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** ECRWSS **

Volume 23 • Number 12

Proudly serving the area since 1999

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Jeff Bryan to Retire End of 2021-2022 School Year

Teachers for the 2021-22 school year were re-employed when the Tri-Point Schools Board met Wednesday, March

The Superintendent/Lower Elementary Principal, Jeff Bryan, had issued an intent to retire effective at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, which was accepted.

Teachers re-employed for the 2021-22 year included: 1st year, Jenna Baker and Melody Haag; 2nd year, Annie Gallindo, Scott Saffer, Josh Evans, Brendan Elens, Amy Saelens, Anita Platz, and Aimee Wright; and, 3rd year, John Allhands.

The legislative granting of tenure to 4th year teachers,

Todd Fatka and Charlene Parsons was acknowledged for the 2021-22 school year.

A 3-year lease for seven 72passenger buses at \$12,769 per year; one wheelchair bus at \$14,149 per year; and a twoyear extension of the three 32passenger buses at \$8,818 per year were approved.

The board members were in closed session for 14 minutes.

Option C School Calendar for the 2021-2022 school year was adopted, and the consent agenda as presented was approved.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m., with the next Board meeting set for April 19 in the board room at Kempton.

GSW Spiritline Wins State, Coach Leigh to Hall of Fame; **School Returns to Full Days**

Gardner-South Wilmington High School District #73 held a regular meeting March 17.

Mr. DeLong and the Board of Education recognized the 2020-21 Spiritline team for being Illinois Drill Team Association State Champs - winning in two separate categories. Senior Abigail Ozee won the \$750.00 scholarship. This is the won this scholarship award. Coach Leigh was also inducted into the IDTA Hall of Fame.

Mr. John Engelman, Principal, reported on the following:

- National Honor Society held their Induction Ceremony on March 10, inducting ten new members this year.
- GSW returned to full school days on March 15. "This seems to be going very well," stated Engelman. "We have had several positive comments, from both students and teachers.

Mr. Engelman, Athletic Director, reported on the follow-

• Winter Sports Recap – The Spiritline team had a tremendous year and are IDTA State Champs. Girls JV basketball ended with a 1-7 record, but improved greatly throughout the season. Girls varsity bas-

The Board of Education of ketball ended with a 12-4 record and placed second overall in their conference. Boys JV basketball ended with an 8-7 record and 6-2 conference record. Boys varsity basketball ended the year at 9-9 overall and 9-1 in conference play – winning the conference this

- Upcoming Spring Sports Volleyball and Track practices first time a GSW student has have started. "We are looking forward to the uncoming season," Engelman said. Baseball and softball will start in April.
 - Parade They were in the process of planning a parade for March 20 to honor the Spiritline team as State Champs. The parade route went through each town (Gardner, Braceville and South Wilmington) in the afternoon, along with the local Fire Department vehicles.

Mr. Josh DeLong presented the following:

- Building update
- Gym murals ConMan Painting was there to look at the gym and get ideas for some murals. Plans are to complete this project either during spring break or sometime this sum-

Superintendent DeLong presented on the following:

• Full-day transition – They (continued on page 2)

> The Grundy County part of about 26% of Dwight's total county only.

Dwight's number of taxpay- 2020, Dwight had sales tax inshortened hours, and people ers, as reported by the Illinois come of \$247,553 compared to Department of Revenue, de- \$272,167 in the fourth quarter of 2019.

Dwight's last four years of and Livingston Counties com- the category of Automotive &

Entenmann's

Donuts

slipped to \$327,833 from Dwight provided \$246,303, or \$388,095 in 2019, Livingston Dwight

The total of Dwight sales tax Pontiac 2,700,399

Sales tax figures for area Municipal sales tax earned in communities are at the right:

<u>2020</u> 2019 <u>2020</u> 952,265 1,099,390 Dwight 272,167 247,553 Fairbury 763,781 676,944 Fairbury 191,007 181,243 2,637,760 653,349 Pontiac 672,446 46,659 Odell Odell 8,115 15,750 Saunemin 13,188 Saunemin 3,389 106,678 256,055 Gardner 65,181 Mazon 52,045 48,082 Mazon 13,771 Morris 6,320,505 6,889,462 Morris 1,698,447 ,789,228 S. Wilm. 24,830 25,872 So. Wilm. 4,929 Herscher 362,892 313,540 Herscher 89,105

Perschnick 44 Fund-raiser Underway, Benefit Event Set for April 3 at DTHS

A fund-raiser has been initiand online vendors. ated, and an event has been planned April 3 at Dwight Township High School, to benefit DTHS alum Curt Perschnick, who has been diagnosed with stage 3 colon Pork cancer.

In addition to the ongoing fund-raising, organizers have helped to create an exciting day of activities to help in the effort to offset the costs associated with Curt's accrued expenses.

Details of the Perschnick 44 fund-raising event are as fol-

Four-Court Volleyball:

- Game Times: 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, and championship game at 1 p.m.
- 6 players per team on the court with 2 subs.
- Only players and referees are allowed in the gym during game play and masks are required.
- · All teams will enter the west entrance of the gym.
- Bracket will be e-mailed to team captains on April 1.

Games Pork Chop Sandwich Drive-

- Pork chop meal, and kid's hot dog meal, include chips, water, and dessert.
- All meals will be picked up at the south cafeteria doors via drive-thru.
- · Limited picnic tables available for eating at the school.
- There will be meals on-site for pick-up April 3, at any time between 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Extra meals will be sold at the football game, starting at 2 p.m. **Tee Shirt Orders:**
- Shirts are a 50/50 blend material.
- Sizes S-5XL

Thru:

- They are medium grey with the blue logo above on the · Orders are open through
- March 24.
- They will be available for pick-up at the south cafeteria doors on April 2 from noon to 5 p.m. and again on April 3 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- There will be some extras for sale on-site at the event.

Gift Card Basket Raffle

 Cards included in the basket will be from a variety of local

leyball Game, and Trojan football game. · Winner will be drawn the afternoon of Saturday, April 3. If you sign up for any of the

events, you will receive an email on how to pay for your purchases.

• Need not be present

Chop

· Raffle tick-

ets will be

sold at the

Drive-Thru,

Four-Court Vol-

Dwight Trojans vs. Central

The Dwight Trojan football squad takes on Central at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 3, at home. All gate/concession proceeds will go to Curt and his family.

Please see the directions below on how to make donations to Curt and his family. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Debbie Conroy at 815-584-6217 or conroyd@

dwightk12.org, or event. Jill Haacke at 815-584-6257 or haackej@ dwightk12.org.

Direct Mone-<u>tary</u> Donations to the Family: Venmo Curt

and his Family directly at: @Curt-Perschnick

• Donate to the GoFundMe

• Mail a check, made payable to Curt Perschnick, to:

Campus State Bank, 206 Center St., Campus, IL 60920

 Mail gift cards to Debbie Conroy at the address below:

- DTHS, c/o Debbie Conroy, 801 S. Franklin St., Dwight, IL 60420

- Make a note that these go directly to the family

- Family favorites include Menards and Amazon

The Benefit organizers are also asking for donations for DTHS Main Office, 7:30 a.m. the event itself on April 3. See the directions below on how to get involved on the day of the

Benefit Event Donations: Monetary donation towards

event needs, Venmo: @Debbie-Conroy-3

- Add to Venmo description: Perschnick 44 Benefit Event

• Cash donation: - Drop off at Dwight Town-

Franklin St., Dwight, IL 60420 **Baked Goods Donation** • Drop these off individually wrapped at the DTHS Cafeteria

ship High School, 801 S.

doors on the south side: - 801 S. Franklin St.,

Dwight, IL 60420 - April 2, from noon to 5:00 p.m., or April 3, 9:00-10:30

Gift Card Raffle Donation

• Mail your gift card to Debbie Conrov at:

- Dwight Township High School, c/o Debbie Conroy, 801 S. Franklin St., Dwight, IL 60420
- Drop them off at the times and dates below:
- March 17-March 26, to 4:00 p.m.
- April 2, DTHS Cafeteria, noon to 5:00 p.m.



CURT PERSCHNICK AND HIS FAMILY are in need of support following Curt's difficult diagnosis. Join friends, family, students, and community members April 3 for the Perschnick 44 benefit event - which is helping to raise funds to assist the Perschnick family during this trying time.

Annual Sales Tax for Dwight Slips Below a Million **FULL YEAR 4TH QUARTER**

by Tom Tock

After three years in a row of below: annual million-dollar sales tax returns, Dwight collected only \$952,265 in 2020, with businesses obviously beset with multiple on and off closures, very cautious about moving about, especially in public places. Normal, it was not.

sales tax income are shown bined).

2017 -- 1,074,494 2018 -- 1,131,995

2019 -- 1.099.390

2020 -- 952,265

creased from 199 during 2019 to 170 during 2020 (Grundy

Punch 64 oz

or Old Orchard

Apple Juice 64 oz

2020 sales tax revenue.

Filling Stations during 2020

In the fourth quarter of from *Drinking & Eating Places* dropped to \$105,490 in 2020 from \$145,710 in 2019, Liv- Gardner 210,189 ingston and Grundy Counties.

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



<u>2019</u>

10,774

3,827

12,287

4,187

86,437



FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police

March 12: Cheryl L. Doherty, 59, Dwight, fail obey stop sign; Mitchell A. Tousignant, 33, Dwight, driving during revocation.

March 13: Anthony R. Derbas, 20, Joliet, driving under influence of alcohol.

March 14: Bryce D. Lucus, 18, Dwight, improper turn signal; Gregory A. Jarrett, 36, Reddick, carry/display license/permit, open dumping causes litter.

March 17: Kathlene A. Gundlach, 34, Kankakee, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Jamie L. Reed, 38, Waverly, driving under influence of alcohol, DL expired more than a year.

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

Dwight Police Blotter

March 12: 12:10 a.m., Arrested for Driving On a Revoked License was Mitchell Tousignant, 33, of Dwight.

March 13: 10:13 p.m., Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop on Mazon Ave. Arrested for Driving Under the Influence was Anthony Derbas, 20, of Joliet. Derbas was transported to Dwight Police Dept. for processing and his vehicle was towed from the scene.

March 14: 12:09 a.m., Dwight Police were dispatched to 15 E. Northbrook Dr. Arrested for Child Endangerment was Sara Adler, 26, of Morris. Adler was transported to Grundy Cty. Jail; 7:45 p.m., Arrested for Illegal Dumping on Morris.

Private Property and Driving Without License on Person was Gregory Jarrett, 36, of Reddick.

generated three Identity Fraud March 17: Dwight Police

March 16: Dwight Police

generated three Identity Fraud

Accident Report

Saturday, March 13, 4:10 a.m., a single-vehicle accident was reported at Rt. 47 and 900 N. Union St. involving a GMC Utility, driven by Elizabeth Leithliter, 30, of Dwight, which was heading southbound on Rt. 47 when the driver lost control of the vehicle.



Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

March 11: Delaware, medical, Morris.

March 12: Renfrew, medical, refusal; Mazon, fire, n/a fire alarm; Rt. 47 NB, gas leak; Mazon, fire; Spencer, fire; Seminole, medical, refusal.

March 13: Franklin, medical, Morris; Union, accident; Northbrook, medical, Morris.

March 14: John St., trauma, refusal; Main St., medical, no transport.

March 15: I-55, trauma, refusal; I-55, accident, mutual aid from Gardner; I-55, accident.

March 16: Waupansie, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, no transport; Coal City, COQ,

March 17: Mazon, medical,

EXPERIENCED – Served as Village Trustee the past 20 years,

served as chairman of the Services Committee (Police and Emer-

gency Medical Services) for 6 years and chairman of the Ordi-

nance Committee (Judicial and Licensing) for the past 14 years.

Also, served as chairman of the Economic Development Commis-

sion for 3 years. Retired from RR Donnelley with 23 years as a

customer service representative. I have completed 30 hours of

DEDICATED – I will continue to work diligently to provide economic opportunities for Dwight's citizens by working with local and county economic development organizations. I want to continue

the progress we have made on street improvements, water and

sewer main projects, and downtown improvements. As mayor, I would like to initiate a 'green' program to combat climate change at the local level. I would like to involve the younger generation in

PRIORITIES

Economic Development
 Street, Water Improvements

Downtown Revitalization
 Creek Drainage Improvements

I ask for your vote April 6

for Mayor of Dwight

"Like many communities its size, Dwight is

facing serious challenges. With your support, I believe

we can meet these challenges, overcome them, and thrive."

business courses at Joliet Junior College.

'Make every day a little less ordinary.'



Temps - 2021

Mar. 11 - high 69°, low 31° Mar. 12 - high 56°, low 29° Mar. 13 – high 60°, low 31° Mar. 14 – high 49°, low 34° Mar. 15 – high 34°, low 30°

.54" freezing rain/ice Mar. 16 – high 39°, low 33° Mar. 17 - high 41°, low 34° .35 precip.

One Year Ago – Mar. 24, 2020 high 32°, low 23° 3" snow

All-Town Garage Sales in Dwight April 30, May 1

Sign up today for the townwide garage sales in Dwight to be held during the Red Carpet Corridor weekend.

The garage sales are scheduled to run Friday, April 30, and Saturday, May 1, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (or whenever your "garage sale" sign is posted).

A Route 66 Red Carpet Corridor Garage Sale sign will be provided when the form and fee are received. These signs can be displayed in your yard during the hours your sale is in

A list of addresses and short list of items for the sales will be available at the Village Hall, starting Wednesday, April 28. An ad with the list of addresses will also be put in the April 28 edition of The Paper.

Sign-up deadline is Friday, April 23, to make The Paper

pass; Andrew, trauma, Morris. progress.

ELECT

CURTIS

Mayor of Dwight

deadline for the ad.

More Fans at DTHS Sporting Events As the football and indoor volleyball seasons begin at change immediately. Dwight Township High School, there will be an in-

crease in spectator allowances. DTHS was informed that

the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Governor's office have recently made modifications to outdoor/indoor seating capacity guidelines.

It is important to note that this plan does designate a Phase 4 modification in the spectator gatherings for indoor venues of capacity greater than or equal to 200. Those venues are now permitted a capacity limit of 25% capacity (same as outdoor venues). Schools may

implement this capacity

IDPH, Governor Modifications Mean

This new plan will allow DTHS to allow a specific number of visitors in the gym and football arena. As an example, the gym capacity is 1,245, which will allow 311 spectators indoors. Spectators will still be required to wear masks and social distance. Home spectators will not be required to have tickets in advance, but when/if they reach capacity, will not be allowed entrance. There will not be an admission charge to enter for games the remainder of the year, with the exception of Saturday, April 3, which will be the Curt Perschnick 44 Benefit.

A listing of games for volleyball and football may be found on their website by Googling Dwight Public Schools. This week's home schedule is as follows:

Homecoming Week

• Thursday, March 25 -JV/varsity volleyball, 5:15 p.m. Senior Night, with bonfollowing (pending fire weather). Volleyball games will also be shown on the NFHS network, which is by subscription.

• Friday, March 26 - Homecoming game, varsity football versus Iroquois West, 7:00 p.m. Gates open at 6:00 p.m. Senior Night for football, football cheer, and marching band.

Early Voting for Consolidated Election in Kankakee County

Dan Hendrickson, Kankakee County Clerk, announced March 16 that early voters may cast a ballot for the Consolidated Election prior to April 6. For the April Consolidated Election, early voting begins March 17 and will end April 5.

Grace period registration and voting is also available. Grace period registration and voting is for persons who failed to register or update their address prior to the close of registration. Persons wishing to register to vote must be 18 years old by Election Day and present two forms of identification – one of which must have their current address. Individuals who register or update their address through grace period registration must vote at that time.

Early and grace period voting will be conducted at the office of the County Clerk at 189 E. Court St., Kankakee. Office

dates and hours are: Monday-Friday, March 17-April 5, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Additional Early and Grace Voting hours at this location are: Saturday, March 27 -8:30 a.m. to noon: Saturday. April 3 - 8:30 a.m. to noon.

For more information about early and grace period voting, contact the County Clerk's office at 937-2990 or visit kanka keecountyclerk.com.

GSW Spiritline Wins State, Coach Leigh to Hall of Fame, School Returns to Full Days

(continued from page 1) currently still have about 20 students that chose to stay full remote.

- · GAVC Director's Award Winner:
- Avery Lenzie Cosmetology for the month of February
- Online Registration This process seems to be going better this year.
- Transportation Bid updates - Illinois Central School Bus is the only company who bid. Their three-year contract would be a 10% increase for the first year, then a 3% increase for second and third years. Mr. DeLong has been exploring along with BES,

A number of pros and cons were discussed, along with potential savings if the four districts were to house their own transportation. While there could be a potential small savings, the driver shortage issue could be problematic.

 Activities and Extra-Curricular updates – Senior Prom is planned for Saturday, April 17, at the Gardner American Legion, and Graduation is planned for Sunday, May 16, at 12:00 p.m. noon. Volleyball and Track have started, with Softball and Baseball starting up in April.

• South Dakota Band Trip – Summer of 2022. Mr. Leone is in the process of planning this GGS and SWGS if they can go trip for next summer. It would out on their own for a bus fleet. include four stops: Rapids City,

Mount Rushmore, Crazy Horse and Deadwood. "This would be a great trip for our band students," commented Mr. De-

• Residency Issues – Mr. DeLong was looking for some direction on how the Board of Education wants to handle residency issues that come up at GSW High School. Currently, the school board policy states that documents such as an ISBE signed affidavit, along with a signed Power of Attorney giving up guardianship, is required in order for a student to attend GSW if they are living with another party.

Action Items included: · Hiring Cadee Grieff for

- summer office assistant
- Hiring Jerry Olsen for Bass Fishing Team sponsor
- · Approving Creation of Activity Account for Arrambide and Duffy Homerooms
- Approving Non-Tenure teacher rehire for FY22 school year – Rymsza, Vertin, Boaz & J. Wills
- Approving IHSA renewal
- for 2021-2022 school year · Approving Bid for Pinnacle Painting Corp for epoxy cafeteria floor, storage area, and stairwells at a cost of

\$21,000.





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Out of area subscriptions available.

Citizens to Elect Curtis

this endeavor.

Jerry Curtis Paid for by

February Video Gaming

by Tom Tock

A full month of video gambling in Dwight and statewide is ready to be reported. Gaming was resumed in the middle of January.

\$577,333 was played in Dwight's 53 video gaming terminals in February, the village receiving \$7,561 as its share of Net Terminal Income.

Video gambling in Illinois took place at 7,387 locations in February, 104 more than in January.

There were 1,259 more gaming terminals in Illinois in February for a total of 38,403.

Dwight and Gardner results by location are below.

Dwight

| 0 | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|
| FEB. | Funds In | Funds Out | NTI* | State | Dwight |
| Aly Anne's | \$ \$38,050 | 26,740 | 11,309 | 3,279 | 565 |
| Cherry Red | d's 4,259 | 2,047 | 2,211 | 641 | 110 |
| JT's Saloon | n 32,686 | 21,332 | 11,353 | 3,292 | 567 |
| Lila Mae's | 88,346 | 61,925 | 26,420 | 7,661 | 1,321 |
| Love's | 100,857 | 64,802 | 36,054 | 10,455 | 1,802 |
| Mac's | 84,226 | 63,696 | 20,529 | 5,953 | 1,026 |
| VFW 2608 | 96,199 | 79,408 | 16,790 | 4,869 | 839 |
| Vic. Lanes | 35,247 | 27,665 | 7,581 | 2,198 | 379 |
| Virbapa | 6,009 | 4,954 | 1,054 | 305 | 52 |
| Willy's | <u>91,454</u> | 73,530 | <u>17,923</u> | 5,197 | <u>896</u> |
| TOTAL: | \$577,333 | 426,104 | 151,228 | 43,856 | 7,561 |
| | | | | | |

Gardner

| FEB. | Funds In | Funds Out | <u>NTI*</u> | State | <u>Gardner</u> |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Buddies (3) | 3,480 | 3,104 | 375 | 109 | 18 |
| Marks (5) | 20,419 | 13,455 | 6,963 | 2,019 | 348 |
| <u>TA Ops (1)</u> | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | _0 |
| TOTAL: | \$23,899 | 16,560 | 7,338 | 2,128 | 366 |

*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.

Free Food to Be Distributed March 24

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, March 24, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St.,

The pantry is held on the fourth Wednesday of each month, January through October. The November Food Pantry is held on the third Wednesday, while Love Boxes distribute food in December

2021 Route 66 Smoke Out, Red Carpet Corridor Weekend Set for April 30, May 1 in Downtown Dwight

submitted by Dwight Economic Alliance

Saturday, May 1, we look forward to some events returning after being canceled in 2020. Red Carpet Corridor will follow state guidelines. To make the event safe for all, participants and volunteers will be encouraged to download the Route 66 Scenic Byway app. Guests will be able to travel to 12 communities, where they will find a code to enter into the application for that location. People will enter codes to receive a commemorative 95th Anniversary Postcard from each location. Postcards will be mailed to guests. More information will be available as we get closer to the event date.

Route 66 Smoke Out Plans for 2021



The 2020 Route 66 Smoke Out was headed downtown until state restrictions forced a cancelation.

This year, the organizers hope to host the annual event in the heart of the community and are already seeing interest from competitors from Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. Due to a number of factors, we are expecting an increase in competitors and are hoping for 40 to 50.

In addition to the Kansas City Barbeque Society-sanctioned BBQ Competition – with a prize pool of \$6,000 – new in 2021 is a Steak Cookoff Asso-

ciation event that pays \$1,000 to the best steak. This is meant to pull a few more locals into the competition. Most entrants will take a pop up tent, a Weber Grill, a little charcoal, and hand select two Ribeye steaks that the competition provides to compete for the \$1,000 cash prize and bragging rights. The SCA competition is **Friday**, **April 30**.

Back again in 2021 is the backyard competition, where you can test your skills in sausage, pork, wings, and ribs while you hone your skills for the pro competition. The winner will receive a free entry to the

2022 KCBS competition.

Obviously, you will see a few COVID-19-related changes to the KCBS-sanctioned BBQ Competition this year – but most of them will be behind the scenes. The judges will require more space and additional safety measures, but rest assured – it will be a safe, fun

Page 3

For more information or to enter the competitions, visit the competition website at: dwight alliance.org/springfest/bbq/.

With the Route 66 Smoke Out moving downtown, what was Springfest can move into businesses downtown. Bars and restaurants can have activities to coordinate with the event. Dwight Economic Alliance will help promote downtown events.

Franklin Corner

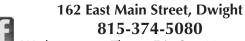
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SPRING IS Here! SHOP WITH US!

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Wed. 4-9 p.m.; Thurs., Fri., Sat. 11 a.m.-7 p.m.



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Dear Dr. Castello -

We want to thank you so much for sending food home each week. For seniors on a fixed income and in the times we are living in, we are grateful! May God flourish your practice and bless you back in the way you need!! Thank you for serving our community.

Sincerely, Dave & Missy

Dear Dr. Castello,

We want to Hank

you so much for sending
food home each week.

For seniors on a finellucione
and in the times we are
living in, we are gratifue!

May God flourish your Practice and beless your
back, in the way you need!!

Thank you for serving our
Community!!

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Tips for Starting Your Spring Garden Off Strong

may seem endless, but as the bloom and grass will green, giving way to sure signs of spring.

"Grab your trowel and get ready," says Ron Wolford, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. "Spring is just days away."

Wolford recommends gardeners keep in mind how last year the pandemic saw gardeners flood garden centers and increase demand for products sold by online seed companies.

Cold winter days seem endless, but spring is on the way. One simple spring gardening upkeep task is to cut back ornamental grasses to encourage new growth.

"Buy your summer-flowering bulbs, seeds and transplants early," Wolford says. "Last year, many seeds and transplants were in short supply or out of stock. This spring, order your seeds early and purchase your transplants as soon as they are available."

When starting seeds, it's important to avoid dampingoff disease. Damping-off will cause seedlings to wilt and die. Use a pasteurized soil-less

Cloudy, cold winter days medium. Keep the temperature the first fall frost ranges from around 65 to 70 degrees weather warms, bulbs will Fahrenheit for best germination and provide bottom heat if possible. Most of all, avoid Leaves and stems should be overwatering.

Prepare soil before planting. This means removing rocks and debris. Dig in a two- to four-inch layer of organic matter, which helps to break down heavy clay soils and improves

Never work soil when it is wet. Doing this will cause it to dry into concrete-like clods. Pick up a handful of soil before digging and squeeze. If it crumbles easily, it is ready to be dug. If it doesn't it is too wet. Allow the soil to dry for a few more days and test again before digging.

Be prepared for late spring frosts. Cover tender plants with row covers, cardboard, blankets, hot caps, or newspaper. Do not use metal or plastic for protection, because these can conduct cold to plants.

"We have had frost close to Memorial Day in Illinois," says Wolford. "The latest spring frost occurred in Rockford on May 27, 1992."

The growing season between the last spring frost and around 160 to 190 days from northern to southern Illinois.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Buy healthy transplants. green and healthy without any signs of yellowing or browning. Gently remove transplants from their pot and check the root system. Roots should be white with visible soil. Check for insects such as whiteflies or aphids.

Harden off transplants. Before exposing transplants to cool, spring temperatures, wind and sun, gradually introduce them to the outdoor environment over a ten- to 14-day period. At first, place the transplants in a shaded area for a few hours. Gradually increase their exposure to sunlight each day until they are outdoors for 24 to 48 hours before planting.

Divide perennials. Dig around the plant and lift the clump out of the ground. Break the clump into sections. Larger sections will re-establish quicker than smaller sections. Keep the clumps moist until ready to plant.

Cut back ornamental grasses to about four to six inches. Failing to remove foliage delays the warming of the plant's crown and slows new growth. Ornamental grasses should be divided in the spring if the center of the plant has died out or if it has become overgrown.

For more information, check out Illinois Extension resources at go.illinois.edu/ BulbInfo or go.illinois.edu/ StartingSeeds.

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Low-Maintenance Lawn Alternatives

A traditional lawn may not of seeds or homeowners can be right for every property nor desired by every homeowner. There is no denying that lawns take time and effort to establish and daily or weekly maintenance to thrive. Homeowners who find that a traditional lawn is not practical can explore some low-maintenance alternatives.

Wildflower meadow

swaths of property may discover meadows are cost- and time-efficient. Stores sell special wildflower meadow mixes

use wildflower plug plants throughout areas where grasses are left to grow longer. This natural area can be a home to wildlife and an idyllic backdrop to a home. Most meadows only require a spring or summer and autumn cut to thrive and look good.

Ornamental grasses

Partition areas of the prop-Homeowners with wide erty for ornamental grasses to grow. The gardening resource Elemental Green says ornamental grasses tend to be drought-resistant and low-

maintenance. They won't need much fertilizer and are often resistant to pests as well. Ornamental grasses grow in tufts or sprays and will not require mowing. However, they are not ideal for areas that get foot traf-

Gravel

Moss can thrive in shady areas and ones where the soil tends to stay a bit damp. Moss is velvety soft and green, so it can mimic the look of a traditional lawn but won't require mowing and other upkeep. Because it spreads quickly, moss can take over quite rapidly. You will need to protect areas where you do not want moss by creating barriers to stop spread.

Stone and gravel areas can reduce maintenance in the landscape and require very little upkeep. When gravel is installed correctly, weeds may not grow readily. Gravel installation may include laying heavy-duty, semi-permeable landscape fabric, which is available in home improvement centers. Gravel is cheaper than pavers and can be just as beau-

Artificial turf

If the desired look is a lawn without all the upkeep, there are various artificial grass options on the market. Homeowners who opt for artificial turf can save money and space devoted to lawn mowers and other lawn tools.

Grass may be ideal for some, but there are alternatives for people who have troublesome landscapes or desire a low-maintenance product for their homes.



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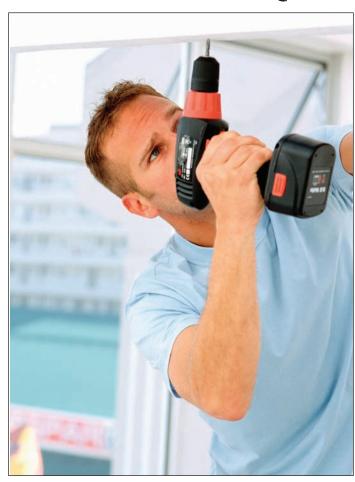
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Should I DIY?: 3 Questions to Determine If It's Best to Renovate On Your Own



A do-it-yourself mentality has taken hold in millions of households across the globe. Popular television channels like HGTV and DIY Network as well as accessible home improvement content on apps like YouTube has inspired many homeowners to tackle renovation projects around their homes. Taking such initiative is admirable, though it also can prove costly if homeowners end up biting off more than they can chew.

Wednesday, March 24, 2021

Home improvement videos and television shows have a tendency to oversimplify renovation projects, potentially giving homeowners a false sense of confidence in their DIY abilities. A concerted effort on the part of homeowners to determine if it's best to renovate on their own or hire a professional should always be the first step of any renovation project. No two homeowners are the same. but the following three questions can help homeowners determine if DIY is their best

1. Can I afford to DIY?

Professional home improvement projects are costly for a variety of reasons. Materials can be costly, but so are the tools and labor necessary to do the job right. Homeowners may not have the tools necessary to complete complicated projects. Specialty tools can be expensive to purchase or even rent, and the cost of acquiring such tools should be included in any DIY project cost estimates. Labor also factors heavily into professional projects, and for good reason. Talented contractors have unique skills that have been developed and perfected over many years. Those skills can ensure projects are completed quickly and correctly. Labor may seem costly, but such costs may ultimately prove to be a bargain compared to the cost of fixing DIY mistakes. Projects that are minor in scope and don't require the use of potentially costly specialty tools may be better suited for

weekend warriors than more complicated renovations.

2. Do I have the time?

Homeowners must determine how much time they have to complete a project before deciding to do it themselves. No one wants to spend months staring at an unfinished renovation project. Homeowners who are already pressed for time may not be able to complete projects in a timely fashion, which can make homes less comfortable and even less safe.

3. Can I pull this off?

DIY projects can instill homeowners with a sense of pride in their homes, but it's imperative that homeowners considering the DIY option conduct an honest assessment

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of their skills. A lack of renovation experience does not necessarily mean a homeowner cannot successfully complete a DIY project. But in such instances, it may be best to start with small, straightforward projects and then gradually move up to bigger, more complicated projects as skills are fine tuned. And homeowners who have never been at their best with a hammer in hand should not be ashamed to leave the work to the professionals.

Television shows and online tutorials can make renovations appear easier than they actually are. Homeowners considering DIY renovations can ask themselves a handful of questions to determine if they're ready for the challenge of renovating their homes on their own.

Commercial and Residential Jobs onally Installed By Our Own Workers • FREE ESTIMATES • www.HansensWindowCoverings.com How to Prepare a Garden for Spring Planting 235 Kinzie Ave. • Bradley 815-935-0010 same thing. If tools were not other debris may have gathered best time to amend the soil.

The final weeks of winter, and even the first few weeks of spring, are still chilly in many parts of the world. Despite those last vestiges of winter chills, late winter is a great time to begin preparing gardens for the coming planting season.

Gardens may have to withstand months of harsh weather each winter, and such conditions can take a toll. Gardeners can consider the following tips as they try to restore their gardens and get them ready for spring planting.

• Disinfect your tools. It's common to clean tools in late fall or whenever they're typically placed in storage for the winter. But cleaning and disinfecting are not necessarily the **beds.** Leaves, twigs, sticks, and

disinfected at the end of the previous gardening season, disinfect them before doing any work on the garden. Doing so can ensure any lingering bacteria or fungi on tool surfaces are killed prior to the beginning of gardening season. According to the University of Minnesota Extension, plant pathogens, including bacteria and viruses, can be transferred to and infect plants through bits of soil and plant debris left on shovels and pruner blades. Thoroughly disinfecting such tools prior to using them in the spring is a great way to reduce the risk of disease in your garden.

• Clear debris from garden

in the garden over the winter. Such debris can inhibit the growth of plants and vegetables, so make sure all of it is removed prior to planting. Weeds might even begin to sprout up in late winter and early spring, so remove them before they go to seed.

• **Test the soil.** Testing the soil prior to planting can help gardeners determine what their gardens will need to thrive in the coming months. Garden centers and home improvement stores sell home testing kits that are effective and easy to use. Once the results are in, speak with a professional at your local garden center about the

• Loosen compacted soil. Soil can become compacted over winter. If compacted soil is not loosened prior to planting, plants will have a hard time getting the water and nutrients they need to thrive. Loosening the soil also provides another opportunity to inspect the garden for any underlying issues, such as fungi or weed growth, that you may have missed when clearing debris or testing

Late winter is a good time to assess a garden and address any issues that developed over the winter so plants and vegetables can thrive come the spring planting season.



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Lawn Watering and Fertilizing Techniques

to behold. Many variables are involved in growing and maintaining grass, and water and fertilizer are among the most

important components. Knowing how much water and fertilizer to apply and when to apply it can make a big difhealth of a lawn. That's be-right application. cause a well-ted and watered lawn will develop a better root system, which makes the lawn less vulnerable to stressors like drought, mowing, foot traffic, and heat, according to the Scotts® company.

Fertilize

There is no magic formula governing when to fertilize a lawn. The type of grass and how well-established a lawn is must be considered. Experts suggest having the soil tested to determine its pH levels and if any nutrients are lacking. A fertilizing schedule can then be developed after testing.

Keep in mind that overfeeding a lawn will not make it grow any better and actually can damage the turf. Several small applications of fertilizer during the lawn's most active growing period may be helpful, advises the home improvement resource Tools Around the

A lush, green lawn is a sight House. An annual application (late spring for warm-season grass or fall for cool-season grass) may be all that's needed.

Certain fertilizers need to be applied and watered in. Others may be combined with weedcontrol products and must be set on top of damp grass. Read ference in the appearance and packaging to determine the

Water

The right watering schedule and techniques can help a lawn thrive. Scotts® says adjusting for climate and nature can help grass to grow strongly. A lawn that has a grayish cast or appears dull green is telling an owner that it needs water. Another test is to step on the lawn. If footprints disappear quickly, the grass blades have enough moisture to spring back.

Water the lawn in the morning before 10 a.m. when it's cooler and the winds tend to be calm so that the water can soak in. For those who must water at night, do so in early evening so that the water can dry before nightfall and will not contribute

Scotts® says to water an established lawn until the top six to eight inches of soil is wet. Most lawns need one to 1.5 inches of water per week from rain or a hose to soak the soil that deeply.

Newly established lawns may require more water to keep the soil moist but not soggy.

Visit a lawn care center for more information on watering the type of lawn for your area or visit www.scotts.com for additional tips.



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Voting.

Dwight will have the opportunity to elect a new mayor April 6. A good turnout of voters is necessary to make it a successful elec-

The right to vote is obviously something that should be treasured more than statistics might indicate.

For instance, in 2012 some 57.5% of U.S. eligible voters cast ballots. Less than 50% of the 18 to 29 year old age group voted.

In 2016 voter turnout overall was some 58%; then an all-time high 66.7% was reached in 2020, still only 2/3 of the eligible voters.

It is a good time to reflect on the fact that the right to vote, for some citizens, has been a long battle. African Americans were freed from slavery by the 13th Amendment, but it took the 15th Amendment to guarantee their right to vote.

Then it took another 100 years for those rights to be fulfilled with the Voting Rights Act of 1965. (ourdocuments.gov.)

Voting for a new mayor in

by Tom Tock

Dwight should be important to all of us. Instructions follow for those wanting to cast their votes by mail:

Vote by Mail Voting:

Through Thursday, April 1, a person may request a Vote by Mail ballot by USPS — no later than April 1 without specifying a reason. In order to be counted the ballot must be postmarked by midnight (check local post office hours) or returned in person by 7:00 p.m. to the County Clerk's Office on April 6.

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

The right to vote is the basic right without which all others are meaningless.

-- Lyndon B. Johnson

We the people elect leaders not to rule but to serve. -- Dwight D. Eisenhower

BOE Candidates for **Dwight Public Schools Announced**

The April 6 consolidated election will bring changes to the Boards of Education of Dwight Public Schools.

Dwight Common School District #232, terms will expire for Board President Bo Partney and BOE members Cathy Ferguson, Marc Ellis and Nick Stepanovich. On the ballot will be incumbents Marc Ellis and Nick Stepanovich along with new BOE candidates Tara Hansen and Lori Bowman. Partney and Ferguson will not be seeking reelection.

At Dwight Township High School District #230, Board President Brian Perschnick along with BOE members Betty Gantzert and Anne Rodosky will not be seeking reelection. Incumbent BOE members Tim Henson and Max Sulzberger will be on the ballot looking to retain their board seats. New candidates wanting to secure a seat on the DTHS BOE will be Eric Scheuer and Joel Sandeno. There will be an open two-year seat with no candidate which will be filled by appointment after the election.

Easter Egg Hunt

Celebrate Every Day!



Pontiac Elks Children's Free Podiatry Clinic April 16

Illinois Elks Children's Care Corporation, in cooperation with Pontiac Elks Lodge #1019, will sponsor a free children's podiatry assessment clinic Friday, April 16, at the Cortese Foot & Ankle Clinic, located at Sullivan Center, 1508 W. Reynolds, with Dr. Steve Yeschek as the clinician in charge.

The Clinic starts at 1:00 p.m. and is by appointment only. To make an appointment, call the Illinois Elks Children's Care office at 1-800-272-0074 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are no charges for any services at this clinic.

No medical referral is necessary for the clinic but physicians are welcome to refer patients to the clinic for a specific reason or second opinion. School nurses are welcome to refer children and families to the clinic.

The Elks Organization has been working with physically challenged children since 1928 and this is one of the 15 clinic locations throughout Illinois. If your child has feet pointing inward or outward, or complains of foot pain, they can be seen at this clinic. There is no charge for any diagnostic services at this clinic. The Elks will provide financial assistance to the best of their ability for children needing further treatment or specialty equipment when the family lacks sufficient resources to do so. In the past, the Elks have purchased therapy services, corrective shoes, braces, wheelchairs and augmentative communication devices to help children overcome a variety of physical challenges.

Friday, March 26

AT 4 P.M. SHARP!

Everyone Attending MUST Wear a Mask!

Kids need to bring their own bags for collecting.

The hunt will take place in front.

Residents will be sitting outside (Weather Permitting) to watch.

300 E. Mazon Ave., Dwight 815-584-1240

Retirement Announcement of James Eskins Celebration March 27 in Odell

After 58 years of trucking, the family of James "Jim" Eskins is proud to announce that Jim has finally retired.

This guy is a trucking legend. Jim started out his trucking career in the U.S. Army. He enlisted during the Vietnam Conflict, but was fortunate enough to land in New Orleans. Anyone who has served in the military knows that one of the first things you learn is "don't volunteer for anything", but as luck would have it - Jim did volunteer. He found himself driving in the motor pool and delivering goods in a deuce and a half.

After his time in the Army, Jim started driving a semi for Eastern Express in Chicago. He was there for 14 years; however, Eastern Express closed, so Jim moved to United Parcel Service. He drove for UPS for 44 years.

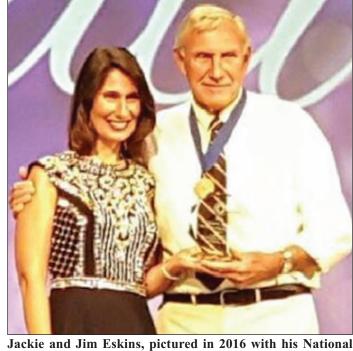
Jim's time at UPS has been marked with high achievements and notoriety. Jim was one of the first people in the United States to drive triples (three hooked trailers) on the Indiana Turnpike. To date, many states still do not allow triples on the highway due to the sheer size and risk it takes to drive them.

Jim started out driving doubles from Chicago to Springfield. He said "It was the worst run. It was so boring and I thought to myself, 'I've got to bid another run."

One fateful day, he stopped at the Harvest Table at exit 217 in Dwight. This was a turning point in his life. Upon entering the truck stop, he locked eyes with "the most beautiful woman I had ever seen." He was instantly smitten.

He decided maybe that run wasn't so bad after all and he continued to drive that route for many years, until he finally married that beautiful waitress in 1993

Jim and Jackie were married for 27 years. Sadly, Jackie passed away from cancer in 2020. She was his biggest fan and supporter. She prayed for his safe return home every night and would call him three or four times a day to check on



Driver of the Year award.

him and keep him entertained.

In his driving career, Jim has seen it all. He has been stranded in blizzards and road closures. In 1978, he was snowed in at a truck stop with Elvis Presley's band. He drove through the devastating Plainfield tornado and saw a semi on the other side of the road picked up, spun around, and set back down. He has experienced wind that could flip a loaded semi. He had lightning hit his semi, which instantly fried the entire computer system. He still has the nub that was left of his CB antenna. He has saved multiple lives with his quick thinking and conscientious driving skills; sadly, he too has witnessed lives lost to the road.

Jim has always looked out for the underdog. With his seniority, he had the ability to choose his driving partners. He would ask HR to give him the names of "fellas who were down on their luck and could use some help." The only other requirements for his driving partner is they could not be a smoker or use "foul language." Jim took many new or inexperienced drivers under his wing. He has coached and encouraged drivers through hard times and bad weather driving conditions. With his laid-back attitude and humble mentality, he

made many friends in his ca-

Twice, Jim has been chosen as driver of the year. He was chosen for Safe Driver of the Year in the state of Illinois. In 2016, Jim was selected by the National Safety Council to receive the Driver of the Year award for the nation, so he and Jackie spent a week in California. Jim attended the Council Recognition banquet where he received the national award. He says it is his proudest work achievement because "Jackie was so proud of me."

In 58 years, Jim has driven through all 48 contiguous states. Of all the areas, he really loves Salt Lake City, Utah. He also estimates that he has driven over five million miles which equates to circling the Earth 250 times.

To celebrate the culmination of Jim's epic life achievement, his family will be hosting a retirement celebration at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Odell Saturday, March 27, at

Stop in and wish Jim a happy retirement.

ANNUAL TOWN **MEETING**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal residents of the town of Dwight in the County of Livingston and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, being the second Tuesday of said month.

The Town Meeting for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 7:00 o'clock P.M. on said day at the Dwight Town Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight, Illinois, and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuant of law, come before the meet-

DATED at Dwight, Illinois this 24th day of March, 2021.

Patricia S. Rosenbaum Janice M. Masching **Dwight Township Supervisor** Dwight Township Clerk

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Easter Egg Hunt

At Dwight United Methodist Church

701 S. Columbia

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday @ 11:45 A.M.

Weather

Permitting.

Ages:

Walking to 12 years

Please bring a basket!

Morris & Diamond-Coal City! 8am-7pm Mon-Fri 8am-2pm Sat & Sun



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OBITUARIES

Robert T. Bates

Mr. Robert T. Bates, 85, of Mazon, Ill. passed away peacefully with his loving family by his side early Thursday morning, March 18, 2021 in his home.

He was born February 17, 1936 in Morris, Ill., the son

of Albert O. and Pearl M. Bates. He received his elementary education at Verona Elementary School, and graduated from Mazon High School with the class of 1954.

Bob married the love of his life, Evelyn A. Gantzert, on April 22, 1956 in the Park Street Congregational Church in Mazon, Ill.

He was a member of Operating Engineers Local 150 for 60+ years, and farmed from 1956-1979.

He loved spending time with his kids, grandkids, and great-grandkids. He also enjoyed fishing and playing cards.

He was a member of the Shriners, Mazon Masonic Lodge #826, First Christian Church, New Community Christian Church, and was a board member for Mazon Brookside Cemetery, Mazon Park Board, and the MVK Ambulance Board.

Surviving are his children: Steven (Angela) Bates of Loveland, OH; Lynn Bates of Minooka, IL; and Susan (Brian) Warning of Verona, IL.

Also surviving are nine grandchildren: Erica (Dan) Read, Victor (Kathleen) Rexroade, Robert (Kaitlin) Rexroade, Taylor (Jason) Provins, Sydney (Bryan) Carpenter, Reagan (Blake) Shaw,

Brian

Wilmington,

cation.

"Boomer" Bexson,

age 58, of South

passed away unex-

pectedly on Thurs-

day, March 18, 2021

at MacNeal Hospital

in Berwyn, IL, due

to a surgical compli-

Brian was the

George and Donna (nee

Yedlicka) Bexson on January

15, 1963 at St. James Hospital

Grade School and then went to

Gardner South Wilmington

High School, graduating in

1981. He participated in many

sports, such as basketball,

baseball, track, wrestling, and

He worked for Marketti's

Grocery Store, Kelce Deer

Farm, cleaned carpets, furniture and cars, walked beans for

farmers, and most recently

Westside Rentals for 21 years

until their closing in April

friends, neighbors and relatives

and taking gifts to older peo-

ple. He liked to hear stories

about his Grandpa Tony when

knows Brian "Boomer" Bex-

son because of his big heart

and contagious cackle of a

laugh. Boomer earned his nick-

Everyone in 12 counties

he ran the Circle Inn Tavern.

Brian enjoyed visiting with

Brian attended Gardner

first-born son of

in Pontiac, IL.

Brian A. Bexson

Brittany Warning, Brooke (Nick) Andreatta, and Brianna (Marcus) Sellers.

His 12 greatgrandchildren: Cade and Kendall Read; Caleb, Max and Helen Rexroade; Jaxson, Everett and Otto Carpenter;

Rowan and Asher Shaw; Isabella Andreatta; and Guy Rexroade; and several nieces and nephews also survive.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Evelyn Bates, in 2013; and siblings: Alma Mae McGuan, Helen Finch, and William (Bill) Bates.

Visitation for friends and family was at Village Christian Chuch, 8965 S. Bell Road in Minooka on Sunday, March 21, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the Memorial Service at 3:00 p.m. Pastor Nick Sandeno officiated.

A private family interment was held in Mazon Brookside Cemetery, where Bob was laid to rest with his late wife, Evelyn.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Bob's memory to the Mazon Brookside Cemetery Association.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest-book, upload photographs, and share Bob's memorial page online through social media by logging on to: www.ReevesFuneral.com/obituary/Robert-Bates

Cremation services and memorial arrangements have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd. in Morris. (815-942-2500)

name in grade school

when he hit three

homers out of the

are his parents, George and Donna,

brother, Pat Bexson

of South Wilming-

ton; and sister, Teresa

Bexson of Gardner.

him in death were his grand-

parents, George Sr. and Teresa

Bexson, and Anton and Sara

Yedlicka; and uncles: Joe

Skuban, LaVerne Bersano, and

the R.W. Patterson Funeral

Home and Crematory, Braid-

wood Chapel, Monday, March 22, 2021 from 3 until 7 p.m.

at the funeral home on Tues-

day, March 23, 2021 at 10 a.m.,

with Pastor Jan Chandler offi-

ciating. Attendees were re-

quired to wear face coverings,

and follow social distancing

guidelines due to the capacity

requirements, and were asked

to be brief with their condo-

lences to allow others to pay

Braceville-Gardner Cemetery,

on to: www.rwpattersonf

uneralhomes.com or find us on

Interment followed in the

For more information and to visit his online guestbook, log

their final respects.

Braceville, IL

Facebook.

Funeral services were also

Visitation for Brian was at

Tony Yedlicka.

Gardner, IL;

Surviving

Preceding

park in one game.

Dolores S. Hanner

Dolores S. Hanner, age 87, of Odell, IL and formerly of Dwight, IL, passed away in South Roxana, IL at 4:36 a.m. on Thursday, March 18, 2021.

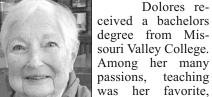
Dolores was born in Collinsville, IL on October 27, 1933, the daughter of late Amelia (Ringering) Simmons.

She is survived by a son, Robb Hanner and wife, Laura, of Athens, IL; a daughter, Lisa A. Black and husband, Kenneth, of South Roxana, IL; four grandchildren: Brittany Broadwater of South Roxana, IL; Nick Hanner of Athens, IL; Maggie-Grace Black of South Roxana, IL; and Makayla Gibbons of Cave City, KY; two great-grandchildren, Blayke and Maverick Gibbons of Cave City, KY.

Also surviving are a brother, Charles Simmons of Carlyle, IL; a sister, Oma Margaret Henderson and her husband, Dale, of Livingston, IL; a sister-in-law, Sharon Simmons of Edwardsville, IL; as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

death by her mother, Amelia; her grandparents and an aunt who raised her after her mother's passing, Bernard and Margaret Ringering and Alvina Ringering; another aunt, Dorothy Hessel; a brother, Richard Simmons; and two sisters, Shirlee Stewart and Carol

Dolores was preceded in



for 45 years.
She also enjoyed gardening and the performing arts. She had a passion for theatre and was known for her role as Morgan le Fay in Camelot at the Engle Lane Theatre for the performing arts at the William C. Schiffbauer

Sue Schindewolf.

working in education

Dolores had recently become a YouTube star reading The Pigeon book series to students at Odell Grade School.

A memorial visitation will take place on Thursday, March 25, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. at Dwight United Methodist Church, 701 S. Columbia St., in Dwight, IL.

A memorial service will follow at 11:00 a.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cunning-ham Children's Home or Engle Lane Theatre for the performing arts at the William C. Schiffbauer Center in care of Weber & Rodney Funeral Home.

Online condolences may be expressed at: weberfuneralhome.com

Weber & Rodney Funeral Home is at 304 N. Main St., Edwardsville, IL 62025.

Gerald Paul Abell

Gerald Paul "Bub" Abell, 78, of Bridgeport, IL passed away Thursday, March 18, 2021.

Bub was born June 4, 1942 in Lukin Township, Lawrence County, IL, the son of William Gerald and Floye June (Marx)

Abell. They preceded him in death.

He graduated from Bridgeport Township High School in 1961. The oldest of seven children, Bub never married.

Surviving are his brother, Glen (Carolyn) Abell of Sumner, IL; and sister, Annette (Troy) Riegel of Dwight, IL.



Several nieces and nephews and their children also survive.

He was preceded in death by his sisters: Elizabeth Matilda Mardis and Candi Sue Von-Behren; and his brothers: William Chester "Billy" and Randall David Abell.

He was a member of

Hopewell Methodist Church. G. P. Abell was cremated and a memorial service will be

held at a later date.

Burial will be in Harrison
Cemetery, Lancaster, IL.

Cunningham Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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 two weeks 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.

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Things we don't want to know, but have to learn;
and people we can't live without, but have to let go.





The Tournament

March Madness giveth and March Madness taketh away. - William Shakespeare, probably.

This is my much sooner than expected follow up on the column from last week and attending the Illinois - Ohio State Big Ten Championship game last week in Indianapolis.

The two teams that played in that game just about a week ago are both already eliminated from the NCAA tournament with Illinois losing to in-state mid major counterparts in Illinois-Loyola and Ohio State losing to Oral Roberts.

I think there's a case to be made that they both had a very tough draw in how the brackets were set up. Ohio State had to play a number 15 seed with the number one scorer in the country, and Loyola who probably should've been a 4 or 5 seed.

Since Illinois hasn't been in the tournament in 8 years I think this was a reminder that while the tournament is an amazing spectacle, and the upsets, and the craziness are all great, it's a really maddening gut wrenching experience if one of your teams is playing in the tournament.

Normally the 1 seed getting upset by the 8 seed is not a team that you're terribly invested in and you're just watching it for the theatre and the entertainment factor, but it really gets turned on its head when it's your team as the 1 seed that's being upset.

It's a much different experience than watching a series, or even a football game which seems like an eternity longer to make adjustments and everything that comes along with a more drawn out competition. I'm in no way advocating for changing the way the tournament is played, but the one and done format is a very quick reminder that the tournament doesn't care if your favorite team is involved, it just doesn't.

Was a great run, and I'm sure Illinois will be back there in the coming years, but this experience was very sobering.

> Aaron J. Boma 2016 ISU Grad

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Town of Gardner, Garfield Township, in the County of Grundy and State of Illinois, that the **Annual Town Meeting** of said Town will take place on

Tuesday, April 13, 2021 being the second Tuesday of said month

at the hour of 6:00 o'clock P.M. at
Garfield Township Hall, 301 North Liberty Street, Gardner,

Illinois for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers; and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Business of the Township.

Dated_____March 19, 2021

Tracy Kociss Garfield Township Clerk

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

ESTATE OF:

:

NORMA SIEDENTOP,
Deceased.

No. 2021-P-25

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Norma Siedentop. Letters of Office were issued on March 1, 2021 to James L. Siedentop, as Independent Executor. The representative's attorney of record is Alan M. Schrock, Blakeman & Schrock, Ltd., 307 West Washington Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, Livingston County Law & Justice Center, 110 North Main Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 15, 2021, and any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representative and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

JAMES L. SIEDENTOP, Independent Executor

Alan M. Schrock BLAKEMAN & SCHROCK, LTD. Attorney for Estate 307 West Washington Pontiac, IL 61764 Telephone: 815-844-6177 FAX: 815-842-3288 E-mail: alan@sbsltd.com

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SPORTS

Dwight Redbirds Seventh Grade Basketball 2020-21 Statistics Squad Ends Season 10-0 Overall

| | Last | First | Games | 2-pt. Shots | 2-pt. | 2-pt. | 3-pt. Shots | 3-pt. | 3-pt. | | | | | | | | Total |
|----|------------|-----------|--------|-------------|------------|---------|-------------|------------|--------|----------|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|--------|
| # | Name | Name | Played | Made | Shots Att. | Shot % | Made | Shots Att. | Shot % | Rebounds | Steals | FT Made | FT Att. | FT % | Assists | Turnovers | Points |
| 11 | Jensen | Trevor | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 12 | Kargle | Asher | 10 | 21 | 46 | 0.4565 | 1 | 6 | 0.1667 | 13 | 14 | 2 | 11 | 0.1818 | 10 | 19 | 47 |
| 14 | Bachand | Collin | 3 | 5 | 14 | 0.3571 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 11 | 11 | 2 | 4 | 0.5000 | 10 | 4 | 12 |
| 15 | DeLong | Maddox | 10 | 7 | 22 | 0.3182 | 1 | 4 | 0.2500 | 13 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 0.5000 | 3 | 18 | 18 |
| 20 | Statler | Jack | 10 | 2 | 9 | 0.2222 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 14 | 5 | 0 | 2 | 0.0000 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| 22 | Starks | Joey | 10 | 45 | 88 | 0.5114 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 86 | 29 | 9 | 15 | 0.6000 | 8 | 17 | 99 |
| 23 | Cox | Evan | 10 | 59 | 142 | 0.4155 | 6 | 23 | 0.2609 | 63 | 31 | 23 | 49 | 0.4694 | 18 | 13 | 159 |
| 30 | Launius | Jackson | 10 | 10 | 29 | 0.3448 | 0 | 1 | 0.0000 | 24 | 11 | 3 | 10 | 0.3000 | 2 | 13 | 23 |
| 33 | Wilkey | Jake | 7 | 7 | 16 | 0.4375 | 0 | 1 | 0.0000 | 20 | 8 | 1 | 4 | 0.2500 | 3 | 3 | 15 |
| 34 | Zappa | Ethan | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0.0000 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.0000 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | l | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 2020-21 Te | am Totals | | 156 | 370 | 0.42162 | 8 | 35 | 0.2286 | 251 | 117 | 41 | 97 | 0.42268 | 56 | 91 | 377 |



Congratulations, Redbirds!

victory lanes dwight

League Results

Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: Men - Joe Lehner, 265; Eric Knobbe, 251; Chuck Dudak, 245; Jeff Friedman, 244; Doug Gassman, 237; Women – Shelah Gaston, 228; Brandi Farcus, 208; Paula Watts, 190; Sheri Colebank, 173; Kathy Howard, 158. HSS: Men – Joe Lehner, 683; Doug Gassman, 658; Chuck Dudak, 649; Scot Banks, 640; Michael King, 638; **Women** – Brandi Farcus, 540; Paula Watts, 532; Shelah Gaston, 496; Sheri Colebank, 457; Kathy Howard, 423. HHG: Chuck Dudak, 265 - Shelah Gaston, 281. HHS: Chuck Dudak, 709 -Paula Watts, 661. HSG: 4 Guys and a Bro, 963. HHG: Agritile, 1020. HSS: 4 Guys and a Bro, 2604. HHS: Coleman and Son, 2723.

| League Standings | <u>w</u> | <u>L</u> |
|-------------------|----------|----------|
| Agritile | 23 | 5 |
| Willy's Pub | 19 | 9 |
| Pumpkin Patch | 16 | 12 |
| Coleman/Son | 16 | 12 |
| Victory Lanes | 15 | 13 |
| Whiskey Cav. | 12 | 16 |
| Gaston Construct. | 12 | 16 |
| 4 B's and a D | 10 | 18 |
| 4 Guys/a Bro | 10 | 18 |
| Dairy Queen | 7 | 21 |

Sportsman League Bowlers

HSG: Brandon Petry, 279; Kent Jensen, 266; Lane Galloway, 247; Bob Whicker, 247; Jeff Gallup, 246. HSS: Brandon Petry, 760; Bob Babczak, 644; Jeff Gallup, 643; Josh Gernentz, 634; Kent Jensen, 621. HHG: Brandon Petry, 279. HHS: Brandon Petry, 760. HSG/HHG: Star Trucking, 1059. HSS/HHS: Star Trucking, 3077.

| League Standings | $\underline{\mathbf{w}}$ | $\underline{\mathbf{L}}$ | |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Rockey's Pub | 13 | 3 | |
| Star Trucking | 12 | 4 | |
| Hallam Elect. | 12 | 4 | |
| Rambo Construct. | 11 | 5 | |
| DeLong Ford | 10 | 6 | |
| Willy's Pub | 8 | 8 | |
| Jensens | 7 | 9 | |
| Victory Lanes | 6 | 10 | |
| Jeremy's Barber | 6 | 10 | |
| Rury's Tap | 5 | 11 | |
| Jensen BP II | 5 | 11 | |
| | | | |

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A Perfect Season

THE 7th GRADE Dwight Redbirds went 10-0 during their 2021 campaign! Pictured, from left, are Coach Tom Conroy, Jack Statler, Asher Kargle, Joey Starks, Evan Cox, Maddox DeLong, Jake Wilkey, Collin Bachand, Trevor Jensen, and Jackson Launius.





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GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, March 11 GSWB vs. Dwight 7th Grade -Regional

The GSWB Lady Tigers won their regional championship match on March 11 against their rivals from Dwight.

The two teams met up only once during the regular season due to the weather and GSWB was able to beat Dwight in two sets.

"That was the very beginning of the season," coach Stacy Faletti said, "and we knew that Dwight would be a tough match if we met up with them in regionals."

The first set was back and forth, as was the second – with GSWB taking the first, and Dwight, the second. Then, in the third and final set, the Lady Tigers were able to come out on fire and take it, 25-13.

Olivia Siano dominated at the serving line, giving GSWB a comfortable lead that they were able to keep until the end.

"The Lady Tigers have not only grown physically, but their mental game has come a long way," Faletti added.

"They played as a team and brought some of their best volleyball I've seen all season."

Saturday, March 13 **GSWB** vs. Ottawa Wallace 8th Grade -Regional

GSWB's eighth grade girls were knocked out of regional play March 13 by Ottawa Wal-

Ottawa Wallace won the first set, 25-19, but GSWB would respond in the second set – winning 25-17.

Unfortunately, they were unable to take the third – allowing Ottawa Wallace to advance to the championship match against Seneca.

"This team overcame many

challenges in the past two years," stated Coach Faletti. "It was disappointing losing the first round this season, coming off of last season as regional champs and almost state qualifiers. However, things just didn't happen the way we had hoped. They are a great group of girls that I look forward to watching as they move on to Panther volleyball next year."



Tuesday, March 16 Dwight vs. Peotone Freshmen -

Dwight's freshmen Lady Trojans lost in three sets to Peotone March 16, 25-21, 15-25, 5-15.

Kira Bean led in digs with 18, with Olivia Folkers adding seven. Kassy Kodat had 14 digs, ten assists, and three kills. Avery Scheuer provided four

kills, with Lily McKelvey and Milana Bradley chipping in with two kills each. JV -

In JV volleyball action, Dwight fell to Peotone, 16-25, 9-25.

Cheyanne Condreay led with two kills and seven assists. Avery Scheuer and Skylar Horrie both had three kills.



Friday, March 12 MVK vs. Cornell

8th Grade -Regional

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman's eighth grade girls had their season come to a close following a round one regional loss to Cornell March 12, 18-25, 19-

Lilly Pfeifer led with seven points, including two aces and seven kills. Kiley Francisco (2 aces, 7 kills) and Audry Mc-Nabb (4 kills) each scored three points, followed by two points (2 aces, 3 kills) from Lexie Buis. Tessa Krull contributed three kills and an ace.



CONGRATULATIONS TO KAYLA KODAT on being selected to the Sangamon Valley Conference First Team All Conference. Congrats are also in order for Nora Anderson, who was selected to the SVC Honorable Mention All Conference. Great job, ladies!



TRI-POINT LADY CHARGERS VOLLEYBALL

MVK Lady Mavericks Volleyball

Friday, March 19 Tri-Point vs. St. Anne

The Lady Chargers took on St. Anne March 19 in their first action of 2021, winning 25-23, 25-14.

four aces, followed by three aces and five kills from Elise Bruner. Ellenie Dyrby added three kills and six digs, with Maddie Stites providing three kills and two blocks. Zoey Melina Schuette led with Honeycutt had ten assists.



DTHS Trojans Basketball

Friday, March 12 Dwight vs. Watseka Varsity -

Prior to their big win over the GSW Panthers March 12, the Trojans fell in SVC action on the road against Watseka March 12, 66-56.

The game was knotted up at 39-39 following Dwight's 18-9 third quarter rally. However, the Trojans were outscored 27-17 in the fourth to seal the "W" for Watseka.

Abe Rieke led Dwight with 22 points and seven boards. Wyatt Thompson (6 rebounds) and Brandon Ceylor (5 rebounds, 4 assists) scored 13 and 12 points, respectively. Isaac Telford was good for seven points and six rebounds, while Landon Brown added five rebounds and dished two assists.

The Trojans end their 2021 campaign with an overall record of 9-8.



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

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IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DONALD J. WALDVOGEL, DECEASED.

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DONALD J. WALDVOGEL, of 26779 N. 2900 East Rd., Dwight, IL 60420.

Letters of Office were issued to JOHN M. WALDVOGEL, 1860 S. Falcon Dr., Libertyville, IL 60048, as personal representative, whose attorneys are CAUGHEY, LEGNER, FREEHILL, EHRGOTT & MANN, LLP, 213 Green Street, PO Box 198, Chenoa, IL 61726

Claims may be filed on or before the 10th day of September, 2021. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Claims may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of this Court at the Livingston County Law and Justice Center, 110 N. Main Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764, or claims may be filed with the Personal Representative or both. If filed with the Clerk, the claimant must, within ten (10) days, mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Personal Representative and to his attorney and filed with the Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

> JOHN M. WALDVOGEL, Independent Executor

NO. 2021-P-31

CAUGHEY, LEGNER, FREEHILL, EHRGOTT & MANN, LLP Attorneys for the Estate 213 Green Street, PO Box 198 Chenoa, IL 61726 815/945-2611 PHONE 815/945-5211 FAX



EARLY VOTING, VOTE BY MAIL, and GRACE REGISTRATION DATES **CONSOLIDATED ELECTION, APRIL 6, 2021**

Early Voting, Vote by Mail, and Grace Period Registration and Voting will be conducted on the following dates prior to the April 6, Consolidated Election in Livingston County. Voter Registration closes Tuesday, March 9, 2021.

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

Dates MONDAY-FRIDAY February 25-April 5

Location Livingston County Clerk's Office 112 W. Madison St – Pontiac

Hours 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

SATURDAY

Livingston County Clerk's Office 9:00 A.M. to March 6, 20, and April 3 112 W. Madison St – Pontiac

12:00 P.M. Noon

TUESDAY (April 6 -**Grace Registration** and Voting)

Livingston County Clerk's Office 6:00 A.M. to 112 W. Madison St – Pontiac

7:00 P.M.

What is Early Voting? Early Voting starts February 25 and ends April 5, 2021. This process allows any registered voter in Livingston County to use the above location to cast their ballot prior to Election Day. Early voters must be registered Livingston County voters. No excuse or reason is necessary to apply.

Vote by Mail Voting: Starts February 25 and continues through Thursday, April 1. A person may request a Vote by Mail ballot by USPS no later than April 1 without specifying a reason. In order to be counted the ballot must be postmarked by midnight (check local post office hours) or returned in person by 7:00 P.M. to the County Clerk's Office on April 6.

Grace Registration and Voting: Begins March 9 and continues through April 6. This is for new registrants and those who have transferred or moved and did not update their voter registration be-

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

fore March 9. Voting takes place at the same time registration is made in the County Clerk's Office.

If you have any questions regarding voter registration, or the above information, contact County Clerk Kristy Masching (815-842-9313) or Election Deputy Gail Smythe (815-842-9318). DWIGHT TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR VARSITY PLAYERS pictured left to right, front row: Carson Crouch, Lucas Downen, Camden Beier, Caden Schroeder, Hudson Beier and James Partney. Back Row: Donnie Fialko, Jack Gallet, Abe Rieke, Isaac Telford and Jarrett Jancek. Not pictured: Andrew Kapper.

Dwight defeated Walther Christian Academy Saturday, 35 to 0, on the road. The Trojans play March 26, at home, against Iroquois West.





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Dwight

P235/70/R16 \$130.00 P245/70/R17 \$146.00 P245/75/R16 \$129.00 | P265/70/R17 \$151.00 P265/70/R16 \$139.00



815-584-3054 **Old Route 66**

All Outside Chicago Will Be Vaccine Eligible April 12; **Reopening Changes Announced**

by Jerry Nowicki Capitol News Illinois

All Illinoisans 16 years of age and older outside of Chicago will be eligible for COVID-19 vaccinations beginning April 12, and the state announced a "metric-based" phase-in to greater opening Thurs-

The so-called "bridge phase" to reopening can begin when 70% of seniors 65 years of age and older have received at least their first dose of the vaccine, according to the governor. As of Thursday, that number stood at 58%.

It is also dependent on at least 20% of intensive care beds being available. Other metrics, such as COVID-like illness hospital admissions, mortality rate and case positivity rate over a 28-day monitoring period, must "hold steady".

Gov. JB Pritzker said all regions of the state will move to the bridge phase and beyond as one, groups allowed at the same site. rather than individually.

The state also updated current Phase 4 mitigations so that anyone with proof of full vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test one to three days prior to an event or outing do not count against capacity

The bridge phase will include higher capacity limits at places like museums, zoos and spectator events and increased business operations, according to the governor's office.

The largest increase is to social events, which can allow 250 people indoors and 500 outdoors. Previously, those were capped at 50 people.

Recreation activities are allowed with groups up to 100 or 50% of capacity indoors, while outdoor recreation is limited to groups of 100, with multiple

Ticketed recreation events are allowed to hold 60% of the facil-

ity's capacity. In the bridge phase, restaurants and bars can increase capacity from 25% to 30%, and outdoor capacity is allowed up to 50% for standing areas. In seating areas, parties of up to ten are allowed to sit six feet apart.

For businesses, offices, retail stores and fitness centers, capacity will increase from 50% to 60%. Amusement parks and museums can increase from 25% to 60%. Theaters and zoos can have up to 60% capacity as well.

But the state can revert back to an earlier phase if it "experiences an increasing trend" in COVID-19 transmission rates and hospitalizations over a ten-day period.

If the numbers hold steady for 28 days in the bridge phase, the

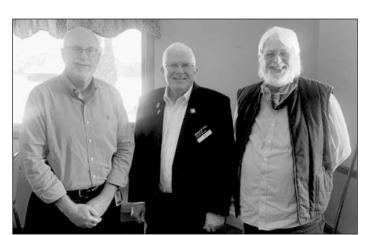
state must reach a 50% vaccination rate for residents age 16 and over in order to enter Phase 5. Currently, about 28% of that population is vaccinated.

As of March 18, the state was averaging 99,210 vaccine doses administered daily on a seven-day rolling average.

Pritzker said the state received 109,000 doses in its first vaccine shipment in December, while this past week the state received more than 800,000 doses.

Masks will continue to be mandatory in the state until the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention determines that they are no longer needed, the governor said.

Pritzker also said there will be "additional announcements to come" regarding other populations that will be eligible for the vaccine ahead of the April 12 expansion.



DWIGHT ROTARY CLUB hosted executives from Rotary District #6490 February 24, with their Honorable District Governor Michael Step, from Paris, and his Assistant Governor Jim Matthews, from Mahomet, attending the meeting. This was the second visit to Dwight in this 2020-21 Rotary term for the Governor, and the third visit for the Assistant Governor. District Gov. Step updated the Dwight club membership on current events in Rotary International and Rotary District. Both were appreciative of the club on their 2020-21 goal achievements, service projects, and persistance to maintain and grow the club's vitality, even during a pandemic. Pictured, from left, are Dwight President Earl McCoy, District Gov. Step, and Asst. Gov. Matthews. Dwight Rotary Club meets every Wednesday for a lunch/meeting at Dwight Country Club at noon (following state guidelines). Guests are welcome. Their membership chairperson is Pastor "Randy"

State Rep. Tom Bennett, 106th District

More road funds available to local governments

portation funds has been released for safety improvements throughout Illinois. These funds are being provided to all five counties in our district and to dozens of townships and municipalities in each of those counties. In total, \$250 million has been released by the state

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This funding, made possible by the bipartisan 2019 infrastructure improvement bill, will go to repair our roads and bridges and other transportation needs of our area. It keeps our motorists safe and helps our local businesses and area

for 39 yards.

Saturday, March 20 Dwight vs. Walther Christian Varsity -

Dwight began its 2021 run against Walther Christian over the weekend, earning a dominant 35-0 road win.

The Trojans hit the scoreboard in the first quarter on a 16-yard touchdown run by Samuel Edwards, then would add another rushing TD in the second quarter, with Carson Crouch taking it in on a tenyard run.

Both boys would return to the endzone in the third quarter – with Crouch scoring six on a two-yard rush and Edwards finding paydirt with a three-yard run minutes later.

In the fourth, Dwight would put up one more for good measure – a seven-yard touchdown run by Jack Duffy - and would head back home with a

All in all, the Trojans would rush for 226 yards on the ground – securing 19 first downs in the contest. In the air, March 26, at home.

DTHS Trojans Football Dwight completed two passes

> Crouch (12 att., 2 TD) and Edwards (13 att., 2 TD, 25-yd. catch) racked up 81 and 77 yards rushing, respectively, while Duffy ran for 64 yards on nine carries with the fourth quarter score. Caden Schroeder added four yards on two runs and caught a 14-yard pass.

> Dwight's defense was impenetrable, with Edwards leading the squad with 13.5 tackles, including two for a loss. Duffy tallied six tackles, with Crouch (.5 TFL) and Dillon Sarff each getting three tackles. Austin Burkhardt and Malaki Slaughter (.5 TFL) each had 2.5 tackles, followed by two (.5 TFL) from Hudson Beier. Thomas Dochterman and Jack Gallet each came up with 1.5 tackles, while Schroeder (.5 TFL) and Jarrett Jancek each provided a tackle. Abe Rieke assisted on a

> The Trojans face Iroquois West at 7:00 p.m. Friday,

farmers, as well as creating construction jobs.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$5,660,476,972 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$7.8 billion. This amount does not include debts that can only be

Federal stimulus funds to **Illinois.** The latest stimulus bill to pass through Congress has made additional funding available to Illinois to the tune of just over \$13 billion over the

next four years, with \$7.5 billion going to the state and \$5.5 billion for local governments. The legislation authorizes the funds to be spent on response to the COVID-19 emergency, including its economic effects, and also allows for infrastructure investments like water, sewer and broadband.

The Governor's Office of Management and Budget has indicated that a share of the funds directed to state government will pay back the \$4.2 billion in borrowing that has taken place over the past 12 months.

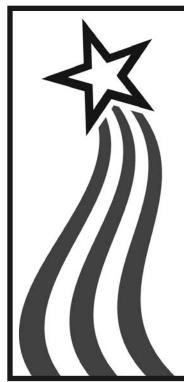


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| '18 F250 Crew XL, 27K, 4WD, Diesel, Flatbed\$44 | ,900 |
| '18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD\$36, | |
| '18 F150 Crew XLT, 18K, 4WD\$36, | ,900 |
| '18 F150 Crew XLT, 21K, 4WD, NAV, Sport Pkg\$38, | ,900 |
| '17 F150 S/C STX, 49K, 4WD\$29, | |
| '16 F150 Crew Lariat, 63K, 4WDJus | st In |
| '16 F150 S/C XL, 41K, 4WD\$28 | |
| '16 F150 S/C XL, 121K, 4WD, New Tires\$19 | |
| '15 F150 Crew Lariat, 52K, 4WD\$32 | |
| '14 F150 Crew Platinum, 105K, 4WD, New Tires\$27 | ,900 |
| '14 F350 Crew Platinum, 101K, 4WD, Diesel\$38, | ,900 |
| '14 Ram 1500 Crew Tradesman, 40K, 4WD, Diesel\$24 | |
| '13 F150 Crew XLT, 134K, 4WDJus | |
| '12 Canyon S/C SLE, 33K, 2WD\$11, | |
| '99 F150 Reg Cab, 104K, 4WD\$1 | ,900 |
| <u>CARS</u> | |
| '19 Fusion Hybrid Titanium, 12K\$22 | ,900 |
| '16 Fusion SE, 86K\$11 | ,900 |
| '15 Taurus SEL, 72K\$14, | ,900 |
| | |

MOTORCYCLES

'08 Harley Davidson XL 1200C, 5K.....

| VANS and SUVS | |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| '20 Explorer LTD, 16K, 4WD | \$40,900 |
| '20 Explorer XLT, 5K, 4WD | l l |
| '20 T350 XLT, 24K, 15 Passenger | - 11 |
| '20 Explorer XLT, 13K, 4WD | l l |
| '20 EcoSport Titanium, 4K, 4WD | \$18,900 |
| '20 EcoSport Titanium, 10K, 4WD | \$17,900 |
| '20 Escape Titanium, 8K, AWD | \$27,900 |
| '19 Grand Caravan SXT, 40K | \$18,900 |
| '19 Escape Titanium, 8K, 4WD | \$26,900 |
| '18 MKX Reserve, 24K, AWD | \$33,900 |
| '18 Escape S, 50K, FWD | \$13,900 |
| '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 MKX Reserve, 31K, FWD | \$25,900 |
| '16 Edge Titanium, 50K, AWD | \$19,900 |
| '15 Transit Connect Cargo XL, 100K | \$10,900 |
| '15 Escape SE, 97K, 4WD | \$12,900 |
| '14 Cherokee Trailhawk, 69K, 4WD | \$16,900 |
| '14 Grand Caravan SXT, 106K | \$8,900 |
| '12 Ram Cargo Van, 137K | \$7,900 |
| '12 Edge SEL, 133K, AWD | \$7,900 |
| | |

The polling place for ROUND GROVE TOWNSHIP PRECINCT has moved FROM the Round Grove Township Building at 409 Locust Street, Campus. TO:

> The Sacred Heart Parish Hall 205 Elm Street, Campus, Illinois

CONSOLIDATED GENERAL ELECTION NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT ON TUESDAY, April 6 2021, at the usual polling places in the County of Livingston and State of Illinois, a Consolidated Election will be held for the following units of government:

Municipalities Townships Park Districts Library Districts Regional Board of Schools School Districts Community Colleges School land Commissioners

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN ALSO THAT THE FOLLOWING PROPOSITIONS WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE ELECTORS:
TOWN OF CHATSWORTH

Proposition to impose a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax and Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax

CITY OF PONTIAC
Proposition to impose a Non-Home Rule Municipal Retailers' Occupation Tax ation Tax and Non-Home Rule Municipal Service Occupation Tax VILLAGE OF FORREST

Advisory Proposition to allow recreational use of cannabis dispensaries to operate within the boundaries of the village

GRIDLEY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Proposition to Establish Tax Rate for Emergency Equipment In the following precincts and polling places:

| BROUGHTON & UNION | CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - 103 DIVISION ST, EMINGTON |
|--------------------------|---|
| CHARLOTTE | CHARLOTTE TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 33482 E 1300 NORTH RD, CHATSWORTH |
| CHATSWORTH | CHATSWORTH COMMUNITY HALL, 409 E MAPLE ST, CHATSWORTH |
| DWIGHT 1, 2, 3 & 4 | ST PATRICK PARISH HALL - 118 W MAZON AVE, DWIGHT EPPARDS POINT TOWNSHIP BUILDING -12039 N 1500 EAST RD, PONTIAC |
| EPPARDS POINT | EPPARDS POINT TOWNSHIP BUILDING -12039 N 1500 EAST RD, PONTIAC |
| ESMEN | ESMEN TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 23997 N 1500 EAST RD, PONTIAC |
| BELLE PRAIRIE, FAYETTE & | ESMEN TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 23997 N 1500 EAST RD, PONTIAC GERMANVILLEFIRE STATION – 102 WALTER, STRAWN |
| FORREST | FORREST VILLAGE HALL – 323 S WILLIAM ST, FORREST |
| INDIAN GROVE 1, 2, 3 & 4 | STAFFORD COMMUNITY CENTER - 708 N FIRST ST, FAIRBURY |
| LONG POINT | AMERICAN LEGION - 224 4 TH ST, LONG POINT |
| | FLANAGAN COMMUNITY BUILDING - 101 E SOUTH ST, FLANAGAN |
| NEVADA | DWIGHT COUNTRY CLUB 31577 N 2400 EAST RD, NEVADA TWP, DWIGHT |
| NEWTOWN | NEWTOWN TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 8583 MAIN ST, MANVILLE |
| | ODELL PUBLIC LIBRARY - 301 E RICHARD ST, ODELL |
| OWEGO | LIVINGSTON CO ASSEMBLY OF GOD - 18034 N 2100 EAST RD, PONTIAC |
| PIKE | PIKE TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 900 E 1200 NORTH RD, PONTIAC |
| PLEASANT RIDGE | PLEASANT RIDGE TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 27572 E 1310 NORTH RD, WING |
| PONTIAC 1 | FIRST METHODIST CHURCH 219 W CHICAGO ST, PONTIAC |
| PONTIAC 2, 7 & 10 | PONTIAC CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 115 W HOWARD ST, PONTIAC |
| PONTIAC 3 | U OF I EXTENSION – 1412 S LOCUST ST, PONTIAC |
| PONTIAC 4 | GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH-900 S MANLOVE, PONTIAC |
| | PONTIAC COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER-900 N. ELM ST, PONTIAC |
| | FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH – 515 N LADD ST, PONTIAC |
| | PONTIAC BIBLE CHURCH - 1611 W REYNOLDS, PONTIAC |
| | READING TOWNSHIP BUILDING -1630 S ILLINOIS ST, STREATOR |
| | READING TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT -1624 S VERMILLION ST, STREATOR |
| | ROOKS CREEK TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 215 N MAIN ST, GRAYMONT |
| ROUND GROVE | SACRED HEART PARISH HALL- 205 ELM ST, CAMPUS |
| | SAUNEMIN COMMUNITY BUILDING - 70 NORTH ST, SAUNEMIN |
| | CULLOM VILLAGE HALL -OAK & JEFFERY ST, CULLOM |
| SUNBURY | SUNBURY TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 15047 E 3000 NORTH RD, BLACKSTONE |
| WALDO | WALDO TOWNSHIP BUILDING - 2941 E 1200 NORTH RD, GRIDLEY |

The polls of said CONSOLIDATED ELECTION will be open continuously from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

Kristy A. Masching Livingston County Clerk Dated February 4, 2021 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE DWIGHT PLAN COMMISSION
REGARDING APPROVAL OF A PETITION FOR SUBDIVISION WITHIN THE ONE AND
A HALF MILE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing shall be held before the Dwight Plan Commission on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. The Public Hearing shall be with respect to the approval of a **Petition for Subdivision** of real estate located within one and a half miles of the corporate limits of the Village of Dwight pursuant to 65 ILCS 5/11-13-1 et seq.

The Petitioners, Ryan Hansen and Tara Hansen, are the owners of certain real estate containing a total of 10.70 acres, more or less, located in the Northeast corner of Section 12 of Nevada Township, Livingston County, IL (located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Illinois Route 17 and Township Road 2400 East. See attached Plat). The real estate owned by the Petitioners is described in the Petition for Subdivision and is referred to as "Harvest Estates".

The Petition for Subdivision is as follows:

March 3, 2021

Village of Dwight 209 S. Prairie Ave. Dwight, IL 60420

To: Kevin McNamara – Village Administrator
From: Ryan Hansen and Tara Hansen (Petitioners)
Subject – Petition For Subdivision Approval within 1.5 mile contiguous area to the Village of Dwight Corporate Limits

Name, Address, Phone of the Property Owner Ryan and Tara Hansen, 326 W. Delaware St. Dwight, IL 50420 (847)954-9824

Name of Proposed subdivision Harvest Estates

Location: Township. Range, Legal description

A PART OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER OF SECTION 12, TOWNSHIP 30 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, BEING MORE PARTICULARY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCING AT THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 12; THENCE SOUTH 00°19'01" EAST, 174.85 FEET ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID SECTION 12 TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH 00° 19' 01" EAST, 776.70' ALONG SAID EAST LINE TO THE NORTHERLY LINE OF THE DWIGHT COUNTRY CLUB; THENCE SOUTH $83^{\circ}12'18"$ WEST, 556.55 FEET ALONG SAID NORTHERLY LINE; THENCE NORTH $00^{\circ}19'01"$ WEST, 856.54 FEET PARALLEL WITH SAID EAST LINE TO THE SOUTHERLY RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE OF ILLINOIS ROUTE 17; THENCE NORTH 81°30'13" EAST, 173.33 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE NORTH 88°04'48" EAST, 260.08 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE SOUTH 62°21'12" EAST, 106.46 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE; THENCE NORTH 87°43'09" EAST, 27.44 FEET ALONG SAID RIGHT-OF-WAY LINE TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID LANDS CONTAINING 10.70 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, ALL BEING SITUATED IN NEVADA TOWNSHIP, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS AND SUBJECT TO THE RIGHTS OF THE PUBLIC TO THAT PORTION BEING USED AS A PUBLIC ROADWAY.

Containing 10.70 acres, more or less.

P.I.N. 04-04-12-200-020

Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates See attached Exhibit A

Annexation statement No annexation requested.

Existing Zoning and Proposed Zoning Existing Zoning: Agricultural Proposed Zoning: R-1 Residential

Number and size of lots 16 Lots Varying from 18,613 SF to 51,803 SF.

Drainage of subdivision and also onto adjoining properties

Drainage of the property current is currently from the north side of the property to the south side of the 10.7 acres. There are no offsite flows passing through the site. The 10.7 acres currently drains to a drainage ditch on the south edge of the property and the ultimate design will have the same drainage pattern.

Topographical Map

See the Preliminary Plat for contours.

See Preliminary Plat for water and storm sewer location and size, number and location, including fire hydrants and other particulars regarding proposed septic locations, setbacks, and street location and sizes.

See the Preliminary Plat for utility plans. Septic Locations will conform to Livingston County Health Department Standards and have been previously reviewed by the Livingston County Health Department. An updated review by the Livingston County Health Department will be available for public inspection.

Proposed easements

Easements will be located in rear yard, side yard, and front yards as required to install drainage or water utilities as seen on the preliminary plat.

Soil analysis

A soil analysis will be updated and available for public inspection.

Proposed Protective covenants will include but not be limited to: no manufactured homes, requirement of brick fronts.

The subdivision will follow all Livingston County Building Codes as it will be inspected and located in unincorporated Livingston County. Additional and/or more restrictive covenants will be imposed as may be required by the Village of Dwight and/or Livingston County prior to a final Plat of Subdivision being approved.

List of proposed variances requested:

- -A waiver of the required school study is requested.
- -This subdivision does not border any other subdivision with curb and gutter. A waiver of curb and gutter under the Village's Subdivision Ordinance is requested, with streets to conform as required by Livingston County.
- Drainage will be accomplished by means of open ditches and culverts or subterranean storm sewers to the outfall.
- -A waiver of the street lighting requirement is requested.
- A waiver of the Village of Dwight's Stormwater Ordinance is requested. The proposed subdivision is not within any flood plain, and there is no flood plain near the proposed subdivision. Livingston County does not require storm water detention as part of the Livingston County Code. A request is made to waive any stormwater retention under the Village of Dwight's Subdivision Ordinance. Storm water will be directed to the West Fork of the Mazon River, which is located west of the proposed subdivision.

Supplemental Information

The adjacent land uses consist of the Dwight Country Club to the south; a single family residence to the west, together with some agricultural land; agricultural land to the east; and the former Dwight Correctional Center to the North. There is currently a Village of Dwight water main running adjacent to the proposed Subdivision on the south side of Illinois Route 17. It is proposed to construct a new water main that would tie into the Village of Dwight water main, and service the subdivision. A complete loop within the subdivision would be provided to make water available to each lot. There is no sanitary sewer located near the proposed subdivision. Each lot would be responsible for installing its own septic field. The lots were previously approved by the Livingston County Health Department with respect to size and soil conditions that would accommodate the proposed septic fields, and this approval will be updated. The Interior lots will be accessed by a public roadway to be constructed by the Petitioners, and the lots that front onto 2400 East Road would have direct access to 2400 East Road. The interior roadway, to be known as Fairway Drive, would exist onto 2400 East Road, and would be dedicated to Nevada Township. The existing Township Road, being 2400 East Road, would continue to be maintained by Nevada Township. The interior roadway will meet all Livingston County standards, but would not include curb and gutter under the proposed waiver. No part of the proposed subdivision is located within the 100 year or 500 year flood plain as depicted on the most recent FEMA flood plain map.

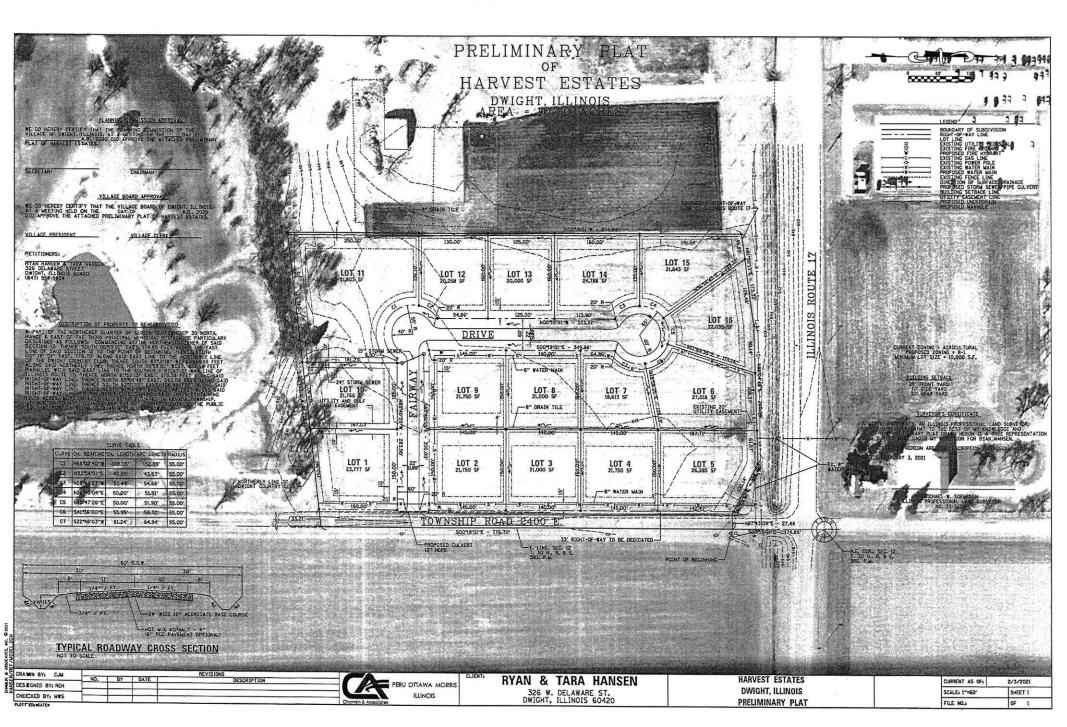
> Respectfully submitted by, Ryan Hansen Tara Hansen 326 W. Delaware Street Dwight, IL 60420

The proposed conditions of the subdivision, as set forth in the **Petition for Subdivision** shall be reviewed by the Plan Commission, and the Plan Commission shall make recommendations to the Village Board of Trustees as to whether or not the Petition for Subdivision should be approved, including the modification and waivers requested regarding the Subdivision Ordinance of the Village of Dwight, or such other requirements as the Plan Commission may deem appropriate. The **Petition for Subdivision**, as well as the **Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates** may be viewed on the Village of Dwight website at: dwightillinois.org.

The Public Hearing before the Dwight Plan Commission scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. shall be by remote/teleconference. Copies of the **Petition for Subdivision** and the **Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates** and other particulars will be available at the Village of Dwight Public Services Complex Building, 209 S. Prairie Avenue, Dwight, Illinois 60420, during regular business hours. Copies of all pertinent documents can also be accessed on the Village of Dwight's website as follows: dwightillinois.org.

(continued on page 13)

EXHIBIT A



Not Much Change in 2020 Farmland Values

"Not much has changed" was the basic message regarding prices paid for Illinois farmland presented during the 2021 Farmland Values Conference held as a webinar March 17. The annual event is sponsored by the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

"Statewide data suggests we witnessed mild increases in values for excellent, good, and fair soil types. A stable, yet slightly decreased, value was experienced amongst average soil types," said Luke Worrell, AFM, ALC, Worrell Land Services, Jacksonville, IL, overall chair of the Farmland Values Survey and Conference.

He continued. "Findings suggest that the table has been set for what should be an exciting 2021 in Illinois' agricultural economy."

Worrell then cited three economic occurrences that played a role in the state of agriculture

- COVID-19 He noted that the bulk of land sales traditionally take place from October through March. "The virus and its impacts hit right when the market typically slows on volume of transactions anyway. By the time late September and October rolled around, commodity prices were on the rise and we had somewhat acclimated to our pandemic surroundings."
- Low Interest Rates Worrell noted that interest rates continued to be incredibly low, allowing borrowers to be more aggressivve than they normally would in acquisitions. This dynamic continues to be extremely supportive to land values.
- Government Policy "An enormous amount of money was paid out through various government programs in 2020. By the time commodities showed strength late in 2020, many operations had already been substantially buoyed by lingering MFP payments that came during the first quarter, in addition to CFAP and CFAP2 payments," he added. "The recent transition to the Biden administration will be closely observed as it deals with tariffs, trade and other issues that need clarity. It is a global economy in which the development

and/or resolution of issues in with modest increases seen for Asia, Europe, Africa and South America affects all of us here in Illinois."

Average sales prices of completed sales across the state remained stable. Excellent category land averaged \$10,870 per acre in 2020 compared to \$10,435 in 2019. Good category land was \$8,446 compared to \$8,335 in 2019. Average was \$6,409 (\$6,502); Fair was \$5,353 (\$5,090); Recreation land was \$3,689 (\$3,904). "These are statewide averages," he stressed.

Upward Changes Forecast for 2021

In a survey of farm managers and appraisers, 89% look for prices paid for farmland to increase during 2021, with 52% seeing increases of between 5% and 10% and higher. A scant 9% predict values will stay the same with even fewer predicting reduced values. Most cite modest expansion of the Illinois agricultural economy. However, 58% forecast modest increases in interest rates which could put a damper on sales activity. "Stable" was the word used most often to describe general sales activity.

Optimism was the key word on prices paid for cash rents

all land types except Average and Fair quality properties. In the study, traditional crop shares had average income of \$229 per acre, cash rent had \$250 per acre, and custom farming had \$300 per acre. Across all productivities, crop share had the lowest returns. Custom farming had higher returns than the other arrange-

Overall, farm managers were asked their expectations of 2022 cash rent level:

- 79% expect 2022 cash rents to increase over 2021 levels,
- 11% expect 2022 cash rents to be the same as in 2021.

Farm managers expect the agricultural economy to remain strong in 2021, according to Schnitkey. Twenty percent expect 2021 to be a better year than 2020 while 67% expected 2021 to be the same as 2020. Thirteen percent expect 2021 to be a worse year than in 2020. "Overall, 2020 was a good income year in agriculture."

The Land Values Conference is an annual event, traditionally held as an in-person activity but offered as a webinar the past two years. The organization has every intention of going back to an on-site conference in 2022.



MEMBERS OF SENECA FFA pose with the shed they built last fall for I-Care International to store used eyeglasses. They now want to help fill the shed by collecting eyeglasses that are no longer needed.

Seneca FFA Collecting Used Eyeglasses

Last fall, members of Seneca FFA constructed a garden shed for Eye-Care International so they could store used eyeglasses before they could get back to the business of distributing those glasses to Central and South America. Now they want to help fill it.

The Seneca Lions Club has done a tremendous job of collecting used eyewear over the years, but have been slowed by the pandemic. Senca FFA has stepped in for the month of March to help support both programs.

We want to contribute to this worthwhile cause when others are unable to. If we can help facilitate the program for just a month, we are going to do it," said FFA member, Keely Pumphrey. "We ask everyone to search their drawers and donate any glasses that they find."

As an effort to remain safe, yet productive, at school this fall, one agriculture education class constructed the shed in the school parking lot at the request of Dr. Tim Ortiz of Ortiz and Associates in Morris. As part of I-Care International, used eyeglasses are collected, inventoried, and distributed to financially challenged artists in areas where economies are based on their crafts.

Collection boxes are located at the post office in Seneca and Mazon. Glasses can also be dropped off at Seneca High School.

Livingston County Students Say 'Thank You Farmers!' for National Agriculture Day

Farmers who live in and around Livingston County may find a colorful postcard in their mailboxes this March. These postcards showcase the winning designs of three Livingston County students who participated in the Ag Day Postcard Design Contest that was sponsored by the Agricultural Literacy Partnership of Livingston County's Soil and Water Conservation District, Farm Bureau, and University of Illinois Extension.

These postcards are designed to honor local farmers for National Agriculture Day, celebrated March 23, 2021. National Agriculture Day is an annual event to recognize and appreciate the contributions of American agriculture in our



Kindergarten Coloring Holland Tissiere



Grades 1 & 2 Postcard Design Nora Sweitzer – 2nd Grade



Grades 3 & 4 Postcard Design Wyatt Bressner – 3rd Grade

daily lives. These student-designed postcards also have a message of appreciation for farmers' hard work to care for the land that, in turn, produces food, fiber and renewable fuels for the world to use.

There were three contest divisions: Kindergarten Coloring; Grades 1 and 2 Postcard Design; and Grades 3 and 4 Postcard Design. The first place design from each of the divisions is now printed as a full-color postcard that will be used for celebrating National Agriculture Day.

The results from the "Thank You Farmers!" Postcard Design

Contests are as follows: **Kindergarten Coloring**

First Place – Holland Third Place – Tissiere, St. Mary's School; Second Place - Charlee Cleary, St. Paul School; Third Place - Oakleigh Patten, St. Paul School. Grades 1 and 2

First Place – Nora Sweitzer,

St. Mary's School; Second Place – Roy Alvey, Graymont; Conner Neubauer, Graymont.

Grades 3 and 4

First Place - Wyatt Bressner, Flanagan; Second Place -Kala Abels, Flanagan; Third Place - Lilly Wolf, St. Paul School.

(continued from page 12)

At the time of the remote/teleconference meeting and Public Hearing before the Plan Commission on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m., all interested parties may attend by teleconference by calling: 1-351-999-3046 to be joined into the Plan Commission meeting and Public Hearing as previously set forth above. All attendees/participants are invited to make their views known, either orally at the time of the Public Hearing, or in writing, or by a representative to the Dwight Plan Commission. Written comments may be made regarding the Petition for Subdivision and the Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates by providing written comments prior to the public hearing to the following:

Kevin J. McNamara Village Administrator Public Services Complex Building 209 S. Prairie Ave. Dwight, IL 60420 Or by e-mail to: kmcn@dwightillinois.com

Any written comments submitted by mail or by e-mail must be submitted so that such written comments are available for the Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. to be considered by the Plan Commission as part of the Public Hearing. Any written comments received by the Village Administrator shall be available on the Village of Dwight website if timely submitted prior the Plan Commission meeting, and shall be part of the Plan Commission

After the Public Hearing portion of the Plan Commission meeting, the Dwight Plan Commission shall consider the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest

After the closing of the Public Hearing before the Plan Commission, the Plan Commission shall take action and shall make recommendations to the President and Board of Trustees with respect to the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates. The Plan Commission shall prepare a written report/recommendations to the President and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village Dwight as to whether or not the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates should be approved, together with any recommendations with respect to any changes that the Plan Commission would deem to be appropriate with respect to the proposed Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates. The Plan Commission may continue the public hearing and/or meeting as may be required.

Based on the recommendation(s) of the Dwight Plan Commission, the President and Village Board of Trustees may, without further public hearing, review the recommendations of the Dwight Plan Commission at its April 26, 2021 regularly scheduled meeting at 6:30 p.m., which shall also be held telephonically, and after considering the recommendations of the Plan Commission, and after such further deliberations and changes are considered by the President and Board of Trustees (corporate authorities), and the recommendations of the Plan Commission, the Corporate Authorities shall thereafter vote as to whether or not to approve the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates, subject to any changes that the President and Board of Trustees may consider and approve. The President and Board of Trustees (corporate authorities) may delay action on the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates, including referring the matter back to the Plan Commission for further consideration and/or hearing. After due consideration, and upon a Motion made and seconded, an Ordinance approving the Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates will be voted upon by the President and members of the Village Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 26, 2021, or as may from time to time be continued. The Petition for Subdivision and the Preliminary Plat of Harvest

Estates may be approved by the Corporate Authorities (President and Members of the Board of Trustees) by an Ordinance providing for the same, and the action of the President and Village Board of Trustees shall be forwarded to Livingston County for final action regarding the approval of the Petition for Subdivision and the Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates, or such other action as provided by law.

To attend the meeting of the President and Village Board of Trustees on Monday, April 26, 2021, at 6:30 p.m., the same criteria would be used as was used to telephonically attend the Plan Commission meeting by calling 1-351-999-3046, and the caller will be joined into the meeting.

Anyone wishing to telephonically attend the Public Hearing before the Plan Commission on Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.; or to telephonically attend the Village Board of Trustees meeting on Monday, April 26, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., should call: 1-351-999-3046. Please call approximately 5 minutes before the start of the meeting. The caller will be asked to identify himself or herself, so that a record can be made of those persons attending/participating in the Plan Commission Public Hearing and/or the meeting of the President and Village Board of Trustees. After identifying yourself, please put your phone on mute until the caller wishes to address the Plan Commission and/or Village Board of Trustees and/or make comments with respect to the proposed Petition for Subdivision and the proposed Preliminary Plat of Harvest Estates. Placing your phone on mute after you have been joined into the Plan Commission meeting and/or the Village Board of Trustees meeting, until such time as you wish to make a comment, ask questions or otherwise participate in either the Public Hearing before the Plan Commission and/or the Village Board of Trustees meeting, will help reduce the background noise so that all attendees/participants are able to clearly hear the proceedings.

In the event that the current COVID restrictions on public gatherings are lifted and mandatory inperson meetings would be required with respect to the Dwight Plan Commission and/or with respect to the meeting of the Village of Dwight President and Board of Trustees, notice of such change shall be posted on the bulletin board in the foyer of the Village of Dwight Public Services Complex Building, 209 S. Prairie Avenue, Dwight, IL, and on the Village of Dwight website at dwightillinois.org at least 48 hours prior to the proposed Public Hearing before the Dwight Plan Commission, and/or President and Village Board of Trustees meeting. In addition, any interested party may also call the Village of Dwight at: 815-584-3077 during regular business hours to confirm that the meetings set forth herein will be held telephonically, or if a change is made with respect to the necessity to have an in-person Public Hearing/meeting, then in such event the aforementioned meetings will be held at the Dwight Public Services Complex Building, 209 S. Prairie Avenue, Dwight, IL, 60420, at the posted dates and times, in the council room located in the basement of the Public Services Complex Building.

For further information, contact the following:

Kevin J. McNamara Village Administrator Public Services Complex Building 209 S. Prairie Ave. Dwight, IL 60420 Ph#: 815-584-3077

E-Mail: kmcn@dwightillinois.com

JILL V. HAACKE VILLAGE CLERK Village of Dwight Public Services Complex Building 209 S. Prairie Ave. Dwight, IL 60420 Ph#: 815-584-3077

E-Mail: villageclerk@dwightillinois.com

The Paper

phone: 815.584.1901 fax: 815.584.2196 email: thepaper1901@sbcglobal.net online: thepaper1901.com

We have the information you need.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the testing of the Unisyn Voting Equipment, required by sections 10 ILCS 5/24A-9, 24B-9 and 24C-9 of the Illinois Election Code, will be held on March 31, 2021 at 1 P.M. This test will be held in the lower level of the Livingston County Historic Courthouse, 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, Illinois, as prescribed by the Election Code.

The test is open to representatives of the political parties, the press and the public.

Dated at Pontiac this 22nd day of March 2021.

Kristy A. Masching Livingston County Clerk

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

To the legal voters, residents of the Township of Sunbury in the County of Livingston and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6 o'clock P.M. at Sunbury Township Hall for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

Meeting Opening Pledge Moderator Selection Reading of the Township Financials Discussion of Fund Transfers Other Business

Meeting Closing

Dated March 22, 2021.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE THIRTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT GRUNDY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

In the Matter of the Estate NO. 2021-P-35 RHONDA L. LAWFORD, Deceased.

CLAIM DATE NOTICE

NOTICE IS GIVEN of the death of Rhonda L. Lawford, and Letters of Office were issued on March 15, 2021, to Jacqueline S. Sparrow, 8400 South Ward Road, Dwight, IL 60420, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is JOAN N. HARROP, 220 West Main Street, Suite 300, Morris, Illinois 60450.

The estate will be administered without court supervision unless, under 755 ILCS 5/28-4, any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate

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

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk, Grundy County Court House, 111 East Washington Street, Morris, Illinois, 60450, or with the representative, or both, on or before the 30th day of September, 2021. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

> Jacqueline S. Sparrow Independent Executor

Joan N. Harrop, #6237262 GOMIEN & HARROP, LTD. First Midwest Bank Building 220 West Main Street, Ste. 300 Morris, Illinois 60450 (815) 942-0071 joanharrop@sbcglobal.net

DTHS BOE Meets in March Session Activities Start to Slowly, Safely Return

By Madelyn Fogarty madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

The Dwight Township High School Board of Education District #230 met on March 17 when a busy agenda awaited BOE members.

Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek reported that the District will receive \$159,000 in ESSER II Federal grant money as aid in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, "In 2020, Congress passed two stimulus bills that provided nearly \$67.8 billion to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed on March 27, 2020, provided \$13.5 billion to the ESSER Fund. The Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2021 (CRRSA), passed on Dec. 27, 2020, provided \$54.3 billion in supplemental ESSER funding, known as the ESSER II fund. States receive funds based on the same proportion that each state receives under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title-

According to Dr. Jancek, the ESSER grant money can be used in the areas of PPE, mitigation (building health), social emotional needs, and learning/teaching needs. ESSER II monies must be designated and used by September 1, 2022 and the district can go back and identify past monies

expended due to the pandemic. move forward with prom, foot- Lori Schade, Bus Monitor. An ESSER III payout is yet to come with \$300,000 anticipated for the DTHS District in that round of funding.

Summer school needs and preliminary numbers were also discussed with the board. It was noted that while the overwhelming majority of remote learners this year were successful, 75 percent of the summer school needs are the result of remote learning issues, especially seen in the younger stu-

In updates to the board, Superintendent Jancek reported that DTHS is the recipient of a \$100,000 grant applied for on behalf of the District by Illinois State Senator Jason Barickman. The grant money can be used for renovations or new construction. Potential projects are being discussed.

Principal Andy Pittenger reported that DTHS has 39 remote students and 190 in-person learners for the 4th quarter.

Athletic Director Cathy Ferguson reported on various athletic happenings as COVID restrictions begin to loosen. Ferguson also reported that the JV football season has been cancelled due to low participant numbers. Ferguson expressed concern about these low numbers and the impact it could have on the future DTHS football program. In track and field news, it was noted that the shot put area has been reworked and expanded to now host three new shot put rings.

In new business, the Board heard developing plans to ball and graduation in some fashion that will be safe and in keeping with changing COVID guidelines and developing State reopening plans. Prom is tentatively planned for April 24 at DTHS, but details are still pending. Graduation plans are also under discussion. And, back-to-back sport seasons are rolling out with Football, Cheer, Volleyball and Track all ramping up. Discussions are being held regarding the number of spectators allowed at outdoor events with the current guideline set at 20 percent of seating capacity. No gate monies will be taken at any event, with the exception of the April 3 football game. At this event, the board gave consent that all football gate proceeds on April 3 will be donated to the Curt Perschnick family. Perschnick is a DTHS alumni

The 2020-21 teacher seniority list was approved as presented. Dwight Township High School District #230 currently employs 26 teachers with two teachers serving DTHS for 20 years or more. Tenure status is currently held by 20 teachers.

currently battling cancer.

The BOE also: affirmed employment of Lindsey Barickman, Substitute

- Teacher. affirmed employment of
- Susan Legner, Substitute Teacher. • accepted the resignation
- of Kathleen Gettinger, Assistant Girls Track Coach. • approved Allie Schantz,
- Assistant Girls Track Coach. · approved employment of

 approved Kristine Lebryk, Volunteer Assistant Girls Track

- · approved Justin Eggenberger, Assistant JV Baseball
- Coach. · approved employment of tenured and non-tenured teachers for 2021-22 as presented.
- · approved the roll-over of an American General Life Insurance Company Annuity Contract
- approved an overnight FCCLA activity on April 8 – 9, 2021 in Springfield for sponsor and two students.

The next regular meeting of the Dwight Township High School Board of Education will be 6 p.m., Wednesday, April 21. A special joint session will take place on April 28 at 6 p.m. in the DTHS cafeteria where new BOE members for both **Dwight Public School Districts** will be seated and outgoing BOE members recognized.

School board meetings have returned to in-person sessions taking place in the Dwight High School Cafeteria with attendance limited to 50 persons. In addition, please check the school's website for virtual access information and link prior to the meeting. Since October 2020, members of the Redbird and Trojan community have been able to virtually attend regularly scheduled monthly board meetings. Virtual attendees are able to view and listen only. To participate in Public Forum, in-person attendance is required.

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman **Honor Roll**

High Honor Roll Eighth Grade: Cecilia Bingheim, Jacob Hasselbring, Audry McNabb, Thomas Milton, Natalie Misener, Chris Eighth Grade: Kellen Arnold, Smith, Shelby Welsh, Maison Yard.

Seventh Grade: Lexie Buis, Cody Clennon, Madison De-Grush, Jaxson Finch, Tessa Krull, Lilly Pfeifer, Jonah Rogers, Izzy Salinas, Brady Sheedy, Ruthie Steffes, Lauren Thomas.

Sixth Grade: Ethan Hasselbring, Kendall Jones, Tori Skelton, Gracie Smith, Payton Turner, Aurora Weber.

Fifth Grade: Grace Biros, Mark Brookman, Brynlee Hunt, Addison Kilmer, Hunter

Milton, Morgan Starwalt, Kaydynce Wardlow.

Honor Roll

Carter Clouse, Breanne Elias, John Farcus, Ryan Kiley Francisco, Nicholas Grant, Torryn Hahn, Jackson Petro, Jillian Pizano, Colton Pumphrey.

Seventh Grade: MaryLou Acosta, Max Baker, Michael Breisch, Wyatt Coop, Devon Daemicke, Clinton Darling, Evan Eplin, Kyler Krull, Jocelyn Linder, Ethan Othon, Avery Phillips, Cameron Shriey, Mason Thom, Landen Venecia. Sixth Grade: Joey Arnold, Rayce Aukland, Audrey Claypool, Liliana Conn, Vivienne Cronkrite, Dane Ferrara, Pierce Gilbertson, Daniel Isham, Kaylee Klinker, Hayden Pfeifer, Brant Roe.

Fifth Grade: Colton Baudino, Matthew Bauerly, Marissa Marcellis, Kolten Pfeifer, Brooklyn Sheedy, Alex Spear, Ximena Valenciano, Rylan West, Leah Willis, Tucker Yard.

Drive-Through Easter Giveaway April 3 at Prairie Creek Library Prairie Creek Library in cars. Parents should enter on

Dwight will be offering drivethrough Easter treats to children from 10:30 a.m. to noon, or while supplies last, Saturday, April 3.

Each treat bag will contain plastic eggs with candy, an egg painting project, and an Easter puzzle for children to color on their own. Treats will be passed out while guests remain in their be concluded.

Carriage House Lane and pull up to the sidewalk going from the patio facing north of the library, and treats will be taken by staff members to the car.

Note that this event will continue only while supplies last. Once all treat bags have been distributed, the event will



Area Easter Egg Hunts

and attend the following area basket. Easter Egg Hunts being held in *The Paper* communities:

Dwight will host their Easter location, with their residents sitting outside (weather permitting) to watch. Everyone attending must wear a mask. Kids need to take their own bags for collecting.

• Sunday, March 28 - 11:45 United a.m. Dwight its Easter Egg Hunt outside, walking to 12-years old. Those across from the church.

Grab your Easter baskets attending are asked to take a

• Saturday, April 3 – 10:00 • Friday, March 26 – 4:00 a.m. A Community Easter Egg p.m. Heritage Health in Hunt, sponsored by the Reddick Community Auxiliary Egg Hunt in the front of their (RCA), will be held on the grounds of the Reddick Fire Protection District (formerly Reddick Grade School). Attendants are asked to park on the east side of the buildings and take a basket or bag for egg collection.

• Sat., Apr. 3 – 11:00 a.m. Em-Methodist Church is holding ington Community Association will be hosting its annual weather permitting, for kids Easter Egg Hunt at the park



Edward Jones

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Business Owners' Issues Go Beyond 'Mom and Pop' Label If you own a small business, you typically don't get a lot of recognition – so you may be pleased to learn that March

29 is National Mom and Pop Business Owners Day. You might not necessarily think of your business as a "Mom and Pop" operation, but it certainly contributes to the well-being of your family now, and possibly to that of future generations, too – if you make the right moves. Depending on the nature of your business, you may have spent the past several months more concerned about

today than tomorrow, given the serious economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which is still placing stress on a great many business owners across the country.

If your business has been adversely affected by the pandemic, you might be eligible for a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. As you may know, recent legislation provided \$285 billion more for this program. To learn more, and to start the application process, visit the Small Business Administration website at www.sba.gov. You have until March 31 to apply for a PPP loan. Other relief also may be available.

But regardless of whether you apply for one of these loans, you can take other steps to help maximize the benefits you get from your business - and perhaps even extend its longevity. Here are a few suggestions:

• Establish a retirement plan. If you don't already have a retirement plan, it's never too late to set one up. As a business owner, you have several options, including an "owner-only" 401(k), a SIMPLE IRA and a SEP-IRA. All these plans are fairly easy to establish and can offer potential tax advantages, as well as providing you with a source of retirement income in the future. You may want to work with a financial professional to pick the right plan for your needs.

· Coordinate your business assets with your investment portfolio. Like most business owners, you may have a great deal of your personal wealth tied up in your business. And, as the past year has certainly shown, this can be risky. Consequently, you'll need to weigh this risk factor when deciding on investing in your retirement plan or in other investment accounts. This doesn't mean you should try to avoid all risk only by pursuing the most conservative vehicles which would be counterproductive to achieving enough growth to meet your retirement income goals – but you will need to pay close attention to your investment mix to ensure it provides you with an appropriate balance to what you've invested in your business.

 Develop a transition strategy. How will you make the transition from business owner to the next phase of your life? Will you sell the business outright? Will you gradually transfer it to a family member? If so, what mechanism will you use? It' a good idea to have these types of plans in place well before you need to enact them, so you may want to consult with your financial, legal and tax advisors soon.

A "Mom and Pop" business may sound quaint and carefree - but, as you know, running a business of any size can be an all-consuming endeavor and always involves significant financial concerns. Get the help you need to meet these

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC



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Numbers

as of

03/22/21

Statistics via:

dph.illinois.gov

Deaths

192

224

69

79

63

Prairie Creek Library to Extend Service Hours Apr. 1

Dwight, will extend its service hours, beginning Thursday, April 1.

The library will open at until 7:00 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. Friday and Saturday hours will remain the same. The library will continue to offer service by appointment to elderly and high-risk patrons from 10:00-11:00 a.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The library will open for service to all at 11:00 a.m. each weekday. Friday hours remain

Holy Week, **Easter Services** at Emmanuel Lutheran

The following is a list of Dwight's Emmanuel Lutheran Church Holy Week and Easter Services:

- Maundy Thursday April 1, 6:00 p.m.
- Good Friday April 2, 6:00
- Easter Sunday April 4, Easter Sunrise Service, 6:30 a.m.: Easter Festival Service: 9:00 a.m.

Masks are required and social distancing is observed.

Prairie Creek Library, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Saturday hours are 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

New hours are:

- Monday-Thursday, 10:00-10:00 a.m. and remain open 11:00 a.m. – Elderly and highrisk patrons by appointment only; 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. -Open to all patrons.
 - Friday, 10:00-11:00 a.m. -Elderly and high-risk patrons by appointment only; 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Open to all
 - Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. – Open to all patrons (no special hours)

Sen. Barickman Advances Legislation to Prevent Organ Transplant Discrimination

Doctors and transplant or- physical or mental disabilities. ganizations could soon be barred from discriminating against recipients based on any mental or physical disabilities, thanks to legislation filed by State Senator Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington).

Senate Bill 500, filed by Senator Barickman, would amend the Illinois Anatomical Gift Act to update how organ donations are determined. Doctors, hospitals, and organ procurement organizations would not be allowed to determine that a potential recipient is ineligible to receive an organ donation based on the individual's

The legislation was inspired by a constituent, Kaylee Short, and her young son who was di-

agnosed with Down Syndrome. Kaylee Short connected Barickman with Lindsay Robertson, a volunteer advocate with the National Down Syndrome Society, who drafted

the legislation. Robertson testified remotely on behalf of the legislation during the Illinois Senate Judiciary Committee's meeting on March 16. The legislation passed the committee unanimously and is now headed to the full Senate for a vote.

Virtual and Live Programming at LTLD

Programming at Limestone 24, as they go out onto the Township Library District (LTLD) has continued to be open during the pandemic. Many of their programs are on Facebook and YouTube. But, this week they plan to have an outdoor, in-person activity.

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

For the first time since the pandemic started a year ago, they will have an in-person program Wednesday, March grounds of the library for Outdoor Storytime. The fun starts at noon.

Chess Club will meet Thursday, March 25, at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook. Join Austin as he teaches more moves to improve your game whether you are a beginner or a seasoned player.

Every Saturday, they have a new Grab-and-Go craft, which can be picked up at the library while supplies last. The weekend of March 27, the kit will contain supplies to create a

scratch art project.

The Public Access computers are available to the community for 30-minute sessions, two times a day, per person. And they can send out faxes or scan papers to your e-mail.

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.

able Deaths: 2,276; Total Tests Performed: 19,629,022; Recovery Rate: 98%.

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 1,221,863; Deaths: 21,081; Prob-

Area COVID-19 Stats

as of March 22

Cases

212

196

156

150

131

121

89

72

63

54

51

46

37

34

34

33

32

18

16

13

Cases

12,833

11,135

5,345

4,349

2,815

1,629

Tested

10,301

2,411

1,972

2,085

1,469

1,484

980

802

787

649

603

666

267

390

536

463

191

339

102

Tested

199,565

159,024

50,799

89,375

43,412

26,119

1,026

1,048

Town

Dwight

Herscher

Gardner

Odell

Mazon

Essex

Cullom

Reddick

Verona

Saunemin

Blackstone

Emington

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Union Hill

Cabery

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Annual Town Meeting

Notice is Hereby Given To the legal residents of the Town of Mazon, Mazon Township, in the county of Grundy and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, being the second Tuesday of said month.

The Town meeting for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 7:30 P.M. on the said date at the Mazon Township Hall, 703 Park Street, Mazon, Illinois, and a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuant of law, come before the meeting.

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- April 9-end of the school year hours are 3-9 p.m.
- Summer hours are 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
- \$11.50 per hour

If interested, please contact Josh DeLong jdelong@gswhs73.org or 815.237.8040

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JOB VACANCY NOTICE Custodian / Maintenance

Dwight Public Schools are seeking inter-

ested candidates for an immediate opening for a full-time evening shift custodian. Applications are available at the District Office or at www.dwightk12.org, Dwight Public Schools / Employment / Non-certified Staff Applications.

Interested candidates should submit an application to Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent, 801 S. Franklin, Dwight, Illinois 60420. Applicants must have basic custodial and maintenance skills, ability to work in a confidential work environment, be reliable and trustworthy, have good time management skills, be able to work with administration, faculty, staff and students, and be available to work evenings and weekends as needed. Applicants must pass a fingerprint-based criminal background check. Beginning hourly wage is \$14.00/hour; insurance benefits, sick and personal leave will be discussed with final candidates.

DWIGHT COMMON SCHOOL DISTRICT #232 is seeking a **Full-Time 1st Grade Teacher for** the 2021-2022 school year.

Qualifications

Candidates must hold the appropriate Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) and demonstrate the following characteristics: excellent leadership and communication skills, knowledge of a variety of teaching strategies and exceptional technology

- Employ a variety of instructional techniques and instructional media, consistent with the capabilities of the individuals or student groups involved. - Facilitate activities and lessons that drive students toward demonstrating appropriate academic achievement.
- Access the accomplishments and academic progress of students on a regular basis, provide progress reports as required, effectively use formal and informal assessments to plan lessons that dif-
- ferentiate instruction for individual needs. - Manage student behavior and support social emotional learning within the classroom setting. · Adhere to the policies and procedures as established by the Board of Education and Administra-
- Work harmoniously with students, parents, colleagues, and the administrative team to build relationships within the school community.

Salary is based upon the negotiated teacher contract as well as experience and level of education.

Please submit a letter of interest, resume, and three reference letters via email to Mrs. Julie L. Schultz, Principal @ schultzju@dwight.k12.il.us. The application deadline is April 9, 2021.

Immediately - Must have cell, transportation, and be prompt. Good pay. Call 815-674-1219 for details. 11-tf

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HELP WANTED Secretary

Livingston County Sheriff's Department - Full time secretary to perform clerical and administrative functions for the Sheriff's Department. For more information and how to apply, go to www.livingstoncountyil.org, click on Employment under "About Livingston". Application deadline 4/2/2021. **EOE**

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mixed vegetables, bun, fruit juice.

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Fine Arts Drive-Thru Festival at DTHS March 27

Dwight Township High School will present its Fine Arts Drive-Thru Saturday, March 27, beginning at sunset and ending at 8:30 p.m., and Patricia Farrell-Levange, Art Teacher at DTHS who has assisted students in organizing the event, spoke about the inspiration behind the idea.

'Typically DTHS hosts a fine arts showcase where the band performs in the auditorium and the artwork is displayed in the halls every year," said Farrell-Levange. "However, this year is a very different school year. The students need a sense of normalcy since the world has been turned upside down with the global pandemic and I searched for ways to make one thing normal again, but COVID-friendly. By merging the spring of 2020 senior Friday Night Lights events and the fine arts showcase, the Fine Arts Drive-Thru was born. Our goal here at DTHS is to have the artwork of the talented artists on public display on the exterior of our school building, accompanied by the fantastic sounds and melodies of our musicians right after sunset allowing the public to drive-

Understanding that it has been a school year unlike any other she or her students have experienced, she elaborated on what endeavors her classes

have undertaken.

"Even though the world has been turned upside down, students have created some exceptional artworks," Farrell-Levange stated. "Art 1 has conducted photo shoots in town to create a landscape painting while exploring color theory and painting techniques. Art 2 has explored the Mexican artform of Albrijes and spirit animals through the development of their own watercolor and zentangle spirit animal design. Art 3 has completed a ceramics art lesson where they had to throw a ceramic bowl on the wheel and prepare it for the empty bowls fund-raiser that you will see at the Fine Arts Drive-Thru. Art 4/AP took the time to build individual sustained investigation portfolios that show their artistic vision of their own artworks."

When asked how her classroom has been different this year, and what challenges she and her students have been faced with, Farrell-Levange had this to say:

"This year has been challenging in the classroom, but through some creative thinking and ingenuity we made it work seamlessly. This year, students have been given art kits prior to every lesson filled with their own art supplies. It did take some time to plan and prepare these art kits for each student,



but I didn't mind taking this time because it ensured that my students would be safe and would not have to share very many community supplies. Students have now made it their personal mission to sanitize their work space and any shared supply, while of course washing their hands regularly.

The one perk of this unique year is that my students are taking more ownership of their materials and keeping their space cleaner than ever, so that they will not expose their peers to COVID risks.

"It was rather difficult to teach art remotely when we were not in person, but my stu-

dents are so willing to embrace change and try their best. The students were great at logging in online, participating in class critiques, submitting progress photos, and following along with studio demonstrations. They were also very forgiving when I would teach remotely and my own children were in the background doing their remote education and my 20month old daughter was sitting in my lap wanting to participate in high school art.

"The one thing that I learned from teaching remotely is that my students have developed a passion for art and will not let a global pandemic get in the way. They will create in the studio, they will create online, they will create wherever they are because everyone needs to express their creative spirit and nourish their artistic talents. I am extremely proud to be their art teacher because of the hard efforts and talents they have shown this school year.'

During a time when it is sometimes difficult to look at the bright side, Farrell-Levange touched on some of the wins she and her students in the program are celebrating.

"I have some extremely talented students that want to create no matter what. This year, my students have developed very personal artwork that auction via QR code, and suphelped them during the hard

times and allowed them to build a strong portfolio of artworks. Currently, the students are working hard at building artwork to share in several artistic contests that are being held virtually."

This event, featuring the best art works of DTHS students, and the musical styling of DTHS musicians, will offer the community a chance to witness the creativity first-hand. And it also offers students a chance to put that creativity on display.

'The fine arts showcase is an annual event that students look forward to sharing with the public," adds Farrell-Levange. "Our students have worked hard in the art studio and the music room to learn new skills and to express their talents. Please join our Fine Arts Drive-Thru to see what our talented artists and musicians have done this year. You will definitely enjoy this evening of fine arts and be able to take part in the first ever DTHS Fine Arts Drive-Thru Festival."

Attendees are asked to stay in their vehicle and drive thru. Enjoy the sights and sounds provided by DTHS students, purchase popcorn, make a bid in the virtual silent art port the Empty Bowl Project.

Jesse White Awards Winners of Illinois **Emerging Writers Competition**

Secretary of State and State established by legendary poet Librarian Jesse White awarded poets from Seneca, Deerfield and Naperville as this year's winners of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award in the 16th Annual Illinois Emerging Writers Competition.

Phyllis Natenek of Seneca was awarded first place for her poem "Gray Legions". Jerrold M. Levy of Deerfield received second place for his poem "Pandemica". Joanne Hsu of Naperville was the third-place winner for her poem "Philately". "I

created the Illinois **Emerging Writers Competition** to promote creative writing and provide an opportunity to recognize new literary talent throughout the state," White said. "Illinois has a long and rich literary heritage, and these poets are adding to the tradition Gwendolyn Brooks. Great poems have the ability to enrich and enhance our lives, and I am pleased to celebrate this year's talented winners."

The competition is named for the late Pulitzer Prize-winning Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks, and is part of the Illinois Center for The Book program at the State Library. Kevin Stein, Illinois Poet Laureate, 2003-2017, continued as a principal partner and served as the final judge of the competition.

The winning poems are available to read at cyberdrive illinois.com/departments/library/ center_for_the_book/. Also, the winning poems will be submitted for possible publication in "Ninth Letter", "RHINO" and "Quiddity" journals.



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

BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation,

Plaintiff, SHAWN P. HOLMES, and unknown owners and non-record claimants.

Defendants.

No. 21-CH-6

NOTICE

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

Lot 68 in First Addition to Westview Subdivision to the City of Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, as per Plat recorded October 16, 1979 as Document Number 387228 in the Office of the Recorder of Deeds of Livingston County, Illinois.

PIN: 15-16-452-031

Commonly known as: 1304 Nixon Dr., Pontiac, IL 61764.

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is SHAWN P. HOLMES. The mortgage sought to be foreclosed is a mortgage executed on October 22, 2019 and recorded on October 25, 2019 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2019R-04177. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 21-CH-6 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants. file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before April 15, 2021 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 26 day of February, 2021.

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

Gas Prices For This Week

For the first time in 11 weeks, the national average price of gasoline has fallen, posting a 0.3 cent drop from a week ago to \$2.86 per gallon. The national average now stands 22.2 cents higher than a month ago, as gas prices catch up to the rise in the price of oil. The national average price of diesel has risen 2.7 cents in the last week and stands at \$3.10 per gallon.

| City/Village | March 22 | March 15 |
|----------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Dwight | \$2.94 | \$2.96 |
| Kankakee | \$2.98 | \$3.04 |
| Streator | \$2.97 | \$3.07 |
| Pontiac | \$2.89 | \$2.70 |
| Gardner | \$3.09 | \$2.85 |
| Braceville | \$3.09 | \$3.09 |
| Morris | \$3.02 | \$3.02 |
| Herscher | \$3.09 | \$2.96 |
| Chicago | \$3.49 | \$3.14 |
| Illinois | \$3.08 | \$3.05 |
| U.S. | \$2.88 | \$2.86 |
| Sources: GasRi | iddy com and IIS En | erov Information Ac |

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

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



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

BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

SHAWN P. HOLMES, and unknown owners and non-record claimants. Defendants.

No. 21-CH-7

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

NOTICE

Lot 89 in First Addition to Westview Subdivision, in the City of Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois, as per Plat thereof recorded October 16, 1979 as Document Number 387228.

PIN: 15-16-451-032

Commonly known as: 1309 Nixon Dr., Pontiac, IL 61764.

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is SHAWN P. HOLMES. The mortgages sought to be foreclosed are a mortgage executed on February 21, 2020 and recorded on February 28, 2020 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2020R-00767, and an Assignment of Leases and Rents executed on February 21, 2020 and recorded on February 28, 2020 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2020R-00768. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 21-CH-7 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. Mc-Clarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before April 15, 2021, 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 24 day of February, 2021.

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

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

BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

SHAWN P. HOLMES, and unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants. No. 21-CH-5

NOTICE

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

Lot 14 and the East 8 feet of Lot 13 in Block 1 of Peterdorf's Addition to the Village of Cullom, Livingston County, Illinois.

PIN: 18-23-385-011

Commonly known as: 303 W. Jackson St., Cullom, IL 60929.

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is SHAWN P. HOLMES. The mortgage sought to be foreclosed is a mortgage executed on January 4, 2019 and recorded on January 8, 2019 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2019R-00070. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 21-CH-5 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before April 15, 2021, 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 26 day of February, 2021.

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

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

BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,

SHAWN P. HOLMES, and unknown owners and non-record claimants, Defendants.

No. 21-CH-8

NOTICE

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

TRACT 1:

Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4 in Block 19 in the Village of Cayuga, situated in the County of Livingston, in the State of Illinois, EXCEPT the West Half of Lot 4 in Block 19 in the Village of Cayuga, and that portion of the East-West alley which adjoins said lots to the North.

TRACT 2:

Lots 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14 in Block 19 in the Village of Cayuga, Livingston County, Illinois, together with the South Half of the vacated alley adjoining the North line thereof.

PIN: 10-31-154-011

Commonly known as: 18055 E. 2160 N. Rd., Pontiac, IL 61764.

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is SHAWN P. HOLMES. The mortgages sought to be foreclosed are a mortgage executed on February 21, 2020 and recorded on February 28, 2020 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2020R-00770, and an Assignment of Leases and Rents executed on February 21, 2020 and recorded on February 28, 2020 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2020R-00771. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 21-CH-8 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. Mc-Clarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before April 15, 2021, 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 24 day of February, 2021.

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



GARDNER-SOUTH WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL inducted ten members into the Athena Chapter of National Honor Society March 10 at GSW High School. Pictured, front row, are Taeryn Lardi, Abigail Granger, Delaney Platt, Ameilia Brock, Molly Conger; back row, Colby Grieff, Ella Sandeno, Brody Fatlan, Avery Williams, and Emma Wilson. The Adviser of this chapter is Terese Kukman.



ball game, which kicks off at 7 p.m. against Iroquois West.

gathered for a photo opportunity. Pictured, front row, from left are freshman attendants Kassy Kodat, Reid Gall; second row, sophomore attendants Brianna Kosek, Wyatt Thompson; third row, junior attendants Jordan Schultz, Samuel Edwards; back row, senior attendants Brandon Ceylor, Eileen Betsworth, Carson Crouch, Lauryn Hoegger, Jarrett Jancek, and Kayla Kodat.

Homecoming Activities at DTHS It's Homecoming week at Dwight Township High School week. The Company of the School week.

and the following is a list of activities happening at the school now through March 26:

Dress-Up Days:

- Wednesday Pink Thursday Class Color • Friday – Green and White
- Trojan Games on Thursday, and a Tailgate at 7:00 p.m. (Check-in Entrance is open from 6:45-7:00 p.m.)
 • Friday – Virtual Teacher Talent
- Show during eighth period; Coronation will be during half-time of the Varsity Football Game.



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