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# The Paper

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Wednesday, March 18, 2020



**DWIGHT RESIDENTS ARE STARTING TO ROLL IN to fill out their 2020 Census forms online. Dwight Village Hall and the Prairie Creek Public Library have computers you can use if you do not have a computer or internet at home. Remember – everyone counts!**

## Dwight Village Trustees Address March 9 Business Overnight Parking Ban Lifted

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

The Dwight Village Board of Trustees met on March 9 following an Administration Committee meeting where a dispute between two downtown business owners was again brought before the committee to help mediate.

Last month, Paul Ferrari proposed roof modifications to address water drainage and roof leak issues associated with his building located at 124 E Main Street. The plan to add pitch to the current flat roof would involve the need to partially block two windows of a neighboring building at 126 E Main Street owned by Roberto Rodriguez and Megan Stoudt. Rodriguez and Stoudt are opposed to Ferrari's proposed solution arguing it would adversely impact their building. Stoudt also challenged whether proper permits, policies and procedures had been followed with regard to other building modifications made by Ferrari. As requested, Ferrari provided support from a third party professional regarding his roofing proposal.

After hearing both parties and receiving input from Dwight Building Inspector Erv Daniels, Mayor Jared Anderson indicated that there is "too much civil unrest between the parties" for the village to provide approval allowing Ferrari to move forward. The roof modifications proposed by Ferrari require a village permit to proceed. Anderson recommended the village attorney review the legalities of the proposed actions while both parties were encouraged to

continue to try and work out an agreeable solution.

In board business, and with spring in the air, it was noted that the blanket overnight parking ban on Village of Dwight streets has been lifted as of March 1. The overnight ban is still in effect if there is snowfall of two inches or more. Overnight parking on downtown business district streets is prohibited. It was also noted that beginning April 1, the Public Works will begin operating the chipper and branch pickup will resume.

Applications for Village of Dwight EMS Personnel have been received and the review / interview process will be taking place. The need for EMS personnel is part of the Village of Dwight's move to take over operation of the ambulance service with medics and basics being village employees.

A Properties Committee meeting is being planned to discuss this summer's street repair projects. With approximately \$340,000 in MFT funds available for street projects, Anderson suggested that the village move quickly to get bid requests as this summer's IDOT workload is expected to be extremely heavy.

In other business, 2020 US Census forms have now been mailed to area residences. Census numbers, gathered every ten years, provide the basis for government funding available to local communities. While a very small number of paper forms were mailed, most will be expected to complete the census online. For those without computer or online access, the Dwight Village Hall will have computers available for

use in completing the census. The Dwight Public Library also has public access computers to assist with the census process. Through April, weekly reminder notices will also be sent. At the end of the notification period, any household not completing the census will be visited in person by a census taker. Information provided for the census is 100 percent confidential. Visit [www.2020census.gov](http://www.2020census.gov) for more information.

Jane Anderson of the Dwight Economic Alliance reported that the DEA 2020 Gala held on February 29 was very successful. Anderson noted several other upcoming village events including an All Town Cleanup, April 25; Springfest /Rt 66 Smokeout, May 2; Buzz the Gut car show, June 27; and several Rt 66 bus tours slated to visit the village.

In Public Forum, the status of village issued nuisance letters was questioned. Last October, 50 - 60 letters citing ordinance violations such as abandoned vehicles, were sent out by Dwight Police to area residences as friendly fall cleanup reminders. It was noted that these ordinance violations are being reviewed in March for compliance and spring cleanup letters will again be issued April 1. A \$75 fine can be assessed for each noncompliance not addressed.

**The board also approved:**

- the payment of 3/9/20 bills totaling \$166,471.93.
  - an Emington/Campus Fire Protection District request for ambulance service coverage.
  - an ordinance calling for a public hearing and a joint review board meeting to consider
- (continued on page 3)

## A Pandemic Rocks the Nation Local Businesses Prepare to Meet Crisis

by Rachael Reynolds- Soucie  
rachaelthepaper@gmail.com

The coronavirus pandemic has rocked the stock market, virtually shut down many states, and sent fear through the country. And the latest sector of the economy to take a hit is the restaurant industry.

Pete Meister, owner of Station 343 in Dwight, found himself on Monday trying to figure out how to keep a stream of revenue coming in after Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced bars and dine-in restaurants would close at 5 p.m. Monday, March 16.

Meister, like many restaurant owners, was working on a plan to offer delivery service and curb-side pickup. With 18-25 part-time employees, his goal is to keep them busy and keep them employed. The restaurant also has a new venue space for celebrations, but three showers had to be cancelled that were scheduled in the coming weeks.

"It's [closing restaurants and bars] going to affect a lot of people," Meister said. "You don't know if you're going to survive or not."

But like the rest of the country, which is being warned to hunker down at home to try to limit the spread of the disease

through "social distancing," Meister said "it is what it is. There's nothing you can do about it."

The restaurant industry in Illinois comprises more than 27,000 restaurants, representing \$23 billion in sales and 9 percent of the workforce, according to the Illinois Restaurant Association. It is the state's primary economic engine, providing nearly 530,000 jobs.

Sue Müller, who owns Cherry Red Roasters with her husband Duncan, will also start delivery service in an effort to make up for dine-in restrictions.

"It's going to be hard. I hope this ... really makes these [coronavirus] cases subside," she said. "But it's going to be a very, very tough couple of weeks."

She said she just has to take it day by day. "I think that's all we can do."

She was very grateful for those who showed up over the weekend for their St. Patrick's Day celebration.

John Moyemont, owner of JT's Saloon, said he will also take a financial hit, not only from the lack of patrons but in alcohol that will have to be tossed out because of expiration dates.

"I won't have any income.

It'll have a heckuva impact," he said.

Pritzker said this latest measure to enforce social distancing is for the good of the public, but Moyemont couldn't understand why they would close the bars. "I think they're trying to control the masses," he said.

Life has certainly changed for Americans. Schools are closed. The Diocese of Peoria closed public Mass and is holding them virtually on Facebook. Hospitals and nursing homes have limited visitors to the strictest standards. And people continue to wipe supermarket shelves bare.

At Heritage Woods in Dwight, they are temporarily curtailing social visits unless there are special circumstances. Visits for the purpose of responding to the immediate healthcare needs of a resident will be allowed on a case-by-case basis. Visitors will be screened, and anyone entering the building will need to wash their hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizing gel and frequently wash their hands while in the building.

Alternative communication methods include telephone, email, text message, video chat or social media.

(continued on page 5)

# COVID-19 Coronavirus



**SIGNS OF COVID-19 impacts are popping up all over town. The Knights of Columbus fish fry is just one of many events cancelled.**



## CANCELLED

Many events have been cancelled or postponed in the days and weeks ahead. We have highlighted articles containing events which we

have been notified as cancelled.

Please check with the event organizer prior to attending any event.

**BERKOT'S SUPER FOODS**

Prices Valid: March 21<sup>st</sup> - and - March 22<sup>nd</sup>

Prices Only Valid At Dwight Berkot's, While Supplies Last No Rainchecks

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**\$2.88** per pound  
Limit 5 Roasts

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Limit 5 Steaks

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**\$1.88** per pound  
Limit 4

Berkot's Fresh, All Natural, Boneless America's Cut Pork Chops

**\$1.88** per pound  
Limit 8 pkgs

**SMOKIN' HOT 2 DAY SALE SAT. 3/21 & SUN. 3/22**

**FOR THE RECORD**

**Tickets Issued by Dwight Police**

March 5: Syhemia Sarah T. Gray-Cruz, 30, Carbondale, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Darius R. Christer, 24, Bourbonnais, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Duke M. Smith, 26, Bourbonnais, driving 21-25 MPH above limit.

March 6: Dominic L. De Luca, 43, Bourbonnais, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Paul J. Norton, 18, Dwight, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Ashley F. Vegter, 34, Kankakee, unlicensed, no valid regis./1st and 2nd.

March 11: Brandon J. Taylor, 28, Crete, driving during suspension, no valid regis./1st and 2nd.

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

**2 Written Warnings**

Improper passing at intersection - 1; only one headlight - 1.

**Dwight Police Blotter**

March 7: 6:21 a.m., Dwight Police were called to 12 W. Northbrook Dr. On scene, Dwight Police met with a 32-year old female from Chicago, who advised she was having issues with two people she was traveling with. Upon investigation, arrested were Gloria J. Harris, 55, Chicago, and Corey L. Parnell, 50, Chicago, for possession of drugs and paraphernalia. They were taken to Grundy Cty. Jail. Their vehicle was towed from the scene.

March 8: 12:43 a.m., arrested in the 300 block of S. Union was Jose A. Ortiz, 50, Kankakee, for violation of order of protection. Also arrested was Ashley F. Vegter, 33, Kankakee, for no valid driver's license and no valid registration.

March 10: 4:20 p.m.,

Dwight Police came upon a minor crash on Old Rt. 66 at Rt. 17. Taylor R. McDonald, LeRoy, driving a Toyota Camry, advised she had been backed into. A Dodge Ram, driven by Blake Crowell, Gorham, was the vehicle in front of McDonald. The drivers exchanged information.

March 11: 6:52 p.m., arrested was Vincent E. Kelly, 26, Dwight, on an in-state warrant. He was taken to Livingston Cty. Jail.

**Accident Report**

Friday, March 6, 8:02 a.m., an accident was reported at 311 N. Union St. involving a 2009 Ford F150, driven by Bruce Rinehart, Dwight, which struck a parked and driverless 2019 Honda sedan, owned by Andrew Weybright, St. Anne.



**Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS**

March 5: Main, medical, Morris.

March 6: Union, medical, St. James.

March 7: Union, medical, Morris; Eisenhower, medical, Riverside; Franklin, medical, Morris.

March 8: William, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, Riverside; Spencer, medical, refusal, mutual aid from Gardner; Coal City, COQ, mutual aid to Coal City; Coal City, medical, Morris, mutual aid to Coal City.

March 9: Waupansie, medical, Morris; South, medical, Morris, mutual aid to Gardner.

March 10: Northbrook, medical, Morris; Spencer, medical, Morris.

March 11: Prairie, medical, Riverside; Julie, medical, St. James.

**Free Food to Be Distributed March 25**

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, March 25, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.

The pantry is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October.

**Temps - 2020**

Mar. 5 - high 54°, low 30°  
 Mar. 6 - high 42°, low 20°  
 Mar. 7 - high 53°, low 23°  
 Mar. 8 - high 65°, low 33°  
 Mar. 9 - high 58°, low 39° .71" precip.  
 Mar. 10 - high 40°, low 34° trace precip.  
 Mar. 11 - high 43°, low 32°  
**One Year Ago - March 18, 2019**  
 high 42°, low 27° trace snow

**Healthy Hand Hygiene Habits**



**Protect yourself against COVID-19 and other diarrheal and respiratory illnesses, and help prevent the spread of germs to others, by following these simple hand hygiene guidelines:**

1. Wash your hands with soap and warm water, lathering for at least 20 seconds.
2. If soap is unavailable, use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60 percent alcohol to clean your hands.

Wash your hands throughout the day, and particularly under these circumstances:

- Before preparing food
- Before eating
- After using the toilet
- After changing a diaper or helping a child use the toilet
- Before and after exposure to someone who is sick
- After coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose
- After touching an animal or picking up animal waste
- After handling pet food or treats
- After handling garbage or garbage cans
- Before and after attending to a cut or wound

Proper handwashing helps all of us stay healthy, so remember to be aware and do your part to help protect yourself and others!

**All Driver Services Facilities Closed Through March 31**

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that all offices, including Driver Services facilities statewide, will be closed to the public due to the COVID-19 virus and the health and safety recommendations by experts endorsing social distancing efforts. The closures are in effect through March 31.

Expiration dates for driver's licenses, identification (ID) cards, vehicle registrations, and other transactions and document filings will be extended by 30 days through an emergency rule.

White also joins a growing list of states and industries calling on the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to push back the October 1, 2020, federal REAL ID deadline due to the impact COVID-19 is having

on the general public and driver's license and ID card-issuing agencies worldwide.

"After careful consideration, it is clear that this decision to close offices and Driver Services facilities is the right one to make for the health and safety of Illinoisans," said White. "This important action will help prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus."

White is reminding residents that many transactions with the Secretary of State's office may be conducted online at [www.cyberdriveillinois.com](http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com). Customers are encouraged to take advantage of these online services, some of which include:

- obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card;
- renewing a vehicle registration;

- obtaining a driver record abstract;
- renewing a standard driver's license with the Safe Driver Renewal program;
- filing Business Services documents, such as incorporations and annual reports;
- customers with issues involving administrative hearings may contact 312-793-3722 or 217-782-7065.

White stressed that the office will continue to monitor the COVID-19 crisis. Expert advice, news, and events involving the virus will influence the reopening date of offices and the Driver Services facilities.

"We will do everything we can to help protect the health and safety of our residents," said White. "This will, and must, be the guiding principle of our decision making."

**Northern Illinois Food Bank Needs Volunteers**

Northern Illinois Food Bank needs volunteers at all centers, including their South Suburban Center (171 South Larkin Avenue, Joliet) to help pack food to meet the increasing needs in the community.

All four of their centers combined will pack a total of 6,100 emergency food boxes this week, and they need the

helping hands to get them done.

It is still safe to volunteer with them, and they encourage all healthy folks who are willing to join them in feeding their neighbors.

For more information and to sign up, visit [www.solvehungetoday.org/volunteer](http://www.solvehungetoday.org/volunteer).

**Pontiac Announces Museum Closings**

To help prevent the spread of coronavirus, The Route 66 Hall of Fame and Museum, The Livingston County War Museum, The Museum of Gilding Arts, and The Pontiac Oakland Auto Museum have been closed to the public as of March 17, and will remain closed through the end of March.

In addition, The Eagle Performing Arts Center has announced the cancellation of all dates of *Harvey* Dinner Theatre performances. The staff has begun contacting patrons, as refunds will be issued to all ticket holders.

Patience is asked, as they navigate this unprecedented situation.

**February Video Gaming**

Will video gambling suffer from the effects of the coronavirus? We'll have to wait another month to find out. Locally, the February results showed increases from January, but they were not indicative of any changes that might have been wrought by the virus.

Video gaming in Illinois took place at 7,307 locations, 73 more than in January, and on 35,483 terminals, an increase of 888.

The Village of Dwight's February take was \$7,987.

Dwight and Gardner results by location are below:

FEB.	Funds In	Funds Out	NTI*	State	Dwight
Aly Anne's	\$56,727	40,703	16,023	4,486	801
Cherry Reds	10,165	6,690	3,474	972	173
JT's Saloon	26,417	21,213	5,203	1,457	260
Lili Mae's	77,965	62,066	15,898	4,451	794
Love's	140,625	98,745	41,879	11,726	2,093
Mac's	101,796	72,994	28,801	8,064	1,440
Mead	831	765	65	18	3
VFW	78,565	60,637	17,927	5,019	896
Vic. Lanes	16,686	12,822	3,863	1,081	193
Virbapa	24,569	16,130	8,438	2,362	421
Willy's	<u>66,023</u>	<u>47,854</u>	<u>18,168</u>	<u>5,087</u>	<u>908</u>
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$600,369</b>	<b>440,624</b>	<b>159,744</b>	<b>44,728</b>	<b>7,987</b>

**Gardner's February VGTs**

FEB.	Funds In	Funds Out	NTI*	State	Gardner
Buddies (3)	2,639	1,821	817	228	40
Marks (5)	23,403	15,765	7,637	2,138	381
TA Op. (5)	<u>43,637</u>	<u>37,318</u>	<u>6,318</u>	<u>1,769</u>	<u>315</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$69,679</b>	<b>54,905</b>	<b>14,773</b>	<b>4,136</b>	<b>738</b>

\*The State of Illinois and Villages receive a total of 33% of the Net Terminal Income monthly (State 28%, Village 5%). Of the remaining 67%, Scientific Games receives 0.7275% of the NTI as compensation for building and maintaining the Central Communications System, which is monitored by the Illinois Gaming Board. The remaining income is divided equally between the terminal operator and location.

Gambling problem? Call 1-800 GAMBLER.

The Illinois Gaming Board announced Monday, March 16, that it was ordering the suspension of all video gaming establishments. The suspension took effect at 9:00 p.m., March 16, through March 30.

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 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

**What's the Difference Between Short- and Long-term Investing?**

As you go through life, you'll have many financial goals. Fortunately, you don't need to achieve them all at the same time. But when you have a mix of short- and long-term goals, you will need to pursue some different investment strategies simultaneously.

Your short-term goals may depend somewhat on your stage in life. For example, when you're starting out with your career and you're beginning to raise a family, you may well have a goal of saving enough money for a down payment on a home. Later on, though, you may decide you want to travel the world for a year.

Because you know about how much money you'll need, and when you'll need it, you can choose the appropriate investments, with these characteristics:

**Low risk** - Above all else, you want the right amount of money to be there when it's time to use it. So, you'll need low-risk, high-stability investments. You won't see much in the way of growth from these types of investments, but you also won't be sweating every single market downturn in fear of not reaching your goal.

**Liquidity** - You won't want to worry about trying to find a market for your investment when it's time to sell it and then use the proceeds for your short-term goal. That's why you need to pick short-term vehicles that are highly liquid. Now, moving on to longer-term goals, the situation can be quite a bit different. Suppose, for instance, you're saving and investing for a retirement that may be three or four decades away. For this goal, you have one overriding motivation: to end up with as much money as possible. And since you have so many years until you need this money, you may be able to take on more risk than you could with the investments you counted on for your short-term needs. This isn't to say you should be reckless, of course - you still need to pay attention to your individual risk tolerance. Overall, though, there's a big philosophical difference, in terms of risk capacity, between investing for the long term versus the short term.

When you're saving for a long-term goal such as retirement, you may need to rely primarily on your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. And within these accounts, you'll need a reasonable percentage of growth-oriented investments. It's true that growth investments are volatile, with sometimes sharp price declines. But in exchange, you have the opportunity for greater growth potential.

Once you do retire, you'll still have long-term goals. For one thing, even during retirement, you'll need your portfolio to have some growth potential to keep you ahead of inflation. And you'll also need to address perhaps the longest-term goal of all: leaving the type of legacy you desire for your loved ones.

A financial professional can help you clarify and prioritize your short- and long-term goals, as well as assist you in choosing the appropriate strategies for helping meet these goals - whether they're three years or three decades away.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.  
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**THE GARDNER AREA BAND** has received National Recognition for their recent performance in Nashville, TN. They received an Outstanding Rating for the performance in the Nashville Christmas Parade by Music Celebrations International. They received an Outstanding Rating for the performance at the Country Music Hall of Fame by the National Festival of States committee. Banner Holders Olivia Siano and Aubrey Male, pictured, display the awards to the Gardner Area Band – which is under the direction of Michael Leone. The Gardner Area Band is a band comprised of students from Braceville Elementary School, Gardner Grade School, Gardner-South Wilmington High School, and South Wilmington Grade School. The band rehearses at 7:05 a.m. at GSW High School. Their next performance will be Thursday, April 30, at GSW High School, starting at 7:00 p.m. The band will be competing in the Music in the Parks Concert Band Competition on May 9 at Warren Township High School in Gurnee.

## Dwight Village Trustees Address March 9 Business

### Overnight Parking Ban Lifted

(continued on page 3)

the designation of a redevelopment project area and the approval of a redevelopment plan and project for the Village of Dwight (Il 17 / Route 66 Tax Increment Financing District).

Present at the March 9 session were Mayor Jared Anderson and Trustees Jerry Curtis, Marla Kinkade, Chuck Butterbrodt, Jennifer Johnson and Justin Eggenberger. Trustee Randy Irvin was not present.

The next meeting of the Dwight Village Board will be Monday, March 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Services Complex. Meetings are open to the public. A public hearing with regard to the proposed budget will also be held on March 23 at 6:15 p.m., prior to the regular meeting, in the Public Services Complex.

## the corner

by Tom Tock

It took me a minute to realize they were talking about me when they mentioned some specific homo sapiens who could be most vulnerable to the coronavirus.

What to do? What to do? In a confused time like this, why not turn to prayer? You know, if all else fails.

The Chicago Tribune, in a Sunday editorial about the virus, pointed out in a semi-religious way that one of the first things is to recognize in this time of suspected peril that "... nature is really the boss — our boss. We're the earth's stewards, its temporary tenants. But we don't run the place."

The Trib's allusion to a higher power was obvious, though it stopped short of telling all of us that we should crack a knee and pray for an end to this dangerous contagious malady called coronavirus.

Even in the midst of the crisis, of course, we're confident that a cure will be found for the effects of the virus.

Aren't we?

The Spanish flu epidemic in 1918-19 infected 500-million people worldwide, and did it in a short period of time. One of the victims was my dad's wife, Helen.

But that, of course, was when they lacked the medical prowess we have now.

Questions still abound

about this new danger. This virus is different, they say, besides being buoyed by partisan snipes who wish to rerun the presidential election of 2016.

It is certainly a time for truth — and prayer — if there ever was one.

\*\*\*\*\*

I asked at a recent Dwight village council meeting if the 50 or so residents were complying with the letters they received several weeks ago asking them to clean up their properties.

One of those receiving a letter responded that he thought he was being picked on, but he still faces a decision to clean up his property or erect a fence.

Towns, if they are worth anything, have to have rules, and then enforce them.

I would think the greatest beneficiaries of these cleanups would be the property owners themselves. Along with the public.

\*\*\*\*\*

A townwide cleanup is scheduled by the Dwight Economic Alliance Saturday, April 25.

\*\*\*\*\*

It has just been announced that schools will be closed starting March 17 through the end of March in an effort to control the spread of the coronavirus.

## Swinging Bridge Art Festival in Pontiac May 2 and 3

The Greater Livingston County Arts Council, Pontiac, is hosting its Second Annual Swinging Bridge Art Festival Saturday and Sunday, May 2 and 3.

All artists interested in participating in this juried festival should contact Vickie Fitzgerald, GLCAC president, at 309-310-1281 for more

information.

The deadline is April 10.

There will also be several activities planned, including a student art contest, music, martial arts performances sponsored by Endeavor ATA Martial Arts, and interactive arts-related displays and activities for all ages.

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## Gardner Village Board Does Not Meet

The Gardner Village Board did not meet on the evening of March 9, for lack of a quorum.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 23.

Check on your Neighbors and Loved Ones

Support Your Local Businesses.

## The Paper

Locally Owned & Operated

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**CLEARANCE in PROGRESS!**  
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## Does heart disease run in your family?



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## Dwight UMC Cancels All Activities Until March 31

All activities at Dwight United Methodist Church have been cancelled until March 31. On both March 22 and 29, they will live stream music, prayers, scripture, and "my message" (continuing their current series.) This one service will be live streamed once at 9:00 a.m. on both Sunday, March 22, and March 29.

You can follow the link on the home page of Dwight-UMC.org. Scroll down and click on the icon for "Worship With Us." Scroll down until you see a blue box with the link "Worship Online Now." Press that button and it will take you to the live stream. Keep in mind, it may not be "live" until almost 9:00 a.m.

## 200 Years of Agriculture with Don Meyer Postponed

The Friends of the Library "200 Years of Agriculture in Central Illinois with Don

Meyer" has been postponed. We plan to reschedule this event in Autumn after harvest.

## South Grundy Resource Center Ribbon Cutting, Open House Cancelled

by Rachael Reynolds-Soucic The South Grundy Resource Center's ribbon cutting and open house has been cancelled.

the South Grundy Resource Center is being planned as a space for social services to meet clients closer to where they live and work.

The ribbon cutting was scheduled for 3:00 p.m. Monday, March 23, with a 7:00 p.m. open house at 229 Liberty Street in Gardner. A project of the Community Foundation of Grundy County,

Julie Buck, director of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, said they do not have a date in mind to reschedule but will issue a press release when they do.



AS A NATIONAL HEALTH EMERGENCY UNFOLDED and fears of the unknown future gripped consumers, store shelves were wiped clean. Pictured, is the bread aisle at Dwight Berkot's on Sunday afternoon.

## Dwight Mid-Lenten Ecumenical Service Wednesday, March 18

The First Congregational United Church of Christ of Dwight will host the 2020 Mid-Lenten Ecumenical Service Wednesday, March 18. Dwight United Methodist Church is preaching during the service which begins at 7 p.m. The Congregational Church is at 200 West Delaware Street. All are invited to attend.

## Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir in Dwight March 19

On Thursday, March 19, the direction of Rebecca Suggs will lead 87 musicians of the Symphonic and Praise Choirs, with president and Golden Voice Choir in a Lenten worship concert of Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw, MI, under the direction of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Indiana. This is the second concert of a five-day, five-concert tour through Michigan, Illinois, and Indiana.

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## Whole Hog Sausage Dinner in Dwight Cancelled

The Whole Hog Sausage Dinner, originally scheduled for March 29 at Trinity Lutheran Church (Goodfarm), Dwight, has been cancelled.

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## Area Schools Calendar of Events

- Bonfield Grade School**
- Thursday, March 19 – 3rd Grade Music Concert.
- Limestone Middle School**
- Thursday, March 19 – 3rd and Ensemble at LMS: 15-minute time slot between 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21 – Herscher High School Spring Sing (Cuz band student only) TB
- Friday, March 20 – Herscher's Got Talent, 7:00-10:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 21 – HHS Sing & Sing all day.
- Monday, March 23 – HHS Baseball Hitting Camp, all day; No School, Spring Break.
- Tuesday, March 24 – HHS Baseball Hitting Camp, all day.

## Cabery Methodist Church Rummage/Bake Sale March 20-21

Cabery Methodist Church is set to host its Rummage/Bake Sale Friday, March 20, from 3:00-6:00 p.m., and Saturday, March 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Donations for the Rummage/Bake Sale are always welcomed.

## Fish Fry in Emington March 27

Boy Scout Troop 117 will host the Annual Fish Fry in Emington Friday, March 27, in the basement of Emington Congregational Church, from 5:00-7:00 p.m.

## KCC Closing March 18-30

Most Kankakee Community College facilities will be closed March 18-30 to combat the potential spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). The KCC Hammes Bookstore will be open 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on March 17-19. It will serve as a pick-up point for technology, books, and supplies that students need. Beginning March 23, faculty will teach their classes online or electronically. "Our goal is to help our students get through this semester successfully and on time," said KCC's president, Michael Boyd. College services such as registration, advising, counseling, and tutoring are still available online. The website coronavirus.kcc.edu has resources and will be updated as information becomes available. Students are asked to use this site as a starting point of information for KCC's actions and plans.

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# DEA Gala and Live Auction A Huge Success

The Dwight Economic Alliance's annual Gala and Live Auction was a blockbuster this year.

Held February 29 at Station 343 in Dwight, the gala raised \$21,000 -- \$6,000 more than the previous year.

Destiny Connor, who has chaired the event for several years, said there was a nearly-sold-out crowd of 190 guests. This year, the money is going back to the DEA to help with everyday funding as well as its new incubator program.

Last year the auction raised \$15,000, and in 2018 it brought in \$13,000.

A vintage painting by Conman (Stephan Connor) of Olga Short, a longtime Dwight piano

teacher, sold for \$575 to Dwight's new piano teacher -- Allison Rose, of Perfect Blend Music. It is hanging in the studio.

The other big auction item was Dinner for Two cooked by sisters Carol and Julienne Coulter. As the auction bids shot higher and higher -- to \$475 -- the sisters, in attendance, said they would offer two dinners.

"[Carol] was so excited she sold two of them," Connor said. The second also sold for \$475.

Other items in the auction were a tour of George Washington's Mount Vernon, original artwork by Stephan

Connor, an antique 1940's paper weight from First National Bank donated by the historical society, a Livingston County Plat Books from 1940's donated from Peoples National Bank of Kewanee, and a one-week stay at a home in Punta Gorda, Fla.,

They also had Chicago Blackhawks and Chicago Bulls tickets up for grabs. Fortunately, they are for the 2021 season.

"It was a huge success thanks to the businesses," Connor said. "I think that people are jumping on board with the DEA and want to see it succeed."



**'IT'S FOR THE KIDS!'** Father Chris Haake of St. Paul and St. Patrick Church took a pie to the face for a good cause March 7 -- to help raise money to purchase a bus at St. Paul Catholic School in Odell. The school held its annual spaghetti dinner and auction at the packed St. Patrick's Parish Hall, as St. Paul was once again blessed by the kindness and generosity of those both near and far. The school is happy to report they raised enough funds for their bus.



**ENJOYING THE DWIGHT ECONOMIC ALLIANCE GALA and Auction.**  
photos by Shayla Loring Photography



## Jason Burkhardt Celebrates 30 Years at LSC Communications

Jason Burkhardt celebrated 30 years of service at LSC Communications on March 17.

Jason began with the company on September 5, 1989, in the Dwight Division as a Casual Material Handler in the Pressroom. He became a full-time Pressroom Material Handler in April of 1991. He was promoted to Press Helper in

December of 1994, to Roll Tender in July of 1995, and to Assistant Press Operator in May of 2000. Jason was promoted to his current position of Press Operator 3 in October of 2016.

Jason resides in Dwight. He has two children, Ashley and Zoie.

## Essex Lions Pancake Breakfast Cancelled

The Essex Lions Pancake Breakfast, originally scheduled for Sunday, March 22, at the Essex Lions Club, 217 Parls St., has been cancelled.

## A Pandemic Rocks the Nation Local Businesses Prepare to Meet Crisis

(continued from page 1)

Heritage Health in Dwight has instituted a no visitors policy. They are also screening staff members and essential personnel and encouraging family members to Skype or FaceTime their loved ones.

At Morris Hospital, inpatients are limited to one designated visitor -- not one visitor at a time -- over the age of 18 during their hospitalization. In addition, patients coming to any Morris Hospital facility for any reason may be accompanied by just one person.

Berkot's, Dwight's only grocery store, has followed suit by curtailing hours and adding temporary limits on goods, said Manager Brian Kaminski. He said the store gets deliveries on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but he's found quantities of some goods don't last until the next delivery date.

New hours are 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and they are limiting the following:

- 2 gallons of milk per family (total)
  - 2 bottles of gallon water per family (total)
  - 1 package of toilet paper per family (total)
  - 2 packages of paper towel per family (total)
  - 2 packages of bottled water per family (total)
- Said Meister, "I hope everybody stays safe and gets through all this."

To place a social announcement, send information to:  
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Phone: 815-584-1901; Fax: 815-584-2196; Email: thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net

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## Gas Prices For This Week

The national average is 13 cents cheaper than last week and 20 cents cheaper from the beginning of the month. This is in part due to the crude oil prices trending at \$30/bbl according to the Triple AAA web site. Safe travels.

City/Village	March 18	March 11
Dwight	\$2.15	\$2.39
Kankakee	\$1.89	\$2.09
S. Wilmington	\$2.24	\$2.41
Streator	\$1.90	\$2.18
Odell	\$2.22	\$2.39
Pontiac	\$2.13	\$2.05
Gardner	\$2.24	\$2.39
Braceville	\$2.25	\$2.44
Morris	\$2.15	\$2.09
Herscher	\$2.07	\$2.38
Chicago	\$2.53	\$3.66
Illinois	\$2.30	\$2.48
U.S.	\$2.25	\$2.36

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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## SAFARI SUNSET-A JOURNEY OF LIFE

Honoring heart of Hospice Award recipients Carolyn Dystrup and The Eastside Association

Monday, April 20, 2020

Bolingbrook Golf Club-2001 Rodeo Dr., Bolingbrook

5:00 p.m. Social Hour

6:00-8:00 p.m. Dinner/Program

\$75 per ticket

Tables of 10 available for \$750

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Visit joliethospice.org or call 815.740.4104 for tickets or sponsorship by April 8, 2020



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# Dwight Common School District Prepares Emergency Learning Plan

## Graduation Date Set / March BOE Actions

by Madelyn Fogarty  
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

In the wake of COVID-19, schools across the area are making plans to address the continually changing directives brought on by this National health emergency. Last week, Dwight Common School District #232 prepared and submitted its eLearning plan, which has been approved by the Regional Office of Education, in preparation for anticipated extended school closures. Information regarding preparing for emergency closures was discussed with the Board of Education when it met on March 11.

The most up to date information at the time of this article notes that Illinois Governor Pritzker has mandated that all schools, both public and private, will close their doors due to the coronavirus from Tuesday, March 17, 2020 through Monday, March 30, 2020. In addition, all Dwight school programming, before and after school activities, athletic practices and contests, and week-end events held at Dwight Districts #232 / #230 are cancelled from Monday, March 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM through Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 7:00 a.m.

School will tentatively resume on Tuesday, March 31, 2020. As the directives have been continually changing, please check the school's website for up to date information at <https://www.dwight.k12.il.us/> Additionally, a plan for providing food service to students with a need is also being developed.

In other business, with spring upon us and the close of

the school year rapidly approaching, the Board of Education set the date for its graduation ceremony. The DGS 8th Grade Graduation is slated for Thursday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in the DTHS gymnasium. This time is in keeping with the tradition of having DGS graduation the day before DTHS holds its senior graduation ceremony and, thereby, being able to utilize the setup of the high school facility.

The BOE also approved the 2020-21 school calendar as presented. Next year's calendar calls for the first day of student attendance to be Monday, August 17. Highlights from the calendar include no school November 25 - 27 due to the Thanksgiving holiday. Winter Break will begin on December 21, 2020 with students returning to school on January 5, 2021. Spring Break has been designated as March 29 - April 5, 2021, which also encompasses the Easter holiday. May 21, 2021 is the planned last day of student attendance; however, five emergency days designated as May 25, 26, 27, 28, and June 1, 2021 could impact the final day of school.

With regard to the August 17, 2020 school start and concerns brought forth last month regarding allowing students involved in 4-H, FFA, Ag and related activities the opportunity to participate in the Illinois State Fair, Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek said the school will consider excused absences in these instances. The Illinois State Fair runs from August 13 - August 23.

"I think that is a wholesome activity and some of those different activities you can't duplicate in the classroom, so we

would encourage those," said Dr. Jancek. "So, if we have students that want to participate in that, it would be a parent excused absence and we would let them continue to do those activities."

In new business, future possible building security measures being investigated were discussed including door locking mechanisms; buzz-in systems for secondary entrance doors; security notification system for doors left open; large screen TV as part of enhanced outdoor camera monitoring system; access control cards for staff; and a level one background check system for visitors. It was also noted that the secured double entry doorway for the main entrance will be installed this summer.

Quality Network Solutions proposals were approved by the board which includes a significant cost reduction due to eligible E-Rate discounts. The discounts are part of a Federal program based on need driven by free and reduced percentages in the district. Upgrade of the current wireless infrastructure, at a proposed cost of \$76,742.50, will cost the DGS district \$13,430 after applied E-Rate discounts. The annual QNS Service Contract expense of \$12,500 will cost the district \$1,031 after the E-Rate discount. The wireless infrastructure upgrade will take place this summer.

In financial business, it was reported that the State of Illinois currently owes the district \$61,286.33 in mandated categorical payments.

In public comment, several parents were present advocating for smaller class size settings in the lower grade levels, primarily K-2, and sharing other various concerns.

"The goal of the board is to provide the staff with the tools necessary," stated Board Presi-

dent Bo Partney. "We don't want anyone left behind. We have to work within the confines of our finances and we do the best that we can."

BOE member Cathy Ferguson also responded calling on fellow board members and administration to have "an open conversation" saying it was time to "make it a priority" and address these class size concerns.

"Our goal has always been to keep it at 20 and under - that was our goal," said Ferguson regarding K-2 class sizes. "And, we have so strayed away from that goal."

The BOE also:

- accepted the resignation of Chelsey Stacy, 2nd Grade Teacher.

- accepted the resignation of Crystal Aukland, Technology Teacher.

- approved employment of Desi Leonard, 8th Grade Softball Coach.

- approved additional main office secretary support.

- approved tenured and non-tenured teachers for 2020-2021 as presented.

An executive closed session discussion also took place. The BOE discussed a concern with the front circle driveway project and it was noted that a new vendor is being sought for the project.

Present at the meeting was Board President Bo Partney and BOE members Eric Scheuer, Mark Christenson, Marc Ellis, Cathy Ferguson and Michael Cornale. Absent was Nick Stepanovich.

The next meeting of the Dwight Grade School Board of Education will be 6 p.m. on Wednesday, April 8 at the school. Meetings are open to the public.

## Ecumenical Breakfast in Dwight April 9

All Christian men are invited to an Ecumenical Breakfast Thursday, April 9, at the Dwight United Methodist

Church, 701 S. Columbia St. (by the grade school), from 7:00-8:00 a.m.

## Herscher Fire Department Fish Fry March 20

On Friday, March 20, Herscher Fire Department will host its annual all-you-can-eat Fish Fry from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Herscher Legion Community

Center.

Ticket fees apply, with children ages five to 12 receiving a discount. Carry-outs will be available.

## Cindy Elsey Celebrates 40 Years at LSC Communications

Cindy Elsey celebrated 40 years of service at LSC Communications on March 11.

Cindy started with the company on March 11, 1980, in the Dwight Division as a 3-day Material Handler in the Bindery. She became a full-time Bindery Material Handler in May of 1980. Cindy was promoted to Router Mailer in November of 1984, then to

Bindery Helper in December of 1987. She was promoted to Apprentice Platemaker in March of 1992, graduating in December of 1994. Cindy currently holds the title of Prelim/Prepress Operator 3.

Cindy and her husband, Danny, reside in Dwight. They have three children, Danielle, Derek, and Claire, and three grandchildren.

## Catholic Parishes Receive Directives from Bishop

Bishop Daniel Jenky of the Catholic Diocese of Peoria has issued directives to parishes in the Diocese, including St. Patrick, Dwight; St. Paul, Odell; and the Chapel of Ease Sacred Heart, Campus, concerning the cancellation of all extracurricular activities.

As of Sunday, March 15, the obligation of attending Sunday Mass was suspended. The Bishop's pastoral encouragement is for those 60 and over and those with communicable diseases to stay home.

For the above-mentioned parishes, Mar. 15 Confirmation in the Cathedral was canceled, to be rescheduled locally.

The three churches, working with volunteers, will be open daily 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. for private/family visits.

Father Chris Haake, Pastor, asks that you share information with other parishioners via text, email, or word of mouth to the elderly, who may not have email and/or text.

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STUDENTS OF THE MONTH for February at Dwight Township High School, pictured, from left, are freshman Hailey Heath, sophomore Daniella Frauli, junior Eileen Betsworth, and senior Jessica Frobish.

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'18 F150 Crew Lariat, 18K, 4WD, NAV, Sunroof.....	\$41,900
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 12K, 4WD.....	\$30,900
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'13 Sierra 1500 Crew SLE, 116K, 4WD.....	\$20,900
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'17 Escape SE, 16K, FWD, Sunroof.....	\$17,900
'17 Escape SE, 13K, FWD.....	\$16,900
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'17 Explorer XLT, 32K, 4WD, NAV, New Tires.....	\$28,900
'16 Escape SE, 31K, 4WD.....	\$16,900
'15 Cherokee LTD, 66K, 4WD, Leather, NAV, Snrf.....	\$16,900
'14 Escape SE, 133K, FWD.....	\$9,900
'14 Escape SE, 40K, 4WD.....	\$13,900
'13 Flex LTD, 126K, AWD, NAV.....	\$10,900
'12 Edge SEL, 133K, AWD.....	\$9,900
'11 Edge SEL, 110K, FWD.....	\$8,900
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Letters to the Editor in *The Paper* should be limited to 250 words.  
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OBITUARIES

Edith Ann Wagner

DWIGHT – Edith Ann Wagner, 90, of Dwight passed away at 5:37 a.m., March 8, 2020 at Evenglow Lodge, Pontiac.



She is survived by her sister-in-law, Anita Wagner of Bloomington; and many nieces and nephews.

Ann performed many clerical duties for the Dwight Correctional Center for 30 years. She also farmed with her husband in the Campus area.

Along with her husband, Ann received her private pilot's license and then obtained her commercial pilot's license. She enjoyed spending time in the plane with her husband and the two of them enjoyed traveling extensively over the years.

A graveside service will be held at 11:00 a.m., today, Wednesday, March 18, 2020 in Graceland Cemetery, Fairbury, with Pastor Mike Ebersohl officiating.

Memorials may be given to the United Methodist Church, Dwight.

Duffy-Pils, Fairbury, has charge of arrangements.

Ann was born May 8, 1929 in Joliet, a daughter of Nelson M. and Helen Simpson Mundell. She married Richard Charles Wagner on July 24, 1949 in Joliet. He preceded her in death on June 14, 2018. Also preceding her in death was their only daughter, Susan, in 1964.

Although Ann resided in Joliet during her childhood, she enjoyed many trips to Fairbury to visit her grandparents, and considered it a second home.

A guest registry is available at [www.duffypilsmemorialhome.com](http://www.duffypilsmemorialhome.com)

James E. Hamilton

CABERY – James E. Hamilton, 66, of Cabery, IL and formerly of Lawton, OK, passed away on Thursday, March 12, 2020 at his home in Cabery surrounded by his loving family.



He was preceded in death by his parents; grandparents, N.B. and Florance Van-Hoozer; brother, Johnny Hamilton, all from Oklahoma; and an uncle, Loal Buttram.

According to James' wishes, cremation rites were accorded.

Visitation will be held one hour preceding the services on Saturday, March 21, 2020 in the Cabery Methodist Church, Cabery. Funeral services will be held at 5 p.m. with Pastor John Lyons officiating.

James was born and raised in Lawton, OK. He always loved riding motorcycles, fishing with his children, having family picnics, especially if it was the 4th of July. He enjoyed taking family trips to the mountains, where he always had a special story about them.

James was born on November 4, 1953 in Lawton, OK to Thomas Eugene and Celeste (VanHoozer) Hamilton. He married Geraldine Steinback on November 16, 1984 in Morris, IL. She survives in Cabery.

He will be loved and missed and kept close in the hearts of his family.

He is also survived by his three beautiful children: N.B. Wayne and Monica (Pullam) Hamilton of Cabery, IL; Thomas and Alexis (Dettloff) Hamilton, also of Cabery; Ce-

lest and Ronald (Varney) Hamilton of Godley, IL; grandson, Evan Dettloff; and many special adopted children.

Memorials in honor of James may be made to the family, and online condolences may be made at: [www.calvertmemorial.com](http://www.calvertmemorial.com)

Dwight and Seneca Banking Centers Take Steps To Assist In Social Distancing Efforts

Beginning Wednesday, March 18th, in an effort to follow the suggested protocol for social distancing as much as possible, Dwight and Seneca Banking Centers of Peoples National Bank of Kewanee will be re-directing our customers whenever possible to use our drive up facilities, ATMs, night deposits, and 24/7 access to Mobile and Online Banking Services (where you can check balances, transfer funds, and deposit checks remotely). Debit cards will function normally for your convenience and as always, if an instance arises where you need assistance, please call one of our Customer Service Representatives.

Institution hours will remain the same and our commitment to you is always to be here when you need us. Lobby access will be available by appointment for loan and deposit needs or accessing safety deposit boxes. We do this in cooperation for protection of both employees and customers.

We have a solid business continuity plan and will work with customers during this unprecedented time. Customers will continue to have full access to all banking services in the modified service format. We appreciate your cooperation in the interest of public health and wellness.

Morris Hospital Postponing Elective Surgeries, Invasive Procedures in Response to COVID-19

Beginning Wednesday, March 18, all elective surgeries and elective invasive procedures at Morris Hospital will be postponed through at least March 31. Elective surgeries and elective invasive procedures generally include anything planned that is not for a life-threatening condition. All cases that are deemed emergent or urgent by the physician will proceed. All impacted patients are being notified.

cludes going to the hospital solely to eat in the cafeteria or shop in the gift shop.

According to hospital officials, the step is necessary in order to protect the community and Morris Hospital staff, and to conserve the hospital's resources.

"Our most urgent request of the community at this time is to please respect the precautions that we have in place, which also includes not coming to the hospital for non-emergent reasons if you have any signs of illness," says Janet Long, Public Relations Manager at Morris Hospital. "Limiting the number of people who come to the hospital and all of our facilities is one way everyone can help us maintain a safe environment for our patients and staff."

Late last week, the hospital implemented strict precautions to limit the number of persons going to the hospital or any of its medical facilities:

According to the Centers for Disease Control, anyone who thinks they may have been exposed to COVID-19 and develops a fever and symptoms such as cough or difficulty breathing, should call their healthcare provider for medical advice. At this time, Morris Hospital only has permission to perform COVID-19 testing on individuals who meet the criteria outlined by the CDC.

- Hospital inpatients are limited to one designated visitor age 18 or older during their hospitalization. No other visitors will be permitted.

CDC.gov/coronavirus is an excellent resource and includes information on how to protect yourself, symptoms, and what to do if you are sick. There are some quick links on the hospital website to some of the most helpful pages on the CDC site to help everyone quickly find what they're looking for.

- Patients going to any Morris Hospital facility for any reason may be accompanied by one person age 18 or older.

- All public meetings, health education classes, support groups, and student clinical rotations have been suspended until further notice.

- Members of the community should not go to the hospital unless there is a medical reason for the visit. This in-

Mary E. Carman

DWIGHT – Mary E. Carman, 86, of Dwight, IL died Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 4:18 a.m. at Heritage Health, Dwight, IL.



law, Debra Carman of VA; 11 grandchildren: Michele, Tanya, Angela, Jason, Elizabeth, Erica, Donna, Andrea, Hilary, Zachary and Ethan.

Her funeral will be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. at Hager Memorial Home, Dwight, IL, with Pastor Daniel Woodward officiating.

Also surviving are numerous great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild; four sisters: Elaine (Carl) Baker of Dwight, IL; Sue Tally of Marquette Heights, IL; Lou Williams of West Paducah, KY; and Linea (Dan) Zeilman of LaRue, TX; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Burial will be in Braceville - Gardner Cemetery, Braceville, IL.

She was preceded in death by her son, Monty Carman; five brothers: Carl, Billie Joe, Robert, Wayne and Alan; and one sister, Elinor.

A visitation will be held on Wednesday, March 18, 2020 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Hager Memorial Home.

Mary was a cook at Fox Center in Dwight for 17 years. She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Dwight.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society in memory of Monty Carman.

Mary enjoyed Facebook with family, family card games, especially Rook and Words with Friends. She was an avid Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bulls fan. She especially liked Michael Jordan.

Mary was born November 19, 1933 in McCracken County, Kentucky, a daughter of Clyde E. and Cordie M. (Overby) Watson. She married Abraham L. Carman on October 6, 1950. He preceded her in death on February 21, 1988.

This obituary may be viewed at [hagermemorial.com](http://hagermemorial.com)

Survivors include three children: Michael (Gayle) Carman of Pekin, IL; Melissa Gassman of Dwight, IL; and Mitchell (Loralie) Carman of Dwight, IL; one daughter-in-

James Ray Petry Celebration of Life Postponed

A celebration of life for James Ray Petry was to be held at Victory Lanes in Dwight March 28.

The celebration has been postponed. A new date will be forthcoming.

MOWING BID

Village of Saunemin is accepting bids for mowing Village property. Information can be provided by contacting Village Clerk, Nancy Haag at 815-832-4334 (leave a message) or stop by State Bank of Saunemin for info – during the day. Bids may be for one or two years and must be submitted by April 10, 2020. Mail bid AND proof of insurance to: Village of Saunemin, Mowing Bid, PO Box 283, Saunemin, IL 61769.

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

**The Paper**  
 fax: 815-584-2196  
 or email:  
[thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net](mailto:thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net)



**Minutes with Boma**

**Covid-19 - Social Distancing**

I contemplated writing about this subject last week, but didn't have it in me at the time, but I'm going to address it now, and it's the topic that interjects itself into almost every conversation at some point.

The Coronavirus, more specifically the Covid-19 version of the Coronavirus.

First, and this should go without saying, I'm not a medical professional, nowhere even close to one.

However, I've been VERY in tune with the spread of this virus, and the things that were to come from it weeks ago, (my family and close friends can attest.) Some even thought I was being irrational or hyperbolic at the time saying that cities, regions, and maybe even states would pseudo shut down.

Fast forward a couple weeks, and it's here, it's in Illinois, and definitely in the United States.

The thing that was initially preached was "wash your hands, wash your hands, wash your hands."

That advice is good and true, and you should still be practicing it. The thing that will really prevent the spread, and I'm sure you've heard this phrase more times than you can count over the last few days is "social distancing".

This is crucial to slowing the spread of a disease that as of right now has a case fatality rate of 3.8%. (Case fatality meaning diagnosed cases, most estimate the actual number to be closer to 1 when factoring in asymptomatic and very mild cases that don't get reported.)

That's great that the number is probably much lower than the 3.7-3.8%, what isn't great is there are that many cases that are walking around right now that have no clue they have it, or have a mild version of this illness.

Some of the cases in athletes, such as basketball players Rudy Gobert, and Donovan Mitchell showed such little symptoms they still would've played in the games had they not tested positive.

THIS is why social distancing is important. It's going to just not be fun at all for a few weeks, maybe even a few months, but we owe it to our health care workers on the front lines to not overwhelm them and create a situation like they have in Italy where they are running out of doctors and leaving patients most likely to succumb to the illness without treatment.

If that sounds morbid, it's because it is. Do your part and limit your social interactions as much as possible and we'll come out of this on the other side in a much better way.

Flatten the curve.

Aaron J. Boma  
2016 ISU Grad

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

ERIC STEWART, Plaintiff,  
 vs.  
 JEREMY MARSHALL, Defendant,  
 No. 2020-LM-32

NOTICE

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is given you, JEREMY MARSHALL, Defendant, in the above entitled action, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, praying that an order may be entered granting possession of the property commonly known as 311 Eisenhower Drive, Dwight, IL 60420, to the Plaintiff, ERIC STEWART, and for the Plaintiff's costs of suit. Summons was issued out of the court against you as provided by law, and the action is still pending.

Consequently, unless you, JEREMY MARSHALL, Defendant, file your answer to the Petition in this action or otherwise make 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 April 6, 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.

Dated this 4th day of March, 2020.

LEANN DIXON  
 Clerk of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit  
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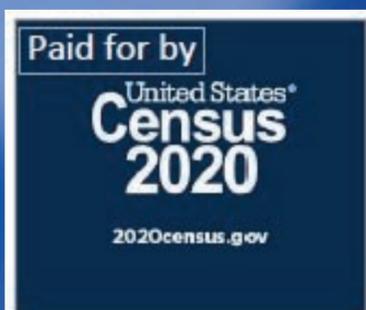
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# SPORTS

## DTHS CHEERLEADING AWARDS



DWIGHT TROJAN CHEERLEADING held their end of the season awards March 10. Pictured, from left, are award-winners Ava Kargle – Most Improved for football sideline cheer; Josie Snyder – Most Valuable for football sideline cheer; Ella Kargle – Most Improved for competitive cheer; Mary Hilt – Most Valuable for competitive cheer; Addison Bean – Trojan GRIT award; and Brianna Kosek – Trojan TEAM award. The Trojan GRIT award is given to the cheerleader exhibiting Growth, Resilience, Integrity, and Tradition (or spirit) throughout the year on the sideline at games, at practice, and at competitions. The Trojan TEAM award is given to the cheerleader exhibiting Team dedication (putting the team before themselves), Energy (always being there when needed), Attitude (always positive), and More (all the extra behind-the-scenes things that she does to help move the team forward). TEAM means Together Everyone Achieves More. This person shows great pride in the team and being a part of the team. They put the success of the team first and are always willing to help whenever needed.



## Lady Tigers' Wild Postseason Run Ends Following Leaky Location Change

Monday, March 9  
GSWB vs. Lockport Taft  
7th Grade -  
Sectional

The seventh grade Lady Tigers' volleyball team was 7-16 heading into the sectional match-up on their home court March 9, and found themselves up against a tough Lockport Taft team – with a record of 14-3.

GSWB was off to a great start, with a 12-9 lead, but everything quickly came to a halt when the roof of the gym started leaking – creating a small puddle in the center of the court.

After a bit of a delay, realizing there was no possible way of finishing the match on their home court, the Lady Tigers and the Lady Vikings packed up their things and headed to Coal City to finish what they started.

Fans from both sides waited out the delay, and without hesitation, followed their respective teams six miles down the road – just as excited as when they arrived.

Although things were crazy, and the Lady Tigers lost their home court advantage, head coach Stacy Faletti said "it was amazing to witness such support, kindness, and understanding, not only from the two participating schools, but from Coal City as well."

GSWB managed to get that first set win, with a score of 25-22. The Lady Vikings had some

tough serving that the Lady Tigers just couldn't handle in the second set, and they lost 12-25.

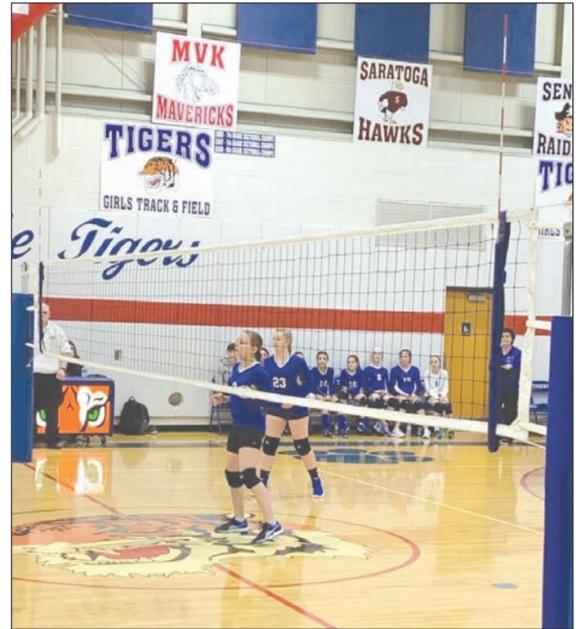
It was back and forth the entire third set, but in the end GSWB fell just shy of a trip to state, losing to Lockport Taft, 21-25.

"This team should be very proud of their amazing season," stated Coach Faletti, "coming back from a 1-16 start, being seeded last in their regional and taking first place, and falling just short of a state trip. This is proof that it doesn't matter how you start, it's how

you finish that counts!"

The Lady Tigers end the season with an overall record of 7-17.

Faletti added, "A huge thank you to Coal City for letting us use their gym last minute, to Illinois Central for arranging bus transportation last minute, to the Gardner administration for their quick thinking and problem solving, to Lockport Taft for their patience and understanding, but most of all to all the fans who supported us – it was something that will never be forgotten."



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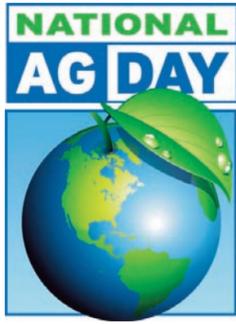
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# LIFE is better on the FARM



## The Role Of Technology In Agriculture

Modern industry is driven by technology. Advancements in technology have changed how business is conducted, with some industries undergoing dramatic changes since the dawn of the 21st century.

While agriculture might not be the first industry people think of when reflecting on the changing nature of industry, The National Institute of Food and Agriculture notes that modern farms are vastly different than those from a few decades ago.

Farmers have long relied on technology to make their operations as efficient, productive and profitable as possible. Precision agriculture, which refers to technological advances designed to propel agriculture into the modern, computerized and information-based world, is helping the agricultural sec-

tor become more profitable and efficient while also improving safety and making agriculture more eco-friendly. In addition, the NIFA notes that the modern agricultural industry employs technology such as robots, temperature and moisture sensors, aerial images, and global positioning systems.

If it sounds complicated, that's because it is. For example, modern sensors can detect soil conditions, potentially producing hundreds of readings per second. These sensors help farmers know the best possible time to plant seeds so they can reach their full potential. That improves both the efficiency of modern farms as well as their output.

The NIFA also notes that agricultural technology has reduced waste. For instance, thanks to agricultural technology, farmers no longer have to apply water, fertilizers and pesticides uniformly across entire fields. Technology has shown

that farmers can simply target specific areas or even treat individual plants differently. That saves time and allows farmers to use only minimal quantities of water, fertilizer and pesticides. In addition, according to the NIFA, employing agricultural technology in this fashion leads to higher crop productiv-

ity and reduces runoff of chemicals into rivers and groundwater, thereby reducing the farm's impact on local ecosystems.

Modern farms are technological marvels where various technologies are being employed to produce crops more efficiently and safely than ever before.

### Why Celebrate Ag Day?

Americans need to understand the value of agriculture in their daily lives. Here are just some of the key reasons why it's important to recognize – and celebrate – Ag Day each year:

- Increased knowledge of agriculture and nutrition allows individuals to make informed personal choices about diet and health.
- Informed citizens will be able to participate in establishing the policies that will support a competitive agricultural industry in this country and abroad.

- Employment opportunities exist across the board in agriculture. Career choices include: farm production; agribusiness management and marketing; agricultural research and engineering; food science; processing and retailing; banking; education; landscape architecture; urban planning; energy; and other fields.
  - Beginning in kindergarten and continuing through 12th grade, all students should receive some systematic instruction about agriculture.
  - Agriculture is too important a topic to be taught only to the small percentage of students considering careers in agriculture and pursuing vocational agricultural studies.
  - Agricultural literacy includes an understanding of agriculture's history and current economic, social, and environmental significance to all Americans. This understanding includes some knowledge of food, fiber, and renewable resource production, processing, and domestic and international marketing.
- For more information, visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org).

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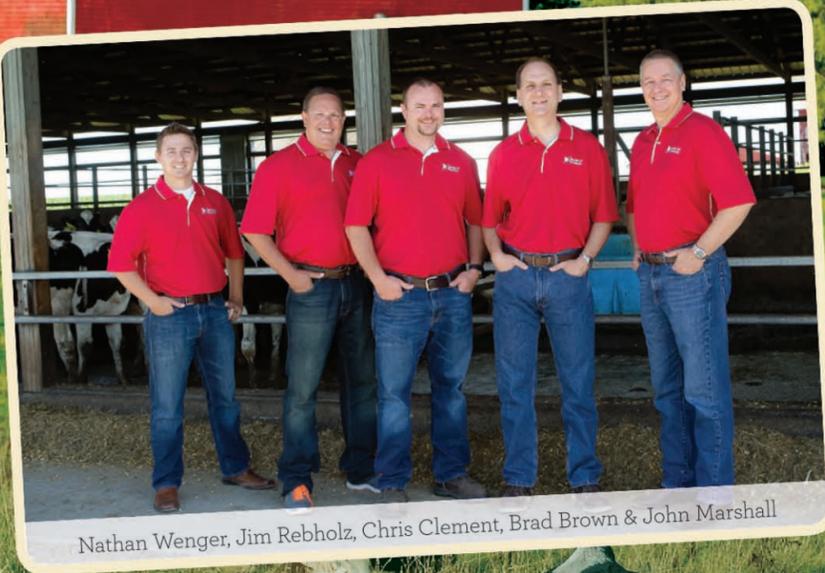
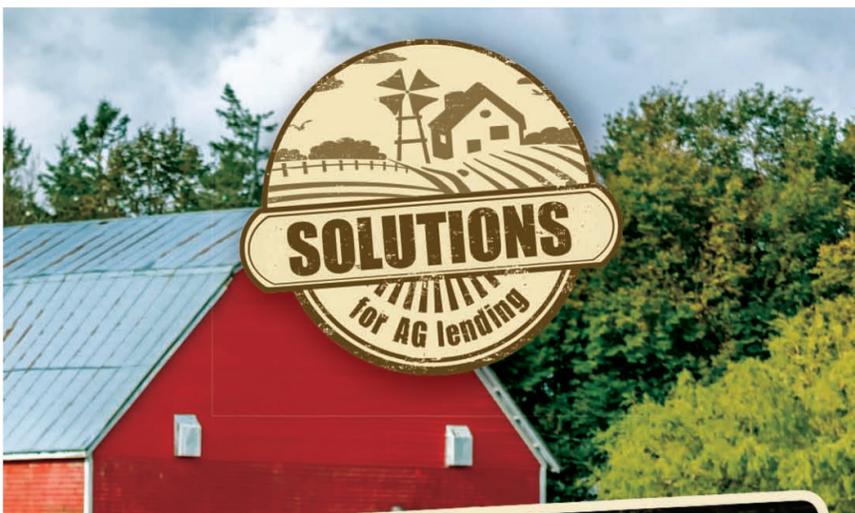
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80 Ac	Tillable Farm Land - 120 CPI - US-52 near Minooka	Sec 14 - Seward Twp	\$9,000/Ac
80 Ac	Tillable Farm Land - 123 CPI - US-52 near Minooka	Sec 15 - Seward Twp	\$9,000/Ac
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# LIFE is better on the FARM

**NATIONAL  
AG DAY**



## About Ag Day

March 24, 2020, is National Ag Day – a time when producers, agricultural associations, corporations, universities, government agencies, and countless others across America gather to recognize and celebrate the abundance provided by American agriculture.

As the world population soars, there is even greater demand for the food, fiber, and renewable resources produced in the United States.

Agriculture provides almost everything we eat, use, and wear on a daily basis, and is increasingly contributing to fuel and other bio-products. Each year, members of the agricultural industry gather together to promote American agriculture. This effort helps educate millions of consumers.

By far, the most effective part of this program is the role you play in helping spread the word. A few generations ago, most Americans were directly involved in – or had relatives or friends involved in – agricultural-related endeavors. Today, that is no longer the case. That is why it is so important that people join together at the community level – collective voices, in concert, become a shout that carries their message a great deal further than any one person can do alone.

**March 24 is still being recognized as National Ag Day though live events won't be taking place.**

## HOW FARMERS ARE USING DRONES



The farmers of yesteryear might not be too familiar with their surroundings if they were to visit a modern farm. While the men and women who made their livings as farmers decades ago would no doubt still recognize certain farm features that have withstood the test of time, they might not understand the inner workings of the modern farm, particularly in regard to the role technology now plays within the agricultural sector.

Technology has changed agriculture in myriad ways. The methods farmers employ to produce food and improve the efficiency of their operations has changed as technology has evolved. One of the more noticeable changes that's hard to miss on modern farms is the use of agricultural drones.

Drones have been around for decades. Sometimes re-

ferred to as "unmanned aerial vehicles," or "UAVs," drones can be utilized in ways that can save farmers money and protect the planet.

- **Monitor crops:** According to SenseFly, the commercial drone subsidiary of Parrot Group, drones can help farmers effectively monitor their crops. With a drone flying overhead, farmers can spot and quickly identify issues affecting their crops before those issues escalate into something larger.

- **Soil analysis:** Another potential benefit of agricultural drones highlights their role in analyzing soil. Agricultural drones utilize complex mapping functions to gather data about the soil, including areas where it might be stressed. That enables farmers to develop accurate soil samples that can be used to guide decisions in regard to irrigation and fertiliza-

tion.

- **Reduce waste:** SenseFly notes that data gathered by drones can help farmers determine the vigor of their crops at various stages of growth. Such information can prevent overfertilization and overwatering, thereby reducing waste and runoff, benefitting the planet as a result.

- **Planning:** Drones can be used to collect data on crop growth and health at various times throughout the growing season. That can help farmers develop accurate predictions regarding harvest quality and crop yield, making it easier for them to plan ahead.

Agricultural drones are one of the many examples that illustrate how technology has changed and will continue to change the ways modern farmers conduct business.

## USDA STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Statement to Industry - March 16, 2020

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is rising to meet the challenges associated with the new coronavirus disease, Covid-19. As leaders of USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Agricultural Marketing Service, we can assure you that the agencies are committed to ensuring the health and safety of our employees while still providing the timely delivery of the services to maintain the movement of America's food supply from farm to fork.

These agencies are prepared to utilize their authority and all administrative means and flexibilities to address staffing considerations. Field personnel will be working closely with establishment management and state and local health authorities to handle situations as they arise in your community. As always, communication between industry and government will be key. We are all relying on early and frequent communication with one another to overcome challenges as they arise.

In this time of much uncertainty, we know that many of you have questions about how the department will continue to ensure that grading and inspection personnel are available. We have all seen how consumers have reacted to the evolving coronavirus situation and how important access to food is to a sense of safety and wellbeing. It is more important than ever that we assure the American public that government and industry will take all steps necessary to ensure continued access to safe and wholesome USDA-inspected products.

As we come together as a country to address this public health threat, know that USDA remains committed to working closely with industry to fulfill our mission of ensuring the safety of the U.S. food supply and protecting agricultural health.

Dr. Mindy Brashears  
USDA Deputy Under Secretary for Food Safety

Greg Ibach  
USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs

## 2020 National Ag Day Set for March 24

The Agriculture Council of America (ACA) will host National Agriculture Day Tuesday, March 24. This will mark the 47th anniversary of National Ag Day, which is celebrated in classrooms and communities across the country. The theme for National Ag Day 2020 is "Food Brings Everyone to the Table."

On March 24, the ACA will host major events in the nation's capital, including an event at the USDA, as well as a Taste of Agriculture Celebration at the Library of Congress. Additionally, the ACA will take approximately 100 college students to Washington to deliver the message of Ag Day to the Hill.

These events honor National Agriculture Day and mark a nationwide effort to tell the true

story of American agriculture and remind citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us. Many agricultural associations, corporations, students, and government organizations involved in agriculture are expected to participate.

The ACA is a nonprofit organization composed of leaders in the agricultural, food, and fiber community, dedicating its efforts to increasing the public's awareness of agriculture's role in modern society.

The National Ag Day program encourages every American to:

- Understand how food and

fiber products are produced.

- Appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products.

- Value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy.

- Acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, and fiber industry.

In addition to the events in Washington, DC, on March 24, the ACA will once again feature the Ag Day Essay Contest. The winning essay will be presented on National Ag Day.

Visit [www.agday.org](http://www.agday.org) for more information.

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March 24, 2020

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## At the Churches (may be canceled)

**DWIGHT**  
**Dwight United Methodist Church**  
 701 S. Columbia  
 584-3420 church  
 Dwightumc.org  
 Pastor: Michael Ebersohl

- MAR. 18: 2 p.m., Kids Klub/Real Kids; 6 p.m., Choir practice; 7 p.m., REAL & IG-NITE; Mid-Lent Service at First Congregational.
- MAR. 19: 9 a.m., Bible Seekers at Heritage Woods; 11:30 a.m., EMMAUS Reunion Group meeting; 5 p.m., Scouts #4877; 5:30 p.m., Praise Band rehearsal.
- MAR. 21: 7 a.m., Men's Bible Study at Route 66, Dwight, and Cafe 110, Odell; 9 a.m., AA meeting.
- MAR. 22: 8 a.m., Early Worship; 9:15 a.m., Sunday School; 9:30 a.m., Praise Band rehearsal; 10:30 a.m., Late Worship; 2 p.m., Heritage Health Service.
- MAR. 23: 6:30 p.m., Bible Warriors Bible Study; 7 p.m., UMM meeting.
- MAR. 24: 8:30 a.m., Hens Bible Study; 1 p.m., Ham Loaves distribution.
- MAR. 25: 6 p.m., Choir practice.

**St. Patrick Catholic Church**  
 Mazon Ave. at Prairie  
 815-584-3522 Office  
 Father Chris Haake, Pastor

- MAR. 21: 9 - 10 a.m., Reconciliation; 4:30 p.m., Mass.
- MAR. 22: 10:30 a.m., Mass.

**St. Peter's Lutheran Church**  
 326 W. Chippewa St.  
 815-584-1199  
 Pastor Chrissy Salsner  
 email: [chrissytherev@att.net](mailto:chrissytherev@att.net)

- MAR. 18: 6:15 p.m., Soup Supper at Community, Cornell; 7 p.m., Lenten Service at Community, Cornell; Dwight Ecumenical Mid Lenten Service at First Congregational.
- MAR. 20 - spring begins: 9:30 a.m., Women's Bible Study at Family Restaurant, Chenoa; 8 p.m., AA.
- MAR. 21: First Communion Class.
- MAR. 22: 9:15 a.m., Fellowship Breakfast; 9:30 a.m., Faith Development for all ages; 10:30 a.m., HC Worship.
- MAR. 23: 9 a.m. - 12 noon, quilting.
- MAR. 24: 9 a.m. - 12 noon, quilting; 10 a.m., Pr. Text study; 4 - 6 p.m., Salvation Army/Compassion Ministry.
- MAR. 25: 6:15 p.m., Soup Supper; 7 p.m., Lenten Service at Trinity, Chenoa.
- MAR. 26: 12 noon, WELCA at Cafe 110 West, Odell.
- MAR. 27: 9:30 a.m., Women's Bible Study at Chenoa Family Restaurant, Chenoa; 8 p.m., AA for all addictions.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church LCMS**  
 325 E. Mazon Ave.  
 584-3433 church  
 584-1291 fax  
 Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor

- MAR. 18: 1 p.m., Mary/Martha; 4 - 5 p.m., Catechism Classes; 5 p.m., Lenten meal; 6 p.m., Lenten Service; handbells and choir.
- MAR. 19: Valley Lutheran High School Band and Choir Concert here at 6 p.m.
- MAR. 22: 9 a.m., Sunday School/Bible Class; 10 a.m., Worship with Holy Communion.
- MAR. 24: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., "Sew Blessed."
- MAR. 25: 4 - 5 p.m., Catechism Classes; 5 p.m., Lenten Meal; 6 p.m., Lenten Service; handbell and choir.
- MAR. 28: 10 a.m., "Joyfull Lutheran Women."

**First Baptist Church**  
 401 N. Clinton St.  
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- MAR. 18: Wednesday Evening Service and King's Kids Children's Program, 7 p.m..
- MAR. 22: Sunday School for all ages, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.
- MAR. 24: \*Special DBA Convention Service, 7 p.m.

**First Congregational United Church of Christ**  
 200 W. Delaware St.  
 584-1260 church  
 Rev. Grant Speece

- MAR. 18: 7 p.m., Mid-Lenten Service.
- MAR. 19: 7 p.m., Trustees
- MAR. 22: 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. Sermon title: "Who Sinned?"
- MAR. 24: 5 p.m., Holy Scripture Readings
- MAR. 25: 1-13 John 9:1-4
- \* "Feed the Kids" program - Donations welcome.

**St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church NALC**  
 511 W. Jackson  
 815.689.2120  
 st.johns@frontiernet.net  
 Pastor: Gabriel Baumgardner

- MAR. 18: Shut-ins.
- MAR. 19: 10 a.m., Text Study at St. John's, Danforth.
- MAR. 21: 5 p.m., Worship.
- MAR. 22: 8:45 a.m., Sunday School; 10 a.m., Worship/HC.
- MAR. 24: 5 p.m., Prayers, Planning & Bible Study; 6 p.m., Soup, Sandwiches & Worship.
- MAR. 26: 10 a.m., Text Sunday at St. John's, Danforth.

**EMINGTON**  
**Emington Congregational United Church of Christ**  
 103 Division Street  
 Rev. Grant Speece

- MAR. 22: 8:45 a.m., Worship Service. Sermon title: "Who Sinned?"
- Holy Scripture Readings
- Samuel 16:1-13
- John 9:1-4

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 Thurs., Mar. 19: Breakfast casserole, warm rosy applesauce, fruit juice, cinnamon roll, cranberries.  
 Fri., Mar. 20: Salmon burger w/condiment, Venetian blend, vegetables, potato casserole, dinner roll, Mandarin oranges.  
 Mon., Mar. 23: Savorvy sausage stew

w/beans, seasoned carrots, biscuits, spiced apple rings.  
 Tues., Mar. 24: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes w/gravy, breaded tomatoes, dinner roll, seasonal dessert.  
 Wed., Mar. 25: Ravioli w/meat sauce, broccoli, corn, whole grain wheat, pudding.  
 Thurs., Mar. 26: Salisbury beef pattie, mashed potatoes, spinach, dinner roll, banana bread w/cream cheese.  
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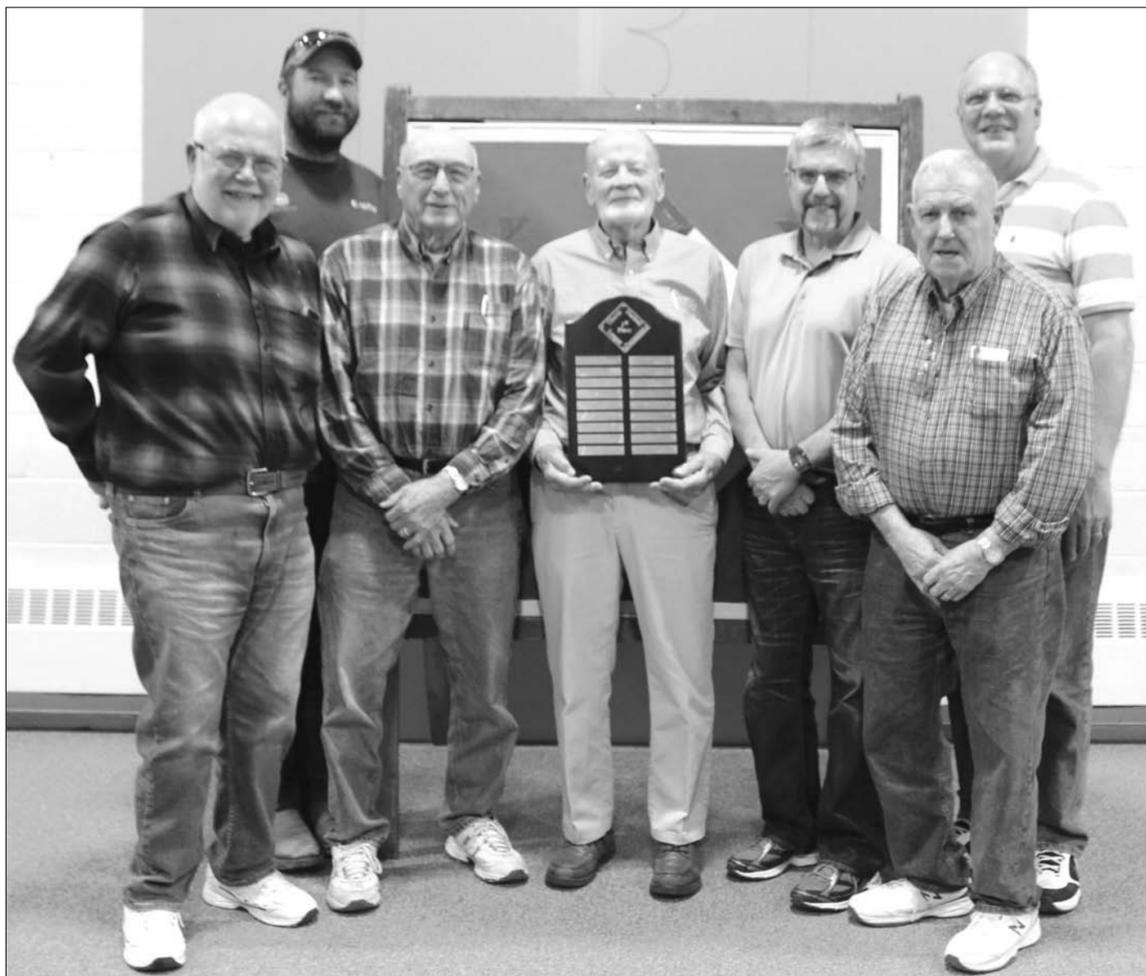
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**CHAMPIONS! EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH** was crowned Church Dartball League Champions this season. Dwight United Methodist Church's team won the Church Dartball Tournament.



**DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL**

**Wednesday, March 11  
Dwight vs. Milford  
8th Grade -  
Regional**

The Lady Redbirds were in regional play against Milford March 11, falling in two sets and ending their season.

Leading the way was Kassy

Kodat with four aces, two kills, two digs, and two assists. Avery Scheuer added two aces and two kills, with Megan Livingston putting up ten digs, an assist, and a kill. Claire Robison provided three digs, while Milana Bradley had one kill.

**Trojan Seniors Selected for SVC All-Star Game  
Ceylor Advances in 3-pt. Contest**

Dwight Trojan basketball players Bryson Connor, Lane Thompson, and Tyler Masching have been selected for the SVC senior All-Stars – with the All-Star game slated for Saturday, March 21, in Gibson City at

7:00 p.m. Also, Brandon Ceylor advanced to the state three-point competition. However, and unfortunately, the contest was cancelled along with the state tournament.

*Victory Lanes, Dwight*  
**Bowling League Results**

**Commercial League**

**Bowlers**  
HSG: Henry Gubernat, 289 – Sheri Colebank, 177. HHG: Henry Gubernat, 299 – Anne Sporrer, 231. HSS: Henry Gubernat, 644 – Paula Watts, 486. HHS: Bruce Richardson, 714 – Kathy Howard, 646. HSG/HHG: Mike, 1107. HSS/HHS: Mike, 2993.

League Standings	W	L
Mike	25	11
Cherry RR	22	14
Gaston Construct.	21	15
Willy's Pub	21	15
Dwight Printing	19	17
Pinkie's Out	19	17
DQueens	17	19
Victory Lanes	16	20
Whiskey Cav.	16	20

Freaksters	16	20
Coleman/Son	14	22
Brannan Roof.	10	26

**Sportsman League Bowlers**

HSG: Jeff Behning, Jr, 268. HHG: Kent Jensen, 276. HSS/HHS: Jeff Behning, Jr., 722. HSG/HHG: Victory Lanes, 1150. HSS/HHS: Victory Lanes, 3261.

League Standings	W	L
Star Trucking	12	4
Victory Lanes	11	5
Carl's Pro Band	11	5
Jensen BP II	10	6
Jensens I	9	7
Rury's Tap	8	8
Jeremy's Barber	7	9
DeLong Ford	5	11
Willy's Pub	4	12
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*Rep. Tom Bennett Reports*

**Illinois Has 2nd Highest Property Taxes in Nation**

I know it sounds like a broken record, but a new study has found that Illinois has the nation's second-highest property taxes.

This survey came from the consumer finance website WalletHub, and it determined that Illinois trails only New Jersey in high property taxes. The study found that the average taxes on a \$205,000 property in Illinois were around \$4700. In Indiana or Kentucky, that same piece of property would be taxed at \$1760.

This is one of the key reasons we continue to lag behind our neighboring states in job creation and retention. It should be a top priority for state policymakers this legislative session.

**Legislators briefed on coronavirus developments in Illinois.** State and local health officials have been working overtime to protect the public from the coronavirus (also known as COVID-19) outbreak, and they recently gave state legislators a briefing on their efforts.

This week saw the confirmation of additional coronavirus cases in Illinois. The Department of Public Health has opened labs in Springfield, Carbondale and Chicago to allow the state to speed up testing and improve monitoring of the illness should it spread. But as more testing is done, it is likely more cases will be detected and reported.

On Monday, Governor Pritzker issued a disaster proclamation which makes additional state resources available should they be needed. We have seen many closures, cancellations, and other restrictions put in place to slow the spread of the illness. The Attorney General is warning Illinoisans about e-mail and social media scams related to the virus.

**Two bills advance, one does not.** Two more of my bills advanced out of committee last week, but one other bill will not be going forward.

House Bills 4562 and 4563 passed the Judiciary-Civil Committee last week. They have to do with the rights of Illinoisans who have a guardian to help manage their affairs. HB 4562 would require a guardian

to consider the preferences of a person, also known as a ward, to the extent that the ward has the ability to participate in decision-making when those preferences are known or reasonably ascertainable by the guardian.

HB 4563 has to do with the processes for petitioning for the temporary appointment of a guardian for a disabled person. Both bills now advance to the House floor for further discussion.

Sometimes passing a bill into law is the only answer to a perceived need, but other times it is better if we can find another way to resolve the underlying issue without making a permanent change to state law. I am glad to report that this is exactly what happened in response to the issue I sought to address with a bill I introduced this spring.

House Bill 4342 would have changed state law to allow long-term care facilities to provide an opioid treatment program if they receive written approval from the Department of Public Health. It would have set up a process for a facility to use empty beds to treat persons in the community suffering from opioid addiction.

Once the bill was filed, all the interested parties had time to review it and study the situation a little closer. After doing so, we came to an understanding that with only a few minor changes in processes and information sharing, facilities can work together with state agencies to offer this kind of treatment, without needing a permanent change to the law. I was glad that the introduction of this legislation helped bring people together to find common ground. It is not often that a legislator is pleased to have a bill stop moving forward, but this is one of those cases.

**Did you know?** Baseball season is just around the corner, and March 14 marks an important date for Cubs fans. It was on that date in 1914 that Wrigley Field was completed. The park at Clark and Addison was then called Weegham Park, and was home not to the Cubs but to the Chicago Whales of the short-lived Federal League. The Cubs moved in a year later in 1915 and have called it home ever since.

**Bennett District Offices Closed for In-person Visits**

Thomas M. Bennett, State Representative 106th District, has announced his district offices (Pontiac and Watseka) will be closed to in-person visits, but will be available by telephone at 815-844-9179 for Pontiac and 815-432-0106 for Watseka.

He has posted links to several agencies and resources on his website: <https://repben.net/covid-19/>.

You can find out more from the Illinois Department of Public Health at: [www.dph.illinois.gov](http://www.dph.illinois.gov) and the federal Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

At this time, it is important that everyone remember to wash their hands frequently, using soap and hot water, for at least 20 seconds; clean and sanitize frequently-touched surfaces like doorknobs and tabletops; avoid crowds; and cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue away.

Those who are feeling ill or who have coronavirus questions should call the Illinois Department of Public Health's toll-free statewide coronavirus hotline at 1-800-889-3931.

**How much do we owe?** As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$7,037,466,449 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$8.3 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment.



**Bloodshot**

**Starring:** Vin Diesel, Guy Pearce, Eiza Gonzalez  
**Director:** Dave Wilson  
**Genre:** Action, Science-fiction  
**Rated:** PG-13  
**Rating:** 5.5/10

Plenty of slow-motion and action tropes, but not enough story or character to carry this comic book adaptation past mediocre status. Bloodshot centers on Ray Garrison, an excellent soldier dedicated to his military service and madly in love with his beautiful wife. He is no stranger to killing and is considered a strong asset to the country. Unfortunately, after being captured by enemies looking for information, his wife is murdered before his eyes and himself is also shot. Upon waking up, he is told by a mysterious scientist (played by Guy Pearce) that he had been killed and brought back to life by RST, a billion-dollar company dedicated to enhancing exceptional soldiers from the military via groundbreaking technological advancements; through them, Ray had been resurrected and made even more dangerous through powerful technology in his blood. He is now capable of a wide array of skills, including healing and extraordinary strength. While struggling with memories of his past life, he tries to remember

anything before death. After recollecting the man who killed him and his wife, he sets out with his upgraded body to enact vengeance. However, it soon becomes evident that RST and those around him are not as they seem, and Ray has to uncover the truth about the life he woke up to.

The whole feel of Bloodshot is very old-school, which isn't entirely bad, but doesn't leave room for much originality. It seems to follow in the footsteps of countless other films, employing the tropes of a hero mourning a loved one, slow-motion dominating the action, and dialogue which falls on the side of lazy. This does not add up to a terrible movie, but it does make an experience which isn't all that memorable. However, fans of revenge flicks, futuristic soldiers, and bombastic action, will likely be pleased with this Vin Diesel outing. The acting is decent (if not a little cheesy) from everyone, including a chase scene and over-the-top superhuman fight. Some side characters are also interesting enough, but none of them are fully developed past their action stereotypes. In the end, it is a decent film for relaxing the brain and eating popcorn, but doesn't offer much past the revenge narrative at its surface.

- Ryan Beier



## NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

GARDNER-SOUTH WILMINGTON High School inducted 14 new members into the National Honor Society on March 11. Pictured, bottom row, are Bethani Nicoletti, Sophie Randolph, Claire Hennessy, Katelyn Farris, Andreanna LaFaire, Maleena Leech; top row, Jacob Mammosser, Ethan Mack, Olivia Cerutti, Easton Ashley, Riley Klingler, Trey Schweitzer, Ashley Frideres, and Braeden Hirsch. The adviser is Mrs. Terese Kukman.



## “Integrity Winners”

GARDNER-SOUTH WILMINGTON High School students were “Integrity Winners” for the months of December and January in the PANTHER PRIDE Program. Teachers and staff choose students who are showing “Integrity” in the classroom, hallway, cafeteria, and common areas.



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