

Coal City Police awarded \$20,000



Schmitt celebrates 300th victory



\$1.00 Vol. 121, Issue 50 1 section • 14 pages Not over 75% advertising www.coalcitycourant.com

COAL CITY COURANT .com

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2022

A FREE PRESS NEWSPAPER • (815) 634-0315

Unit 1 wish list

Board of Education gets first look at facility improvement plan

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

There's an extensive wish list of items that can improve Coal City school buildings. The tough job now is to narrow that list down and give projects priority.

It's all part of a strategic planning process started last July by the Unit 1 Board of Education. It directed the district's architectural firm to complete a facility improvement plan with input from board members, administrators, staff and citizens.

Building maintenance and longevity, athletic facilities, fields, classroom space and

storage made the top of the list.

Superintendent Chris Spencer said it was evident from the feedback the list needs to be addressed by the Board sooner rather than later.

Architects with Cordogan Clark met with faculty, staff and administrators from each of the district's educational buildings two days in mid-September. The goal was to generate a wish list, if you will, of needs and wants.

"It was wide open, anything was on the table. We told them to think big, and they did. There was some great conversations at those meetings by the focus groups," Spencer

said. Discussions were informal and conversational, generating 20 pages of notes representing hundreds of ideas that ranged from improving playgrounds and parking spaces, to turf athletic fields and reconfiguring classroom spaces.

Nearly 200 items or suggestions were made by the high school focus group. At the elementary school staffers listed over 100 items including replacing sinks that no longer work and adding them to others that have none at all.

The elementary staff has asked for individual work spaces for therapy services, improved educational spaces

and they even made the suggestion of combining grade levels be it K-5 or 2-5.

The latter concept is one that came up during the strategic planning session given the age of both the elementary and intermediate school buildings.

The intermediate school at 107 years old is the oldest facility in the district. The list of suggestions from its group numbered around 90 and was mostly focused on maintenance and accessibility.

The early childhood center staff says there's a need for designated cafeteria space, updated playground areas to meet the needs of all students and routine maintenance.



Photo by Ann Gill

ARCHITECTS RICHARD BLAIR [left] and Craig Welter [seated] presented the Unit 1 Board of Education with a series of considerations on improvements and upgrades to district facilities.

The focus group at the middle school expressed a need for additional parking, improved access to outdoor athletic facilities, a designated space for the wrestling program, improved storage, storm

shelters, updated lab spaces and classroom furniture such as sit and stand desks or larger work spaces for students.

The wish list items sub-

SEE LIST, PAGE 2

Two trustees file to be next mayor of Coal City

STAFF REPORT

Monday marked the first day for candidates to file petitions for the spring 2023 election, and in the village of Coal City there are currently two candidates running for mayor.

Dave Spesia, who currently serves as a village trustee, was at Village Hall when it opened on Monday to submit his completed petition for village president—also referred to as mayor.

A few hours later, incumbent trustee

Ross Bradley arrived at Village Hall to submit a completed petition for the same office.

Bradley's trustee position is one of three up for election this spring. Spesia has two years remaining on his current term having been re-elected in spring 2021.

According to village officials seven petition packets had been handed out as of Tuesday morning. Along with village president, town voters will have the opportunity to elect a clerk and three

trustees in the April election.

Incumbent trustee Dan Greggain and village clerk Pamela Noffsinger have filed petitions for election. Greggain is seeking re-election as trustee while Noffsinger is looking to move from her current post to that of village trustee.

As of Tuesday morning, three petition packets were still out and it's unclear what positions those individuals would be looking to fill. Mayor Terry Halliday's

SEE MAYOR, PAGE 2



Photo by Ann Gill

THE LEARNING RESOURCE Center at Coal City High School was re-dedicated last week in honor of former Unit 1 Superintendent Pete DiPaolo and in recognition of Beth Miller, a 1997 graduate. Based on proposals submitted by members of the student council, the LRC underwent a renovation in late 2019 and early 2020. The funds for the project were provided by the student organization, the Beth Miller Foundation and the district. To honor the contributions a ceremony to re-dedicate the space was held on Dec. 5. Taking part were [from left] board member Chuck Lander, board vice president Shawn Hamilton, architects Richard Blair and Craig Welter, board member Steve Rogers, board president Robert Bianchetta, Judy Miller, board secretary Mary Gill, student council sponsors Allison Peterson and Sara Anderson and board president Ken P. Miller.

A space for collaboration and engagement

Coal City High School library re-dedicated

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

A renovation of Coal City High School's learning resource center, a project driven by the school's student council, turned the library into a student center focused on collaborative study and engagement.

Although there is still more work to do, the Unit 1 Board of Education has officially re-dedicated the space continuing to honor the legacy of Pete DiPaolo—who served as superintendent of the district until his unexpected death in the fall of 1969.

The re-dedication also served to honor Beth Miller, a 1997 graduate who died unexpectedly in the spring of 1999. Through a foundation established by her family and friends the renovation project was granted \$50,000.

It was in the spring of 2019 when seniors Cody Rogers and Natalie Durham, both members of the student council, submitted a proposal to the Unit 1 Board of Education for the space to be re-purposed. They were even willing to help financially support the improvements.

Superintendent Chris Spencer was serving as the building's assistant principal at the time, and recalls the day the

students came to him with their idea to enhance the library.

Mary Gill, secretary of the Unit 1 Board of Education and treasurer of the Beth Miller Foundation, was immediately drawn into their concept. Gill was also encouraged by their professionalism and willingness to participate.

So she shared the proposal with the foundation board who all agreed it was a project that Beth would have fully supported, so the decision was made to help with the funding.

"We appreciate [the foundation's]

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 2



Courtesy photo

VANA WINCHELL [left] will take the stage as a Drosselmeyer Doll in Finale Academy of the Arts production of the beloved holiday ballet, The Nutcracker. She will appear along with Emellyn Winchell [right] will portray a soldier in the Dec. 16 production. Vana is a seventh grade student at South Wilmington Grade School and Emellyn is in the second grade.

A holiday tradition

Finale Academy of Arts to present "The Nutcracker"

BY ANN GILL EDITOR

As Christmas draws near, we are reminded of the holiday traditions passed down from generation to generation. For many, the season would not be complete without a trip to the ballet for a performance of "The Nutcracker."

Across the globe, dance companies—large and small—share the story of Clara and her beloved gift, a nutcracker that comes to life in her dreams and takes her on an adventure.

This holiday season, Finale Academy of the Arts in Wilmington is bringing the tale to life as the two act ballet will be presented by a cast of some 100 dancers, gymnasts and athletes.

Studio owner/director Kimberly Larson said her

company will be presenting the traditional ballet, a tale adapted from "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," a short story penned by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816.

Dancer Emily Starkey will take the stage as Clara and the role of her brother, Fritz will be played by Alex Rosenberg.

According to Larson, the dancers have been working on the production since mid-August and put in 10 hours of rehearsal time a week.

Finale Studio has presented an annual holiday show for a number of years, and Larson

SEE NUTCRACKER, PAGE 2



0 4 8 7 9 1 2 9 6 4 5 4

BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS

SALE VALID 12/14-12/20/22

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

CHECK OUT OUR WEEKLY AD AT BERKOTFOODS.COM

CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM-6PM
CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY

\$5.99 LB
with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase

USDA Choice, Angus EZ Carve Beef Ribeye Roast (without loyalty \$10.99/lb) **LIMIT 1**

Limited Release Berkot's Fresh Homemade Christmas Sausage Made with Fresh Bacon, Garlic, & Onion **\$4.99 LB**

\$9.99 LB
with loyalty

FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM!

Berkot's Famous Whole Beef Tenderloin (without loyalty \$12.99/lb)

Sugardale Cook's Smithfield Hormel

88¢ LB
with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase

Cooks, Sugardale, Hormel or Smithfield Spiral Sliced Ham **LIMIT 1**

Varieties Vary By Location!

Holiday happenings

Thursday, Dec. 15—Coal City High School jazz and concert band performance, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.
Saturday, Dec. 17—Christmas Cantata "What Sweeter Music," Coal City United Methodist Church, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 18—First responder Christmas parade through the villages of Carbon Hill, Diamond and Coal City. Parade begins at 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Dec. 20—Coal City Middle School chorus concert, 7 p.m., Coal City Performing Arts Center.

Through the holiday season—GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club Virtual Holiday Challenge. A 5K, 100 or 200 mile run/bike/walk—you decide. The challenge can be completed inside or outside. \$30 entry fee. Registration link on the GFWC-IL Coal City Junior Woman's Club Facebook page.

List

mitted by the high school focus group was by far the largest of any individual building and it focused a lot on creating collaborative spaces and improving athletic facilities with additional storage and turf playing surfaces.

The staff pointed out there is no dedicated air conditioning as the competition gymnasium and auditorium share a system and it's something that needs to be changed. They also noted additional seating is needed in the cafeteria and a request was made for a senior lounge.

Collaboration areas, student hang outs and breakout spaces are desired, as are data and power connections, updated lab spaces for science courses and electrical upgrades within the performing arts center.

Staff put forth a case for reconfiguring the buildings classroom areas, creating outdoor instructional areas and improved storage.

They also suggested the installation of digital clocks and vape detectors in rest rooms.

Suggestions were made for the construction of a field house, reconfiguration of the

football stadium, turf surfaces, a designated wrestling room, and improvements to the weight room.

Following their meeting with the focus groups, the architects working on the project put pen to paper and developed a series of considerations for the Board of Education.

Those considerations were presented to the Board last week, including building additions and reconfigurations, interior and exterior upgrades, new parking lots and access roads, and even a reconfiguration of the high school athletic stadium.

"This is more just informational for the Board right now," Spencer said.

The focus groups will have an opportunity to view the considerations presented by the architects based on the feedback they provided, and a final document will be presented to the Board for its consideration.

As district officials say, this is the big picture, the wish list. What comes from it has yet to be decided.

Editor's note: Starting in next week's edition of The Courant, the newspaper will provide details outlined for each of the district's five educational sites.

Mayor

name is not currently on the list of those who have obtained a petition packet, however no formal announcement has been made as to his plans for re-election.

Nominating petitions can be obtained through the filing period with the deadline to submit completed paperwork for the consolidated election—municipal, school and library board positions—being the close of business on Monday, Dec. 19.

Library

support," Spencer said.

Along with Rogers and Durham, other members of the student council got involved including Lauren Ferrari and Caden Hennessey.

"Those four were really the integral part of making this happen," Spencer said.

And, he noted the added efforts of Rogers who he said, "really guided" the project with assistance from Durham.

Following the initial presentation to the board, the next several months were spent working out a concept for the space. The students joined administrators and representatives of the foundation on tours of various schools, and sat through numerous meetings with architects and others brought in to work on the details.

The district's architectural firm donated its services for this particular design and by late fall 2019 a plan was in place for work to start while students were out on winter break.

At the time it was the hope that the seniors involved would get to enjoy at least a little bit of what they had been working towards. Then COVID hit and schools were shut down.

"Mary and I spoke after about how nice it was to work with such fine young ladies and gentlemen. Those four students, not the only ones, but those four really were very impressive with how they handled themselves in the meetings, presenting the ideas they had, a willingness to listen and go through the process with us, which was really important for us and we wouldn't be doing this today if it wasn't for those four," Spencer said.

Just prior to the pandem-



Photo by Ann Gill

PRIOR TO THE pandemic shut down in March 2020, Cody Rogers and Natalie Durham—then seniors and members of the student council—had the opportunity to test out the new furniture in the renovated learning resource center. The pair were an integral part of the project.

ic shut down the new furniture for the space was delivered and installed, and Rogers and Durham had the opportunity to briefly test it out.

Along with new furniture, the space was reconfigured to open up areas for collaborative work, the circulation desk was relocated closer to the center of the room, new paint was added, a screen was installed for presentations and the floor was resurfaced.

Renovation costs came in at around \$100,000. Student council provided \$8,000 and with the foundation's donation the district's cost was \$42,000.

As Spencer made note at the rededication, it's still a work in progress and more work will be forthcoming.

Ideas presented during those early meetings included

The season for giving

STAFF REPORT

'Tis' the season for giving, that time of year when we give a little more, help out those in need and recognize the contributions individuals and organizations have made throughout the year.

There are a number of local organizations that accept charitable donations that are used to help those in need, offer programming to area residents or support local students and community programs.

The newspaper offers a few suggestions of local organizations that accept donations at the holidays and throughout the year.

Coal City Food Pantry
The mission of the Coal City Food Pantry is to alleviate hunger locally.

The non-profit is a year-round organization that allows individuals and families in need to shop its shelves for everything from bread and eggs, to meat, milk and fresh produce.

To keep the shelves filled, the food pantry accepts donations of non-perishable food items, household cleaning supplies and paper products. Donations can be placed inside the collection box located outside the southeast door of Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., and monetary donations to support the pantry's work in the community can be directed to Coal City Food Pantry and sent the McArdle Road address.

Help for Hope
The non-profit serves to bring hope to anyone; regardless of age, income or residency.

A 24/7 help organization, Help for Hope has the ability to provide emergency supplies and direct individuals to the services they need.

Monetary donations to support the group's work in the community can be sent to Help for Hope at 100 S. Baima St., Coal City, IL 60416. To learn more call 815-518-2000.

Coal City Backpack
Since 2014, the Coal City

Backpack Program has provided Unit 1 School District students in need with supplemental food during the school year.

Donations are always appreciated. Checks made out to the Coal City Backpack Program can be sent to 7855 E. Arrowleaf Trail, Coal City, IL 60416 or donations can be made at Midland States Bank. The program is a registered 501(c)3 organization.

Hope Helps
An autism awareness organization, Hope Helps is dedicated to research and advocacy for those diagnosed with autism and their families.

The non-profit raises funds to provide communication devices, scholarships, equipment and medical intervention for those suffering with autism.

Founded in 2011, the organization raised over \$600,000 for the construction of an all-inclusive playground in Coal City's Lions Park.

Local residents can help build the fund for future projects with a donation sent to P.O. Box 9, Coal City, IL 60416.

Unit 1 Educational Foundation

Independent of the Coal City School District, the Unit 1 Educational Foundation works to enhance the educational experience by providing grants for classroom activities and initiatives. The foundation also provides scholarships to graduating seniors and alumni of Coal City High School. Learn more about ways to support the non-profit organization including its Learning Tree and Memorial programs visit www.unit1foundation.org.

Carbon Hill School Memorial Fund

The Carbon Hill Historical Society established the Carbon Hill School Memorial Fund to accept donations from individuals in honor or in memory of a former village resident or school student.

Contributions are used to operate the museum and support the society's efforts to preserve local history. Donations can be sent 875 N. Second St., Carbon Hill, IL 60416.

Small Town Theatrics
Small Town Theatrics is a

community theater that produces theatrical performances that give community members an opportunity to be involved in the arts. The mission is to provide individuals in small towns with opportunities to showcase their talent, while exposing them to the diversity of the performing arts.

To support this small town group's effort to produce big city theater right here in Coal City, mail your tax deductible donation to P.O. Box 28, Coal City, IL 60416.

Angels of Hope, Inc.

An Angel of Hope stands in the center of Coal City's Campbell Memorial Park, a place for reflection and remembrance, a symbol of hope for all parents who have lost a child.

The park was completed from donations and fund-raisers held for the organization which was founded in 2005.

Angels of Hope, Inc., continues to accept donations to support the park, as well as its other initiatives including the Everlasting Footprints grant program that provides financial assistance with burial and headstone fees to families who have lost an infant or toddler.

The group also has a Creating Miracles grant program to assist couples unable to conceive a child with the cost of fertility treatments.

To learn more about Angels of Hope, Inc., visit www.angelsofhopeinc.org. Donations can be mailed to 265 Richards St., Coal City, IL 60416.

Operation St. Nick

This unique community organization provides low income families with assistance at Christmas, as well as providing area youngsters with the necessities for heading back-to-school in the fall. They have handed out bicycles to kids and helped military families.

Donations to Operation St. Nick can be sent to P.O. Box 781, Morris, IL 60450.

The organization will also be hosting its 40th annual radio action this Sunday, Dec. 11 from 8 a.m. noon. Tune into WCSJ-FM 103.1 to take part in the event.

United Way of Grundy County

The United Way of Grundy County supports 31 partner agencies, including Grundy Community Volunteer Hospice, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Community Nutrition Network and Illinois Valley Industries.

To assist the organization in meeting its campaign goal, send donations to 1802 N. Division St., Suite 500, Morris, IL 60450. To learn more about the organization or its partner agencies, which also accept donations log on to uwgrundy.org or call 815-942-4430.

Grundy-Three Rivers Habitat for Humanity

Grundy-Three Rivers Habitat for Humanity is an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity of Illinois and Habitat for Humanity International.

The non-profit organization was established locally to assist Grundy residents realize the dream of home ownership.

Habitat works with families to build homes. Locally, the group has assisted residents in Carbon Hill, Coal City, Gardner and Morris. The group's first project was a home renovation in the village of Channahon and since then has gone on to build homes for families both large and small.

The organization accepts monetary donations, as well as materials, time and property.

To learn more about the organization visit grundy3rivershabitat.org. Donations can be made on-line or by mail at 105 E. Main St., Morris, IL 60450.

WeCare of Grundy County

WeCare was established as a resource for people in need throughout the county. The organization's motto, "A helping hand, neighbor to neighbor," guides the group's work to ensure everyone receives the services they need, from food and clothing, to utility and housing assistance.

Donations can be made on-line at wecareofgrundy.com or by mail to 530 Bedford Rd., Morris, IL 60450.

Nutcracker

said the time was right to stage the classic ballet.

"You have to have a certain skill level in your studio to even be able to do it, and we are there," said Larson, who noted her students have to take a certain number of hours in pointe and ballet classes which is a requirement for the choreography presented in the ballet.

Along with Starkey and Rosenberg, "The Nutcracker" cast includes Ella White, Nutcracker; Sara Borik, Sugar Plum; Lyla Bruner, Mouse King; Aubrey Bryant, Snow Queen; Abigail Kirchner, Uncle Drosselmeyer, and Vanna Winchell and Chella Kuyper, Drosselmeyer Dolls.

And, appearing in the Land of Sweets celebration dancers are Kennedy Larson and Ivy Bruner; "Arabian Coffee"; Addison Rosenberg, "Spanish Chocolate"; Kara Keslin, Maecyn Rodriguez and Ava Spicer, "Chinese Tea"; and Emberlyn Paquette, Abigail Kirchner, Sally Clifford, Alivia White, Jaycee Chase, and Kara Malone in "Russian Candy Cane."

A special appearance will be made by gymnasts from Gymkhana in Hanover Park.

"The Nutcracker" will be presented at 7 p.m., Friday, Dec. 16 on the stage in the historic Rialto Square Theatre in downtown Joliet.

Tickets are \$25 per person and available at the theatre box office on the night of the show. The lobby opens at 6 p.m.

Finale dancers and the cast that joins them is looking forward to seeing the community in the theatre this Friday.

"We have a reputation in the dance community for putting on a stellar shows," said Larson, who opened her studio 23 years ago. "The Nutcracker" is set to become a Finale Studio tradition and this is its inaugural year.

Audition dates have already been set for next year's production and participation will be open to all area dancers.



Courtesy photo

FINALE ACADEMY OF the Arts will present a holiday classic, The Nutcracker, a two act ballet on Friday, Dec. 16 at the Rialto Square Theatre in Joliet. Kennedy Larson, a seventh grader at Coal City Middle School, is among the featured dancers in the one night only performance.

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, Dec. 15-Haas Traveling Office Hours, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

We Remember - 1-2:30 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 16-Bingo - 1-3 p.m.

Fun Fridays - 3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 19 -Makerspace Cart Mondays - All Day

Mahjong - 1-3 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 21-Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP), 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Early Dismissal Movie Day, 11:45 a.m.-2 p.m. K thru 5th graders can bring their lunch to eat. We will be watching the movie "Polar Express" and popcorn will be served.



The Coal City Courant

USPS No. 120-060

Published weekly, 52 times a year, on Wednesdays by

G-W COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 271 S. Broadway St.

Coal City, IL 60416

Periodicals postage paid at Coal City, Illinois

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Free Press Newspapers; P.O. Box 327; Wilmington, IL 60481

Subscription rates: \$43 Grundy & Will counties; \$50 other Illinois counties and \$57 out of state

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

Advertising and Business Offices:

• 111 South Water St., Wilmington, IL 60481

(815) 476-7966; Fax: (815) 476-7002

• 271 South Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416

(815) 634-0315; Fax: (815) 476-7002

Deadline for The Free Press Advocate,

Braidwood Journal and Coal City Courant

Display Advertising: Friday, noon

News and Classified Advertising: Monday, noon

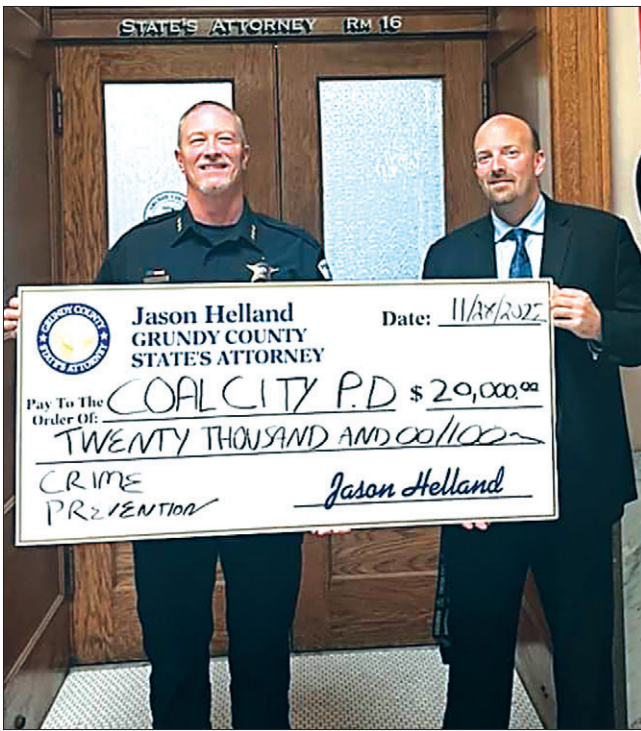
E-mail: News & News Photos: news@fpnusa.com

Ads & Artwork: graphics@fpnusa.com

©2022 All news, photographs and advertising material used in this publication are the property of G.W. Communications, Inc. Use of the material without the consent of G.W. Communications, Inc. is strictly prohibited. Violators of this property right are subject to legal action.

Eric D. Fisher, publisher
Ann Gill, editor

State's Attorney adds \$20,000 to license plate reader project



THE COAL CITY Police Department recently received a \$20,000 donation from the office of the Grundy County State's Attorney to assist in the cost of acquiring and implementing license plate reader cameras. The department announced in mid-November it was awarded a \$44,552 grant from the U.S. Department of Justice to add the cameras to two patrol cars, as well as place a stationary unit at locations within the village. The funds from the county were crime prevention dollars that former State's Attorney Jason Helland [right] designated for the department. Helland, who has since taken a judicial post, presented the donation to Coal City Police Chief Chris Harseim [left] recently.

Courtesy photo

Proposal made for middle school soccer

BY ANN GILL
EDITOR

A request to start a middle school soccer team has been presented to the Unit 1 Board of Education.

The Coal City Soccer Club made a request last year for the district to introduce a co-ed soccer team at the school.

Superintendent Chris Spencer said the proposal came at a time when the district was uncertain about the long term finances of the district based on a strong possibility that Dresden Generating Station would be shut down.

The district asked for some time to see what would become of the plant—the generating station contributes 65% of the property tax paid into the district. Knowing the plant will remain open, and that a long term tax agreement is in place, as well with an announcement coming from the company of its plan to extend its operating license, Spencer said it seemed like the right time to revisit the request.

According to the superintendent, the soccer club conducted a survey of middle school students and out of 174 responses received, 155 expressed an interest in playing the sport as part of a school team.

"Now that doesn't mean they are [all] going to do it, but they did have quite an overwhelming number that said yes," Spencer said.

"Those are facts and figures we need to have in a consideration," said Board president Ken P. Miller.

Based on the superintendent's recommendation, the proposal will be forwarded to the district's Athletic Committee for review.

"We let them look into this and come back with a recommendation in the near future," Spencer told the Board.

In other matters from the December meeting of the Board of Education:

- The process of setting the school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year has begun.
- Supt. Chris Spencer has initiated discussions with union leadership on the calendar that sets the first and last day of school, as well as outlines school breaks, parent/teacher conference dates and early dismissals.
- By school code the calendar must include a minimum of 185 days to ensure there are 176 days of student attendance.
- The Board approved an agreement with Mack & Associates, P.C., for auditing services through fiscal year 2025 at an yearly cost of \$15,250, \$15,625 and \$16,020, respectively.
- At the recommendation of high school principal Jennifer Kenney, the Board approved mid-year graduations for six students.
- Board members accepted a \$920 donation from Morris Hospital. The funds, to benefit athletic programs, represent the proceeds from athletic physicals conducted this year.
- Approval was given for the district to renew its membership in the Grundy County Chamber of Commerce & Industry at a cost of \$265.
- The Board renewed participation in the Three Rivers Education for Employment System (TRES) by approving and intergovernmental agreement.
- TRES provides students, youth and adults with programs, services and the opportunity to obtain immediate employment and/or to attain advanced education or training needed for employment.
- Samantha Schneider was hired as a substitute to cover a maternity leave at the middle school.
- Samantha Hill was hired as a preschool teacher at the Early Childhood Center beginning with the start of the second semester in January.

- Four part-time custodians were hired for the district. They are Shian Harvey, Matt Perino, Miki Torino and Wyatt Wickiser.
 - Jacklyn Civanovich was employed as a full time classroom aide and Cristal Cabral as a one-on-one special education aide at the Early Childhood Center effective Dec. 19.
 - Elementary school custodian Tim Larson was granted medical leave from January 28 through May 1.
 - The Board approved health savings account contributions in the amount of \$3,000 each for administrative staff members Tracy Carlson, Amanda Davidson, Tammy Elledge, LaWanda Gagliardo, Dan Hutchings, Travis Johnson, Jennifer Kenney, Luke Krippel, Corey Mikul, Rodney Monbrum, Jason Smith, Christopher Spencer, Denny Wickiser and \$1,500 for Taryn Trotter.
 - The Board had a first reading on 90 revised board policies. The updates will be approved at a forthcoming meeting.
 - A three year agreement with Rave Mobile/SwiftReach was approved at a cost of \$3,062.34 per year. The program provides the district with a means of providing mobile messaging to district families.
 - Board members accepted an anonymous \$3,000 donation to the theatre department.
 - Nicole Wiltz, a student at Lewis University, will complete her student teaching requirement with pre-kindergarten teacher Hayley Villafuerte beginning in January.
- The next meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 4 and a study session for Wednesday, Dec. 28. Both meetings begin at 6 p.m. and are held in the meeting room of the district administration center.

Unit 1 celebrates its Students of the Week

Attorney Schmidt files Pink estate claim notice



Courtesy photos

THIRD GRADE STUDENTS of the Week at Coal City Elementary School for the week of Dec. 14 are (from left): Jonovan Shats, Dante Morales, Dakota Templet, Keslyn Hawkins, Alysson Lemmons, Liam Hollis.



Courtesy photo

COAL CITY EARLY CHILDHOOD Center Students of the Week for Dec. 14 in row one are (from left) Zeke Malone, Teddy Pruiim, Austin Kirchner, Emersyn Gregory, Peyton Holcomb and Oakley Parks. Completing the group in row two are Brayden Nielson, Amilia Liccadi, Avery Meyer, Edan Nicola, Skylar Martinez, Riley Matsko and Andrew Novak.



Courtesy photos

SECOND GRADE STUDENTS of the Week at Coal City Elementary School for the week of 12-14 are (from left): Croix Owensby, Eddie Gergits, Grace Motzny, Vanny Ludes and Brynlee Garner.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS No. 2022-PR-92

In the Matter of the Estate of Brandon R. Pink, Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Brandon R. Pink. Letters of office were issued on November 23, 2022 to Lisa Johnson as independent administrator, whose attorney of record is Charles L. Schmidt, 117 W. Washington St., Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six months from the date of first publication. Any claim not filed on or before the 30th day of May 30, 2023 or claims not filed within three months from the date of mailing or delivery of Notice to Creditor, whichever is later, shall be barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Courthouse, PO Box 707, 111 E. Washington Street, Morris, IL 60450, or with the representative through her attorney, or both. Copies of claims filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <https://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.

Charles L. Schmidt
Law Office of Charles L. Schmidt, Ltd.
117 West Washington Street
Morris, IL 60450
(815) 942-0701
grundylaw@gmail.com
Published in the Coal City Courant on Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14, 2022.

Unit 1 student artists recognized

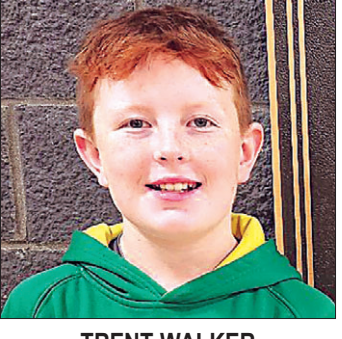
The artistic work of Coal City High School and Intermediate School students has been recognized.

It was recently announced that four Coalers were selected to participate in the Illinois

Central Eight [ICE] Conference Art Workshop held at Wilmington High School.

The students — Chessa Kuhel, Sammy Thackeray, Amelia Fritz and Zechariah Abbott — completed a collabora-

tive art project with students from other ICE schools.



TRENT WALKER
Middle School



ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
Middle School



OLIVIA FERRARI
Middle School



ABI ROSE
Middle School

Christmas Cantata to be performed

The Coal City United Methodist Church invites the community to get into the spirit of the season with the Community Christmas Cantata "What Sweeter Music" at Coal City United Methodist Church, 6805 E. McArdle Rd., on Saturday, Dec. 17, at 6 p.m.

Enjoy music offered by children and adults of the Coal City area. This is a free per-

formance and everyone is welcome to attend.

Attorney Wharrie files estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2022-PR-46

In Re: the Estate of FLORENCE A. MCLUCKIE, Deceased

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - WILL AND CLAIMS

NOTICE is given of the death of FLORENCE A. MCLUCKIE. Letters of office were issued on May, 18, 2022, to MICHAEL A. MCLUCKIE, 5928 Colt Drive, Peoria, IL 61607, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Larry G. Wharrie, 105 S. Broadway, Coal City, IL 60416.

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

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

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

Dated: December 5, 2022
MICHAEL A. MCLUCKIE,
Independent Executor

Larry G. Wharrie
The Wharrie Law Firm, P.C.
105 S. Broadway, St.
Coal City, IL 60416
815-634-8990
ARDC #2996146
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 2022.

Attorney Black files Blake estate claim notice

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - IN PROBATE No. 2022 PR 103

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JUANITA BLAKE, DECEASED

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of Juanita Blake. Letters of office as Independent Executor were issued to James Blake, 1220 Mayfield Ave., Joliet, Illinois 60435 whose attorney is Frank J. Black, BLACK & BLACK LAWYERS, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at Grundy County Courthouse, 111 E. Washington St., Morris, IL 60450, with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice or, if mailing or delivery of a notice is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

JAMES BLAKE
INDEPENDENT EXECUTOR
Frank J. Black
Black & Black
201 Liberty Street
Suite 211
P.O. Box 148
Morris, IL 60450
815-942-0594
Published in the Coal City Courant on Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 2022.

Foreclosure sale of 322 East North St.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-CABANA SERIES IV TRUST; Plaintiff, -v- JEREMIAH MARTIN VIGNALI; ANGELICA VIGNALI; STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants,

20 CH 5

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercounty Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

Lot 8 in Kiersted's Addition to Morris, being a subdivision of the West half of Lot 5 of Canal Trustee's Subdivision of the Southwest Quarter of Section 3, Township 33 North, Range 7 East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Grundy County, Illinois. P.I.N. 05-03-303-012.

Commonly known as 322 East North St., Morris, IL 60450.

The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. (440) 572-1512.

INTERCOUNTY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
intercountyjudicialsales.com
13209279

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 21 and 28, 2022.

Notice of Foreclosure sale of 7035 E. Scully Dr.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM YOU MAY BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS

OLD NATIONAL BANK, as successor by merger to First Midwest Bank, as successor in interest to Standard Bank and Trust Company; Plaintiff, -v- JAMES DURKEE as Special Representative for RODGER M. CHRISTENSEN; CHRISTINA EDDINGTON; ROBERT CHRISTENSEN; RICHARD CHRISTENSEN; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RODGER M. CHRISTENSEN; ESTATE OF RODGER M. CHRISTENSEN; UNKNOWN OWNERS; NONRECORD CLAIMANTS; UNKNOWN TENANTS AND OCCUPANTS; Defendants, 2021 CH 16

Property Address: 7035 E. Scully Dr. Gardner, IL 60424

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to the following:

UNKNOWN HEIRS AND LEGATEES OF RODGER M. CHRISTENSEN; ESTATE OF RODGER M. CHRISTENSEN, Generally. Notice is hereby given to Defendants in the above-entitled suit that the above-named Plaintiff has filed its Complaint in said Court for Foreclosure pursuant to the mortgage foreclosure laws of the State of Illinois, of the lands and premises in the Complaint situated in Grundy County, State of Illinois:

THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 8, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35 FOR A DISTANCE OF 105.53 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35 FOR A DISTANCE OF 336.45 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 341.76 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 407.52 FEET; THENCE NORTH 04 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 172.75 FEET; THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 178.71 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS, EXCEPTING THEREFROM THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED TRACT OF LAND: THAT PART OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 35, TOWNSHIP 31 NORTH, RANGE 8, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35 FOR A DISTANCE OF 105.53 FEET FOR A PLACE OF BEGINNING; THENCE CONTINUING NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SAID SECTION 35 FOR A DISTANCE OF 74.03 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 12 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 99.00 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 14 DEGREES 24 MINUTES 33 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 21.72 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 01 DEGREES 20 MINUTES 54 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 71.06 FEET; THENCE NORTH 90 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 155.98 FEET; THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 00 MINUTES 00 SECONDS WEST FOR A DISTANCE OF 304.45 FEET; THENCE NORTH 04 DEGREES 56 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 172.75 FEET; THENCE NORTH 18 DEGREES 19 MINUTES 13 SECONDS EAST FOR A DISTANCE OF 178.71 FEET TO THE PLACE OF BEGINNING, IN GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

PIN: 12-35-100-008

Common Address: 7035 E. Scully Rd. Gardner, IL 60424.

that summons was duly issued out of the said Court against you as provided by law, and that said suit is now pending. The said Complaint is for the foreclosure of the mortgage. NOW THEREFORE, unless you, the said above-named Defendants, file your appearance in the said suit in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Grundy County, Illinois, on or before January 13, 2023 default may be entered against you at any time after that day and Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

Stephen G. Daday
Daniel J. Lee
Klein, Daday, Aretos & O'Donoghue, LLC
1051 Perimeter Drive, Suite 300
Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-590-8700
Attorney No. 3127015
Kdaonotices@kdaolaw.com
13209087

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 21 and 28, 2022.

Free Press Newspapers readers

SOUND-OFF

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

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

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

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

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

Submissions by email to: courant@fpnusa.com 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.

Become the storm

WILMINGTON—A little food for thought. The devil whispers in my ear, you're not strong enough to withstand the storm. But today I whisper in the devil's ear and I told him I am the storm.

Prisoner swap

COAL CITY—It's a sad situation when America swaps a sports celebrity for a terrorist who has more blood on his hands than Bin Laden did as a former arms dealer to so many countries. I guess Putin gets the final laugh in this one. What was Biden thinking? Old man Biden is just a puppet to the media, who kept Brittney Griner's name in the headlines, and to Putin, who now has an arms dealer to help him with weapon purchases for his "war" with the Ukraine.

What a mistake

WILMINGTON—Went to Bradley Saturday to do some Christmas shopping. Every big box store was the same, long lines and not enough help. At the last store I went to, where I was about 10th in line with only two registers going, I was so tired of waiting I pushed my cart aside and walked out. I got back into town and made a stop downtown at the gift shop. No long lines, two workers there to help me and it was actually enjoyable to talk with them. I'll do the rest of my Christmas shopping online but also back at that gift shop. No more out of town shopping hassles for me.

Speeds on East

COAL CITY—41-36-38. These are not basketball scores! They are speeds on East 4th St. in Coal City on any day, usually between 7:30 a.m. and 8:15 a.m. The traffic of cars, trucks, motorcycles have increased since all the stop signs were taken down to increase the flow of vehicles. Children are waiting for their school buses, people are backing out of their driveways, and some people are exercising by walking. I guess with the new license plate reader going into effect maybe it will slow down the speeders. Yes there are police vehicles patrolling in the area and on 4th St. How about stopping and sit in my driveway in an unmarked car with radar? I am requesting a police car for one hour, one day to slow vehicles down. Signs are posted entering Coal City, by schools for 25 mph limit. How about enforcing them on side streets. On Dec. 16 there will be a speed limit sign put up on 4th St. and license plates of speeders will be recorded.

It's the cruelty

WILMINGTON—If you've ever had major surgery, you know how frightening it is. Recently in Ukraine the power was knocked out of hospitals in Kyiv forcing surgeons to operate by flashlight. But Republican Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene doesn't give a hoot. She wants to end all aid to Ukraine, every last dollar, and other Republicans agree because they support dictator Putin. Marjorie Taylor Greene professes to be Christian but you wouldn't know it by her words nor her deeds. Fortunately the Democrats hold the Senate and won't allow such cruelty to prevail. Irene

A folk art tribute

SHADOW LAKES—If you Google "Braidwood Zoo" your screen will light up and you will learn about Jack Barker a local artist and you will also learn about historical Route 66. Most important, you will learn about the little town's zoo, which is slowly becoming a local attraction. Braidwood doesn't really have much to offer to the tourist that drive historical route 66 but the little bit we have is now in danger of being destroyed. The Braidwood zoo is an asset to the community. It has great potential that could be exploited for the benefit of the community. Instead, the city's administration is trying to get rid of it. They should be looking at ways to improve on it. It would be nice to see an annual celebration involving folk art that would celebrate the life of Jack Barker. Many people throughout the state of Illinois, and maybe even the country, hold art pieces that

were created by local artist Jack Barker. It would be nice to see an annual gathering, it may be people can bring some of their art pieces to show them off. It will be sad to see the Braidwood zoo disappear. Local people should stand up and defend it.

Protecting my family

SHADOW LAKES—I see our beloved governor is trying to rid us of the Second Amendment. My question is this, who is going to protect me? I am sure you have figured out where all the violence in this state is. You don't have to be a genius to know 90% is in Chicago. Mayor Lori Lighthead has the nerve, day after day, to tell you it is getting better. Let us stop here for a moment and say this. The Chicago mayor has 90 bodyguards babysitting her and her family as she rules over a city of 2.7 million. We understand the need for bodyguards but don't you think 90 is overkill? Remember who is paying for this. Let us divert to another. The mayor of Dolton, Mayor Tiffany Henyard, has spent over \$258,000 since May of 2021 making sure her around-the-clock bodyguards ensure her safety. After her term of four years will cost over \$1 million of Dolton's tax money. How many bodyguards do you think our beloved governor has? I go often to the range and practice. I plan to purchase a pistol for my husband. After all, who is going to protect my family?

The right direction

BRAIDWOOD—Elections are just a few months away. The city and police department are in the best shape they have been in for years. Past administrations put out a lot of false information. Please check facts before voting. When in doubt you can go to the city and FOIA. Let's keep this city moving in the right direction.

But no roads

SHADOW LAKES—A person called into sound-off last week saying the oil companies have over 7,000 leases on government land. That is true, but they don't have leases to build roads to the sites or are they allowed to build pipelines to get the oil out. It's a game Biden's playing, it's like having a drilling lease on the moon. Eddie.

We elected him

BRAIDWOOD—Why does the Braidwood City council have issues with Fay Smith? He was elected to his position and not appointed like the people on the council who have the issue with him. I, for one, think Fay is doing a great job like always and am concerned about what is best for the city and his employees. He is not trying to line his pockets and give his "buddies" breaks on rules and policies like the appointed council members. Can't wait until April 2024 elections....when the votes will say you're fired. Not voting for people on current council for they can appoint their "good ole boys buddies" to take advantage of taxpayers. People of this town better wake up before there is no town to care about.

Protect our kids

WILMINGTON—The school district thinks they have done such a great job teaching our kids that they are asking to raise our property taxes to cover an increase in funding. I'm not a fan of what they choose to teach our kids nowadays. Most people aren't. People of Wilmington it is time to act. Show up at the district 209-U meeting next week that is open to the public. It's your only chance to hold them accountable for the curriculum that they choose to teach your young children! Get off your a.. and protect your kids from these phonies. They aren't there to teach reading, writing and arithmetic to your kids. They are pushing an ideology that most disagree with. It's up to you to protect your kids. Don't let them get away with brainwashing and corrupting the children. They are there to teach, not influence a sexual or political opinion. And I say if any teacher decides to do so then they should be arrested and put in jail for not sticking to basic teaching that these kids deserve. I say instead of defunding the police how about



defunding the school district? Especially if they continue on with the insane curriculum they are pushing in today's schools. Makes sense right? Send your kids to a private school. Home school. You have options. Be part of their life and stand up for your kids. Protect them now or it will be too late later on.

A family situation

MORRIS—I don't know how to deal with my selfish, inconsiderate, arrogant brother-in-law and his family especially his wife. I just want to estrange them from our lives and my husband agrees but we can't. My husband and I and his brother each have our own home in the country given to us by his parents. His brother's house is roughly 1000' away and his parents live across the street and about the same distance away. Our children are close in age. His brother, his wife and I are all the same age. My husband's is 4 years older. We are all going through the same life milestones, in the same situation (pretty close) but we just can't get along. The reason we can't is because they are mean self-centered people. They only help us if there is something in it for them. They have double standards and they allow their oldest teenage daughter to bully our kids especially our youngest who is 7. They make unfair rules for our children that only our kids have to obey. example- my boys can't go into the basement unless one of their girls go with them. That's where the toys are! Their oldest daughter won't let them pet their dogs, she has made them wait outside in the pouring rain for the bus. They're not considerate enough to say go wait in the garage. (I used to drop them off there in the mornings because of my work schedule, now I get them on the bus myself). She has told my boys to wait outside for us to pick them up when it's cold. Not that temperature even matters, that's very rude. She is mean. She tells my boys they can't walk over to their house because the dogs bark and it's annoying. The worst part of it all is that when I bring this up to her parents her mother makes up these ridiculous excuses for her behavior and justifies it. I even sometimes end up being the bad guy because her daughter lies and says I yell at them but I don't. I am at the point now where I feel like I need to record our conversations on my phone so I have proof of her disrespectful behavior and the absence of my "yelling." I have brought this up to my in-laws and his mother says "I know she can be difficult." or "it's their house, it's their rules" even though she agrees the rules are not fair and very strange. The reasoning behind them doesn't even make sense. Really it's not my brother-in-law's house, it's my in laws' house, they own it. I wish they would do something or at least say something but I know they don't want to get in the middle of it. It's just so petty and stupid and I refuse to let their daughter bully my kids any more or disrespect me. She doesn't even acknowledge me half the time. I'll say hello and she turns away from me. That's one of many examples of her being disrespectful. I'm at my end. I don't want anything to do with them. I don't want to go to my in-laws for Christmas. I'm just so tired, exhausted and defeated. What do I do?

Vow breakers

WILMINGTON—If evangelicals spent less time persecuting the LBGTQ community and more time denying services to adulterers, we could bring that divorce rate down. And wouldn't that be good for the children of these Christian vow breakers.

Move to Cuba

MORRIS—In the Sound-Off column Nov. 30, there was an article from Wilmington where an individual states that they identify as a Progressive Liberal with Socialist leanings like public schools, roads and redistribution of wealth. What you do not grasp is that Fascism, Socialism and Communism are cut from the same cloth and when children are taught to hate this country and are pushed into believing that they are racist it is indoctrination of children. Just like Adolf Hitler did

in Germany in the 1930s teaching children to hate anything against the party. Even turn in their relatives to the government if they said anything against the party. If you want to talk about Communism you do not have to go look any further than the people that are being held in prison without charges or bail from the Jan. 6 imprisonment of these people. Just like Cuba and China, they are political prisoners. So if you like Socialism so much move to Cuba or China. Maybe you should learn something before telling someone else to use a dictionary.

Right to serve or not

SHADOW LAKES—I'm watching C-Span, the Supreme Court case on free speech and LBGTQ rights. The oral arguments 303 creative LLC Vs Alito the Colorado Solicitor General, the company's attorney and the nine Supreme Court Justices asking questions and receiving answers from the solicitor general and the company's attorney. Having to do with this website creator that refuses to do things for LBGTQ people. My question is what has happened to this country? I ran my business for 44 years. I accepted people, I refused people, because it is my business. The government has no right to tell me who I can serve and who I can't, or who I must and who I don't want. What's going on with this country that a ridiculous argument like this goes to the Supreme Court? Dan Hill

A safety issue

COAL CITY— There has been a motor home parked across the sidewalk in the 600 block of W. Daisy Pl. in Coal City. It has been parked across the sidewalk for over a month. Our children can't even walk on the sidewalk to go to and from school. They have to walk on the side of the road putting them in danger of getting hit by a car. I hope our police department will make them move that motor home so our children can walk safely on the sidewalk walking to and from school. Thank you.

Conservatives complaining

WILMINGTON—I hear these Conservatives complaining about Twitter and free speech. But don't you have to pay to be on premium Twitter? So what's free about that?

Your false God

WILMINGTON— Now that Trump has suggested we need to abandoned to Constitution will any of you Trumpies publicly renounce this false God via the Sound-Off page. At long last have you no sense of decency.

On vacation

SHADOW LAKES—Biden has been 271 days on vacation in two years of being president. He's never visited the border. He has traded a useless individual for a terrorist. What is wrong with people like my neighbors who voted for Biden and Harris? They have to be union people. Dan Hill

Going postal

WILMINGTON—Post Office? Back in Aug. 2022, I did not get any mail for 10 days. I went to the P.O. and asked if they were holding my mail for some reason, they said I had it transferred to Austin, TX 10 days ago. I don't know anyone in TX. So after a short argument, they found that someone in the "Suburban center" had my mail sent to TX. We searched and found the home and phone number in Austin, no mail was ever sent. I was given the number for the postal investigation service. After three calls I was given a case number and would receive updates on the progress from them or the local P.O. I must have forgot to give them my phone number, not one call back. I was told they have to send a form out when mail is transferred so you know it is sent somewhere else. They must have run out of forms. I had to cancel and change anything that had info on it. I didn't get any mail back from the 10-day period, or get one call back from anyone. Do they really care?

Legislators expected to debate gun sales in January

BY CAPITAL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Among the issues expected to be debated when lawmakers return to the Capitol in January is a proposed ban on the sale or possession of assault-style weapons and high-capacity ammunition magazines. Those are the same types of weapons and ammunition systems that have been used in multiple mass shootings in the United States. But calls for banning them in Illinois intensified after a mass shooting at

an Independence Day parade last summer in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured.

On Thursday, Dec. 1, the final day of the veto session, Rep. Bob Morgan, D-Deerfield, filed HB 5855, the "Protect Illinois Communities Act," which would make it illegal to manufacture, deliver, sell or purchase an assault weapon, assault weapon attachment, .50-caliber rifle or .50-caliber cartridge.

It would also make it illegal for anyone to possess such a weapon or ammunition 300 days after the effective date of

the act, unless it is registered with the Illinois State Police.

The bill would also remove the ability of people under age 21 to own firearms and ammunition, with an exception for those serving in the U.S. military or National Guard.

And it would amend the state's Firearms Restraining Order Act by allowing state's attorneys and assistant state's attorneys to act as a "friend of the court" in restraining order petitions while extending the maximum length of those restraining orders to one year instead of six months.

YOUR NEW HOME DESERVES THE BEST PROTECTION

American Family Insurance is proud to be named Best Homeowners Insurance of 2021 by Forbes Advisor.

Contact me today and get the protection you deserve.

Gerald Gresham
815-729-3570
815-476-6364
863 Center Ct., Unit B, Shorewood, IL 60404
teamgresham@amfam.com
Email: ggresham@amfam.com

American Family Mutual Insurance Company, S.I. & its Operating Companies.
American Family Life Insurance Company, 6000 American Parkway, Madison, WI 53718
©2020 1914-421-14723130

Costa Rica
9 Day Tour. **\$995**
Includes All Meals, All Hotels, and All Activities.

Hike in jungle rainforests, view volcanoes, soak in hot springs, cruise biological reserves and relax on tropical ocean beaches. Join the smart shoppers and experienced travelers.

1-800-CARAVAN
Caravan.com

Choose a Guided Tour +tax, fees

Costa Rica	9 days	\$995
Panama	8 days	\$995
Guatemala	8 days	\$995
Mexico		
-Ancient Civ.	9 days	\$995
-Copper Canyon	8 days	\$1295

"Brilliant, Affordable Pricing"
Arthur Frommer, Travel Editor

Caravan
Fully Guided Tours Since 1952

warrencollisioncenteril.com

- ✓ Finest quality warranted collision repair
- ✓ Rentals available
- ✓ Certified technicians
- ✓ All insurance accepted
- ✓ Completed in a timely fashion

WARREN'S COLLISION CENTER
860 E.Z. St., Braidwood
815-458-3300

WE CARE BEYOND THE REPAIR!

Celebrate the Season with Berkot's Amazing Deals!

Top Quality Groceries, Amazing Prices! - Berkot's Is Your Meat Headquarters

Only the BEST Fresh Meat & Produce! - Join Berkot's Loyalty for Savings!

Happy Holidays!
Avoid the Line & Visit Berkotfoods.com to Pre-Order Your Holiday Meats!

Sales valid 12/14/22-12/20/22 | STORE HOURS: 7 AM - 9 PM
ALL ITEMS AVAILABILITY BASED ON SUPPLY. QUANTITIES MAY BE LIMITED. NO RAINCHECKS WILL BE PROVIDED.

<p>CHRISTMAS EVE 7AM-6PM CLOSED CHRISTMAS DAY</p> <p>\$5.99 LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus EZ Carve Beef Ribeye Roast (without loyalty \$10.99/lb) LIMIT 1</p>	<p>Limited Release Berkot's Fresh Homemade Christmas Sausage Made with Fresh Bacon, Garlic, & Onion \$4.99 LB</p> <p>\$9.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM!</p> <p>Berkot's Famous Whole Beef Tenderloin (without loyalty \$12.99/lb)</p>	<p>99¢ PER LB WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 3 LBS</p> <p>Broccoli Crowns W/Out Loyalty \$1.99/LB</p>	
<p>\$15.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA PRIME, Angus Bone-In Rib Roast "THE REAL PRIME RIB"</p>	<p>\$13.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Beef Tenderloin FREE CUSTOM CUT & TRIM (without loyalty \$17.99/lb) LIMIT 1</p>	<p>2 FOR \$5 WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 4 PKGS</p> <p>Farm Fresh - NEW CROP! Florida Strawberries 1 LB W/Out Loyalty \$2.99 each</p>	
<p>\$17.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA PRIME, Angus Boneless Rib Roast</p>	<p>\$2.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Boneless Rump Roast</p>	<p>\$4.99 LB with loyalty</p> <p>USDA Choice, Angus Skirt Steaks</p>	
<p>Berkot's has all your favorite <i>top-quality</i> meat!</p>			<p>69¢ EACH WITH LOYALTY LIMIT 1</p> <p>JUMBO Golden Pineapples W/Out Loyalty \$1.99 Each</p>
<p>49¢ LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>Cooks or Sugardale Smoked Shank Portion Ham LIMIT 1</p>	<p>88¢ LB with loyalty & \$25 minimum purchase</p> <p>Cooks, Sugardale, Hormel or Smithfield Spiral Sliced Ham LIMIT 1</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Berkot's Fresh Homemade Polish, Mild or Hot Italian Sausage- Reg. Price \$3.99/LB</p>	
<p>\$9.99 PER LB</p> <p>Censea JUMBO Cooked Shrimp 16/20 ct- 1 lb bag</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Chicken of the Sea PREMIUM Shrimp Ring with Sauce-16 oz Reg. Price \$14.99</p>	<p>\$9.99 EACH</p> <p>Wild Caught, Australian Premium Cold Water Lobster Tail 5-6 oz</p>	
<p><i>'Tis the Season for Savings!</i></p>			<p>\$4.99 EACH</p> <p>Berkot's PREMIUM Fresh Squeezed Orange Juice 56 oz</p>
<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Lay's Potato Chips 7.75-8 oz</p>	<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Kraft Slices, Shreds, Crumbles or Chunk Cheese 5-8 oz</p>	<p>\$2.99 EACH</p> <p>FRESH Cuties Clementines 3 LB Bag</p>	
<p>\$2.88 EA</p> <p>Simply Orange, Apple or Grapefruit Juice 52 oz, Almond Milk 46 oz, or Smoothies 32 oz</p>	<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Oscar Mayer Sliced Bacon 12-16 oz</p>	<p>2 FOR \$5</p> <p>Red Potatoes 5 LB Bag</p>	
<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Entenmann's Donuts 15-17.5 oz</p>	<p>2/\$3</p> <p>Nabisco Snack Crackers 6.5-13.7 oz</p>	<p>2 FOR \$4</p> <p>Gorgeous Pint Blueberries</p>	
<p>99¢ EA</p> <p>7 Up Family 2 Liter Btls</p>	<p>2/\$5</p> <p>Nabisco Chips Ahoy!, Ritz or Toasted Chips 6.5-13.7 oz</p>		
<p>BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!</p> <p>Nabisco Oreo's 10.1-15.35 oz</p>	<p>\$1.49 EA When Buying 3</p> <p>Philadelphia Cream Cheese 8 oz</p>		
<p>\$1.69 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty</p> <p>Best Choice Granulated Sugar 4 LBS- Sale Price \$1.99 each</p>	<p>\$1.88 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty</p> <p>Best Choice Butter 1 LB- Sale Price \$2.99 each</p>		
<p><small>Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.</small></p>			

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Lower the thermostat just before bed for sleep

Studies prove that people sleep better when the thermostat is set between 60 to 67 degrees Fahrenheit. A programmable thermostat makes it easy to wake up to a warm room in the morning but have a cooler one at bedtime, automatically. Never open a window to cool a room. If you must, use a fan to cool your skin and consider a few bed coverings to offer different levels of comfort from sheets to light weight blankets and quilts. Increase your comfort while saving energy and cutting utility costs.

Dr. William M. White
Family Dentistry
 - New patients
 - Emergency visits welcome
 All forms of insurance accepted including Meridian and Dentaquest



267 S. Broadway, Coal City
 Call (815) 634-8844

We're on the **MOVE** to 459 Davy Lane!

Wilmington (Including the Tin Man)

\$200 Rebate with this ad on any new install, hurry before offer ends.

★ Veteran & Senior Discounts ★

Call the trusted team at



BREEZE-AIR
 Local, Trusted Company
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING
 Call (815) 476-6615

Thank You

The family of Ed Sitek would like to express our sincere appreciation to all family, friends, and loyal customers who expressed their sympathy at the time of his passing.

Sharon Sitek
 Paula & Mark Pourchot & Family
 Frank & Pat Sitek & Family
 David and Marsa Sitek & Family



Surf | Broadband Solutions
 Connect Further, Faster.

RELIABLE, FAST & AFFORDABLE INTERNET SERVICE

Mention this ad and receive **FREE INSTALLATION—Call Today!**

(888) 274-6381 • www.surfbroadband.com

Trust the cheese state to perfect the Old Fashioned cocktail

Call me old fashioned...or call me Wisconsin Old Fashioned. Once a year we look to our neighbors to the north to decode the mystery that is Wisconsin's unique spin on the world's most popular cocktail.



THE SUNDAY COCKTAIL
Brian Rung

Are you expecting visitors from Wisconsin this holiday season? Make them feel welcome with an Old Fashioned made "the Wisconsin way". Those of us that hail from other parts of the country have a few questions around why Wisconsin's Old Fashioned is not only brandy-based, but specifically Korbel Brandy-based. Why brandy? Why Korbel? The roots of Wisconsin's Old Fashioned can be traced to The Chicago Worlds Fair, or Columbian Exposition of 1893. One of the many noteworthy events of the Exposition was the introduction of Korbel Brandy to the American Midwest.

This may not seem like a huge deal to 49 of our 50 states, but I assure you, this was a big moment for the state of Wisconsin. While it may not seem groundbreaking to make an Old Fashioned with brandy as opposed to bourbon or rye, it has become perhaps the most enduring variation of any classic cocktail.

How enduring is the Brandy Old Fashioned? It is so enduring that if you were to order an Old Fashioned in the Badger State you would have to specify that you would like yours made with whiskey if you do not want a Brandy Old

Fashioned. In Wisconsin they don't call it the Brandy Old Fashioned, it's just the "Old Fashioned". How did this drink, and Korbel Brandy in particular become so popular in America's Dairyland? Many Midwesterners traveled by train to the 1893 Chicago Fair, and most of them were German immigrants.

Wisconsin was part of the "German triangle" along with the area between Missouri and Ohio. European immigrants were more accustomed to drinking brandy than the American whiskeys, and Korbel became an instant smash in the Midwest as visitors to the Fair sampled the Korbel product.

In fact, Korbel is still a smash in Wisconsin. Literally 50% of Korbel production is shipped to the state of Wisconsin where imbibers are fiercely loyal to the brand. One widely held misconception regarding the Wisconsin Old Fashioned is that it is essentially a classic Old Fashioned merely substituting brandy for bourbon. That is not the case, there's more to a Wisconsin Old Fashioned.

For starters, the Wisconsin Old Fashioned is highly customizable, and is typically served with a topper also known as a "wash". When it comes to the wash, you have several options: sweet, soda, sour, press, or you may skip the wash altogether. You will have to voice your wash preference when you order the drink.

Let's decode the wash terminology. Sweet: lemon/lime soda, typically 7up. Soda: Soda water, club soda, or mineral water. Sour: grapefruit soda. Press: 1/2 ginger ale and 1/2 club soda. Have you decided on a wash? Great! Let's make one of these things.

One of the most significant departures from the classic Old Fashioned is the use of muddled fruit, specifically oranges and cherries. This may sound complicated, but it's not. This entire drink is built in the glass, no shakers, blenders, or special tools requires other than a muddler.

Start by cutting an orange wheel, and then cut the orange wheel into 4 wedges. Drop 2 orange wedges and 1 cherry into the glass, along with some simple syrup. Hit it with 4 healthy dashes of Angostura Bitters and gently muddle. The key to muddling the fruit is to be gentle enough to extract the juices from the oranges and cherries, but not so firm that the bitterness of the orange peel to find its way into the drink.

Now that your fruit is muddled and soaking in bitters and simple syrup, it's time to add the brandy. By the way, there are two non-negotiable ingredients in the Wisconsin Old Fashioned: the brandy and the bitters. It's always going to be the time-tested combination of Korbel Brandy and the classic Angostura Aromatic Bitters. If you swap either of these two ingredients, it won't taste like a Wisconsin Old Fashioned. Add the brandy, then fill the glass with ice. Be sure to



leave some room at the top of the glass for the wash. The most popular wash is the "sweet" option, which is typically 7 Up from a soda gun at the bar. Keep this recipe handy. If you are expecting company from Wisconsin this holiday season, a Brandy Old Fashioned will make them feel right at home while they are telling anyone who will listen that although things are not going well for the Packers in 2022, the outlook is even worse for the Bears.

The Wisconsin Old Fashioned is built and served in a chilled Old Fashioned glass. Combine in glass: 2 orange wedges, 1 cherry, 1/4 to 1/2 oz. simple syrup, 4 dashes Angostura Bitters. Gently muddle ingredients. Add 2 oz. Korbel Brandy. Add ice (lightly crushed) and stir. Top with splash of your choice of wash. Garnish with orange wedge and cherry. Until next week, enjoy responsibly.

Pastoral vacancy has Grace Lutheran planning special Christmas service

Grace Lutheran Church in Wilmington is thinking outside of the gift box for worship. While the congregation currently has a pastoral vacancy, getting an ordained person to come on Christmas Eve has been a challenge. But it seems there are some options for the day before.

If family or work commitments keep you from a traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service, Grace is offering an option on Christmas Eve, Friday, Dec. 23, at 6 p.m. This will be a great time to hear and sing your Christmas

favorites. Gianna Kohl, soloist, will sing and play the guitar. Paul Kenyon is the pianist for the evening. Pastor Kyle Johnson will deliver the message and preside at Holy Communion. Kyle spent time at Grace as an intern during Covid, so it will be nice to see his smiling face again. All are welcome to this event, family members and friends of Grace, PreSchool families, members of other congregations, and anyone who just needs a break from commercialized Christmas.

Light Up Your House contest returns to Custer

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Will Co. focused on attracting green industries

One of the first counties in Illinois to permit battery energy storage

WILL COUNTY – Will County leaders are calling attention to an increased focus on attracting green industries to the local economy. This follows several coordinated initiatives to attract the clean energy industry to Will County, including energy storage and transportation. "We recognize that green jobs are the future," said County Executive Bertino-Tarrant. "Will County elected leaders and local stakeholders have been working hard over the last few years to attract industries to our communities. We're positioning the county for a clean energy revolution that will significantly boost our economy." The Will County Board recently voted to allow for battery energy storage facilities to open in unincorporated areas, empowering a growing clean energy industry to grow in Will County. Battery energy storage facilities store energy produced by renewable energy sources during periods of low-cost or over-production, to be later distributed to community electric grids when there is an increased need for power. This zoning amendment makes Will County one of the first local governments in Illinois to allow for these facilities. The amendment to the zoning ordinance classifies battery energy storage facilities as minor utilities that are permitted in industrially zoned areas. "This simple change in zoning helps keep Will County at the cutting edge of the clean energy industry," said Will

County Board Land Use and Development Committee Chair Tyler Marcum. "I'm excited to see more and more energy companies opening their doors or moving to Will County in the near-future." Companies specializing in energy storage are projected to grow following the 2021 State of Illinois Climate & Equitable Jobs Act, which calls for the state to move towards 100% clean energy by the year 2050. The State of Illinois has also initiated a Coal-to-Solar Energy Storage Grants Program to provide incentives for companies to install energy storage facilities at the sites of former coal plants. The County has also recently initiated an Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan to build upon state and regional initiatives to create transition plan to zero emission vehicles. The plan aims to identify locations for electric vehicle charging infrastructure and to support the increased demand for electric personal, commercial, and freight vehicles. The plan will identify a strategy to address barriers for electric vehicle ownership, including for residents and communities with lower incomes, lower levels of home ownership, and gaps in charging infrastructure. "The Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan is a significant step to ensure that Will County's infrastructure is prepared for the green economy," said Will County Board Public Works and Transportation Chair Joe VanDuyne. "Our coordinated efforts are creat-

ing forward-thinking opportunities to bring new jobs to Will County and prepare us for a more energy-efficient future." These initiatives coincide with an increased effort by the Will County Center for Economic Development (CED) to attract green industries to Will County. The CED has noted recent successes, including the growth of energy efficient production companies opening their doors in Will County. Both Lion Electric in Joliet and Hyzon Motors in Bolingbrook are projected to bring nearly 1,500 jobs to the region. "Green energy is a strong, growing cluster in Will County that supports future economic growth," said Doug Pryor, President and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. "Our talented workforce and robust education system create a base of skilled labor that will allow these businesses to thrive. Companies like Lion Electric and Hyzon Motors provide a great foundation that will attract more companies in related sectors looking to invest in the region." The CED has also spotlighted the growing interest of energy companies in Will County communities. This includes the state-of-the-art B&W microgrid project in Bolingbrook that utilizes automated power generation and storage. Will County is also home to two of the largest rooftop solar arrays in the Midwest, the Magid array in Roseville and the IKEA array in Joliet.

A recent Illinois study found that in an average year, people with a problem gambling estimated that they spent a median of \$16,750 on gambling. If you or someone you know have a gambling problem there is help Problem gamblers can call 1-800-GAMBLER.

Bald eagle is photo contest winner for November

An eagle with outstretched wings in the shape of a "V" signaled a victory for photo contest participant Bertrand Leclercq of Naperville.

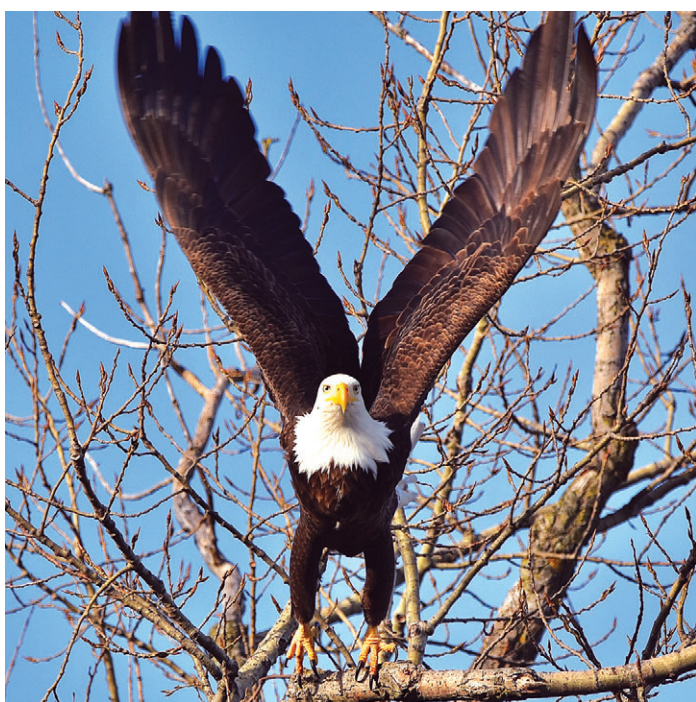
Leclercq won November's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest, which began in May. His stunning photo of an eagle lifting off from a branch at McKinley Woods preserve in Channahon was one of five photos selected by judges from all entries.

The five photos were voted on by members of the public on the District's Facebook page. Leclercq said he enjoys going into Will County forest preserve to take photos.

"I take long walks alone with my camera and it's very relaxing after a busy work week (I work as a chef)," he said in an email after being notified of his win.

"I feel truly connected with nature in these beautiful preserves, in particular McKinley Woods - Frederick's Grove where I took this photo. The wildlife in this preserve is truly amazing and rich, and perfect for great photo opportunities: bald eagles, pileated woodpeckers, red-headed woodpeckers, and so many more rare bird species."

The other finalists for November were: Carlos Molano of Chicago for a photo of a pelican hovering above the water and Greg Winkelmann of



Courtesy photo by: Bertrand Leclercq

NAPERVILLE RESIDENT Bertrand Leclercq snared a victory in November's portion of the Forest Preserve District of Will County's Preserve the Moment Photo Contest with a picture of an eagle taking off in flight at McKinley Woods in Channahon. One more monthly winner will be chosen after the contest concludes on Dec. 31 and overall 2022 contest winners will be chosen in January. For more information on the contest, including rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org.

Romeoville for a colorful photo of an American goldfinch perched on a flower, a merlin clutching a bird in its talons and fall leaves floating in the water.

One more monthly winner will be chosen for December before the Forest Preserve District's 2022 contest concludes on Dec. 31. Monthly winners each receive a \$75 Visa

gift card and all entrants receive a participation gift.

Overall contest winners will be chosen in January from among the eight monthly winners, with \$500, \$250 and \$150 Visa gift cards to be awarded for first, second and third place, respectively.

Three random drawings also will be held for all contest participants and those three winners will each receive a \$75 Visa gift card. All prizes are funded by The Nature Foundation of Will County, willcountynature.org.

For more information on the contest, including rules and submission instructions, visit ReconnectWithNature.org. To view all prior photo contest entries, visit the District's Flickr account, Flickr.com/willcoforests.

Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa visits!

Saturday, Dec. 17 Noon - 2 p.m. Bring the kids and your camera for photos with Santa, cookies & hot cocoa.

Wilmington's Neighborhood Drinking Establishment

1099 S. Water St., Wilmington (815) 476-2700 Check out our website

Area gas prices drop under \$3

Motorists were filling up in Joliet Monday morning when the price per gallon for gasoline dropped to \$2.88, the lowest in over one year.

At the same time the price in Coal City was almost \$1 more per gallon at \$3.84 and as high as \$3.65 in Morris, according to GasBuddy.com.

Still, average gasoline prices in Illinois have fallen 17.8 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.42/g, according to GasBuddy's survey of 4,378 stations in Illinois.

Prices in Illinois are 73.5 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 1.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has fallen 14.9 cents in the last week and stands at \$4.91 per gallon.

"Not only has the decline in gasoline prices lasted five straight weeks, with again every state seeing a weekly decline in its average, but average diesel prices have fallen in 49 states over the last week as well. The relief is saving Americans roughly \$20 per fill-up compared to six months ago," said Patrick De

Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Illinois was priced at \$2.72/g while the most expensive was \$5.79/g, a difference of \$3.07/g.

Mohsen station at I-55 and Lorenzo Road lowered its price to \$2.87/g Monday while the average in town was \$3.38/g. In Braidwood the price at the pump was \$3.32 while Bourbonnais area stations were charging \$3.58/G on average.

"On the previously hard-hit West Coast, average prices have fallen nearly \$2 per gallon since October. Fifteen states now have average gasoline prices of \$2.99 or less, with several more to join this week. We remain on schedule to see the national average gas price fall below \$3 by Christmas, with diesel set to fall 50 cents to \$1 per gallon over the next six weeks or so. While the Keystone Pipeline shutdown has been getting some attention, motorists need not worry much about the oil-carrying pipeline for now. There is no expected impact to gasoline prices as of now."

Annual driving tests required for those 79, not 75, under new law

BY GREG BISHOP THE CENTER SQUARE

About 299,000 drivers in Illinois ages 75 to 78 no longer have to take the annual driving test under a new law Gov. J.B. Pritzker has signed. The annual driving test has been pushed to 79-year-old drivers for the next 10 months.

House Bill 5049 passed both chambers on the final day of last week's veto session.

State Rep. Jay Hoffman, D-Swansea, said seniors will now be required to take an annual driving test starting at 79, rather than 75, based on an executive order from the Illinois Secretary of State.

"So what this would do, it

would extend that ... for four years, 79, you wouldn't have to take it every year," Hoffman said. "So seniors wouldn't have to go and take the driver's license test every year. It would extend that to Oct. 1, 2023."

The measure also requires the office to study the issue further. Hoffman said the aim is to not reduce the age at which older drivers need to test annually, but to permanently codify the policy since it's only in effect until next October.

"So, I think what we'll do is hopefully this will extend it for 10 months, the fact that they don't have to take the test every year, and then we'll extend it further after that study," he said.

Data from the Federal Highway Administration with the U.S. Department of Transportation shows a total of 8.5 million licensed drivers in Illinois in 2019. Of that, more than 573,000 were older than 75. Around 299,000 were between the age of 75 and 79.

The measure also creates a new specialty license plate.

"In addition, it authorizes the issuance of a retired constitutional branch officer license plate," Hoffman said.

That means outgoing Secretary of State Jesse White will be eligible to get a specialty plate after his term ends next month.

After being signed by the governor, the measure is now in effect.

KEEP THE WONDER BRIGHT

DECEMBER YOUTH CERTIFICATE SPECIAL

4.00% APY*

UP TO \$10,000 for 12 MONTHS

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Yield based on all dividends remaining in account to compound. **Minimum deposit amount is \$500; Maximum is \$5,000. To be eligible, the minor must be primary on the account or named as the beneficial minor on an UTMA account and 21 years of age or younger. Certificate renews for one year. Limit one certificate per minor. Offer available December 1-31, 2022 only. Federally insured by the NCUA.

SOCU 800.595.2454
1544 CREEK DR MORRIS, IL 60450
SOCU.ORG

BREAKFAST With SANTA

SATURDAY, DEC 17TH

8AM-11AM

1885 Fare Farm to Table
208 W Main Street
Essex, IL

\$8.00 entry at the door

Photos with Santa Available!!!

EGGS, PANCAKES, JUICE, COFFEE, & HOT COCOA

Entry fee to benefit scholarship for Culinary student!

7:45 a.m. JOIN US FOR RIBBON CUTTING

Wish your customers a Merry Christmas!

Merry Christmas!

7 days Left!!!

Bly - Stevens Intermediate School

AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE

Gerald Gresham & Associates
883 Center Court, Unit B, Shorewood, IL
815-476-6364
ggresham@anfam.com

We have children from draw Christmas art to be featured Dec. 21
Your business can sponsor a child's drawing to send out a season's greetings message to your customers.

Parents and children comb through these ads looking at all the businesses who supported these community pages. Make sure your business isn't left out by scheduling TODAY!

Call 815-476-7966 to be included

Deadline is Dec. 16
Publication: December 21

Your logo here
Your address
Your phone
Your website

OBITUARIES

Jim Dent

WILMINGTON—Jim Dent, 83, of Wilmington, formerly of New Lenox, passed away peacefully on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care in Joliet.

Born July 26, 1939 in Herrin, IL, James LeRoy was a son of Earl and Faye (Cousil) Dent. He was raised in Herrin and New Lenox and graduated from Lincoln Way High School with the Class of 1957. On Feb. 24, 1966 Jim married the love of his life, Kathleen Gail Bennett in Mokena, and together they moved to Maryland.

He worked as a welder and millwright, and gained employment with Caterpillar Tractor Company in York, PA. Jim and his family later relocated to New Lenox and continued his employment with Caterpillar in Joliet, until he gained employment with All Steel Iron Works in Lemont from where he would retire.

In his free time, he enjoyed going fishing on the Kankakee River and at the Meneoka Sportsmans Club, as well as playing washers and going to the casino. Jim was proud to be a mason and was a 45 year member of the A.F. & A.M. Charity Grand Lodge of Liberty and Freemasonry in Freeland, MD. Though he was a man of few words, his kind and gentle nature spoke volumes to those who knew and loved him. Jim was the definition of a family man who cherished spending time with his children and grandchildren. He always made time to go to all their extracurricular activities, and to keep an eye on his special great grandchildren: Cooper "CJ the DJ" and Olivia "Little Spitfire".

Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Kathy



Dent of Wilmington; five children: James (Deb) Dent of York, PA, Harold (Karen) Dent and Judi (the late Keith) Keller, both of Renova, PA, Jeanette (Gary) Proffitt of Wilmington, and Jenny (Butch) Parkman of Monroe, GA; fourteen grandchildren: Amanda, Kelly, Rachel, Jimmy, Amanda Mae, Holly, Wyatt, Garrett, Nichole, Brittney, Haley, Lily, Markie "Big Guy", and Darion, as well as nineteen great grandchildren; one brother and one sister: Earlene (Lee) Colley of Reisterstown, MD and John (Pam) Dent of West Frankfort, IL, brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Todd (Rene) Bennett of Manhattan, Sheila (Ralph) Swanberg of Mokena, and Donna (the late Butch) Vandygriff of Diamond; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, his father-in-law and mother-in-law: George and Elsie Bennett; one brother, Ken (Rose) Dent, and several brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington. Cremation rites were accorded following the funeral services.

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

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

Funeral services and cremation arrangements were made under the direction and care of Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington.

Deborah Jean Douglass

WILMINGTON—Deborah Jean Douglass, 64, of Wilmington, formerly Gardner and Kentucky, passed away Thursday, Dec. 8, 2022 at her home with her husband by her side.

Born July 31, 1958 in Joliet, she was a daughter of Carmel and Marcine (Hicks) Boyle. Deborah graduated high school in 1976, and on July 19, 1980 she married Charles Douglass in Wilmington. Together they cherished 42 years. Deborah worked as a CNA for Riverside Medical Center for 20 years, and also for Aperia Care for a few years until her retirement. Deborah had a playful spirit and a selfless heart. Her southern soulfulness loved people and would do anything for anyone. She enjoyed watching Cardinals in her back yard. Deborah first and foremost was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt who cherished spending time with her family. She loved being a mother to her boys' many friends, and loved spending time with her grandchildren. She was dearly loved and will be deeply missed.

Survivors include her husband, Charles, of Wilmington; two sons, Nathaniel (Kim)



Douglass, of Normal and Jeffrey (Stephanie) Douglass, of El Paso; four grandchildren: Nolan, Lyla, Jaxson and Juliette; two sisters, Kay (Steve) Gibson and Sue Davis, both of Coal City; one sister-in-law, Trish (the late Robert) Hall, of Wilmington; as well as many nieces and nephews.

Deborah was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Kathy (Bill) James and one niece, Heather Davis.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial service was held at Baskerville Funeral Home in Wilmington on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022. Pastor Jim Olson officiated.

Preferred memorials in Deborah's memory may be made as gifts to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

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

John "Jack" Graham

HUDSON, OH—John R. "Jack" Graham, 82, passed away on Monday, Dec. 5, 2022 in Hudson, OH.

He was born to Thomas and Bessie (Watson) Graham in Braidwood, on Jan. 6, 1940. John was a Professor of Psychology at Kent State University for 47 years and served in a variety of administrative positions at KSU. His most lasting contribution to Psychology is a graduate-level textbook on personality assessment (MMPI) that has been in continuous publication since 1977. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and friend and we will miss his loving ways, quick wit and infectious smile.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann Parris Stephens, of Hudson; son, John R. Graham Jr., of Brecksville; daughter, Mary K. (Graham) Bruns, of Kent; stepdaughter, Camille S. Stephens, of



Kent; six grandchildren: Kyle Graham, of Cleveland; Katherine Graham, of Bowling Green; Michael Graham, of Columbus; Stephanie Bruns, of Memphis, TN; Sydney Bruns, of New York City; Jesse Gramuglia, of Kent and two great-grandchildren, Caiden Stephens, of Kent and Caleb Stephens, of Akron.

He was preceded in death by son, David M. Graham and granddaughter, Chelsea S. Stephens.

A private memorial service will be held at a later date. The family requests that contributions in his memory be sent to Kent Social Services, S. Water St., Kent, Ohio 44240.

To share a memory, send a condolence, light a candle or send flowers, visit the tribute wall at www.bisslerandsons.com.

Kathleen Carpenter

COAL CITY—Kathleen Marie Carpenter, 72, of Coal City, passed away peacefully at 7:03 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022, in Naperville at her son's home.

Born March 25, 1950, in Coal City, she was a daughter of Thomas and Kathryn (Schwab) Kasher. Kathleen was raised and educated in Coal City, graduating from Coal City High School with the class of 1968. In 1969 she married David Onsen, and together they raised their family until his passing in 1996. In 2000 Kathleen married Tim Carpenter and they cherished 15 years until his passing in 2015. Kathleen worked as a beautician for Reflections and Town & Country Hair Salon for many years. She loved to cook and shop and was always known to her family and friends to dress very fashionably. Kathleen spent many days and hours attending her son's and grandchildren's sporting events throughout the years. She was a loving mother, grandmother and sister who will be deeply missed.

Survivors include her son, Jason (Kimberly McCormick) Onsen, of Naperville; three grandchildren: Carson, Helen and Meghan Onsen; three brothers: Jim Kasher, of Herscher; Tom Kasher, of Georgia and Dan (Maria) Kasher, of



Downers Grove; one sister, Terri (Tom) Convery, of Darien; as well as numerous brothers and sisters-in-laws and nieces and nephews.

Kathleen was preceded in death by her parents, first husband, David Onsen and second husband, Tim Carpenter.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends on Monday, Dec. 19, 2022 at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City between the hours of 4 and 8 p.m. A private funeral mass will take place at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church. Father Joshua Miller will preside with Deacon William Dunn assisting. Following mass Kathleen will be laid to rest in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery.

Preferred memorials in Kathleen's memory may be made as gifts to Assumption Catholic Church.

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

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

Allen Randt

BRAIDWOOD—Allen "Pepsi Man" Randt, 60, of Braidwood, formerly Chicago, Wisconsin and Diamond, passed away on Friday, Dec. 9, 2022 at AMITA Health St. Joseph Medical Center.

Born Dec. 17, 1961 in Chicago, he was a son of Carole (Bass) Randt and step-mother, Mary Lawson. He was raised and educated in Chicago. In 1988 he married Michelle Krebs and together they cherished 34 years. Allen most recently worked as a Pipe Fitter for Local 190, but previously owned and operated A & W Towing and drove a school bus for Illinois Central School Bus in Coal City. He was an avid car and Harley Davidson enthusiast who could always be seen with his favorite beverage, Pepsi. A great man with a big heart, Allen, aka Pepsi Man and CarBer Al, never knew a stranger, and anyone who ever met him would not easily forget him. He was deeply loved by many and will be dearly missed.

Survivors include his wife, Michelle, of Braidwood; five children: Anthony Randt, of Illinois; Nicole (Chris Lowe) Wiltz, of Diamond; G (Samuel) Romans, Keith (Maralee) Randt and Kurt (Alexandra) Randt, all of Braidwood; four grandchildren: Alexa, McKenna, Ezekiel and



Uriah; one brother, Richard (Kim) Randt, of Morris; two half-brothers, Matt and Mikey Randt, of Wisconsin; five half-sisters: Monica, Melinda, Melissa, Ellie and Michelle; sister-in-law, Donna (Don) Williams; numerous nieces and nephews; cousin, Ron Buchanan and best friend and brother, Charles "Pinto Man" Trytek.

Allen was preceded in death by his parents, one sister, Rhonda Randt; one brother, Billy Randt in infancy; David "Pops" Lewis and son-in-law, Michael Wiltz.

The family will receive friends on Thursday, Dec. 15, 2022 from 4 p.m. until time of funeral service at 7 p.m. at Reeves Funeral Home, 75 N. Broadway, one block north of IL Route 113 in Coal City. Cremation rites will follow funeral services.

Preferred memorials in Allen's memory may be made as gifts to Toys for Tots.

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

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

Hazel Scorby

RED WING, MN—Hazel Louise Scorby, 87, of Red Wing, MN, formerly Coal City and Lockport, IL passed away on Saturday Dec. 10, 2022 surrounded by all her children.

Born Jan. 24, 1935 in Alton, IL, she was a daughter of Paul Harry and Alberta E. Ackerman-Blundell. Hazel was raised and educated in Streator, IL, graduating with the class of 1953. On Nov. 22, 1956 she married Richard Neil Scorby in Streator and together they cherished 46 years until his passing on Sept. 24, 2002. Hazel was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Lockport, Assumption Catholic Church and attended St. Joseph Parish in Red Wing, MN. She was a proud homemaker who enjoyed reading and cooking, and loved every chance she got to volunteer her time. Hazel cherished her family and enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren.

Survivors include five children: Deborah (James) Fox, of Peotone; Pamela Fraser, of Amarillo, TX; Cynthia (Tim) Eddy, of Morris; Cheryl (Michael Scott) Seybert, of Red Wing, MN and Richard (Susan) Scorby, of Wilmington, NC; 10 grandchildren: Adam Fox, Ryan (Amanda) Fox, Taylor (Kurt Benninghuff) Fox, Ashley (Curt Demel) Fraser, Emily Fraser, Erin Fraser, Danielle (Daniel) Cassani, Kelen (Lindsey) Eddy, Casey (Jesse) Vignali and Chase (Nada) Seybert; eight great-grandchildren: Gabriel Fox, Skyler Fox, Landon Demel, Darien



(Matthew) Fincher, Keegan (Layne Engel) Clampitt, Jady Cassani, Harper Vignali and Vivian Seybert; one great-grandson, Oliver Fincher; sister-in-law, Nida Blundell; three nephews: William (Kathy) Blundell, Michael Blundell and David Blundell; numerous cousins and special friend, Suzanne Neuman, of Streator, IL.

Hazel was preceded in death by her parents, husband, Richard; brother, William Blundell and sister, Pauline Blundell in childhood.

Cremation rites have been accorded. The family will receive friends on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Roman Catholic Church, 195 S. Kankakee St. in Coal City from 10 a.m. until time of funeral mass at 11 a.m. Reverend Joshua Miller will preside with Deacon William Dunn assisting. Graveside services will follow in St. Stephens Cemetery in Streator, IL at 2:30 p.m.

Preferred memorials in Hazel's memory may be made as gifts to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or any local hospice organization.

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

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

Pauline Shelton

MORRIS—Pauline "Pat" Shelton, 95, of Morris, passed away Monday, Dec. 12, 2022 at the Lightways Hospice and Serious Illness Care Center in Joliet, with her family by her side.

Born May 9, 1927 in Chandlers Ford Hants, England, Pauline Patricia was a daughter of Charles and Alice (Ford) Pilkington. She was raised and educated in England, and on April 30, 1945 she married Raymond B. Shelton in Lymington, England. Pat and her husband moved to Morris in 1952 which she would call home for the last 70 years. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Morris, and she enjoyed gardening and feeding the birds. Pat was an avid reader and she would rarely miss her favorite television program, Jeopardy. She was a loving wife, mother, and Nan who lived to care for her family and those she loved the most.

Survivors include three daughters: Carolyn Stratton, of Iron Mountain, MI and Debra Olsen and Gail (Richard) Maskel, both of Morris; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, two brothers, Peter and Anthony Pilkington, both of England and several nieces and nephews.

Pat was preceded in death by her parents



and her husband; one son and one daughter: Dale Shelton and Cheryl Styner and five brothers and sisters: Arthur Pilkington, Sydney Pilkington, Peggy O'Neil, Jeanne Smith and Kathy Bulpett.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2022 at Immaculate Conception Church, 600 E. Jackson St., in Morris from 9:30 a.m. until the time of funeral service at 10:30 a.m. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated with Reverend Jason Stone presiding.

Cremation rites will be accorded following funeral services, and Pat will be laid to rest at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Morris with her husband.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Pat's memory to Immaculate Conception Catholic Church or to Lightways Hospice.

Family and friends are encouraged to log onto www.ReevesFuneral.com to sign the online guest book, upload photographs, and share Pat'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 Morris.

Jerry Stewart

WILMINGTON—Jerry David Stewart, 70, of Wilmington, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022 at Ascension Saint Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, surrounded by his family and loved ones.

Born June 11, 1952 in Glennonville, MO, Jerry was a son of Herman Joseph and Marjorie Ann (nee Fitzgerald) Stewart. He was raised and educated in Wilmington and graduated from Wilmington High School with the class of 1970. Jerry attended Joliet Junior College where he graduated with an associate degree in liberal arts. He later gained employment as a pipefitter through the Pipefitters Local Unions 422 and 597 until his retirement in 2017.

Jerry was active in Wilmington community, serving as the Wilmington Township Supervisor for over 28 years and was a member of the Wilmington A.F. & A.M. Lodge 208. He was also a member of the Double Eagle Club and enjoyed golfing with his golf league. Jerry was a great sports fan who loved the Chicago Cubs, Chicago Bears, and the Joliet Slammers. He took great pleasure in playing the guitar and going for rides on his Goldwing motorcycle.

A sociable man, Jerry loved spending time with his family and friends, and was always up for meeting anyone for breakfast. He had a passion for genealogy and tracing his family's history. Jerry's family was the most important thing in his life, and was a proud father and grandfather who cherished the lasting memories made with his family.

Survivors include his wife of 48 years,



Wilma (States) Stewart, of Wilmington; two children: Jerry (Lisa) Stewart, of Longwood, FL and Sheryl Stewart, of Joliet; two granddaughters, Abigail Grace and Emma Kay Stewart, both of Longwood, FL; three brothers and three sisters: Joseph (Rolene) Stewart, of Columbus, GA; Robert (Debbie) Stewart, of Stockbridge, GA; Charlie (Kathy) Stewart, of Braidwood; Kathleen (Greg) Fisketjon, of Bertoud, CO; Betty Jo (Tim) Kelly, of Joliet and Florence (Rich) Olmsted, of Dunlap, IL; one brother-in-law, John Bladorn, of Janesville, WI and numerous nieces and nephews.

Jerry was preceded in death by his parents, one brother, Louis Stewart, and one sister, Marguerite Bladorn.

The family will receive friends for a visitation on Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2022 at Baskerville Funeral Home, 700 E. Kahler Rd., in Wilmington from 10 a.m. until the time of Masonic Funeral Rites at 12 p.m.

Cremation rites will be accorded and Jerry will be laid to rest privately at Mount Olivet Catholic Cemetery in Wilmington.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Jerry's memory to the Wilmington A.F. & A.M. Lodge 208.

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

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

Here is where your energy is coming from

Illinois is the nation's fifth-largest electricity producer, and typically sends about one-fifth of the power it generates to other states over interstate transmission lines.

Illinois has a unique electricity generation mix, currently:

- 52.6% of the electricity generated comes from six nuclear plants
- 31.7% from coal-fired

power plants

- 9.3% from natural gas plants
- 6% from renewable sources

Many of Illinois' coal-powered plants have or are in the process of converting to natural gas. More renewable sources of energy generation are being added each day.

This is great news for the environment as we switch-

ing from highly polluting sources of energy reliant on fossil fuels to cleaner sources and with enough to power to switch to electric vehicles.

Homes and businesses that are adding solar are supporting the switch to renewable supply and decentralizing the grid, increasing the power grid's strength and resiliency.

Expect a big push to ban assault rifles in Illinois

There's been sort of an unwritten rule the past several years in Springfield to stay away from doing things like ban assault weapons.



CAPITOL FACTS
Rich Miller

The votes to pass one have seemingly been there in both chambers, but the will of past Democratic leadership seemed to be not overtly poke any big, cash-rich bears, like the National Rifle Association, or to alienate or electorally imperil conservative members of their Democratic caucuses.

Perhaps more importantly, Democratic leaders also haven't wanted to unintentionally set off a pro-gun judicial tripwire that could not only kill the state law they passed but expand national gun owners' rights even further and perhaps imperil other laws here and elsewhere around the nation.

Under duress from the federal judiciary several years ago, Illinois legislators approved a law allowing for concealed carrying of firearms. Tucked into that law was a short, ten-day window allowing local governments to pass their own ordinances to ban assault weapons.

Highland Park passed such an ordinance within the time limit, but other mayors figured that the state would eventually get around to ban-

ning the weapons, so they waited. Five years later, in 2018, Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering and other suburban leaders went back to Springfield and asked, in lieu of statewide legislative action, that the local option to pass a ban be reinstated. Their proposal went nowhere.

Fast-forward to this past summer, when Rotering's Highland Park was the scene of a horrific massacre at its Independence Day parade. A man fired an assault weapon 83 times within seconds and killed seven people, wounding 48 more.

Freshman Rep. Maura Hirschauer (D-Batavia) introduced an assault weapon ban this past January, but she had only picked up one co-sponsor before the July 4th holiday. After the Highland Park shooting, Hirschauer signed up 55 more co-sponsors in quick order.

Hirschauer was not able to round up the 71 House votes it would've taken to pass a bill with an immediate effective date in the summer and fall. But I'm told it's quite safe to say that she had lined up more than the bare majority of 60.

House Speaker Chris Welch convened several working groups over the summer,

including the Firearm Safety & Reform Working Group, headed by state Rep. Bob Morgan, who was at the Highland Park parade. Rep. Morgan (D-Deerfield) and the working group rolled out House Bill 5855 last week, the Protect Illinois Communities Act. Among other things, the bill prohibits the sale of assault weapons and requires existing owners to register their weapons with the Illinois State Police.

The bill's first hearing was scheduled for Monday, Dec. 12. It's widely assumed that Rep. Morgan has more than enough votes to pass his legislation after January 1, when approval will only require a simple majority of 60 votes. Rep. Hirschauer is also helping line up votes.

But gun law reform groups aren't taking any chances. A new not-for-profit group called "Protect Illinois Communities" has been formed to push for passage of the bill in both chambers.

The group will use "paid and grassroots engagement," including TV ads, phones and direct mail, for a "well-funded" campaign that is apparently designed not only to counter groups like the National Rifle Association, but also to prod legislative Democrats to move past their reluctance and take some action. Expect a significant expenditure.

In the past, we've seen things like nearly identical bills advanced by each chamber, with nothing ever actually get-

ting through both chambers and to the governor's desk, or (as under former Gov. Rauner) only advanced to the governor's desk in the face of a guaranteed veto that couldn't be overridden.

So, keep an eye on the Senate, where the presiding officer has been a vociferous proponent of gun law reform his entire career, but whose caucus contains a sizable number of moderates who have wanted to shy away from such legislation.

Meanwhile, the "Illinois Freedom Caucus" issued a press release attacking Rep. Morgan's Protect Illinois Communities Act proposal.

The group, composed of far-right Illinois House members, called on legislators "to fulfill their oath of office by standing up for our Constitution even the parts of that document they don't like."

So, I asked the group's spokesperson if members, who are all avowed Donald Trump supporters, had any thoughts about former Pres. Trump's recent claim that the 2020 election, which he still falsely claims was stolen, "allows for the termination of all rules, regulations, and articles, even those found in the Constitution."

It may not surprise you to learn that I never heard back.

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

Veterans outreach event Dec. 19

The Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission (GCVAC), along with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Edward Hines Medical Center, can answer questions regarding federal, state and local veterans benefits and services at the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County at 229 Liberty St., Gardner from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19.

This event is free and open to all veterans.

If a veteran is interested in enrollment in the VA Health Care System, bring a copy of their DD214 and a government issued photo ID. One may be eligible for VA health care benefits if they served in the active mil-

itary, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge.

Those who enlisted after Sept. 7, 1980, or entered active duty after Oct. 16, 1981, must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty. There are other conditions under which you might be eligible, attending these outreach events will allow you to discuss your situation with the enrollment coordinator directly.

If you are not able to attend an outreach event the Grundy County VAC can be reached at vac@grundy-countyil.gov or 815-941-3152 to schedule an office appointment to discuss all of the benefits and services available to veterans.

AUTO • HOME • LIFE • BUSINESS • PROPERTY

INSURANCE

State Farm

MOTORCYCLE • REC VEHICLES • WATERCRAFT • LIABILITY

"Your local State Farm Agent for 30 years!"
Jerry Hallahan - Agent
1350 E. Division St., Diamond
(815) 634-2222 jerry@jerryhallahan.com

FRESH FACE SPA

815-710-1588 110 N. Water St. Wilmington, IL 60481
www.freshfacespa.net

- Facials
- Sea Salt Body Scrub with massage oil rubdown
- Hand, Foot, and Scalp massage

GIFT CERTIFICATES!

Pension debt grows to \$139.7 billion

BY PETER HANCOCK
CAPITOL NEWS ILLINOIS

SPRINGFIELD—Illinois' unfunded pension liability grew by \$9.8 billion, or 7.5%, in the fiscal year that ended June 30, due in large part to market losses in a volatile economy.

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported last week that the total unfunded liability in the state's five pension funds reached a total of \$139.7 billion, leaving them with a funded ratio of just 44.1%.

Those numbers are based on an annual report from the state actuary, who reviews the preliminary financial data submitted by each of the five funds.

The funded ratio reflects the difference in the market

value of the funds' assets and the amount of money the funds would need to immediately pay all members the full amounts of benefits they are owed for the rest of time.

Although that's an important measure of the systems' long-term financial health, it does not reflect their current ability to pay out benefits that are owed. All five of the pension funds continue to pay out benefits to eligible retirees on a timely basis.

All told, the five pension funds had combined liabilities of \$248.8 billion June 30 and total assets of \$109.1 billion.

Pension systems generally receive funding from three sources — employee contributions; employer contributions; and returns on investments. The large unfunded liability in Illinois' pension funds is the result of the state failing for

decades to make adequate contributions as the employer.

In 1994, then-Gov. Jim Edgar, a Republican, pushed through legislation whereby the state would gradually increase its contributions over the next 50 years until the funding ratio would reach 90% by 2045, a plan commonly referred to as the "Edgar Ramp."

But the state has not always met its targets under that plan.

Since taking office in 2019, Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker has included full funding at the statutorily required levels in each of his budgets, and over the past two fiscal years authorized an additional \$500 million above what was required by law, bringing the total amount paid in to just under \$11 billion, including \$9.9 billion from the General Revenue Fund.

According to those reports, COGFA said, preliminary estimates show the required contributions for the upcoming fiscal year will total \$10.9 billion, including \$9.8 billion from general revenues.

Even that, however, would be far short of what it would take to cover the actual costs that the funds will accrue during the year. The "actuarially

determined contributions" for the five funds — the amount the state would be obligated to pay, even if the systems were 100-percent funded — would be \$15.4 billion.

Better for Mother Nature

With ice and snow on the horizon, it is time to remind friends and family that salt damages our cars, our plants and can harm our waterways when it washes down the storm systems.

The Conservation Foundation wants to help get

the message out that a single coffee cup (12 ounces) of hot water is enough to melt ice on 500 sq ft. Be sure to shovel first and when it drops below 15 degrees Fahrenheit, salt becomes ineffective so more only hurts the environment.

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

Sponsored by
Gymshoe Art

Email submissions or if you have questions contact:
GymshoeArt@gmail.com

Drawing by Tandon S.

Smiley Slip-Ons (Fruity)

Help us express kindness! Create!

December 7, 2022

RE: Notice of Semi-Retirement

To my clients and friends:

After 40 years in a rewarding career that allowed me to help and counsel thousands of clients on their legal matters, I am announcing my retirement from the full time practice of law while I am still healthy and able to properly finish business at hand. Starting Jan. 1, 2023, I will be semi-retired, handling limited estate planning and real estate legal matters through Meents Law, P.C. coordinated by my partner, Frank Meents and other attorneys in the law firm. All my client files and records will be retained and kept under my supervision through Meents Law, P.C.

Over the past four decades I've had the privilege and honor to represent many entities and individuals during some of the best events in their lives such as buying or selling a home, starting new business or standing before a judge to help a couple adopt a newborn child. Other clients experienced tragic events such as the death of a family member, work accidents or personal injuries arising from a motor vehicle accident. Every day of my law practice was handling different challenges dealing with many personalities and fact situations that kept my career interesting. I appreciate all the business and clients for the support they provided so I could live in Wilmington and raise my family.

It has been my great pleasure and sincere honor to represent you as clients, and many of you are, and have remained, my friends over the years. I tried to provide each client with honest and diligent representation to the best of my ability. I hope your contact and experience with me met your expectations.

My health continues to be good as does that of my wife, Theresa, but we never know for certain how much sand is left in our individual hourglass. I hope to travel and spend more time with my children, grandchildren and friends. I have many activities and hobbies I still want to participate in and accomplish. There are many books to be read, places to see and community events to attend. I also plan on volunteering for charitable causes and to pass on my knowledge and experience to the Associates at Meents Law, P.C. I know I have an excellent partner, Frank Meents, who has the skills, compassion and ethics to uphold the legal standards I followed in building my practice. May you have the same confidence in Meents Law, P.C. as you had with me.

Very truly yours,
Jeffrey Fisher
Attorney at Law

Thank You

Coal City Promfest would like to thank all of the following contributors for their support of the 2022 Festival of Trees

Coal City High School Class of 2024	Berkot's
Diamond Banquet Hall	Barth Dental Care
Coaler Bar	Benson Insurance
Diamond Liquors	Quality Autobody
D'Orazio Ford	Laborers Union
Elliott Electric Inc.	The Whistle Stop
D Construction	Naked Sun
Insulation Concepts	Peaches Boutique
Bob's Advanced Auto	ASK Boutique
Lori Bonarek Realty	Corleone's
Thrive, Lander &	Countryside Village & Gifts
On Broadway Dance	Ace Hardware
Grundy County Sheriff	Aldridge Family
Bank of Pontiac - Coal City	Harden Family
D'Arcy Chevrolet Buick Cadillac - Morris	Durham Family
Morris Hospital	Cori Forsythe
Hairbenders Salon	Dawn Aldridge
Coal City Public Library	OB Dance Moms
Coal City Miners	Route 66 Family Restaurant
Rick Hakey - State Farm Insurance	Arnie Bauer Chevrolet - Wilmington
Sistek Sales	Wharrie Law Firm
Midland Bank	Babe's Tap & Grill
Prime Bath & Home Solutions	Big Bash
2 Girls and a Door	Pine Bluff Animal Hospital
Jackson Landscaping	Dylan Tambling Country Financial
Athletico - Coal City	Geo's Pizza
Country Club Kennels	Major School of Dance
Mustachio's	The Queen Bee's
Coal City Dental	Tiffany Wills - Mary Kay
Julie Hutchings - Norwex	Tunnel Vision
Sandy Hennessy - Onorato Realty	Marge Mlyniec
Katie Fisher Provance - Onorato Realty	Jack Micetich
SSC Installation	Mrs. Davidson
The Cove	Mrs. Foley & Mrs. Terrell's Classes
Ferrari Funeral Home	Mrs. Rhodes, Mrs. Phillips & Mrs. Owenaby's Classes
Financial Plus Credit Union	Renee Norris
Joliet Slammers - Duly Medical Field	CCHS Art Club
Coal City Lions Club	CCHS Band
Village of Carbon Hill	CCHS Madrigals
Village of Coal City	GAVC Early Childhood
Village of Diamond	Mueller's Dance
Savvi Formalwear	TNT Dance
Bodacious Curls	Tiffany Stewart
Frisch Aesthetics	Bomb Squad Cheer & Stunt
Jackson Landscaping	Jaime Martiz-Prazier Yoga
Free Press Newspapers	Santa & Mrs. Claus

207 S. Water St.,
Wilmington

FM
FISHER MEENTS LLC

Phone:
815-476-7635

Tips on upgrading your house to be greener for a good price

Dear EarthTalk: I'd like to upgrade the energy efficiency of my condo but can't afford the up-front cost of new equipment and materials. Are there any federal or other programs designed to help working people afford to make such transitions?

EARTH TALK

Questions & Answers About Our Environment

-- Paul B., Monroe, NY

As of now, residential and commercial buildings contribute up to 40 percent of the world's energy consumption. Increasing the energy efficiency of these structures can go a long way toward reducing that consumption and our carbon footprint while saving money along the way.

The biggest pitfall with investing in efficient energy sources is the upfront cost. Low-income households which could benefit most from such upgrades are the least likely to have the funds to do so. But now, utilities and local governments are working to implement these services prioritizing needy households.

The Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) uses U.S. Department of Energy funds to reduce the energy bills of low-income households by helping to pay for efficiency upgrades.

The program has benefited over seven million American families so far. Every year, WAP funds such upgrades in 35,000 households, saving almost \$400 annually on each. To qualify for WAP, your household must have an annual income equal to or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Another place to look for help is the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Using U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funds, LIHEAP provides free energy upgrades that will decrease monthly energy bills while



A RANGE OF federal & state programs can help defray the costs of upgrading the energy efficiency of your home.

concurrently improving residents' health and safety.

Household incomes must be at or below 60 percent of their state's median income to meet eligibility requirements.

Nonprofits, usually using WAP funds, also offer a range of incentives for upgrading energy efficiency. They also provide weatherization to households that can't afford it.

By searching "weatherization non-profits" and your state, you can find an array of organizations that can help upgrade your home.

These weatherization programs usually offer a selection of efficiency upgrades including: improved insulation and heating systems, fixing leaks and gaps within pipes, and repairing windows and doors.

To apply, you can often find directions on the organization's website. In general, the first step is determining your eligibility; you will usually need proof of annual income.

Then, you can complete the application process online or contact a local administrator. If your application is accepted, you can move forward.

But what can you do if you aren't eligible for these programs? You can still weatherize your own home by fixing minor things around the house.

One thing you can do is seal up leaks within air pipes. This can cut your energy consumption by 10 to 20 percent. In addition, by adding insulation, you can make your home less vulnerable to temperature change.

You should also clean your filters regularly to make your system run more smoothly. Even simple things like switching to LEDs will increase your efficiency.

These small steps can add up and boost the energy efficiency of your home in surprising amounts. The sooner we implement such steps, the sooner we can tackle the problem of climate change making our world less hospitable.

EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://lemagazine.com>. To donate, visit earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

Join in a special service

Christmas Eve Eve



Friday, Dec. 23 at 6 p.m.
Come hear and sing your Christmas favorites
All are welcome!

Grace Lutheran Church
907 Luther Dr., Wilmington



Don't know what to give?

Here's the Perfect Gift!

Get more from giving this year with a gift subscription to The Free Press Advocate, The Coal City Courant or The Braidwood Journal. By delivering in-depth coverage of local news, lifestyle features, local sports and money saving special offers, what's not to love? What's more is your present helps ensure the future of local journalism.

52 weeks for as little as \$43

That's a \$9 SAVINGS off the newsstand price! Outside Will & Grundy \$50; out of state \$57.

Call 815-476-7966 or 815-634-0315



Morris Hospital adds family Nurse Practitioners

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers has added two family nurse practitioners to offices in Morris. Both are excellent resources for routine check-ups, preventive medicine, immunizations and physicals, illness and injuries, nutrition and lifestyle counseling, and health risk assessments for children, adolescents, adults and seniors.

Diana Olsen serves as a primary care provider for patients of all ages and is currently accepting new patients at the Morris Healthcare Center. Having previously worked at the Morris Hospital Yorkville Campus, Olsen has more than 12 years of experience as a registered nurse,



JULIE SIELING



DIANA OLSEN

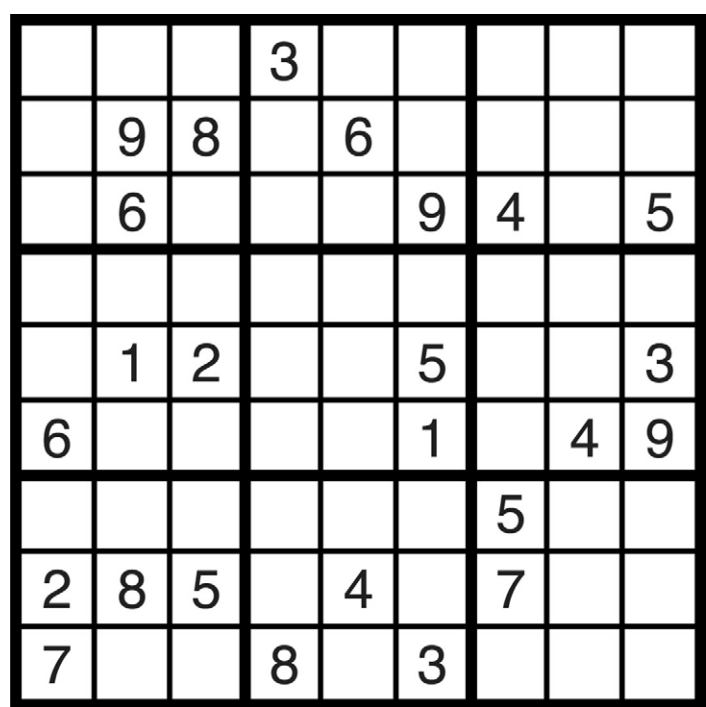
including four years of experience as a family nurse practitioner in family practice and urgent care environments. She also has a clinical interest in

treating diabetes.

Olsen received her master's degree in nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner certificate from Lewis University

in Romeoville. She has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Lewis University and a bachelor's degree in biology from Northern Illinois University.

Julie Sieling serves as a primary care provider for patients ages 2 and up and is currently accepting new patients at the Morris Healthcare Center. Prior to becoming a nurse practitioner in 2010, Sieling worked as a registered nurse in various roles in the hospital setting for 17 years. She received her master's degree in nursing and Family Nurse Practitioner certificate from Rush University. She also has a bachelor's degree in nursing from Olivet Nazarene University. Additionally, she is board certified by the American Association of Nurse Practitioners and am also a certified Breast Patient Navigator.



Report: Illinois sees biggest increase in cigarette smuggling

BY ANDREW HENSEL
THE CENTER SQUARE

A new report shows that many Illinois residents are going out of state to purchase their cigarettes, costing the state hundreds of millions of dollars in lost tax revenue.

A joint report by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Tax Foundation shows that due to Illinois' high sales taxes on tobacco, many residents have been smuggling in the product from other states.

Illinois had the biggest increase in smuggling from 2019-2020, the report said. Net cigarette smuggling increased by more than 14 percentage points for 2020, resulting in a smuggling revenue impact loss of \$334 million.

"Illinois has a pretty high cigarette tax rate, especially in Chicago," Adam Hoffer of the

Tax Foundation noted. "The state increased their excise tax rate on cigarettes by a dollar a pack."

Illinois has an excise tax of \$2.98. When including the \$3.00 per pack tax in Cook County and \$1.18 per pack tax in the city of Chicago, the total price for the tax alone comes to \$7.16 per pack. Taxes in neighboring states are lower, with Wisconsin's tax at \$2.52, Iowa's at \$1.36, Indiana's at \$1.00, Kentucky's at \$0.60 and Missouri's at \$0.17.

"Illinois' neighbors - Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, and Wisconsin - all saw an increase in outbound smuggling," the report said.

Michael LaFaive of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy said when customers leave the state, neighboring states get the benefits.

"When you look at the revenue flowing to the treas-

ury for the state of Indiana, it is a positive one as a function of cigarette smuggling because so many people from Illinois will go and buy their cigarettes from there," LaFaive said.

When buying cigarettes across state lines, Illinois residents also can purchase other products as well, LaFaive said.

"Cigarettes are a complementary good, if you go to the mom-and-pop store to buy alcohol, you often pick up cigarettes and vice versa," LaFaive said. "I think there is very clearly a spillover impact that we are not measuring."

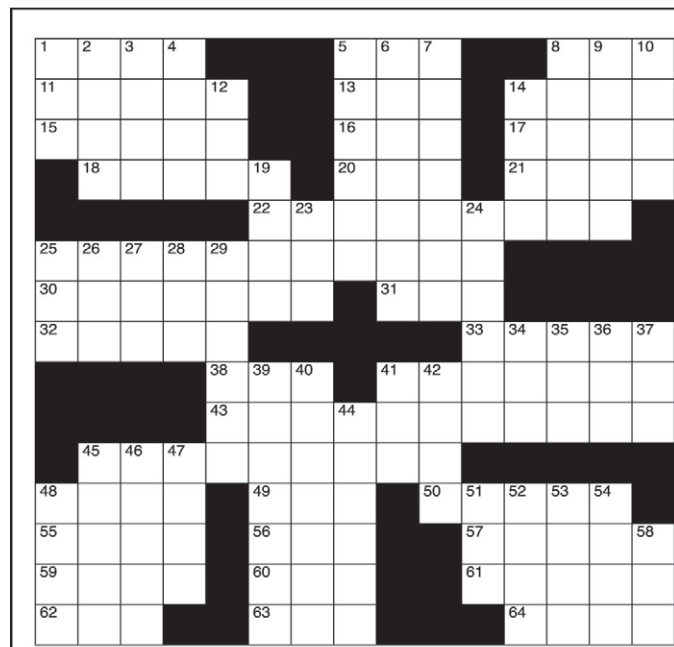
The report shows that outbound smuggling increased by 17.7 percentage points in Indiana, totaling more than \$42 million in revenue for the state.

Elwood Fire Protection District accepting bids for 2023 Can-Am Defender

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Elwood Fire Protection District will be accepting bids for one (1) 2023 Can-Am Defender Pro XT 6x6, pursuant to all the specifications laid out by the Apparatus Build Committee. Bid specifications/bid packets are available for pick up at the Elwood Fire Protection District, Mon-Fri between the hours of 9am and 3pm or you may email admin@elwoodfpd.com to request a packet. All bids must be submitted by 9:00am December 19th, 2022. The sealed bids may be mailed to: Elwood Fire Protection District, 309 W Mississippi Street, Elwood, IL 60421, or dropped off in person between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri. The Fire District will not accept bids after the December 19th deadline. The bids shall be opened at the Elwood Fire Protection District Fire Station on December 19th, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The District reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

Published in the Free Press Advocate, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7 and 14, 2022.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. A people of Eastern Afghanistan
- 5. Supervises interstate commerce
- 8. Touch lightly
- 11. Relating to bees
- 13. Mauna __, Hawaiian volcano
- 14. Mosuo culture religion
- 15. Italian village
- 16. Stiff bristle
- 17. Wealthy enclave in Rio
- 18. Cause to lose courage
- 20. Examines animals
- 21. Ethnic group of Laos and Thailand
- 22. Gets rid of
- 25. Having easily perceived thoughts
- 30. Removed surgically
- 31. Principle underlying the universe
- 32. Popular airline
- 33. Antelopes
- 38. Peacock network
- 41. Utter repeatedly
- 43. One from the Golden State
- 45. Photographers
- 48. Father
- 49. Popular BBQ dish
- 50. Cavalry sword
- 55. Ancient Greek sophist
- 56. Atomic mass unit
- 57. Afflicted in mind or body
- 59. Indian mythological figure
- 60. Mild expression of surprise
- 61. Jewish spiritual leader
- 62. Brew
- 63. Doctor of Education
- 64. Impudence

CLUES DOWN

- 1. State attorneys
- 2. Imitated
- 3. Latvian capital
- 4. Irish goddess
- 5. Taste
- 6. Dried
- 7. Spanish saloon
- 8. Mother of Perseus
- 9. Evergreen coniferous trees
- 10. Refuse to comply
- 12. Negative
- 14. Hyphen
- 19. A way to record
- 23. Not good
- 24. One who tends the furnace
- 25. Small amount
- 26. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
- 27. The whole quantity
- 28. __ King Cole, musician
- 29. One's opinion
- 34. Holds ashes
- 35. Stablecoin cryptocurrency
- 36. Side-blotched lizards genus
- 37. Legislator (abbr.)
- 39. Concentrated bombardment
- 40. Took for oneself
- 41. Nigerian City
- 42. Thousands of pounds
- 44. Inspired
- 45. Secret clique
- 46. Expression
- 47. Dough made from corn flour
- 48. Comedian Carvey
- 51. Swiss river
- 52. Prejudice
- 53. Actor Idris
- 54. Resistance fighters
- 58. Criticize

Grundy County seeking bids for renovation of Board Room meeting space

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is soliciting sealed proposals from responsible and responsive vendors for the renovation and remodel of the Grundy County Administration Building's public board room meeting space. Sealed proposals must be submitted in an envelope and clearly marked on the exterior "Board Room Remodel" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original packet with an original signature. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee, or agent; for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 3:00 pm (cst.) December 22ND, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 3:00pm (cst.) December 22ND, 2022; sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Respondents should complete a personal examination of the proposed worksite for consideration on the actual conditions and requirements needed to complete the total scope of this project. A pre-bid meeting will be held on December 8th, 2022 at 10:00 am (cst.) at the Grundy County Courthouse. Respondents should contact Alec Macdonald at (815) 941-3120 amacdonald@grundycountyil.gov to confirm attendance at the pre-bid meeting by December 7th, 2022 at 4:00 pm. It is the responsibility of the respondents upon visitation of site to conduct a thorough, alert, and visual examination of the site and adjacent areas; to become familiar and satisfied at to the general, local, and site conditions that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the overall project. Respondents shall not at any time after submission of the proposal, dispute or assert that there was any misunderstanding with regard to the nature of any work to be completed.

The County of Grundy is aiming to improve the layout of the current Public Board Room, to enhance the capabilities of the current meeting space. The vision of improving the board room for public meetings by upgrading the current space, will help to increase efficiencies and functionalities benefiting the team members of Grundy County, the board members of Grundy County, and the taxpayers of Grundy County. The project will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Maintenance Department, along with the Grundy County Finance Department will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

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

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundy-countyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp/ or Demandstar www.demandstar.com. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

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

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

Chris Balkema
County Board Chairman

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 2022.

Bids to upgrade Audio-visual system for Grundy County meeting room sought

PUBLIC NOTICE

Grundy County is requesting proposals from qualified vendors to upgrade the audio-visual systems in our county board room. A contract will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Director of Information Technology and the Grundy County Purchasing Manager will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

Sealed proposals will be received for Board Room Audio Visual. Sealed envelope must be clearly marked on the exterior "AV Upgrade" and contain four (4) copies of the complete proposal with one (1) original signature and one (1) digital copy on a flash drive. No responsibility or liability will be attached to any County official, employee, or agent, for the premature opening or failure to open any proposal not marked according to this instruction.

Sealed proposals will be accepted until 2:00 pm (cst.) December 22ND, 2022 at the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450. At 2:00 (cst.) December 22ND, 2022; sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Fax and electronic submissions will not be accepted.

Respondents should complete a personal examination of the proposed worksite for consideration on the actual conditions and requirements needed to complete the total scope of this project. A pre-bid meeting will be held on December 8th, 2022 at 11:00 am (cst.) at the Grundy County Courthouse. Respondents should contact Alec Macdonald at (815) 941-3120 amacdonald@grundycountyil.gov to confirm attendance at the pre-bid meeting by December 7th, 2022 at 4:00 pm. It is the responsibility of the respondents upon visitation of site to conduct a thorough, alert, and visual examination of the site and adjacent areas; to become familiar and satisfied at to the general, local, and site conditions that may affect cost, progress, and performance of the overall project. Respondents shall not at any time after submission of the proposal, dispute or assert that there was any misunderstanding with regard to the nature of any work to be completed.

The County of Grundy is aiming to improve the layout of the current Public Board Room, to enhance the capabilities of the current meeting space. The vision of improving the board room for public meetings by upgrading the current space, will help to increase efficiencies and functionalities benefiting the team members of Grundy County, the board members of Grundy County, and the taxpayers of Grundy County. The project will be awarded to the proposer who submits the best proposal in compliance with this RFP. This RFP is being issued under the authority of the Grundy County Board. The Grundy County Information Technology Department, along with the Grundy County Finance Department will oversee all aspects of the selection process, subject to review and approval of the Grundy County Board.

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

Proposal documents are available at the Office of the Grundy County Finance Department, 1320 Union St., Morris, IL 60450, and for inspection online at www.grundy-countyil.gov/proposals-and-rfp/ or Demandstar www.demandstar.com. The proposer remains responsible for obtaining all addenda, which will be posted at the same website.

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

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

Chris Balkema
County Board Chairman

Published in the Coal City Courant on Wednesday, Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 7, 14 and 21, 2022.

Expect delays if shopping online this year BETTER YET - SHOP LOCAL



Online retailers are warning of supply and shipping delays. To avoid paying extra for expedited shipping **JUST SHOP LOCAL!** You'll avoid extra costs, invest in your community, and walk out the door with product in hand.

Don't know what to give?

Give Wilmington Chamber gift certificates

They're good at any over 100 different businesses in Wilmington. They're easy to buy, easy to use and you don't have to travel far to spend them. Just stop at Grundy Bank, 120 S. Main St., Wilmington to purchase them. They can be redeemed anywhere you see a Wilmington Chamber of Commerce member sticker. They're good for groceries, hardware, liquor, crafts, automobile repairs, gasoline, ordering off a menu, a subscription to the Free Press Advocate and much more.

For questions call the Chamber at 815.476.5991

Drawing is Friday! Last chance to get a button



Support local families, buy a Christmas Parade button

You could 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 the Christian Help Association's food drive.

Buttons are being \$3 each at various Wilmington stores, bars and restaurants. Be sure to ask!

*Actual winning amount won't be determined until the day of button drawing. Last year's winner took home \$620.

CLASSIFIEDS

CLASSIFIED DEADLINES

Pre-payment required for all classified ads unless customer has a pre established business account

Deadlines
Classified Display
 Fridays - 5 p.m.
Classified Word Ads
 Mondays - noon

The Free Press Newspapers will be responsible for the first incorrect insertion, and its liabilities shall be limited to the price on one insertion. The Free Press Newspapers reserves the right to classify correctly, edit, reject or cancel any advertisement at any time in accordance with its policy. All ads must be checked for errors the first week of publication by the advertiser.

Phone (815) 476-7966 or (815) 634-0315 for details.

Cost

Line Ads are up to 30 words (20¢ for each word over 30)
 1 wk. - \$15; 2 wks. - \$19;
 3 wks. - \$22; 4 wks. - \$25
 \$1.00 Extra per line for bold or caps on classified

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Coal City - 1 bedroom 2nd floor apartment for rent. Same floor washer/dryer. Rent \$700/month plus \$1,000 deposit. If interested please call or leave a message.
 815-685-2919
 815-634-4319

FOR FREE

10 brown yard waste bags. 815-476-7414. fr49-50

PETS

Kittens, free to a loving home. Christmas kittens, litter box trained. Call or text 618-383-5870.

Large Selection of Dog and Cat Food, treats, accessories, health aids, clothing, Birthday treats, wall art, jewelry, gifts, greeting cards and Home of Fritters for Critters Pet Treats. New! Brew and Chew Dog Treats. Trinity Barkery 240 W. Baltimore Wilmington, IL 60481 815-476-5104 slewis@trinity-services.org. ch22b-tfn

LOST & FOUND

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

HELP WANTED

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

Window Repair Technician. We need One Person to fill one available position. This is a long-term career opportunity not just a temp job. We offer excellent starting pay commensurate to your skill set. However, we are willing to train the right person with the right attitude and mind-set. We are a Non-Smoking Company with zero tolerance for on premises smoking. There will be a drug test and a physical as well as a background check. You must have a clean driving record and a current valid driver's license. Duties include but are not limited to shop work such as cutting wood for window sashes, cutting roll formed aluminum, staining or painting window sashes. Also required will be field installations, deliveries, etc. Our shop is climate controlled and very clean; we like to keep it that way. There will be little to no supervision, we need someone who can manage their time efficiently and honestly. Experience with shop tools such as a tape measure, miter saws, table saws, drill press, planning machines is a plus but not required if you are teachable. We offer excellent health insurance, paid holidays, and paid vacation all through our parent company. Work hours are 7:30am to 3:30pm M-F with no weekends or holidays! Please fax resume and cover letter to 815-893-8001 or email to info@window-repairguy.com. cc44-52

MISCELLANEOUS

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

MOBILE HOMES FOR SALE

2009 mobile home, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Make an offer. 779-456-2877. cc50-1

REAL ESTATE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 13TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT COUNTY OF GRUNDY - MORRIS, ILLINOIS U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE OF THE LB-CABANA SERIES IV TRUST; Plaintiff, vs. JEREMIAH VIGNALI; ANGELICA VIGNALI; STATE OF ILLINOIS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON RECORD CLAIMANTS; Defendants, 20 CH 5 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 25, 2023, at the hour of 2:00 p.m., Donald F. Black, 201 Liberty Street, Suite 211, Morris, Illinois 60450, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate: P.I.N. 05-03-303-012. Commonly known as 322

East North St., Morris, IL 60450. The improvement on the property consists of a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act. Sale terms: 10% down by certified funds, balance within 24 hours, by certified funds. No refunds. The property will NOT be open for inspection. For information call Ms. Mary E. Spitz at Plaintiff's Attorney, Sottile & Barile, LLC, 7530 Lucerne Drive, Middleburg Heights, OH 44130. (440) 572-1512. INTERCOUNTRY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION intercountryjudicialsales.com 13209279 Published in the Free Press Newspapers on Wednesday, December 14, 21 & 28, 2022.

SERVICE & REPAIRS

A Thousand Words Photography
 385 N. Second Ave.
 Coal City
Mandy Eaton
 815-791-2913

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Mike Collins Roofing, re-shingles and gutter cleaning, aluminum gutter screen, no repair to small or too big. **INSULATION.** Keep your house cooler in summertime and warmer in the winter. Free estimate for blown in insulation for attics from Mike Collins Roofing. lic # 104.007296. Ask for Mike at 815-730-1303. ck17b-16b

Gas Fireplace Repair

40 years experience. Licensed, insured & bonded. Call Margo at 708-712-5012 to schedule an appointment. Can repair most brands. Weekends available. Thank you.

SHOP YOUR LOCAL BUSINESSES!

GRUNDY COUNTY'S #1 HOME SELLER

Source: Midwest Real Estate DataBase, (MLS) Single Family Detached Homes Sold in 2021 By Grundy County Offices.

SEE EVERY HOME ON THE MARKET AT **C21.COM**

(815) 942-9190



99% Customer Satisfaction Rating

SERVICE & REPAIRS

THE MOLD SQUAD - Located in Wilmington, we specialize in mold removal, water & fire damage restoration, asbestos removal and construction. 24/7 emergency services. Call 312-607-8225.

SITUATIONS WANTED

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

STORAGE

PUBLIC STORAGE
 Clementine's Closets
 815-530-0200
 - No Deposit - Starting at \$50
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington

WANTED

WANTED SCRAP METAL
 • Farm Machinery
 • Garden Tractors
 • Snowmobiles
 • Appliances
 • Anything Metal
Free pickup 7 days
815-210-8819



5	2	4	3	1	7	9	6	8
1	9	8	5	6	4	3	2	7
3	6	7	2	8	9	4	1	5
4	7	9	6	3	8	1	5	2
8	1	2	4	9	5	6	7	3
6	5	3	7	2	1	8	4	9
9	3	6	1	7	2	5	8	4
2	8	5	9	4	6	7	3	1
7	4	1	8	5	3	2	9	6

D	A	R	D	F	T	C	D	A	B					
A	P	I	A	N	L	O	A	D	A	B	A			
S	E	G	N	O	A	W	N	A	N	I	L			
D	A	U	N	T	V	E	T	S	A	E	K			
				A	B	O	L	I	S	H	E	S		
T	R	A	N	S	P	A	R	E	N	T				
A	B	L	A	T	E	D	D	A	O					
D	E	L	T	A					K	U	D	U	S	
				N	B	C	I	T	E	R	A	T	E	
				C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	N
C	A	M	E	R	A	M	E	N						
D	A	D	A	R	I	B	S	A	B	E	R			
A	B	A	S	A	M	U	A	I	L	E	D			
N	A	G	A	G	E	E	R	A	B	B	I			
A	L	E		E	D	D	S	A	S	S				

WE ♥ OUR READERS

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

FARMERS INSURANCE
MELODIE J. LUCKETT
 326 E. Baltimore St.
 Wilmington, IL 60481
 Office 815-476-5242
 Cell 815-671-1356
 mluckett@farmersagent.com
 Agent, Notary
 Auto • Home Life • Commercial

VIKING ROOFING & CONSTRUCTION CORP
 Now Offering IL Public Adjuster Services
FREE PROPERTY INSPECTIONS
 - Shingle/Flat Roofs
 - Gutters
 - Siding
 - Fascia/Soffit
 - Insurance Claims
 Licensed Insured Bonded
 IL State License # 104-002993
(815) 476-6010
 www.vrcc.us

Landscape Supply
 • Driveway stone
 • Pulverized topsoil
 • Pool & play sand
 • Hardwood mulch
 • Decorative stone
 • Bobcat Service
We Deliver!
 www.jdlandscapesupply.com
815-478-3717
708-921-3535

PROFESSIONAL PRO REAL ESTATE
JUDY SUNDINE
 BROKER
 Direct: (815) 405-6758
 815-476-7916
 FAX: 815-476-7566
 Email: judysundine@sbcglobal.net
 506 S. WATER ST., WILMINGTON, IL 60481

FULL COLOR
 - Banners -
 - Yard Signs -
 - Post Cards -
 - Brochures -
 Customized to your liking.
 Competitive prices.
THE FREE PRESS
 111 S. Water St., Wilmington, IL

LIFTED
 SPRAY FOAM INSULATION
 CONCRETE RAISING
Spray Foam Insulation
 • garages
 • pole buildings
 • attics
 • basements
 • commercial
 • industrial
Wilmington • 815-200-6880
Concrete Raising
 • driveways
 • sidewalks
 • patios
 • stairs
 • and more!

Riverfront Lanes
 402 S. Water St., Wilmington (815)
 • Birthday parties
 • Fundraisers
 • Corporate parties
 • Child & adult leagues
 476-2600
 www.riverfrontlanes.com

Mini Storage
CLEMENTINE'S CLOSETS
 515 Davy Lane, Wilmington
Affordable Clean, Secure Monthly Rentals
 No Deposit Required
815-530-0200

BASEMENT & CRAWL SPACE SOLUTIONS
WATERPROOFING FOUNDATION REPAIR INSULATING ENCAPSULATION SUMP PUMPS DRAINAGE SYSTEMS GUTTER GUARDS
 (815) 715-6050 DryToday.net
 Braidwood, IL

SHORKEY PAINTING
(815) 546-1321
 Interior/Exterior
 Est. 1989

SISTEK RENTALS
 We **SELL, REPAIR, and RENT** Outdoor Power Equipment
CubCadet **GRASSHOPPER**
 YOUR NEXT MOWER®
815-237-8298
 740 Oak Street • South Wilmington, IL

A & E SEPTIC SERVICE
 Pumping - Repairs - New Installation
 Sewer Rodding - Sanitary - Party Potties
 Ed Bonnavier
 Coal City • 634-4691
This space could be yours!
Call (815) 476-7966

AJ's Promotional Products and Apparel
 Adidas® Koozies®
 Oakley® Bic® Pens
 Champion® Sharpie®
 EMAIL: ajsprint@comcast.net
 WEB: ajspromotional.dcpromosite.com
Janet Fisher-Schatz 815-263-5990

COALER SPORTS

CC matmen win all but one forfeit

The wrestling Coalers forfeited one weight class last week, the only points they allowed against two opponents as they racked up two more dual wins to stay undefeated at 14-0.

The conference victories were over Streator, 77-0, and Manteno, 68-6, as Coal City finished with eight double winners. They included Brody Widlowski (113), Trace Wilson (126), Mataeo Blessing (145/152), Jack Poyner (170/160), Derek Carlson (160/170), Andrew Feisley (195), Drake Dearth (220) and Michael Gonzalez (285).

The Coalers host Joliet Catholic tonight (Wednesday), travel to Yorkville Christian Thursday and host Sandwich Saturday at 9 a.m.

Coal City 77, Streator 0

- 106—Lindemuth, Culan (CC) over Pollett, N, 4-2 decision
- 113—Widlowski, Brody (CC) over Gwaltney, I, fall 0:38
- 120—Dodd, Zander (CC) over Martiney, J, fall 1:42
- 126—Wilson, Trace (CC) over Benstine, G, fall 1:06
- 132—Greggain, Evan (CC) over Barbee, T, fall 0:46
- 138—Garner, Mason (CC) over Richardson, J, fall 1:08
- 145—Blessing, Mataeo (CC) over Worwock, A, tech Fall 18-1
- 152—Dehler, Chase (CC) over Gophn, S, 18-15 decision
- 160—Carlson, Derek (CC) by forfeit
- 170—Poyner, Jack (CC) by forfeit
- 182—Breneman, Joey (CC) over Lopez, A, fall 1:26
- 195—Feisley, Andrew (CC) by forfeit
- 220—Dearth, Drake (Coal City) over Radke, A, fall 0:51
- 285—Gonzalez, Michael (Coal City) over Westerhold, A, fall 0:26

Coal City 68, Manteno 6

- 106—Forfeit (Manteno) over Forfeit
- 113—Widlowski, Brody (CC) over Ziman, N, fall 0:56
- 120—Kenney, Aidan (CC) over Husch, H, fall 1:20
- 126—Wilson, Trace (CC) by forfeit
- 132—Finch, Brock (CC) by forfeit
- 138—Greggain, Evan (CC) by forfeit
- 145—Doe, John (Manteno) over Garner, Mason, fall 1:20
- 152—Blessing, Mataeo (CC) over Ziman, T, fall 1:17
- 160—Poyner, Jack (CC) over Watkins, c, 6-3 decision
- 170—Carlson, Derek (CC) over Smith, L, tech fall 18-3
- 182—Poyner, Cade (CC) by forfeit
- 195—Feisley, Andrew (CC) by forfeit
- 220—Dearth, Drake (CC) over Frieden, B, fall 1:27
- 285—Gonzalez, Michael (CC) over Alsup, D, fall 1:30



DEREK CARLSON, a senior wrestler at Coal City, won both of his matches last week.

Photo by Zandie Sims



DRAKE DEARTH, wrestling at 220 pounds for Coal City, was a double winner last week as the Coalers improved to 14-0.

Photo by Zandie Sims

Coalers suffer first defeat during tourney

The Coaler wrestlers suffered their first dual team loss of the season on Saturday during the Larry Glassen Dual Team Tournament at Downers Grove South High School.

Coal City went 4-1 on the day to finish third in the tournament. They had some impressive wins against bigger schools with the lone loss to state powerhouse Lincoln Way East, 54-15.

Victories for the day included

- CC 45 Main South 29
- CC 78 Crystal Lake South 3

- CC 55 Plainfield North 22
- CC 45 Crystal Lake Central 22

Finishing 5-0 on the day were 113 Brody Widlowski and 145/52 Mataeo Blessing.

Coal City improves to 18-1. They will host Joliet Catholic Academy Wednesday before visiting Yorkville Christian with Washington on Thursday.



Photo by Zandie Sims

COALER SENIOR Jack Poyner won both of his matches last week. He wrestled at 170 and 160 pounds, jockeying weights with Derek Carlson.

JV Warriors extend win streak

The 7th grade boys basketball team extended its winning streak to 5 in a row last week with a victory over Morris Grade School, 32-13.

The Warriors played well offensively, with nine players getting a basket.

Hayden Kennell led the Warriors with 11 points. Wyatt Homerding had 5 points. Frankie Ponio contributed 4 points, going 4 for 4 from the free throw line. Colten Lynn, Dillion Ness, Trevor Walker, Tyce Farrell, AJ Gagliardo, and Jaxon Duke each had 2 points.

The Warriors have an overall record of 9-1 and conference record of 3-0.

Warriors fall to Morris in eighth grade action

The Coal City 8th grade boys basketball team played a tough Morris Grade School team last week, coming up short by the score of 50-28.

Leading the Warriors in scoring were Emmett Easton with nine points, Braden

Walker with six points, AJ Kenney tossed in three points while Parker Jacovec, Aiden Scrogam, Keaton Berta, Ty Christopher and Sean Bergin chipped in two points each.

The Warriors, 7-6 overall, and will play Thursday @

Gardner-South Wilmington, their last game before winter break.

On Thursday the 8th grade Warriors played Minooka in a tough game but came up short, 35-25.

Leading the Warriors

were Emmett Easton with seven points, Parker Jacovec scored six points, Carter Nicholson chipped in four, Braden Walker and Sean Bergin three points each and Carmine Conterez two points.

G-SW 7th graders down Elwood

The Gardner-So. Wilmington 7th grade Tigers beat Elwood, 32-20 on Dec. 8. Case Christensen led with 12 points, Caden Christensen followed with 10, and Cameron Gray with 6. Brody Grimes added in 1 point.

The JV Tigers lost 37-25 to Beecher on Dec. 7. Cameron Gray led with 7 points, and Caden Christensen and Brody Grimes each had 4. Wyatt McNally, Isaiah Bouwma, and Case Christensen each had 2 points.

The 7th-grade GSWB Tigers boys basketball lost 36-30 to MVK on Dec. 6.

Caden Christensen led with 12 points, Cameron Gray had 8, Case Christensen had 6, and Brody Grimes had 4.

Panthers win three

The 8th grade Tigers from Gardner-So. Wilmington picked up a pair of victories last week thanks to some balanced scoring.

G-SW upended Beecher 42-33 on Wednesday, led by Holden Grimes with 16 points. Panther Cooper Biros added 12 while Reed Millette contributed 8. Chris Ozee tallied four points while Aiden Mack added two.

On Tuesday, the Tiger 8th graders beat MVK 40-35. Cooper Biros led with 16 points, followed by Holden Grimes with 13.

Reed Millette had 5 points, Aiden Mack had 4, and Logan Rice added in 2 points.

The 8th grade Tigers beat Elwood, 45-5, on Dec. 8.

Cooper Biros led with 17 points, Holden Grimes had 14, and Chris Ozee added in 6. Hunter Partilla, Reed Millette, Aiden Mack, and Aiden Bodine all had 2 points.

117 Coalers playing sports this winter

The winter sport season is underway at Coal City High School.

In his monthly report to the Board of Education, athletic director Dan Hutchings reported there are 117 students participating in a sport.

There are 39 students participating in boys basketball—eight seniors, five juniors, 12 sophomores and 14 freshmen.

The girls basketball team is comprised of

27 students—seven seniors, six juniors, five sophomores and nine freshmen.

There are 36 students on the wrestling team this year—14 seniors, four juniors, six sophomores and 12 freshmen.

Cheering on the Coaler basketball team and participating in competition cheer are 15 students—two seniors, four juniors, two sophomores and seven freshmen.

Fresh Hot Delivery **Benson Insurance Agency, Inc.** **ALLEGRA Printing**

Coal City Coalers Team Pride
#1 Sports Fans Weekly Internet Winner

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

Must redeem by Dec. 19, 2022

“Proud to be serving the community for the past 37 years!”

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

“Support Coal City High School Athletes”

PEOPLE WHO READ NEWSPAPERS ARE

STUDENTS WITH BETTER GRADES

It all starts with newspapers

FRESH HOT DELIVERY!

“Proud to be serving the community for the past 37 years!”

37TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL

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

ONLY \$28.99

Not valid with any other offer. Plus sales tax. Expires 12/31/22.

Order online at www.geospizza.net **634-8858**
715 S. Broadway • Coal City

Gift Certificates Available

300 & counting!



Photo by Amy Walker

CONGRATULATIONS COACH! Coal City girls basketball coach Brad Schmitt applauds while being showered with confetti by his players in the lockerroom following Thursday's 53-21 victory over Manteno. It was Schmitt's 300th win early in his 20th season, the most wins by a girls basketball coach at CCHS. It was another milestone for coach Schmitt who intends to have many more, thanking the girls for the surprise and 8-1 record so far.

Lady Coalers achieve new milestone for Coach Schmitt

STAFF REPORT

Coach Brad Schmitt and the Lady Coalers celebrated his 300th victory Thursday after defeating Streator at home 53-21.

Schmitt started the season needing only eight wins to achieve the milestone and the Lady Coalers have responded exceptionally well with an 8-2 record so far.

If Coal City stays on track they could match Schmitt's best season, in 2013-14 when they went 26-2.

Of the 539 victories Coal City High School has earned over 45 years, 300 have been by Schmitt who has a winning 300-226 overall record.

While 300 is a new benchmark for Schmitt, he says there are hopefully many more to come. The best season for Coal City

Under his tutelage in 2009-10 the Lady Coalers played their longest season, winning the 2A regional title with a 26-6 record.

Schmitt's record may not rank among the top 50 total wins by a coach (he'll need at least another 100 or more for that), it's humbling to think back on all the athletes he's had the privilege to coach.

The Lady Coalers came out determined to get his 300th win on Thursday, building a 32-8 half-time lead. They went on a 21-13 run in the second half to put the Lady Bulldogs away for good.

In all, 12 Lady Coalers scored points, led by Makayla Henline who finished with 11. Mia Ferras chipped in with eight points while Audrey Cooper contributed six points while making six steals. Bella Veraveic and Paige Walker came through with five points each.

Scoring four points apiece were Carly Morris and Abby Stiles. Makenzie Henline grabbed six rebounds while scoring two points. Also making two points each were Kylee Kennell, Abby Gagliardo, Tanna Curry and

Kerigan Copes.

In the end Coal City shot 48% from the field while Streator struggled with 16%.

Early lead helped

Coal City got the job done last Monday against Manteno, beating the hosts 50-34, they struggled at the free throw line with just 10-for-26 shooting. Thankfully they had control of the board with 34 rebounds which led to several second-chance shots.

The Lady Coalers were up 20-6 after one and 27-10 at the half before coasting in the second half under a 16-point effort by Cooper. Ferras also helped with a pair of three-pointers to finish with 12 points.

Gagliardo tallied eight points to go along with seven rebounds. Makayla Henline scored six points while Makenzie Henline pulled down a team-high nine rebounds while scoring five points and delivering four assists.

Credit Manteno for shooting 50% (15-for-30) at the line while struggling in the lane with only 8-for-40 shooting.

PC hits their treys

On Monday the Lady Coalers struggled from the get-go, scoring just two points in the first quarter at Prairie Central.

The hosts built a 15-2 lead in the opening stanza and were up 34-12 at the half. The Lady Coalers did little better in the second half as Prairie Central won it 58-27.

Prairie Central made nine three-pointers while Coal City had none. Top scorers for the Lady Coalers were Gagliardo and Makayla Henline with six points each. Ferras, who often sparks the Lady Coalers with her shooting, was 0-for-5 from the field while making a pair of free throws.

Coal City plays at Herscher at 12:15 p.m. Saturday before hosting Plano on Monday. Then they'll participate in the Lisle Holiday Classic Dec. 27 - 30.



Photo by Amy Walker

DEFENSE ON THE GO—Coal City's Audrey Cooper has her arms up while defending the home court. Cooper had an impressive game against Manteno, scoring 16 points.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

COMING THROUGH for the Coalers while being fouled by a Wilmington defender is Cason Headley who finished with 29 points against the Wildcats.

Coalers face Wildcats in conference action



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

DRIVING THE LANE for the Coalers is junior guard Owen Hren.



Photo by Alyssa Ohlund

TAKING THE BALL to the basket while being pressured by a Wilmington defender is Coal City's Christopher Cholico.