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Wednesday, February 5, 2020

IT'S FREE!



A 16-WEEK-OLD CANNABIS PLANT grows in one of the greenhouses at the PharmaCann cultivation center in Dwight.

A Look Inside Dwight's Cultivation Center

Yes, They Check Your Pockets Before You Leave

By Rachael Reynolds-Soucie

Dwight is a farming community. Corn. Soy beans. Livestock.

But for the last five years there has been a new commodity taking root: marijuana.

It's happening on the village's far east side at PharmaCann, one of just 21 licensed cultivation centers in Illinois that is growing marijuana not only for medical use, but now for adult recreational use.

Since PharmaCann opened in 2015, there's been a joke that in Dwight, "It's always greener on the other side." But the mystique remains: What goes on over there?

It's pretty fascinating actually, as PharmaCann welcomed *The Paper* for a tour last week. Particularly since the company has announced a \$10 million expansion that will double the amount of growing space -- an investment coming off the heels of legalized marijuana in Illinois.

"It was good news but it was a lot of work to be done in a short amount of time," said Operations Manager Mike Manietta. The expansion could be completed by early to mid-summer.

It's hard to imagine another 12,000 to 15,000 square feet of cultivation space. The facility is huge.

Three things stood out. First was how sterile the facility is kept. Before embarking on the tour, we had to suit up in a white lab coat, eyewear, face mask and hair net. This is all to ensure quality control, and that no pathogens are coming into the facility that may compromise the plants or products manufactured there; pesticides are only used in the first two weeks of a plant's life, per state regulations.

The second thing was the odor. Yes, it smells

like pot -- lovely or objectionable depending on your tastes. And, I guess to no surprise, before I left I had to empty my pockets and show I wasn't hiding anything inside my socks. This is routine for visitors, or anytime an employee leaves for the day or comes back from break.

The first stop is the extraction lab, where the oils are extracted from the plant. The oils are then sent through filters and refined, turning them into pure THC and CBD, which are then used to make products like edibles, vapes, drops and tinctures at the facility. One of the workers showed me a large beaker of THC, which looked like a brown liquid. I imagined that beaker could make a lot of gummies.

The gummies are made in a food grade room where workers were infusing edibles using their own recipe. I was envious of the bright red Kitchen-Aid mixer in the room -- boy would that look pretty on my granite countertop -- but a much larger industrial blender is actually used to mix the chews. There were dozens of silicone molds -- just like the ones you might find in the Wilton cake aisle at Michael's -- ready to be placed on an automatic filling line. Manietta said they make four flavors of infused gummies -- watermelon, apple, lemon and wildberry.

From there we entered a large room where workers package many of the products. This day, they were packaging dried buds and joint "cones." The buds are separated by strain, weighed, sorted and then packaged and sealed in cans. They currently grow about 10 strains of marijuana. Different strains of cannabis produce different effects.

They're very careful about retaining any waste that may come from packaging the buds -- even the finest pieces trimmed from a plant are put into a plastic container, which can then be used in the extraction lab.

"We use as much of a plant as possible," he said. Plant waste is picked up and likely ends up as compost.

(Continued on Page 4)



KADE OHLENDORF, OF DWIGHT, shown at center holding a fake gun, and his twin sister Avery, middle row, left, participated in the Chandler Tactical Competition in Arizona Jan. 17-19 as part of the Illinois Competitive Explorer Tactical Team Post 6740 (ICETT), a chartered Explorer post.

Ohlendorf Twins Rack Up Titles at National Explorer Competition

By Rachael Reynolds-Soucie

The scenario was an active shooter drill and the team of 12 had to demonstrate how they would handle such a situation.

They split up into two units -- one group to take out the shooter, the other to run medical aid to victims, which included a downed officer.

But this wasn't a group of highly trained police going through the drill. It was a group of teenagers competing in the Chandler Tactical Competition in Arizona Jan. 17-19. Among them were twins Avery and Kade Ohlendorf, twins of Brent and Jill Ohlendorf of Dwight.

They were participating as part of the Illinois Competitive Explorer Tactical Team Post 6740 (ICETT), a chartered Explorer post. Michael Putrich, a former Naperville police officer and Will County Sheriff's Deputy, runs the ICETT Post 6740.

The Ohlendorf twins have been involved in ICETT since they were juniors in high school. They are also part of the Grundy County Sheriff's Department Explorers group, which they joined when they were sophomores. Three other teens from Dwight are involved with the Grundy County team, but did not compete with ICETT at nationals: Hudson and Camden Beier, and Jarrett Jancek.

Explorers is a hands-on career mentorship program for 14- to 21-year-olds with varying degrees of interests. Law enforcement is one focus.

Explorers are taught by volunteer law enforcement personnel. The program offers young adults a personal awareness of the criminal justice system through training, practical experiences, competition and other activities. Additionally, the program promotes personal growth through character development, respect for the rule of law, physical fitness, good citizenship and patriotism.

ICETT, Putrich said, exists to train Explorers for the national competition.

Post 6740 was one of 64 teams from around the United States that competed in Chandler in as many as 20 different scenarios, from vehicle assault, rapid response, sniper challenge and crisis negotiations to drug lab raids and hostage rescues.

They came home with 11 trophies, including six first-place:

- 1st place: Tactical Emergency Medicine
- 1st place: Robot Operations
- 1st place: Swat Fitness Challenge
- 1st place: Officer Down Rescue
- 1st place: 5 Man TK4 pull
- 1st place: 10 Man TK4 pull
- 2nd place: 10 Man High Risk Search Warrant
- 2nd place: Vehicle Assaults
- 3rd place: Vertical Assault
- 3rd place: 5.11 Tactical Breacher Challenge
- 4th place: Rapid Deployment/Active Shooter

(Continued on Page 8)

<p>BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS</p> <p>Prices Valid: February 5th - through - February 11th</p> <p>Prices Only Valid At Dwight Berkot's.</p> <p>While Supplies Last No Rainchecks</p>	<p>Berkot's Bakery Donuts 1 dozen</p> <p>\$6 each</p>	<p>Berkot's Fresh, All Natural Pork Belly</p> <p>\$1.99 per pound</p> <p>BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS</p>	<p>U.S.D.A. Choice Beef Shanks</p> <p>\$1.99 per pound</p> <p>USDA CHOICE</p>	<p>Smithfield Yuengling Beer Brats 19 oz</p> <p>2/\$4</p>
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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police

January 24: Betty J. Sassen-ger, 61, Dwight, driving under influence of alcohol, operate uninsured motor vehicle; Amanda M. Babusch, 17, Odell, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

January 25: Donald A. Lan-ham, 30, Joliet, operate unin-sured motor vehicle; Nicholas S. Hume, 31, Coal City, driving under influence of alcohol.

January 26: Tony N. Young, 18, New Bethlehem, PA, driv-ing 15-20 MPH above limit.

January 29: Joseph M. Panock, Jr., 17, Dwight, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

January 30: Justin D. Heyde, 18, Sandwich, fail obey stop sign.

Persons in the police report are innocent of any charges until proven guilty in a court of law.

10 Written Warnings

Speeding – 2; only one headlight – 2; improper lane use – 2; no registration plate light – 2; disobey stop sign – 1; failure to change address – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter

January 24: 10:16 p.m., Dwight Police were dispatched to the area of West James and Odell Rd. for an accident involving a vehicle and water hydrant. Arrested was Betty J. Sassen-ger, 61, of Dwight, for DUI. She was taken to Dwight Police Dept., where her paper-work was completed, tickets is-

sued, and bond posted. She was given a court date and released. Her vehicle was towed from the scene.

January 25: 11:07 p.m., Dwight Police observed a vehi-cle leave his lane of traffic and drive over the curb. Arrested was Nicholas S. Hume, 31, of Coal City, for DUI. Hume was transported to Dwight Police Department. He was issued a citation, given a court date, and was able to post bond. Hume's vehicle was towed from the scene.

Accident Report

Friday, January 24, 10:16 p.m., a single-vehicle accident was reported at Odell Rd. and W. James involving a 2011 Chevrolet utility, driven by Betty Sassen-ger, 61, Dwight, which struck a fire hydrant.

Wednesday, January 29, 8:48 p.m., an accident was reported at 801 N. Union St. in-volving a 2017 Ford F150, driven by Robert T. Poole, 53, Blackstone, which backed into a parked and driverless 2016 Chevrolet Cruze, owned by Sarah R. Skonetski, Pontiac.

Thursday, January 30: 11:11 a.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. in-volving a 2007 Mack, driven by Kevin P. Kwasniewski, Portage, IN, which struck a parked 2016 Frei., driven by Leslie B. Dixon, Lancaster, TX.

Thursday, January 30, 1:02 p.m., an accident was reported at Rt. 66 at Rt. 47 involving a 2011 Ford passenger car,

driven by Michael G. Smith, 63, Newark, which, after stop-ping at a stop sign, proceeded through an intersection – strik-ing a 2012 Chevrolet, driven by Steven D. Scott, 53, St. Charles.



Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

January 23: South St., trauma, Morris.

January 24: Mazon Ave., trauma, refusal; Mazon Ave., medical, Riverside; Spencer, medical, Morris; Mazon, trauma, Morris; Mazon, medical, Morris; James St., trauma, refusal.

January 25: Bannon, trauma, refusal; Spencer, medical, Morris; Bannon, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Riverside; John, medical, mutual aid from Gardner EMS.

January 26: Mazon, medical, Morris; Philmar, medical, Morris.

January 27: Main, medical, Morris; E. Seminole, medical, Morris; John, medical, River-side.

January 28: Bannon, trauma, refusal; Northbrook, medical, Morris.

January 29: Jackson, trauma, cancelled, mutual aid to Gardner; Delaware, fire, no pt.; Mazon, medical, Morris; South, fire, no pt.; Mazon, medical, Morris; 2900 N., trauma, refusal.

Dwight to Consider Ambulance Service Options

January 27 Village Board Actions

by Madelyn Fogarty
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

The Dwight Village Board of Trustees addressed several items when it met in regular session January 27.

Mayor Anderson provided a recap of the Village Adminis-tration Committee meeting that also took place on January 27. At that meeting, the committee reviewed three bids that were received following a Request for Proposal that was put out seeking bids from ambulance service providers. The board will continue to review these proposals, along with consider-ing an option for the Village of Dwight to take over the service. The board did agree to notify current provider, Kurtz Para-medical, of its intention to termi-nate their contract effective April 1.

Also at the Administration committee meeting, a disagree-ment between downtown building owners was brought before the committee. Paul Fer-rari, owner of 124 E Main Street, is proposing roof modifi-cations to address water drainage and roof leak issues. The plan to add pitch to the current flat roof would involve the need to block, or partially block, windows of a neighbor-ing building at 126 E Main Street owned by Roberto Ro-driguez and Megan Stoudt. Ro-driguez and Stoudt are opposed to Ferrari's proposed solution indicating it could impact their property's value while village committee members cited safety concerns related to loss of window egress options for the apartment tenants of the im-pacted building. The committee requested that Ferrari seek ad-ditional input from professional roofing services for alternate options and bring back those recommendations for consider-ation, or come to a reasonable mutual agreement with Ro-driguez and Stoudt regarding the roof modifications. The modifications proposed by Fer-rari will require a village permit to proceed.

In other discussions from the administration committee meeting, it was noted that the Historical Society has ex-pressed interest in having use of the entire historic downtown depot building once the DEA moves to its new location on East Main Street. It was also

discussed that SOCU has sub-mitted a letter indicating it is no longer interested in purchasing the surplus village property lo-cated at 115 E Chippewa Street. Last September, a bid from Streator Onized Credit Union (SOCU) in the amount of \$20,000 was unanimously approved by the board.

Mayor Anderson noted that Village residents should be aware that there will be service people in the area making mod-ifications to gas meters as part of the new Smart Meter pro-gram. The company, 3P Utility Services, is contracted by NICOR and will be in the area over the next few weeks. The service employees will carry identification. The process to install electronic readers is all done outside of the home and takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete.

In a DEA report to the board, Deb Karch reported that the Bank of Pontiac will be re-placing its board room furni-ture and donating its used furniture to the DEA. Karch expressed appreciation to the Bank of Pontiac and noted that this would allow DEA board meetings to now be held onsite.

Mrs. Karch also reported that there are currently six prospects expressing interest in either purchasing or leasing the former Shopko building.

In other village business, a Superior Excavating Pay Re-quest #1 in the amount of \$58,343.85 for the James Street storm and sanitary improve-ment project was approved not-ing that this amount represents the sanitary sewer improve-ment portion of the project. Vil-lage Engineer Ryan Hansen stated that the storm sewer por-tion of the project on James Street and Lincoln Street should now move forward rather quickly.

In another matter, Terry Riccolo was present to address a letter he received regarding his property location on S. Washington Street. Last Octo-ber, 50 - 60 letters were sent out by Dwight Police to area resi-dents as friendly fall cleanup reminders. Riccolo received a letter due to several nonregist-ered/ untagged vehicles, which the village considers aban-doned, and other "junk" items on his property. This is a viola-tion Section 12.301 of the Mu-nicipal Code of the Village of

Dwight. Chief of Police Tim Henson stated the letters are not intended to upset people, but that "sometimes people need a little push" to clean up their property. Mayor Anderson indicated the village wants to work with people on these mat-ters. The situation will be re-viewed in March when spring cleanup letters will again be is-sued.

In public forum, resident Tom Tock asked the board if it had reviewed a letter he sub-mitted with regard to an out-standing loan made by the Village of Dwight to Dwight Restaurant Group. The \$75,000 five year loan, from the Vil-lage's Revolving Loan Fund established to help local busi-nesses, was effective January 2011 for the purpose of im-provements to the Country Mansion which subsequently closed in January 2018 and is currently for sale. The loan is currently in default with no liens on property.

"It is not currently affecting the village in any manner," stated Mayor Jared Anderson. "We are not concerned about it. We are still getting a payment every month and we have an agreement that if the property sells, it will get taken care of."

Tock also questioned why the village has opted not to partic-ipate in the Livingston County tax abatement program. Mayor Anderson indicated that village officials feel the ten-year tax abatement program might not be the best fit for Dwight and the current ap-proach allows the village flexi-bility to negotiate with businesses.

The board also approved:
• payment of bills from 1/27/20 totaling \$81,693.68.
• the December 2019 Treas-urer's Report showing a bal-ance of \$1,934,581.57 across all accounts.

Present at the January 27 session were Mayor Jared An-derson and Trustees Randy Irvin, Marla Kinkade, and Chuck Butterbrodt. Absent were Jerry Curtis, Jennifer Johnson and Justin Eggen-berger.

The next meeting of the Dwight Village Board will be Monday, February 10, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Services Complex. Meetings are open to the public.



Temps - 2020

Jan. 23 – high 34°, low 22°
.29" precip. / trace snow
Jan. 24 – high 37°, low 31°
.3" precip.
Jan. 25 – high 32°, low 28°
Jan. 26 – high 32°, low 25°
Jan. 27 – high 30°, low 27°
trace precip.
Jan. 28 – high 30°, low 27°
Jan. 29 – high 31°, low 27°
One Year Ago – Feb. 5, 2019
high 32°, low 23°
.68" precip.

"Awareness Precedes Change"

Do Something Good for Your Heart this February!

Join us for lifesaving educational programs and screenings.

Eat Real - \$59
Tuesdays, February 11-March 31
5:30-6:30 p.m.

Morris Hospital Conference Room 2
Eat Real focuses on recipes and meal planning using real foods instead of convenience foods. It's for anyone who wants to eat healthier and improve their health while gaining confidence in the grocery store. Register at morrishospital.org/events or call 815-705-7364.

Cardiovascular Screenings

Call 815-416-6089 to schedule a screening appointment. Ask about screening locations in Channahon, Morris, Ottawa and Yorkville.

Heart Healthy Screening (\$35) - blood test to check total cholesterol, LDL and HDL cholesterol, triglycerides and glucose for type 2 diabetes.

Peripheral Artery Disease Screening (\$40) - ultrasound test to check for blockages in the arm and leg arteries.

Carotid Artery Screening (\$40) - ultrasound test to check for blockages in the ca-rotid arteries in the neck which can lead to stroke.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) Screening (\$40) - ultrasound test to check for enlargement of the abdominal aorta at the center of the chest and abdomen.

Artery Screening Bundle (\$100) - have all three artery screenings listed above at a discounted price.

10 Heart Health Breakthroughs presented by Dr. Mary Gordon - FREE!
Thursday, February 6, 6-7 p.m.

Morris Hospital Conference Rooms 2 & 3
With nearly half of all U.S. adults diagnosed with some type of heart disease, heart health should always be top of mind for everyone. Come and learn about the most significant advances in heart health prevention and treatment. Register at morrishospital.org/events or call 815-705-7832.

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Catholic Schools Week Activities



ODELL'S ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL'S 'BIGS' partnered up with their 'littles' for Bingo during Catholic Schools Week. Pictured together are Noah Davis and Colton Dippon, and Isabella Ferrari and Skylar Burke.

Gardner Village Board Meets

The Gardner Village Board met in regular session January 27.

After paying the bills and approving the minutes, Mayor Serena advised the board the Village Attorney has been given the go-ahead to proceed with the cannabis ordinance and schedule the public meetings.

Commissioner Rob Wolfe inquired if Mayor Serena had heard a response from O'Hare Towing regarding the items stored in front of the establishment, which he had not received a response on the last letter.

Mayor Serena shared a letter regarding I-55 improvements to the area between the Will County line and 0.3 miles south of Gardner. The Mayor also shared a letter regarding improvements to the crossing gate control systems throughout the village.

Dan Alexander has informed the Mayor Skapegoats Car Club will again sponsor a car show during the Red Carpet Corridor event in May and Creative Gems will also host activities.

the corner

by Tom Tock

The January 27 Dwight Village Council meeting had only three trustees present, but pursued a busy agenda. One of the matters explored was the condition of properties in the village that have been judged to be in need of cleanup.

A letter was recently mailed to some 53 residents in Dwight asking them to remedy unsightly and/or dangerous situations on their properties.

The letter was signed by the Chief of Police and sent after police had surveyed conditions throughout the town. It was headlined "Notice of Ordinance Violation," the ordinance being 12.301, commonly known as the Nuisance Ordinance.

The ordinance bans burning of leaves, garbage or other refuse, unsightly waste, or debris, junk, stagnant water, noxious odors, inoperable/abandoned/unregistered motor vehicles . . . a litany of materials that detract from property values and would be considered a visual or even a dangerous nuisance. A complete list is available from the village.

Recipients of letters have a short time to correct the nuisances for which they were cited, "after which the village may proceed to abate such nuisances. All costs incurred shall become payable to the Village of Dwight by the owner or occupant of the property cited."

Mayor Anderson added, "We don't want to put a financial burden on anyone."

But the important thing is to recognize that this old burg deserves our best ongoing cleanup efforts, and the work recently begun must continue unabated if it is going to be successful.

I didn't write this column to put 53 residents in double jeopardy, but to emphasize something that is necessary in any community that desires to be considered a good, strong community . . . one in which all residents can take pride.

Good maintenance of a property is a benefit to all concerned -- the owners who are cited as well as the entire neighborhood. It requires work and even cost, but it can be enjoyable, too. And neighbors can help one another in the effort. Some folks can't do as much work on their yards as they used to . . . here is a golden opportunity to help someone improve their surroundings.

An impressive book I've been reading, *Strong Towns*, has a paragraph that I believe is worth repeating:

"See a streetlight out: get it replaced. See a weed: pull it. See a crosswalk faded, repaint it. See a sidewalk broken: Fix it. The best investments in the already built environment are maintenance of neighborhoods that have stood the test of time."

-- Charles Marohn

10 Signs of An Unhealthy Relationship

February is Dating Violence Awareness Month and 2020 marks the 10th Anniversary of efforts to end dating violence.

Enough is enough!

Everyone deserves healthy relationships, and we can influence change in how we treat our partners and how we respond to acts of abuse.

While everyone does unhealthy things sometimes, we can all learn to love better by recognizing unhealthy signs and shifting to healthy behaviors.

If you are seeing unhealthy signs in your relationship, it's important to not ignore them and understand they can escalate to abuse.

If you think you are in a

dangerous situation, trust your gut and get help.

The following are ten signs of an unhealthy relationship:

- **Intensity** – When someone expresses very extreme feelings and over-the-top behavior that feels overwhelming.
- **Manipulation** – When someone tries to control your decisions, actions, or emotions.
- **Sabotage** – When someone purposely ruins your reputation, achievements, or success.
- **Guilt** – When someone makes you feel responsible for their actions or makes you feel like it's your job to keep them happy.
- **Deflecting Responsibility** – When someone repeatedly makes excuses for their un-

healthy behavior.

• **Possessiveness** – When someone is jealous to a point where they try to control who you spend time with and what you do.

• **Isolation** – When someone keeps you away from friends, family, or other people.

• **Belittling** – When someone does and says things to make you feel bad about yourself.

• **Volatility** – When someone has a really strong, unpredictable reaction that makes you feel scared, confused, or intimidated.

• **Betrayal** – When someone is disloyal or acts in an intentionally dishonest way.

Learn more at joinone.org.

Dwight Permits Issued

10/23/19 – Carrie Breese, 406 W James Street, Fence; Mark & Judy Pershey, 321 W James Street, Demo & New Shed; Bank of Pontiac, 201 E Chippewa Street, Signs.

11/01/19 – Franklin Corner, 162 E Main Street, Sign; Coleman & Son Garage, 214 E Mazon Ave, Fence.

11/25/19 – Randy & Jenny Irvin, 819 Sunset Drive, Electrical (Generator).

11/26/19 – NAPA, 101 S Old Rt 66, Four Signs.

12/03/19 – Paul & Jenny Johnson, 305 E William Street, Garage/Electrical.

12/17/19 – William Dupont, 310 S Franklin Street, Electrical.

12/18/19 – Bill Sole, 310 N Union Street, Sign & Occupancy; Seminole Real Estate, 522 Carriage Court, New House.

12/20/19 – Martin Caruso, 120½ W Chippewa Street, Fence.

Pancake & Sausage Biscuits & Gravy BREAKFAST

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7 a.m. - Noon Feb. 9

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Be Aware of Social Security Myths

Social Security can be one source of retirement income for you and your spouse. To maximize your benefits, you'll need to make some key decisions and be aware of some common myths.

• **Myth 1:** Always take Social Security early. You can file for Social Security benefits as early as 62, but you could get 25% to 30% more if you wait until your "full" retirement age (likely between 66 and 67). You can receive even more if you wait until 70, at which point your benefits will "max out." However, there's no right time to file for everyone – it depends on your situation, including factors such as your life expectancy, employment, financial need and spousal considerations.

• **Myth 2:** When you claim Social Security won't affect your spouse's benefits. This is not true. How much you receive in Social Security can affect your spouse's benefits while you are alive (spousal benefits) and after you've passed away (survivor's benefits). Your spouse could receive up to half of your retirement benefit, offset by his or her own benefit, so the longer you work before collecting Social Security, the greater the potential spousal benefits. For survivor benefits, your spouse would receive 100% of your benefit or his or her own, whichever is larger, so when you file affects how much your spouse would receive if you pass away early. In any case, you'll want to consult with the Social Security Administration about how much your spouse can receive, as his or her own benefits can also affect your decision-making.

• **Myth 3:** You can't work during retirement and collect Social Security. Yes, you can. But if you start receiving Social Security before your full retirement age (likely between 66 and 67), you can only earn up to \$18,240 in 2020 and still get your full benefits. Once you earn more than this, Social Security deducts \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn. But during the year you reach full retirement age, you can earn up to \$48,600 without your benefits being withheld. If you exceed this amount, \$1 will be deducted for every \$3 you earn during the months before you attain your full retirement age. Social Security will increase your benefits when you do reach full retirement age to adjust for the previous work-related withholdings. So, if you plan on working and receiving Social Security, it may not make sense to file if most of your benefits will be withheld. Once you reach full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing your monthly benefits, although your benefits could still be taxed.

• **Myth #4:** Social Security will provide for all my needs in retirement. Social Security will provide about a third of pre-retirement income, on average, according to the Social Security Administration. Consequently, you'll probably still need other sources of retirement income because Social Security alone most likely won't be enough to meet your needs. So, throughout your working years, contribute as much as you can to your IRA and your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan. Combining these income sources with Social Security can help improve your chances of enjoying the retirement lifestyle you've envisioned.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Livingston Cty. Offices Closed Feb. 12 and 17

All Livingston County Offices will be closed Wednesday, February 12, and Monday, February 17, in observance of Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday.

SOAR

Godley Park District Annual SWEETIES DANCE

Date: Saturday, February 8

Time: 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Ages: 1st - 8th grade

Fee: \$5 per child (paid at the door)

*For security purposes, a parent or guardian must come into the Community Center after the dance to pick up child/children.



Godley Park District

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EARLY VOTING, VOTE BY MAIL, and GRACE REGISTRATION DATES General Primary Election - March 17, 2020

Early Voting, Vote by Mail, and Grace Registration and Voting will be conducted on the following dates prior to the March 17, General Primary Election.

Regular Voter Registration closes on Tuesday, February 18, 2020.

*See the Livingston County Website for additional registration and voting deadlines information.

Dates	Location	Hours
MONDAY-FRIDAY February 6 - March 16	Livingston County Clerk's Office 112 W Madison St – Pontiac	8:00 AM to 4:30 PM
SATURDAY February 15, 22, 29 March 7, 14	Livingston County Clerk's Office 112 W Madison St – Pontiac	9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
WEDNESDAY March 11 (Extended Hours Voting)	Livingston County Clerk's Office 112 W Madison St – Pontiac	8:00 AM to 6:00 PM
TUESDAY March 17 (Grace Registration & Voting Only)	Livingston County Clerk's Office 112 W Madison St – Pontiac	6:00 AM to 7:00 PM

What is Early Voting? Early Voting starts February 6 and ends March 16, 2020. This process allows any registered voter in Livingston County to use the above location to cast their ballot prior to Election Day. Early voters must be registered Livingston County voters. No excuse or reason is necessary to apply.

Vote by Mail Voting: Starts Thursday, February 6 and continues through Thursday, March 17, 2020. A person may request a Vote by Mail ballot by USPS no later than March 28 without specifying a reason. In order to be counted the ballot must be postmarked by midnight or returned in person by 7 PM to the County Clerk's Office on March 17.

Grace Registration and Voting begins February 19 and continues through March 17. This is for new registrants and those who have transferred or moved and did not update their voter registration before March 1. Voting takes place at the same time registration is made in the County Clerk's Office.

Additional election information, as well as Applications for Ballots and Sample Ballots may be obtained from the Livingston County website at: www.livingstoncountyil.gov (Click on "County Services", "County Clerk", and "Elections").

If you have any questions regarding voter registration, or the above information, contact
County Clerk Kristy Masching (815-842-9313)
or Election Deputy Gail Smythe (815-842-9318)



AG FOCUS



A Different Kind of Crop

A Look Inside Dwight's PharmaCann Facility

(Continued from Page 1)

The eight greenhouses, of course, are where it all begins. Each greenhouse is dedicated to the different growth stages of the plant, and are climate controlled based on age. For instance, when the plants are in vegetation state, they need 18 hours of sunlight. When they start to flower, they need 12 hours of sunlight.

The plants are grown in coco coir medium, a natural fibre extracted from the husk of coconut. Manietta said marijuana is a very sensitive plant, which is why they are careful to create the perfect growing environment for each stage. Overall, they need good humidity, steady temperatures of about 78 degrees, and plenty of water. The center uses about 3,000 gallons of water each day.

One greenhouse alone held 432 plants at the end of their life cycle, approximately 16 weeks. Strong, tall and trellised in large-holed mesh, the plants bore thick, furry flowers nestled among those thin, spiky, green leaves. Row after row

after row. It was surreal. And that was just one greenhouse. The Dwight facility has as many as 5,300 plants growing at any given time.

From there, the plants are taken into a drying room, after which the process of extraction, sorting, trimming, weighing and packaging starts all over. The next generation of plants are started by cloning a mother plant.

A mostly young (21-and-over) crowd works there, and they seem to really enjoy their work.

Zach Toschak is the cultivation supervisor. He commutes from Yorkville every day -- about an hour each way -- and wouldn't trade it for anything. He worked at greenhouses overseeing ornamental plants before being hired two years ago at PharmaCann's other cultivation facility in Hillcrest. He has been at the Dwight facility for six months, where he oversees six other cultivators. Three have horticulture degrees and another is going back to school to earn a degree.

"It is a great job. I love growing plants," Toschak said.

But at PharmaCann, medical patients have always been their number one priority. When recreational use became legal on January 1, there were reports about a lack of supply for medical patients. But Manietta said the state regulates that cultivation centers set aside a certain percentage of product for medical patients.

"At PharmaCann we haven't had that issue. Our medical supply is there," Manietta said.

And that's the greater calling for many workers at PharmaCann.

"I wanted to make a career in horticulture, and this is lucrative and you get to help people and grow their medicine," Toschak said.

He's not just growing pot. He's growing relief, comfort and hope for medical patients.

"That's why the passion is here," Manietta said. "It's a new wave in the medical market and that's why they come here."

"I wanted to make a career in horticulture, and this is lucrative and you get to help people and grow their medicine."
-- Cultivation Supervisor Zach Toschak



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PNB Farm Manager Attends Livingston County SWCD Annual Meeting

Peoples National Bank of Kewanee Farm Manager, Randal S. Fransen, AFM, attended the Livingston County Soil & Water Conservation Service District's 75th Annual Meeting January 23 at the Pontiac Elks Club.

PNB has served as one of the sponsoring organizations for this Annual Meeting for the past several years. Conservation of Livingston County farmland, and farmland in all counties, is something that PNB Farm Management Services regards as a high priority for their Professional Farm Management clients.

During the SWCD Annual Meeting, there was discussion concerning a review of 2019 efforts and highlights of successes during activities and educational field days organized by the District.

Additionally, the membership was addressed by Mr. Steve Ruestman, of the Livingston County Farm Service Agency (FSA). Mr Ruestman took forth a nomination for reinstating directors Gary Bressner, Tom Yoder, and Lee Bunting. Upon voice vote, all three of these veteran Directors were voted into office, once again.

"Partners In Conservation"

awards were presented to Stinnett Gettinger, Illinois American Water representatives, Jay Whalen, and Dee Woodburn. The "Conservation Farm Family Award" was presented to the Jim Ifft Family.

The speaker for the 75th Annual Livingston County SWCD Meeting was Dr. Trent Ford, Illinois State Climatologist. His presentation was entitled, "What's Up With This Illinois Weather?" Among many other facts, Dr. Ford highlighted the weather of 2019 and his thoughts for a 2020 weather picture. Some of his comments (paraphrased) included the following:

- The temperature on Halloween (2019) was 30-degrees cooler than the temperature on Christmas Day (2019).
- February 2019 had record cold temperatures.
- January through May of 2019 was the wettest on record since 1895.
- Not only was 2019 wet, but the period of time between significant rain events was much shorter than what has occurred historically.
- There is a low chance of repetition of the odd 2019 weather scenario, since 2019 had record swings of large magnitude in rainfall and temperatures.

• One weather "gift" was that November and December 2019 were drier than normal and there was not an early frost.

• The 4' soil temperature just recently (mid/late January) dropped below freezing. This more typically occurs around Christmas time.

• Early February 2020 is anticipated to be colder than normal.

• March through May of 2020 is predicted to be wetter than normal. This is a trend that has been observed for the past many spring seasons. Nine out of the past ten springs have been wetter than prior years.

• Long-term weather trends were pointed out to be:

- Warmer and wetter winter and spring seasons
- Higher precipitation intensity (more precipitation in shorter periods of time)
- More precipitation/water management issues are anticipated, as opposed to drought concerns

• The last 30-year period of recorded weather was wetter than any other 30-year period recorded, back to the 1800s

• Dr. Ford further noted that weather forecasts looking one week into the future can be fairly accurate. However, long-range weather forecasting is still basically a mystery.

The Annual Meeting of the Livingston County SWCD was adjourned by Chairman Lee Bunting.

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AG FOCUS

Another Wetter-Than-Normal Spring Predicted for Illinois Farmers

By BEN ORNER
Capitol News Illinois

The state's climatologist is predicting Illinois farmers are likely to endure more burdensome wet weather while they try to plant cash crops this spring after suffering major losses as a result of a record-wet planting season last year.

April through June is likely to be wetter than normal in Illinois, according to rainfall projections from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, posing a challenge to corn and soybean farmers in the heart of planting season.

Right now those farmers are calculating their losses after suffering through the wettest January to June in state history last year.

Wettest of those months was May, which pushed planting of Illinois' top two crops into June and July, when in an ideal year they can be in the ground in April.

The result: Corn and soybean production dropped 18 percent and 20 percent, respectively, according to final yield numbers from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Farmers should expect to deal with an increased frequency of wet winters and springs," said Illinois' State Climatologist Dr. Trent Ford, who expects wetter-than-normal conditions to become routine.

After last month's rainstorms, Ford said all but far northwest Illinois had above-average January precipitation. NOAA also projects a wetter-than-average February and March.

"The last couple of decades especially we've seen our winters be wetter than previous decades," Ford said. "That doesn't mean more snow necessarily, it just means overall more precipitation."

For example, he says 20 of the past 25 winters in Peoria have been wetter than the city's 120-plus-year average.

"Preparing for wetter-than-normal conditions to be more common or happen more frequently is something that farmers should be doing in Illinois," Ford said.

Harm to farmers and crops

Continuous wet planting seasons present a challenge to farmers, as late planting pushes back their entire farm timeline.

Rep. Charlie Meier, R-Okawville, grows 1,600 acres of corn and soybeans on his farm east of St. Louis.

"Our planters started rolling on June 8, and it was not pretty," he said.

Delayed planting causes delayed harvest, which can lower end-of-year yields like farmers saw in 2019. Late harvests also leave farmers less time for tilling fields before it gets too cold, which breaks up compacted soil and deep field ruts that can hold too much water.

Unfortunately for Meier, a lot of his tillage this fall "just did not happen."

"Those factors will all go into next year's crop," he said. Now in winter, Meier and other Illinois farmers are focused on getting tractors and equipment ready for planting season and hope they can better prepare their fields in the spring.

"Any sort of pre-planting or field preparation," Ford said, however, "that gets delayed if we have a wetter-than-normal March or early April."

Climate connection

Scientists point to climate change, also referred to as global warming, as a main contributor to increased rainfall.

As humans emit greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide, it becomes trapped in the atmosphere. The more carbon in the atmosphere, the more moisture it can hold, increasing precipitation.

"The connections there are pretty strong," Ford said of wetter planting seasons and climate change.

"In wet regions such as this, there's abundant water supply at the surface," he explained. "So as the atmosphere can take in more water, it does."

Scientists also expect heavy downpours to increase.

"If we get a large amount of precipitation in one single event, what that can do is inundate the soil very quickly and then cause a lot of runoff and flooding," Ford said.

Impact on the bottom line

Decreases in crop production not only hurt farmers, but trickle down into other industries like corn elevators and trucking companies, says Mike Doherty, a senior economist at the Illinois Farm Bureau.

"Most of our ag businesses

off the farm, which are a big part of the downstate ag economy, they all have lower revenues as well," Doherty said.

A soggy spring could also spell danger for Illinois farmers vulnerable to further crop losses, he said.

"You have costs no matter how much of a crop you raise," Meier said, including rent, equipment and supplies.

Government aid and insurance payments helped lessen the impact of low crop production last year, but they do not fix the problem.

"There is a legitimate concern here," Doherty said, as to the ability of some farmers to make debt payments on capital investments like machinery and land improvements.

"That percentage of farmers is going to be a higher percentage than it was last year at this time," he said. "We are poorly poised to deal with that."

Adapting to a wetter future

"There are strategies that can be taken to adapt to a wetter spring," Ford said, including soil conservation, field treatments and improving drainage.

Meier said farmers may adapt by planting earlier, managing fields differently or using strains of crops that respond better to wet fields.

"You learn to start planning," he said, adding that proactiveness helped him through periods of drought in the 1980s.

Constantly adapting to worsening weather conditions, though, might not work in the long term, especially since crop production is what brings in a farm's income.

"Agriculture, especially here in the middle of the Grain Belt, is a volume business," Doherty said. "You cannot make money off bushels you don't grow or that you don't have."

Being at the mercy of Mother Nature, he said, will always be part of the job.

Agribusiness Seminar in Gilman February 26

With 2020 here, the Illinois crop planting season won't be far behind, and there are plenty of tools and updates to help farmers plan and prepare for a successful season. Upcoming Agribusiness Seminars are scheduled across the state to assist farmers on a variety of topics, including Federal Crop Insurance offerings, navigating the crop insurance claims process should devastation hit your farm, and a market outlook on grain prices for 2020.

COUNTRY Financial, Illinois Farm Bureau, and other

organizations have teamed up for an Agribusiness Seminar Wednesday, February 26, at 9:00 a.m. at the Ford-Iroquois County Farm Bureau, 1380 S. Crescent St. in Gilman, with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m.

The seminar will offer talks to better equip farmers and growers with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions for their operations.

Doug Yoder, Crop Agency Manager, COUNTRY Financial, will give a crop insurance update, with Brenna Hilden-

brand, Bob Burd, and Pete Hornstein hosting the event.

For additional scheduled seminars, visit COUNTRY Crop.com. As new meetings are scheduled, the online calendar will be updated each Friday.

Events began in mid-December and continue through February, and possibly early March.

If concerns about weather or other events needs arise, attendees may contact the meeting hosts at 815-265-4712 or 815-265-4718.

Agriculture and the Economy

The agricultural sector plays a strategic role in a nation's economic development and prosperity.

The symbiotic nature of agriculture and the economy is noticeable when examining the ups and downs of each. This is because food production and the potential of agriculture extends beyond the fields and local food stands. These resources impact supply chains and other markets. A strong agriculture base influences other employment sectors like food manufacturing, biotechnology, hospitality, machinery building, and much more.

Eventually, farming can pave the way for development, including roads, markets, shipping services, exporting, and many other sectors.



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Illinois Farm Bureau's Top 2020 Initiatives

Illinois Farm Bureau President Rich Guebert outlined his three major initiatives for 2020. It will help you be part of the discussion on trade, climate change and growing ag in Illinois.

TRADE

It's time to pass the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement:

- Illinois farmers are fatigued by the 2019 crop year and need a win to provide hope for 2020; they need timely action on the USMCA.
- Trade is critically important to American agriculture and we need to show other countries we can do business with them.
- Agricultural trade is successful because trade agreements reduce barriers to U.S. exports.
- Illinois shipped \$485.4 million in corn to Mexico last year, representing 45% of all U.S. corn exports to Mexico.
- Mexico purchases 20% of all U.S. pork exports. Illinois' share of U.S. pork exports is roughly 8.4% or about \$110 million last year.
- Illinois exports of DDGs

(Distillers' Dried Grains with Solubles) to Mexico last year totaled \$21.1 million.

- Illinois sold \$32.4 million worth of soybean meal to Mexico last year.
- Illinois' share of U.S. beef and beef products exports to Mexico – roughly 3.6% -- last year was \$38 million

China Trade Outlook:

- Farmers understand it may take time to work through the trade concerns with China. The U.S. needs to continue to negotiate and ultimately reach an agreement.
- The farm economy was already entering its 5th straight year of decline when the Chinese tariffs were initiated in 2018.
- The U.S. exported \$19.5 billion of agricultural products to China in 2017. As a result of retaliatory tariffs, agricultural exports were reduced to \$9.1 billion in 2018 and had continued to decline, with a \$1.3 billion drop - net 7.8 billion in the first half of 2019.
- We have a long way to go in recovering our Chinese market.



BOUCHER FARMS WEST OF DWIGHT.

Additional trade agreements:

- The U.S. Ag export market has fundamentally changed in the last 18 months. It will take many years to regain some export markets.
- The U.S. needs to aggressively pursue trade agreements with countries representing new markets for U.S. agricultural products.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Farmers deal continuously with weather variability, and we acknowledge there is climatic variability.

Farmers work tirelessly to improve their resiliency to weather and climatic events, through improving soil health, and their management of water and other precious resources.

Farmers rely on healthy natural resources, and must be both profitable and environmentally responsible to make a living.

Solutions put forth to address climate change must be crafted using sound, peer-reviewed science, and we believe that voluntary, market based approaches will provide the best way forward for agriculture. In the last climate change policy debate – about 10 years ago – nearly every proposed legislative solution was designed to increase energy costs, which would have substantially increased a farmer's cost of production, with no guarantee of a return.

Data from the Environmental Protection Agency reveals that in 2017, agriculture represented only 9% of all U.S. greenhouse gas emissions – far less than the 57% of emissions generated by motor vehicles and electric power generation.

In 2017, no-till conservation was the most common soil practice. This is a method of growing crops or pasture without disrupting the soil, thereby reducing soil erosion and increasing organic matter in the soil.

Farmers also planted 50% more cover crops in 2017 than they did five years earlier. Cover crops help to conserve soil, nutrients and water in the ground.

More than 15% of all farmland in the U.S. receives federal support to implement conservation or wildlife preservation practices – that's more than the land area of California and New York combined.

Agriculture will continue to play an important role in helping the world adapt to and mitigate climate change, but U.S. farmers and ranchers can't do it alone: partners are needed to help balance economic sustainability with environmental sustainability.

Currently, much of the cost of sustainability related efforts falls on farmers; the rest of the supply chain bears little of the financial load. With commodity prices at multi-year lows,

farmers cannot afford to adopt many new climate-adaptive technologies without consumers and food companies stepping up to the plate as partners and problem-solvers.

AGENDA TO GROW ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

- Lead the nation in the move for year-round E15 and develop new strategies to grow biofuel usage.
- Be proactive in promoting the growth of the livestock industry in Illinois. Maintaining the Livestock Management Facilities Act is vital. The LMFA provides Illinois with a regulatory framework that protects citizens and livestock farmers.
- We need to balance the need for greater broadband access in rural areas with protecting private property rights, a fundamental Farm Bureau principle.
- Illinois must have a strong business climate. If we want businesses to invest in Illinois, we must get our fiscal house in order, pay our bills on time and reduce our debt.
- It is time for our state to live within our means and meaningfully address major expenses such as pension reform.
- The progressive income tax ballot initiative in November 2020 must be defeated.
- Two years ago, the General Assembly increased personal income and corporate income taxes by 32% and 33% respectively. Increasing taxes again...by passing the progressive income tax ballot initiative next November is not the answer.
- The tax levels in the proposed ballot initiative do not generate the revenue needed to address our debt. But it does open the door for adjusting graduated tax levels to pull in more taxpayers.
- If the progressive tax ballot initiative passes...you can anticipate it is only a matter of time before the General Assembly will raise rates on more taxpayers.

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OBITUARIES

Christine Hansen



DWIGHT – Christine Hansen, 58, of Dwight and formerly of Bridgeport, Chicago passed away Friday, January 31, 2020 at Parker Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Streator, IL.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, February 6, 2020 at Hager Memorial Home in Dwight.

Burial will be in St. Mary's Cemetery in Chicago at a later date.

A visitation will be held two hours prior to the services, also at the funeral home.

Christine was born February 12, 1961 at Mercy Hospital in Chicago, IL to Frank "Bro" and Angelina (Morano) Worth. She married Steven William Hansen in 1979. Sadly, he passed away in 2019. Angelina survives in Wilmington, IL.

Also surviving are daugh-

ters: Erica (Justin) Leasure of AZ; Katie (Donald) Petrik of Dwight; Sarah Hansen of Aurora, IL; son, Steven Jr. Hansen of Dwight; sisters: Michele (Greg) Prucha of Wilmington; and Mary Ann (Dan) Lopez of Channahon; one brother, Frank (Carrie) Worth of Chicago; grandchildren: Emily, Amy, Annie, Nathan, Bethany, Nicholas Leasure, Vincent, Christian Petrik, Kelsey Hansen and soon to arrive a baby Leasure.

She was preceded in death by her husband and father. Over the years, Christine worked at Cub Foods as a cake decorator and worked in the Wrigley gum factory.

Memorials in honor of Christine may be made to the American Cancer Society and online condolences may be made at www.hagermemorial.com

Denice M. Muzzarelli



SOUTH WILMINGTON – Denice M. Muzzarelli, age 62, of South Wilmington passed away peacefully with her family by her side, Friday, January 31, 2020 at the Joliet Area Community Hospice Home, after battling cancer for over four years.

She was born November 19, 1957 in Joliet, IL to the late John and Loretta (nee Togliatto) Alderson.

Denice most recently was employed by the Village of Gardner as a deputy clerk. She also worked for MKM Oil and the South Wilmington grade school. She was an avid Chicago White Sox and Chicago Blackhawks fan.

Above all else, she was an exceptional wife and mother. She cared deeply not only for her boys, but for her treasured nieces, nephews, and their families.

Surviving are her husband of 38 years, Jon E. Muzzarelli of South Wilmington, whom she married February 7, 1981 in South Wilmington; two sons, Brandon Jon (Heather) Muzzarelli of Gardner, IL and Roth Alan (Lindsey) Muzzarelli of South Wilmington; three grandchildren, her precious angels, James, Charlie and Connor; and one grandson due to arrive in May; two brothers: Rick (Cindy) Alderson of South Wilmington and Randy (Diane) Alderson of Coal City; two sisters: Diane (the late Anthony "Slabs") Serena of South Wilmington and Debbie (Brian) Christensen of

Gardner; step-sister, Connie (Gene) Williams of Mendota, IL; step-sister-in-law, Phyllis Yenerich of AR; numerous nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Mike (Ann) Muzzarelli of Braidwood; and special friend, Tammy Lenzie of Gardner.

Preceding her in death were her parents, John and Loretta Alderson; step-father, Philip Yenerich; father-in-law and mother-in-law, James and Gretchen Muzzarelli; nephew, A.J. Serena; great nephews, Ty and Ryan Hampson; and step-brother, Ron Yenerich.

Visitation for Denice was at the R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Tuesday, February 4, 2020 from 4 until 8 p.m.

Family and friends will meet at St. Lawrence Catholic Church in South Wilmington, Wednesday, February 5, 2020 for a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:00 a.m.

Interment will follow in Braceville-Gardner Cemetery, Braceville.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in her name may be directed to St. Lawrence Catholic Church or to the Northwestern Memorial Research Foundation: www.foundation.nm.org

For more information and to sign her online guestbook, please log on to www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook at R.W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory.

Barbara A. Dryer-German



JOLIET – Barbara A. Dryer-German, 63, of Joliet, IL, formerly of Pasco County, Florida, passed away Thursday, January 23, 2020 at Presence St. Joseph Medical Center in Joliet, IL.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

A visitation will be held from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2020 at Hager Memorial Home in Dwight.

Barbara was born June 23, 1956 in Joliet, IL to Virgil and Martha (Boese) Van Meter Sr. She married Raymond German in 1997 in Morris, IL. He survives in Dwight.

Also surviving are a daughter, Roxanne (Jeff) Hebenstreit of Plainfield, IL; brothers, Kurt van Meter of FL and Virgil Jr.

(Sue) Van Meter of WI; various aunts and uncles; and grandchildren: Kaleigh and Carter Hebenstreit.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, James Van Meter; and niece, Alyssa Van Meter.

She worked in Berkot's Deli in Dwight, IL until her retirement. She loved her animals including Jake, Sara and Bandit. She enjoyed nature, gardening, and the changes of season.

Barbara will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

Memorials in honor of Barbara may be made to your local ASPCA or dog rescue. Online condolences may be made at www.hagermemorial.com

Prairie Creek Library Receives Memorial Donations

Prairie Creek Library, Dwight, was the recipient of several memorial donations in recent months. These include memorials for:

Past deceased members of Dwight Senior Citizens – Killers of the Flower Moon (audiobook) by David Grann; The Oysterville Sewing Circle by Susan Wiggs; The I-5 Killer (audiobook) by Ann Rule; and Kiss the Girls and Make Them Cry by Mary Higgins Clark.

Jim Enger – The Real Story of the Catholic Church by Steve Weidenkopf; Teaching the Game DVD set; Baseball (DK Eyewitness) by James Buckley, Jr.; National Pastime – U.S. History through Baseball by Martin Babicz; Celebrating a Merry Catholic Christmas – A guide to the customs and feast days of Advent and Christmas by Fr. William Saunders; and The Legendary Harry Caray – Baseball's Greatest Salesman by Don Zminda.

Kent Hager – Roadster Guide to America's Classic Car Museum and Attractions by Michael Milne.

Shirley Helton – Memoirs

of a Red Cross Doctor: Better to Light a Candle by Frank Ryding.

Ken Jensen – The Value of a Dollar 1860-2019.

Margaret and Earl Kime – The M.I. Hummel Album.

Diane McWilliams – Extraordinary Dogs: Stories from search and rescue dogs, comfort dogs, and other canine heroes by Liz Stavrindes; and The Year of the Dogs by Vincent J. Musi.

Kathryn Middleton – Create a Thriving Family Legacy: How to share your wisdom and wealth with your children and grandchildren by Jeff Rogers.

China Ibsen Oughton – The Travel Book: A journey through every country in the world by Lonely Planet; The Splendor of Birds by Catherine Herbert Howell; and A Portrait in Four Movements by Andrew Patner.

Glennister Weiss – A Way to Garden: A hands-on primer for every season by Margaret Roach; and Pacific Thunder: The U.S. Navy's central Pacific campaign, Aug. 1943-Oct. 1944 by Thomas McKelvey Cleaver.

Family members of the deceased, please instruct the Funeral Home to send information to:

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY, PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

STATE BANK OF GRAYMONT, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

vs.

JACK A. SWICEGOOD III, COLLECTION PROFESSIONALS, INC., an Illinois Corporation, FORREST PLUMBING, HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING, INC., an Illinois Corporation, and unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants.

No. 20-CH-3

NOTICE

Notice is given you Defendants, unknown owners and non record claimants, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, praying that a Judgment of Foreclosure be entered against real estate legally described as follows:

The North Half of Lot 3 and the South Half of Lot 4 in Block 3 in the Original Town of Wing, Livingston County, Illinois.

PIN: 23-10-454-010

Commonly known as: 13135 N. 2760 E. Rd., Forrest, IL 61741

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is JACK A. SWICEGOOD III. The mortgage sought to be foreclosed is a mortgage executed on March 13, 2012 and recorded on March 27, 2012 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 615242. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, STATE BANK OF GRAYMONT, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 20-CH-3 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before February 28, 2020, a default may be entered against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint.

LeAnn Dixon, Circuit Clerk
Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois

Minutes with Andy Boma



The Kansas City Chiefs won the Super Bowl. I'm not sure if I predicted this at some point in a previous column, but I'm just going to say that I did.

They won the game in a real turn of events type of way. They were down 10 staring at a 3rd and 15 that turned into a 40 yard pass which ultimately cut the lead to 3 and turned into them flipping the game on its head and winning it 31-20 after being down 20-10.

While the Chiefs hadn't won a SuperBowl in 50 years, maybe the even bigger story line to come out of the win was Andy Reid finally getting his first Super Bowl victory. Coming into the game Andy Reid had the most wins in the NFL without ever winning a Superbowl, and this is after appearing in a Super Bowl before and countless conference championship games.

Andy up until this point could probably best be described as an "aw shucks" coach. When things didn't go his or his team's way in a game, the camera would go to him just because his appearance kind of looked like he had no clue what was going on. He's also faced a lot of criticism in the past for being bad with managing his timeouts late in games and in halves.

This is unfortunate because he's a very smart and clearly successful coach, given all the regular season wins that he's had.

It's always great to see someone get the proverbial "monkey off their back," especially when the monkey has been there for almost two decades and counting. Sometimes nice guys do finish first and I'm very happy for Andy Reid and his well-deserved Super Bowl victory.

With football coming to an end, and the Bulls being a train wreck....Go Cubs!

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF)
) No. 2019P116
WILMA C. CORRIGAN,)
 Deceased.)

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of WILMA C. CORRIGAN of 208 Scott Drive, Dwight, IL 60420.

Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued to Kevin Corrigan of 206 Julie Drive, Dwight, IL 60420, AND Kipp Corrigan of 1743 Carol Anne Drive, Morris, IL 60450, AND Kim Corrigan Forney of 420 Jackson Street, Yorkville, IL 60560, AND Kirk Corrigan of 24613 S. Edwin Drive, Channahon, IL 60410, whose attorneys are CAUGHEY, LEGNER, FREEHILL, EHRGOTT & MANN LLP, 204 North Main Street, Pontiac, IL 61764.

Claims may be filed on or before the 22nd day of July, 2020. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at Livingston County Law & Justice Center, 110 North Main Street, Pontiac, IL 61764, or claims may be filed with the Personal Representative or both. If filed with the Clerk, the claimant must, within ten (10) days, mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Personal Representative and to his attorney and file with the Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

Dated: January 22, 2020

Kevin Corrigan Independent Co-Executor
206 Julie Drive
Dwight, IL 60420

Kipp Corrigan Independent Co-Executor
1743 Carol Anne Drive
Morris, IL 60450

Kim Corrigan Forney Independent Co-Executor
420 Jackson Street
Yorkville, IL 60560

Kirk Corrigan Independent Co-Executor
24613 S. Edwin Drive
Channahon, IL 60410

Nicholas M. Ehr Gott
CAUGHEY, LEGNER, FREEHILL
EHRGOTT & MANN, LLP
204 North Main Street
Pontiac, IL 61764
(815) 842-1112 Phone
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Railway Express Cart Rolls Again

Next to Dwight's Historic Depot on West Main Street is a small building. It is referred to as Santa's House during the Christmas season, but it once was an important part of the railroad and depot service. It was the freight building.

For many years, on the west side of the building was a cart, now owned by Dwight Economic Alliance. The cart recently underwent a complete restoration, being an important part of Dwight history.

It was primarily a baggage cart. Before backpacks, duffle bags, and suit cases, people traveled with wooden trunks. In addition to trunks, many items

that are delivered now by semi trucks would come by train -- lumber, milk, flour, even mail.

When trains pulled up to the station, the cart would be manually pulled to the freight car to unload items for local delivery. The loaded cart would be pulled into the freight building through wooden sliding doors, to insure that valuables were kept safe. The doors can still be seen on the west side of the freight building.

Some of the delivered items were picked up by box trucks to deliver to businesses, some were picked up directly by individuals.

The baggage carts were used

as late as the 1970s when Amtrak started using automated carts that could haul people and luggage.

Gibs Nielsen, a board member for Dwight Economic Alliance, volunteered to coordinate the rehabilitation of the baggage cart and its return to public display.

Thanks go to Nielsen, Coleman & Sons Garage, and Todd Hurt for restoration of this piece of history.

Historical information was furnished by Bob Ohlendorf and Jane Anderson of DEA.

Kade and Avery Ohlendorf Compete in Tactical Competitions

(Continued from Page 1)

Brent Ohlendorf said ICETT trains for six hours every other Sunday from February through September, then every Sunday for six hours from October up until competition.

"They literally put in hundreds of hours to go to this competition," he said. It was the second year Avery and Kade participated in Chandler with ICETT.

Grundy County Explorers is also a time commitment: several hours every other week. But it all counts as community service, something needed for college applications. Explorers and ICETT have helped Avery and Kade ramp up their community service hours, Brent said. Avery has over 700 hours; Kade more than 600.

Putrich can't say enough about the Ohlendorf twins. This week, Avery was promoted to team

leader for the upcoming year, and Kade will be an assistant team leader.

"If they were 21 and testing today, I'd hire them tomorrow," he said.

ICETT and Explorers helps young adults as they transition into secondary education. Putrich said those who are involved in the program find police academy easier, excel through their field training and often graduate at the top of their class.

Both Avery and Kade want to go into law enforcement. Avery is leaning toward conservation police, and Kade would like to focus on engineering, probably civil engineering, Jill said. They graduate from Dwight Township High School in May. Avery will start her studies at Joliet Junior College studying agricultural business. Kade is still applying to colleges.



photo by Marilyn Kolthoff

Dwight FPD Quickly Extinguishes Truck Fire at Circle K

Dwight Fire Protection District and Dwight EMS were dispatched to a vehicle fire at 4:44 p.m. Tuesday, January 28, located at the Circle K just north of Dwight.

Fire crews arrived at the

scene, a vacant lot adjacent to the Circle K, to a vehicle with heavy fire coming from the engine compartment.

DFPD Deputy Chief Justin Dyer reported that the fire was quickly contained and extin-

guished.

Dwight Police Department was on scene to lead the investigation on the cause of the fire. No injuries were reported at the time of the fire, however the vehicle was a total loss.

4th of July Celebration in Streator July 3-12

Streator's 4th of July Celebration Committee has announced the schedule of events for the 34th Annual 4th of July Celebration, including the mainstage entertainment headlines.

The Celebration will kick off with one of the largest fireworks displays on July 3.

Mainstage concerts will start Thursday, July 9, with rock legends L.A. Guns (legends of the Sunset Strip in Hollywood) headlining. On Friday, July 10, the committee presents country music artist Joe Nichols (multi-platinum Red Bow recording artist). Satur-

day, July 11, the mainstage will be headlined by rock icons, Buckcherry (American rock band from Los Angeles, CA).

There are more acts and events planned for the celebration also, with the complete list of events and artists as follows:

- **Friday, July 3** – Opening Ceremonies | Crowning of Miss Sparkler and Mr. Firecracker | Red, White, Blue and You Talent Competition | Fireworks
- **Saturday, July 4** – Run for Glory 5K | Kids Parade
- **Sunday, July 5** – Parade | Ice Cream Social
- **Thursday, July 9** – Carnival

| Food and Beverage Vendors | Mainstage: L.A. Guns with Enuff Z'Nuff and 80's Bush

- **Friday, July 10** – Kids Corner | Cruise In | Carnival | Food and Beverage Vendors | Mainstage: Joe Nichols with TBA Support and Breaking Storm
- **Saturday, July 11** – Carnival | Food and Beverage Vendors | Mainstage: Buckcherry with Adelitas Way, Burden of the Sky, and Paralandra
- **Sunday, July 12** – Bags Tournament | Auto Lotto Drawing | Carnival | Food and Beverage Vendors | Mainstage: TBA.

Streator's 4th of July Celebration will be held at Northpoint Plaza and downtown Streator. The series will span eight days and feature fireworks, a parade, carnival, national music acts, food and beer garden, Run for Glory 5K, Emergency Vehicle Show, and more.

Find out more about the Celebration and the concerts by visiting www.streators4th.org or by following them on Facebook @streator4thofjuly.

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Totals will not exceed listed amounts. Gift baskets can include but are not limited to: Amazon, Walmart, and Casey's Marketing gift cards, TV valued up to \$300, bedding sets, towels, and apartment essentials.

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SPORTS

Athletic Hall of Fame



ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1ST, DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL held an induction ceremony for the Athletic Hall of Fame. Among those inducted was the 2005-2006 Girls Basketball Team coached by Jeff Froelich and Chuck Butterbrodt.



THE 1983 DTHS FOOTBALL TEAM WAS INDUCTED INTO THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME with a 9-2 record that year. They were the first team in school history to make the playoffs and the first team in school history to win a playoff game. Below, Jo Lynn Kramer accepts a plaque on behalf of Cory Harbor, a three-sport athlete, who received All-Conference honors in each sport of his junior and senior years for the Trojans.

Area Rivalry Game Goes Trojans' Way *Dwight - 56 | GSW - 51*

Saturday, February 1
Dwight vs. GSW
Varsity -

The depth of Dwight's bench proved to be the difference-maker in a 56-51 win at home over their foes from Gardner-South Wilmington February 1.

The Trojans took an early 18-10 lead after one quarter, then battled to extend that lead to 27-16 at halftime.

To begin the second half, the Panthers applied the pressure and were able to cut their deficit to just seven points at the end of three frames.

However, despite the back-

and-forth fourth quarter shootout that ensued - Dwight would wind up victorious in the end.

"We made a decent comeback in the second half," said GSW's head coach Allan Wills, "but we just put ourselves in too big of a hole early on."

The Trojans' Tyler Masching had a team-high 19 points, connecting on five three-pointers in the contest. Brandon Ceylor followed with 13 points, hitting a three and going 6-7 from the line. Isaac Telford (3-4 FT) and Trent Tilley (2 3-pointers) each had six points, with Wyatt Thomp-

son hitting five free throws. Bryson Connor added four points, with Lane Thompson scoring three points.

Nate Wise led the Panthers with a game-high 24 points (3 3-pointers, 5-7 FT) and six rebounds, while Connor Steichen put up 13 points (1 3-pointer, 6-10 FT) and five rebounds. Brandon States was good for eight points and four boards, shooting a perfect 4-4 from the charity stripe. Chris Bexson contributed six points and three rebounds.

GSW, now 13-11 overall and 5-3 in the conference, shot 15-21 from the line.



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DCS REDBIRDS BASKETBALL

**Monday, January 27
Dwight vs. GSWB
7th Grade -
Regionals**

In regional semi-final action against area rivals, GSWB, Dwight was victorious, 40-27 – advancing to the regional championship against Joliet Laraway.

“We started out well, with a 15-point first quarter,” stated Coach Conroy, “and kept the lead all game.”

Luke Gallet led the now 13-8 Redbirds with 14 points, 13 boards, and two steals. Tristen Larkin added ten points, nine rebounds, while Tracer Brown (1 rebound, 1 steal), Owen Dunlap (2 steals), and Owen Woods (2 rebounds) each scored six points. Drew Anderson contributed two points, two rebounds, and a steal, with Wyatt Statler providing three swipes and a rebound.

**Thursday, January 30
Dwight vs. Joliet Laraway
7th Grade -
Regionals**

The seventh grade Redbirds had their season come to a close January 30, as they fell to Joliet Laraway 40-22 in the regional championship game in Gardner.

“We were only down six at half,” commented Coach Conroy, “but their quickness wore us down in the second half.”

Tristan Larkin led Dwight

with 11 points, 13 boards, and three steals. Luke Gallet added six points, 13 rebounds, and three steals, with Owen Dunlap (3 rebounds, 3 steals) and Owen Woods (2 rebounds) scoring two points each. Cole Boucher hit a free throw and added a steal, with Drew Anderson snagging four rebounds to go with two steals. Tracer Brown had two steals and a rebound, while Brayden Jensen secured two boards.

The Redbirds end the year with a record of 13-9 overall.

**Saturday, February 1
Dwight vs. Ottawa Wallace
8th Grade -
Regionals**

In regional play on Saturday, the Dwight Redbirds earned a win over Ottawa Wallace, 37-21 – commanding the contest early and never looking back.

Connor Telford scored a game-high 26 points – adding that to seven steals and four rebounds. Tristen Chambers chipped in with six points, five boards, and two steals, with Noah Kelleher (1 rebound) and Jacob Weissmann (3 rebounds, 1 steal) each scored two points. Jack Groves grabbed four boards and hit a free throw.

The Redbirds squared off against #1-seeded Joliet Laraway February 4 in Seneca. Results in next week's edition of *The Paper*.



FRESHMAN KIRA BEAN LAUNCHES A PASS upcourt to an open teammate in Girls Varsity action last week.

Photo by *J7images*



GSW PANTHERS BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, January 28
GSW vs. Illinois Lutheran
Varsity -**

The Panthers put a hurt on Illinois Lutheran January 28, earning a 57-24 “W.”

“After a little slow start, we were able to take control of the game,” commented Coach Wills. “This was a nice game for everyone to get a few minutes.”

Nate Wise led the way for GSW with 11 points, eight boards, while Chris Bexson (5 steals, 2 rebounds) and Chris Ruiz (2 assists) each added ten points.

**Friday, January 31
GSW vs. Donovan
Varsity -**

GSW's varsity Panthers moved to 13-10 on the season following a 37-23 win over Donovan January 31.

“Not a great game, especially on offense,” Coach Wills stated afterwards, “but we got a win.”

Brandon States was high scorer for GSW with ten points – adding that to two rebounds. Connor Steichen came up with eight points and three boards.



DTHS LADY TROJANS BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, January 29
Dwight vs. Reed-Custer
JV -**

The JV Lady Trojans were defeated by Reed-Custer, 26-12, when they squared off January 29.

Skylar Horrie led with six points, followed by four from Mikalah Bregin. Iris Beier added two points.

Varsity -
In the varsity match-up, Dwight was beaten by non-conference foe, Reed-Custer, 74-26.

Kayla Kodat's 11 points (2 3-pointers, 3-5 FT) and five points led the Lady Trojans. Rylee Farris put up five points, while Destinie Drapeau scored four. Nora Anderson and Nellie Rieke had three and two points, respectively. Emily Weissmann made a free throw.

Thursday, January 30

**Dwight vs. Iroquois West
JV -**

Dwight's JV girls were defeated by Iroquois West 25-14 on January 30.

Scoring for the Lady Trojans were Eden Beier with six points, followed by four each from Kira Bean and Mikalah Bregin.

Varsity -
The varsity Lady Trojans took on Iroquois West for the third time this season, coming away with a 35-24 victory.

Dwight was led in scoring by Kayla Kodat with 20 points, including four three-pointers and 11 rebounds. Nora Anderson provided eight points (1 3-pointer), eight boards, with Jordan Schultz adding three free throws. Mikalah Bregin and Eden Beier each scored two points.

The Lady Trojans are now 10-11 on the season.



JACK DENKER LOOKS FOR AN OPEN TEAMMATE while heavily guarded by a Gardner defender.

Photo by *J7images*



BRYSON CONNOR DEFENDS AN INBOUND PASS in a contest against Gardner where the boys acquired a win.

Photo by *J7images*



DWIGHT'S VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM displayed great enthusiasm on the bench for Hall of Fame induction night against Gardner.

Photo by *J7images*

Church Dartball League

The Church Dartball League results from the January 20 match-ups are as follows:

St. Peter's Luth.	3	0
Trinity Lutheran	0	3

		Current League Standings	
	W	L	
Church of Hope	1	2	Emmanuel Luth.
Dwight Cong.	2	1	New Life
			Assembly/God
Essex	1	2	St. Peter's Luth.
New Life			Essex
Assembly/God	2	1	Dwight Meth.
			Herscher Luth.
Dwight Meth.	1	2	Mazon Cong.
Emmanuel Luth.	2	1	Dwight Cong.
			Trinity Luth.
Mazon Cong.	2	1	Church of Hope
Herscher Luth.	1	2	

Gas Prices For This Week

Gas Prices continue to decline. The national average is three cents cheaper than last year and four cents lower than last month. Gasoline stocks continue to grow to the highest level recorded by the energy information administration. Safe Travels.

City/Village	Jan.29	Feb.5
Dwight	\$2.40	\$2.40
Kankakee	\$2.62	\$2.37
S. Wilmington	\$2.53	\$2.49
Streator	\$2.29	\$2.41
Odell	\$2.54	\$2.49
Pontiac	\$2.45	\$2.45
Gardner	\$2.46	\$2.42
Braceville	\$2.46	\$2.34
Morris	\$2.41	\$2.39
Herscher	\$2.55	\$2.39
Chicago	\$3.09	\$3.06
Illinois	\$2.62	\$2.56
U.S.	\$2.51	\$2.48

Sources: GasBuddy.com and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Gasoline price data collected by *The Paper* and brought to you by Steve's Tire.

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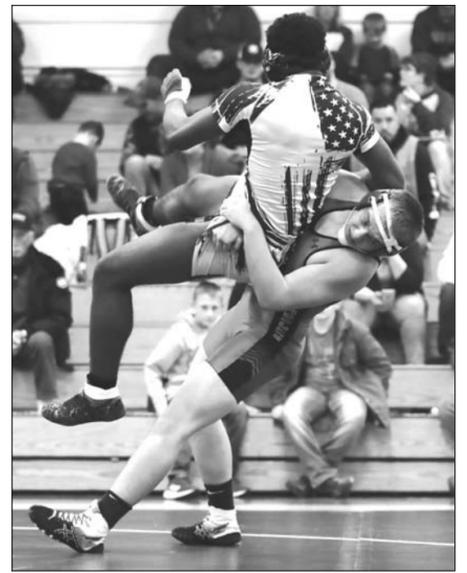
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DANIEL GUTIERREZ LOCKS UP HIS OPPONENT in a recent match in Kresl Gymnasium. Photo by J7images



BRADY KELLEHER, LEFT, SHOWS TRUE SPORTSMANSHIP as he helps his opponent off the mat after a match. On right, Hudson Beier does the opposite as he tosses his opponent to the floor. Photo by J7images



DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, January 28
Dwight vs. Elwood
5th Grade -

In "B" game play against Elwood January 28, Dwight won 25-21, 25-7.

Mikayla Chambers led with 20 points, including ten aces. Kit Connor added six points, with three aces, while Avery Connor had four points, including two aces. Madlynn Lucas chipped in with one ace.

6th Grade -

In sixth grade action, Dwight was victorious over Elwood, 25-14, 25-17.

Leading the way was Makayla Wahl with 13 points (7 aces). Taylor Heath (3 aces) and Kamryn Folkers (2 aces) had five and four points, respectively. Sophie Buck and Taylor Frobish both contributed three points, with two aces. Sarah Parker provided one ace.

7th Grade -

Dwight's seventh grade girls lost to Elwood in three sets January 28.

Kiah Handzus had six aces, two digs, and one kill. Leah Larson (4 kills) and Maci Johnson (4 kills, 1 dig) each added three aces, while Sophi Richie contributed two aces, three digs, and two kills. Ella Legner

added three digs, two kills, with Ava Meister putting up three kills.

8th Grade -

In the eighth grade contest, the Lady Redbirds lost to Elwood, 19-25, 29-31.

Claire Robison led with seven aces, a kill, and a dig. Avery Scheuer followed with four aces, three digs, and a kill. Kassy Kodat contributed ten digs, five kills, while Lily McKelvey came up with two digs and a kill. Milana Bradley had two kills.

Thursday, January 30

Dwight vs. Peotone
5th Grade -

Dwight was defeated 20-25, 13-25 when they faced Peotone January 30.

Mikayla Chambers led with five points, including two aces. Avery Connor (2 aces) and Kit Connor (1 ace) each scored two points, with Madlynn Lucas adding an ace.

6th Grade -

The Lady Redbirds moved to 4-2 following a 20-25, 25-15, 18-16 "W" over Peotone.

Makayla Wahl led with 12 points, including six aces, and five kills. Sophie Buck had eight points, with four aces, and one kill. Taylor Heath

added four points, including an ace, and six kills. Taylor Frobish (1 ace, 2 kills) and Maddi Ely scored three points each. Brooke Johnson provided two points, with one ace.

Dwight vs. Pontiac
7th Grade -

In seventh grade volleyball action against Pontiac January 30, Dwight was defeated in two sets.

Leading the Lady Redbirds was Kiah Handzus with three aces, four digs, and two kills. Sophi Richie (3 digs), Leah Larson (3 kills), and Ella Legner (2 digs, 1 kill) each added two aces.

8th Grade -

The Lady Redbirds were taken down by Pontiac in the eighth grade match-up, 24-23, 19-25, 19-25.

Avery Scheuer had nine aces, two digs, and two kills, with Megan Livingston contributing seven aces, 23 digs, and five kills. Kassy Kodat provided three aces, seven assists, five digs, and three kills, while Milana Bradley (5 kills) and Lily McKelvey (1 kill) each put up two aces. Claire Robison had an ace and three digs.



GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

The GSWB eighth grade volleyball team was victorious over MVK - winning in two sets, 25-18, 25-16.

The next two conference match-ups did not go as well.

They suffered two losses, one to Elwood and the other to Saratoga.

They are 2-3 in conference play and 4-6 overall.

"There is a lot of talent on this team," stated Coach Stacy Faletti, "and hopefully they start to work together and fight for wins as we are moving into the last month of regular season play."

The seventh grade Lady Tigers are moving in the right direction, however they continue to battle for a win.

In the last three conference meetings, they fell short on them all - but were able to take two of those teams to three sets.

They lost to MVK and Elwood in three, and to Saratoga in two.

"Their passing and communication has come a long way," said Faletti, "and they continue to work hard to become more consistent servers."

They are 0-5 in the conference.



MVK LADY MAVERICKS VOLLEYBALL

Monday, January 27
MVK vs. Milton Pope
6th Grade -

The sixth grade Lady Mavs won over Milton Pope 15-11, 15-5 on January 27.

Madison DeGrush had ten points to lead her team. Tessa Krull added six points, one block, with Lena Homberg and Hannah Paputsa scoring three points each. Lexi Buis contributed a point and two kills, with Breanne Elias adding a kill.

7th Grade -

MVK's seventh graders lost 19-25, 25-23, 15-25.

Madison DeGrush's ten points led her squad, while Madison Kozbiel and Kiley Francisco had seven points each. Audry McNabb (1 block), Natalie Misener, Brianna Nicholson, and Vicky Naines scored two points each. Mason Yard had one kill.

8th Grade -

The Lady Mavericks were victorious over Milton Pope, 25-17, 25-23, when they met January 27.

Sam VandeVelde had seven points, three blocks to lead MVK. Faith Baker contributed five points and three kills, while Katie Arnold added four points. Gracie Steffes and Skylar Schultz-Conley (2 kills) scored three points each. Audrey McNabb had a kill.

Seneca, 23-25, 25-17, 25-13.

Faith Baker had 12 points, six kills, and a block, with Katie Arnold adding nine points. Sam VandeVelde followed with eight points, six kills, and a block, while Gracie Steffes contributed seven points and a kill. Lauren Cronrite scored six points. Skylar Schultz-Conley had three points and a kill.

Wednesday, January 29

MVK vs. Grand Ridge
7th Grade -

The seventh grade Lady Mavericks lost to Grand Ridge January 29, 16-25, 5-25.

Madison Kozbiel led with seven points, one kill, with Madison Yard following with two points and a kill. Kiley Francisco added one kill.

8th Grade -

In the eighth grade meeting, MVK was defeated 26-24, 15-25, 22-25.

Gracie Steffes put up nine points, three kills, with Sam VandeVelde (2 kills) and Audrey McNabb (1 kill) each scoring seven points. Lauren Cronkrite and Katie Arnold (1 kill) each scored four points.

Tuesday, January 28
MVK vs. Seneca
7th Grade -

In action against Seneca January 28, MVK was beaten 3-25, 16-25.

Hannah Prohaska led with four points. Tessa Krull and Kiley Francisco had two points each. Natalie Misener added one kill.

8th Grade -

In a match-up that took three sets, MVK topped

Odell Grade School 2nd Quarter Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance

Honor Roll

Perfect Honors (Straight A's)

Sixth Grade: Sophie Riley.
Eighth Grade: Hana Bartnik, Brianna Hilleary.

High Honors (3.5-4.0 GPA)

Fifth Grade: Abigail Gall, Ayden Schott, Casey Vejvoda.
Sixth Grade: Kynlee Brandt, Madison Franklin, Addison Hall, Cody Knight, Max Reichardt, Dane Riley, Mariah Wallis.

Seventh Grade: Cooper Lamps, Korbin Lemay, Seth Mund, Claire Tucker.

Eighth Grade: Alexander Bierbaum, Robert Bolen, Zechariah Landstrom, Summer NegRay, Emma Reichardt.

Honors (3.0-3.5 GPA)

Fifth Grade: Kylie Hall, Taylor Henson, Liliana Joyner, Gabriel Reimer.

Sixth Grade: Addison Donnelly, Tyler Drechsel, Ashlyn Hanson, Bryce Wildman.
Seventh Grade: Jack Dalrymple, Avery Johnson, Dale Lantka.

Eighth Grade: Alaina Franklin, Chayse Knobbe, Alexander McMeen, Kelsey Taylor.

Perfect Attendance

Preschool: Harrison Cleary, Remington Paulsen, Cole Slagel, Kiaja Wilhoyt.

Kindergarten: Laila Wilhoyt.
First Grade: Isabella Garza, Ezri Monroe, Lily Muir, Riley Riebel, Sarah Short, Tristan Slagel, Madison Voss.

Second Grade: Cole Bradbury, Leo Cleary, Delaney Combelic, Riley Russell.

Third Grade: Tinley Henson,

Faith Reimer, Aaron Schott, Gavin Vejvoda, Reagan Voss.

Fourth Grade: Noah Likes.

Fifth Grade: Kylie Hall, Gabriel Reimer, Ayden Schott, Sydney Short, Kloe Vaughn.

Sixth Grade: Ashlyn Hanson, Healfdene Riley, Sophie Riley, Mariah Wallis.

Seventh Grade: Nevaeh Cox, Avery Johnson.
Eighth Grade: Emma Reichardt.

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'18 F150 Crew Lariat, 18K, 4WD, NAV, Sunroof...\$42,900	
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 12K, 4WD.....\$30,900	
'18 F150 Crew Lariat, 12K, 4WD, Spec Ed.....\$42,900	
'17 F150 S/C XLT, 43K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....\$28,900	
'17 F150 Crew Lariat, 18K, 4WD, NAV, Sport Pkg...\$39,900	
'17 F150 S/C XLT, 26K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....\$30,900	
'16 F250 Crew XLT, 60K, 4WD, 6.7L Diesel.....\$36,900	
'16 F150 Crew XLT, 63K, 4WD, NAV, Spec Ed.....\$28,900	
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'16 F150, Reg. Cab XL, 47K, 2WD.....\$18,900	
'16 C2500HD Crew, 45K, 4WD, 7" Lift.....\$29,900	
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IT WAS TEAL DAY AT ST. PAUL SCHOOL, with students praying the rosary for former teacher Mrs. Juli Sullivan – who died in 2014 from ovarian cancer. Students and faculty members wore teal that day in her honor, and collected money to donate to the hospital where she received treatment.



EMT to Paramedic Course Scheduled Through OSF HealthCare

OSF HealthCare Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac has announced open registration for its upcoming EMT to Paramedic Course.

This course will include formal classroom instruction, clinical rotations at OSF HealthCare Saint James, OSF HealthCare St. Joseph in Bloomington, and OSF HealthCare Saint Francis in Peoria. Students will follow a comprehensive field internship within the OSF HealthCare Saint James EMS System. The program emphasizes the ability to demonstrate strong interper-

sonal skills, critical thinking abilities, and quick and appropriate decision-making ability regarding the care of patients.

The EMT to Paramedic Course will run May 20, 2020, through September 8, 2021, and will meet on Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with one hour lunch breaks. Some Saturday classes and labs will be required.

A course fee applies, which includes books, class shirt, ID badge, background check, and ACLS, PALS, and ITLS training. Payment options are available. Each student will be responsible for Platinum Plan-

ner/EMS testing, a one-time fee.

There is a mandatory orientation meeting March 19 at 5:30 p.m. at OSF HealthCare Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center, 2500 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac. This meeting will cover program admittance guidelines, payment options, the course schedule, and the program's internship expectations for didactic, clinical, and field internships.

The EMT to Paramedic Course will follow all EMS National Education Standards, National EMS Scope of Practice Model, and CoAEMSP

standards, and will comply with IDPH rules and regulations.

To learn more or to register for the EMT to Paramedic Course at OSF HealthCare Saint James, call Andrew Larsen at 815-842-4938 or e-mail Andrew.R.Larsen@osfhealthcare.org by March 13.

Chili Supper in S. Willy February 15

South Wilmington United Methodist Church is sponsoring its Chili Supper Saturday, February 15, from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at St. Lawrence Parish Hall, 2nd and Lemmon Streets, in S. Wilmington.

The all-you-can-eat menu includes chili, hot dogs, chips, dessert, lemonade, and coffee.

A fee applies, with kids ages five to 13 receiving a discount and children under five eating for free.

S. Wilmington homebound residents can call 815-237-2766 for delivery to their home.



73rd Anniversary Celebrated

JIM AND DONNA HAAG CELEBRATED 73 YEARS of marriage February 1. The couple, who farmed all their lives in the Cullom area, was married in Bement on February 1, 1947. They have five children: Linda, Julie, Nancy, Donald, and Doug, along with 15 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren. If you would like to send them a card, the address is: 17726 North 3400 East Road, Cullom, Illinois 60929.



LOIS ELY, RETIRING AFTER SERVING OVER 40 YEARS as church treasurer, was honored following the Annual Meeting of the First Congregational United Church of Christ January 26.

GAVC Award Winners



GARDNER-SOUTH WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL has two Grundy Area Vocation Center Director Award Winners for the month of January, and they are, left, Nathan Weese (Criminal Justice) and right, Kyle Haubenstricker (Culinary Arts). Nathan is a junior at GSW HS and this is his first year at GAVC in Criminal Justice. Kyle is a senior at GSW HS and this is his first year at GAVC in Culinary Arts.

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Justin Fox Named to UWP Dean's List

Justin Fox, a junior double-majoring in Agribusiness and Animal Science, was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2019 semester at University of Wisconsin - Platteville.

This distinction is a mark of honor and recognition bestowed on those students who attain a grade point average of 3.75 or higher having completed 12 or more credit hours for the semester.

Justin is the son of Aaron and Susie Fox of Emington.

Justin is the son of Aaron and Susie Fox of Emington.



REGISTRATION IS ALWAYS OPEN for Prairie Creek Library's 1,000 books before kindergarten program. Parents read books to their children and fill out their logs to earn prizes while learning to love reading. Rewards are given out at 100-book increments during Toddler Time, which meets Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. Pictured is Raelynn, one of the participants, receiving recognition for earning her 200 books certificate. For older children, the library just launched the 500 books before middle school program. Anyone interested in participating can stop by the Dwight library for more details.

Vermillion Players Presents As Long As We Both Shall Live

Vermillion Players, in partnership with The Eagle Performing Arts and Conference Center and Bernardi's II, present the hilarious murder mystery "As Long As We Both Shall Live" by Sean Grennan.

Bernardi's II of Pontiac will be catering the buffet meal. It includes fried and baked chicken, roasted pork, mostaccioli, green beans, au gratin potatoes, salad, roll, and dessert. Coffee, water, and iced tea are complimentary; soda and alcoholic beverages are available for purchase.

Quirky genius Addison Ashe (Brittany Roper) has finally met a man who can keep up with her - the wealthy and charming Jamie Wilcox (Gabriel Montello). But marrying Jamie means wrangling with his disapproving mother (Liz Vincent), as well as her favorite over-the-top wedding planner, Raul (Anthony Gullo). When Raul is poisoned at the rehearsal dinner, tensions between the clever bride and her mother-in-law-to-be go from heated to full-on inferno when Mrs. Wilcox points to Addison as the killer after an attempt on the minister's (Meghan Harper) life.

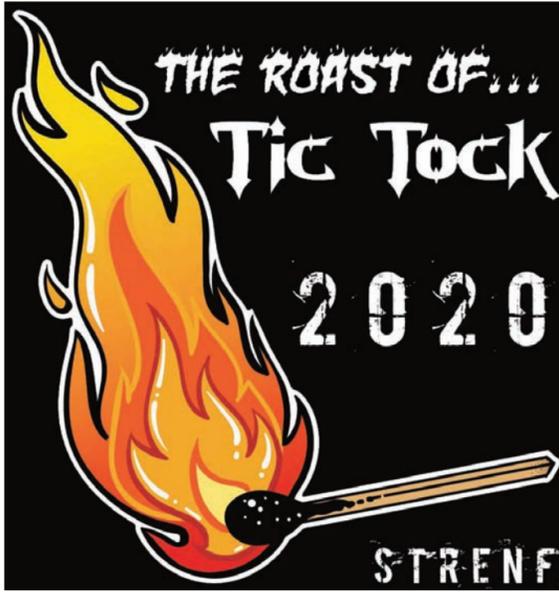
If you have dietary restrictions, call to reserve your seats so they can discuss how to best accommodate your needs.

Dinner theatre tickets must be purchased in advance. Sales close at 1:00 p.m. the day of Friday and Saturday performances, and at midnight the night before the Sunday performances. A small number of show-only tickets might be available at the door - call the box office to confirm availability. Show-only tickets will not be sold in advance.

Can Addison solve the case before sashaying down the aisle, or is she in for a honeymoon behind bars?

To purchase tickets, visit www.PontiacEagle.com or call 815-844-1187. The box office is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you call and there is no answer, leave a message and they will return your call as soon as possible. All tickets are non-refundable. If you are unable to use your tickets, you are free to give them to someone who can.

Doors will not open before the listed time, so plan accordingly.



Gardner Lions Breakfast February 9

The Gardner Lions Club will serve breakfast at the Gardner American Legion Hall Sunday, February 9, from 7:00 a.m. until noon.

The menu includes pancakes, French toast, eggs, sausage or bacon, biscuits and gravy, toast, coffee, juice, and milk.

A fee applies, with kids ages five to ten receiving a discount, and children ages four and

under eating for free. Proceeds will benefit South Wilmington Grade School Student Council, visually and hearing impaired, and community projects funded by the Gardner Lions.

A donation of canned goods for the local Food Pantry is also accepted and appreciated, in addition to donations of used eye glasses, hearing aids, and cell phones.

If we listen to each other's heart, We'll find we're never too far apart.

WELCOME HOME-VIETNAM VETERANS DAY CELEBRATION

Saturday, March 21, 2020
American Legion Post 18, Lockport, IL
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Join Joliet Area Community Hospice as we celebrate our Vietnam Era Heroes and welcome them home. The event is open to all Vietnam Veterans and their families and will include live music, food, raffles, and more!

Dinner and speakers will begin at 5:30 P.M.
Pre-registration is required!
 by calling Kristen at 815.740.4104.

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<p>HELP WANTED</p> <p>We are looking for enthusiastic people to join our team serving our customers in a very friendly atmosphere.</p> <p>Apply today. Dwight, Pontiac, or Chenoa. EOE</p>	<p>\$1.00 Off ANY McCafe Drink (which includes Medium Milkshakes and Hot Chocolate)</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>FREE Fresh Baked Cookie with purchase of any Happy Meal</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>FREE Hash Brown or Small French Fry with purchase of Egg McMuffin</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>
<p>\$1.00 Off ANY McCafe Drink (which includes Medium Milkshakes and Hot Chocolate)</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>FREE Hash Brown or Small French Fry with purchase of Egg McMuffin</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>FREE 4-pc Chicken McNuggets with purchase of 10-pc Chicken McNuggets</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>\$1.00 Off ANY McCafe Drink (which includes Medium Milkshakes and Hot Chocolate)</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>
<p>\$1.00 McCafe Fresh Baked Muffin with purchase of any Extra Value Meal</p> <p>NO COUPON REQUIRED.</p>	<p>FREE Hamburger with purchase of 2 Hamburgers</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>	<p>\$1.00 McCafe Fresh Baked Muffin with purchase of any Extra Value Meal</p> <p>NO COUPON REQUIRED.</p>	<p>FREE Hamburger with purchase of 2 Hamburgers</p> <p>Coupon Required. Not good with any other offer. Limit one per customer. Value 1/20th of 1¢. Expires on 3/30/20.</p>
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HELP WANTED PUBLIC HEALTH REGISTERED NURSE
Full-time Public Health staff nurse position working in the Public Health programs. Illinois Licensure required. Go to www.livingstoncountyil.gov, click on "About livingston" and then click on "Employment" for more details regarding this position and how to apply. EOE

Now Hiring! Nutrien Ag Solutions, Dwight location, is looking for seasonal help with opportunity of full-time employment. Must have at least a Class B CDL w/ tanker endorsement and already have or able to obtain HAZMAT.

Applications can be picked up at 418 E. North Street, Dwight. For more information, call (815) 584-2733



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Pet of the Week

My name is Gemma! I am a 7 year old Labrador/Great Dane mix. I am such a well behaved girl! I would really like a home to start off my new year! I'm a big couch potato, I would really rather spend time indoors with my people than be outside. I am completely potty trained and I walk well on a leash but this cold weather is just not for me! I like to do my business and return to the heat. I also do well with children.



Livingston County Humane Society

21179 N. 1358 E. Rd., Pontiac, IL 61764 • 815-842-1025
lchumanesociety.com • Check us out on Facebook and PetFinder!
Would you like to sponsor a pet? Call The Paper 815-584-1901.

Dwight-Pine Bluff-Lakewood Animal Hospitals
Old Rt. 66, Dwight • 815-584-2732 • www.vet4me.com
email: dwightvet@mchsi.com

Dwight Peace Meals

Home delivery Monday - Friday 60 and up home-bound- Must make reservations -
Wed., Feb. 5: Chicken tetrazzini, peas and onions, seasoned green beans w/ pimientos, whole grain wheat (1), chunky applesauce.
Thurs., Feb. 6: Roast beef in gravy, mashed potatoes, cabbage tomato au gratin, dinner roll, overnight fruit salad.
Fri., Feb. 7: Baked ham, frosted sweet potatoes, Midori blend vegetables, whole grain wheat (1), pears.
Mon., Feb. 10: Beef tips in gravy, mashed potatoes, Italian green beans w/tomato, onion, and bacon; Texas toast; Mandarin oranges.
Tues., Feb. 11: Ham and beans, pickled beets, cornbread, peaches.
Wed., Feb. 12: Turkey pot roast with baby carrots and celery, corn casserole, dinner roll, pineapple tidbits.
Thurs., Feb. 13: Meatloaf, Delmonico potatoes, broccoli and cauliflower, dinner roll, cranberry apple salad.
Milk served each day.
For reservation, call: 815-374-0411 or 1-800-543-1770; For information, call the 800 number.

At the Churches

- DWIGHT Dwight United Methodist Church**
701 S. Columbia
584-3420 church
Dwightumc.org
Pastor: Michael Ebersohl
• FEB. 5: 2 p.m., Kids Klub/Real Kids;
6 p.m., Choir practice; 7 p.m., REAL & IGNITE.
• FEB. 6: 9 a.m., Bible Seekers at Heritage Woods; 5 p.m., Scouts #4877; 5:30 p.m., Praise Band rehearsal.
• FEB. 8: 7 a.m., Men's Bible Study at Route 66, Dwight, and Cafe 110, Odell; 9 a.m., AA meeting.
• FEB. 9: 8 a.m., Early Worship; 9:15 a.m., Sunday School; 9:30 a.m., Praise Band rehearsal; 10:30 a.m., Late Worship.
• FEB. 10: 11 a.m., Pre-school screening set-up; 6:30 p.m., Ladies of Faith at Evenglow; Bible Warriors Bible Study.
• FEB. 11: 7 a.m., Pre-school screening; 8:30 a.m., Hens Bible Study.
• FEB. 12: 8:30 a.m., UMW meeting; 2 p.m., Kids Klub/Real Kids; 6 p.m., Choir practice; 7 p.m., REAL & IGNITE.
Emmanuel Lutheran Church LCMS
325 E. Mazon Ave.
584-3433 church
584-1291 fax
Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor
• FEB. 5: 4 - 5:15 p.m., Catechism Classes; 4:45 p.m., Choir; 5:15 p.m., Handbells; 6 p.m., Wednesday Devotions with Holy Communion.
• FEB. 9: 9 a.m., Sunday School/Adult Bible Class; 10 a.m., Worship with Holy Communion.
• FEB. 12: 4 - 5:15 p.m., Catechism Classes; 4:45 p.m., Choir; 5:15 p.m., Handbells; 6 p.m., Wednesday Devotions with Holy Communion.
- First Baptist Church**
401 N. Clinton St.
815-584-3182
Home of Dwight's Christian Radio Station WGVJ 97.3 FM
Pastor Dan Woodward
• FEB. 5: Wednesday Evening Service and King's Kids Children's Program.
• FEB. 9: Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.
FEB. 12: Wednesday Evening Service and King's Kids Children's Program, 7 p.m.
- First Congregational United Church of Christ**
200 W. Delaware St.
584-1260 church
Rev. Grant Speece
• FEB. 9: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Sermon title: "Let Your Light Shine."
Holy Scripture Readings
Isaiah 58:1-12
1 Corinthians 12:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20
* "Feed the Kids" program - Donations welcome.
- New Life Assembly of God**
903 S. Old Route 66
Victor J. Randle Jr., Pastor
• FEB. 5: 7 p.m., Bible Study.
• FEB. 6: 7 p.m., Worship practice.
• FEB. 7: 10 a.m., Heritage Health Ministry.
• FEB. 9: 9 a.m., Bible Study; 10 a.m., Main Service - Celebration Sunday; Kids Church and Nursery; 5 p.m., X-treme Youth Group.
• FEB. 10: 7 p.m., Prayer Night.
- BRACEVILLE Braceville United Methodist Church**
106 W. Goold St.
815-237-8512 Church
815-483-9343 Cell
bracevilleumc.com
Pastor Karen Fabian
• 10:30 a.m., Sunday Service.
• Youth Groups on Wednesday: 3 p.m., K - 6th; 7 p.m., 7th grade - H.S.
• FEB. 29: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Rummage Sale.
- CABERY Cabery United Methodist Church**
Ames & Chester
815-949-1681
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell
• SUNDAYS: 8:45 a.m., Worship Service; 9:45 a.m., Sunday School.
- CHATSWORTH Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church**
406 N. 7th St.
815.635.3127
Father David Sabel
• SUNDAY: Mass, 10 a.m.
• THURSDAY: Mass, 8 a.m.
- CULLOM Cullom United Methodist Church**
103 E. Van Alstyne St.
815-689-2484
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell
• SUNDAYS: 10:15 a.m., Worship Service.
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church**
NALC
511 W. Jackson
815.689.2120
st.johns@frontiernet.net
Pastor: Gabriel Baumgardner
• FEB. 5: 10 a.m., Lydia's Ladies.
• FEB. 6: 10 a.m., Text Study at St. John's, Danforth.
• FEB. 8: 5 p.m., Worship.
- St. Patrick Catholic Church**
Mazon Ave. at Prairie
815-584-3522 Office
Father Chris Haake, Pastor
• FEB. 8: 9 - 10 a.m., Reconciliation;
4:30 p.m., Mass.
• FEB. 9: 10:30 a.m., Mass.
- St. Peter's Lutheran Church**
326 W. Chippewa St.
815-584-1199
Pastor Chrissy Salsar
email:chrissytherev@att.net
• FEB. 7: 9:30 a.m., Women's Bible Study at Hudelsons in Pontiac;
8 p.m., AA.
• FEB. 9: 7:58 a.m., Education meeting; 9:15 a.m., Fellowship breakfast; 9:30 a.m., Faith Development for all ages; 10:30 a.m., HC Worship with Baptism.
• FEB. 11: 10 a.m., Pr. Text study; 4 - 6 p.m., Salvation Army/Compassion Ministry; 7 p.m., Council meets.
• FEB. 12: 9:30 a.m., Bible Study at Evenglow with St. Peter and Community Lutheran; STP meets for lunch; CLC meets at Log Cabin for breakfast.
• FEB. 14: 9:30 a.m., Women's Bible Study at Hudelson's in Pontiac; 8 p.m., AA.
- Trinity Lutheran Church "Goodfarm" LCMS**
515 E. Stonewall Rd.
Rev. William Mitschke
815-725-1341
• Holy Communion first and third Sundays.



Conklin Players Head Back to the '70s

The Barn III Dinner Theatre opens their 2020 season "45 Years of Fun" with the hilarious swinging seventies comedy "Love, Sex and the I.R.S." by William Van Zandt and Jane Milmore, opening February 6 and playing for five weeks only through March 8.

Leading comic player Dan Challacombe will head up the company for this outrageous ride.

"Love, Sex and the I.R.S." has been a staple for dinner theatres since its debut in 1979. It is the story of two male roommates, John and Leslie (Challacombe) who have been cheating the I.R.S. by claiming themselves as a married couple. What John doesn't know is that Leslie is secretly pining after John's fiancée Kate. Trouble really starts when John finds out that the I.R.S. is on their trail and auditor Floyd Spinner will be coming by to investigate the "couple." So Leslie has to don a dress and pretend to be John's wife to keep them out of jail. Throw in a nosy landlord, John's visiting mother, and Leslie's frantic girlfriend and you have the recipe for a wild comedy where anything can happen.

Joining Challacombe for this riotous good time are Christian Meredith as John, April Bieschke as Kate, Lana Warner as John's mother Vivian, Pat Gaik as I.R.S. man Floyd Spinner, Nathan Brandon Gaik as landlord Mr. Janison, Tamra Challacombe as Leslie's girlfriend Connie, and

Jeff Craig as the mysterious Arnold Grunion.

The production is directed by Mary Simon and produced by Abby Reel. Technical Director for the production is April Bieschke, sound design is by Jimmy LaHood, and publicity is by Pat Gaik.

The 2020 dinner theatre season will continue at the Barn III with "A Grand Old Country Tribute," running from March 19 to April 11 and May 7 to 10, "Smoke on the Mountain" July 9 to August 16, "Is There Life After Fifty?" October 1 to November 8, and "Christmas: Past, Present and Future" November 19 to December 31.

In addition to the dinner theatre shows, the Barn III will offer a Thursday evening "September Music Series" featuring local and national artists. More

information is available at the Barn III website.

Tickets for dinner theatre shows during 2020 are available for purchase for all regular performances. A handling fee will be added to each ticket and the ticket price includes dinner sales tax.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.thebarniii.com or by phone at 309-965-2545 from the box office, which is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, and 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Barn's renowned buffet dinner will be available, and the new Barn offers a full service bar. Outside alcohol is no longer allowed.

For more information, visit www.thebarniii.com or e-mail boxoffice@thebarniii.com.

State Rep. Thomas Bennett

Governor Pritzker offers State of the State Address

On Wednesday, Governor Pritzker offered his vision for the state as we enter the new spring session. There were some items I was pleased to hear, and others I would have liked to have heard more about.

After several months in which corruption in state government was back in the headlines again and again, Governor Pritzker expressed his support for three ethics reforms bills proposed by Republicans. This is the kind of bipartisan commitment to reform that we need to clean up Springfield. With the Governor's support, it now remains to be seen if Speaker Madigan will finally allow these bills to move forward.

One issue I wish the Governor had talked more about was the need for redistricting reform, also known as "Fair Maps." Every ten years, House and Senate districts are re-drawn to reflect changing population. Currently, legislators are able to draw districts to ensure their re-election. I support a system where an independent commission would draw districts, ensuring that legislators are accountable to the people.

This is a long-overdue reform that has support from large majorities of Illinoisans from across the political spectrum. With another round of re-districting coming up in 2021, we need to take action this year. It would also have been nice to have heard something about the Governor's plans for agriculture, as it is the state's number one industry.

I was encouraged by the Governor's comments about the need for property tax reform. Our property taxes are the second highest in the nation, and they are a big factor in our slower job creation and economic growth compared to neighboring states. As I have writ-

ten before, this is an issue that affects every single Illinoisan and it is an issue that is not going to go away.

New legislation this spring will include bills on land banks, carbon sequestration. The House reconvened to start the spring session this week, and members have been busy drafting and filing legislation which will now start working through the legislative process. We have much work to do, including crafting and passing a truly balanced budget. I want to tell you about a couple of the bills I am working on this spring which I believe will help our region and the state as a whole.

The first has to do with land banks, which local governments establish and use to acquire, restore and repurpose vacant properties. These land banks help to get properties back in use and back on the tax rolls, which revitalizes the community and helps the local government. Michigan and Ohio have both successfully implemented a program like this and I believe Illinois can do the same.

Another bill in the works concerns carbon sequestration, the process of injecting carbon dioxide into geologic storage deep underground to dissolve, thus preventing it from reaching the atmosphere and contributing to global warming. The federal government has begun providing tax credits to entities who operate sequestration projects. Illinois is a prime location for these types of projects because most of the state sits above porous underground sandstone formations which are themselves topped by a layer of shale, creating a favorable environment for safely sequestering these gases more than a mile underground. Legislation

Livingston County Pheasants Forever Chapter Banquet Set for March 16 at the Pontiac Elks Club

The Livingston County Chapter of Pheasants Forever is holding its annual fund-raising banquet Monday, March 16, at the Pontiac Elks Club - with doors opening at 5:00 p.m. and dinner being served at 6:00 p.m.

Doug Wessels, Livingston County chapter president, stated that the banquet is the single most important fund-raising event during the year. Everyone concerned with local ring-necked pheasants and wildlife populations in general is encouraged to attend. There will be food, prizes, and fun for people of all ages.

"When it comes to conservation, there are a lot of people out there who would like to make a positive difference in the restoration and preservation of farmland wildlife, but just don't know how to go about doing it," Wessels said. Since its inception in 1982, Pheasants Forever wildlife habitat projects have benefited more than 15.8 million acres across the continent. In that time, PF has participated in over 1,500 different land acquisitions totaling over 187,000 acres. Those land acquisition projects have been completed in conjunction with local, state, and federal natural resource agencies, and all of those projects are today open to public hunting. Our chapter has been one of the leaders in the state in raising dollars and getting seed for habitat back in the ground. Since our inception in 1986, the Livingston County PF Chapter has been responsible for investing nearly \$512,862 in seed, equipment, trees, and education projects to increase the habitat necessary to increase local pheasant populations."

The Livingston County Chapter was recognized at the State Meeting in 2020 for surpassing \$500,000 in projects since their inception. They have had 1,068 projects for a total of 9,895 acres and 25,395 trees planted during this time.

The Chapter has also made a mark in their efforts to involve youth in their activities. Their support for the Prairie Central High School Trap Team helped them compete at the Illinois State High School Tournament and advance to the National Tournament in Michigan.

"Pheasants Forever is a unique organization because it promotes using the funds raised here to stay here and be used in Livingston County. It's Pheasants Forever's vision that current and future generations of hunters and conservationists are able to enjoy abundant populations of wild pheasants, quail, and other wildlife. Over 90% of the funds raised go into seed and projects right here in Livingston County."

"Wildlife habitat faces monumental challenges in an ever-changing world. Agricultural expansion, a growing population, water wars, urban sprawl, and oil and mineral exploration are all threats to the habitats pheasants, quail, and other wildlife call home. If there are to be places for wildlife going forward, we will have to work harder, to be more creative, and build more partnerships than ever before."

"Attending a Pheasants Forever banquet is an excellent way to contribute to a good cause, because your county chapter retains all of the money (exclusive of membership fees) we raise and uses this money for habitat work with farmers

and landowners in our immediate area," Wessels said. "We also are working to create more opportunities for the youth in our county to get involved with Pheasants Forever through programs geared to the younger generations. This could be in the form of hunting safety courses or possibly some hunting opportunities."

It will focus on youth education. In the last two years, they have teamed with Prairie Central HS supporting their trap team, which competed in the Illinois High School State Tournament. Because many schools do not have a trap team, students from area schools can co-op with this team in order to participate. The club is reaching out to other Livingston County high schools with opportunities to participate. They will be represented at this year's banquet, so go out and find out more about participating.

According to Wessels, Pheasants Forever committee members will soon be calling on conservation-minded individuals in the county to help support the banquet. Mailings will go out to current and past members in the near future.

For more information on the banquet or Pheasants Forever, contact Steve Weeks at 815-692-2302, Wessels at 815-657-8682, Mike Trainor at 815-832-5512, or Mike Oughton at 815-529-3306.

If you need an order form for Banquet tickets, you will be able to print from their web page, where they maintain their meeting schedule and other activities.

Visit <http://livingstoncountypheasantsforever.org/> and <http://pheasantsforever.org/>.

I am planning to introduce will set up a regulatory process in Illinois to protect landowners and help smaller companies who have been issued permits by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$6,176,032,500 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$7.2 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment. It does not include debts that can only be estimated, such as our unfunded pension liability which is subject to a wide range of factors and has been estimated to be more than \$137 billion.

Figures in from deer season. The Department of Natural Resources has reported that Illinois deer hunters harvested 153,048 deer over the archery and firearm seasons this year, up from 151,709 last year. In our region, hunters took 1510 deer in Vermilion County, 1379 in Woodford, 973 in Iroquois, 670 in Livingston, and 175 in Ford, roughly in line with the figures from last year. Deer season ended January 19.

Did you know? President Ronald Reagan's birthday is February 6. Reagan was the only President born in Illinois, and the only one to earn a college degree here. He graduated from Eureka College in 1932 with a degree in economics and sociology. Today the school honors him with its Ronald W. Reagan Leadership Program, the Reagan Museum, and the Reagan Peace Garden, which contains a section of the Berlin Wall.

At the Churches

continued from page 14

• FEB. 9: 8:45 a.m., Sunday School; 10 a.m., Worship/HC.
• FEB. 10: 7 p.m., Council meeting.
• FEB. 11: 5 p.m., Prayers, Planning & Bible Study.
• FEB. 13: 10 a.m., Text Study at St. John's, Danforth.

EMINGTON

Emington Congregational United Church of Christ
103 Division Street
Rev. Grant Speece
• FEB. 9: 8:45 a.m., Worship Service. Sermon title: "Let Your Light Shine."
Holy Scripture Readings:
Isaiah 58:1-12
1 Corinthians 12:1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

ESSEX

Essex United Methodist Church
114 Waverly St.
• SUNDAY, 9 a.m., Children Sunday School; 9:30 a.m., Adult Bible Study; 10:30 a.m., Sunday Service. Serv-

ices led by Lay Servants Terry Goodwin and Linda Michel.

GARDNER Church of Hope Presbyterian Church (USA)

202 N. Monroe
P.O. Box 248
Janet Chandler, Pastor
Office hours:
T-W, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
815-237-8312
ChurchofHope@sbcgobal.net
• Sunday Worship, 10:15 a.m.

United Lutheran Church ELCA

309 E. Jefferson St.
815-237-2227
pastorulc@att.net
Pastor Greg Olson
• Sundays: 10 a.m., Worship with Word and Sacrament.

HERSCHER

Trinity Lutheran Church LCMS
255 E. Third St.
P.O. Box 414
815-426-2262
email: trinityher1@comcast.net
Rev. Eric J. Brown, Pastor
• Services with Holy Communion:

Saturdays, 5 p.m.
Sundays: 8:30 a.m.

Herschel United Methodist Church

274 N. Elm Street
Phone: 815-426-6169
Pastor Kevin Boesen
Sunday Service, 11 a.m.

St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church

Main Street
Pastor:
Rev. Show Reddy Allam
815-426-2153
• Saturday Mass, 5 p.m.
• Sunday Mass, 10:30 a.m.
• Monday and Friday, Masses, 8 a.m.
• Saturday confessions, 4:15 p.m.

Herschel Christian Church

30 Tobey Drive
Discipleship Minister, Jacob Garrett;
Youth Minister, Andy King; Children's Minister, Kathleen Brown; Worship Minister,
Dustin Honn
815-426-2908
or 823-6072
Staff e-mail: life@herschelchristian.com
herschelchristian.com
On Facebook:
Herschel Christian Church
• Sunday Services: Sun-

day School, 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.

KEMPTON

Kempton United Methodist Church
305 Main Street
815-253-6373
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell
• SUNDAYS:
10:15 a.m., Worship Service.

Kempton Church of the Nazarene

105 E. Main St.
815-253-6250
Rev. John A. Mohler, Pastor

KINSMAN

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Rev. Stanley Drewniak, Pastor
• Sundays, 8 a.m., Mass

MAZON

Park Street Congregational United Church of Christ
806 Park Street
Pastor Tyler Carrell
Phone 448-5514
• Sunday Worship Services, 9 a.m.

• Sunday School: "Blast Off", 9:10 a.m.
• Coffee hour, 10:15 a.m.
• Sr. High Youth Group and Small Study Group,

Mazon United Methodist Church

509 7th Street
815-448-5677 Church
815-483-9343 Cell
mazonmethodist.com
Pastor Karen Fabian
• 9 a.m., Sunday Service.
• 10 a.m., Sunday School.

ODELL

United Church of Odell
109 N. Morgan Street
Phone 815-998-2271
Rev. Janeen Tronc
• Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.

St. Paul Catholic Church

200 S. West St.
Father Chris G. Haake, Pastor
• FEB. 5: Reconciliation following 8:15 a.m. Mass.
• FEB. 9: 8 a.m., Mass.
• FEB. 12: Reconciliation following 8:15 a.m. Mass.

RANSOM

Ransom United Methodist Church
102 E. Plumb Street
Church: 586-4504
Parsonage: 586-4657
Pastor Jonathan Wisdom
• Sunday Worship, 10 a.m.

St. Patrick Catholic Church

110 Wallace Street
Pastor, Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA; Parochial Vicar, Fr. Augustin Kassa, SMA; Deacon Ron Wackerlin
Parish Office: 815-795-2240 (Marseilles)
Email: stjctoerino@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday and Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; Wednesday and Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
• SUNDAYS: 7:30 a.m., Mass.
Confessions: Saturday, 3 until 3:45 p.m., St. Patrick Church, Seneca, or by appointment.

REDDICK

Reddick United Methodist Church
35900 E 3200 N Road
Pastor Kevin Boesen
815-426-6169
• 9:30 a.m., Sunday Service

Zoar Community Church

18172 W. Route 17
P.O. Box 87
Reddick, IL 60961
Phone: 815-365-4291
• SUNDAY: 9 a.m., Sunday School; 10 a.m., Morning Worship.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

Rev. Stanley Drewniak, Pastor
• Saturdays: 5:30 p.m., Mass.

SAUNEMIN

Saunemin United Methodist Church
90 North Street
815-832-4935
Pastor Jane Bradford

SOUTH WILMINGTON

South Wilmington United Methodist Church
225 Rice Street
Pastor Kevin Boesen
815-426-6169
• Sunday Service, 8 a.m.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church

Rev. Stanley Drewniak, Pastor
• Saturdays, 4 p.m., Mass

• Sundays, 10 a.m., Mass
• Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m., Mass.
• Wednesdays and Thursdays, 7:30 a.m., Mass.

VERONA

Verona United Methodist Church
The Wayside Chapel with a Warm Heart
433 Anne St.
Phone: 815-287-2491
Pastor Jonathan Wisdom
• Sunday Worship, 8:30 a.m.

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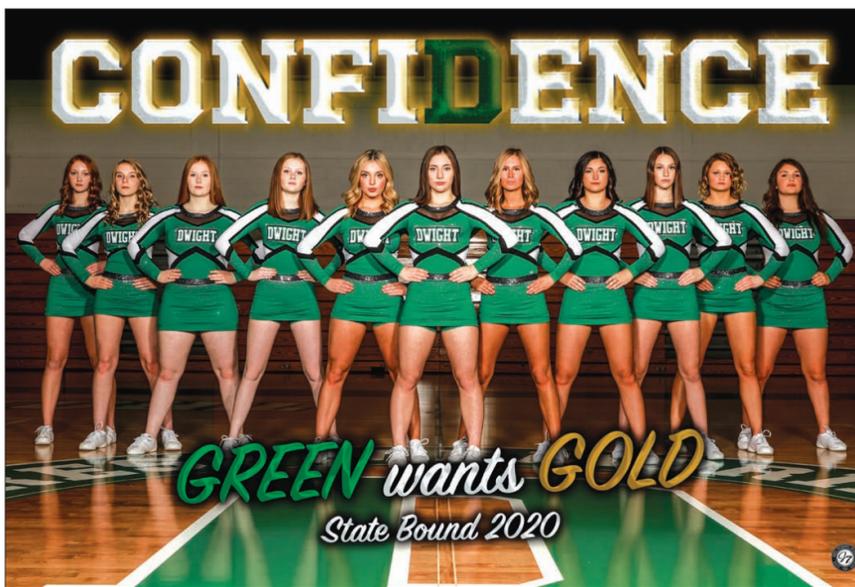


THE GSW PANTHERETTE SPIRITLINE, shown above and below, traveled to their IHSA sectional January 25, held at Normal Community High School. There, the girls placed second out of 17 teams – advancing to the IHSA State Contest for the fourth time in school history. The team competed January 31 at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington against the best 30 1A teams in the state of Illinois. Coaches Nicole Leigh and Devin Fisher afterwards stated they are “extremely proud of the team’s performance.”



photo by Shayla Loring Photography

Let's Cheer Them On!



THE DWIGHT TROJAN CHEERLEADERS ARE HEADED TO STATE! The Dwight Trojan Varsity Competitive Cheer team earned its highest score of the season February 1 in Farmington, taking home second place in the IHSA sectional. The Trojans advance to State competition Friday, February 7. The top 25 Small Varsity Division teams will face off Friday morning and battle to be in the top ten finishers that will return for the State finals round on Saturday. Dwight was runner-up at State in 2019. Pictured at sectionals are Lauryn Hoegger, Josie Snyder, Emma Legner, Meghan Scott, Ava Kargle, Abby Rodosky, Alexis Thetard, Mary Hilt, Ella Kargle, Addison Bean, and Bri Kosek. photo by J7 images



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- Canadian LTD 1.75 liter \$11.99



Captain Morgan RUM \$21.95 1.75 liter

Admiral Nelson's SPICED RUM \$12.99 1.75 liter

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- Corona or Heineken 12-pack bottles or cans ... \$12.99

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- Red or Green Truck Wines 750 ml. \$6.99
- Jack Daniel's Country Cocktails 6-pack bottles ... \$5.99

White Claw HARD SELTZER \$12.99 12-pack cans



Kraken Black SPICED RUM \$9.99 750 ml.

Ad Prices Effective 2-5-20 through 2-11-20 M. - Th. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.; F & S 8 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sun. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Rts. 17 & 47 • Dwight • Phone 815-584-2880