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COAL CITY COURANT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

North Broadway reconstruction moving forward

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

Reconstruction of North Broadway, the village of Coal City's next large scale road project, is moving forward.

The mayor has entered into a contract with Chamlin & Associates Engineering to advance the project to phase 2 engineering.

The design and construction is to be completed with federal funds amounting to 80% of the total project cost currently estimated at \$6.7 million. The village would be responsible for the other 20%.

Phase 2 design engineering is being funded through the Transportation Improvement Plan

[TIP] managed by the Will County Governmental League [WCGL]. The cost of the next phase was approved at a total not to exceed \$488,882.

Initially, the design engineering was projected at over \$500,000, however the TIP funding currently available fell below that level.

According to Village Administrator Matt Fritz, Chamlin & Associates and Christopher B. Burke Engineering, Ltd. [CBBEL]—a firm that has been subcontracted to assist on the project—made reductions from their initial estimates to reduce overall costs.

The total is still over funding levels so Fritz said the total not to exceed amount will not be expended unless additional funds are made

available from the TIP.

"This possibility could become reality, as projects are taken away because they cannot proceed to construction or have not expended as many funds as planned within the fiscal year because the project has not been completed," Fritz said.

The scope of the work to be completed in phase 2 design is a complete reconstruction of North Broadway from Route 113 [Division Street] to North Street with a three-lane roadway 36 feet wide—one lane being a turn lane.

Plans include concrete curbs and gutters, an 8-10 foot wide shared-use path along the east side of the roadway, parking areas, storm sewer and utilities.

The design plan will also include plans for the resurfacing of North Street from Broadway east to North Second Avenue and the reconstruction of the roadway from Second Avenue to Dresden Road [Pequot Curve] with 24 foot wide two lane pavement, a 10 foot wide shared use path, storm sewer and utilities.

The project is a continuation of the South Broadway reconstruction and will include a similar design.

Chamlin & Associates is projected to have the phase 2 design plan completed and presented to the village by the end of summer 2023.



NEARLY 70 FAMILIES will have Thanksgiving dinner on the table this week thanks to the generosity of Unit 1 School District staff members and student groups.

Coalers with Character delivered 65 turkeys and trimmings to Help for Hope on Monday morning. Joining in the effort were [from left]: Khloe Picard, Madi Peterson, Caleigh VandeWerken, Emma Rodriguez, Wyleigh Serena, Jordan Olson, Gaven Vestal, Mason Hamilton, Derek Carlson, Joey Hutchings, Ryne Phelan and Kerigan Copes.

Courtesy photo

Coalers show character with turkey delivery

STAFF REPORT

Several local families are thankful for the giving that took place this week.

It has become tradition that on the Monday prior to Thanksgiving

local high school students stop by Help for Hope with a load of turkeys. This year the tradition continues.

The idea of collecting turkeys for the community's less fortunate started years ago when a group of

local high school students visited the former Clothes Closet and overheard a patron asking if the organization would be distributing holiday turkeys.

That one question sparked the students and their teacher, Bonnie

McDowell, who has since retired, to send out a message to the school district's staff asking if they would be willing to donate just one frozen turkey. The staff answered with turkeys and of course all the fixings to make the meal complete.

Since that first collection, hundreds of turkeys and trimmings have been donated by school district employees and student groups.

Coalers with Character, a group comprised of high school student athletes, has since taken over the

SEE COALERS PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

LET'S GET COOKING—First graders in Tiffany Stewart's class at Coal City Early Childhood Center are ready to dig into the Thanksgiving feast, but first they need to prepare the turkey. In keeping with holiday tradition, the students have prepared for our readers their recipes for cooking the bird.

How to cook a turkey

In preparation for the Thanksgiving holiday the following turkey recipes were submitted by first grade students in Tiffany Stewart's class at Coal City Early Childhood Center. The submission of student's turkey recipes began some time ago with first grade teacher Ann Quinzio-Zafran who suggested the tradition continue after her retirement.

What you should know is each submission, with some writing prompts from their teacher, appear as written by the students who are just learning the art of writing and these recipes are 'not' kitchen tested.

Get a turkey from hunt-

ing. Before you cook it you need to tack the feathers off put pepper on it and wash it put the turkey on the pan. Cook the turkey at 10 degrees for 30 hours. The turkey is done when it smells good. You can eat biskets and donuts with the turkey. For dessert you can pumpkin pie.

—by James Susan

Get a turkey from huntin. Before you cook it you need to take the fethers off. Cook the turkey at 25 degrees for 15 minutes. The turkey is done when the alarm goes off. You can eat mash putatoes and grenn bene and gravee and biskits with the turkey. For

dessert you can eat brownies with powder and cherry pie.

—by Johnny D'Arcy

Get a turkey from Barcots. Before you cook it you need to unwrap t. season it, wash it, put it on a pan. Cook the turkey at 10 degrees for 5 hour. The turkey is done when it smells good. You can eat basket ham putatoes with the turkey. For dessert you can eat pumpkin pie.

—by Piper Shelton

SEE TURKEY PAGE 2



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Turkey

Continued from page 1

Get a turkey from the woods. Before you cook it you need to tack the fethers off then tack the raper off then cook it then tack out of the oven. Cook the turkey at 32 degrees for 2 hwers. The turkey is done when the timer gos off. You can eat chips and tost with the turkey. For dessert you can iskerem with a chare up top and brownes and chcklit.
—by Kennedy Wix

Get a turkey from uot hunting. Before you cook it you need to tac the feters off wash it then cook it. Cook the turkey at 54 degrees for 6 ows. The turkey is done when it smells good. You can eat chips bred masht btadows with the turnky. For dessert you can eat ice cream.
—by Xander Hannon

Get a turkey from becots. Before you cook it you need to urap it. put seseneon it put it in the pan and coocix. Cook the turkey at 53 degrees for 2 hours. The turkey is done when the timere gose off. YOU can eat putatose dumpling chips with the turkey. For dessert you can eat brounees coceces.
—by Brock Bailey

Get a turkey from Bercot. Before you cook it you need to unerap it then put it wosh it and thin put it in the uvin. Cooke the turkey at 15 degrees for 3 hows. The turkey is done when the timer gose off. You can eat mashd utadoese and chipse with the turkey. For dessert you can eat cholict cand borse.
—by Lyla Strunga

Get a turkey hutng. Before you cook it you need to fedrs. Cook the turkey at 5 degrees for minit, You can eat mashd and chips with the turkey. For dessert you can eat cukes.
—by Kayla Arcos

Get a turkey grostre stor. Before you cook it you need to tack off the rapr then wash then ckok. Cook the turkey at 40 degrees for 50 mins. The turkey is done when the uvin beps. You can eat mack in chez with the turkey. For dessert you can eat teat isck kem.
—by Sebastian Kaluzney

Get a turkey from hunting. Before you cook it you need to tak fether off, then wash it then put sezining on it. Cook the turkey at 2 degrees for 30 minuit. The turkey is done when the timer bepps. You can eat gerave and biskits with the turkey. For dessert you can eat cookies.
—by Charles Christensen

Get a turkey from berkots. Before you cook it you need to open the raper and wash it and then put sining on it. Cook the turkey at 200 degrees for 50 minuts. The turkey is done when it is nice and brown. You can eat ham and carits with the turkey. For dessert you can eat green fluff.
—by Kate Lehnus

Get a turkey from Berdcots. Before you

cook it you need to tack the tapen put sesh on it, and put it in a pan and cook it. Cook the turkey at 40 degrees for 400 owers. The turkey is done when bron coler. You can eat green beans, Chips, tost. with the turkey. For dessert you can eat punchin pi cake branes and choict sips.
—by Jadon Kinder

Get a turkey from Brocos, Before you cook it you need to tar of the rapr put the sisnis on the turkey put on the pan den coc it. Cook the turkey at 12 degrees for 12 minis. The turkey is done when timer. You can eat chips snobare wodmelin with the turkey. For dessert you can eat bromiuv cac isecrem cupcades coces.
—by Addy Reszel

Get a turkey fom brchos. Before you cook it you need to tack the rabrs off sestknont. Cook the turkey at 10 degrees for 2 muns. The turkey is done when smad good. You can eat bteos biskckst with the turkey. For dessert you can eat buckinst buy.
—by Jada Browner

Get a turkey from a turkey farm. Before you cook it you need to take the dter off it. to wash the turkey and put sesining on it. Cook the turkey at 6 degrees for 2 minites. The turkey is done when it looks brownish. You can eat mackin chese and chips and biscet with the turkey. For dessert you can eat brownes.
—by London Collins

Get a turkey from Burkots. Before you cook it you need to unrap wash. Cook the turkey at 12 degrees for 12 minis. The turkey is done when smels gud. You can eeat tost dersosich with the turkey. For dessert you can eat emems.
—by Michael Pogliano

Get a turkey from huntin. Before you cook it you need to tak the fevrs, wosh it, sinin. Cook the turkey at 50 degrees for five mins. The turkey is done when it sels. You can eat mash pash bisk with the turkey. For dessert you can eat isikrm bos.
—by Clay Surman

Get a turkey from brkotts. Before you cook it you need to wrappit and sesit it in the pan. Cook the turkey at 77 degrees for 10 minit. The turkey is done when it smelz gud. You can eat bixed wif btadez with the turkey. For dessert you can eat puckin pie.
—by Ava Kirchner

Get a turkey from brcots. Before you cook it you need to tac the ranper off the turkey washit put sisanen on it and put it and pan. Cook the turkey at 30 degrees for 3 awers. The turkey is done when it dings. You can eat it with masht-putatos with the turkey. For dessert you can eat chips.
—by Eaisa Romero

Get a turkey from hunting. Before you cook it you need to tat the felther wrshit sening crdit. Cook the turkey at 29 degrees for 1 howr. The turkey is done when gooof. You can eat mashbt oin bred with the turkey. For dessert you can eat iscrem.
—by Noah Maldohabo

Hustle this holiday to support a good cause

The annual Holiday Hustle 5K run/walk, established to support community programs and events, will benefit a non-profit business that is just getting started.

Organizers of the race have selected Beans & Bites as its supported charity for 2022.

Beans & Bites is a newly formed non-profit coffee café that provides workforce opportunities for people with disabilities.

The business is run by local residents Kris Sayers and Brittany Cochran. It was been Sayer's life-long dream to operate this type of business as she saw a need from a young age that there were few employment openings for those living with disabilities.

The mission of Beans & Bites "is to provide workforce opportunities in a safe, social environment, building life skills while increasing community awareness and reducing the unemployment rate of individuals with intellectual and development disabilities."

The Holiday Hustle is organized by a 17-member committee led by Lori

Bonarek. Along with friends, community members and business associates, Bonarek has established a fundraising event that has provided thousands of dollars in needed funding to support community organizations and events including Angels of Hope, Coal City Backpack Program, Hope Helps and Help for Hope.

Beans & Bites was established this fall and since that time has developed a following though its pop-up events selling coffee and handcrafted treats at community events and youth sports competitions.

Long term plans are for a drive-up location and ultimately a storefront cafe with a breakfast and lunch menu.

By participating in this year's Holiday Hustle runners and walkers will be helping the coffee café reach its goals.

The race steps off at 11 a.m. on Sunday, Nov. 27 from the 700 block of S. Broadway in Coal City.

Participants will head south to Reed Road, loop through Cardinal Transport and head back north to the

finish line. Babe's Tap, 755 S. Broadway, will serve as the race headquarters. Packet pickup begins one hour prior to the race.

Cost to participate is \$30 per participant in advance and \$35 on race day. Pre-registration can be completed on-line at runsignup.com or via the direct link on the Holiday Hustle Facebook page.

Participants will receive goodie bags and awards will be presented to the top overall male and female finishers and for the top male and female finishers in each age category. Age divisions for men and women are 10-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-64 and 65 and older.

There are currently over 35 sponsors for this year's event that is being organized by Bonarek, Jim Ludes, Jen Phillips, Renee Super, Amy Foley, Jodi Jensen, Debbie Durando, Jen and Rick Hakey, Marvin and Kris Perino, Cindy Klein, Shannon Wahl, Laura Jones, Melissa Alstott, Diana Mason and Kasia Marketti.

O'Reilly Auto parts donates to Coal City Library



Courtesy photo

O'REILLY AUTO PARTS recently opened its new auto parts store in Coal City. As part of their grand opening they donated \$200 to a local organization. The Coal City Public Library District (CCPLD) is excited and thankful to be the recipient of this donation. Owner Erik Everett (right) and Store Manager, Billy Baker (center) presented the check to René Norris, Head of Youth Services.

Santa Claus is coming to town

Holiday lights will go on Sunday

STAFF REPORT

Santa Claus and his elves at the North Pole are busy preparing for Christmas, but the jolly old elf himself will make a pre-Christmas visit to the village of Coal City Sunday.

Santa will flip the switch to turn on the village's holiday tree and decorations.

Santa is scheduled to arrive in the village Sunday, Nov. 27 at Campbell Memorial Park to visit with children at 4 p.m. He will greet children in the park gazebo until the official lighting around 5 p.m. He will then finish his visits before heading back north.

The GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club is teaming up with the village of Coal City to host Santa's visit and lighting, the first public holiday event in three years.

Refreshments—hot chocolate and cookies—will be served.

Since this is an outdoor event, attendees should dress accordingly and are reminded to bring a camera for photos with Santa.

Attorney Meents files Esparza estate claim

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA, Deceased; No. 2022PR88

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA, Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on November 7, 2022, to Arturo "Art" Esparza, whose address is 55 North Second Avenue, Coal City, IL 60416; whose attorney is Fisher Meents LLC, 25158 West Eames Street, Unit A, Channahon, Illinois 60410. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before May 17, 2023, or if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a Claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

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

ARTURO "ART" ESPARZA
Independent Executor of the Estate of GONZALA NEVAREZ ESPARZA,
Deceased

Frank J. Meents
Fisher Meents LLC
25158 West Eames Street, Unit A
Channahon, Illinois 60410
Telephone: (815)534-9515
Facsimile: (815)534-9516
Attorney Code: 06298859
E-mail: frank@fishermeents.com

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 16, 23 and Nov. 2022.

Thanksgiving closures announced

Coal City Village Hall and the administrative office of the police department will be closed Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25 in observance of Thanksgiving.

Diamond Village Hall will also be closed Nov. 24 and 25. Waste pickup will be delayed by one day in the villages of Coal City and Diamond.

The Coal City Public Library will close at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 23 and remain closed for Thanksgiving Day. The library will reopen at its regular time on Friday, Nov. 25.

The Unit 1 School District will observe the holiday from Wednesday, Nov. 23 to Friday, Nov. 25. Classes will resume Monday, Nov. 28. The district's administrative office will also be closed those days.

With the exception of essential services, all Grundy County offices will be closed Nov. 24 and Nov. 25.

The U.S. Postal Service has announced there will be no mail delivery and postal offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Coffee & Newspapers

One wakes you up
One opens your eyes

Grundy County to hold annual meeting of assessors

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County Supervisor of Assessments
PUBLIC NOTICE
PURSUANT TO 35 ILCS 200/9-15 OF THE ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX CODE, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE 2023 SUPERVISOR OF ASSESSMENTS ANNUAL MEETING FOR ALL TOWNSHIP AND MULTI-TOWNSHIP ASSESSORS, AND DEPUTY ASSESSORS, IN GRUNDY COUNTY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2022 AT 4:00 PM AT THE GRUNDY COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING, COUNTY BOARD ROOM, 1320 UNION STREET, MORRIS IL. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS FOR CONSULTATION AND INSTRUCTION TO ENSURE UNIFORMITY OF THE TOWNSHIP ASSESSORS' FUNCTIONS. THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Deborah Ritke, CIAO CCAO
Grundy County Supervisor of Assessments
drinke@grundycountyil.gov
815-941-3269

Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 23, 2022.

Coalers with Character

Continued from page 1

turkey collection under direction of sponsor Brad Boreis. They received donations from more than 65 staff members and organizations this fall.

A dozen students were up early on Monday to deliver the donations to Help for Hope. The non-profit agency will be getting those donations out to families in time for Thursday's holiday dinner.

"Awesome," is the word Help for Hope founder Cathy Milne used to describe the delivery and the school district's on-going commitment to help members of their community.

A total of 69 families signed up for assistance this holiday. Milne said each recipient will receive a turkey and dinner sides thanks to the support provided by the

school district and community members.

After a few pandemic related down years, Milne said the number of monetary and product donations has really picked up and will go to support those in need this season.

Contributing to the effort from the Unit 1 School District were: Betsy Cowherd, Tanya Miller, Jen Rink, Rachel Rose, Steph Barkley, Teresa Chernesky, Ali Scrogam, Neil Nicholson, Jenn Ness, Amy Gernenz, Stacey Roach, Kim Haab, Jen Muscato, Ashley Jackman, Michelle Hill, Danielle Diamond, Hayley Vilafuerte, Jenn Endrst, and Abby Dimitrijevic.

Angie Phillips, Jen Rhodes, Britt Harseim, Emily Nolan, Margaret Marsaglia, Jill Duffy, Kelly Steichen. Tracy

Warner, Kristina Davy, Peggy Feeney, Tiffany Stewart, Abby Wilkinson, Stephanie Vahle, Brandon Petersen, Connie Terrel, Deb Tapley, Amy Foley, Jess Giordano, Sue Hancock, Cris Bormet, Gina Horrie, Lori Moir, Cealy DePersia, Keith Kiper, Brad Boreis, Jennifer Kenney and Corey Mikula.

Also, Dan Hutchings, LaWanda Gagliardo, Harlan Kennell, Tara Welch, Lisa Stith, Chris Spencer, Heather Kruszewski, Emily Hayse, David Sinkular, Melissa George, Shannon Caher, Rachel Bjorklund, Brad Schmitt, Francis Loughran, Anne Watson and Coal City High School volleyball, football, girls basketball, speech and Coaler Academy.

Massage Serenity files as new business

LEGAL NOTICE

Assumed Name
Publication Notice
Public Notice is hereby given that on November 15th, A.D. 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Grundy County, Illinois, setting forth names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as Massage Serenity, located at 208 Depot St., Unit C, Gardner, IL 60424.

Dated this 15th day of November, A.D. 2022.
Kay T Olson, Grundy County Clerk
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 23, 30 and Dec. 7, 2022.

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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
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Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

Street side parking prohibited when snow falls

STAFF REPORT

The villages of Coal City and Diamond have snow routes in place and failure to comply will find drivers digging into their wallets.

Drivers need to be aware of town rules when it comes to street side parking when the snow falls.

Municipal code prohibits street side parking in both villages when a roadway is being cleared of snow. Specifically, in the event of a two inch or more snowfall, vehicles must be removed from streets in a timely manner.

Any vehicle continuously parked on a village of Coal City street in excess of 48 hours after a two inch or more snow fall will be issued a village P-ticket. The ordinance allows the village to tow a vehicle if it remains parked after a ticket

has been issued.

During times of snow removal the village's restrictions on parking on or across a sidewalk will not be enforced in residential areas, thus giving residents use of the full length of a driveway.

In Diamond, vehicles are to be removed from village streets to allow for snow plowing and removal.

Additionally, in the village of Diamond, the mayor can proclaim a snow emergency in the event of or in anticipation of winter storm. When this occurs vehicles are prohibited from street side parking along an emergency route—any street declared within the mayor's proclamation.

In the event an emergency is declared after 11 p.m. and prior to 6 a.m., residents have until 7 a.m. to move vehicles.

Library Black Friday and Small Business Saturday Sale

The Coal City Public Library District (CCPLD) is having great deals on Black Friday, Nov. 25 and Small Business Saturday, Nov. 26. Deals include 50% off overdue fines (does not include lost/damaged items), half price copies, half price faxes and 50% off disc cleaning serv-

ice.

Only available for sale Friday and Saturday is our CCPLD blue tumbler, great for hot/cold beverages, for only \$5, supply is limited. Also available TV Series DVDs \$2 per full TV Series set. Don't miss this awesome deal at CCPLD.

Madrigals ready for the season



THE COAL CITY High School Madrigals are ready to spread the joy of the season through song with several upcoming performances to celebrate the holidays. The group will help the city of Morris kick-off the holidays as they carol through the streets of Morris and its downtown shops on Friday, Nov. 25 from 4-5:30 p.m. The group will then make its way to Chapin Park to help with the official lighting. On Sunday, Dec. 4, Madrigals will perform during the annual Festival of Trees to benefit Coal City Promfest. The 4 p.m. performance will take place at the Diamond Banquet Hall, 55 S. Daley St. and then they will take the stage for their annual holiday concert and play starting Friday, Dec. 9 continuing through Sunday, Dec. 11. The community is invited to join the Madrigals in celebrating the season. This year's group includes: (from left, seated) Sammy Thackaray, Chessa Kuhel, Jacob Nadess, Jared Counterman and Mason Natyshok. Row two: Elsa Bunton, Elaina Patten, Mrs. Claus, Santa and Brecken Johnson. Standing: Olivia Sage, Melody Kinder, Logan Hawkins, Logan Housman, Gianna Savarino, Sam Vota, Angie Seeley, Lilith McCants, Kayla Connelly, Izzy Kostbade and Adaline Dowling. Not pictured are Collin Dames, Colin LeRoy, Eliana Chernesky and Gio Bruno.

It's time to address Illinois' SAFE-T Act

BY SENATOR PATRICK JOYCE
40TH STATE SENATE DISTRICT

Keep our communities safe.

This is an important part of the commitment every elected official – federal, state, local – makes when he or she takes the oath of office. If our constituents cannot count on us to keep them safe, we will all suffer tremendously.

It was with that commitment to safety that I chose not to vote for the SAFE-T Act when it was presented in the early morning hours at the end of the 101st General Assembly in January 2021. And it is with that same commitment to public safety that I helped lead conversations about how to turn the conversation about the SAFE-T Act from fear and misunderstanding back to productive solutions.

The law's supporters had many conversations over months in 2020 aimed at a worthy goal: improving our criminal justice system. I advocated for several important pieces that ended up in the final package that passed through the Legislature as that session ended. But in the end, I could not support the bill as it was presented.

We have seen first-hand the intense controversy over several items in the law ahead of it taking effect on Jan. 1, 2023. That is why I worked closely with my colleagues in the Senate and the law enforcement community on making the law better at the outset.

I am a chief co-sponsor of Senate Bill 4228, which makes several important updates to the SAFE-T Act:

- With the original law eliminating cash bail, there is a

concern that prisoners in custody before Jan. 1 could be released – even those who have committed serious crimes. Our legislation says the bill will only apply to crimes committed on Jan. 1 and thereafter

- The legislation will make clear judges have the authority to deny pretrial release from jail for anyone deemed to be a threat to the safety of an individual or the community

- Law enforcement officers will have clear authority to detain any trespassers on private property if the officer believes that is necessary to discontinue the criminal behavior or the alleged trespasser presents a safety threat.

These commonsense changes have received a positive reception from Gov. Pritzker, and I am hopeful we can move them forward in the fall veto session that begins

mid-November in Springfield.

I would encourage you to look past the hysteria around SAFE-T Act and talk with your local officials and law enforcement about my legislation as we head toward Jan. 1. My commitment, as always, is to keep our communities safe and to work together across party lines to make a difference.

I urge you to contact me anytime I can help: 708-756-0882, or at www.senatorpatrickjoyce.com

Cops see call increase

STAFF REPORT

Coal City Police officers handled 637 calls during the month of September, an increase of nearly 7% from the month before.

Among the total calls, 203 were requested meaning the rest were officer-initiated. Out of those calls, 213 required a report and that brings the total number of reports filed by officers to 1,813 at the close of September.

According to data

released by the police department, total officer activity was at 4,736 calls heading into October.

Officers conducted 244 traffic stops in September resulting in 36 citations and handled four traffic crashes.

There were 10 criminal charges filed in the ninth month of the year and one arrest for driving under the influence.

The monthly police report is presented by the police chief to the Village Board.

COAL CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS

Check online event calendar at ccpld.org for a description of the events and to register.

Check out our digital services available 24/7 on our website at www.ccpld.org.

In-Person Adult Exercise, Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays 9-10 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 24 - Library Closed for Thanksgiving

Friday, Nov. 25-Black Friday Savings at CCPLD - Get great sales deals on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday at the Library. 50% off overdue fines (does not include lost/damaged items), half price copies, half price faxes, and 50% off disc cleaning service. Only available for sale Friday and Saturday is our CCPLD blue tumbler (great

for hot/cold beverages) only \$5 (supply is limited). Also available TV Series DVDs \$2 per full TV Series set.

Fun Fridays – 3pm

Saturday, Nov. 26- Small Business Saturday at CCPLD - Get great sales deals on Black Friday and Small Business Saturday at the Library. 50% off overdue fines (does not include lost/damaged items), half price copies, half price faxes, and 50% off disc cleaning service. Only available for sale Friday and Saturday is our CCPLD blue tumbler (great for hot/cold beverages) only \$5 (supply is limited). Also available TV Series DVDs \$2 per full TV Series set.

Monday, Nov. 28 - Makerspace Cart Mondays – All Day

Terrific Tots – 10-10:30am

Preschool Storytime – 11-11:45am

Eager Readers Homeschool Edition – 1-2pm

Eager Readers – 4-5pm

Family Lapsit – 6-6:30pm

Preschool Storytime – 6-6:45pm

Tuesday, Nov. 29-Paper & More – 9-4pm

Ornament Night – 5:30-7:30pm

Wednesday, Nov. 30-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) – 9am-12pm

Family Lapsit – 10-10:30am

Preschool Storytime – 10-10:45am

Fit 4 Life – 3:30-4:30pm

Teen Game Night – 5-6pm

I-55 shutdown due to trailer fire



Photo by Eric Fisher

AREA FIREFIGHTERS responded to Interstate 55 on Monday around 2:30 p.m. to extinguish a fire on a semi-trailer in the northbound lane. Traffic was shutdown for 30 minutes near the 237 mile marker while firefighters battled the fire in the rear axle assembly. Just the trailer portion of the semi-truck was damaged as the driver disconnected the tractor and drove it onto the shoulder a short distance away. The rear tires were ablaze when firefighters arrived, along with roadside brush, but it was quickly contained to the exterior of the trailer. State Police are investigating.

Grundy County adopts new environmental health fees

The Grundy County Board has passed an ordinance to adopt a new fee schedule for the environmental health division of the Grundy County Health Department.

The ordinance passed by unanimous vote on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Increased fees include those associate with well, septic and food programs.

The Grundy County Health Department is advising the public, contractors and

food establishments, and temporary food vendors seeking permits, to visit the health department website at www.grundyhealth.com or call before mailing applications for permits.

Fee schedules and corresponding applications can be found at www.grundyhealth.com under environmental health.

For further information regarding fees, please contact the Grundy County Health Department at 815-941-3115.

Cost of owning a dog

Analysts at Pettable crunched the numbers to figure out how much it costs to own a dog in every state. They looked at the cost of food, vet visits, pet insurance, and vaccines to get an idea of the overall cost of having a furry friend in each state.

In Illinois it costs \$1,765.54 to own a dog. Delaware has the highest cost of owning a dog in the nation while Idaho is the most affordable state for dog owners

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY FOR COAL CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #1

The Coal City Board of Education will approve a proposed property tax levy for Coal City Community Unit School District Number 1 for 2022 on Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. in the Coal City High School Learning Resource Center located at 655 West Division Street, in Coal City, Illinois. This notice is to inform the public of the opportunity for comment on this matter.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Jason Smith, CSBO, 550 S. Carbon Hill Road, Coal City, Illinois, 815-634-2287.

The corporate & special purpose property taxes extended for 2021 were **\$24,626,515.00**.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2022 are **\$33,280,480.00**. This represents a **35.14%** increase over the previous year.

The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2021 were **\$3,497,970.00**.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2022 are **\$3,496,881.00**. This represents a **0.000311%** decrease over the previous year.

The total property taxes extended or abated for 2021 were **\$28,124,485.00**.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2022 are **\$36,777,362.00**. This represents a **30.76%** increase over the previous year.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

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

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

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

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

Here's an idea

BRAIDWOOD—Why doesn't Diamond annex Braidwood? Diamond seems to be growing with new businesses all the time. Maybe then something good would come to Braidwood.

Behind closed doors

WILMINGTON—Who's running the show? There is a lot of talk in the community on the Wilmington Township. Seems that behind closed doors the truth is not being told. The citizens of Wilmington needs to open your eyes and ears. Is the Wilmington Township feeding you what they want you to know instead of you knowing what's really going on. You pay taxes to the Township and have the right to know the truth. Start asking and FOIA the township. Look at what happened with Wesley Township. Do you want this happening in your town? Maybe it's time to call on the Watchdogs of Illinois. I am sure the citizens of Wilmington are being blindsided and being played as a fool. I guess you could say welcome to the Jerry Springer show. Wake up to the facts before it's too late.

Sore losers

DIAMOND—Politically I am an Independent who in the past has leaned to the left and to the right depending on the agenda of that current administration at that time. I agree that after the 2020 election the Republicans were very sore losers and looked like cry babies. Although, after the 2016 elections on the day Trump was announced the winner there were cities burning down in protest. From an Independent's stand point, both parties look like cry babies when they lose an election. Can some of the readers please explain the difference in the two situations to me? Also, there was violence in both situations so I would like to hear other reasons.

Just as guilty

WILMINGTON—I agree with the caller who said politicians never seem to have a plan to address their issues. I read where the House plans to prioritize investigating Hunter Biden and impeaching Biden as soon as everyone is sworn in. That's all fine and dandy but how does that improve immigration, gasoline prices, and inflation? It sounds more like revenge than helping the American people. Same thing when Trump got impeached. What legislation got accomplished to help the American people? Both parties are guilty of this.

Deju vu daily

WILMINGTON—It's like the movie "Groundhog Day." Every morning I wake up and Donald Trump and Joe Biden are still political candidates. I can't wait for the morning I wake up and we have two new qualified candidates with actual leadership skills. Until then, it's the same incompetency day after day.

Split up Illinois

The residents of Oregon, who reside in the western part of the state, made it clear with their votes that they want to become part of Idaho and let the crazy liberals run the rest of the state. Can't say I blame them. They don't agree with the liberal policies that have ruined Oregon and want to get as far away from them as possible. Pretty much the same thing is hap-

pening in Illinois. There are 102 counties in Illinois. Bailey won 89 counties (88%) while Pritzker won 13 counties (12%). Unfortunately, for the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey, they have to bow down to the destructive liberal policies that come from the left-wing liberal Chicago and collar county politicians. Perhaps it is time to split from the liberals in Chicago who want to tell the rest of they state how they should live. Let Chicago become the State of Chicago and let the rest of the state be the REAL state of Illinois minus all the left-wing liberal corruption and socialist agenda crap that comes out of Chicago and the collar counties. I think the residents in the 89 counties that voted for Bailey would be a lot happier. I know I would.

Leaf vac too

WILMINGTON—The city is going to purchase a Ventrac 2120 sidewalk snow removal tractor and operate the program utilizing seasonal help. The cost is \$36,392.00 followed by an estimated yearly cost of \$6,000 to maintain. If the city can afford to spend that much money on a piece of equipment to remove snow on two bridges I do not see why they can't bring back the LEAF VAC and use seasonal help. This will really relieve the burden on your elderly population. As for the Love's Travel Center proposal, we would be better off to annex it into the city under our ordinances rather than Will County taking charge and getting the taxes, being we are losing two car dealers.

Oath of office

SHADOW LAKES— On the news the head of Homeland Securities stated that the borders are closed. But not only is he delusional but so are a lot of other public servants in Congress and this country. Since they live in protective bubble where life is filled with money they receive from the taxpayers for them to aid the American citizens but they only aid themselves. So the only solution would be to prevent the public servants in Washington, D.C. and around the country from receiving any finances from the taxpayers until they honor their oath of office to protect the lives of the American citizens and that would never happen because congress would have to put it to a vote and that vote would not include any comments by the American citizens. A lot of public servants need to seek aid to help them separate fact from fiction.

Green Wave coming to parade

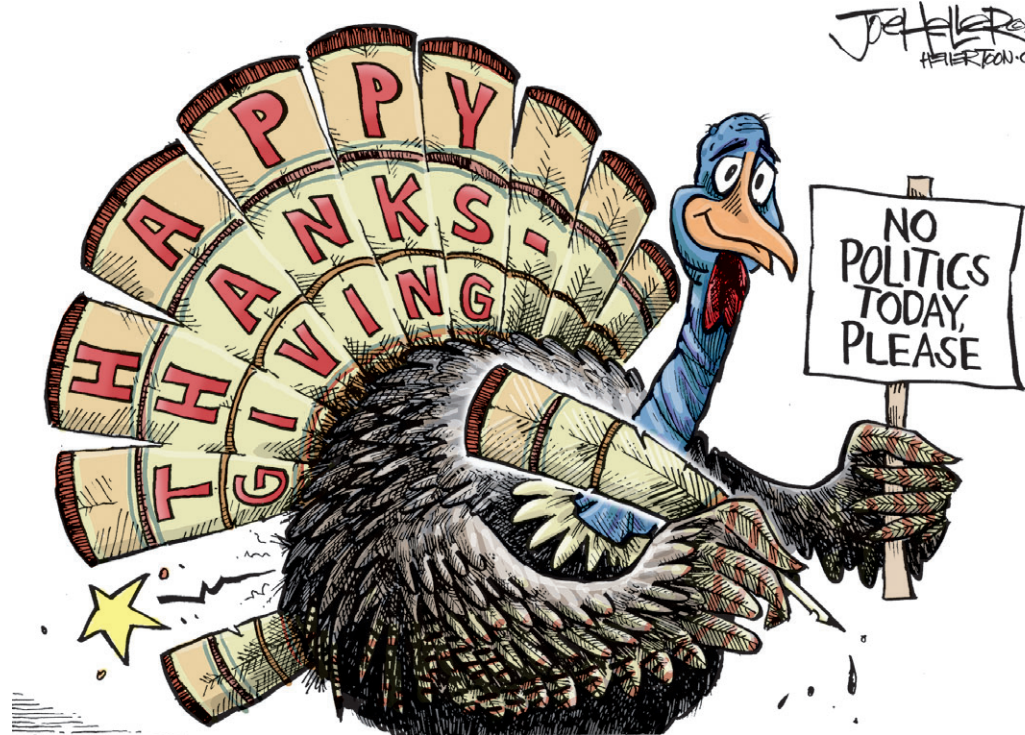
WILMINGTON—I, the Grinch, have had a very rough year. My troubles are bigger than inflation and electric sleds. Sadly it finally happened where no longer does Cindy Lou or Max want to partake in the grand parade. I blame all the new fun activities the downtown has to offer on their decision making. Which I like to see especially because they are not promoting gifts just fun time spent with family. I, the Grinch, thought about taking a back seat and skipping the grand parade, but then I was reminded just how long it took, to put a stop to the man in red's message and gift giving. Watch out Santa. The green wave is hitting this grand parade to continue spreading the word how Christmas perhaps doesn't come from a store perhaps Christmas means just a little bit more. The Grinch

Decision makers

BRAIDWOOD—It looks like our city administrator has put the snow removal process for this year in jeopardy. We just lost the large dump truck when the rear axle fell off. City streets commissioner has said money would be better spent on needed repairs not a wood chipper. But you have to remember it's the administrator who runs the city not the elected mayor. Please people, in the next election let's remove all of them.

Behind the scenes

BRAIDWOOD—The Nov. 16 issue of the Braidwood Journal did wonders for providing damage control to the city of Braidwood and, in particular, its administrator. Apparently embarrassed by



being out-manuevered by the village of Diamond in yet another of their development wins, two front page articles helped Mr. Altiery, who clearly speaks for the mayor and a majority of the council, explain away their inadequate performance as a governing body. In the top story he stated that "new tax dollars" are coming but everything is "in a behind the scenes phase." Delays are due to "everything is in engineering and attorneys." Not a single mention of strapping us taxpayers with millions of dollars of bond payments that the auto dealers don't have to repay, or the waiver of all building fees and permits, or the rebate of sales taxes that we homeowners will be on the hook for. As to Ultimate Rides he said "They're still waiting for material on their building." No mention that three years ago when a former commissioner wanted a few days continuance for approval, we were told that material was already on its way. If that was not true back then how can we believe what they say now? No mention of that. The second article was regarding the city's alleged transparency. Keep in mind that Mr. Altiery is the one who stopped videotaping meetings to begin with. Only when citizen pressure became too hot did they start again. And if they are so transparent, why don't they publish, by print or social media, proposed ordinances and resolutions, detailed agendas, a status on current accounts and expenditures, or notice of the upcoming city election? And why have the details of the bond issue never been made public? Other taxing bodies do these things and more. But not Braidwood where the favorite phrase is "File an FOIA," and I, personally have been told exactly that. At this point in time, the terms "transparency" and "City of Braidwood" are not synonymous. But with an election coming up, they must make it appear that they are. In reality, with this city council, everything is always "behind the scenes." In summary, all Mr. Altiery can point to is bring gambling, liquor and semi-trucks to Braidwood. I don't think that's what the citizens of Braidwood are looking for. I know I'm not.

A long wait

DIAMOND—Someone needs to notify IDOT about the lights by the Dollar Store. I don't know how they got onto the new timing but the wait time there is ridiculous for the lights to change.

Learn from this

BRAIDWOOD—So Jewel/Osco, along with Starbucks is going to open for business in Diamond. As I understand it, the Diamond Village Board didn't even have to bribe them by giving them \$2 million worth of real estate that local taxpayers will have to pay for. And Diamond didn't even have a high paid city administrator to bring it all about. In fact, they have no administrator at all. What they do have is a mayor with professional credentials who knows how to get the job done. I realize that Braidwood is populated with hard-working individuals like myself who aren't well versed in such areas as finance, economic development and other areas of local government. That is why the mayors appoint city attorneys and engineers. The same should hold true for the city administrator. Hopefully Braidwood voters will learn from this. It is a new era folks. City officials hiring the guy whose only qualifications for office is that he is friends with the mayor just won't do anymore. We need some professionalism in Braidwood, a trait that is sadly lacking with the present administration.

Cheap gas

WILMINGTON—Although gas prices have been low in Wilmington lately (thank you), Kankakee County has been ripping drivers off like there's no tomorrow. Why? Was it to anger voters at election time? I drive frequently in the western Chicago suburbs and I bought gas last week for \$3.69/gallon which is about 80 cents cheaper than everywhere in Kankakee County. Are politics so rotten that those with power will make people suffer just to influence their vote? Yes, I think so. But we can be grateful that our mid-term elections went fairly well. Democracy is hanging in there.

Irene

Proud of your vote?

SHADOW LAKES—I need to ask three of my neighbors who voted for Biden and Harris if they are proud of what's going on in our country with gas, food, supply shortages and Ukraine. If they are proud of that I would like to know. Anyone who voted for those people definitely believe in Communism.

Dan Hill

A person who cares

WILMINGTON—I would like praise Matt Baskerville for having the yearly memorial services at the funeral home. The families who lost loved ones during the year are able to come together and share and remember. He opens up the service to anyone in the community who wishes to attend. I have been honored and blessed to attend the services since 2011. I have gone every year and I've seen so many people that I know who lost someone during the year and I was able to go and remember Linda. Two years ago when Covid hit sadly he was not able to have the services and that was the year I lost Roger and really needed to be with other people. Matt still had the service online and I was able to see Roger's picture and hear his name read and take a moment to remember him. Every year Matt gives out a beautiful tree ornament and I know that brings comfort to the families as well as it has done for me for many years. Matt does so much for the community. He is a person who cares. He's not only a businessman but a member of your family. We are truly lucky to have him and his amazing staff to take care of our loved ones when we lose them. God bless them all.

Sheri Michaels

Unit 1 Schools test results

DIAMOND—Coal City Unit 1 test scores are exemplary and commendable. Only 65 of Illinois schools had scores to equal those of Coal City Unit 1. These scores are after two years of classroom lockdown. As a retired teacher I consider this achievement to be astounding. Nothing can replace the interaction and inspiration between teacher and students in a classroom. I believe this to be the reason for third grade's lower scores. Because of Covid mandates they were denied this magical classroom experience in first and second grade. This is where the foundation skills in reading and math are mastered. With the devoted and skilled teachers plus the curriculum supervisor, this deficit will soon be remediated. I am so proud of these students, teachers, auxiliary staff, principals, superintendent and school board. They have all been under pressures and stresses during Covid. We should all stand firm and applaud their concerted efforts. It is most deserving.

Sharon

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Thank you from St. Vincent's Table Monday Night Meals

St. Vincent's Table Monday Night meals would not be possible without help from our local businesses and pantries. We would like to take this time during the month of Thanksgiving to acknowledge our donors:

Top Fuel Saloon, Kaluzny Brothers, Babes Tap, Subway, Rosati's Pizza, Corleone's Italian Restaurant, Mustachios, Whistle Stop, Berkots, Assumption Food Pantry, Coal City Food Pantry, Braidwood Food Pantry, Coal City Lions Club, Help for Hope, Helping Hands in Joliet, and the Milano Bread Company.

We are thankful for the many private donors who contribute food and money, and for the drivers who deliver food to the food pantries, and those who deliver to the homebound.

We would also like to thank the 80 plus volunteers who joyfully work to make this ministry possible. Some of their duties include planning, prepping, cooking, serving, delivering, cleaning up, dishwashing and baking for our meals. We could not serve the 200 meals per week we prepare without the help of all of the volunteers and businesses that contribute to our ministry.

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What to stock for the holidays

The 2022 holiday season is fast approaching! You may be ready to host friends and family, but is your home bar ready? A well-stocked bar is a cornerstone of entertaining and adding spirits to your home bar will not break the bank if you shop smart. There is still time to stock your bar for the upcoming holiday parties, let's get to work!

There are two key points to remember when stocking a home bar. First, start small. Your home bar is a work in progress and your entertaining needs will change with the seasons.

For example, don't load up on expensive rum, tequila, and tiki ingredients before the Christmas party. Make sure you have bourbon, gin, and scotch for a Manhattans, Martinis, etc. You can add the dark rum and tequila to your bar in the spring.

The second thing to remember, and this is perhaps the most important guiding principle to stocking your home bar is to stock your bar with spirits that YOU like.

Part of the reason that you keep a well-stocked bar is so that you can entertain your guests, but at the end of the day you don't want to be stuck with several expensive bottles that you bought only to impress your friends. Nobody should get more enjoyment out of your bar than you.

Okay, start small and buy stuff that you like. We're off to a good start. This round of bar

stocking will focus on the fall and winter bar, we will revisit this list for the spring and summer bar.

By the way, you will notice that most of the bottles on this list are around the \$20-\$25 price point or less. Stay around that price point when building your basic home bar.

All of the brands recommended this week are industry standard brands and will fare quite well as mixers and sippers. On the other hand if you already know that you love 18 year old single malt Scotch and have the \$150 to spend on the bottle, go for it.

Think of this list as a list of ingredients from which you will be able to build most of the classic cocktails. Pay special attention to the mixers. How many times (after the stores have closed) have you been missing a key ingredient to a classic cocktail?

Follow the guide below and that will not happen to you this Holiday season.

We will start with the primary spirits.

You will need a bottle of vodka. Not bank-breaking boutique vodka, but good vodka. I recommend Smirnoff Red Label or Tito's. Vodka and Tonic? Vodka and Cranberry? Vodka mixes with almost anything, and now you're covered.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

You don't have to go whiskey crazy when you stock your bar, start with one bottle of bourbon. Jim Beam, Evan Williams, and Wild Turkey are all great mixing bourbons that can be sipped as well.

Every home bar needs a bottle of gin, and if you are only going to have one type of gin in your bar make it a London Dry. Beefeater is tough to beat for taste and value. It's great in a Gin and Tonic and holds its own in a Martini.

If you only keep one bottle of Scotch on hand, make it a bottle of Dewar's White Label. Dewar's White is a solid blend that is great in a Rob Roy and smooth enough to sip.

If you have a few Scotch lovers in your crowd, grab a single malt in addition to your Dewar's blend. Keep in mind that a quality single malt will set you back around \$40 or more depending on your state and local taxes, so only grab that second bottle of Scotch if you are sure that you will need it. My favorite "every day" single malts are Highland Park 12, Glenfiddich 12, and Glenlivet 12.

In addition to spirits, keep your "crowd favorite" beer on hand, and a few reasonably priced bottles of wine.

We're not done! Unless you are going to serve every-

thing neat, you are going to need mixers. This is by no means a complete list, but from this list you will be able to build most of the classics.

Bitters are a must have in any bar. No need to get fancy here, reach for the classic Angostura Aromatic Bitters.

You're not going to get very far without some club soda and some tonic water. Always have a bottle of each.

Have plenty of cane sugar on hand if simple syrup is required for any of your favorite cocktails.

You will also need some fruit juices, for the fall/winter bar you will need orange juice and cranberry juice.

Soft drinks such as Coca Cola, Sprite or 7-up, and ginger ale are also part of a complete bar. All are essential mixers and are much appreciated by the designated drivers and non-drinkers in the crowd.

If Martinis and Manhattans are on the menu you will need sweet vermouth and dry vermouth, one small bottle of each. I recommend Noilly Prat vermouth, Martini brand vermouth also performs well in the classics.

Last but not least, literally the cherry on top. Don't forget the garnish! Maraschino cherries, lemons, limes, oranges, cocktail and cocktail olives should get you started.

Take this list to your local spirits retailer...odds are they'll be happy to see you!

Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Social media impacting users' mental health

Over the last decade, social media has become an important tool for connecting with loved ones, keeping busy, and staying informed on local and world events, with social media usage increasing even more during the COVID-19 pandemic. Simultaneously, it is having a negative impact on the mental health of people across the country, causing an increase in anxiety and depression for many.

Studies around the world have shown the impact of social media on mental health, which brings along with it an increase in anxiety and depression.

"Right now, there are so many people who spend an inordinate amount of time on social media just because some people are stuck at home and kids are not going into schools. I think, in general, mental health can depend on what you are consuming on social media," explains Marybeth Evans, an OSF HealthCare licensed clinical social worker.

Evans warns to proceed with caution when scrolling through social media. Many people tend to highlight only the best parts of their lives which creates an unrealistic snapshot of their day-to-day lives. When others try to compare themselves to this unattainable perfection, it comes at a cost to mental health.

In fact, a documentary that came out during the pandemic called "The Social Dilemma" details a 5,000-person study finding that higher social media and screen time use correlated with self-reported declines in mental and physical health, and life satisfaction. So, how do we stop this spiral?

"Go through your apps. Make a list of what apps you feel better before you go on than after you go on. Figure out how much time you are spending on each app and be aware that apps can be addicting," Evans says.

Evans adds that it is also helpful to have mobile apps on your phone that are not strictly for social media use.

"Try to spend time on apps that are positive - maybe nature apps or something that you are interested in or develop a new hobby, learn a new language. But try not to spend much time on the apps that are just for the purpose of comparing one person to another."

Evans does not recommend avoiding social media altogether, but recommends taking the time to prioritize the apps on your phone and become aware of which ones tend to cause anxiety or stress so you can start to become mindful of this. If you prefer, you can even start a journal to track both the positive and negative feelings you experience when utilizing social media and other apps on your mobile device.

"Time yourself on apps that you spend an inordinate amount of time on and say, 'when my timer rings I'm getting off whether I'm right in the middle of something or not,'" Evans advises.

Allotting a certain amount of time each day for certain apps can be extremely beneficial for your mental health. Most importantly, do not let social media consume you. Set aside time each day to be "phone free."

"The more you click, the further into the rabbit hole you'll go - and I think we all can be free of that. Actually stay in the here and now. React to the people around us. Even in the cold weather, take a walk. Build a snowman. Do something fun that you maybe haven't done for a long time," encourages Evans.

If you or a loved one is struggling with mental health it is not an emergency, you can reach out to an OSF Behavioral Health navigator by calling (309) 308-8150. They can direct you to the right resource for what you're experiencing.

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The 14th annual Lighting Up Your House For the Holidays Contest. Enter your house or a neighbor's. Entry forms are available at Santa's mailbox at the Custer Park Fire Department, or use the one below, and return it to the mailbox by Friday, Dec. 15. Judging will be done that weekend.

For more information call Bill Marquardt at 708-372-2500.

Lighting Up Your House for the Holidays Contest

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You can bid on your favorite tree(s) and other pieces from the comfort of your own home.

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Auction Begins to End Saturday, November 26th at 5 pm

Pick up auction items at Museum on Sunday, November 27 from Noon - 3pm

2 DIFFERENT RAFFLES!

Special Raffles & Holiday Raffles

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Morris Hospital Cardiology expands services

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has expanded its cardiology services with the addition of two new providers and the enhancement of a partnership with Loyola University Medical Center to provide electrophysiology care.

The Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' practice recently added cardiologist Dr. Hershel Wix and nurse practitioner Shere Pruss to a team that also includes board-certified cardiologists Dr. Syed Ahmed, Dr. Mary Menz, Dr. Sterling "Scott" Reese and Dr. Athar Saeed. Dr. Wix is seeing patients at the practice's Morris office at 151 W. High Street, and Pruss is assisting cardiologists at the Morris and Channahon locations. The additions give patients expanded access to all cardiology services.

Along with Dr. Wix and Pruss, Morris Hospital has also expanded its agreement with Loyola University Medical Center to further provide patients with heart rhythm conditions local access to electrophysiologists. Dr. Alexander Green and Dr. Sukit Ringwala, both board-certified electrophysiologists from Loyola University Medical Center, are resources available at the Morris Hospital Cardiovascular Specialists' Morris office for the diagnosis and management of heart rhythm conditions and implantation of cardiac devices such as pacemakers, defibrillators and implantable cardiac monitors.

"These enhancements demonstrate that we are committed to delivering the very best cardiovascular care to the community," says Patrick Durkin, Vice President of Ambulatory Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "Between our team of board-certified providers, partnership with Loyola University Medical Center, and advanced capabilities through our Cath Lab, Morris Hospital is uniquely positioned to provide the best possible heart care experience."

Morris Hospital's comprehensive cardiology services include diagnostic testing and advanced treatment in the Morris Hospital Cath Lab, along with cardiac rehabilitation to assure patients stay on the road to recovery.

As a cardiologist with more than 42 years of experience, Dr. Hershel Wix has expertise in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of heart disease, blood pressure management, heart failure, circulation problems of the lower extremity and cholesterol management. After earning his medical degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Dr. Wix completed his residency in internal medicine at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics and a fellowship in cardiovascular disease at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics - Pritzker School of Medicine. In 2018, he was named Physician of the Year at Presence St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. He is board certified in both cardiovascular disease and internal medicine.

Shere Pruss, N.P.-B.C., a nurse practitioner specializing in cardiology, brings more than 21 years of nursing experience to the practice, including 16 years as a nurse practitioner focusing on cardiovascular conditions. She earned a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of St. Francis in Joliet and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pruss is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

• 3 SPECIAL RAFFLES •

Tickets \$5 each or 5 Tickets for \$20

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• HOLIDAY RAFFLES •

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WINGSPAN (2 ARMS-LENGTH) OF TICKETS FOR \$20

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Tight supply to keep butter prices high

BY DANIEL GRANT
FARMWEEK

Consumers will likely pay more for butter into the holidays and prime baking season compared to last year no matter how you slice it.

Butter prices rose 24.6% in August compared to last year while the overall cost of groceries increased 13.5%.

Cheese, milk and other dairy prices are expected to remain elevated as well due to tight supplies and strong demand.

USDA recently estimated average prices of \$2.88 per pound for butter, up from \$1.73 last year, \$2.10 for cheese compared to \$1.67 a year ago and an all-milk price of \$25.60 per hundredweight in October versus \$18.53 in 2021.

"The whole dairy price situation was generated from events starting the previous summer," said Peter Vitaliano, vice president of economic policy and market research for the National Milk Producers Federation.

"Milk production went through a rate of increase of 5% year over year, but then it started dropping and went negative," he noted. "Coupled with recovering demand, it drove the price of key dairy products up, but that didn't bleed through to the retail level until this year."

Butter prices averaged \$3.08 per pound through the



File photo by Illinois Farm Bureau photographer Catrina Rawson

BUTTER, CHEESE, MILK and other dairy prices are expected to remain high into the upcoming holiday season.

week ending Sept. 10 as a reduction of milk output reduced the allocation of it to produce various dairy products, particularly butter.

The amount of butter in storage in August (282 million pounds) slipped 22% compared to the same time last year. But, while supplies are much tighter, Vitaliano doesn't foresee a "butter shortage" this baking season despite concerns to the contrary.

"When you say there's a butter shortage, to me it means that somewhere in the country you won't see it on the supermarket shelf," Vitaliano said. "That's not the case. Butter is available. It's just the price has gone up."

The cost of most dairy

products increased as milk prices climbed. USDA in October pegged average prices of \$21.90 per hundredweight for Class III milk, up \$4.82 from last year, and \$24.60 for Class IV milk compared to \$16.09 last year.

Issues such as record feed prices, challenges from ongoing drought in many parts of the country, the high cost of replacement cows and difficulty securing farm labor all contributed to the shrinking dairy cow herd and higher prices.

"There's a lot of constraints to expand milk production. We went through a year in which farmers were not expanding," Vitaliano said. "The cost of producing milk is

at an all-time high."

There were some positive signs, recently, though as milk output increased 1.6% in August. Milk cows on farms averaged 9.416 million head in July, 1,000 more than the previous month but 67,000 fewer than in July 2021, USDA reported.

And demand for dairy products remains strong, which is also bolstering prices.

"Consumption has been affected somewhat by higher prices, but dairy is generally price inelastic," Vitaliano said. "When the price goes up, people still buy it."

Meanwhile, the average price of a 40-pound block of Cheddar cheese recently declined by 12 cents.

"The U.S. the last several months has been the lowest-cost cheese supplier of any of the major exporting countries, so we've seen a big increase in exports," Vitaliano said. "I'm looking for exports to be a growing share of the total market, which is already approaching 20% of total (dairy) production."

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.

Church to hold soup supper

Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Road in Coal City, will hold a "Hallelujah" Soup Supper on Saturday, Dec. 3 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

They will be serving delicious homemade chicken noodle and stuffed green pepper soups. Each meal includes

your choice of soup, a sandwich, crackers, a beverage, ice cream & dessert.

Carry-outs are available. The cost is \$12 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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Right to unionize amendment looks like it will pass

Ballot measure carrying 53% of total ballots

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois voters have approved a state constitutional amendment guaranteeing workers the right to organize and engage in collective bargaining.

Estimates compiled by multiple media outlets projected Nov. 15 that the ballot measure had support on an estimated 53% of the total ballots cast in the election, with more than 95% of the ballots counted. That's enough for approval under one of two paths to passage for a constitutional amendment in Illinois.

The amendment, which will be added to the Bill of Rights of the Illinois Constitution, states that employees have a fundamental right to organize and bargain collectively "for the purpose of negotiating wages, hours and working conditions, and to protect their economic welfare and safety at work."

It also prohibits state and local governments from enacting laws that interfere with that right, including passage of so-called "right-to-work" laws, which prohibit requiring mem-

bership in a union as a condition of employment.

On election night, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign declared victory, but media outlets were slow to confirm that due to the complicated rules in Illinois for passing a constitutional amendment.

The state constitution provides two pathways for passing an amendment. It must either be approved by 60% of all those voting on the measure or by more than 50% of all ballots cast in the election.

According to projections, the amendment received about 2.1 million "yes" votes and 1.5 million votes against. That's 58.4% of the votes cast on that issue but about 53% of all the ballots cast in the election.

"From day one, the Vote Yes for Workers' Rights campaign has been based on the simple idea that every Illinois worker deserves better. Better pay, stronger benefits, and safer workplaces don't just help workers thrive; they strengthen our state and keep us all safe," Illinois AFL-CIO President Tim Drea said in a statement on election night.

The amendment will become effective once the Illinois State Board of Elections certifies results of the election. The board is scheduled to meet Dec. 5.

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OBITUARIES

Frances Cheshareck

CUSTER PARK—Frances Emily Cheshareck (nee Vigna), 82, passed away at her home in Custer Park surrounded by loved ones on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022.

Nicknamed Franky, Frances was born on the Marco Polo Farm in Reddick, IL on Oct. 15, 1940. Her mother wrote in her baby book that Franky was a lively child, loved being called "sweet," and especially loved to cuddle with kittens they had on their farm. She graduated from Morris High School and moved to Joliet where she worked for Illinois Bell Telephone Company while living in the Hannah Harwood Girl's Home on Broadway Street with two of her sisters.

Frances married her high school sweetheart and upon his discharge from the Air Force, they lived in Channahon for 50+ years. They worked hard to give their daughters a fun and eventful childhood. Frances waitressed at The Lone Star restaurant, grew flowers and a large garden, and raced her daughters home from friends' houses at dinnertime. When her girls were in high school, Frances started a 20+ year career as a mail carrier at the U.S. Post Office in Joliet where she enjoyed walking her route and getting to know the people she served. Every holiday, Frances brought home gifts from her customers who appreciated her. She also had a passion for following politics and listened to Rush on the radio daily.

After retirement, Frances spent many years caring for her husband until his passing. As she



downsized in her final years, Frances desired to revisit her farm life and built a "Franny-pod" named 'Frankie's Hideaway' on the back of her daughter's home in the country where she watched horses, deer, dogs, cats, raccoons, possums, and a variety of birds that visited right outside her windows.

She is survived by daughters: Marie (Pete) Bohler, Manette Cheshareck (Mindy Walsh), and Mindy (Tony) Scott; grandchildren: Blake and Sabrina Bohler, Miles Field, Mike (Alexis), Sam and Gracie Scott and great-grandchild, Griffin Scott; sibling, Peter (Vikki) Vigna and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Thomas Cheshareck; parents, Frank and Emily Vigna; in-laws Anthony and Mary Cheshareck (nee Karpowicz); siblings: Josephine Pleshe, Carole Vigna, Kathryn Phelan, Frank Vigna, and numerous in-laws.

Interment with her husband was held Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2022 at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood and a party to celebrate her life will be held Dec. 3 with details to be announced.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the American Lung Association and Uplifted Care (formerly called Hospice of Kankakee Valley).

Arrangements are entrusted to Patterson Funeral Home.

Sharon Colvin

WILMINGTON—Sharon Colvin, 78, of Wilmington, and formerly of Joliet, passed away on Friday, Nov. 18, 2022 at Aperia Care in Wilmington.

Born July 31, 1944 in Joliet, Sharon Elizabeth was a daughter of Thomas and Floss (Evans) Dwyer. She was raised in Manhattan and graduated from Lincoln Way High School.

An exceptional homemaker, Sharon will most be remembered for her love and family, as well as spending time with her kids and grandkids. Throughout the years she was a waitress at various restaurants and made many friends working at the restaurant in Bergner's, as well as serving at Babba's in Shorewood. Sharon was a great cook, however enjoyed eating out, particularly at Olive Garden, Merichka's and Applebee's. In addition, she took pleasure in playing bingo. Sharon was a shining example of faith and kindness, and she was always willing to go above and beyond to serve others. Though she will be deeply missed, Sharon leaves behind a memorable legacy that her loved ones will carry on in their hearts.

Survivors include three children: Rick Manfred (Sherry), Karen Manfred (Mickey) and



Bob Manfred, all of Joliet; three grandchildren: Craig (Angie) Kelly, Eric Manfred (fiancé, Sarah) and Courtney Floyd (fiancé, Niko); two great-grandchildren, Landon and Brynn Kelly; siblings: Pat Murdie, Peggy Murdie and Joe (Donna) Murdie; her partner, Jack Weaver, of Wilmington and dear friend and caregiver, Karen Fogg-Jackson, as well as several nieces and nephews, including Liz, Amy and Missy Cullen.

Sharon was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Ralph Colvin; two sons, Tom Manfred and Dave Manfred and siblings: Junior Murdie, Jim Murdie and Sandy (Doug) Cullen.

Cremation rites have been accorded, and there will be no services.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Sharon's memorial page online through social media.

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

Robert Grivetti Sr.

CUSTER PARK—Robert Joseph Grivetti Sr., 82, of Custer Park, passed away unexpectedly, Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Aug. 12, 1940 in Aurora, he was the son of Albert J. and Magdalene (nee Pocus) Grivetti. Robert was raised and educated in Aurora, graduating from West Aurora High School with the class of 1958. He was a maintenance mechanic for Commonwealth Edison retiring after 29 years of employment. He was a member of the Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood and Moose Lodge #967 in Morris. He enjoyed fishing and took great pride farming on the family farm. After retirement, he kept busy mowing grass for a local farmer. If you knew Robert, you knew he was happiest when he was riding a tractor.

Surviving are his wife of 61 years, Geraldine (nee Smeckar) Grivetti, who he married Nov. 4, 1961 at the St. Joseph Catholic Church in Joliet; four children: Robert (Julie) Grivetti Jr., of Braidwood; Jacqueline (Douglas) Dickison, of Minonk, IL; Michaelanne (John) Faurot, of Braidwood and Leann Grivetti, of Custer Park; 11 grandchildren: Matthew (Mindy) Grivetti, Hunter (Desiree) Grivetti, Robert and Dalton Dickison, Alyssa, Kaitlyn and Alexandria Faurot, Amber Grivetti-Housman, Brittany



(Dylan) Ackerman, Cody and Eric Housman; six great-grandchildren: Alex, Kaden, Madison, and Alison Grivetti, Madden and Ryder Jadron, and one due to arrive in May; two brothers, Martin (Diane) Grivetti, of Colorado and Albert (Mary) Grivetti, of Iowa; sister-in-law, Carol Grivetti, of Dekalb, IL and numerous nieces, nephews, and their families.

Preceding him in death were his parents, brother, Donald Grivetti and nephew, Mark Grivetti.

Visitation for Robert will be at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 from 9-11 a.m. Funeral services will immediately follow at Immaculate Conception Church in Braidwood for a Mass of Christian Burial at 11:30 a.m. Cremation rites will be accorded following services.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations to the Braidwood Lions Club would be appreciated.

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find them on Facebook.

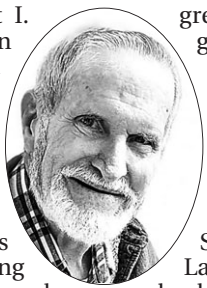
R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, 401 E. Main St., Braidwood is in charge of arrangements.

Robert I. Kahler

WILMINGTON—Robert I. Kahler, 89, of the Wilmington area, passed away on Veteran's Day, Nov. 11, 2022 at Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR.

Bob was born May 12, 1933 in Joliet, to Irving and Mabel Kahler. He was raised in the Wilmington area and enjoyed hunting and fishing with his father and many friends. After graduating Wilmington High School, he enlisted and served his country in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War aboard the USS Henrico. When he returned to Wilmington after his service, he met the love of his life, Kathleen Nugent Kahler. They were married July 1957 at St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington and together they raised four daughters in the Custer Park and Neosho, MO area. In both areas Bob and his family raised rabbits, poultry and huge gardens. He was a very hard working man in the construction field and he was very proud of the many buildings he had supervised in the local area.

In later years, Bob returned to the Wilmington area where he enjoyed many rides with his four daughters reliving his many childhood memories along Forked Creek, Kahler Road and the Kankakee River. He was a member of the First Christian Church of Wilmington where he made many friends and enjoyed his visiting time. Since May of 2020 he also worked together with his daughter to deliver Meals on Wheels in the Wilmington and Channahon area. This was a great source of pride to him. He loved to spend time with his grandchildren,



great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. Bob also had a very loyal companion, his ever faithful dog, Lady. Bob had a wonderful love of life and found fun and happiness in daily activities and loved his practical jokes. He will be greatly missed.

Bob is survived by his four daughters and their families: Kathy (Roy) Sabuco, of Minooka; Nanette (Bob) LaGrange, of Essex; Bobbi Kahler and her husband, Rick Fowler, of Bella Vista, AR; Suzette (Austin) Henderson, of Joplin, MO; grandchildren: Nicki (John) Mackinson, of Towanda, IL; Robert (Tasha) LaGrange, of Essex; Josh (Jen) LaGrange, of Montgomery, IL; Rocco Sabuco, of Eagle, CO; Dylan (Cody) Sabuco, of Thornton, CO; Ashlyn Henderson and Logan Henderson, of Joplin, MO; eight great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews survive along with his faithful dog and companion, Lady.

Bob is preceded in death by his loving wife, Kathy; his parents and his sister, Betty Bradshaw.

A celebration of life will be held in May on what would have been his 90th birthday in Wilmington, along his beloved Kankakee River.

Donations may be made to the Circle of Life Hospice, Bentonville, AR, or a hospice of the donor's choice. They were true angels in our father's final hours and we are forever grateful.

Arrangements are under the direction of Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory.

On-line condolences may be made at www.funeralmail.com.

John "Jack" Nicol



WILMINGTON—John A. "Jack" Nicol, 95, of Wilmington, passed away peacefully on Monday, Nov. 14, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, with his family by his side.

Born June 30, 1927 in Morrisonville, IL, John Andrew was a son of Clyde and Mayme (Nagel) Nicol. He was raised and educated in Morrisonville and graduated from Morrisonville High School. Jack attended Illinois State University in Bloomington, and on June 14, 1947 he married Doris Evelyn Lamb in Bloomington. He served in the United States Army from 1952 until his honorable discharge in 1954, and then settled with his family in Wilmington.

Jack worked for the GM&O Railroad Company for nine years as a signal operator until he gained employment with the United States Post Office. He worked at the Wilmington Post Office for over 30 years until his retirement in 1988. Jack was an avid golfer who enjoyed playing cards and going bowling. He also took great pleasure in coaching both baseball and softball teams, and he will be remembered for being a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan.

Survivors include his wife of 75 years, Doris Nicol and two daughters, Sandra (Mark) Mahalik and Barbara (Doug) Rink; five grandchildren: John Welsh, David (Kelli) Welsh, Kate



Welsh, Calvin (Jessica) Rink, and Jordan (Adam) Granger; seven great-grandchildren: Luke and Cole Welsh, Ryder, Myles and Vyllette Rink, and Jett and Brynlee Granger; and many nieces and nephews.

Jack was preceded in death by his parents, son-in-law, Tom Welsh in 2014 and father-in-law and mother-in-law, Alva and Helen Lamb; three brothers and one sister: Loren (Betty) Nicol, Harold (Rita) Nicol, William (Sue) Nicol, and Mary Louise (Bud) Miller; and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dwight (Sarajane) Lamb and Joseph (Karen) Lamb.

Funeral services were held Monday, Nov. 21, 2022 at Saint Rose of Lima Catholic Church in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding, and interment with full military honors followed at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Pallbearers were: John Welsh, David Welsh, Kate Welsh, Calvin Rink, Jordan Granger and Adam Granger.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jack's memory to Kuzma Care Cottage.

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

Arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Bernie Warriner

MAZON—Bernie Warriner, 80, of Mazon, formerly of Wilmington and Coal City, passed away peacefully at on Tuesday, Nov. 15, 2022 at his home with his wife by his side.

Born Dec. 10, 1941 in Wilmington, he was a son of Carlyn and Della (Harding) Warriner. Bernie was raised and educated in Wilmington. After high school Bernie learned how to operate heavy machinery and began working with Harold "Hook" Cunning and after several years Bernie left and began working for himself. On Aug. 8, 1992 Bernie married Kaye Gilchrist Leasure and together they made their home in Mazon. He was a past member of the Wilmington Moose Lodge #241/781. Bernie truly enjoyed hanging with his friend Daryl Condon, and doing construction projects with his dear friend Chico Inoceno. He and Kaye loved traveling, especially to Ireland; as well as going out to eat with all their friends, including Everett Leasure and Carol Lavin. Bernie was a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother who was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include his loving wife, Kaye, of Mazon; six children: Bernard (Laura) Warriner Jr., of Houston, TX; Doug (Melinda) Warriner Sr., of Diamond; Kandi (Jay) Cockcream, of Morris; Everett (Shantel) Leasure II, of Coal City; Eric



(Tina) Leasure, of Coal City and Kelli (Dan) Campbell, of Bethesda, MD; 13 grandchildren, many great and great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, Laverne (Linda) Warriner, of Pilesgrove, NJ; Gene (Christine) Warriner, of Wilmington and Suzanne (Jeff) Carlsrud, of Prairie Farms, WI; one brother-in-law, Richard (Robin) Surman, of Diamond; numerous nieces and nephews; and Earla Mae, the mother of Doug and Kandi.

Bernie was preceded in death by his parents and Charlene, the mother of Bernard Jr.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home in Coal City with Deacon Jay Plese officiating. Cremation rites were accorded following funeral services. Graveside services will take place on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at 10 am in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bernie's memory to Lightway's Hospice.

Friends and family are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guestbook, submit photos and share Bernie's memorial page via social media.

Funeral and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Home, Ltd. in Coal City.

Nancy Tiedeman

WILMINGTON—Nancy Eileen Tiedeman, 88, of Wilmington, and formerly of Orland Park, passed away Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022 at the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, IL.

Born Oct. 31, 1934 in Chicago, Nancy Eileen was a daughter of Joseph Adam and Eleanor Lillian (Genske) Sarat. She was raised and educated in the city and on Feb. 19, 1955, Nancy married George Raymond Tiedeman in St. Priscilla Parish in Chicago. She was a dedicated homemaker who worked for Accents and Interiors in Frankfort before moving to Wilmington in 1990. Nancy then took a position with Eaton and Schultz Insurance in Wilmington, where she worked for the following 14 years. Nancy enjoyed playing the piano and crocheting. She had a love of playing cards, especially Kings Corner, and you could always count on her to have a bag of cards. She took pleasure in feeding the geese and ducks in the Wilmington Park and created many memories sitting alongside the river with her kids and grandkids. Family was always of utmost importance, and she will most be remembered for her time spent with family.

Survivors include her husband, George; four children: Ray (Cindy) Tiedeman, of Geneseo, IL; Cindy (Marty) Conry, of Crown Point, IN; Caroline (Brian) Wood, of Loda, IL and Cathy (Joe) Valone, of Manhattan, IL; 10 grandchildren: Megan Conry, Julie Conry, Alisa (Dan) Sloan, Adam Valone, Staci Wood (Mike Montalto), Christina (Jake) Brock, Max Valone,



Andy Tiedeman, Arlen Tiedeman and Shenne Tiedeman; four great-grandchildren: Isabelle Brock, Makayla Brock, Lillian Brock and Greyson Sloan; one sister, Jeanette (Wayne) Shust, of Palatine, IL and numerous nieces and nephews.

Nancy was preceded in death by her parents; sister, Doris (George) Formanski and one sister-in-law, Joydine Tiedeman.

The family will receive friends for a visitation at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd. in Wilmington on Monday, Nov. 28, 2022 between the hours of 9 and 11:30 a.m. Funeral services will follow at 12 noon in St. Rose Catholic Church, 604 S. Kankakee St. in Wilmington. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Sebastian Gargol presiding.

Cremation rites will be accorded following the services, and she will be laid to rest in Maplewood Cemetery in New Lenox on Tuesday, Nov. 29, 2022 at 11 a.m.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Nancy's memory to St. Rose Catholic Church in Wilmington.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.BaskervilleFuneral.com to sign the guest book, upload photographs and share Nancy's memorial page online through social media.

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

Carol M. Gillette

GODLEY—Carol M. Gillette, 62, of Godley, and formerly of Silver Springs, FL, passed away Sunday, Nov. 20, 2022 at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee.

Born Nov. 23, 1959 in Kankakee, Carol Marie was a daughter of Robert and Rita (Hurrell) Senesac. She was raised in Kankakee and attended Bradley Bourbonnais High School. On July 11, 1988, Carol married Lester Gillette in Las Vegas, and he survives.

Carol was a member of the South Wilmington Fireman's Club, and most recently worked as a gate guard there, as well as at Coal City Area Club. In addition over the past years, Carol worked various seasonal retail positions, but her primary role was that of a wife and mother. Aside from her family she lived for her dogs; enjoyed collecting shot glasses and Yankee Candles, and will be most remembered as a selfless soul.

Survivors include her husband, Lester; one daughter, Cristine (Rich) Sinks, of Herscher; three grandchildren: Caleb Gudridge, of Herscher; Promise Hicks, of Danville and Dakota Bull, of New York; one brother, Vernon Senesac (Bonnie), of Bradley and brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Dale (Gayle) Gillette, of Chatsworth, IL; Linda Lemen, of Colorado



Springs, CO; Jeannie (Mike) Scott, of Fairbury, IL and Rita Scanlon, of Bloomington and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Carol was preceded in death by her parents, three brothers: David, Ronnie and Kenny Senesac and sisters-in-law and brothers-in-law: Marilyn Verville, Pat Scanlon, Loren Gillette, Betty Gillette, Gene Lemen, and Mary Beth Gillette in infancy.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway St., one block north of IL Route 113, in Coal City from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded, and inurnment will follow at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood at a later date.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Carol's memory to the American Cancer Society.

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Coal City.

Amber at AJ's Hot Dogs awarded trophy



THE WILMINGTON CHAMBER of Commerce recently presented the Employee of the Month to Amber Hefner (left) who has worked at AJ's Hotdogs & Gyros for seven years. Presenting the trophy is Chamber Ambassador Wendy Hill from the Wilmington Coalition for a Healthy Community. Hefner was nominated for her pleasant personality, great smile and friendly banter while serving customers. She appreciates the schedule flexibility the owner, John, gives her to be able to work and take care of her two children. However, "There are regulars that come in and wonder if I ever go home." Her favorite item on the menu is the Catfish.

With flu season here, health officials urge public to get vaccinated

With flu season here and certain diseases attempting a comeback, Will County Health Department (WCHD) is encouraging residents to stay up to date on all of their vaccinations.

Parts of the United States are seeing a resurgence in some diseases that haven't been seen in a long time, including polio, a disease that paralyzed more than 35,000 people every year in the late 1940's. Polio has surfaced in a New York City suburb, resulting in the first case of paralytic polio in the U.S. in over a decade.

Vaccination efforts are ongoing and are meant to prevent exactly these types of situations. Pertussis (whooping cough), mumps, rubella and polio are just a few of the diseases that are easily preventable by following the recommended vaccination schedules set by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

The CDC has published recommended immunization schedules for both children and adults. These tried-and-true vaccinations have been

tested over great lengths and show that they're the best weapon in fighting the prevention and spread of diseases. The recommended vaccine schedules can be viewed at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/

The WCHD is encouraging children (over six months old) and adults to receive their annual flu vaccination.

Last flu season, the CDC noticed alarming trends in a decrease of vaccinations in children and pregnant people and only 43% of adults (ages 18-49) with a chronic health condition choosing to get vaccinated.

The flu vaccine reduces the overall number of flu illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths while also helping to protect those who are more vulnerable to serious complications from the flu.

WCHD reminds adults ages 50 and older, or adults ages 19 and older with a weakened immune system, to receive a shingles vaccination. Stemming from the same virus that causes chickenpox, shingles is a painful rash consisting of blisters that scab over.

After a person recovers from chickenpox, the virus can stay dormant in the body and reactivate later in life causing shingles. For some, pain can

continue even after the rash clears up. The shingles vaccine has proved to be more than 90% effective at preventing shingles and long-lasting pain (postherpetic neuralgia), the most common complication from shingles.

"Making sure you and your family are current on all their vaccinations is one of the most important things you can do right now," said Lisa Carlson, Immunization Program Coordinator for WCHD. "Vaccines are critical to stopping resurgences of easily preventable diseases and protecting vulnerable loved ones."

Contact your health provider to schedule your vaccinations. The Will County Health Department Immunization Clinic also provides recommended childhood and adult vaccines.

All Will County residents are eligible to receive immunizations from the clinic. Medicaid and Medicare and limited private insurance plans are accepted. For those who are uninsured or underinsured, a low-cost immunization option is available. Vaccinations for all ages are available in Joliet on a daily basis. Call the clinic at 815-740-8143 to schedule your appointment.

Apply for assistance in paying home heating bill

Low-income families in Illinois can now apply for state assistance on their natural gas, propane and electricity bills.

The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program, or LIHEAP, has \$300 million available. Families can apply by visiting helpillinoisfamilies.com or by calling 1-833-711-0374. Information on other state assistance programs can be found on that website as well.

LIHEAP provides one-time payments directly to energy service providers on behalf of recipients.

Families who earn up to two times the federal poverty level are eligible for LIHEAP. That works out to a 30-day gross income below \$2,265 for a one-person household, \$3,052 for a 2-person home, \$3,838 for a three-person home, \$4,625 for four people, \$5,412 for five people and \$6,198 for six people.

The level of assistance received is needs-based, and last year's LIHEAP recipients received an average of \$1,330 per household, according to the governor's office.

Grundy County residents seeking assistance can call Kendall-Grundy Community Action at 815-941-3262 and Will County residents can obtain information through the Will County Center for Community Concerns at wccc.net or by calling 815-722-3262.

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Cookies with Santa to be held at St. Rose

A Cookies with Santa afternoon will be held on Sunday, Dec. 4, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the former St. Rose School building at 626 S. Kankakee St., Wilmington.

Cost is \$5 to pre-register or \$8 the day of the event per child.

To register email: hoopie2012@gmail.com and include your family name and

the number of children attending.

Come out to see Santa and have some delicious treats! Special gifts for the first 50 children! Many surprises are in store for everyone! Stop by to visit Santa's workshop and visit local vendors for last-minute gift ideas. Several photo backdrops will be available for holiday pictures.

Goal: draw, color and create your own artwork to express encouragement, positive attitude, funny humor, or just feelings from past memories.

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Milksnake photo wins October prize

A snake basking in the warm autumn sun took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest.

Winning photographer Meagan Crandall of New Lenox snapped the photo at Hickory Creek Barrens Nature Preserve, a place she frequents when she's out taking pictures.

"Hickory Creek is definitely my favorite of the Will County preserves," she said. "Its tranquil prairie area and pond provide the perfect stress relief."

She came across the photogenic eastern milksnake while walking along the trail at Hickory Creek Barrens.

"I just happened to stumble upon the snake sunning itself on the warm blacktop," she said. "I laid down to get the photo at eye level of the snake."

Crandall has been a regular entrant in the Preserve the Moment photo contest since she found out about it a couple of years ago. She first started getting into nature photography during the initial shut-downs of the COVID pandemic.

"I mostly started the hobby ... because it was something without any COVID risks that also allowed me to enjoy the outdoors and see something new every time," she said.

She said she has found nature photography to be a lot of fun, and loves that she is always learning something new about wildlife living in the area. In addition to Hickory Creek, she said she has had good luck photographing at Hadley Valley and Rock Run Preserve.

The four other finalists in this month's contest were:

Carlos Molano of Chicago for a photo of a colorful fall sunset at Hidden Oaks Preserve.

Greg Winkelmann of Romeoville for a picture of a ruby-throated hummingbird in flight at Hidden Oaks Preserve and also for a photo of turtles sunning themselves on a log at Rock Run Rookery Preserve.

Byron Morgan of Crete for a photo of the colorful fall



Courtesy photo by: Meagan Crandall

NEW LENOX RESIDENT Meagan Crandall took top honors in the October portion of the Preserve the Moment photo contest with her photo of an eastern milksnake basking in the warm autumn sun.

scenery at Hickory Creek Preserve.

Two more monthly winners will be chosen before the contest concludes Dec. 31. All eight winning photos chosen since the contest began in May will then vie for overall contest honors via Facebook voting in January.

Monthly winners receive \$75 MasterCard gift cards. The top photos for 2022 will receive MasterCard gift cards of \$500 for first place, \$250 for second place and \$150 for third place.

In addition, three contest participants chosen at random will receive \$75 gift cards. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County (Opens in a new window).

Participants must be 18 years of age or older and amateur photographers, and the photos must have been taken in the Forest Preserve District's preserves after the contest began on May 1.

To enter the contest, upload up to five of your best photos (Opens in a new window) for consideration before the conclusion of each month. Please read all contest rules and photo upload instructions (Opens in a new window) before entering the contest.

To view all photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account (Opens in a new window).

Museum holding Festival of Trees

The Grundy County Historical Society & Museum is hosting its annual Festival of Trees at the museum at 510 W. Illinois Ave., Morris.

Twenty-one raffle items and over 100 Christmas trees and décor are on display. Raffle tickets can be purchased at the Museum.

The trees and décor are also on display, but can also be viewed at www.richardaolson.com. Those items will be auctioned off through a silent auction that starts to end Saturday, Nov. 26.

Visit the Museum website for more information, or call 815.942.4880



Support local families, buy a Christmas Parade button
 Win over \$500 if you have the button with the lucky number. A split-the-pot drawing will be Dec. 16th with half the proceeds going to one winner and the other half to Christian Help Association. Buttons will be sold during the parade or buy one (\$3 each) while shopping at various Wilmington stores.

Kuzma Care Cottage and the Christian Help Association need your help!

Demand from families in-need and senior citizens has increased. All families deserve to have food on the table during the holidays and with the food distribution planned for Dec. 16 we invite you to bring a sack of groceries to the parade to deposit in boxes at 216 N. WATER ST. at the new parking lot. Be generous as the local food pantry is low on food. Let's make sure the holidays are joyous for every family.

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Program Coordinator - A federally funded substance abuse prevention coalition seeks full time Program Coordinator to implement grant related programs and strategies to reduce substance use among youth in the community. Perfect entry level position for social worker, teacher, or public health administrator. Associates Degree recommended, flexible schedule, paid holidays and PTO. Email to info@wilmington-coalition.org

Reliable caregiver needed in my South Wilmington home. Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm for a kind, elderly lady who needs assistance. 815-378-1186. cc45-48

Kitchen help and delivery drivers, also handy man. Apply at Fox's Pizza, 403 N. Main, Wilmington. ch47-48

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Prairie Creek Logistics in Elwood is hiring a tire, chassis & trailer mechanic. Hours are Monday through Friday, rotating Saturday, 7am-5pm. Call Laurie at 815-423-1060 for more information.

HELP WANTED

Friends Over Fifty has an immediate need for Caregivers for shifts in Braidwood, Coal City, Wilmington, Minooka, and Joliet. Our Senior Care Company helps the elderly maintain their independence by providing in-home companionship and other non-medical assistance with Activities of Daily Living. Training is provided as well as a competitive salary, PTO and an employer matching IRA. Apply online today, call and we will send an application link to your phone 815-836-2635. cc46-49

The Coal City Public Library District is seeking a part-time, 21 hour per week Circulation Clerk. Requirements include a high school diploma and computer skills. Must be available days, evenings and Saturdays. Starting pay is \$12.00/hour. Applications are available at 85 N. Garfield Street, Coal City. Please attach a resume. ch47

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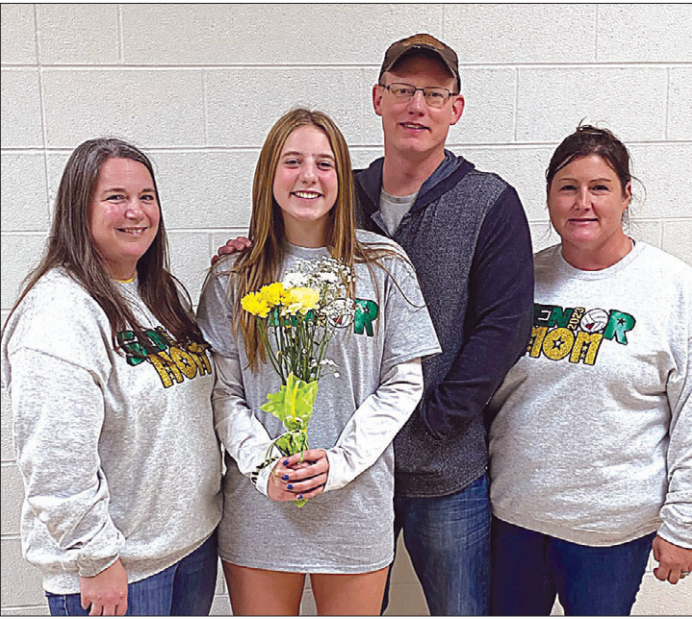
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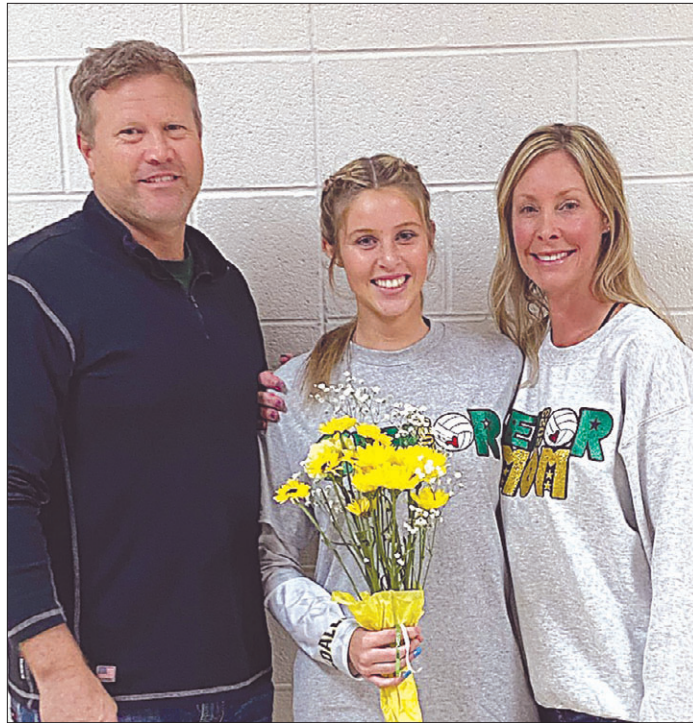
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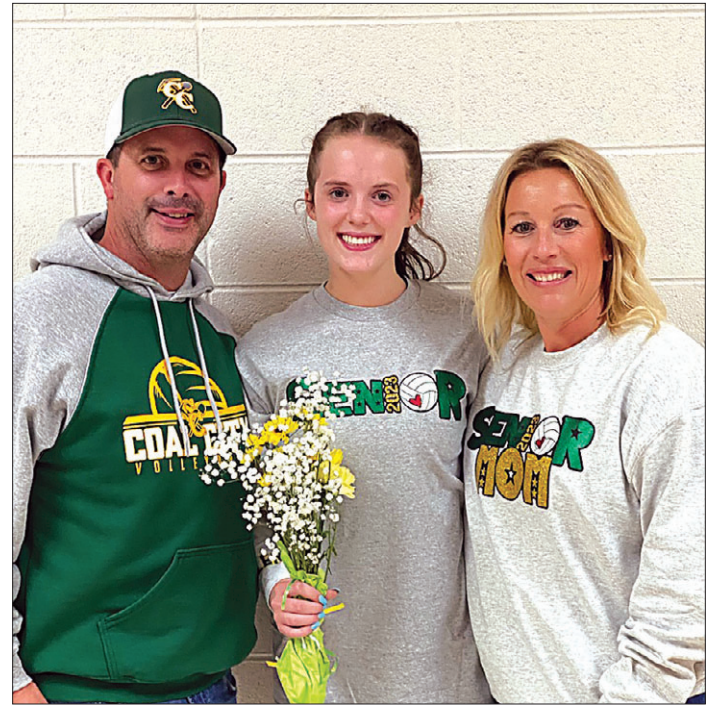
Lady Coalers honor senior volleyball players and parents



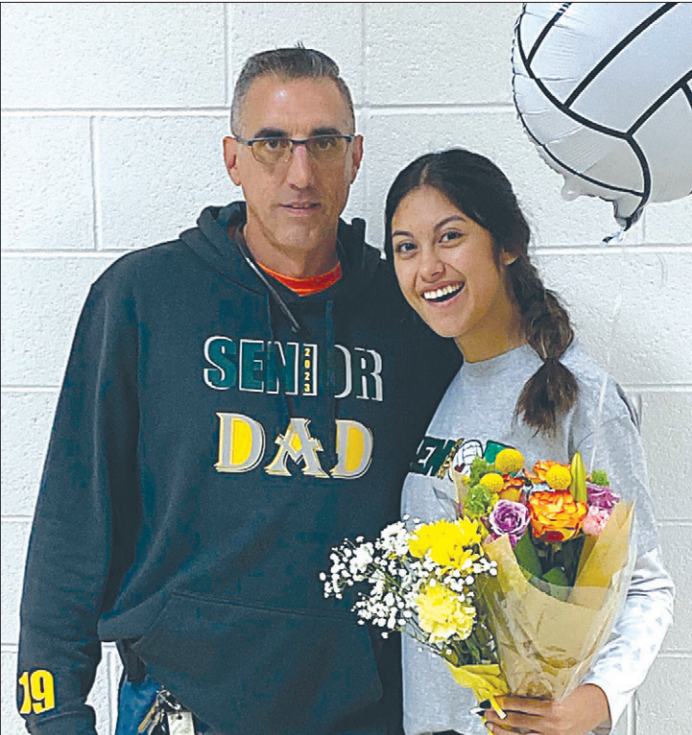
Courtesy photos
PEYTON BENSON and her Lady Coaler teammates were honored during volleyball senior night. Benson was escorted by Lisa McCure and Bandon and Melissa Benson.



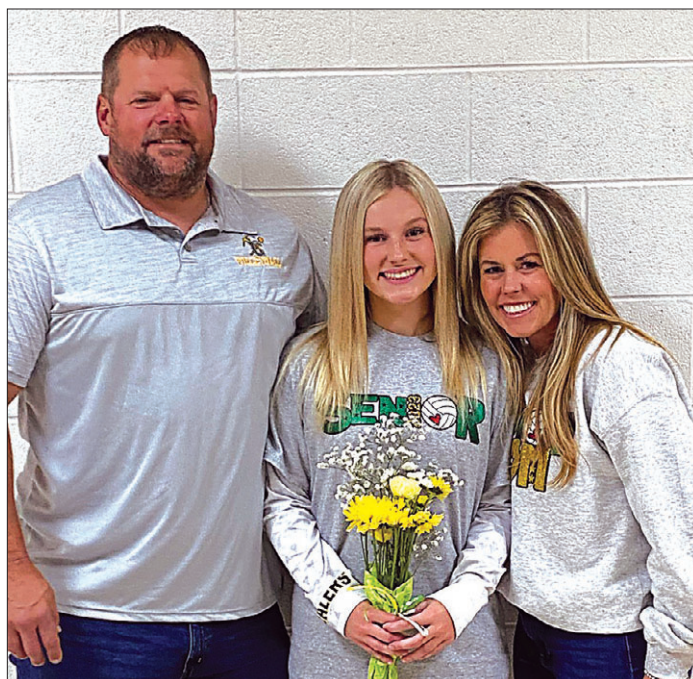
Courtesy photos
SENIOR VOLLEYBALL PLAYER Addison Gagliardo was recognized on senior night along with her parents Marc and Shirley Gagliardo.



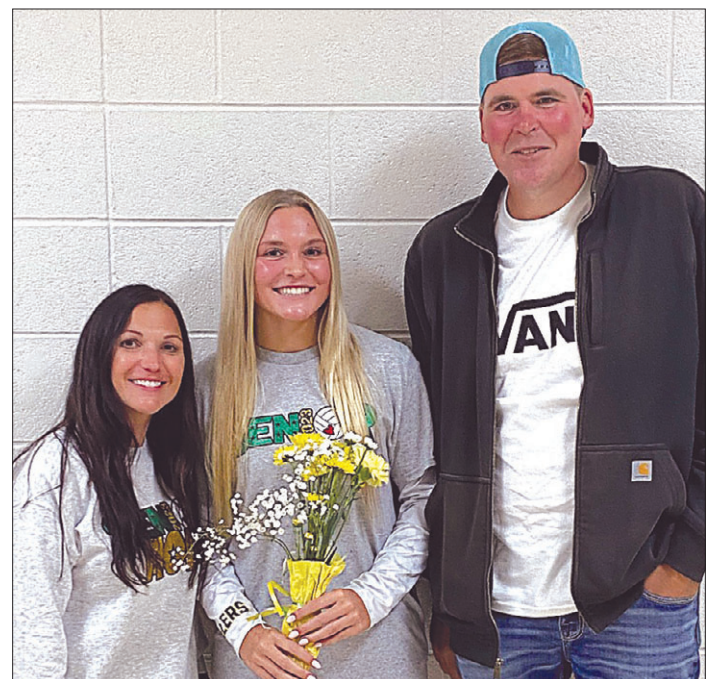
Courtesy photos
LADY COALER SENIOR Carley Morris was recognized on senior night for her contributions to the volleyball team. She was escorted by Dirk Morris and Alison Dearth-D'Orazio.



Courtesy photos
BELLA VERAVEIC was among the six senior volleyball players recognized on senior night. She was escorted by James Veraveic.



Courtesy photos
LADY COALER SENIOR volleyball player Addyson Waliczek was escorted on senior night by her parents, Bill and Jaime Waliczek.



Courtesy photos
GWEN WHARRIE WAS escorted by Gina and Keith Wharrie during the Lady Coaler volleyball senior night.

Senior leadership will be key to Coaler success

BY JIM SHELDON
SPORTS CONTRIBUTOR

With a new coach at the helm, the Coal City basketball team is looking for a bounce back season after compiling an 8-31 record the last two seasons.

Tyler Schoonover takes over for Glenn Pacek and knows firsthand what it's like playing in the Illinois Central Eight conference as he played and coached at rival, Reed-Custer.

"I am hoping to play faster and use the great athletes Coal City has to offer. I want to get the ball and go. We want to use our players in space and let them get into the lane and make a play."

His top returning players

are all seniors in Carter Garrelts, Cason Headley, Carson Shepard and Dillon Harrington.

"I am expecting big things from our seniors and for them to play like seniors this upcoming season. We had a great summer and are looking for that to translate to the season," said Schoonover.

"Garrelts is a 6'7" forward who can shoot the ball and handle the ball and Headley can really score the basketball."

"We are expecting them to be our leading scorers while Shepherd can handle and distribute the ball."

New to this year's squad are junior Jim Feeney, sophomore Zander Meents and senior Garret Keeley, who missed

all of last year due to injury. "Harrington and Keeley are very good rebounders and high energy type players. Feeney, overall is our best player. He can shoot the ball, drive, attack, defend and rebound. I am looking forward to big things from him," said Schoonover.

"I am hoping Meents can contribute everywhere. I am excited to see him at the varsity level."

He expects Reed-Custer to lead the way in the conference and be one of the best teams in the area.

"We hope to be a competitive team that will finish in the upper half of the conference. We have a group of very talented seniors with a couple underclassmen that will be

major contributors," said Schoonover.

"The record last year does not reflect the talent level and potential of our team."

The Coalers opened the season Monday, hosting the CC Turkey Tournament with a 50-48 win over Gardner-South Wilmington.

Garrelts led the charge with 19 points and 16 rebounds. Headley had 16 points, 6 rebounds and 4 assists and Chris Cholico added 8 points and 5 rebounds.

Coal City hosted Chicago (Agricultural Science) last night and will battle Morris on Friday at 7 p.m. in the tournament.

JV Warriors use quick attack against Peotone

The Coal City 7th grade boys basketball team remains undefeated as they got off to a fast start against a good Peotone team. The Warriors scored 18 points in the first quarter, with a final score of 42-27.

Hayden Kennell led the Warriors with 11 points. Dillion Ness had a season high of 10 points. Wyatt Homerding hit 2 big three point shots and finished with 8 points. Trevor Walker had 5 points. Cody Sheer and Colton Lynn each had 2 points a piece.

Three in a row

The 7th grade Warriors upended Dwight 39-15 to win their third straight. Hayden Kennell led all scores with 12 points.

Caiden Winke did a nice job in the 4th quarter and had 8 points. Wyatt Homerding did a nice job taking care of the ball and had 6 points. Caiden Tourigney had 5 points, while Dillion Ness had 4 points.

Colton Lynn and AJ Gagliardo had 2 points each. Come out and support the Warriors during their next game.

Lady Warriors thrive during special Eighth Grade Night

The 8th grade Lady Warrior basketball team bounced back after losing to Ottawa Shepherd with a 17-8 win over the Beecher Bobcats on Thursday. Kyla Stark was

the top scorer for the Warriors with 5 points. Stark also tallied 5 rebounds.

Maisy Franklin added 4 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 steals to the winning effort,

while Rileigh Eddy and Mia McKim each contributed 3 points.

McKim grabbed 6 rebounds and had 6 steals for the Warriors. Millie Collins added a layup in the 4th quarter for her only points on the night, in addition to recording 4 rebounds and 6 steals.

"Great night for the Warriors tonight," said coach Andy Leve. "The staff at CCMS and the parents really put together a great experience for the girls on their 8th grade night, and that made the game so much more fun."

"The stands were also packed and rowdy, and that adds a positive element to the game that isn't normally there. It energized the girls, and it showed in the way we started the game."

Coal City jumped to an 8-0 lead after the first quarter and went into halftime up 12-0.

"I stressed that we needed to keep our foot on the gas in the second half because they have a good coach, and I expected him to make a few adjustments. They showed us a man-to-man press in the second half, and the girls did a great job adjusting on the fly; it gave us very little trouble the few times we saw it."

We also played really good defense tonight. We kept the ball out of the lane by pinching and helping on their dribble drives, and that ended up keeping them from shooting much. They only had 4 shot attempts at halftime and fin-

ished the game with 11.

That's really, really low. We ended up with 49 attempts, and we should have had way more than 17 points on the night. We missed a few layups that we had in transition and

we blew a two-footer on an inbounds play.

"We've got to start finishing those drives and shots at this point in the season with regionals right around the corner. Regardless, it was a great

win and a great night all around.


The Warriors' record moves to 7-14 as they prepare for their final regular season game against Manteno last night.



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Photo by Amy Walker

SHOOTING A FREE THROW for the varsity Lady Coalers on Thursday is Abby Gagliardo.



Photo by Amy Walker

THE COAL CITY varsity girls basketball team won the championship trophy Saturday in the Comet Classic season opening tournament. Team members include (from left, front) Paige Walker, Tanna Curry, Makenzie Henline, Audrey Cooper, Beth Greene, Kylee Kennell and Madison Kapinus. Back row: Coach Emily Halliday, Coach Brad Boresi, Emma Rodriguez, Peyton Benson, Abby Gagliardo, Kerigan Copes, Bella Veraveic, Carley Morris, Makayla Henline, Mia Ferrias and Coach Brad Schmitt.

Lady Coalers off to an impressive start

The Lady Coaler basketball team prevented a blemish in their early record on Saturday, edging Plainfield Central 37-36 to win the Reed-Custer Lady Comet Classic tournament with a 4-0 record.

"We battled all game and played really well defensively to grind out a championship win," coach Brad Schmitt praised. "I'm proud of our girls for their effort to start the year."

Coal City built a 23-15 lead over Plainfield in the first half before being pressured in the third period for only four points. Up 27-24 entering the final period, the Lady Coalers almost let the win slip away in the end when Plainfield had one last opportunity with just seconds left. Coal City prevented a shot from being attempted during the inbound play as time expired.

Abby Gagliardo paced CCHS with 17 points including three treys. Mia Ferrias chipped in 11 points while Makayla Henline contributed four points. Audrey Cooper and Kerigan Copes tallied two points each while Makenzie Henline made a free throw.

Credit Plainfield for shooting 12-for-24 at the free throw line while Coal City finished 3-for-11.

A balanced attack

On Thursday against Gardner-South Wilmington the Lady Coalers had seven players contribute points as they jumped in front 27-10 in the first half. They never looked back, going on an 18-14 run in the final frame.

If anything the Lady Coalers may have been a little too aggressive as they were called for 18 fouls giving G-SW 27 opportunities at the free throw line. Fortunately they made only 14.

Ferrias led all scorers with 14 points including 2-for-3 at

the charity stripe. Makayla Henline and Gagliardo were impressive with 11 points each. Makenzie Henline finished with five points while Copes and Cooper put up two points apiece.

Lady Coalers rally

On Wednesday against Morris the girls in green overcame an early deficit to win it 43-37.

After trailing in the first quarter Coal City went on an 11-9 run in the second period to tie it 18-18 at the half. The real difference was the fourth quarter when they applied a pressure defense to outgun Morris 15-8 for the win.

Cooper and Makenzie Henline anchored the offense with 10 points each. Ferrias stepped up with nine points while Gagliardo chipped in eight and Makayla Henline six after shooting 3-for-4 in field goal attempts.

Season opener

Coal City's Ferrias was named All Tournament after leading her team in scoring during two of the four games. Her best start was the season opener against Manteno when she gunned 21 points enroute to a 51-45 victory.

"It was a nice way to start the season," Schmitt said "Our girls did some really good

things tonight and built a nice 20-point lead in the 4th quarter. Hopefully we can keep getting positive contributions from all of them."

Ferrias was 7-for-11 from the field and 7-for-9 at the free throw line. She recorded four steals while dishing out two assists.

Gagliardo was 5-for-6 under the basket to finish with 11 points and seven rebounds. Kylee Kennell came through with eight points and three rebounds while Cooper chipped in seven points. Tanna Curry and Makayla Henline tossed up two points each.

Coal City will host Peotone on Monday.



Photo by Amy Walker

TAKING THE BALL to the basket for the varsity Lady Coalers is Makenzie Henline.



Photo by Amy Walker

DRIVING THE LANE for the Lady Coalers during their championship run during the Lady Comet Classic tournament is Mia Ferrias who was named to the All Tournament team.

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Photo by Amy Walker

HOW YOU DO IT - Coal City coach Brad Schmitt demonstrates to his players who to get the ball in play turning a timeout during the Lady Comet Classic tournament.