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Wednesday, February 10, 2021

Anderson to Retire Dwight Mayoral Seat

"Dwight is unlimited in potential..."

by Madelyn Fogarty
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

After 23 years of service to the Village of Dwight, Mayor Jared Anderson has decided to not seek re-election and will be turning over the helm to someone new. Anderson served Dwight for eight years on the Planning Commission, followed by three years on the Zoning Board, replacing John Clausen as Chairman. He then spent four years as a Trustee on Dwight's Village Board before running for Village President where he served two four-year terms.

Mayor Anderson's decision to retire from the role of mayor is largely due to personal reasons after making a career move and taking a new job position with a different company. With starting the new time intensive opportunity, this husband and father wants to ensure that any free time is devoted to his family. In addition, he just felt it was time for someone with a different perspective to step into the role.

"After 12 years some ideas become stale," Anderson told *The Paper*. "You become comfortable and struggle at new ideas for your community; you owe it to the village to step away."

However, that certainly was not always the case. Anderson threw his hat in the ring for mayor because he had a dream for the community where he has spent his whole life.

"I had a vision for Dwight and the knowledge needed for making infrastructure improvements," said Anderson. "I had felt, at the time, that Dwight needed some younger leadership with fresh ideas."

And, his main goal was pretty straight forward...for Dwight to be in a better place when he left office than when



Dwight Mayor Jared Anderson

he was elected. He succeeded at some ambitions, and others were more difficult.

"The Village Board worked harmoniously in making significant improvements to benefit all of Dwight," said Anderson. "We now have some sort of systematic roadway improvement program in place. But, I wanted to really draw new business to Dwight. However, with the loss of the women's prison in 2013, it set us back on several new businesses. And, Illinois has created a bad atmosphere for business."

The struggles were real and the obstacles were many, as Mayor Anderson had hoped to see several more streets reconstructed and completed before he left office. But, drawing new business to the area proved to be one of the bigger challenges as Anderson noted that there have had some great prospective businesses that have fallen through.

"Eight years ago I asked a question: How do we have two major railways intersecting in Dwight with no industrial or commercial business besides LSC utilizing the rail?" said Anderson. "Adam Dantz of the

GLCEDC, Village Administrator Kevin McNamara, and I requested to meet with Norfolk Southern and Union Pacific in the same room and create a plan. For the last five years, we have conducted studies and optioned properties in an attempt to make Dwight more attractive. Currently, we are annexing this property and the GLCEDC and the State of Illinois DCEO are actively marketing the location. If an industrial or commercial presence would come to the Dwight location, they, hopefully, would create good paying jobs and help generate revenue lost by the closure of the prison and LSC Communications."

The unprecedented impact of a pandemic was another unexpected trial during his tenure as Village President with Anderson stating, "COVID is hurting and crushing our small businesses."

Mayor Anderson believes that business development, whether commercial or industrial, needs to be a key focus for the next administration.

"Dwight needs business development," stated Anderson. "We cannot expect the taxpayer-

(continued on page 3)

DTHS Settles Civil Lawsuit Regarding Student/Teacher Allegations Plaintiff to Receive \$300,000

Members of the Dwight Township High School Board of Education met in a special session on February 3 regarding litigation that has been pending against the District since 2019. A press release signed by Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent of Dwight Public Schools, was issued following the meeting.

"This evening, Board of Education approved a Settlement Agreement and Release with James Doe concerning alleged misconduct by a teacher of the District. The Board has denied and continues to deny any wrongdoing. The teacher is currently suspended without pay pending dismissal proceedings and is awaiting trial on criminal charges."

"The Board believes that settlement of this matter is in all of the parties' best interests. The Board and its insurance carrier have agreed to pay a sum of money to the Plaintiff to resolve all outstanding issues

between the Plaintiff and the Board, including the dismissal of a suit filed in the United States District Court. This does not in any way affect the employment matter regarding the teacher or the criminal charges pending against the teacher. The Board is confident that it and its administrators acted appropriately and promptly, but believes settlement is in the best interests of the District, its students and the community.

"The Board will have no further comment regarding this matter."

"James Doe", who was a minor at the time of the alleged incident(s), shall remain anonymous.

In the Settlement Agreement and Release obtained through a FOIA request by *The Paper*, "the District and/or its insurance carrier shall pay to the Plaintiff the total sum of Three Hundred Thousand and 00/100

Dollars (\$300,000), to be paid to the Plaintiff no later than twenty-one (21) days after the execution of this agreement by all parties." The Plaintiff is "solely responsible for any tax liabilities arising out of the payment", and each party is "exclusively responsible" for his/her own attorney's fees and fees related to the cost of litigation. The settlement and release will "forever discharge" the DTHS Board, its members, and the Dwight Township High School District No. 230 "from any and all matters of action and causes of action" related to the charges. Per the document, the Agreement is the "compromise of the disputed claim" and is "not to be construed as an admission of liability or wrongdoing" by the District or the teacher.

The teacher named in the lawsuit, Kathryn Patten, still has criminal charges pending with a court date currently set for May 17-19, 2021.



THE WAIT. High School Sports has returned. Not in its previous fashion, but with masked players and limited fans. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, school sports have been interrupted, and rescheduled more than once in the 2020-21 season. This week's game results pages 10 and 12.

photo by J7Images

Come Along For a Ride. . .

Youth Racer, Ashlyn Heddins, A Look into the Mind of a Racer

by Bridget DeWaard

"I remember Ashlyn's second race, back in September of 2018. There had been a small multi-car collision on the track, and she attempted to maneuver around it," Eric Heddins recalled, describing the nervewracking few moments his daughter's car began riding the wall before thankfully coming back down. "I'll never forget it; after everything had calmed down, and everyone was ok, she looked at me and asked, Dad, when's my next race?"

Ashlyn Heddins, a Sophomore at Pontiac Township High School, has been racing ever since, with this new season marking the start of her third year. Her father, also very much a gearhead, shared his love of fast cars with his daughter from a very young age. "Growing up, I would see my older brother and my father working on cars or going to NASCAR events, and I always wanted to be involved," Heddins remembered. "Once I finally got to go to the track, and be a part of the action in person, I was hooked."

Ashlyn and the Heddins' racing team have traveled all over, competing in about 21 total races so far. "We didn't miss a race in 2019," her father added proudly. "It was exhausting," he continued with a chuckle. "But it was definitely a fun year." Since entering the racing scene, Heddins has continued to be a force, completing her 2019 rookie season among the top, finishing an amazing fourth overall in points.

Beyond all the physical preparation and groundwork that goes into perfecting the art of skilled racing, there's also the mental work of keeping a calm, focused mind amidst the non-stop action. Sometimes zooming faster than the cars themselves, Ashlyn created a beautifully unique pre-race routine to help slow down her thoughts, and leave the racing for the track. "First, we stop at a gas station to grab ice for the cooler, and I grab a drink," she begins, starting with the ride

over. "Once we get to the track, I immediately pop on my headphones, and start to chill out to the Beatles, or some 80's rock." With her music surging and the race getting closer, Heddins then heads over to meet up with her spotter, Alex Ederman.

"A spotter sits at the top of the fence during the event," Heddins explains. "They watch the race and tell you what's going on around you - where the other cars are, how you're doing - all to help you get a better feel for the race and what you need to do." After her pre-race check in with Ederman, Heddins makes one more stop, to an open, grassy space, grounding herself to the race track. "I sit down, and I feel the grass, and breathe," she says, "And finally, I suit up."

Once suited up, Heddins walks on to the track, the drivers all greeting each other and supportively trading good lucks. Ashlyn makes her way to her car, and carefully places her helmet on the front seat as

the National Anthem plays. "In grade school, I would sing the Anthem for different events," she says of the final moments before the race starts. "I hum along as it plays to keep me calm."

Once the routine comes to an end, and it's finally time to jump in the car, the first laps of the race are just as much of a mental hurdle as navigating the pre-race nerves and apprehension. "It takes a couple times around the track to scrub off the extra rubber on the tires from previous races," she explains. "It's called scrubbing. Kind of like my nervousness, which takes a few laps to melt."

As the nervousness fades and gives way to excitement, Heddins zooms around the track, with the cars reaching speeds of 60 to 70 miles per hour. "I can even get a bit aggressive at this point," Heddins says with a laugh, her competitive spirit mingling with her excitement and bursting through

(continued on page 12)



ASHLYN HEDDINS, a Sophomore at PTHS, is marking the start of her third year of racing

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WHILE
SUPPLIES
LAST

**Classes start
February 17,
2021.**

Anderson to Retire Dwight Mayoral Seat - - -

(continued from page 1)
ers to continue to hold the burden. So, if the new administration thinks that raising taxes or the creation of new tax districts will help, it won't. The cost of everything in Illinois is expensive - labor, equipment, and the vendors we need to perform work on village equipment is through the roof. Dwight needs capital created through business and job creation.”
Anderson also feels that developing a program that encourages the next generation of professionals to keep rooted in Dwight, and bring back some that have left, is essential.
“We need to create a network of high school and college students from Dwight and

evaluate our village’s needs,” said Anderson. “We must encourage, or create, incentive plans for young business owners. Dwight needs to be looking forward at the many different services we currently have. Will Dwight have a floral shop? Will we have a dentist or an attorney? Or, even, how many barbershops or salons will be here? We have an established older faction of business owners retiring. We need the youth from our community to come back, or we figure out what is needed to attract young professionals to Dwight. The first step is initiating a process with DTHS and the Village of Dwight to establish a program.”

Mayor Anderson had some final comments for the community he calls home and the residents he feels are exceptional.
“Dwight is a great community with an outstanding history. So, to have had the opportunity to serve and represent the residents of Dwight is a great honor, and I am forever thankful,” Mayor Anderson told *The Paper*. “The village boards that I have worked with for the last 12 years have been great, with many different ideas. Through the years, we have had tough decisions, and may not have agreed in all instances, but we always reverted to the best interest of Dwight.”
“The Village Board over the last 12 years deserves as much

recognition for Dwight’s improvements as anyone - they recognized the need for our community’s progression,” he continued. “Dwight is unlimited in potential. We are blessed with a great location with great residents. Dwight needs people to get involved; I have heard some great ideas and some valid complaints. I suggest, get involved. The more we can give, the more diverse ideas will help feed growth in the Dwight community.”
“Thank you, to all, for the support throughout the years,” said Mayor Anderson in his closing comment. “I believe Dwight is a better community than it was eight years ago, and I hope you do as well.”

Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum Offers Special Events, Prices in February

The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Springfield, is offering free admission February 12 in honor of Lincoln’s Birthday and to celebrate the museum reopening to the public. In addition, children will be admitted free on Presidents Day and everyone gets in for half price throughout the month of February.
Lincoln’s birthday is always a special time at the presidential museum, and that’s especially true now that the museum has reopened after being closed for two months because of the coronavirus pandemic.
As is traditional, museum admission will be free on Lincoln’s Birthday. However, guests must schedule their visits in advance at www.PresidentLincoln.Illinois.gov.
Guests can enjoy live music in the museum plaza throughout the day and meet Abraham



Lincoln from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He will be joined by Mrs. Lincoln from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The first 100 young visitors will receive a special gift.
The museum is also putting some particularly interesting Lincoln items on display in the Treasures Gallery. They include a cuff link the president was

wearing on the night he was assassinated, china from the Lincoln White House, and a slip of paper on which Lincoln wrote his definition of democracy: “As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy.”

On Feb. 12 only, the presidential library’s foundation will also be offering memberships for half price, both in person and online, at ALPLM.org or by calling 217-557-5589. Members of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation get multiple benefits including free museum admission and special prices on merchandise.
The ALPLM is also offering a special for children a few days later. On Presidents Day – Feb. 15 this year – they can visit for free. The first 100 will get gifts. Again, tickets must be obtained in advance.
To help, the museum’s special prices go beyond Lincoln’s Birthday and Presidents Day. All admission costs will be cut in half for the entire month of February.
You can follow the ALPLM on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

the corner

by Tom Tock

(continued from last week)
Let’s see, last week we were writing about the failure of High Speed Rail and what is presently happening with Amtrak and its hopes for going faster.
I noted that in 2019 Dwight had a local Amtrak ridership of approximately 5,037. That number slipped to 1,666 in 2020. Thirty-one people rode the train from Dwight in April of 2020.
Faced with an ongoing pandemic, Amtrak took four trains out of service on the Chicago - St. Louis route, two northbound and two southbound. If you want a ride from Dwight on Amtrak the trains now stopping are:
Northbound: 8:17 a.m. and 8:22 p.m.
Southbound: 10:49 a.m. and 8:24 p.m.
Scott Speegle, IDOT Passenger Rail and Transit Communications Manager, told *The Paper*, “IDOT has been in regular discussions with Amtrak in regard to resumption of normal levels of service at the earliest time possible. We expect this to occur later this year.
“Testing on the X-itsc signaling system on the Chicago to St. Louis corridor continues with the expecta-

tion that the testing will be completed later this year. Lincoln service trains will then be able to increase speeds to 90 miles per hour,” according to Speegle.
Has anyone ever done an income/expense analysis of the new Amtrak station in Dwight? Nice station, costing taxpayers \$3.26 million. Most Amtrak passengers don’t use it, preferring to come and go from their cars. It would make a nice place to display local artwork, maybe bring some people to Dwight instead of taking them away.
If you didn’t guess, I have never been a fan of high speed rail, at least not the way they tried it here, using a freight railway track that has only become busier.
Back in the fifties, President Eisenhower didn’t build a network of interstate highways by using existing roads. He was smart enough to realize a new roadbed was needed outside of communities, not through the heart of towns.
Things will improve for Amtrak, of course, but they carried only 1 to 1-1/2% of the Chicago/St. Louis travelers pre-pandemic.
Art shows. Why not? With music.

There is nothing on this earth more to be prized than true friendship.
- Thomas Aquinas

Joliet Area Community Hospice Opens New Addition

The new addition at Joliet Area Community Hospice (JACH) is complete and will open to serve patients and families as soon as state licensing approval is received.
This project is phase one of a two-part project to expand the organization’s facility at 250 Water Stone Circle in Joliet. The goal is to create a 20-bed facility that provides great functionality for patients, families and staff in a warm and peaceful setting.
Phase one is a 9,000 square foot addition on the north end of the existing Hospice Home. It includes 12 all-new patient suites that are built for comfort for both patients and families. Highlights include:
• Large suites with beautiful décor and natural lighting.
• Over-sized patient beds and state-of-the-art medical equipment.
• Pullout beds for overnight visitors.
• Electronic communications system, TVs and refrigerators in every suite.
Each room has French doors

which open to a private patio. The doors are wide enough that the patient can go outside from the comfort of his or her bed.
The new addition includes staff stations just outside the patient suites for maximum connection between patient and staff.
An inviting and peaceful Solace Room offers space for quiet moments. When COVID precautions are lifted, this space will be available for small memorial services.
Once the new addition opens, construction will begin on phase two – the renovation of the existing Hospice Home. Built in 2004 as the first free-standing hospice facility in Illinois, the Hospice Home has served thousands of families. As part of this renovation, all suites will be renovated to include all new furniture, French doors and patios. Family-focused spaces will be added, including:
• A multi-family living room and dining room where families can gather.
• A private dining room and

kitchen where families can prepare and enjoy a special meal if they choose.
• A renovated lobby.
• A business center for families’ use.
All construction is expected to be completed by early summer.
During phase two construction, visitors will enter the facility in a temporary lobby in the new addition. Orange signs direct visitors to a parking lot on the east side of the facility.
Current COVID protocol allows two visitors per patient at one time. All visitors are screened before entry and masks are required.
This \$8.3 million project was funded through the *Remembering from the Heart* Capital Campaign which began in 2017. A limited number of naming rights are still available for gifts between \$5,000-\$50,000. For more information, contact Eileen Gutierrez, Sr.,

Director of Development and Communications, at 815-740-4104.
For Joliet Area Community Hospice CEO Mary K. Sheehan, the completion of phase one is a milestone for the organization she has led since 2015.
JACH is a not-for-profit, community-based, state-licensed and Medicare/Medicaid certified agency with local, highly-trained teams serving Will, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Livingston, Cook, DuPage, Kankakee, McHenry, Kane, and Lake Counties.
JACH provides serious illness and hospice care for adults and children and grief support services for family members and the community. Care is provided in the patient’s home, at assisted or nursing care facilities, or in the hospice inpatient unit. No one in need of JACH services is turned away due to their inability to pay.

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2 Center Cut Pork Chops
Grilled Lemon Pepper Cod
Grilled Tilapia or Catfish Filet
Chicken or Shrimp Alfredo

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LTLD Offers Virtual Programming

Limestone Township Library District (LTLD) continues to be of service to the community by offering virtual programming on their Facebook page and YouTube channel.

They have Storytime every Tuesday and Friday at 10:15 a.m. on Facebook with Ms. Holly and Ms. Karyn.

On Thursday, February 11, Austin will host Chess Club at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook, giving watchers techniques to improve their game.

Their Adult/YA craft for February will be Wrapped Rope Rainbow. That will be presented on Facebook Monday, February 15, at 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, February 18, will feature a Gardening Grab-and-Go Project of making your own Lavender Bath Salts with instructions from

Holly Froning from the University of Illinois Extension Office.

Every Saturday, they have a new Grab-and-Go craft which can be picked up at the library while supplies last. Ask at the front desk for more information.

Their building is open to the public. In following the guidelines from the Public Health Department and Restore Illinois, no more than 15 people will be allowed in the library building at any given time. Patrons will be restricted to be inside the library up to one hour. Patrons will be required to use hand sanitizer upon entering and to wear a mask while inside. If patrons are unable to wear a mask, the library is happy to provide contactless curbside service.

The computer area is open to patrons by appointment for 30-minute time slots. It is possible for patrons to use the computers two times a day. Printing and faxing from the copier will also be available. Patrons will hand their copy or fax jobs to staff who will complete them.

LTLD is offering Curbside Services by appointment to those who still need or wish to have it. Give staff at least one hour's notice for a pick up so they can have your items ready when you arrive in the parking lot.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call them at 815-939-1696, e-mail them at info@limestonelibrary.org, or message them at Facebook or Instagram. Visit their website, limestonelibrary.org, for more information.



WHEN YOU VISIT LIMESTONE TOWNSHIP LIBRARY DISTRICT check out their Heart Tree filled with words of encouragement for the community. You can add your own message on a heart. Ask the front desk for more information.

New Books, DVDs at Odell Library

Adult Fiction

The Return by Nicholas Sparks; Grounds for Murder by Tara Lush; War Lord by Bernard Cornwell; The Wicked Hour by Alice Blanchard; Hush-Hush by Stuart Woods; Fool Me Twice by Jeff Lindsay; My Name Is Anton by Catherine Ryan Hyde; Shed No Tears by Caz Frear; The Berlin Girl by Mandy Robotham; Bone Canyon by Lee Goldberg; The Breaker by Nick Petrie; All the Colors of Night by Jayne Ann Krentz; Planos and Flowers by Alexander McCall Smith; Spin by Patricia Cornwell; Before She Disappeared by Lisa Gardner; Neighbors by Danielle Steel; The Wife Upstairs by Rachel Hawkins; Twenty by James Grippando; Robert B Parker's Someone to Watch Over Me by Ace Atkins; No Holding Back by Lori Foster; The Lost Boys by Faye Kellerman; A Sinister Service by Alyssa Maxwell; The Scorpion's Tail by Douglas Preston; The Forever Girl by Jill Shalvis; Deep into the Dark by P.J. Tracy; Pretty Little Wife by Darby Kane; The Book of Two Ways by Jodi Picoult; The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate; Under a Gilded Moon by Joy Jordan-Lake; Bryant & May: Oranges and Lemons by Christopher Fowler; The Liar's Dictionary by Eley Williams; The City of Tears by Kate Mosse; Egg Shooters by Laura Childs; This Time Next Year by Sophie Cousens; The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell by Robert Dugoni; Two's Company by Jill Mansell; The Wrong Family by Tarryn Fisher; The Sun Down Motel by Simone St. James; Waiting for the Night Song by Julie Carrick Dalton; City of Schemes by Victoria Thompson; The Mystery of Mrs. Christie by Marie Benedict; What Could Be Saved by Liese O'Halloran Schwartz; Big Summer by Jennifer Weiner.

DVD

Henchmen; A Rainy Day in New York; Unhinged; Iron Mask; Schitt's Creek: The Complete Collection; Clue: The Movie; Cinema Paradiso; Rambo: 5-Film Collection; John Hughes 5-Movie Collection; 6 Movie Gift Set from the Kendrick Brothers; The Devil Has a Name; Misbehaviour.

Young Adult

Court of Swans by Melanie Dickerson.

Adult Nonfiction

This One Wild and Precious Life by Sarah Wilson; Barron's American Sign Language by

David A. Stewart, EdD; In Case You Get Hit by a Bus by Abby Schneiderman; From Clutter to Clarity by Kerri Richardson; Let Us Dream by Pope Francis; That Time of Year by Garrison Keillor; Parenting While Working from Home by Shari Medini; Catherine the Great by Robert K. Massie; Single on Purpose by John Kim; Wow, No Thank You by Samantha Irby; Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer; Instant Loss on a Budget by Brittany Williams; Kill Reply All by Victoria Turk; So to Speak by Shirley Koblner and Harold Koblner, PhD; The Last Queen by Clive Irving; Doomed and Famous: Selected Obituaries by Adrian Dannatt.

Easy/Juvenile

Oh My Gods! by Stephanie Cooke; A Party to Remember by Tim Tebow; Amy Wu and the Patchwork Dragon by Kat Zhang; Hello, Moon! by Sarah Jane Hinder; Rupert: A Celebration of Favourite Stories by Alfred E. Bestall; Unplugged by Gordon Korman; VIP: Dr. Mae Jemison by Heather Alexander; VIP: Lewis Latimer by Denise Lewis Patrick; Mr. Corbett Is in Orbit! by Dan Gutman; SOS: Society of Substitutes #2: The Zoo Switcheroo by Alan Katz; Please Don't Read This Book by Deanna Kizis; I Love You More than Plunder by Kyle Sullivan; The Last Straw by Zoe Matthiessen; Puppy in My Head by Elise Gravel; Cliff, the Failed Troll by Barbara Cavis-Pyles; Pete the Kitty: Ready, Set, Go Cart! by Kimberly & James Dean; Karen's Worst Day by Katy Farina; Ducks on the Road by Anita Lobel; The Secret Fawn by Kallie George; Goodnight Little One by Margaret Wise Brown; What's Inside a Flower? by Rachel Ignotofsky; Amazing Treasures by David Long; Minecraft: Epic Bases by AB Mojang; What Is Nintendo? by Gina Shaw; Who Is Kamala Harris? by Kristen Anderson; The Mystery of the Dragon Eggs by Maggie Testa; In One Ear and Out the Other by Diane Worthey; William Still and His Freedom Stories by Don Tate; Lincoln Clears a Path by Peggy Thomas; Quiet Down, Loud Town! by Alastair Heim; Moose, Goose, and Mouse by Mordicai Gerstein; My Pencil and Me by Sara Varon; Bearing Witness by Ann Travers; The Russian by James Patterson; The Tiger's Nest by Trudi Trueit.

Gas Prices For This Week

For the fifth consecutive week, the national average has increased, rising 3.7 cents per gallon over the last week to \$2.45 Feb. 8, according to GasBuddy. The national average price of diesel has risen 3.8 cents in the last week and stands at \$2.68 per gallon. For the week ahead, it's likely gasoline prices in most states will continue to inch higher, following the rally in oil that has been witnessed over the last week.

City/Village	February 8	February 1
Dwight	\$2.52	\$2.45
Kankakee	\$2.51	\$2.46
Streator	\$2.70	\$2.46
Pontiac	\$2.36	\$2.35
Gardner	\$2.58	\$2.59
Braceville	\$2.69	\$2.49
Morris	\$2.69	\$2.58
Herschel	\$2.49	\$2.49
Chicago	\$2.80	\$2.65
Illinois	\$2.65	\$2.59
U.S.	\$2.46	\$2.42

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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Area COVID-19 Stats as of February 8

Town	Tested
Dwight	8,491
Herschel	2,126
Gardner	1,595
Odell	1,713
Mazon	1,211
Braceville	1,236
Essex	852
S. Wilmington	656
Cullom	825
Reddick	677
Buckingham	573
Verona	463
Saunemin	864
Ransom	558
Emington	313
Blackstone	217
Cabery	429
Kempton	354
Campus	279
Union Hill	89
Kinsman	156

County	Tested
Kankakee	170,292
LaSalle	127,660
Grundy	40,882
Livingston	68,309
Iroquois	36,954
Ford	22,371

Cases

481
197
171
148
136
117
116
84
61
59
53
41
40
36
31
29
29
25
15
12
9

Numbers as of 02/08/21

Statistics via: dph.illinois.gov

Cases

12,036
10,286
4,800
4,015
2,710
1,480

Deaths

186
205
58
69
59
43

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 1,146,341; Deaths: 19,633; Probable Deaths: 2,105; Total Tests Performed: 16,636,585; Recovery Rate: 98%.

Probable cases are individuals who have been tested and are found to have a positive test result by a local clinic using "rapid" tests that are not, at this time, IDPH-approved tests.

The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched -- they must be felt with the heart.
- Helen Keller

Signs Your Loved One with CHF May Benefit from Hospice Care

This February, Uplifted-Care joins other groups across the country to celebrate Amer-

ican Heart Month. Uplifted-Care hopes to spread the word on the importance of understanding heart disease and the role palliative care and hospice can play in improving quality of life for the more than five million people in the United States with congestive heart failure (CHF).

Despite its many benefits, hospice care is underused for patients with heart failure. Congestive heart failure can be somewhat stable at first, and may only require routine check-ups with a physician. But as the disease advances and symptoms worsen over time, more support may be needed. Advanced CHF can be difficult to manage alone, symptoms can be distressing, uncomfortable, frightening and lead to frequent ER visits.

Common indicators that hospice might be appropriate for someone living with CHF include: frequent visits to the emergency room, episodes of respiratory infections, shortness of breath, fluid accumulation in their lower extremities (puffy legs), and limited ability to perform activities of daily living.

UpliftedCare can help by providing symptom prevention as opposed to crisis management, potentially preventing hospital stays and ER visits.

For more information call 815-939-4141 or visit Uplifted Care.org



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'18 Edge SEL, 14K, AWD
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'19 F150 Reg. Cab XL, 12K, 2WD.....	\$25,900
'19 F150 Crew XLT, 25K, 4WD, Special Ed.....	\$38,900
'18 F250 Crew XL, 17K, 4WD, Diesel, Flatbed.....	Just In
'18 F250 Crew XL, 27K, 4WD, Diesel, Flatbed.....	Just In
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD.....	\$36,900
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 18K, 4WD.....	\$36,900
'18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD, NAV, Sport Pkg....	\$39,900
'17 F150 S/C STX, 49K, 4WD.....	\$29,900
'16 F150 S/C XL, 41K, 4WD.....	\$28,900
'16 F150 S/C XLT, 64K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....	\$26,900
'16 F150 S/C XL, 121K, 4WD, New Tires.....	\$19,900
'15 F150 Crew Lariat, 52K, 4WD.....	\$33,900
'14 Ram 1500 Crew Tradesman, 40K, 4WD, Diesel..	\$24,900
'08 F250 S/C Lariat, 235K, 4WD, Diesel.....	\$9,900

CARS

'19 Fusion Hybrid Titanium, 12K.....	\$22,900
'16 Fusion SE, 86K.....	\$11,900
'15 Taurus SEL, 72K.....	\$14,900
'02 Corvette Convertible, 32K.....	\$19,900

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'20 T350 XLT, 24K, 15 Passenger.....	\$34,900
'20 Explorer XLT, 13K, 4WD.....	\$35,900
'20 EcoSport Titanium, 4K, 4WD.....	\$19,900
'20 EcoSport Titanium, 5K, 4WD.....	\$19,900
'20 Escape Titanium, 8K, AWD.....	\$27,900
'19 Flex LTD, 20K, AWD, Appearance Pkg.....	\$33,900
'19 Transit Connect XLT, 7K, Leather.....	\$26,900
'19 EcoSport Titanium, 15K, 4WD.....	\$19,900
'19 Grand Caravan SXT, 40K.....	\$18,900
'19 Escape Titanium, 8K, 4WD.....	\$26,900
'19 Edge Titanium, 11K, AWD.....	\$32,900
'18 Escape S, 50K, FWD.....	\$13,900
'18 Wrangler Unlimited Rubicon, 9K, 4WD.....	\$44,900
'18 Escape Titanium, 30K, 4WD.....	Just In
'18 Edge SEL, 14K, AWD.....	\$26,900
'18 Escape SE, 12K, 4WD.....	\$19,900
'18 Escape SE, 13K, FWD.....	\$18,900
'17 Explorer XLT, 59K, 4WD, NAV.....	\$24,900
'16 Escape SE, 41K, 4WD.....	\$16,900
'15 Transit Connect Cargo XL, 100K.....	\$10,900
'15 Escape SE, 97K, 4WD.....	\$12,900
'12 Ram Cargo Van, 137K.....	\$7,900
'12 Edge SEL, 133K, AWD.....	\$7,900

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Fannie May Buckeyes
13.75-14 oz
Single: \$19.69

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Melissa Stewart Graces St. Ambrose Dean’s List

Melissa Stewart, of Dwight, a full-time student at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, was named to the University’s Dean’s List for the fall term.

Stewart achieved a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.

Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, Ebert ‘No Malice Film Contest’

In order to help fight inequality and build a better Illinois, the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is offering students a chance to use their creativity to promote racial healing in the “No Malice Film Contest.” Illinois youth ages 11-21 can create short films on topics related to racial healing. The Roger and Chaz Ebert Foundation will help run the contest and select winners in three age groups.

First place recipients in each category receive \$2,000, with smaller prizes being awarded to second and third places. All winning films will be shown at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum and the Ebert-Fest film festival in Champaign. Illinois schools will use the films, and supplemental curriculum created by educators, to talk about race and the harmful impact of bias and injustice.

Students will compete in three age brackets: 11-14; 15-18; and 19-21. Entries are due by April 30. Live action films must be between three minutes and seven minutes long. The minimum length for animated films is 45 seconds.

Competitors will be able to get advice from professional filmmakers in Zoom sessions in February and March. Get all the details at bit.ly/NoMaliceFilmContest.

Learn more at www.PresidentLincoln.illinois.org, or by following them on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Holly Reaches Her 1,000 Book Goal

Holly E. has been participating in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program at Prairie Creek Public Library. She recently reached her 1,000 book goal and received her prizes, which included a gift card so she may purchase more books.

All toddlers in the Prairie Creek Public Library District may participate in the 1,000 Books program and are invited to participate in Zoom activities on Wednesday mornings.

The library also has added a new reading program for the older children. Kids from kindergarten through fifth grade may participate in the 500 Book Challenge.

For information on either of these reading programs, Zoom Toddler Time, or any other special activities held through the library, check out their Facebook page or contact the library staff at 815-584-3061 for more information.

To place a social announcement, send information to:

The Paper

204 E. Chippewa St.,
Dwight, IL 60420

Phone: 815-584-1901;
Fax: 815-584-2196;
Email: thepaper1901@sbeglobal.net

Tri-Point Student Wins DAR History Contest

The Governor Thomas Ford Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) has announced Rebecca Griner as this year’s winner in the chapter’s annual American History essay contest.

Rebecca is a seventh grader at Tri-Point Junior High School in Piper City and the daughter of Amanda and Thomas Griner of Cullom.

The theme of this year’s essay contest was “The Boston Massacre.” The topic was chosen by NSDAR to mark the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. After learning about the events of March 5, 1770, student entrants wrote essays using historical facts about what their family’s reaction to the Boston Massacre might have been.

Essays were judged on accuracy, originality, spelling and grammar. The contest was open to all students in public, private or parochial schools in Ford County, along with students who are home-schooled.

A chapter program to honor Rebecca is tentatively planned for 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 2, in Gibson City.



Rebecca Griner

Livingston County Sheriff’s Office Awarding \$500 Scholarship

The Illinois Sheriffs’ Association has announced that it will be awarding over \$58,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2021-2022 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books, and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois (full-time online learning is acceptable).

Livingston County Sheriff Tony O. Childress will be awarding one (1) scholarship in the amount of \$500.

There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex, or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents.
- Scholarships must be utilized at institutions of higher learning within the State of Illinois.
- Students must be enrolled as a full-time student during the 2021-2022 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office or on the Illinois Sheriffs’ Association website – ilsheriff.org. Students must complete the application, answer the essay question, and return all documentation by **March 15** (must be postmarked by this date) to:

Livingston County Sheriff’s Office
844 W. Lincoln Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

Contact the Livingston County Sheriff’s Office at 815-844-2774 for additional information.

Kankakee County Museum Names New Director

Veronica E. Featherston, of Manteno, has been chosen by the Kankakee County Historical Society’s Board of Directors as the next Executive Director of the Kankakee County Museum. She will succeed long-time Executive Director, Connie Licon, who is retiring April 30.

“Veronica’s selection is the culmination of a months-long search process,” commented Board President Robert de Oliveira. “We received and reviewed resumes from more than 60 applicants; our search committee then refined that number down to three candidates for interviews. All three were highly-qualified and interviewed well, but we felt that Veronica had the best combination of experience and potential for a long-term relationship with our Museum.”

The new Director has been associated with the Kankakee County Museum since 2016, when she began serving as a volunteer curatorial assistant working with cataloging of historical objects. In January, 2019, she joined the Museum’s paid staff as Curator, responsible for care of the Museum’s collection of materials, maintenance and development of exhibits, and supervising volunteers and part-time staff members. While still a volunteer, she assumed responsibility for supervising operation of the Museum’s satellite facility, the French Heritage Museum at the Stone Barn in downtown Kankakee. She has helped to develop and present monthly programs there, and coordinated fund-raising activities.

“I’m personally thrilled to have Veronica become my successor,” said Connie Licon, who has held the Director’s post for more than a decade. “She not only has a passion for the history of the county, she also has a wealth of both academic and practical experience in many areas. Her undergraduate degree was in anthropology, she’s working on a Master’s degree at Governors State, and she has completed Museum studies in several areas through Northwestern University. She gained useful supervisory experience on active duty with the Illinois Air National Guard, where she achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant.”

In her application letter, the new director summarized her reasons for seeking the position: “Born and raised in Kankakee County, this position appeals to me because I long to do my part to preserve our County’s history and culture. Throughout my employment history, I have valued the importance of serving others. I believe the Kankakee County Museum serves the public of Kankakee County well by preserving local history and sharing it with the community. I treasure being a part of this team.”

The Kankakee County Museum, opened in 1949 in Governor Small Memorial Park at Eighth Avenue and Water Street, is operated by the Kankakee County Historical Society, one of Illinois’ longest established historical groups. In addition to the museum itself, the Museum Campus includes the Dr. A. L. Small Historic Home, the Taylor One-Room Schoolhouse, and two outdoor attractions, the Column Garden and the “Let Freedom Ring” Garden. The French Heritage Museum at the Stone Barn, located at Indiana Avenue and Oak Street, is also operated by the Historical Society.



VERONICA E. FEATHERSTON will become the new Executive Director of the Kankakee County Museum on May 1, 2021.

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SWGS Kindergarten Pre-Registration February 24

Pre-registration for South Wilmington Grade School’s kindergarten Class of 2021-2022 will take place Wednesday, February 24, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in the school office.

No fees will be taken at this time.

Take in two proofs of residency and your child’s birth certificate. Your child will need to be five years of age by September 1, 2021.

Show Dwight Restaurants Your Love! February & March

What do you do? Enjoy great food!

Dine In, Carry Out, or Delivery

Accumulate \$100 in receipts,

Turn receipts in to Dwight Economic Alliance

You will have a chance to win \$100 in DEA Bucks!

First drawing – February 22 receipts from 2/5 through 2/21

Second drawing – March 12th receipts from 2/5 through 3/11

Third drawing – March 29th receipts from 2/5 through 3/11

Place receipts in an envelope, place your name & address on the outside of the front of the envelope. Receipts must be received by 9:00 am on the day of the drawing.

Diabetes Support Group at OSF Saint James March 2

The next meeting of OSF HealthCare Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center’s *Diabetes Support Group* will be Tuesday, March 2, from 6:00-7:00 p.m., and they welcome all who are facing the challenges of diabetes.

The program will be “Smart Snacking” by Carly Zimmer, Registered Dietitian at OSF HealthCare Saint James.

Snacks can have a big impact on our health. They can help maintain energy levels throughout the day, curb hunger, and help meet nutritional needs. Knowing when to

snack and choosing the right types of snacks, though, are important factors in achieving these benefits.

This program will be held in the main floor conference room where there is adequate room for physical distancing. A brief health screening will be completed for each guest upon arrival and masks will be required.

Pre-registration is not necessary for this **free** program. For more information, contact Sherri Schlatter, Diabetes Educator, at 815-842-4970.

Morris Hospital Completes Next Phase in Main Campus

Last March, Morris Hospital opened its new Emergency Department in renovated space on the hospital’s first floor, dramatically changing the experience for emergency patients. Since then, the former Emergency Department has been transformed into a new Cardio Diagnostics department and Interventional Prep/Recovery area as part of the next phase in Morris Hospital’s main campus modernization project.

The new Cardio Diagnostics department provides enhanced facilities for patients undergoing EKGs, echocardiograms, stress tests, cardioversions, and other cardiac diagnostic services, as well as EEG (electroencephalogram) and EMG (electromyography) neurology studies. All of the testing rooms are bigger and more functional, resulting in enhanced privacy and patient care.

Along with the newly renovated space, Morris Hospital has added new stress testing and EMG equipment, and a new tilt table that is used to assist with specialized diagnostic studies.

Located adjacent to the Cardio Diagnostics department, the new Interventional Prep/Recovery features five private bays for patients preparing for and recovering from an interventional radiol-

ogy or cath lab procedure, such as angioplasty, pacemaker or defibrillator insertion, or PICC line insertion.

The Phase 2 renovations also included upgrades to the X-Ray rooms at the hospital, bringing upgrades to the entire Imaging Services department to near completion. Renovations completed last year resulted in a new Women’s Imaging Center with a separate sub-waiting area for women having a mammogram, bone density test, stereotactic breast biopsy, or ultrasound. Along with the Women’s Imaging Center and X-Ray rooms, the newly renovated Imaging Services department features ultrasound and CT. The nuclear medicine testing area of the Imaging Services department is slated for renovations in 2021.

The main campus modernization project has also resulted in a new Infusion Therapy Center and Outpatient Laboratory, along with renovations to the main lobby.

Next, Morris Hospital is making plans for renovations that will modernize the hospital’s peri-operative services facilities, including the operating rooms, post anesthesia recovery unit, sterile processing, and ambulatory surgery unit. These renovations are expected to begin in summer 2021.

Kinzinger Strongly Supports Cheney as Conference Chair

Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) released this statement following the House GOP Conference meeting February 3:

“While I will not go into too many details regarding the GOP House Conference meeting [yesterday], I will say I proudly voted to keep Liz Cheney as our House Conference Leader and was glad to see such a strong vote by my colleagues. The vote was important, to remind our caucus where we stand.

“Representative Liz Cheney voted her conscience and leads with conviction – and as a result, she won big [last night], which shows me that there is hope for our party. We need leadership like Liz Cheney, and we need to tell the truth to the American people. As a party, we must stand for truth, not

conspiracy theories and lies. We must be the party of ideas, not rabble-rousers and personality politics. We must be the party of hope and optimism, not anger and negativity.

“I’m committed to restoring our party and look forward to what we can achieve.”

Congressman Kinzinger spoke with ABC News February 3, appearing on *The View*, discussing the issue of the Republican Party’s identity crisis ahead of the Conference meeting.

On February 4, the Congressman joined CNN’s *New Day* and MSNBC’s *Live with Stephanie Ruhle* to discuss his reactions, his support for Liz Cheney, and what he hopes will happen with the Conference moving forward.

You can watch these interviews on his YouTube channel.

OBITUARIES

James Lewis Rankin

GREENEVILLE, TN – James Lewis Rankin, 93, of Greeneville, TN and formerly of Dwight, IL, passed away Friday, February 5, 2021.

James was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served in World War II. He was a member of St. James Episcopal Church and former owner/operator of Kinser Park Golf Course, Greeneville, TN. Jim was a former manager/golf pro and superintendent of Dwight Country Club.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Janice E. Rankin; children: Pam Wagner of Mosheim, TN; Daniel and Stacy Rankin of Chicago, IL; and Jennifer and Daniel Hoag of St. Clair, TN.

Also surviving are grandchildren: Ethan and Heather Wagner, Summer and Tommy Payne, Noah Wagner, Sophia



Rankin, Danica and Ron Haverkamp, and Jonathan and Tareva Lister; great-grandchildren: Halee Wagner, Caleb Wagner, Keoni Payne, Kai Payne, Kekoa Payne, and Hayes Grace Wagner; two sisters: Peggy York and Martha Kasler; sister-in-law, Jeanie Clouse; and several nieces and nephews.

James was preceded in death by his parents, Glenn and Helen Rankin; brother, Marc Rankin; and his son-in-law, Doug Wagner.

There will be no formal services.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Greeneville/Greene County Humane Society, 950 Hal Henard Rd., Greeneville, TN 37743; or St. James Episcopal Church, 107 West Church Street, Greeneville, TN 37745.

Lonnie Andersen

DWIGHT – Lonnie Andersen, 71, of Campus, IL passed away Sunday, January 31, 2021 at 1:55 a.m. at Riverside Medical Center, Kankakee, IL.

A Funeral Mass was held at Sacred Heart Church in Campus on Thursday, February 4, 2021 at 11 a.m. with Father Chris Haake officiating. A Catholic Burial followed the Mass in Sacred Heart Cemetery in Campus.

A visitation was held prior to the Mass in the church from 10 until 11 a.m.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in charge of the arrangements.

Lonnie was born April 3, 1949 inreator, Illinois, the son of Bill and Evelyn (Eich) Andersen.

He is survived by his sisters: Judy (Bud) Bressner of Chenoa and Shari (Jerry) Fritz of Bourbonnais; nieces and nephews: Jeff (Jill) Bressner, Julie (Rick) Uplegger, Jamie (Eric) Bird,



Kyle (Allie) Fritz, and Rachel (Austin) Denault; nine great-nieces and nephews; and several aunts and uncles.

He is preceded in death by his father, Bill Andersen; step-father, Carl Hanlin; mother, Evelyn Andersen Hanlin; and grandparents: Roy and Viola Eich, and Axel and Dora Andersen.

Lonnie served in the United States Army. He worked at the VA Hospital in Chicago. He was a lifelong member of the South Wilmington Fireman’s Club. He was a member of Sacred Heart Church in Campus.

Lonnie enjoyed fishing and golfing, but what he enjoyed the most was spending time with his family.

Memorials may be made in Lonnie’s name to Sacred Heart Church in Campus.

This obituary may be viewed and guestbook signed at www.calvertmemorial.com

June L. Groth

June L. Groth (nee Anderson), formerly of Joliet, passed away at Heritage Health in Dwight Friday, February 5, 2021 at the age of 102 years.

Survived by her daughter, Elaine M. (Elton E.) Gerber and her son, Donald E. (Barbara A.) Groth; five grandchildren: Timothy E. (Cindy) Gerber, Michael A. (Mary) Gerber, Jonathan (Lindsay) Groth, Kristel (Francisco) Garcia, and Thomas (Crystal) Groth; nine great-grandchildren: Ethan, Scarlett, Maci and Monroe Gerber; Lukas Groth; Helen, Alicia and Gabriel Garcia; and Scarlett Groth.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald J. Groth (2004); her parents, Ernest and Julia Anderson.

June was born February 28, 1918 in Joliet. She was a life-



long Joliet resident until moving to The Woods in Dwight eight years ago. Member of Westminster Presbyterian Church and attended the Church of Hope Presbyterian in Gardner.

June loved crossword puzzles, gardening, sewing and cooking. She was only 25 days short of her 103rd birthday, and enjoyed driving until the age of 97.

Memorial services will be held at the Carlson - Holmquist - Sayles Funeral Home & Crematory, 2320 Black Rd., Joliet, Wednesday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Matthew Robinson will officiate.

Private inurnment: Elmhurst Cemetery.

For information please call (815) 744-0022 or visit www.CHSFuneral.com



Super Bowl Food Rankings

It’s time for another ranking, this time it’s going to be very timely and current. I’m going to quickly dive into the rankings of the best foods to have at a SuperBowl get together. Let’s dive right in, pun intended.

Buffalo Chicken Dip. This dip makes appearances at other events, maybe a Memorial Day cookout, or even 4th of July, but the Super Bowl is really where it shines and does its thing. You get the Tostitos bag, and you get the Buffalo Chicken Dip and next thing you know you’re enjoying the best possible food you can have during a Super Bowl.

Pigs in a blanket, or more specifically, the little roasted hot dogs with the crescent rolls around them. Whatever you want to call them, that’s coming in at number two here. This is another one that will make some appearances at other events and dates, but it really shines during the Super Bowl. It’s an A1 food to have during the game.

I contemplated putting this one a little higher, but couldn’t really justify having the top two being dips. Coming in at number three is Queso Dip. Akin to the buffalo chicken dip, with similar consistency. It goes great with Tostitos chips. If for some reason the buffalo chicken dip isn’t making an appearance at the Super Bowl party I’m attending, as long as this is here then it can go on without a hitch.

Wings. This one had to be on here. I think it’s a top five food at any event, but the Super Bowl is coincidentally enough, *its* Super Bowl. You can’t go wrong, boneless, bone-in, flats, drums, you name it. Wings are great to have during the game. The one drawback is potentially that they can be messy, but sometimes greatness comes with its flaws.

Last but not least, meatballs in the crockpot. I think you could also make a case that these should be higher, but the four in front of it are formidable opponents in the land of appetizers. The sauce can take these from good to great, though, so make sure you’re going to a party with someone who knows how to make great meatball sauce.

That concludes these rankings, Tom Brady is the greatest quarterback to ever do it, and go Cubs.

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The Boards of Education of Gardner Community Consolidated School District No. 72C, Braceville School District #75, and Gardner-South Wilmington High School District #73 are accepting sealed bids for Regular Student Transportation Services for the school years 2021-2024. Bid packages are available for pickup from the Gardner South Wilmington High School, 500 E. Main Street, Gardner, IL.

Sealed bids clearly labeled “SEALED BID FOR REGULAR EDUCATION STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES – DO NOT OPEN PRIOR TO BID DATE” are due on or before Wednesday, March 3, by 12:00 p.m. noon, at the address above. Questions about this bid package must be written and directed to Mr. Josh DeLong, Superintendent, Gardner South Wilmington High School District 73. A mandatory pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 11, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at Gardner South Wilmington High School District 73 or via Zoom using the following log in credentials:

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/77779380179?pwd=UEIydG8rRU5xVGg0Y2JaM1dpRlVjdz09>

Meeting ID: 777 7938 0179
Passcode: pG99JS

The bid opening is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, at Gardner South Wilmington High School, 500 E. Main Street, Gardner, IL, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Paper welcomes letters to the editor on topics of current local interest. All letters must be signed and include your name, address and phone number. No letters will be published with fictitious names or if unsigned. All letters should be typed or neatly printed and should not exceed 250 words. Letters are limited to one every 60 days per household. Political letters will not run the week prior to an election.

The Paper reserves the right to edit or reject any or all submitted items. Address letters to: Editor, The Paper; P.O. Box 245, 204 E. Chippewa, Dwight, IL 60420.

We welcome your thoughts.

Public Notice

The Menard County Housing Authority will begin accepting proposals for Section 8 Project Based Vouchers until 4:00pm on Wednesday, March 3, 2021, at its office located at 101 W. Sheridan Rd., PO Box 168, PETERSBURG, IL 62675. Menard County Housing Authority estimates it will be able to assist up to 8 units in Livingston County under the funding being made available for this purpose. Only proposals submitted in response to this advertisement will be considered. Proposals will be considered at the time they are received and may be awarded on a rolling basis to one or more projects. Copies of the project based voucher selection policy and proposal requirements may be obtained from Brad Ames, Executive Director, Menard County Housing Authority, at the above address, phone 217-632-7723.

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

The Paper

fax: 815-584-2196
email: thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net

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THE SENECA FFA recently placed third in the Illinois FFA State Agronomy Career Development Event. Team members, pictured, from left, were Emma Smith, Chris Poyner, Levi Maierhofer, and Calvin Maierhofer.

Seneca FFA Agronomy CDE Rank High

The 2020 Seneca FFA Agronomy Career Development team repeated last year's feat by placing third in the state. Previously in the fall, the team captured first place in the Section 7 CDE and fifth place in the SIU virtual agronomy CDE.

In the section CDE, which was held virtually, Seneca claimed nine of the top ten places. Calvin and Levi Maierhofer placed second and third, respectively, followed by Emma Smith in fourth, Chris Poyner, fifth, Laura Yegge, sixth, Ashlin Jackson, seventh, Hailey Kennedy, eighth, and Danny Widman, tenth.

As part of the third place state team, Poyner was the fifth highest individual, Levi Maierhofer, sixth, Emma Smith, tenth, and Calvin Maierhofer, 12th. There were 44 teams competing and 161 individuals.

In the junior varsity division, the Seneca FFA won both

the SIU and State FFA CDEs. Individuals placing in the top ten in the state were Colin Collet, second, Ashlin Jackson, fourth, Bryce Roe, fifth, Ashley Alsvig, sixth, Hailey Kennedy, eighth, and Kelli Pumphrey, tenth.

The Agronomy Career Development Event requires the identification of agronomic plants and their seeds, identification and knowledge of insects, weed plant and seed identification, grading grain and feed samples, as well as completing a written exam to display contestants' agronomic knowledge.

The Agronomy CDE is an extension of the plant science curriculum at SHS and contributes to the FFA mission of making a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens. They are the most vigorous, the most independent, the most virtuous, and they are tied to their country and wedded to its liberty and interests by the most lasting bonds."

— Thomas Jefferson

DTHS FFA Update

FFA has looked a little different this year at Dwight Township High School.

Our once in-person conferences have since been done via Zoom.

In November, our eight chapter officers and a few freshmen greenhands participated in leadership training school, where they learned what it meant to be a leader and how they can bring those important skills back to their school and community.

What was previously known as the 212 conference is also being held online as the new

ground zero conference. We have five freshmen and sophomores this year who will be attending this state FFA officer-run conference from the comfort of their homes. Students will participate in two fun-filled evenings that offer experiences that will strengthen their perception of leadership in themselves and others.

We are very thankful for technology, as COVID-19 has not stopped our members from amazing opportunities to better themselves and our chapter.

- Sidney Mau



THE TRI-POINT FFA recently conducted a community service project in conjunction with their January chapter meeting. Members recycled old t-shirts into woven dog toys, which will be donated to area shelters and vet clinics. Pictured are Kori Weber, left, and Cali Statler, working to make their donation items.



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Conference Connects the Dots Between Cover Crops, Soil Health, People

by Judy Mae Bingman
Illinois Extension, Marketing and Communications Manager

Emerging research on cover crops' impact on soil health provide new best practices for grain and oilseed producers, vegetable growers, and livestock farmers. The Midwest Cover Crops Council will provide practical recommendations at its virtual annual conference February 23-25.

University of Illinois Extension joins 12 other land grant universities in this alliance to further knowledge on soil health and productivity. "The world's leading soil biologists will highlight the latest scientific achievements on improving soil management and achieving a balance of efficiency and resiliency in agriculture," says Nathan Johanning, Illinois Extension commercial ag educator.

Learn more and register at www.inventors.com/mccc21. A fee applies, which allows access to ten live discussions, plus anytime access to the recordings for 30 days following the conference. The first day includes the group's annual business meeting and updates from the cooperating states. Each day features informal Q&A with industry experts.

Tips for safer farming



Tractor accidents, grain entrapment and injuries from ornery livestock are just some of the dangers agricultural workers face every day. In fact, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health says agriculture is one of the most hazardous industries in the United States.

In 2016, the agricultural industry had a rate of 21.4 deaths per 100,000 workers, and each day agricultural workers experienced 100 non-fatal, lost-work-time injuries.

Agricultural dangers are not limited to North America. In Ireland, farm accidents have increased by 13 percent in the last five years and by 31 percent in the last decade, according to a national survey of farm accidents conducted by the Teagasc National Farm Survey. Furthermore, 97 percent of all farm accident victims required medical treatment.

Farms are dangerous places, and while carelessness can and does contribute to many incidents, accidents also take place during routine, seemingly safe activities. These farm safety guidelines can help lower the risk of injuries.

- Know farm equipment. Read and follow all instructions in the equipment operation manuals. In addition,

attend local farm safety workshops to learn more about specific equipment and products.

- Conduct routine safety checks. Look around buildings and grounds for obvious hazards, such as fire hazards and hazardous materials, including farm chemicals that are not stored correctly.

- Practice cleanliness. Maintain clean and neat work areas with tools stored properly and out of the way after use.

- Be mindful of your clothing and hair. Many accidents involve a power take-off system, or PTO, which is a common component of large rotary mowers, tractors and forage choppers. Clothing can easily get caught in an engaged but unguarded PTO stub. It's easy for laces or coveralls to become wrapped around a spinning stub shaft. The PTO driveline and other protrusion points also can be dangerous if people do not pay attention.

- Use rollover protection structures. ROPS can be used on tractors and other equipment to prevent injuries. In addition, wear seat belts and employ other safety equipment as advised.

- Avoid extra passengers. It can be tempting to take the kids for a spin, but do not allow additional passengers to ride on

agricultural equipment.

- Exercise caution when handling chemicals. Take extra precautions when handling any chemicals, including pesticides.

- Wear protective gear. Wear appropriate gear and equipment as outlined by NIOSH or the Mine Safety and Health Administration. Make sure the skin, feet, ears, eyes, and hands are protected at all times.

- Employ lock out/tag out control. This is a process where one can work on equipment only after every energy source has been controlled, such as hydraulic, pneumatic, mechanical, and electrical, according to Rural Mutual Insurance Company. Turning off equipment and using certain controls or locks on devices can prevent equipment from restarting before it is safe to do so.

Farm safety should be a priority for owners, their families and employees so that agricultural injuries can be reduced.



Hoot Hears a Barn Owl?

Barn owls are endangered in Illinois. Most barn owls' nesting has been reported in the bottom half of the state. With a recovery plan, Kankakee County can see the barn owl numbers increase. Hear Illinois Department of Natural Resources Stewardship Coordinator Terry Esker share how we can help this endangered bird.

University of Illinois Extension, Kankakee County and the Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve District will host a Zoom class on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. Pre-register at the link listed below to receive the e-mail link to this program. Pre-registration is required by February 25.

Register at: web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=23129.

If you have any questions, contact Holly Froning, Master Gardener Coordinator, at froning@illinois.edu.

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Improve Profitability, Sustainability of Local Food, Small Farm Specialty Operations

There is no off season on the farm and winter is a chance for small producers to gain new knowledge. The University of Illinois Extension 2021 Small Farms Winter Webinar Series offers ten free weekly sessions with tools to improve profitability and sustainability for local foods and small farm specialty operations.

Extension and industry experts are providing practical knowledge producers can use on emerging topics that advance local food and specialty crop production in Illinois. Topics include biological pest control, aquaculture, cut flower production, regenerative grazing, and accessing wholesale markets.

Sessions run noon to 1:00 p.m. Thursdays through March 25. To register for one or more of the following sessions, or for more information, visit go.aces.illinois.edu/SmallFarmWinterWebinar.

- **February 4:** Aquaculture and Aquaponics: An Overview For Urban Agriculture, presented by Andrew Coursey.
- **February 11:** So You Want to Be a Farmer/Value Added Producer?, presented by Andy Larson.
- **February 18:** Spring and Summer Bulbs for Cut Flower

Production, presented by Candice Hart.

- **February 25:** Regenerative Grazing - Could It Work on Your Farm?, presented by Doug Gucker and Katie Bell.
- **March 4:** Grower/Business Spotlight: Funks Grove Heritage Fruits & Grains, presented by Jeff Hake.
- **March 11:** Containerized Production: Options When Quality Native Soil Isn't An Option, presented by Zack Grant.
- **March 18:** Food Desert or Food Apartheid?, presented by Grace Margherio and Joey Fonseca.
- **March 25:** Too Small for Wholesale Markets? Think Again, presented by Kathryn Pereira and Chicago Food Action Policy Council staff Marlie Wilson and Dakarai Howard.

Each program will be recorded and made available to registered participants following the live session. Past programs including Exploring Cover Crops and No-till Tomato & Pepper Production Systems, presented by Nathan Johanning (January 21) and Augmentative Biological Control in Protected Culture and Greenhouses, presented by Dr. Kacie Athey (January 28) will be available on YouTube at bit.ly/ILLocalFoodsYouTube.



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480 Acres SOLD	71 Acres SOLD	80 Acres SOLD	80 Acres SOLD	145 Acres SOLD	10 Acres SOLD
231 Acres SOLD	52 Acres SOLD	58 Acres SOLD	11 Acres SOLD	186 Acres SOLD	116 Acres SOLD
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KAYLA KODAT goes to the hoop for the DTHS Lady Trojans. Dwight began its 2021 season with a victory February 2.

photo by J7Images



Friday, February 5
GSW vs. Donovan
Varsity -

The Panthers dropped a 55-39 decision to Donovan February 5.

“We won’t win many games scoring 39 points and shooting under 30%,” stated Coach Wills after the game. “Give them credit, they played better than us and were making shots.”

GSW was held to single digits in three out of four quarters and shot just 6-12 from the line.

Connor Steichen led with 14 points, while Nate Wise put up seven points, including a three-pointer and four rebounds. Bryce Handzus hit two threes and grabbed one rebound. Garrett Grant and Brandon States each scored four points. Caydan Landry and Ethan Mack each added two points.

Trojans Overpower Panthers, 80-62

Wednesday, February 3
Dwight vs. GSW
Varsity -

Dwight was on the road February 3 against their rivals from Gardner-South Wilmington, coming up with an 80-62 win.

The Panthers, in their first game of 2021, hung with the Trojans throughout much of the first half. However, in the second half, they ran out of gas.

Brandon Ceylor went off, once again, scoring 28 points to lead Dwight, including three three-pointers and a perfect 5-

5 shooting from the line. Abe Rieke put up 18 points (4-6 FT), followed by 12 points (1 3-pointer, 1-2 FT) from Wyatt Thompson. Isaac Telford added ten points (2-5 FT), hitting two threes. Landon Brown and Trent Tilley (1 3-pointer, 1-2 FT) contributed eight and four points, respectively.

GSW was led by Connor Steichen, who had 20 points (1-3 FT), including three treys and five boards. Caden Landry contributed 18 points (10-16 FT) to go with two rebounds, while Brandon States had 11 points

(3-4 FT) and four boards. Nate Wise hit one three, on his way to a five-point night, while Bryce Handzus (1 3-pointer, 1-3 FT) added four points. Garret Grant and Riley Morris rounded out the scoring with a bucket each.

“It was fun to be back on the court,” stated GSW head coach Allan Wills. “We fell short [tonight], but we will hopefully learn from this and improve.”

The two schools also faced off in JV play, with GSW winning by a score of 32-29.

Tigers Take Down Dwight in Overtime

Tuesday, February 2
Dwight vs. Herscher
Varsity -

The Trojans were at home February 2, facing off against Herscher – dropping a 67-57 decision to the Tigers that took an extra frame to decide a winner.

Dwight got off to a slow start, and would trail Herscher by five going into the second quarter.

The Tigers would connect on three three-pointers in the second, but would get outscored by the Trojans – who hit two threes of their own – making it 29-27, Herscher, at the half.

The third quarter saw Dwight dominate on both

sides, holding the Tigers to just nine points, while putting up 14 points on the other end – taking a 41-38 lead into the fourth.

A couple clutch threes for Herscher helped them creep back into the contest late, and ultimately force overtime with the score tied 52-52 at the end of regulation.

In OT, the Tigers ran away with it after some big shots and key free throws, as the Trojans could muster just five free throws total.

Leading the way for Herscher was Logan Lunsford, scoring 29 points, with 10-13 free throw shooting and a three-pointer. Trey Schwarzkopf followed with 17 points, hitting four treys and a free

throw. Bascom Jackson had 11 points, connecting on three three-pointers. Camden Berns (3-pointer) and Joe Holohan (3-5 FT) each added five points.

For Dwight, Brandon Ceylor was high scorer with 15 points, including a three and 8-11 shooting from the line. Wyatt Thompson followed closely with 14 points (6-10 FT). Trent Tilley hit three tri-fectas and two free throws, scoring 11 in total. Isaac Telford was good for nine points, with one three. Abe Rieke (1-4 FT) and Landon Brown (3-pointer) rounded out the scoring with five and three points, respectively.

Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: **Men** – Jeff Friedman, 236; Chuck Dudak, 235; Scot Banks, 227; Brian Scott, 212; Bill Green, 209; **Women** – Kaitlin Kenny, 177; Paula Watts, 176; Anne Sporrer, 173; Sheri Colebank, 168; Jessica Boyd, 167. HSS: **Men** – Jeff Friedman, 627; Curtis Price, 587; Brian Scott, 578; Chuck Dudak, 572; Doug Gassman, 565; **Women** – Paula Watts, 493; Anne Sporrer, 482; Sheri Colebank, 445; Kaitlin Kenny, 425; Linda Dunlap, 418. HHG: Jeremy Wood, 266 – Kaitlin Kenny, 247. HHS: Jeff Friedman, 669 – Anne Sporrer, 659. HSG: Big Run WolfRanch, 903. HHG: Whiskey Cavalier, 926. HSS: Big Run WolfRanch, 2567. HHS: Whiskey Cavalier, 2705.

League Standings	W	L
Willy's Pub	24	16
Whiskey Cav.	23	17
4 Guys/a Broad	21	19
Agritile	21	19
Victory Lanes	19	21
Gaston Construct.	19	21
Dairy Queen	16	24
Pumpkin Patch	14	26
Big Run Ranch	13½	26½
Coleman/Son	13½	26½

Sportsman League Bowlers

HSG: Josh Gernentz, 289; Chris Cook, 266; Bosco Gassman, 266; Brandon Petry, 246; Austin Tripam, 242. HSS: Josh Gernentz, 694; Bosco Gassman, 694; Michael Hallam, 675; Doug Gassman, 659; Gregg Jensen, 659. HHG: Josh Gernentz, 289. HHS: Josh Gernentz, 694. HSG/HHG: Rocky's Pub, 1149. HSS/HHS: Victory Lanes, 3065.

League Standings	W	L
Rockey's Pub	19	5
Star Trucking	18	6
Willy's Pub	18	6
Victory Lanes	17	7
Rury's Tap	13	11
Hallam Elect.	12	12
Jensen BP II	11	13
Rambo Construct.	10	14
Jeremy's Barber	10	14
Jensens	8	16
DeLong Ford	6	18



DTHS Lady Trojans Basketball

Tuesday, February 2
Dwight vs. Midland
Varsity -

The Lady Trojans opened their long-awaited 2021 campaign with a victory over Midland, 66-49, on February 2.

Leading the way offensively for Dwight was Kayla Kodat with 35 points, including seven three-pointers and 2-2 shooting from the charity stripe. She also led the team with seven assists. Nora Anderson (8 points) and Nellie Rieke (6 points) each pulled down ten boards, while Rylee Farris (4 points) and Kassy Kodat (4 points, 2-2 FT) each had three steals in the contest. Mikalah Bregin added five points, hitting a three, with Destiny Drapeau putting up four points.

In the JV match-up, Dwight fell to Midland by a score of 40-28.

Mikalah Bregin led with 13 points, followed by five from Kassy Kodat.

Friday, February 5
Dwight vs. Morris
JV -

The JV Lady Trojans picked up a big team win against Morris February 5, 20-17 – holding them to only four points total in the first half.

Mikalah Bregin led the team with nine points, four boards, and two steals. Maya Green grabbed nine rebounds to go with three points and three swipes. Lily McKelvey provided five boards, three steals, with Kassy Kodat leading the squad with four steals.

Varsity -

In the varsity match-up, Dwight outscored Morris 23-12 in the fourth quarter to secure a come-from-behind victory, 44-41.

Free throws sealed the game in the final frame, as the Lady Trojans went 10-13 from the charity stripe to put it out of reach.

Leading the Dwight offense was Kayla Kodat with 18 points (2 3-pointers), four steals, while Rylee Farris (6 rebounds) put up 12 points (1 3-pointer). Kassy Kodat contributed seven points (1 3-pointer). Nora Anderson led Dwight with nine rebounds, and that to four points and a steal. Nellie Rieke had two points and grabbed six boards. Destiny Drapeau hit a free throw.

Saturday, February 6
Dwight vs. Fieldcrest
JV -

In a meeting with Fieldcrest February 6, Dwight got a big comeback win, 28-27.

Mikalah Bregin led with eight points, three rebounds, followed by five points and three steals from Kassy Kodat. Lily McKelvey led in rebounds with eight, while Skylar Horrie hauled in four. Kira Bean led with six steals in the contest.

Varsity -

The varsity Lady Trojans couldn't buy a basket and were defeated by a hot-shooting Fieldcrest team, 59-21 – dropping to 2-1 on the season.

Nellie Rieke (12 rebounds) and Destiny Drapeau led the team with seven points each. Kayla Kodat and Rylee Farris (6 rebounds) added five and two points, respectively.



DTHS Trojans Basketball

Friday, February 5
Dwight vs. Morris
Varsity -

The Trojans came out strong on the road against Morris February 5, taking a 24-10 lead into the half. However, the Redskins put the heat on Dwight in the second half, putting up 37 points and almost stealing the win away – but the Trojans hung on for the “W”.

Brandon Ceylor had a game-high 17 points, ten of which came in the fourth quar-

ter when his squad needed it the most. He was 8-10 from the line and hit his lone three-pointer in the final frame. YouTube phenom Isaac Telford hit three three-pointers, en route to 11 points in the contest. Wyatt Thompson added nine points, including a trey and 2-9 shooting from the line. Landon Brown provided six points, with one three and 1-4 FT shooting. Trent Tilley and Abe Rieke each contributed four points.



DCS Redbirds Basketball

Friday, February 5
DCS vs. GSWB
6th Grade -

The sixth grade Redbirds of Dwight began their 2021 season with a victory over Gardner-South Wilmington-Braceville, 44-10.

Leading the Redbird effort was Collin Bachand with 24 points, ten steals, and seven rebounds. Trevor Jensen had eight points, three steals, while Blake Thetard added six points and five steals. Matt Watchinski put up four points, five boards, with Graham Meister chipping in two points and pulling down seven rebounds.

“It was a fantastic team effort,” stated Coach Gettinger in

the post-game.

In the “B” game, Dwight won 22-10 over the Tigers.

The Redbirds were led by quick-footed Brad Thompson who had eight points and three steals. Logan Bovelleville, Matt Watchinski, and Carson Sandeno each scored four points. Graham Meister and Ethan Marques (6 rebounds) each added a bucket to round out the scoring.

Gettinger commented afterwards, “This is an exciting group of boys to watch.”

All games are live-streamed and able to be viewed at home. Contact Jeremy Jenkins, Dwight Athletic Director, if you need assistance.

Coaches: Send us your stats!

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NOTICE TO ELDERLY (OVER 65) AND HANDICAPPED VOTERS REGARDING THE CONSOLIDATED ELECTION, April 6, 2021

Notice is hereby given to elderly over 65 and handicapped persons that the County of Livingston has complied with federal and state election laws to promote the fundamental right to vote by improving access to polling places and election day voting as follows:

All polling places are wheelchair accessible.

If your polling place is difficult for an elderly or handicapped person to manage, there are some alternatives:

1. On request by phone or letter, the county clerk will supply you with a proper affidavit for a voter unable to enter the polling place on Election Day. This must be completed and returned to the County Clerk's Office no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 5, 2021. On election day two judges from your polling place, of opposite parties, will bring the ballot sheet outside the entrance, providing that if you are within a distance of not more than 50 (fifty) feet from the door to the polling place.
2. If an elderly or disabled voter has difficulty in reading the ballot sheet he or she may ask for assistance at the polling place, or may bring a friend or relative to assist. After filling out the proper affidavit, the friend or relative or two judges of opposite parties, can assist you.
3. A request can be made by phone or by mail to the County Clerk's Office for a Vote By Mail ballot. When the request is received, an application for a Vote By Mail ballot will be mailed to the voter. After voting the Vote By Mail ballot it must be mailed or hand delivered back to the County Clerk's Office, so it can be counted on Election Day. A Vote By Mail Application may also be made by email from the Livingston County Official website, www.livingstoncountyil.gov, by going to: County Services; County Clerk; Elections; Emailable Vote By Mail Ballot Application Request.
4. Illinois election law allows for Early and Grace Period voting to be conducted in the County Clerk's Office. The clerk's office will be open from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon on Saturday, March 6, 2021 for voter registration and early voting; on Saturday, March 20th, and Saturday, April 3rd for early and grace period registration and voting from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. Voting will take place during the regular office hours Monday thru Friday from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.
5. The County Clerk's office will offer two methods of voting, the Unisyn OVO Tabulator unit and FVT Touchscreen electronic voting system.

Dated: January 27, 2021

Kristy A. Masching
Livingston County Clerk
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www.morrishospital.org/dwight

Dr. Jennifer Thomas
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Dr. Athar Saeed
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toast, pears.

Fri., Feb. 12:
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pea salad, whole grain
wheat, seasonal dessert.

Mon., Feb. 15:
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coli, biscuit, whole grain
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Tues., Feb. 16: Ham
& beans, copper carrots,
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Dwightumc.org
Pastor: Mary Arnold

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584-3433 church
584-1291 fax
Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor

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a.m.; Sunday Evening
Service, 6 p.m.

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200 W. Delaware St.
584-1260 church
Rev. Grant Speece

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Assembly of God**
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Victor J. Randle Jr., Pastor

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

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Lutheran Church**
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Pastor Chrissy Salser
email:chrissytherev@att.net

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815-483-9343 Cell
bracevilleumc.com
Pastor Donald Batz
Sunday Worship: 10:30
a.m.

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Methodist Church
Ames & Chester
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Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell

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Lutheran Church
NALC
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815.689.2120
st.johns@frontiernet.net
Pastor: Gabriel Baumgardner
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Livestream on FB, 10
a.m.; Feast of the
Epiphany Worship Ser-
vice, 6 p.m.
FEB. 11: Text Study
Livestream on FB, 10 a.m.
FEB. 14: Worship, 10 a.m.
FEB. 15: Friendship
Day, 8:30-11:30 a.m.

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815-257-5751 cell

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Pastor Greg Olson

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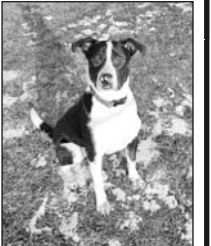
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Come Along for a Ride. . .

(continued from page 1

those first lap jitters. Though fierce and determined, she never lets that spirit outweigh her comraderie and friendship with her fellow racers. “Even if someone passes me, I say good for them,” she says. “Of course, sometimes, we can all get upset, we all have those moments. But I leave that at my trailer, and never take out my frustration on my racing family.”

While she loves the excitement and thrill of the actual race, Heddins divulges that her absolute favorite moment is actually closer to the end. “I love getting to pass by and wave to the fans,” she says warmly. “It’s the ultimate spirit lifter.”

In fact, for Ashlyn, it’s these moments, being immersed in her fans and supporters, that makes each race so amazing, and fulfilling. “My fans really keep me going,” Heddins adds. “Hearing their encouragement, watching them get excited about the race as well, it’s so awesome to be a part of and feel so much support.”

When asked if she had any role models she looks to for motivation or inspiration along her journey, Heddins was quick to name her little brother, Riley. “He’s so excited to race someday himself, and I love getting to show him everything involved with it,” she said proudly. “On the days when I doubt myself, I look out and see him at every race, and it reminds me who I’m doing this for. I’m beyond excited for his own future ventures into this sport.”

Ashlyn also helps repair and maintain her vehicle in addition to racing, working alongside her father in the shop. “I really love getting to figure out the exact gear sizes we need to make the car go faster,” she says, describing her favorite aspect of the maintenance she performs. “It’s a lot of fun.” In fact, she finds it so fun, she found her genuine interest



shifting more toward mechanic work, dreaming of building and working on cars, rather than racing them.

“Prior to this, Ashlyn had never even picked up a wrench,” Eric recalls. “Now she’s done everything - from changing the oil to switching out parts, and even recently completing her first brake job.” Huddled close together over the car, trading tools and tips, the entire experience is transformed into a beautiful bonding moment, building confidence and creating irreplaceable memories.

With the new racing season quickly approaching, Ashlyn plans to work on more than just her car, scheduling plenty of practice time to improve and refine her driving techniques before the first race. During the winter, Heddins travels to indoor go-kart tracks, setting up cones to practice her drifting and improve race path consistency while outdoor tracks are unavailable. “I also have a set up at home,” she explains. “I have a driver’s seat, and attachments that hook up to my playstation, so I can even get in good practice time while not in my car.” This summer, her number one goal is to improve her turns. “I tend to take corners kind of sharp, and spin out,” she said. “I want to try and fix that, and work on how I apply pressure to the pedal while driving.”

For those who feel a similar itch to race, she was quick to offer support and encouraging advice. “Racing is a lot of fun, and everything comes with time and practice,” she said. “When I got my first win, oh

man, I felt something. It was amazing! But it’s also important to remember, mistakes happen. Don’t let that stress you out, or stop you from racing. Just remind yourself, there’s always another race.”

To Ashlyn, racing has been more than just a sport or fickle interest. It’s become a place to come together, connecting and bonding with those that share her own love of racing. “The atmosphere is so supportive and welcoming,” she said of her experiences at the track. “Everyone is like family, always willing to teach and explain, support each other and swap techniques.”

For the 2021 season, Ashlyn Heddins will be racing under the Midwest Super Cup Series at the Grundy County Speedway in Morris. There are 11 dates planned and opening night is set for May 7.

Ashlyn and her racing team are always looking for sponsors, which are essential for racers, and help support repairs or replacement parts for their cars. The track is an excellent opportunity for advertising, and can provide an abundance of marketing opportunities for interested businesses/parties.

“Come race with us,” Heddins said. “Let’s see how fast your business can go.”

Eric, Ashlyn and the Heddin’s Racing Team are always thankful for any and all support. Any interested businesses, or for those just wanting to check in and see how Ashlyn is doing, please visit: ashlynheddinsracing14.com or call: 1-630-429-1529 email: heddinsmotorsportsinc@yahoo.com

Dwight Goes Up Against GSWB in Volleyball Action

Wednesday, February 3
Dwight vs. GSWB
6th Grade -

Dwight’s sixth grade girls were victorious over Gardner-South Wilmington-Braceville 12-25, 25-10, 25-19 – earning their first “W” of the season.

Leading the Lady Redbirds was Mikayla Chambers with 19 points, including nine aces. Madlynn Lucas added ten points (5 aces), with Krista Connor (4 aces) and Emma Stanton (4 aces) contributing seven and six points, respectively. Addy Sulzberger provided five points (2 aces), followed by four points (2 aces) from Claire Sandeno. Avery Connor and Olivia Buck (2 aces) each came up with

three points. Cloe Gail chipped in two points, while Callie Robinson had one point.

For fifth/sixth grade GSWB, Aubree Male led in serves, going 13/15 with eight aces and five in serves. Grace Vitko and Tessa Rankovich each contributed six points from serves, with Madison Grivetti and Carmela D’Amico each adding three points from serves. Peyton Thomas had one serve point.

In “B” game action, Dwight won 25-18, 25-16.

The fifth grade Lady Tigers were led in serves by Claudia D’Amico (2 aces) and Marissa Bafia (1 ace, 2 in serves).

7th Grade -

In the seventh grade meet-

ing between Dwight and GSWB, the Lady Tigers won 25-17, 25-21.

Sarah Parker led the Lady Redbirds with nine aces, followed by three from Sophie Buck. Taylor Heath had five kills, with Makayla Wahl-Seabert contributing five digs.

8th Grade -

Dwight’s eighth grade girls defeated GSWB 25-24, 25-16.

Brynn Connor had six aces to lead the Lady Redbirds, while Samantha Harsh added five aces and three kills. Maci Johnson came up with four assists and two kills, with Ella Legner providing a dig and one kill.



DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

Monday, February 1
Dwight vs. Seneca
6th Grade -

The Lady Redbirds took on Seneca in their first action of 2021, falling in three sets – 25-18, 21-25, 16-25.

Mikayla Chambers led with 13 points, including five aces and a kill. Claire Sandeno added nine points, with two aces and one kill. Krista Con-

nor and Olivia Buck each scored six points, with Buck providing an ace. Madlynn Lucas had four points, followed by three each from Avery Connor and Cloe Gail. Addy Sulzberger and Emma Stanton each scored two points, while Sophie Bastian chipped in with one point.

In “B” game play, Dwight lost 15-25, 15-25.



GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

Friday, February 5
GSWB vs. Coal City

Both the fifth and sixth grade GSWB Lady Tiger volleyball teams took home wins against Coal City February 5.

The sixth graders won in two sets, 25-6, 25-14.

Aubrey Male (3 aces, 7 in-serves) and Madison Grivetti (6 aces, 3 in-serves) led in serves. Also adding serving points were Tessa Rankovich (5), Peyton Thomas (4), Abby Galass (3), Grace Vitko (3), and Charlie Brooks (1).

In the fifth grade meeting, GSWB won 25-15, 22-25, 25-23.

Marissa Bafia led in serves with six aces and three in-serves, followed by Hailey Balcom with four aces and three in-serves. Also contributing serving points were Lily Buck (4), Lilly Scheuber (4), Claudia D’Amico (2), Samantha Engel-Runty (2), and Jaci Wilkey (1).

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The Arsonist Chardonnay or Red Blend

750 ml.\$12⁹⁹

Beringer Bros. Bourbon Barrel Aged Wines

750 ml.\$13⁹⁹

1800 Ultimate MARGARITAS

\$15⁹⁹

1.75 liter

Jose Cuervo AUTHENTIC MARGARITAS

\$13⁹⁹

1.75 liter