High School.

Phyllis was a dedicated member of the Coal City United Methodist Church, supporting many of its small groups and outreach programs including the Evening Star Circle. She was also involved in the Junior Women's Club. Phyllis was a marvelous host and fantastic cook and baker, always looking for an opportunity to share her gifts with her family and friends. She found great pleasure in reading and working on jigsaw puzzles, and in recent years was a great fan of the Game Show Network. She had a knack for flower gardening and was a lover of all animals, but with her family it was where she truly shined. Phyllis cherished her role as wife and mother, devoting much of her time to her family. She supported all of her children's endeavors, enjoyed spoiling her grandchildren, and is



now at peace and reunited with her true love and best friend, Bud.

Survivors include her two children: Cynthia (John) Hankovcak, of Coal City and Mark Bruno, of Arlington Heights, IL; two grandchildren, Megan (Ryan) Collier, of Hoffman Estates, IL and Caitlin (Wes) Anderson, of Diamond and three great-grandchildren: Gabrielle and Alexis Anderson and Carson Collier.

Phyllis was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Bud Bruno; two half-brothers: Gordon and Irving Bertagnoli; and one sister-in-law, Lois (Bill) Tucker.

The family will receive friends at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., in Coal City on Friday, Nov. 1, 2024, from 9 a.m. until the time of funeral services at 11 a.m. Burial will follow at Braceville Gardner Cemetery, with a memorial luncheon to immediately follow back at the church.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Phyllis' memory to Coal City United Methodist Church or Lightways Hospice.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Phyllis' memorial page via social media.

Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Edna R. Singleton

JOLIET—Edna R. Anderson Singleton, "Reggie," 96, departed this life on Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024.

She was born on March 24, 1928, in Chicago. Her father owned and operated O-K Auto Repair and taxicab service in Chicago. Her family later relocated back to the family homestead in Braidwood where Edna attended grade school and High School, class of 1945. In her later years she did some modeling and attended Olive Harvey College after returning to Chicago after high school. Edna was employed by Illinois Bell in Chicago, and later retired from AT&T after 31 years.

She was a beloved sister, sister-in-law, aunt and cousin to an extended family of Pinnicks, Harris-Moore, Guthrie and dear friend to many.

Edna is survived by her sister, Karen T. Baker (Nathaniel Baker Jr.); niece, Gail Anderson; nephews: Edward Anderson Jr., Nathaniel Baker III, Benjamin (Morgan)



Baker Sr.; great-nephews: Tyree Henderson, NaShawn Baker, Benjamin Baker Jr., Jaylyn (Honorary) Wright and great-niece, Taylor Hendreson. Numerous cousins also survive.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Carey H. Singleton (2011); parents, Edward C. Anderson Sr. and Olivette Williams Anderson; brother, Edward Anderson Jr.; sister-in-law, Barbara I. Anderson; niece, Natalie N. Baker; nephew, Barton Anderson; six first cousins: Evelyn Chester, Patricia Norwood, Sandra Tadeka, William "Buddy" Pinnick Jr., Willie Jackson Jr., and Dorothy Gomez; six uncles, and nine aunts.

Per Edna's request cremation rites have been accorded. Inurnment will be held at a later date at Oakwood Cemetery in Braidwood.

For more information go to www.farkasfuneralhome.com.

Carol Partilla

WILMINGTON—It is with sadness the Partilla family announce the passing of Carol Partilla on Oct. 3, 2024.

She was the wife of Andrew Partilla, of Wilmington; mother of Andy (LaVon), of Morris; Eric (Rachel), of South Wilmington and Nicole, of Wilmington; as well as the grandmother of eight grandchildren and great-grandmother of 12.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Julie and Carl Olson and her brother, Richard.

Along the way Carol was actively involved with the Wilmington Garden Club, the Red Hat Society, the Wesley Women, Women of the Moose, and the Homemakers Association, all where she made many lifetime friends.

As per request, a private graveside ceremony will be held with her close family on Nov. 1.

A celebration of her life will be held at the Wilmington Moose Hall in the very near future.

Local judge taking aim at Appellate Court

Judge John Anderson was a poor student once, barely graduating from high school. And, when his parents lost their home to the bank in a foreclosure lawsuit, he was homeless for a time living on his friend's couch in an apartment in Joliet.

He managed to turn his life around when his uncle was murdered in an act of gun violence. When his uncle's killer was found not guilty by reason of insanity, he decided to go to law school, where he graduated near the top of his class.

Today, Anderson might be the most well-educated judge in Illinois, holding a bachelor's degree (Illinois State University), a master's degree in political science (University of Illinois-Springfield), an MBA (Notre Dame), a law degree (University of Illinois-Chicago), and a second law degree (Duke Law School).

He is the only active judge in the state with a law degree specializing in judicial studies from prestigious Duke Law School.

Anderson's unique background gives him a special perspective in the courtroom, where he is known for fairness and empathy.

"I know what it's like to be on the other side, to struggle and feel like there is no way out. My experiences have made me a better judge, and I want to bring that same compassion and understanding to

the appellate court."

But, he cautions that his background does not make him a pushover. "For example, sometimes I hear mortgage foreclosure cases. Sometimes I have to rule for the bank. I do not always like my rulings, but I always follow the law. If you like every ruling you make, you are not doing your job."

"In the last two years, I have made no secret that I was once an angry, rudderless young man. I turned my life around after a member of my family was murdered in an act of gun violence. These experiences taught me empathy, integrity, and the value of hard work."

Anderson was named "Judicial Officer of the Year" by the Illinois State Crime Commission. He also assisted in the prosecution of infamous murderer Drew Peterson, and helped prosecute criminals who committed violent crimes against women. He is also the only candidate in the race to earn a "highly recommended" rating from the Illinois State Bar Association.

Anderson's biggest passion within the legal system is making the judicial process more user friendly. "Nothing is getting cheaper these days, and that includes legal fees," Anderson explains. "Increasingly, people are trying to represent themselves in court, and I am required to hold them to

the same standards as lawyers."

Anderson served on the board of directors for the Lawyers' Trust Fund, where he helped raise \$40 million for organizations that provide free legal aid to those who cannot afford an attorney. He also helped implement a series of self-help videos to guide people through the litigation process.

As a judge running for the appellate court, Anderson hopes to inspire others facing similar struggles and prove that no matter where you start, success is possible with dedication and effort. While he does not shy from his past, he works to give others a brighter future.

He enjoys speaking to high school students who are on the verge of not graduating, to make sure they know there are community college opportunities out there for them, and they can turn their lives around if they work at it.

The third district appellate court includes seven counties: DuPage, Will, Kankakee, LaSalle, Grundy, Iroquois, and Bureau counties.

There has never been a Will County judge elected to the appellate court before, and Anderson (who lives near the Will-Kankakee border) thinks smaller counties deserve greater representation on that court.

Robert Ginter



ELWOOD—Robert "Bob" Ginter, 62, of Elwood, passed away Monday, Oct. 21, 2024 at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL with his loving family by his side.

Born Aug. 19, 1962 in Omaha, NE, Robert George was a son of Robert and Jane (Nickel) Ginter. He grew up on multiple Air Force bases until his family settled back home in Elwood. In November of 1986, Bob married Eileen Caher and together they would make their home in Elwood. Bob began his career at EMCO until joining Lyondell Bassell in Morris for over 30 years. Bob took great pride in his hobbies such as golfing, hunting and fishing, but his real joy was being with his family. He was also intrigued by learning about local history and was part of the Elwood History Club. He was a skilled craftsman, particularly with woodworking, and could make just about anything. He leaves behind a lasting legacy that will be cherished by his friends and family.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Eileen Ginter, of Elwood; three children: Chrissy Ginter, of Elwood; Amber (Amy) Dettmering, of Bourbonnais and Jeff Ginter (Natalie Martello), of Elwood; one grandson, Liam Dettmering, as well as two



bonus grandchildren, Olivia and Reagan Anderson; six brothers and sisters: Donna Ginter, of Tolono, IL; Mike (Marty) Ginter, of Elwood; David Ginter and Johnny (Patrick) Ginter, both of Joliet; and Lori (David) Greenback and Keri (Chuck) Simpson, both of Elwood; several brothers and sisters-in-law: Deb (Frank) Lawrence, of Lostant, IL; Colleen Couch, of Joliet; Teri (Keith) Siefert, of Braidwood; Peggy (Jim) Ellingham, of Manteno, IL; Mary Caher, of Gallatin, TN; Tim (Lori) Caher, of Hendersonville, TN and Mike (Shannon) Caher, of Coal City; numerous nieces and nephews, and one aunt, Pat (Jerry) Buchenau, of Elwood.

Bob was preceded in death by his parents and one brother-in-law, Brian Caher.

Per Bob's wishes, cremation rites are being accorded and a Celebration of Life will be held Nov. 16, 2024 at 17709 W Bicentennial Dr. in Elwood at 1 p.m.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Bob's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Michelle Jennings

MORRIS—Michelle Denise Jennings, 43, of Morris, passed away peacefully with her family at her side.

Born Feb. 4, 1981 at St. Joe's Hospital in Joliet, she was the daughter of Rhonda C. Nichols (Bill), of Braceville and Jerry (Christine) Jennings, of Giddings, TX.

She is survived by her parents, her brother, Matthew (Kellie) and nephew, Max Jennings; her four children; Madison, of Braceville; William, Maggie and Rylan at home; her devoted love of her life, Adam Meade, of Morris and her large



family of loved ones.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, Clyde and Donna Wagoner and paternal grandparents, Marvin and Sharon Jennings.

A memorial service will be held at the previous New Community Christian Church at 705 E. Washington St., Morris, on Nov. 4, 2024 from 4 until 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations to support Madison, William, Maggie and Rylan can be made online through GoFundMe at <https://gofund.me/cab05097>.

Kevin Hill

WILMINGTON—Kevin C. Hill, 70, of Wilmington, formerly of Crest Hill, IL, passed away Friday, Oct. 25, 2024 at Aperia Care in Wilmington.

Born Aug. 28, 1954 in Adrian, MI, Kevin was the son of Gordon and Ada (Tyler) Hill. He was raised in Crest Hill and graduated from Lockport Township High School.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth Hill, of Texas; his daughter, Dawn (Joseph Budz) Kuehn, of Fountain, CO; four grandchildren: Jordan Kuehn, of Romeoville and Cassie, Alexis, and Luke Kuehn, all of Fountain, CO; one brother, David Hill, of Joliet and one sister, Pat (Phil) Onstad, of

Shorewood.

Kevin was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers: James and John Hill.

Per his wishes, cremation rites have been accorded and there will be no services at this time.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Kevin's memorial page via social media.

Cremation services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Wilmington.

Dixie Lee Renner

GODLEY—Dixie Lee Renner, 86, of Godley, passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2024 at the ARC of Dwight.

Born on Sept. 10, 1938 in Joliet Township, she was the daughter of John C. and Evelyn Eldora (nee Dickson) Renner. She graduated Reed-Custer High School with the class of 1956. A hard worker, she ran the Hen House restaurant in Gardner, owned and operated La Amistad Restaurant in Gardner, worked at BP in Morris and was a bus monitor for Reed-Custer School District. She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Braidwood. In her younger years she enjoyed square dancing. She also enjoyed Bingo, traveling to Tennessee and participating in the Godley Park District senior lunches. Dixie loved baking and sharing her baked goods with her family.

Surviving are her children: David (Roni) Sorensen, of Essex; Sandra (Steve) Hunsaker, of Eagleville, TN; Dawn (Jim) Reed, of Dwight; Beth (Phil) Carlo, of Coal City and Misti (Shane) Sater, of Morris; grandchildren, Ken and Erin Sorensen,



Jessica and Michael Zierman, Jennifer Sorensen (Joe Faris), Thomas Barra (Robin McMahan), Ryan Sorensen, Brittany Carlo (Luis Villanueva), Brandi and Kyle Applebee, Rachael Sorensen (Matthew Norris), Zachary Sater and Owen Sater; great-grandchildren: Andie and Kaylee Mathy, Rory and Graham Zierman, Skylare Sorensen, Tyler and Jason Barra, Brooklynn and Dominik Villanueva and Jaden Rieke and Bentley Sorensen; sister, Dorothy (Frank) Willis, of Godley and numerous nieces and nephews.

Preceding her in death were her parents, John and Evelyn Renner.

Funeral services were held at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home on Monday, Oct. 28, 2024. Reverend Steve Hunsaker officiated. Interment followed at Oakwood Cemetery, Braidwood.

Memorial donations may be directed to the donor's choice.

R.W. Patterson Funeral Home in Braidwood was in charge of arrangements.

Department on Aging offers free help to make Medicare open enrollment

The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) is encouraging everyone with Medicare to check if their plan still meets their needs and budget during this year's Open Enrollment Period, which runs through Dec. 7.

Individuals can get free help comparing health and drug plan options by contacting the state's Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP).

"Your health needs can change from year to year, and so do Medicare plan costs and coverage," said SHIP Director Sandy Leith. "Now's the time to review your current Medicare coverage to make sure it still meets your needs."

To help you make an informed decision, the Senior Health Insurance Program uses trained volunteers to offer trusted, unbiased Medicare coun-

seling to Medicare-eligible individuals, their families, and caregivers.

SHIP counselors are available in person and online throughout the year, but they are especially helpful during Open Enrollment now through Dec. 7, when people with Medicare can join or switch health and prescription drug plans for the coming year. For those who switch plans, coverage starts on Jan. 1, 2025.

New for 2025, yearly out-of-pocket costs for Medicare drug plan-covered prescription drugs will be capped at \$2,000. People with Medicare Part D prescription drug plans can also choose to spread their out-of-pocket costs across the calendar year instead of paying all at once at the pharmacy.

To get help understanding your Medicare

options and how you can save money on costs, call or visit a SHIP site near you. You can also compare 2025 coverage options and shop for plans using Medicare's Plan Finder or by calling 1-800-MEDICARE.

Let's Talk Turkey at Four Rivers

The Forest Preserve is hosting a Let's Talk Turkey on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Four Rivers Environmental Education Center, Channahon. Learn some turkey talking points before the big feast with indoor and outdoor activities. Free, all ages. Register by Nov. 8.

How transitioning to more electric vehicles will effect the economy

Dear EarthTalk: Is transitioning to more electric vehicles (EVs) good or bad for the economy overall?

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers
About Our Environment

—Richard T., Boise, ID
Installing public chargers & upgrading the electrical grid will pose a large cost to the U.S., but the economic benefits will be worth it. Credit: Pexels.com.

According to the S&P Global Motility Forecast, EV sales have surged so substantially over the past two decades that about 50 percent of the vehicles on the road by 2040 are projected to be electric. Individuals who can afford the initial cost of an EV substantially reduce their carbon footprint while enjoying an average of \$2,200 annually in fuel and maintenance savings.

On a national level, however, experts have debated whether or not the increased electric utility revenue, job creation, and decreased oil dependence associated with EVs out-

weigh the costs of charging station installation and electrical grid upgrades.

Only 50 percent of the electrical capacity of the U.S. grid is used, so as to accommodate large swings during peak demand. Ninety percent of current EV charging occurs at homes and places of business during off peak hours, thus, the amount used does not yet meet capacity.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE) have found that EVs in their service areas contributed \$806 million more in revenue than in associated costs, which drove rates down for all customers. If utility revenue remains higher than utility cost, EVs will lower the rate paid by all ratepayers. Conversely, if utilization approaches capacity, costly grid upgrades amounting to \$3 billion across the U.S. will be required.

The McKinsey Center for Future Mobility estimates that as the number of EVs increases, hardware, planning and installation costs of an expected 1.2 million public and 28 million private chargers will reach more than \$35 billion. Though costly, charger installations create jobs, possibly lowering unemployment. Furthermore, a study by MIT found that



Photo courtesy Pexels.com

INSTALLING PUBLIC chargers & upgrading the electrical grid will pose a large cost to the U.S., but the economic benefits will be worth it.

charging stations boosted annual spending at nearby businesses.

The largest economic benefit of transitioning to EVs is a decrease in oil reliance. The U.S. relies upon oil for 85 percent of transportation needs, and depends upon foreign providers to meet this demand.

Oil price fluctuation is implicated in the majority of recent recessions, including in 2022, and is directly linked to consumer sentiment.

Increased reliance on a domestic and diversified electrical grid will separate the U.S. from more economically volatile

nations, positively impacting the U.S. economy.

Installing public chargers and upgrading the electrical grid will undoubtedly pose a large cost to the U.S. Still, job creation, utility company revenue and less oil dependence are projected to make it all worth it. In the long run, transitioning to EVs is projected to positively impact the economy.

However, these estimates are based on a model whereby the utility cost of EVs is less than the increased revenue to electric providers. Time will tell whether this model holds true.

Oakwood Cemetery cleanup on Nov. 2

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

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

Please remove all trinkets and flowers away from love ones stones if you want to keep them before cleanup. If not removed, they will be disposed. The rules of the cemetery are posted on site and on our Facebook page.

Oakwood Cemetery is

located at Williams and Oak Streets.

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- Women
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Yakima presented Chamber trophy



Courtesy photo

WILMINGTON CHAMBER OF Commerce Ambassador Wendy Hill (left, Wilmington Coalition) presents the Employee of the Month trophy to Sherry Yakima, who is a dental hygienist at the office of Dentist Garret Smith. She was nominated by a client that stated "Sherry has outstanding dental hygienist skills that always makes you feel comfortable with any procedure that you are having. Her smile and cheerfulness is contagious!"

Resource Fair in Gardner offering help to residents

There are a variety of health and human services available to the residents of Grundy County.

A group of these agencies are working together to connect with those that need their services.

On Monday Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 229 Liberty St., Gardner, (Community Foundation of Grundy County South Resource Center) there is an opportunity to learn about some of those services.

The Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission, the outreach team from Hines VA Hospital, We Care of Grundy County, the Kendall Grundy

Community Action Network, Grundy Area PADS and the Community Nutrition Network (Meals on Wheels) will all be available to answer questions and get residents enrolled in their services.

This is an opportunity for residents to learn about several agencies and their programs.

This event is open to all residents of Grundy County. Kendall Grundy Community Action is making appointments for LIHEAP enrollment, please contact them at (630) 553-9100 to make an appointment, all the other agencies are welcoming walk ins.

Women of the Moose 781 to hold casserole cook-off

WOTM 781 of Wilmington Moose Lodge is sponsoring a casserole cook off on Sunday, Nov. 10, from noon to 4 p.m.

Enter a 9x13 casserole or larger and give a donation of one toy for children at Mooseheart (babies to teens or a donation for their needs).

The general public is invited to pay \$1 per ticket to taste the casserole and proceeds from the tickets will go to veterans.

The top three casseroles will be given a prize. It will be held at the Moose Lodge at 32050 W. River Rd., Wilmington. It is open to the public.

For any questions call Janice at 815-922-9039 or Traci at 815-405-8063.

VETERANS DAY

Fundraiser

Saturday, November 16th, 2024
3:00 PM
American Legion Koca Post #39
553 W. Kennedy Road, Braidwood

FOOD • MUSIC • RAFFLES • GUN RAFFLE
PULL TABS - SILENT AUCTION - 50/50

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For more information, call (815) 216-2570

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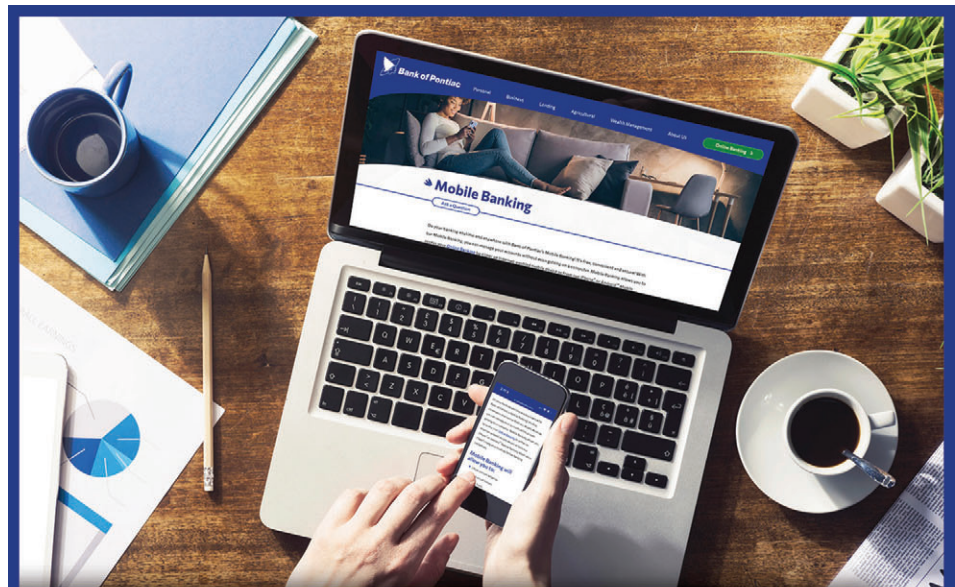


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REAL ESTATE

SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE OF 184 Sunfish Circle, Wilmington, IL 60481 (Town-home). On the 7th day of November, 2024 to be held at 12:00 noon, at the Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Room 904, Joliet, IL 60432, under Case Title: **Shadow Lakes II Association Plaintiff V. Kent Adams; Dana Adams; Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants Defendant.** Case No. **24 FC 0026** in the Circuit Court of the Twelfth Judicial Circuit, Will County, Illinois. Terms of Sale: ten percent (10%) at the time of sale and the balance within twenty-four (24) hours. No judicial sale fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the residential real estate pursuant to its credit bid at the sale or by any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate whose rights in and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. All payments shall be made in cash or certified funds payable to the Sheriff of Will County. In the event the property is a condominium, in accordance with 735 ILCS 5/15-1507(c)(1)(H-1) and (H-2), 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(5), and 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1), you are hereby notified that the purchaser of the unit, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and legal fees required by subdivisions (g)(1) and (g)(4) of Section 9 and the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Illinois Condominium Property Act. Pursuant to Local Court Rule 11.03 (J) if there is a surplus following application of the proceeds of sale, then the plaintiff shall send written notice pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512(d) to all parties to the proceeding advising them of the amount of the surplus and that the surplus will be held until a party obtains a court order for its distribution or, in the absence of an order, until the surplus is forfeited to the State. For Information Please Contact:
Egan & Alaily LLC
321 N. Clark Street
Suite 2120
Chicago, IL
P: 1-312-253-8640
F: PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT YOU ARE ADVISED THAT THIS LAW FIRM IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wed., Oct. 16, 23 & 30, 2024.

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6	3	5	9	4	2	1	8	7
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USF's Mega Music rummage sale Nov. 2

WCSF-88.7 FM, the radio station of the University of St. Francis (USF) in Joliet, is hosting its annual Mega Music Rummage Sale on Saturday, Nov. 2, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The sale will take place at USF's St. Clare Campus (Assembly Hall), which is located at 1550 Plainfield Road in Joliet.

Donated LPs, compact discs, cassettes, sheet music, music books, musical instruments, stereo equipment and more

music related items will be available for sale starting at \$1.

For months, students have been organizing and cataloging the treasures for the sale. Admission is free. Early bird admission at 7:30 a.m. is available with a \$20 donation. All proceeds will be used to upgrade the nonprofit radio station facilities and equipment.

Donations are still being accepted. Call Braden Kidd at 815-740-3697 to schedule a drop off.

Celebrate National Take a Hike Day

Here are the Forest Preserve District of Will County programs for the week of Nov. 11. Online registration is available on the Event Calendar at ReconnectWithNature.org.

- National Take a Hike Day—Hibernation Hike: 1-2:30 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, Lake Renwick Preserve - Turtle Lake Access, Plainfield. Celebrate National Take a Hike Day by hiking around Lake Renwick Preserve to find out who's hibernating and

who's not. Free, all ages. Register by Nov. 15.

- Take It Outside Meetup: 2-3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 17, Forked Creek Preserve —Ballou Road Access, Wesley Township. Get to know other Take It Outside challenge participants and maybe even complete some missions together.

Stop by the shelter to meet other Goosechasers then set out on an adventure. Free, all ages.

St. Rose 77th annual turkey dinner Nov. 3

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

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

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

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

Everyone is invited to attend.

Will County pursuing expanded space for veteran services



WILL COUNTY AND the Will County Veterans Assistance Commission are collaborating on a unified Veteran Assistance and Support Center at 1300 Copperfield Ave. in Joliet, which will be at the heart of a unified Veteran Support Campus.

Will County leaders and the Will County Veterans Assistance Commission (VAC) have announced a collaboration to create a unified Veteran Assistance and Support Center in Joliet.

The center will occupy an existing county building at 1300 Copperfield Avenue and would be at the heart of a centralized campus for Will County veterans.

The goal of the project is to house the VAC and other veteran organizations

at the county-owned office building, creating a unified "one-stop shop" for veteran services.

The VAC would use the expanded footprint to expand existing services, including case management, mental health services, and their physical health program.

This new facility will allow veterans to interact with local, state, and federal services and resources in a single visit.

"We look forward to

this move, which will empower our team to continue delivering exceptional service to our local veteran community," said VAC Superintendent Jennifer Solum.

The VAC will occupy at least the first two floors of the four-story office building, with the other space reserved for veteran-focused outside agencies. The expanded space would allow the VAC to hire more veteran service officers, reduce appointment wait times, and expand programmatic offerings.

VAC services include financial assistance,

employment assistance, combat veteran counseling, and a homeless veteran prevention program. VAC also coordinates with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on case management and is the only commission of its kind in the state to include in-house staff from the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs.

The new center would join both the Hines VA's Joliet Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Volunteers of America Illinois' Hope Manor Housing at a new unified Veteran Support Campus on the east side of Joliet. This unified campus will make it easier for veterans and their families to access wrap-around services.

Will County acquired the medical office building at 1300 Copperfield Avenue in 2021. It was constructed in 2003 and was previously connected to the former Silver Cross Hospital. The county has budgeted funds to retrofit the building's 72,000 square feet to meet the needs of the VAC and other veteran organizations. Construction is estimated to be completed in early 2026.

Attorney Schmidt files petition to levy for Southard Drainage District

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
1920TX3956

In the Matter of:
Southard Drainage District

DRAINAGE NOTICE

On the 21st day of October, 2024, a Petition for Authority to Levy Annual Maintenance Assessment was filed in the Circuit Court for the 13th Judicial Circuit, Grundy County, Illinois, Judge Sheldon Sobol presiding. The name of the District affected by the Petition is the Southard Drainage District. The commissioners of the District seek authority to levy an annual maintenance assessment. The amount of the maximum per acre annual maintenance assessment proposed to be levied is \$10.00 per acre, provided that every parcel in the District regardless of size is required to pay not more than the greater of \$60.00 or an amount equal to the amount of the maintenance assessment multiplied by the number of acres in the owner's parcel. The monies raised will be utilized to perform annual maintenance work, to pay obligations incurred by the district for incidental expenses, current expenses, and obligations incurred in protecting the district, and for other lawful purposes. The Petition will be heard by Judge Sheldon Sobol or such other judge as may be sitting in his stead at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, upstairs courtroom, on November 26, 2024 at 9:30 am. An annual maintenance assessment roll was filed with the Petition. The total amount of damages sought is: none; The total amount of compensation proposed is none; The total amount of maximum annual maintenance assessment is \$17,695.80.

Russell Higgins, Doug Foss, Andy Hunt, Commissioners of the Southard Drainage District. By their attorney, Charles L. Schmidt #6207698
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Oct. 30 and Nov. 6, 2024.

Attorney Meents files Knight estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ALLYN DEANE KNIGHT, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 619

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Allyn Deane Knight, Letters of Office as Independent Co-Executors were issued on October 22, 2024, to Brian Thomas Knight, whose address is 40 Georgetown Drive, Cary, Illinois 60013 and Lindsay Deanne Little, whose address is 155 West Des Plaines Street, Coal City, Illinois 60416; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 30, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Brian Thomas Knight and Lindsay Deanne Little Independent Co-Executors of the Estate of Allyn Deane Knight, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024.

Attorney Meents files Awad estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF MAHMOUD A. AWAD, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 618

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of Mahmoud A. Awad, Letters of Office as Independent Administrator were issued on October 22, 2024, to Genia M. Awad, whose address is 22715 Maddeline Lane, Frankfort, Illinois 60423; whose attorney is Meents Law, P.C., 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Will County Courthouse, 100 West Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 30, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

Genia M. Awad Independent Administrator of the Estate of Mahmoud A. Awad, Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Meents Law, P.C.
25158 W. Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815) 534-9515
Facsimile: (815) 534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@meentslaw.com
Published in the Free Press Advocate on Wednesday, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024.

Braidwood Knights to host breakfast for veterans

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 will be serving a free breakfast for Veterans on Nov. 9, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 1180 W. 1st, in Braidwood at the (Ignite Church). A free-will offering for all non Veterans.

Attorney Wysocki files Hon estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF LEROY A. HON, Deceased; No. 2024 PR 597

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Leroy A. Hon. Letters of Office were issued to First American Bank Trust Department whose address is 218 W. Main St., Dundee, IL 60118, as Independent Executor whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki of June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of April, 2025, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Leroy A. Hon, Deceased

BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Oct. 30, Nov. 6 and 13, 2024.

Attorney Wysocki files Flees estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TWELFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ROGER M. FLEES Deceased; No. 2024PR576

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given to creditors of the death of ROGER M. FLEES. Letters of Office were issued to Stacie A. Krohmer whose address is 513 Horizon Dr., Bartlett, IL as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Marilyn L. Wysocki, June, Prodehl, Renzi & Lynch, L.L.C., 1861 Black Road, Joliet, Illinois 60435.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Will County Courthouse, 100 W. Jefferson Street, Joliet, Illinois 60432, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 23rd day of April, 2025 if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Marilyn L. Wysocki
For the Estate of Roger M. Flees Deceased

BY: Marilyn L. Wysocki
1861 Black Road
Joliet, IL 60435
815-725-8000
Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Oct. 23, 30 and Nov. 6, 2024.

HALLOWEEN Trick-or-treat THURSDAY, OCT. 31

3-7 p.m. Elwood	4-7 p.m. Coal City Carbon Hill Braceville Godley Gardner
4-6 p.m. Diamond South Wilmington	
4-6:30 p.m. Mazon	5-7 p.m. Morris
4:30-7:30 p.m. Wilmington	5-8 p.m. Braidwood

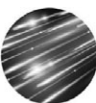
SATURDAY, NOV. 2

Essex
Trick-or-treat 4-7 p.m.
Community party 6-9 p.m.
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Photo by Alyshia Nicholson

SWEEPING UP the ball for Coal City during last week's match against Manteno is Coal City's Aidan Kenney.



Photo by Alyshia Nicholson

KEEP AWAY—Coal City's Dylan Fatlan gets a step ahead of a Manteno defender during the battle for the regional championship last week.

Manteno stops Coalers in regional finale

Coal City's boys soccer team ended their season last Tuesday in the battle for the regional championship with a 4-3 loss to a really good Manteno team.

Coal City was down 2-0 at half but they played hard and battled back to tie the game at 2-2 with goals from Adrian Dames and Dane Noffsinger.

Manteno bounced back with 2 more goals of their own. Colton Lemmons brought the Coalers closer with a late goal but eventually ran out of time.

Coal City had a fantastic season greatly improving from a 5-17-1 record last year to finishing 17-7-1 this season.



Photo by Alyshia Nicholson

ON THE ATTACK for the Coal City soccer team is Julian Micetich.



Photo by Amy Walker

COALERS MASON GARNER (bottom) and Cade Poyner stop Manteno opponent during Friday night's game. Coalers won 49-0.

Coalers in familiar spot for playoff opener

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Before the season started, the Coal City football team had a goal: to advance farther than the second round of the Class 4A playoffs.

The road begins with a home game against 10th-seeded Johnsbury Friday at 7:30 p.m.

To say that home field has been an advantage would be an understatement.

In four home games, it's Coal City 228 and the opposition 0.

The two teams faced off in the second round of the 2018 Class 4A playoffs and the Coalers were victorious on the road, 33-14.

"They play out of the Kishwaukee which is a very good conference. Taking a look at them on film, they like to spread it out and get the ball in space," said Coal City coach Francis Loughran.

"Just glad we're play-

ing them at home. If we keep playing like we have been in all three phases, we're going to give ourselves a great shot to win Friday. 7-2 is a very good regular season, but these guys try to keep an eye on the bigger picture."

The Kishwaukee features Richmond Burton, Woodstock North and former conference members Plano and Sandwich.

The Johnsbury Skyhawks (6-3) faced four playoff teams during the season and went 2-2 against them. They did go 4-1 on the road though and are making their 17th playoff appearance.

"If you take a look at the conference scores in the Kishwaukee, every team is dangerous. We're definitely not going to take them lightly."

"They're well coached and have some athletes with big play potential so it's a very tough first round opponent."

The Skyhawks are averaging 30.1 points per

game and giving up 16 as opposed to the Coalers who are averaging 43.3 and giving up only 8.6.

The winner of this game will likely face second-seeded Chicago (South Shore) (9-0). The Coalers were placed in the north half of the bracket, a welcome sight to Loughran.

"The travel times are cut down. There is a little more familiarity with the north so that's a good thing. Regardless, 4A is a very tough division. I think our guys are well aware of that."

"They are anxious to get started and keep this season alive as long as possible."

Dixon (third, 8-1) or Chicago (Agricultural Science) (sixth, 7-2) would be likely quarterfinal foes.

Another positive is playing Friday night under the lights and keeping the routines the same.

Having the support of Coal City nation will certainly help their chances.



Photo by Amy Walker

COALER JACOB CERUTTI dives to intercept a pass against Manteno during Friday night's victory.

Lady Coalers end regular season with a sweep at R-C

All the Lady Coalers volleyball teams had a great last regular season game!

The Varsity Lady Coalers beat Reed-Custer 25-6 and 25-20 bringing their overall record to 20-15 and 10-4 in ICE.

Sydney Larson had 16 setting assists, and 2 digs. Naomi Rodriguez had 8 assists and 1 dig. Jaela Vasquez had 4 assists and 1 dig.

Emma Rodriguez had 9 kills and 2 digs. Abby Viano had 7 kills and 1 block. Aylie Castle and Maggie Carlson both had 3 kills.

Addison Hodgen had 2 kills, 1 ace, and 1 block. Maria Campagna had 2 kills and 1 dig. Keirsten Gabehart had 6 digs and 1 kill. Lilly Feisley had 2 and 1 ace.

The JV Lady Coalers ended their season with a win over Reed-Custer, 25-14 and 25-21.

And the Freshmen Lady Coalers beat Reed-Custer with a great win, 25-18, 21-25, and 15-8.

The Varsity Lady Coalers lost to Manteno 22-25 and 22-25 last Tuesday.

Sydney Larson had 22 setting assists and 4 digs. Emma Rodriguez had 8 kills, 1 ace and 1 dig. Abby Viano had 7 kills and 2 blocks.

Alysin Fite had 3 kills and 3 aces. Addison Hodgen had 2 kills, 1 dig and 1 block. Aylie Castle had 2 kills.

Lilly Feisley had 4 digs. Stana Milinkovic had 3 digs. Keirsten Gabehart had 2

digs

The JV Lady Coalers beat Manteno 19-25, 25-20 and 27-25, while the Freshman Coalers lost 15-25 and 19-25.

If Coal City won their first game of their own regional last night, they will play for the regional championship at 6 p.m. at home on Thursday.



Photo by Eric Fisher

SERVING FOR the Coal City varsity is Alysin Fite. The Lady Coalers battled Spring Valley last night in the regional semi-final and if they won they will host either Seneca or Sandwich on Thursday at 6 p.m. for the regional championship.

Coalers blitz Manteno with second quarter barrage

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Like they've done all season at home, the Coalers jumped on their opponents quicker than the smoke cleared from the pregame fireworks.

A 35-point second quarter propelled the Coalers to an impressive 49-0 shutout of fellow Class 4A playoff team Manteno.

"We tried to emphasize this week that from here on out, every week is a playoff team," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"We wanted a fast start and were able to score in all three phases and give ourselves a little cushion."

Cade Poyner got a piece of a Manteno punt to start and Brody Widlowski was Johnny on the Spot, scooping the ball up and running 15 yards for a touchdown.

Jake Cerutti's 29 yard interception return led to a Landin Benson 15 yard touchdown run for a 14-0 Coalers advantage after 12 minutes.

The second quarter was all CC as the home side scored three touchdowns in

just 1:10.

To start quarterback Zander Meents fired a short pass to Logan Natyshok and he did the rest, sprinting 38 yards to the house. 53 seconds later, the ball popped out of Niko Akiyama's hands and right into Gabe McHugh's, who ran 35 yards, 28-0.

Widlowski recorded a 62 yard pick-six on the next play from scrimmage for the Coalers seventh defensive touchdown of the season.

"Over the course of the season, especially the last few weeks, taking advantage of the opponent's mistakes has been huge for us."

"In the playoffs, that can be a huge momentum swing for us."

Meents added a seven yard touchdown run with two perfectly timed spin moves, then connected with Dylan Young for a 16 yard touchdown pass late in the first half, part of a 7-for-10 passing night for 151 yards.

"He is playing very well right now and is getting better and better each week. He has good command of the offense and is

spreading the ball around. We're very happy with the distribution as well."

Young was the leading receiver with 48 yards on two catches and Natyshok also recorded two receptions for 46 yards. McHugh (32 yards) and Benson (24 yards) both added a catch.

The senior running back accounted for 68 yards on only eight carries.

Rey Gonzalez added 11 rushes for 10 yards and Widlowski (two yds) and Carter Gill (three yds) also had a carry.

Defensively, Manteno was held to just 79 total yards and the Coalers had nine tackles for loss.

Number 11 Mason Garner matched his number with 11 stops, continuing his strong season.

John Keigher had five tackles and Poyner and Alec Waliczek both made four.

Gavin Vestal tallied three and Widlowski, Gill, Noah Houston, Cerutti and Trace Wilson all added two stops.

Also recording a tackle were Brock Finch, Drake Stewart, McHugh and Payton Vigna.