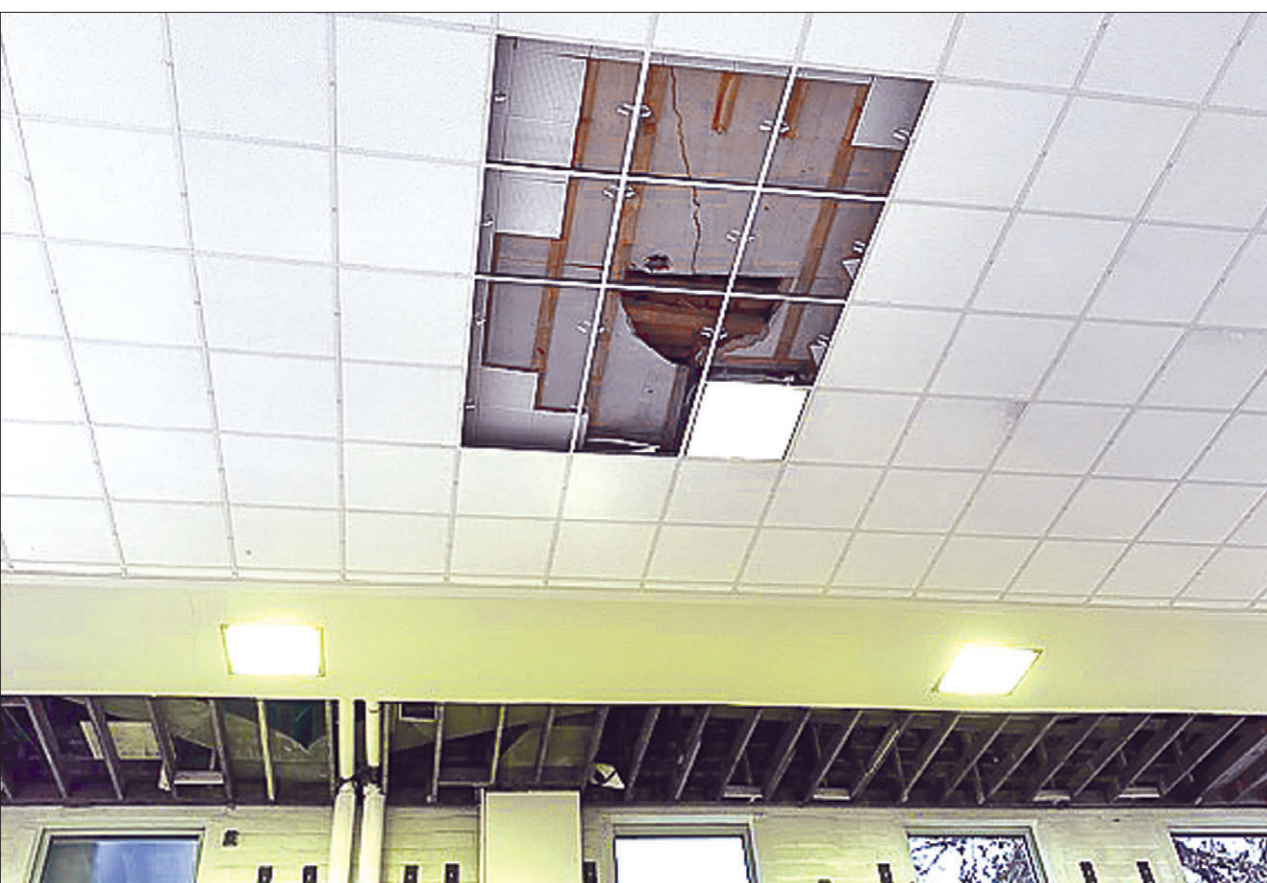


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CEILING TILES removed in the gym of the Coal City Intermediate School reveal the shifting of trusses that have made the building unsafe for students and faculty. Fourth and fifth graders were moved to the Coal City Elementary School for now.

Spencer explained that the
SEE CCIS PAGE 2



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CCIS, continued from page 1

cracks appeared on the wall, but the trusses are actually in the ceiling. Two are damaged and leaning toward the outside of the building. In a worst case scenario, the wall could possibly collapse. Thus, the need to shore it up.

"It's a barrel roof and the one trussed closest to the wall is pretty damaged," Spencer said. "The middle one, we found out yesterday, is also cracked. It's not as badly damaged, but it's still damaged."

While Spencer is confident that the walls can be successfully shored up, he admits that it's a temporary solution to permanent problem.

"It's an old building; there's a lot of history there," Spencer said, "But, we just don't know how much longer we can continue to put money into it to keep it running. It does cost a lot of money, and there are a lot of things that need to be fixed."

During a special meeting of the Board of Education last week, members took action to retain the services of Performance Services, a design build performance contractor, to move forward with measures to stabilize the gym roof and north wall, and provide the Board with long-term options for the building. The cost of the services is estimated at \$25,000 to \$35,000.

Jason Smith, the district's chief business official, reported the plan is to install "deadmen" on the outside of the north gym wall to keep it from moving any further and install floor to ceiling wood piers inside the gym to bear the weight of the trusses. This will require the gym floor and bleachers to be removed.

"This work is only intended to stabilize the space and that will give the Board time to make decisions on what kind of solution we want to move forward with," Smith said.

The work to stabilize the building is initially estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000.

During the meeting, the Board also took action to approve an emergency health and life safety resolution that allows the district to utilize health and life safety funds to help cover the costs.

When questioned about the possibility of constructing a new school, or possibly consolidating schools, Spencer said it's a possibility that has been discussed. However, he doesn't see it happening in the near future, at least not within the next year.

"It's something on the radar, but the board will ultimately decide," Spencer said. "There are different options that we have to weigh once we get information from the architects. We will at least fix the trusses for the time being."

At this point, Spencer is uncertain when, or even if, students and staff will return to the intermediate school.

"We hope to have some information in the near future as far as where to go from here," he said. "But right now, we definitely have to get that wall shored up."

Meanwhile, bus pickup times for intermediate students remain the same.

On Monday, Intermediate School students and staff reported to Coal City Elementary School. Classrooms on the north side of the elementary building and other areas were prepared for fourth and fifth grade classes. A capacity survey conducted on the district's school buildings determined the elementary school has adequate space to house the additional students.

"Will it be tight, absolutely. Is it going to be ideal, no, but it is what we have to do to protect those kids," said Ken P. Miller, Board of Education president.

"Having a safe place to learn is our priority and we believe that this is the best option for our students and staff. The closure is until further notice and we do believe that will extend through the current school year," Spencer said.

Area stations to become Braketime Marts

BY ROSE PANIERI
STAFF WRITER

Seven area Minit Mart convenience stores will soon be transformed into Braketime Convenience Marts LLC (BTCM).

BTCM, headquartered in Houston, TX, plans to open the former Minit Mart stores in Coal City, Wilmington, Braidwood, Elwood, South Wilmington and Mazon as Braketime Convenience Marts in November. Each of the stores will close a day or two this week as the transition is made.

Slow but sure

Bret Sullivan, regional operations director for BTCM, is overseeing the transition, reassuring existing staff that their positions are safe and their loyalty appreciated.

"We have been in contact with all the Minit Mart employees," Sullivan said. "They know the store better than we do, and we will depend on them to teach us."

Initially, there will be few changes, beyond re-branding, to existing stores. BTCM prefers to move slowly, making only positive changes.

"Minit Mart is more restrictive at the store level because they want the stores to be uniform," Sullivan said. "We don't operate like that. We want to offer more variety."

With considerable competition from businesses such as Casey's General Store and Love's Travel Stop,

Sullivan realizes he has his work cut out for him. Still, he's not worried since he believes a smaller company like BTCM can offer what larger corporation cannot or will not: Local flair.

"Our operations are a little more focused on what's local than Minit Mart," Sullivan said. "Minit Mart was part of a huge corporation, we are not. We prefer to focus on what's local, and that's going to vary by town."

Micro-local offerings

Sullivan said BTCM makes a big effort to be good neighbors. Therefore, store managers will play an integral part in the development of Braketime stores.

Like all gas station convenience stores, Braketime will offer standard fare like food, coffee, soft drinks and cigarettes. If the existing store already offers gaming, BTCM will continue to make that option available.

However, Sullivan believes the difference between Braketime and other markets is being a good neighbor, and making an effort to get to know customers.

"One big difference is we will look for local products to sell," Sullivan said. "If somebody has something like a regional honey, or something like that, we'd like to include it in the store's inventory."

Sullivan believes in simplicity. BTCM has no formal floor plan for stores, as BTCM prefers the stores to

evolve, becoming a true part of the community served.

Again, unlike stores owned by conglomerates, BTCM has the option to break the mold by offering unique products and services.

"Customer service is also a vital part of who we are," Sullivan said. "We want to focus on and participate in community events, we want to get to know our customers. That's how we're different."

A smaller corporation

Established in 2004, BTCM has emerged as a multifaceted enterprise, specializing in the operation and management of gas stations, food strips, ATMs, and retail strips. The corporation currently operates Braketime markets throughout Texas, Arkansas, and Colorado, recently acquiring stores in North Dakota and Montana. The Illinois stores will be among its first acquisitions in the Midwest. With the Illinois acquisitions, BTCM will own nearly 200 convenience stores.

The area Minit Marts were among 225 stations sold in 2018 by TravelCenters of America, LLC, to the UK-based EG Group for \$305 million.

In 2023, the EG Group sold off 26 non-core Minit Mart convenience stores (12 percent of the total) including those in our area, for \$48 million, according to CSP Daily. Not all Minit Marts were acquired by BTCM. Casey's acquired Minit Mart stores in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Turn on a green light for military veterans

In advance of the upcoming Veterans Day holiday, Grundy County has passed a resolution in support of Operation Green Light, an opportunity for the community to show its support for U.S. veterans.

Operation Green Light for Veterans is a nationwide effort uniting counties to support military veterans. The initiative, led by the National Association of Counties (NACo), raises awareness around the unique challenges faced by many veterans and the resources available at the county, state and federal levels to assist veterans and their families.

Operation Green Light, in its third year and has grown to over 300 counties across the U.S., is coming to Grundy County for the first time.

"Grundy County has always supported our veterans and the active and reserve members of our nation's military. Operation Green Light is another opportunity leading up to Veterans Day for our community to continue to show their support. This is not only an opportunity for the county to recognize the veterans in our community but also the veterans that work for the county and continue to serve their

community," said Ken Buck, Superintendent of the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission.

Residents, businesses and other organizations are encouraged to participate by simply changing one light bulb inside or outside their home to a green bulb fnow through Veterans Day on Nov. 11.

By shining a green light, residents can let vet-

erans know that they are seen, appreciated, and supported, and open conversations about the needs of veterans and the services that support veteran communities can be held.

"Operation Green Light is a gesture of support and appreciation for the public service of our veterans," said NACo Executive Director Matthew Chase.

Team, continued from page 1

Coal City team won the State Sectional Tournament held in Spring Valley, defeating Ashton by a score of 3-1

At that time, a young Gubelman pitched a no-hitter, chalking up his seventh straight win without defeat.

A quote in the Oct. 15, 1964 article from the Coal City Courant newspaper says it all:

"The lone run scored in the third inning when Gubelman ran into a brief streak of wildness. In all, he struck out 17 batters and walked two."

Collecting hits for Coal City were Jim Sayers, Gubelman, Terry Pemberton, and Tom Wills.

On to state

The team played in the state finals the following Saturday, defeating Mt. Zion 7-0 in the final game, winning the State Grade School Baseball Tournament.

In addition to Gubelman's "streak of wildness," credit for the win was bestowed upon Mike Himstedt, Terry Pemberton, and George Dare. Of course, the entire team contributed to the victory.

Sixty years later, Gubelman can recall every glorious second of the ball games that propelled the team into the limelight, meriting a congratulations from the governor at the time, Otto Kerner, Jr.

Gubelman said, "there's a couple of fellows are getting up in age like me. We haven't lost anyone from the team yet; they're all still alive. I just want to remind them of the great times we had."

Diamond election packets available

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice for Filing of Election Petitions
(1) Village Mayor - 4-year term
(4) Village Commissioner - each 4-year term

Notice is hereby given by office of the Clerk of the Village of Diamond, 1750 E. Division St., Diamond, Illinois, to file nominating petitions. The first day to file: **Tuesday November 12, 2024, the last day to file: Monday, November 18, 2024.** The Village of Diamond will accept petitions from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the petition filing period. "The Village will remain open to accept petitions until 4:30pm on the last filing day, Monday, November 18, 2024.

No petitions will be accepted after 4:30 pm on Monday, November 18, 2024. Consolidated Election to be held April 1, 2025. Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 6, 2024.

Coal City Village accepting candidate petitions for Consolidated Election

PRE-FILING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the office of Alexis Stone, Local Election Official in and for the Village of Coal City at 515 South Broadway, Coal City, Illinois, will be open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, beginning November 12, 2024, through November 18, 2024 for the purpose of accepting candidate petitions for the Consolidated Election to be held on April 1, 2025 for the following offices:

Trustees (3) 4-year Term
Alexis Stone
Coal City Village Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 6, 2024.

Felix Township to host Republican Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Republican party in the Township of Felix, Grundy County, IL will be held at Felix Township hall, 6525 E. Whitte Rd., Coal City, commencing at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Township Supervisor, Township Highway Commissioner, Township Clerk and Township Trustee (4).

Dated: Nov. 1, 2024.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 6, 2024.

Felix Township to host Democratic Caucus

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF CAUCUS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on December 3, 2024, a caucus of the Democratic party in the Township of Felix, Grundy County, IL will be held at Felix Township hall, 6525 E. Whitte Rd., Coal City, commencing at 7:00 p.m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for the following offices: Township Supervisor, Township Highway Commissioner, Township Clerk and Township Trustee (4).

Dated: Nov. 1, 2024.
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 6, 2024.

Maine Twp. Drainage District to hold annual meeting

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING MAINE TOWNSHIP DRAINAGE DISTRICT
You are hereby notified that the commissioners of Maine Township Drainage District will hold the district's annual meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2024, at 4 p.m., at the Maine Township Hall, 4020 E. Braceville Rd., Mazon, Illinois 60444, to review the business of the district. Anyone interested is invited to attend. Bill Stahler, Chairman
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 6, 2024.

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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 a.m. 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.

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Deadline for The Free Press Advocate, Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant
Display Advertising: Friday, noon
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

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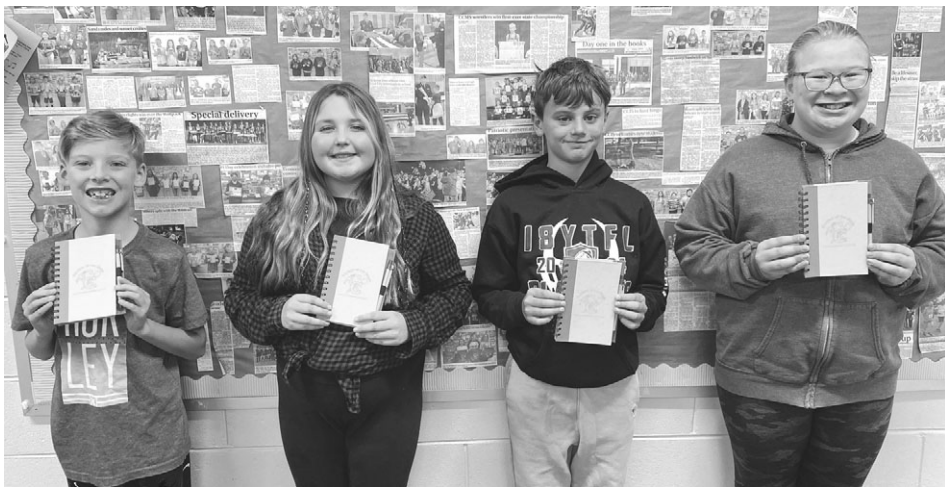
Students of the week



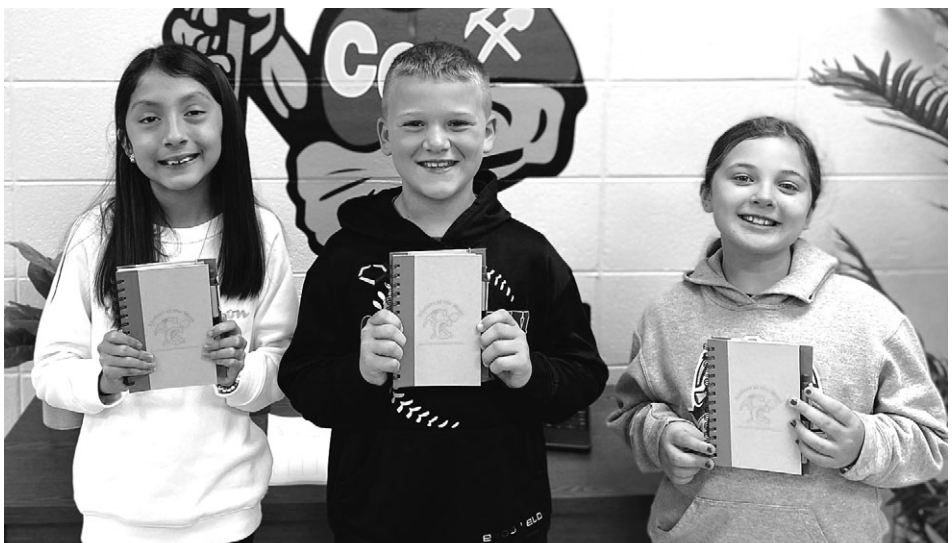
COAL CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL has named its Students of the Week for the Week of Oct.28. The honored students are [from left]: Avery Male, nominated by Ms. Drey; Lillian Harding, nominated by Mrs. Traxler; John Viano, nominated by Mrs. Noffsinger, and Libby Olson, nominated by Mrs. Roudis and Ms. DeKruiff.



COAL CITY MIDDLE School has named its Students of the Week for the Week of Nov. 4. The honored students are [from left]: Logan Seranella, nominated by Mrs. Clark; Lillith Miotk, nominated by Ms. Urquiza, Kaylie Mauer, nominated by Mrs. Horrie, and Izabella Herrera, nominated by Mrs. Siefken.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 28 are [from left]: Lincoln Wren, Evelyn Obert, Drake Figge and Chrissy Hall.



COAL CITY INTERMEDIATE School Students of the Week for the week of Nov. 4 are [from left]: Arianna Hernandez, Elliott Olson and Addie Bitner. Not pictured is Blaine Poeschel.



COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 29 [front, from left] are: Shiloh Kraus, Lucy Draino, Jack Ekstrom, Breckin Boonstra, Steven Cardosi and Mason Walsh. Back row: Erik Tonnesson, Dexter Miller, Riley Cochran, Adam Calderon, Adeah Emiling, Grace Einhaus and Arianna Clemmer.



Courtesy photo
COAL CITY ELEMENTARY School Students of the Week for the week of Nov. 4 are [from left] in row one: Ruhi Patel, Bryant Perryman, Jacob Thill and Johnny D'Arcy. Cooper Lardi is in row two with Clayton Cockerham, Macie Campbell, Evelyn Oller, Rhys Holley, Jack Terell and Grayson Trofimchuck.



COAL CITY EARLY Childhood Students of the Week for the week of Oct. 28 in row one [from left] are: Daisy Monshau, Cora Ripsch, Aaliya Elliott, Luna Lewis and Ava Coldwater. Bianca D'Orazio is in row two with Brayden Foster, Milana Pogliano, Owen Clubb, Arianna Mitchell and Beau Pasteris.



Courtesy photo
COAL CITY EARLY Childhood center chose students of the week for Nov. 4, students include (front, from left) Brexton Owensby, Landry Krause, Isabella Brnich, Hudson Lemke and Jaxson Lopex. Back row: Jack Halliday, Lian Pantoja, Everett Davis and Colton Hurley.

CCHS to host Veterans Appreciation Breakfast

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 7:45-9 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.

Fall cleanup at Braceville Gardner Cemetery

All grave decorations must be removed by Nov. 10 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



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"Support Coal City High School Athletes"



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Bad day

BRAIDWOOD—I have a suggestion for the teachers/teachers aids in the car rider pick up/ drop off line at the elementary school. If you don't like your job ask to be assigned to a different location. Yelling at a 50-year-old parent because you forgot their child is not how to end a day.

Campaign spending

WILMINGTON— The current political voting cycle has really made me realize how much better we, as a community of Americans, can better use resources. The millions and millions and millions of dollars being spent by national, state and local candidates seeking office is criminal. The average American is bombarded by election advertising for months and months ahead of the vote. Just stop and think of how we can come together to improve the daily lives of those in this country who don't have enough to eat; who must choose paying for food or paying for medications; who are trying to rebuild after natural disasters; who can't afford day care; or who can't pay their medical bills. If candidates really care about the constituents they represent, then the money they are all so eagerly willing to spend on advertising needs to be channeled differently. Maybe we should entertain the idea of a 50-50 split? For example, if a candidate wants to spend 10 million on their campaign, then they must also provide 50% of that campaign expenditure towards charities of their choice. Therefore a total of 15 million spent. Companies and individuals who donate towards a campaign would need to understand that 50% of their donation would be channeled to the candidates' charities of choice. This just happens to be one example of how we can support our neighbors. There are many other ideas of how to spend all these wasted advertising dollars. Just stop and imagine the impact. Now that type of process would be worthy of my vote.

A moot point

WILMINGTON—President Trump may fail as a speaker but is a proven businessman. His opponent is a great speaker but a poor businesswoman. I'm afraid of her leadership skills and how she looks to other world leaders. Would they be more weary of America with a strong defense and a leader who our military respects. By the time you read this it will be a moot point. Time to get back to being Americans as one people. Last and not least, we won't have to hear from one of the candidates after this as our constitution states two terms. How about term limits for every other politician? No matter which side, they forget about us and it's

all about them. Ask Mike Madigan!

Berkot's deserves it

WILMINGTON—I recently needed some alcohol for the holidays. I went to the new Jewel in Diamond and noticed they have a full selection of liquor. I purchased liquor and a few other items. The city of Wilmington lost out on the sales tax for all of those purchases. I feel our city administrators should reconsider allowing the newly remodeled Berkot's to sell all types of alcohol to remain competitive. Berkot's has spent a considerable amount of money on their store and deserves some help from our administration. We do not want our town to become a food desert.

Next for Diamond

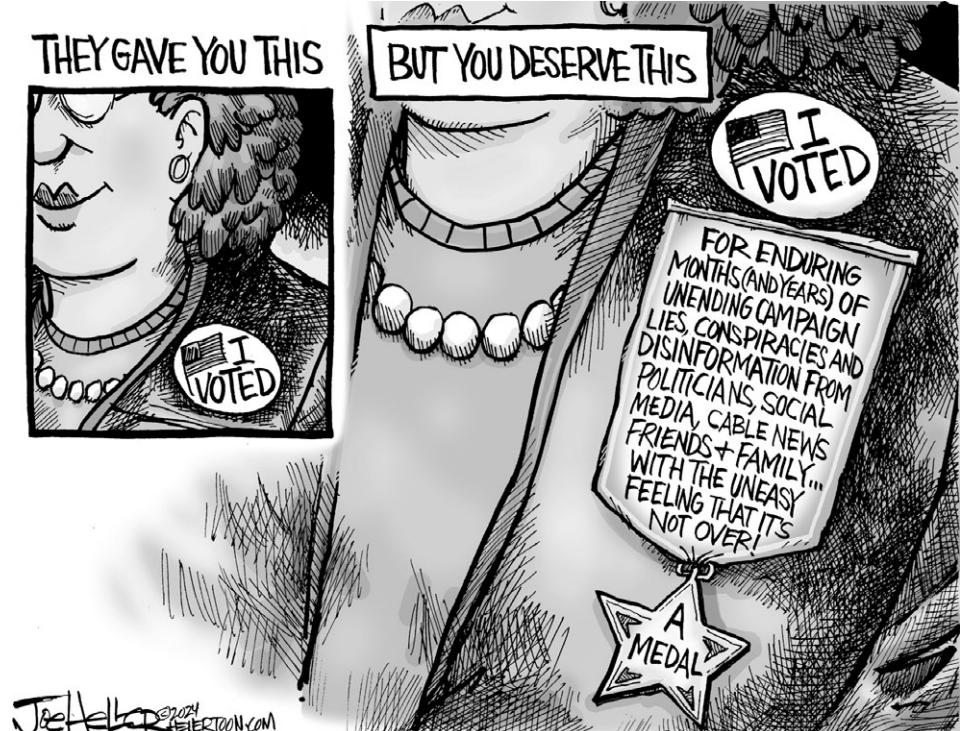
COAL CITY—The Village of Diamond's motto is "Alive and growing." Well with all the recent growth happening, it's time to cut the apron strings and grow a school and a police department just like a big city should.

Award deserved

WILMINGTON—I was not surprised in the least to read the article in the newspaper about Matt Baskerville and his funeral home receiving another award. There are no words that I could use to describe Matt. He is one of the most outstanding young men I have ever met in my life and he has helped me so much over the years. Matt took care of everything when my daughter's grave moved from Cook County to here. Matt does so much for the community, especially St. Rose, and I hope the people of St. Rose truly appreciate him. And I hope everyone in this community appreciates him. Thank you so much Matt for your caring, your kindness and your support and your amazing staff. You have the best employees in the world. I wish you continued success, happiness and good health. May God bless you, your family and your staff. Sheri Michaels.

Time's up

This is being sent in before the election results are known, and Trump is either president or filing his lawsuits everywhere. He may just surprise us all, and get on his jet and fly out of the country. With this being said I could have helped his chances of being elected. All that he and old buddy Elon had to do is donate a few million dollars to the states that were hit by the hurricanes. Just that act of kindness and generosity would have locked up the states in the southeast, because they said FEMA did not have the money to help. But what am I nuts, thinking that they would donate anything to those in need without some strings attached? God Bless our Veterans.



We are losing birds

WILMINGTON—According to scientists at Cornell University laboratories, the latest news is that our country is losing birds at an alarming rate. And just as history taught us the practice of using canaries in the coal mines of yesteryear, today's bird populations warn us of dangers in earth's biosphere in the present. And so when we might think it's a beautiful day, dangerous conditions might be threatening life around us, which must be examined thoroughly so that we have the opportunity to make corrections for all species, even our own. But what if our political leadership is more interested in profits rather than health? And so it is with Trump who gutted the EPA during his presidency, all the while pretending that our water was pure. Maybe water was pure for Trump's gold-plated faucets but not at all from the lead pipes of Flint, MI. And that's just one of the many environmental issues plaguing our nation, our continent, our planet. Of course, Trump is an obfuscated liar who would be happy should the entire world be a cesspool of carcinogenic toxins if it meant another filthy dollar in his pocket. The menace of Trump's 922 page Project 2025 threatens everyday Americans while the billionaires would be allowed to thrive. And that's why Trump should never be allowed to come near the Oval Office again. Irene

9-to-1

SHADOW LAKES—I have always thought sound off was the first amend-

ment at its finest posting things that the editor knows may not be true but it's free speech. But I find it odd a week before the election we get nine anti trump posts and one pro trump post. Odd or taking sides?

Editor's note: No sides taken. We print what's submitted without prejudice. We wondered why the Trump supporters weren't calling in too.

A big lie

COAL CITY—Every citizen should contact their senators and congressmen to file a complaint about the lies that have come out of the mouths of the public servants at the nation Personal Records Center in St. Louis, MO. The public is being told that the military records were destroyed in the fire at the National Personal Records Center in 1973. But this has been a coordinated lie for decades with the help of the VA since the military documents are recorded on microfilm. microfiche and now on electronic storage. The records from the fire were wet and freeze dried for repair. The public servants were lying just so they could be paid to do nothing. Lying, lazy tax related ploys that take advantage of Americans for their own comfort with more tax funds wasted on crooked liars. Both of these branches of government need to be investigated and every public servant held accountable for their inept responsibilities to the laws of the USA. We need a giant broom.

A close election

WILMINGTON—If God is on Trump's side why is it so close?

Commentary

The hidden costs of our dietary guidelines

BY JANET KING AND CHERYL ACHTERBERG

Whatever your opinion of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., he's the first national candidate to platform the issue of chronic disease in America. To address this crisis, for children and adults alike, our response should be bipartisan. As former members of the expert committee that oversees the science for the U.S. Dietary Guidelines, we can tell you that these chronic diseases are primarily driven by poor diet, and our guidelines are part of the prob-

lem. Published every five years by the Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Agriculture (USDA), the guidelines represent more than just suggestions. They're the nation's nutritional North Star. But they've led us astray. Today, over 70% of American adults and one-fifth of children are overweight or obese. As members (and one of us chaired) the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, we aimed for the highest quality reviews. Sadly, those standards have deteriorated, leading

to a national nutrition policy that no longer reflects the best or most current science. The guidelines were controversial at the start. In 1980, the National Academy of Sciences derided the diet's foundational studies as "generally unimpressive." Despite these concerns, the guidelines were embraced by government officials for most of the next four decades -- even as the concerns of skeptics grew louder. In 2017, two landmark studies from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

delivered a critical verdict: the development process lacks scientific rigor and transparency, leading to guidelines that were not "trustworthy." The reports made 11 concrete recommendations to improve rigor and transparency in the guidelines process. Yet, shockingly, follow-up evaluations in 2022 and 2023 revealed that the USDA had fully implemented none of them. The result? Continued untrustworthy guidelines that continue to drive bigger waistlines and poorer metabolic health. Consider: Since the first guidelines were published in 1980, we've been told to fear fat and instead consume more than half of all calories as carbohydrates. This advice fundamentally misunderstands metabolism. Chronic, excessive carbohydrate consumption -- especially refined grains and added

sugars -- drives obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other metabolic disorders. The guidelines also maintain an unfounded hostility towards saturated fats, ignoring the last decade of evidence challenging their link to heart disease. Following the guidelines, Americans have increased grain calories by 28% since 1970, while reducing red meat intake equally. Butter and egg consumption dropped as vegetable oil use surged 87%. We've engineered a dietary disaster, swapping wholesome, satiating foods for processed carbohydrates that leave us hungry and sick. Fortunately, hope is on the horizon thanks to this year's farm bill. This massive legislative package, revisited every five years, could be the key to unlocking a healthier future for America.

The bill proposes crucial reforms to the guideline-development process, demanding "standardized, generally accepted evidence-based review methods" and requiring full disclosure of potential conflicts of interest among committee members. By mandating greater transparency and adherence to rigorous scientific standards, we can begin to rebuild trust in these crucial recommendations. It's an opportunity to reclaim our health, one meal at a time. Janet C. King, PhD, is Professor Emeritus of Nutritional Sciences at the University of California, Berkeley. Cheryl Achterberg is a former Dean at The Ohio State University and was a member of the 2010 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee. This piece originally ran in The Hill.

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JJC Planetarium Hosting Accessible Night Under the Stars

Joliet Junior College (JJC) is excited to announce "An Accessible Night Under the Stars," a unique event designed to celebrate disability awareness and inclusion.

Hosted by JJC's Disability Services and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) offices, this special evening will take place on Thursday, Nov. 14, at the Herbert Trackman Planetarium on JJC's Main Campus. Tickets and event information can be found at: <https://jjc.edu/accessible-night-under-stars>

The event will feature an engaging planetarium demonstration and show, followed by a one-hour reception with live music, hors d'oeuvres, a 50/50 raffle, and displays of accessible technology. This inclusive event aims to provide an enjoyable and educational experience for all attendees, highlighting JJC's commitment to accessibility and community engagement.

As a community college committed to making education and campus experiences accessible to all, JJC continually strives to foster an inclusive environment where every individual can thrive.

Saying what they want without consequences

As usual, plenty of false claims have been made during this state legislative election cycle.

But the campaign I keep going back to in my own mind is the battle in the 97th House District.

The race features freshman incumbent Rep. Harry Benton (D-Plainfield), a union ironworker and a former local elected official. The Republican challenger is Gabriella Shanahan, an executive assistant with the Illinois Policy Institute.

Organized labor is keen on this race because the Illinois Policy Institute is known for its anti-union crusades and Benton is one of their own.

The 97th District had been held by the Republican Party before the 2021 remap, so the Republicans really want to win it back.

But the remap did a number on this district. Donald Trump lost the old district by 8 points in 2020 and 3 in 2016. Trump lost the precincts that make up the newly redrawn district by more than 10 points in 2020 and 6 in 2016. Every statewide Democratic candidate has won the precincts in the new district



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

going back to 2016 except one, appointed Republican Comptroller Leslie Munger won it by less than 4 points.

The freshman incumbent and the Democrats have been playing some games there, despite having a huge fundraising advantage of close to \$2 million for Benton to \$525K for the Republican Shanahan (including a \$100,000 loan from herself on November 1) as I write this four days before the election.

My associate Isabel Miller reported a while back that Rep. Benton told WSPY Radio earlier this year he was "pretty happy to see that the grocery tax is going away," after the governor proposed eliminating the tax during his State of the State message in February.

Some of Benton's campaign mailers even claimed that the incumbent, "supported the elimination of the grocery tax."

But when it came time to vote on eliminating the grocery tax, Benton didn't vote either way.

Benton told Isabel that some of his municipalities would lose lots of money since the one percent grocery tax was solely collected for local governments.

But when Isabel asked him why he was touting a position that he didn't officially take, Benton said, "Since I didn't vote on HB 3144, people wouldn't have known my position. I wanted to let people know before anyone could misrepresent my position that while there were parts of that bill I didn't agree with, I had spoken out about cutting taxes on groceries." Um, OK.

Last month, the Democrats ran a digital ad blasting Shanahan for accepting contributions from politicians who "voted to block funding for testing rape kits," among other things.

That allegation was based on campaign contributions from Republican state legislators who voted against the state budget, which included funding for rape kit testing. Shanahan has indeed received money from several of those GOP members.

However, wanna take a guess who also voted with those very same Republicans against the omnibus appropriations bill (SB251)? If you said, "Rep. Harry Benton," you win a prize.

A person close to Rep. Benton said at the time that the freshman incumbent had no veto power over the House Democratic ads.

Well, the incumbent's personal campaign fund, Friends to Elect Harry Benton, then began run-

ning a Chicago broadcast TV ad that made the same exact hypocritical charge.

"Gabby Shanahan won't protect women," Rep. Benton himself said in the voice-over. "She's backed by extreme politicians who voted to block funding for testing rape kits."

In other words, he was personally, with his own voice, blasting his opponent for taking money from Republican legislators who made the same exact "No" vote that he did on the budget.

Rep. Benton also said this in the ad: "I voted against a new tax on retirement savings for our seniors." No bill number was flashed on the screen as a reference, and I have no idea what the heck he was talking about.

The almost comically lopsided imbalance in campaign money this year means that Democratic candidates can basically say whatever the heck they want without any sort of consequence. And the collapse of local news media in the state means that almost nobody in the district will ever hear about this and the incumbent won't be called to account.

The Democrats know all this, of course, which is why they do it.

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

The Reed-Custer High School Class of 1974 50th Class Reunion

Date: Saturday, Nov. 23, 2024
Time: 2:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Venue: TOP FUEL SALOON
275 South Hickory Street
Braidwood, IL
(Former Knights of Columbus Hall)

*TOP FUEL is a full restaurant and bar; where you will be able to purchase your own food & beverages if desired. A room with chairs & tables will be available for our class to gather, catch up and share past memories & good times with each other. No other provisions will be provided. If you have any questions, please call:
Sherri Favero Lestina 815-250-8883*

NOVEMBER 2024

Sat., Nov. 9, 8pm - 12am
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Sun., Nov. 17, 3pm - 6pm
SILVERSTRINGS
Country, Blue Grass and more • No Cover

Nov. 27 • Black Wednesday
8pm - 12am
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Will gas drop under \$3/gal?

Average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 4.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.23/g Monday, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 19.7 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 27.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Micro-locally, prices are close to dipping below \$3/g. In Wilmington, you'll pay anywhere from \$3.08/g at Mohsen's to \$3.15/g at Shell.

Braidwood offers gas at \$3.13/g at Casey's, up to \$3.24 at BP. Coal City Shell has gas for \$3.09/g to \$3.12 at BP.

Further afield you'll find gas under \$3/g. Morris Casey's comes in at \$2.99/g with the price at \$3.19 at

BP. Across the board, Bourbonnais gas prices are under \$3/g. At Gulf, you'll pay \$2.88/g and the highest price for gas is \$2.99/g at BP.

"Seasonal trends continue to push down gasoline prices across much of the country, with GasBuddy counting 26 states where average gas prices have fallen below \$3 per gallon—something that could be less than a week away for the national average," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

"For now, Americans can expect the downward trend to continue in most states, while other states have seen prices jump temporarily due to a behavior we track called price cycling. We should see the number of states with sub-\$3-per-gallon prices grow as we get closer to Thanksgiving."

The lowest price in the state Monday was \$2.54/g while the highest was \$4.79/g, a difference of \$2.25/g.

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 wilmingtonchamberparade@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: _____

CAVITY FREE CLUB

Patrick J. Yerkes, DDS
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Bianca Ader	Kennedy Eggleston	Carson Lawless	Abigail Rose
Raelyn Aldridge	Jack Ekstrom	Ethan Lawless	Charlotte Sassenger
Maverick Albin	Maura Ekstrom	Maelyssa Lawless	Henry Sassenger
Cody Allen	Ryker Feil	Rhett Liebermann	Sylvester Shores
Coltin Allen	Carson Feehan	Levi Liebermann	Audrey Shores
Jnae Allen	Timothy Feehan	Brooklyn Long	Autumn Shores
Vincent Allen	Marina Figge	Johnny Long	Sarah Simonelli
Laura Sue Allen	Drake Figge	Rory Loughran	Ella Spicuzza
Lucy Allred	Daniel Fite	Kennedy Loughran	Gionna Spicuzza
MyKinley Barnett	Kellen Forsythe	Brady Loughran	Jackson Steinhouse
Madi Barnett	Liam Galass	Evangeline Ludes	Jayce Strong
Bradie Barnett	Jagger Garcia	Noah Machalek	Madilyn Strong
Randy Bisaillon	Ryder Gill	Caleb Machalek	Liam Sukley
Reese Bisaillon	Carter Giordano	Riley Matsko	Ryan Sukley
Bristol Bisaillon	Maverick Glastetter	Daniel Matsko	Clay Surman
Mollie Bohac	Brooklyn Glover	Molly Matsko	Cason Surman
Taylor Bova	Jett Granger	Maddox Meents	Elizabeth Vancura
Brinlei Bulthuis	Briynlee Granger	Avery Micklos	Will Vancura
Ryder Cavanaugh	Maya Grigus	Lydia Mikula	Gavin VanDuyne
Johnny Carver	Charlee Hameister	Zoei Mikula	Gabby VanDuyne
Julian Carver	Mason Hansen-Strukel	Lian Miller	Darcy VanDuyne
Gianna Carver	Ellie Hansen	Bennett, Miller	Dane VanDuyne
Vella Carver	Alden Hill	Kamille Morris	Madisen VanDuyne
Andi Chandler	Tyler Hill	Rose Mugnolo	Talan VandeWerken
Chloe Conrad	Kamryn Hutman	Nicholas Mulvihill	Kaysen VandeWerken
Lila Conrad	Colton Hurley	Zachary Mulvihill	Kashton Vogler
Olive Conrad	Madeline Hutchings	Matthew Mulvihill	Nate Vogler
Avery Crisman	Cruz Islas	Ashton Nelson	Gavin Vogler
Cole Cutter	Max Islas	Natalie Olson	Alivia Waliczek
Drew Davidson	Elizabeth Jensen	Brexton Owensby	Trinity Whalen
Evrett Davidson	Oliver Jones	Dean Penz	Anna West
Wyatt Davidson	Cooper Jones	Cain Perry	Abigail West
Hailey Dickover	Rayna Kaiser	Alfred Perry	Gray Wetenkamp
Kate Dillon	Dax Kehm	Landyn Pierard	Makayla Winnie
Graham Dillon	Kamden Kerr	Trevor Reeb	Rose Wolf
Talor Dillon	Meldoy Kinder	Landon Reeb	Will Wolf
Abigail Donnelly	Justin Kinder	Cooper Rivera	Mason Wolf
Ethan Donnelly	Abigail Kinnett	Oakley Rivera	Avery Wynn
Aiden Dumycz	Ben Kintz	Whyatt Robinson	Liam Wynn
Izzy Edgeworth	Rose Krug	Brantley Robinson	Kylie Wynn

Dr. Yerkes and staff would like to congratulate all the cavity free kids for the month of March - September, 2024. Keep up the good work!

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR THE MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for the MANHATTAN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT for 2024 will be held on November 18, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. at the District Fire Station, located at 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact President William Moncrief c/o Manhattan Fire Protection District, 100 Park Road, Manhattan, Illinois, telephone (815) 478-3197.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,765,721.00

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$7,154,400.00. This represents a 5.74% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$0.00.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0.00. This represents a 0% increase or decrease over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2023 were \$6,765,721.00.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$7,154,400.00. This represents a 5.74% increase over the previous year.

Farm community rallies around injured friend, shares message of road safety

BY PHYLLIS COULTER
FARMWEEK

Willy VanWassenhove, a Kankakee County farmer and a newlywed of six months, pulled his truck and hayrack over to the side of the road when he noticed a couple of bales rocking.

And then his life forever changed.

While he was standing between the truck bed and hayrack, a vehicle rear-ended the wagon, pinning him and crushing his legs, according to a fire official on the scene. He has had 12 surgeries as of Oct. 23, including the amputation of his right leg near the knee.

One of his latest procedures was to address a blood clot on his lung. He remains at the University of Chicago Medical Center,



WILLY VANWASSENHOVE

battling persistent infections with no idea when he will be able to go home.

"We've been through a lot," said his wife, Lisa, who remains by his side and uses Facebook to keep friends and family posted each step of the way.

"We have a huge community helping us," she said of friends, family and neighbors doing hog chores, moving hay, selling pork and raising money to

help with hospital expenses.

People in their community tell her this is their way of giving back to a family who's always been willing to help others.

The couple has been together for almost 11 years but just officially tied the knot this spring. Their happy memories of a "beautiful wedding" on March 16 help them as they struggle with their new reality.

He hopes to eventually be fitted for a prosthetic leg but will also have a very long road to recovery. He has started physical therapy to strengthen his upper body, and when ready he will move to the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, she said.

The priority of his family and friends is to help take care of the daily tasks on the farm until he recovers. But they are also prioritizing sharing the importance of road safety and awareness of farm vehicles.

VanWassenhove was parked on the side of the road, with flashers on, and displayed a slow-moving vehicle sign when the vehicle crashed into him from behind.

"This accident is a prime example of the importance of farm safety awareness and has impacted families across Illinois and all the way to Kansas," said Halie Kohl, a youth he inspired through his volun-

teer work with livestock.

"Willy has played a monumental role in my livestock show career and has been a great, selfless role model to look up to," said Kohl, an Illinois Farm Bureau Young Leader who wanted to do something to help the farmer who was inducted into the Illinois 4-H Hall of Fame in 2023.

So, she designed a T-shirt featuring an orange, slow moving vehicle sign with the words "Save a Farmer + Slow Down" on the back and "Willy Strong" on the front. She is selling them online at stores.inksoft.com/willy-strong until Nov. 1 with \$5 from every shirt going help the family.

Many people know the Kankakee County Farm Bureau member, who raises and breeds Berkshire hogs, has a hay business and sells pork, because VanWassenhove was also so active in the dairy and pork industry. He assists youth with their projects across Illinois, is the Kankakee County Fair Livestock Auction Committee chair, and co-superintendent of the Swine Barn. "During the Illinois State Fair, he can be found volunteering to serve ice cream near the butter cow in the dairy building," Kohl told FarmWeek.

"With the support of the 4-H and farming communities including Cabery, Campus, Cullom, Herscher, Kempton and communities including Ashkum, Chebanse, Clifton and surrounding areas, along with family and friends from several states praying and sending their care and thoughts, I have no doubt my husband will pull through this and come back out on top," Lisa said. "He's a fighter."

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

American Legion to hold Poppy Day this Saturday

The poppy serves as the nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice honoring American men and women who served and died for the country in all wars.

The Wilmington American Legion will hold its annual Poppy Day fundraiser on Saturday, Nov. 9, from 11 a.m. to noon, at the corner of Baltimore Street and Water Street. The money that is collected is to support Be The One Suicide prevention part of the American Legion.

If you are a veteran with PTSD or depression and would like to talk with a Wilmington veteran, who has lived through this, call 779-206-8391. For the veterans crisis line dial 968, press 1.

Wilmington VFW holding kids coloring contest

The Wilmington VFW is holding a Veteran's Day coloring contest for children through the sixth grade.

There will be three age categories judged with the youngest being pre-kindergarten through 1st grade; 2nd through 4th grade; and 5th through 6th grade.

Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in each age group.

Participants can stop in the Malcolm J. Mayo

Post at 557 W. Baltimore St., Wilmington and color a picture they select. On the back, they write a couple sentences (mom and dad can help the youngest group) on what a Veteran or Veteran's Day means to them.

VFW members will judge them leading up to Veterans Day deadline on Nov. 11. This is being sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. All entries will be displayed on the walls at the post.

Knights of Columbus to hold raffle

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus 1574 are raffling off \$1,000 in prizes. All proceeds benefiting the Veterans home of Manteno.

Tickets are \$5 each or six tickets for \$20. A single ticket has a chance to win five different prizes. Winners will be drawn on Nov. 30 on the Braidwood KofC Facebook page on live stream.

Tickets can be bought from any KofC member, by calling/texting John at 815-651-1963, or by email at kofcbraidwood@gmail.com

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OBITUARIES

Mary M. Beldon

MORRIS—Mary M. Beldon, 74, of Morris, passed away Saturday, Nov. 2, 2024, at Morris Hospital. Born on Dec. 8, 1949, in Morris, Mary Madeline was a daughter of Francis E. Sr. and Frances Agnes (Adams) Halpin. She grew up in Gardner, where she graduated from Gardner South Wilmington High School. With a passion for helping others, Mary pursued her education in nursing at St. Joseph College of Nursing.



Throughout her career, Mary initially working in hospitals before transitioning to skilled care facilities, where her compassion and dedication shone brightly. A devoted member of First Baptist Church in Morris, Mary found joy in her faith and the community she cherished. Beyond her commitment to nursing and church, she had a passion for collecting porcelain dolls and enjoyed watching NASCAR, a love she shared with her late husband, Dan. Above all, Mary was a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her family was her greatest treasure, and she cherished time spent with them. Survivors include her two sons, Aaron Wendel, of Morris and Adam Wendel, of Oglesby, IL; five grandchildren: Aaron

Wendel, Madeline Wendel, Anna Wendel, McKenna Mae Wendel and Matthew Wendel; one great-grandson, Syllas James Wendel; one brother, Francis “Frank” (Debra) Halpin, of Gardner and her sister, Donna (Bill) Wethington, of Coal City, as well as several nieces and nephews. Mary was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband, Robert “Dan” Beldon. The family will receive friends for a visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 408 E. Washington St., one block east of IL Route 47 in Morris on Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024, from 11 a.m. until time of funeral service at 12 p.m. Pastor Steve Larson from First Baptist Church of Morris will officiate, and burial will follow in Evergreen Cemetery, Morris. Mary will be laid to rest with her late husband, Dan. Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Mary’s memorial page online through social media. Funeral services and arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Morris.

Suzanna Frederiksen

COAL CITY—Suzanna Frederiksen, “Sue,” 75, of Coal City, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, Nov. 3, 2024 at Morris Hospital.



Born Feb. 17, 1949 in Joliet, Suzanna was a the daughter of Anton and Gladys (Argyle) Togliatti. She was raised and educated in Coal City and graduated from Coal City High School with the class of 1967. On Nov. 1, 1969, Sue married John Lee Frederiksen at the Coal City United Methodist Church, and together they would share 55 years of marriage and call Coal City their home. As a young woman, she operated her own cake baking business out of her home, providing excellent wedding and birthday cakes to all of her customers. Sue later attended Governors State University to complete her Bachelor’s Degree of Science in Education and achieved her Master’s Degree from St. Xavier College. She began her 27-year career as an educator with the Coal City School District in 1991 teaching science. Sue loved opening young children’s minds to the wonders of science, and was particularly proud to sponsor the gardening club at the school to give students hands on experiences. She was a member of the Illinois Science Teachers Association and looked forward to the Illinois Science Teachers Convention every year.

Sue was an active member of the Coal City United Methodist Church and was a part of the Sunshine Circle there. She had a great appreciation for the outdoors, enjoying camping trips to the Coal City Area Club as well as family trips to explore the country, particularly their trip to Yellowstone National Park. Sue took pride in her garden, carefully maintaining her beautiful flowers and cultivating her vegetable garden. She was an avid reader and life-long learner with a passion for history, particularly learning about Abraham Lincoln. Sue loved being with her family and raising her children, becoming a big fan of the University of Illinois football and basketball after her all her children attended college there. She was a social person with

a sharp wit, elevated by her sarcastic nature, which she passed on to her children. Sue undoubtedly was at her best when she was with the people that she knew and loved, celebrating the moments and memories she made with them throughout her life. Survivors include her three children: Amy Borchelt, Amanda (Steven) Burns, and Erik (Alanna) Frederiksen, all of Coal City and one son-in-law, Tom Borchelt Jr. of Morris; five grandchildren: Jacob and Natalie Borchelt, August and Victoria Burns and Nolan Frederiksen; two brothers, Dave (Donna) Togliatti, of Coal City and Mark (Merikay) Togliatti, of Morris; her brothers and sisters-in-law: Maryann (Jimmy Dean) Krug, of Coal City; Doug (Cheri) Sutton, of Texas; Cinda (Michael) Conroyd, of Arizona; Lark (Deb) Frederiksen, of Verona; Leann Havekost, of Florida and Michelle (Don) Wilson, of Channahon and numerous nieces and nephews. Sue was preceded in death by her parents and her husband; mother and father-in-law: Earl and Lois Frederiksen; one brother-in-law, Vince Hodgson; two nephews, Kevin Togliatti and Craig Holmes and her life-long friend, Linda Odo. The family will receive friends for a visitation at the Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., in Coal City on Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024 from 3 p.m. until the time of funeral services at 6 p.m. Reverend Jay Regennitter will officiate, and cremation rites will be accorded following the funeral service. Inurnment will follow at a later date in Braceville Gardner Cemetery. Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Sue’s memory to the Coal City United Methodist Church. Family and friends are encouraged to sign the online guest book at www.ReevesFuneral.com, upload photographs, and share Sue’s memorial page via social media. Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves & Baskerville Funeral Homes and Crematory in Coal City.

Susan E. Lindsey

CUSTER PARK—Susan E. Lindsey, “Gal,” 81, of Custer Park, passed away on Thursday, Oct. 31, 2024 at her home. Born on Aug. 5, 1943 in St. Louis, MO, she was the daughter of Jarvis and Marie (nee Alms) Nolan. She married Basil L. Lindsey and together they made their life and raised their family in Custer Park. After 30 years of employment as a packer she retired from Personal Products/Johnson-Johnson in Wilmington. She was a member of Island City Baptist Church in Wilmington. She enjoyed crocheting, planting flowers and making home made candies. Most of all Susan loved spending time with her family. Surviving are her daughter, Terri L. (Charly) Wilson, of Gardner; son, Thomas



L. Lindsey; seven grandchildren: Jeremy, Nichole, Matt, Adam, Lindsey, Brandy and Tommy Jr.; nine great-grandchildren; sisters: Patricia (Gerald) Scheidt, of Cairo, IL; Judy (Bill) Guthrie, of McLeansboro, IL; Norma (Melvin) Wike, of Indiana; Phyllis Sampson and Carol (Phil) Adams; best friend, Louis Scott; special niece, Tanya Gurnitz and many numerous nieces and nephews. Preceding her in death were her parents, Jarvis and Marie Nolan; husband, Basil L. Lindsey (7-6-2013); daughter Tina L. Stewart; brother, Phillip Nolan; and sister, Sharon Zabsnik. Cremation rites have been accorded. Arrangements have been entrusted to R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

Lunch at school

- Mon., Nov. 11:** No school
- Tues., Nov. 12:** hot ham & cheese on bun, cheese hash browns, strawberry applesauce and milk
- Wed., Nov. 13:** walking taco, roasted mexican corn, salsa, mixed fruit and milk
- Thu., Nov. 14:** cheese pizza, romaine garden salad, orange sherbert, pears and milk
- Fri., Nov. 15:** spaghetti with meat sauce, green beans, garlic toast, peach cup and milk

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Deadline one week away to file for Grundy County Consolidated Election

Grundy County Clerk, Kay Olson reminds residents the following offices are up for Election in the April 1, 2025 Consolidated Election are:
MUNICIPAL – Mayor or President, Aldermen, Commissioners or Trustees
PARK DISTRICT – Commissioners
LIBRARY DISTRICT – Trustees
REGIONAL BOARD OF SCHOOL – Trustees
SCHOOL DISTRICT – Board Members
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT – Trustees
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – Trustees
The County Clerk's Office handles petitions packets for school boards only, including Coal City

Unit 1, Gardner 72, South Wilmington 74, Braceville 75, GSW High 73 and others. Candidates may also download the packet from the County Clerk's website at: www.grundycountyil.gov, under 'Elections' then under upcoming Elections', and may also request a petition packet by e-mail, by contacting the Clerk's Office at: elections@grundycounty-il.gov. All other candidates filing for the Consolidated Election, must file with the board/district in which they are seeking office. Petitions may be filed in person by the candidate, or a candidate representative, beginning Tuesday,

Nov. 12th thru Monday, Nov. 18, 2024. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will be open until 5:00 p.m. on the last day of filing. Petitions may also be filed by mail, by mailing to: Grundy County Clerk, 111 E. Washington St., Room 12, Morris IL 60450; however, they must be returned by Monday, Nov. 18th. Petitions received before the first day of filing cannot be accepted. Please note that the County Clerk and staff cannot provide legal opinions regarding petition papers. Prospective candidates are encouraged to consult their own legal advisors on questions related to their petition packets.

Once petition papers are filed, they cannot be changed or amended. Please note that a candidate's nominating papers are subject to legal challenge by qualified objectors. The 2025 Candidates Guide and the 2025 Abbreviated Calendar are available online, at the Illinois State Board of Elections website at elections.il.gov. For more information, please contact the Grundy County Clerk's Office at (815) 941-3222, Option #1, or e-mail elections@grundycounty-il.gov.

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www.HansensWindowCoverings.com

Local zip codes added to list of children at increased risk of lead poisoning

Children in Braidwood, Braceville, Elwood, Gardner, Coal City, and Wilmington may be at higher than average risk of lead poisoning. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has announced an expanded list of high-risk ZIP codes, increasing mandatory testing for lead exposure of children who live within those areas. 148 new zip codes, including our read-

ership area, have been added to the list, bringing the total of high-risk ZIP codes to almost 1,200. “There is no safe level of lead in the blood,” said IDPH Director, Dr. Sameer Vohra. “To better serve our children and build brighter futures for all of our residents, IDPH is acting to ensure that more children have access to the testing and interventions necessary to decrease the potential serious physical and developmental health concerns linked to lead exposure.” Under Illinois law, any child residing in a high-risk ZIP code is to be tested automatically at 12 and 24 months. All children six years of age and younger are required to be assessed for lead exposure through the use of a questionnaire administered by a pediatrician. In addition, children who fall into other risk categories spelled out in the questionnaire are also tested. High-risk ZIP codes are determined through an algorithm that assesses a number of different risk factors. The department has been expanding that list of ZIP codes gradually and expects to implement universal testing for lead exposure across all Illinois ZIP codes by 2026. The expanded list can be found

at: [Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk ZIP Code Areas \(illinois.gov\)](http://Pediatric Lead Poisoning High-Risk ZIP Code Areas (illinois.gov)). Under current Illinois law, blood tests which come back with lead levels in excess of five micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL) require a public health intervention. This includes a home inspection to determine

the source of the lead contamination. If lead is found, the inspector will work with the homeowner to remove the sources of lead. In addition, there will also be a visit from a public health nurse who will educate the family on ways to protect children from the harmful effects of lead.

Knights of Columbus Tootsie Roll Drive
Thanks A Million For Your Contributions

The Braidwood Knights of Columbus Council 1574 would like to thank all of the merchants and members of our communities for their donations to our drive to assist people with Intellectual Disabilities. We would also like to thank all of those who helped in any way to make this past year’s program successful. Thanks again for the help. We especially thank the following Businesses for their support. The dates were Sept. 13, 14, and 15, of 2024.

Merchant Contributors 2024

Bob’s Advanced Auto & Tire, Mueller Cabinetry, Holt and Sons, Anderson Tax Service, All Paws, Brad Trotter Associates, Allegra Coal City Printing, Southland Firearms, Free Press Newspapers, Gardner Recycle, True Tech Systems, Ferrari Accounting, RW Patterson Funeral Home, Broadway Auto Salvage, Don’s Beer Store, Riley’s Cardinal Transport, BC Tax Sense, Onoco Inc., Grundy Redi Mix, West Flooring, Weber Micetich Chiropractic, Wilmington Chiropractic, Bensen Insurance, D Construction, State Farm-Jerry Hallahan, Reeves-Baskerville Funeral Homes, John Howard, Tamora Johnsen, Scheers’ Insurance Services, Hair Benders, RKD Trucking, Wharrie Law Firm, Quality Auto Body, J & R Service Center, Rolando’s Furniture & Appliance, Hometown Storage, Redmond’s Jewelry, Dibble Trucking, Candlelight Home Health Care, Polka Dot Drive In Inc., Dr. Jurak, CiCi and Lala’s LLC, Frank Black, Nicks Hair Studio, Sistek Sales, and Fatlan Trucking.

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Employee of the Month
Nomination form

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce and Industry sponsors an Employee of the Month award each month. The public is invited to make nominations of an employee in a local business who is courteous, attentive, sincere and makes it a pleasure to patronize that business. Send nominations to Chamber of Commerce Ambassador’s Committee, c/o Chamber of Commerce, 616 Davy Lane, Wilmington, IL, 60481, or email info@wilmingtonchamber.org

I wish to nominate this individual for Employee of the Month:

Name: _____

Employed at: _____

Comments: _____

Your name (optional): _____

The effects of “greening” Antarctica

Dear EarthTalk: Is the so-called “greening” of Antarctica as its ice melts actually helping to prevent climate change given that plant life absorbs and stores carbon?

- W.P. Smith, via email



As Antarctica warms due to climate change, an unexpected phenomenon is occurring: the “greening” of the continent. As ice melts, certain areas once covered in snow and ice are becoming hospitable to algae and other plant life. A

key question arises: Does the increased carbon capture from this greening offset or help prevent climate change?

The “greening” of Antarctica primarily refers to the growth of green snow algae, which thrive in the increasingly warmer temperatures of the Antarctic Peninsula. As temperatures rise slightly above freezing, especially in coastal regions, these algae blooms are expanding significantly.

These blooms are acting as carbon “sinks,” absorbing carbon dioxide (CO2) through photosynthesis, which reduces greenhouse gases. According to a study by the University of Cambridge, green snow algae in Antarctica capture approximately 479 tonnes of CO2 annually, and their growth

is expected to increase as the snow melts and more land becomes suitable for these blooms.

While the role of algae as a carbon sink is positive, there are several limitations to its impact on mitigating climate change. First, the scale of the carbon sequestration is relatively small when compared to global CO2 emissions.

The estimated 479 tons of CO2 captured by Antarctic algae is just a fraction of the billions of tons emitted annually worldwide, rendering its contribution minimal in the grand scheme. As a result, while algae may contribute to reducing atmospheric CO2, it does not provide a large enough offset to make a significant dent in global warming.

Moreover, the overall ecological and climate

impacts of Antarctica's greening are most concerning. The melting of Antarctic ice is leading to rising sea levels, which far outweigh the benefits of carbon sequestration by its algae.

And this global sea level rise threatens coastal communities and ecosystems around the world. Additionally, the introduction of plant life into Antarctica's fragile ecosystem may create new environmental challenges, disrupting existing species and possibly causing further ecological shifts that could have unforeseen consequences.

While Antarctic algae blooms represent an interesting phenomenon, to combat climate change effectively we need to focus on reducing our carbon footprint through renew-

able energy, supporting reforestation projects, advocating for strong climate policies, and reducing waste.

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Grundy Bank urging high school seniors to enter contest for \$21,000 in scholarships

Grundy Bank is participating in a scholarship competition that enables Illinois high school seniors to enter a statewide essay-writing contest.

It is all part of a program sponsored by Illinois community banks and the CBAI Foundation for Community Banking to increase public awareness of locally-owned banks and their contributions to the community.

Grundy Bank is a member of the Community Bankers Association of Illinois (CBAI) which formed the Foundation in 1996. A monetary award in the amount of \$1,000 a year for up to four years of higher education will be awarded

to the author of the best essay submitted to the CBAI Foundation by a participating Illinois high school senior.

Up to 11 additional first-place \$1,000 awards and 12 second-place \$500 awards are available in each of the regions of the state. An additional \$500 will be awarded to the high school of the overall winner.

The bank is working with Wilmington, Coal City, Reed-Custer, Morris Community, Minooka Central and Seneca high schools for student submissions.

The length of the essay is not to exceed one page on the theme; double-

spaced, using Times New Roman font, and 10-12-point size.

Information on the contest is available at the bank and the schools. Essays must be submitted to the bank by Wednesday, Feb. 26. The bank will then submit selected essays to

the CBAI Foundation to be eligible for the statewide competition.

Based in Springfield, CBAI is a professional association that represents nearly 300 Illinois chartered banks and thrifts throughout Illinois.

Braidwood Lions Club will be selling Christmas trees

The Braidwood Lions Club is holding its annual Christmas Trees Sale fundraiser beginning Monday, Nov. 25. The club's stand is located in the Whitmore Ace Hardware parking lot in Braidwood.

Balsam trees ranging in height from 6 to 9 feet along with small and large size decorated wreaths, grave blankets, small & large size grave pillows, and various artificial greenery decorations will be for sale. Lions club house brooms, heavy duty brooms and whisk brooms will also be available for purchase.

Hours are Monday thru Friday from noon - 7 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., while supplies last. Sales

will be closed on Thursday, Nov. 28 for Thanksgiving and will resume Friday, Nov. 29.

Purchase a Christmas Tree from the Braidwood Lions and receive a voucher for a free 6 feet Ace brown indoor extension cord, compliments of Whitmore Ace Hardware in Braidwood, while supplies last.

All proceeds from the tree sales will go back into the community in the form of the various community activities and humanitarian services that the Braidwood Lions Club provides throughout the year. For more information please call (815) 791-8093 or visit www.braidwoodlionsclub.org

Women of the Moose 781 having 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 tick-

et 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.

Immaculate Conception to host night at the races

Braidwood's Immaculate Conception Church is hosting a night at the races Saturday, Nov. 9. Doors open at 5 p.m. First race is at 6:30 p.m. Come join us for a night of horse racing, raffles, food and fun.

Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door for \$10 each (with \$10 in play money). Grab your partner, put on your favorite western outfit and come on over for a high spirited good time.

Call Sara at 815-341-5946 or Tami 815-405-0982 for tickets. Must be 21 to attend. Cash bar and food will be available.

Braidwood Knights offer breakfast to 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.

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Duplex for rent in Diamond on 1 acre lot. 2 bdr, 2 bath, 1 office. Hardwood floors, laundry room, lg deck, outdoor shed. \$1,700 mo. No pets, no smoking. 630-854-7300 cc45-46

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For sale by owner in Wilmington. Ranch style home with 3 BR, 2 full baths, living room, family room, open concept kitchen & dining room with center island and beautiful deck with a gorgeous view of the Kankakee River. Call 815-405-8038. ca45-46

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3-Bedroom Duplex, Diamond, IL. Ranch style, attached garage, concrete drive, washer/dryer hook-up. Year lease, credit check, no pets, no smoking \$1,250 per month, security deposit, plus utilities. Call 815-351-2494. ca43-46

GARAGE SALE

Wilmington, 3 Family Sale. 991 E. Kahler Road. Friday, November 8, 9am-4pm and Saturday, November 9, 9am-1pm. Home decor, kitchen, holiday, outdoor, tools & tool storage, collectibles: Elvis, Lucy, M&M's, sports. Lots of misc, way too much to list.

REAL ESTATE AUCTION

Saturday, Nov. 16 at 10 a.m.

7800 E. Goodfarm Rd., Gardner, IL (One mile south of RECOS Road House)

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Larry Wharrie Attorney For Estate

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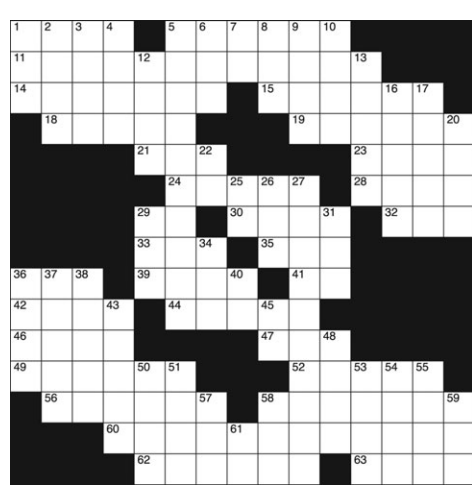


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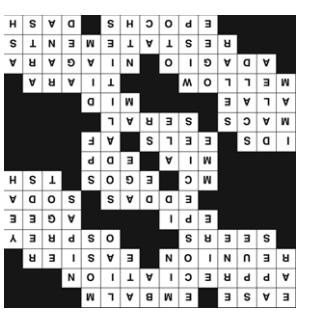
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- CLUES ACROSS**
1. Absence of effort
 5. Preserve a dead body
 11. Gratitude
 14. The act of coming together again
 15. Simpler
 18. Visionaries
 19. Large, fish-eating bird
 21. Indicates near
 23. Former CIA agent and critic
 24. Icelandic poems
 28. Pop
 29. "Hammer" is one
 30. Senses of self-importance
 32. Thyrotrophic hormone
 33. Not around
 35. Electronic data processing
 36. Licenses and passports are two types
 39. Snakelike fish
 41. Air Force
 42. Popular computers
 44. Of a withered nature
 46. Wings
 47. Used in combination
 49. Laid back
 52. Jeweled headdress
 56. In slow tempo
 58. ___ Falls
 60. Assertions made again
 62. Periods of history
 63. Hyphen
- CLUES DOWN**
1. Body part
 2. Mimics
 3. Expel large quantities rapidly
 4. Sea eagle
 5. A type of subdivision
 6. Variety of Chinese
 7. Mr. T's name on "The A-Team"
 8. Consumed
 9. Chinese dynasty
 10. NFL great Randy
 12. Ireland
 13. Palm trees with creeping roots
 16. Fungal disease
 17. Impressionable persons
 20. Affirmative! (slang)
 22. Instinctive part of the mind
 25. "The First State"
 26. A way to develop
 27. Fraternities
 29. Woman (French)
 31. Sunscreen rating
 34. Beer
 36. Spiritual leader
 37. Indigo bush
 38. Burn with a hot liquid
 40. Junior's father
 43. Ray-finned fishes
 45. Morning
 48. Line passing side to side through the center (abbr.)
 50. Double curve
 51. A small bundle of straw or hay
 53. Got older
 54. Crater on Mars
 55. Humanities
 57. Relating to the ears
 58. "To the ___ degree..."
 59. Residue of a burned product
 61. It cools a home

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



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MORRIS \$215,000
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COALER SPORTS



Photo by Amy Walker

REGIONAL NIGHT FUN—Coal City volleyball fans cheering on their team on Thursday. Some showed up on costume on this Halloween Night to lend their super support.



Photo by Amy Walker

COAL CITY'S EMMA Rodriguez hits over the Seneca block during Thursday night's game.



Photo by Amy Walker

COAL CITY JUNIOR Sydney Larson sets up Addison Hodgen for a kill during Thursday night's game against Seneca. Coal City lost to Seneca in two games to end their season.

Lady Coalers fall in title match

Seneca lived up to their #1 seed on Thursday as they won the Coal City Regional by defeating the Lady Coalers (#4) in two games.

Coal City played with lots of heart in the first game but just couldn't keep up, falling 25-19. In the second game the Lady Coalers stayed within striking distance before falling 27-25.

This ends their season with an overall record of 21-16.

The Lady Coalers won their first postseason game 25-16 and 25-20 beating Spring Valley (Hall High School).

Sydney Larson had 26 setting assists, 4 digs, 3 aces, and 1 kill.

Emma Rodriguez had 13 kills and 3 digs. Aylie Castle had 4 kills and 1 dig. Abby Viano had 4 kills. Abbysin Fite had 3 kills, 2 aces, and 1 block.

Addison Hodgen had 2 kills and 1 dig. Lilly Feisley had 9 digs and 1 service ace. Stana Milinkovic had 1 dig.



Photo by Amy Walker

TIPPING THE BALL over for Coal City is Alysins Fite during Thursday night's game against Seneca.



Photo by Amy Walker

LADY COALER Ava Kenney digs a ball during Thursday night's game against Seneca in the Regional Championship.

COALER SPORTS



Photo by Eric Fisher

MAKING A TACKLE for the Coalers is Mason Garner during Friday night's 41-13 victory over Johnsburg during the first round of the 4A playoffs.



Photo by Eric Fisher

COALER LOGAN NATYSHOK slips away from a Johnsburg defender during Friday night's round one of playoffs. Coal City defeated Johnsburg 41-13.

Coalers ground Skyhawks behind Benson's five touchdowns

BY JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Visiting Johnsburg did something no team had done yet this season, score on the Coalers home turf and score first against them.

While that initial shot took some time to overcome, the home side delivered plenty of body blows throughout.

Their all-time leading rusher Landin Benson, delivering the knockout punch late in the third quarter with a 49 yard run, one of five touchdowns for the senior, in a 41-13 win.

Coal City advances to the second round of the Class 4A playoffs where they will travel to 15th seeded Rockford (Boylan Catholic) Saturday at 1 p.m. The Titans upset top-seeded Chicago (South Shore) 26-0.

"It had been a few weeks since we've been tested like that. I thought that was very beneficial for us," said head coach Francis Loughran.

"It's now the playoffs and it was important for us to see that and rebound from it."

The visitors moved the ball 59 yards through the air on the opening drive and connected on a six yard touchdown pass.

The Coalers took a bit to get going but converted a key 4th and two on their second possession before Benson scored on a two yard run in the final minute of the opening frame.

"Even though we were trailing, I felt the team did a great job keeping it all together and playing like the score was 0-0 each

drive, so if anything trailing gave us more motivation," said Benson.

Quarterback Zander Meents found Gavin Berger for a 28 yard touchdown at the seven minute mark of the half.

After a Benson missed 37 yard field goal, the Skyhawks mishandled the ball and Cade Poyner was there for the recovery.

Benson powered in for an 11 yard touchdown to give the home side a 20-7 half-time advantage.

Johnsburg cut it to a one-score game converting three fourth downs, including a one yard touchdown run, but Rey Gonzalez returned the ensuing kick-off 32 yards setting up the offense at the Skyhawk 49.

After being bottled up for just 45 yards on his first 16 carries, Benson's 17th went 49 yards to the house.

"I think it's a combination of Landin how hard he runs. There's a lot of plays where he's bottled up at the line of scrimmage and he got the extra yards because of that leg drive," said Loughran.

"Also, I thought our line did a good job of matching intensity and basically wearing them down. Guys like Poyner, Will Johnke, Brody Dorazio, Wyatt Koehn and Sean Viles."

The senior would add two more touchdowns to his ledger, a two and 31 yarder, finishing with 27 carries for 169 yards and the five touchdowns along with a key 32 yard reception.

"Playoffs are obviously a huge step up and the run game did good in the second half. The team overall had a great game and I

think we succeeded on all three phases of the game," said Benson.

Efficiency has been the name of the game for the Coaler passing attack and Friday was no different as Meents was 12-for-18 for 218 yards.

Logan Natyshok led the receiving corps with five catches for 76 yards.

Gabe McHugh had 74 yards on four receptions and Berger added two for 42 yards.

"We're known for running the ball, but we've shown that we can throw it as well. It's tough for other teams when we have so many different options."

"I thought Meents did a good job spreading it around and made the defense play honest with us."

Defensively, Johnsburg put up 239 passing yards but were held to zero net rushing yards on 22 attempts.

McHugh was all over the field with nine tackles, three for loss.

Jake Cerutti and Emmett Easton both recorded seven stops and Brock Finch, Brody Widlowski, John Keigher (interception), Noah Houston and Poyner (two sacks) all tallied four tackles.

Mason Garner had three, Donnie Ladas and Trace Wilson both made two and Carter Gill and Alec Waliczek (sack) were in on a stop.

"Johnsburg is a very good offensive team. They put up some yards through the air, but there were no big plays and that's what we were looking for going into the game," said Loughran.



Photo by Eric Fisher

THE COALER DEFENSE did a good job of pressuring Johnsburg's quarterback on Friday. Getting a hit to force and incomplete pass is Coal City's Cade Poyner.

Coalers seek first Elite 8 appearance in five years

JIM SHELTON
SPORTS CORRESPONDENT

Considering the last two seasons featured an undefeated opponent in the second round, the Coalers have to be pleased to see a 15th seed who lost three straight to close the regular season.

That is the case with Rockford (Boylan Catholic) who plays in the Northern Illinois conference where six of the 10 teams made the playoffs.

The good news for Coal City who will head to Rockford Saturday at 1 p.m. is that the Titans went just 1-4 against playoff teams. They do enter off a 26-0 shutout of previously unbeaten Chicago (South Shore) however.

"They have a rich play-

off history (37 years) and in looking at them on film, they are big, want to run the ball and their line play is very good," said Coaler coach Francis Loughran.

"We're going to need to play a complete game if we want to advance."

One thing that will need to be cleaned up is penalties. The Coalers were whistled 11 times for 143 yards last week.

"We put ourselves in a bad spot multiple times last Friday. As you get to the next round of the playoffs, you're playing better and better competition and can't shoot yourselves in the foot like that."

"It's hard enough to win a playoff game and we can't do those things if we want to advance."

The winner will face

either sixth-seeded Chicago (Agricultural Science) or third-seeded Dixon, the highest seed left in the north bracket whose only loss came to unbeaten Byron 29-28.

Few teams are playing with the confidence that Coal City is right now.

They have scored at least 27 points in their eight wins and given up just 38 points in those contests.

"We're excited for the opportunity. We feel like we're playing some pretty good football right now and this is an opportunity where if we play clean, mistake-free football, we have a very good opportunity to advance."

"The last couple years, we had a very difficult draw and we feel like this is a favorable one for us."



Photo by Eric Fisher

COALER GAVIN BERGER catches a pass from Coaler Zander Meents for a touchdown against Johnsburg during Friday night's game, round one of playoffs.



Photo by Eric Fisher

RUSHING FOR CCHS is Landin Benson during Friday night's game as he cuts left to avoid Johnsburg defenders to score. Benson rushed for a total of 126 yards, scoring five touchdowns.