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Volume 23 • Number 27

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Wednesday, July 7, 2021

DPD Assists in Apprehension of Murder Suspect

Per a statement issued by the Dwight Police Department on July 1:

On June 28, officers from the Dwight Police Department were called to Northbrook Drive at approximately 10:45 a.m. regarding a theft from a vehicle.

After a brief discussion with Marc Holliman, age 53, of Chicago, Holliman departed in his vehicle – not wanting any additional assistance.

At approximately 11:49 a.m., the male again approached Dwight Officers on Northbrook Drive, bleeding from self-inflicted injuries.

Dwight EMS Paramedics and Dwight Fire personnel were called to treat the male. He was transported to an area hospital for his injuries and later released.

Prior to leaving for the hospital, Dwight Officers discovered the lifeless body of an elderly female in the vehicle driven by Holliman. The scene was secured and additional re-

sources were called in.

Upon further investigation, it was determined the death of the elderly female – later identified by the Grundy County Coroner’s Office as Juanita Holliman, age 81, of Chicago, the suspect’s mother – occurred in the City of Chicago. Investigators from Chicago PD, Grundy County Sheriff’s Office, Morris PD, Grundy County Coroner’s Office, Livingston County Sheriff’s Office, Illinois State Police Crime Scene, and Dwight PD continue to work on the case, with assistance from the Grundy County State’s Attorney’s Office, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office, and V-Com.

Marc Holliman is being charged in Cook County with First Degree Murder and Concealment of a Homicidal Death.

Any additional inquiries should be made with Chicago PD or the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office.



LAND OF THE FREE. HOME OF THE BRAVE.

photo by J7 Images

Straight to the Consumer Local Farmers Change Their Business Strategy

By Brandon LaChance

The world is always changing and moving towards something different.

Even in farming.

Once upon a time, a farmer raised animals, grew vegetables

and oats, and then sold them to a big company for them to distribute and place the items into stores.

Slowly, this is fading as farmers are now going straight to consumers.

“We’ve gone more organic



BRIAR SEVERSON FAMILY, right to left. Joel, working at the farm while taking a break from his business degree; Luke who works full time at the farm; Karen, mother and wife, does most of the paperwork and packaging for orders. Behind her is the farmer himself, Brian. Sarah, has finished a culinary degree and is responsible for most of our baking and selling at the Green City farmer's market. Seth, who currently lives out of state with his wife Anna (far left), follows his dream of being a pilot.

**Dwight Village Clerk
Jill Haacke Resigns**

Story on Page 9

and we're going straight to the consumer. When I started, we'd go to the big commercial businesses like ADM and Continental,” said Brian Severson, who has led Brian Severson Farms just north of Dwight since 1988. “Now, we're going to the individuals who consume it. I think we're bypassing the conglomerate middle-man. We're going back and finding heirloom grains that taste good. They don't have patents on them, so we don't have to depend on the seed on the one end and we can go directly to the consumer on the other end.

“When I started, there wasn't any GMOs (genetically modified organisms). That's the biggest thing. There is less pillage. No one really cultivates anymore. It's all chemical control. It's less pillage and more spraying.”

Severson, an organic farmer, started the organic process because he wanted to be able to

farm with his children. Producing conventional corn and using chemicals made him sick and he did not want his children to experience the same.

Three of his children Luke, Joel and Sarah (Seth is pursuing his dream to be a pilot) help Brian farm organically and they have all seen the value of going straight to the consumer, both figuratively and lucratively, as they fill mail orders from their website and Amazon, sell to a multiple small distributors and open up shop at farmer's markets in Chicago.

Not only are they able to build a client base that believes in their product, but all profits go to them instead of to another company.

“We have a flour mill on the farm, so we're raising specialty grains,” Severson said. “We have different corns. We have red, blue, white and yellow corns. They're all heirloom corns. We grind them into corn

meal or into grits. We are selling three different kinds of wheat. We have Minnesota wheat (bread wheat), Kansas wheat (all-purpose) and Illinois wheat (pastry wheat). We grind them into flour whether it's bread flour, pastry flour or all-purpose flour. We also have buckwheat and oats.

“Sarah graduated from culinary school about a year ago, so she's taking the next step and is popping the popcorn, making the wheat into breads and making corn bread. We have a sourdough bread where everything comes from the farm except for the salt. We can go all the way from the seed to the bread.”

The Severson Farm is not the only local farm adopting a new way of doing business as Boucher Farms and Winding Creek Farm and Nursery have also made changes.

Marie and Matt Becker have

turned Winding Creek, a couple miles north of Dwight on Goodfarm Road, into a successful business on many fronts.

“Before, we were selling privately. We were selling a half or a quarter beef or half or whole hogs,” said Marie Becker, 41. She moved to Dwight when she was in fifth grade. “My father plants corn and soybeans, so that's what we were mainly doing beforehand. We wanted to try to get into a different avenue, a different

(continued on page 12)



Joel, cleaning, bagging and palletizing the grain.





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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police
June 26: Dena K. Ratcliff, 52, Chillicothe, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.
June 27: Dillon R. Geiss, 27, Reddick, driving 21-25 MPH above limit.

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

2 Written Warnings
Improper lighting – 2.

Dwight Police Blotter
Well Being Check – 1; Lockout Assistance – 5; Wanted Subject – 1; Return Call – 3; Theft – 1; Traffic Stop – 4; Walk Into PD – 3; Loud Music – 1; Hit and Run – 1; Road Hazard – 1; Medical Aid Assistance – 1; Fire Alarm – 1; Death Investigation – 1; Burglar Alarm – 2; Juvenile Issue – 1; Check Illegal Burning – 1; Suspicious Vehicle – 1; Reckless Driver – 1; Vin Verification – 1; Missing Person – 1; Animal – 1; Possible Missing Items – 1; Stolen/Missing License Plate – 1; Golf Cart Inspection – 2; Open Door Checks – Nightly; Neighbor Issues – 2; Storage Lockers Criminal Damage – 1; Funeral Escort – 1; Assist Agency – 5; Warrant Arrest – 1; Vehicle Accidents – 3; Park Checks – Nightly; House Checks – 3.

Accident Reports
Thursday, June 24, 7:15 p.m., an accident was reported at 1 Aldi Dr. involving a 2015 Volvo, driven by Francois Eribert, Pembroke Pines, FL, which struck a 2017 Ford Ecp., driven by Brittani DeCoste, Dwight, while attempting to back down

Rt. 66.
Saturday, June 26, 2:26 a.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2015 Peterbilt, driven by Jacob Robinson, Gary, IN, which was parked with the driver asleep in the sleeper, when an unknown driver in an unknown vehicle struck the Peterbilt and left in an unknown direction.
Tuesday, June 29, 10:16 p.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2009 Peterbilt, driven by Raymond Atsma, Hospers, IA, which was backing up to allow an oncoming semi room to maneuver into the lot and struck a 2016 Kenwood, driven by Jesse Dace, Middletown, IL.



Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS
June 24: Seminole, medical.
June 25: Mazon, fire; John, medical, St. James; Mazon, fire; Main, medical, Morris; 3300 N., trauma, refusal.
June 26: Prospect, fire.
June 27: Prospect, lift assist; 2300 E., medical, Morris.
June 28: Northbrook, trauma, Morris; William, fire.
June 29: Main, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, Morris; Eisenhower, medical; Susan, fire; Delaware, medical, Morris.
June 30: Union, fire; Mazon Ave., trauma, Riverside; Columbia St., trauma, St. James, mutual aid from Coal City - COQ; Rt. 17/I-55 overpass, fire; City of Morris, standby/operational support, mutual aid to Morris.



Temps - 2021
June 24 – high 73°, low 65° 1.32" precip.
June 25 – high 81°, low 65° 1.25" precip.
June 26 – high 80°, low 70° 1.02" precip.
June 27 – high 82°, low 69° .96" precip.
June 28 – high 82°, low 69° .56" precip.
June 29 – high 86°, low 70° .29" precip.
June 30 – high 79°, low 66° 1.37" precip.
One Year Ago – July 7, 2020
high 89°, low 65°



No fire report was submitted this week.

Junk In The Trunk July 18 in Morris

“Junk In The Trunk”, or the JITT Community Sale, will take place the third Sunday of July – July 18, and the third Sunday of each month through October, weather permitting, at 100 Commercial Drive in Morris.
This paved-lot location is just west of Rt. 47, behind the BP Amoco station. There are JITT signs at the Rt. 47 entrance to Commercial Dr.
Set-up time is 8:30 a.m., with the sale running from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
This is a community event that raises money for charities in and around the Morris area. Donations and vendor fees, per spot, are given to a different charity each month.
Participants will need to read and agree with the rules pertaining to attending the event before participating.
This is a family-oriented event where many treasures are found, including special antiques, gifts, toys, decorations, art pieces, collectibles, and tools.
No commercial or home based businesses or mass-produced imported items are allowed at this sale.
All who attend are responsible for their own clean-up. All participants do so at their own risk.
For more information, contact Ken at willis84@comcast.net or call 815-942-2032 (no texts).
JITT has been in operation since October 2009.

It's History...



CAN YOU IDENTIFY ANYONE PICTURED ABOVE? These photos are from the Dwight Historical Society’s collection of photos, which were taken by local photographers at Dwight Photo Studios and have no identification on them. If you recognize anyone, please send ID information to dhs1854@yahoo.com or call 815-674-9056. Thank you.

A Turnaround?

Sales Tax Revenue Up \$40,444 in Dwight’s First Quarter

by Tom Tock
Sales tax revenue for Dwight in the first quarter of 2021 totaled \$263,143, \$40,444 more than in the first quarter of 2020.
Revenue in the first quarter a year ago was \$222,699, down some \$31,000 from the first quarter of 2019, obviously due to the reaction to the devastating effects of the coronavirus pandemic.
The Department of Revenue showed some 477 sales-taxpayers in Dwight during the first quarter of 2021, an obvious case of misplaced fingers on a computer keyboard, which

shouldn’t happen in this high technology age. Last year there were 128 Dwight taxpayers in the first quarter.
Drinking and Eating Places in Dwight, Livingston County, provided \$16,223 in sales tax during the first quarter; last year the figure was \$12,669. D&E figures are no longer reported for Grundy County.
Automotive & Filling Stations first quarter of 2021, \$89,497; first quarter 2020, \$79,935.
Drugs - Miscellaneous Retail, \$45,625, first quarter of 2021; \$15,326 in 2020.
Agriculture & All Others,

\$9,099 in the first quarter of 2021; \$6,488 in 2020.
Below are selected communities and first quarter sales tax receipts for both 2021 and 2020.

	2021	2020
Dwight	263,143	222,699
Fairbury	185,104	149,340
Pontiac	741,887	576,384
Odell	11,296	7,864
Saunemin	6,937	3,021
Herschler	69,736	82,162
Gardner	72,780	45,908
Mazon	68,579	11,417
Morris	935,914	1,459,379
So. Wilms.	14,271	4,243

It was July 1944

“Madam Queen,” the horse owned by Father Joseph Farley of Sunbury, won first place at the Seneca Horse Show. Father Farley had purchased the horse that spring from Ted Hahn.
Route 4 in Dwight and Route 17 near Dwight are included in resurfacing contracts awarded by Illinois Highways Division for \$114,943. H. J. Eppel & Co. received a contract for replacement of the Ramien bridge south of Emington for \$2,633.
Dwight farm boys exhibiting at the Fairbury Fair: Hampshire hogs - Jack Christensen, Russell Anderson, Billy Wilhelm, and Earl Frederickson; Duroc Jersey hogs - Donald Funk, Roy Denker and Leroy Drechsel; Hampshire hogs and Shropshire sheep - William

Steichen; Hampshire hogs - Stanton Roeder; Brown Swiss heifer - George Hoegger; and Black Angus steer, Dale Siedentop.
As of Aug. 6, 1944 there will be no window service at the Dwight Post Office on Saturday afternoons.
A “sensational value” was advertised at Hibbard True Value, 108 S. Franklin in Dwight – An assortment of individual casseroles and dessert dishes for 7 cents! A glass wash board was 77 cents. It was made from selected wood and had sanitary front soap drain and glass rubbing surface. Makes washing easier!
Lettuce – at Kroger, 10 cents a head; at A & P, 13 cents a head; and at National, 2 for 13 cents!

Read The Paper every week!

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Don't Let Investments Go On Vacation

Now that we've gained at least some space from the COVID-19 pandemic, summer travel is heating up. But while you might be eager to hit the road, you won't want your investments to take a vacation – you need them to work hard for you consistently. But how can you make this happen?

Here are some ideas:

- **Know your destination.** "If you don't know where you want to go, then it doesn't matter which path you take." This bit of wisdom, paraphrased from the classic children's book, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, may be appropriate for, say, hikers exploring a new landscape. But as an investor, it matters a great deal which path you take. If you only dabble in investing, occasionally putting some money into one investment or another, it will be difficult to build a portfolio that's consistently working in your best interest. It's important to create a long-term investment strategy based on where you want to go in life – that is, how long you plan to work, what sort of retirement lifestyle you envision, and so on.
- **Match goals with investments.** Some investments are designed to achieve certain goals. To illustrate: When you contribute to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored plan, you're investing for one specific, long-term goal: a comfortable retirement. While you can tap into these accounts for other purposes – though doing so might incur immediate taxes and penalties – they are designed to provide you with income during your retirement years. Similarly, you may have other investments for other purposes, such as a 529 education savings plan. Here's the key point: Goals-based investing, by its nature, can help ensure your portfolio is always working on your behalf, in the way you intended.
- **Invest for growth.** Ideally, hard work produces results, and one of the main results you want from your investments is growth – that is, you want your investments to appreciate in value so they can eventually help you meet your goals. But if you are overconcentrated in vehicles such as certificates of deposit (CDs) and government securities, you may end up lowering your growth potential. That's not to say that CDs and Treasury bills are in some sense "lazy." They can provide you with income and help you reduce the impact of market volatility on your portfolio. But to achieve most of your goals, you'll need a reasonable number of growth-oriented investments working for you, with the exact percentage based on your needs and life stages.
- **Check your progress.** How else can you ensure your investments aren't just taking it easy? By checking up on them. If you follow a buy-and-hold strategy, your portfolio shouldn't require many changes if it already reflects your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. Too much buying and selling could jeopardize your ability to follow a consistent, long-term strategy. However, "buy and hold" doesn't mean "buy and forget." By reviewing your portfolio at least once a year, you can determine if your investments are performing as they should. If they're not working for you as you'd like, you may need to make some changes.

If you're traveling this summer, relax and enjoy yourself – but keep those investments working hard.

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

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JULY 9 & 10



ODELL DAYS

FRIDAY, JULY 9

5:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - Beer Tent Open
5:30 p.m. - Junior Bags, Ages 10 - 16
8:00 p.m. - Outdoor Family Movie
10:00 p.m. - 1:00 a.m. - "Breaking Storm" Street Dance

SATURDAY, JULY 10

7:45 a.m. Startime - Firecracker 5K
8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Odell Fireman Breakfast at the Firehouse
8:00 a.m. - GD's Saloon Bloody Mary Bar - Downtown on Square
8:00 a.m. - 12 Midnight - Beer Tent Open
9:00 a.m. - Sand Volleyball Tournament
11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Kids Inflatables
12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Bags Tournament
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Face Painting/Balloon Artist
2:00 p.m. - Kiddie Tractor Pulls/Followed by Adult Tractor Pulls
2:30 p.m. - 4 :00 p.m. - Local Music Featuring - Kyle Schott
8:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. - "The Brat Pack" Street Dance

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& ENJOY
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ODELL DAYS
CELEBRATION

ALL BEING
HELD IN
DOWNTOWN
ODELL

the corner

by Tom Tock

Grant Trap.

Dwight has received a \$735,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant to rehab an abandoned lane of Route 66 from Lions Lake back to Morris Road and then into Renfrew Park.

Dwight’s direct out-of-pocket share besides engineering fees will be about \$73,500, 10% of the grant total. It’s usually 20%, but Dwight got a deal because of its financial condition.

Dwight has a list of priorities, or should have, that demand much more consideration than a round-about path from Lions Lake to Renfrew Park.

But the state has its priorities, too, of course, and when it comes time to show some attention to its remaining citizenry, what could be better than to use our own money to build us an unnecessary three-mile path.

We should hope that the new path gets more of a work-out than the present one to Lions Lake, and that other more important matters get the attention they deserve.

It’s good to see those downtown planters blooming. What a little color in blossoms can do to brighten the streets. The color on the front of El Cancun, the new restaurant, adds brightness, too. Wow!

Words had difficulty falling into place this week -- too much happening. Daughter-in-law Debbie arrived from Arizona on her way to

Dixon -- son Greg followed shortly, both of whom thought it was cool here . . . compared to 110-plus in AZ.

Son Robert from St. Louis flew in to Dwight airport Monday in his Piper Cherokee. There will be an unplanned 4th of July celebration of sorts for the restoration of our front porch, which was completed a week ago under the careful handling of Lee Jensen, who just happened to construct that porch some 40 years ago. He was assisted in the endeavor by his daughter Lisa and son Wayne. Thanks, Lee.

No one has submitted what they consider a challenge to Dwight’s future growth. Perhaps we shouldn’t discuss it, just leave well enough alone. No thoughts?

The Chicago Tribune has been doing what was dreaded would happen after the paper was sold recently. A number of the best columnists have taken “a financial offer they couldn’t refuse” and left a gaping hole in the newspaper’s continued value.

Wasn’t it an inspiring sight in Dwight seeing all the homes that had American flags flying in perfect weather over the 4th of July weekend?

It would be even more inspiring to see more homes flying the flag.

Don’t forget to go for a walk.

Prairie Creek Library Offers Patrons Access to New Online Resources

Prairie Creek Library, Dwight, now offers patrons access to My Heritage, a leading website for family research history. Now, anyone interested in studying genealogy can easily access this online resource either in the library or from the comfort of their own home.

To access My Heritage, patrons should go to prairiecreeklibrary.org, then click on Electronic Resources. My Heritage will be one of the options. Once a patron has selected My Heritage, one only needs to enter the barcode number from their library card to access the site’s offerings, which includes over 12 billion historical

records from multiple countries.

In addition, the library now will offer access to magazines online through Flipster, a digital magazine service. Patrons will be able to view magazines online to which the library does not subscribe to paper copies. Those titles include: Allure, Chicago, Country Homes & Gardens, Cricket, Entrepreneur, Simply Gluten Free, Taste of Home, This Old House, and U.S. News & World Report. These magazines also may be accessed through the library’s website and under the Electronic Resources tab.

Morris Hospital President and CEO Announces Retirement



Mark Steadham, President and CEO of Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, has announced his plans to retire on July 1, 2022, after serving 12 years in the organization’s top leadership position. He came to Morris Hospital on September 1, 2010, from Murray Calloway County Hospital in western Kentucky.

Brian Angwin, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers’ Board Chair, said the Board has anticipated Steadham’s retirement and is well prepared with a process for selecting the next President and CEO.

“Mark has devoted his entire career to healthcare, including the past 32 years in executive leadership positions,” said Angwin. “We are fortunate that he chose Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers for the final leg of his long and

impressive career. We are also grateful that he will continue to lead the organization over the next year and assist us in transitioning to Morris Hospital’s next CEO.”

At the hospital board meeting on June 28, Steadham told the Board that it has been his “pleasure and honor” to serve as Morris Hospital’s CEO.

“From my first visit during a Camp 911 event in 2010, I knew Morris Hospital is where I wanted to be,” said Steadham. “It was evident that the employees, medical staff, and volunteers at Morris Hospital are truly special. From the very first moment, I was impressed with their compassion, knowledge, and genuine concern about always doing what’s right for our patients.”

“I have always said that it is our employees, medical staff, and volunteers who make Morris Hospital so extraordinary,” he added. “Because of them, Morris Hospital has a remarkably bright future.”

According to Angwin, a search committee of the Board will be appointed to guide the process, including representatives from Morris Hospital’s Medical Staff. The Board anticipates that it will be several months before a new CEO is selected.

Mother, Can You Hear Me Now? Voigts Tells Her Story in a Memoir

By Brandon LaChance

It’s hard to open up and tell your story.

Some people never tell theirs. Others can only share feelings and important moments in their life with counselors or trained professionals.

Then there are people like Rhonda Voigts.

Voigts, 59, who has lived in Dwight for the last 51 years, wrote a memoir called “Mother, Can You Hear Me Now?” to help her cope with the past and to realize the life she has created for herself now.

“I was depressed. I’m bipolar, so I was depressed a lot of the time,” Voigts said. “Writing a book made me clear my ghost of my mother. My mother was awful. I’m gay and she didn’t like that. I’ve spent time in psych wards.

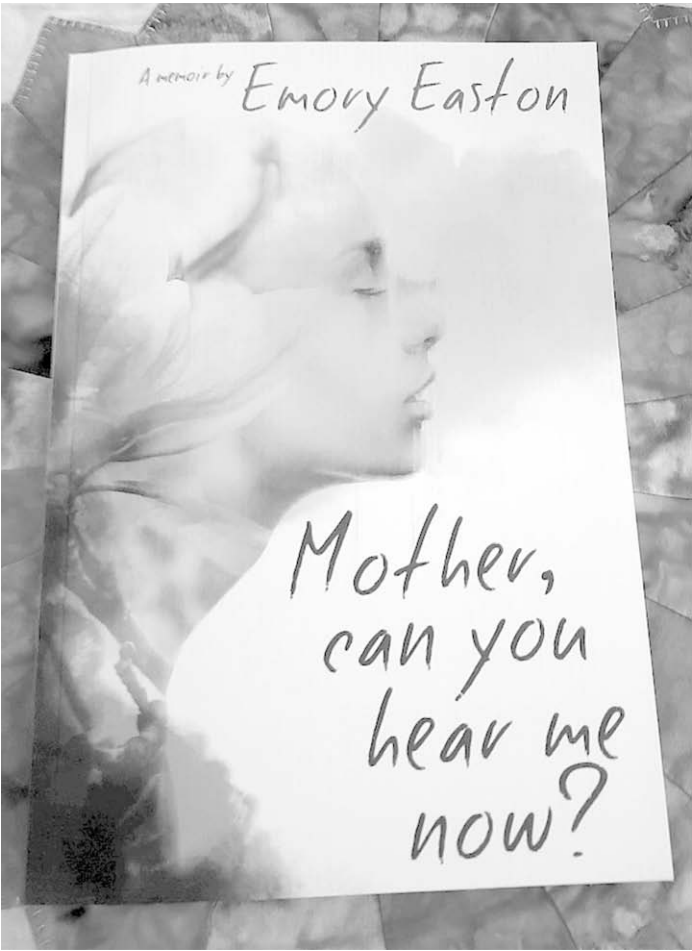
“It was a very cathartic writing. After I wrote it, I put it into a contest. I was picked for the contest and then they set me up with a publisher, Woodhall Press. I had editors, publishers and marketing.”

The contest was held by When Words Count Retreat in Rochester, Vt. All entries must be 10 pages and tell a good story.

Voigts, who had never been published before, met both qualifications and has since flown to Vermont twice.

“I was very excited. I wasn’t expecting to win the contest. I just expected to write and tell my story,” Voigts said. “I didn’t really expect to end up with a book. I thought it was just going to be a journal kind of thing. When they said, ‘Oh no, this is good enough for a book’, I was very surprised and excited they picked it.

“It was great. I’ve been there two times since. They have me come back to mentor other authors. The process was very nice and they were very good



to me. I had a little frustration with the editing because I went through two editors. One of the editors was with When Words Count Retreat and one editor was with Woodhall Press. Whenever they give you things to edit, then you have to go make all these changes on your book. That just gets a little cumbersome. But otherwise, it’s been a tremendous experience.”

Like most books, the back gives a summary of what a reader will find in the finished product. Here is what the back of “Mother, Can You Hear Me Now?” reads:

Divorced with four children by the age of 22, Emory imagined a new life for herself. A life that went beyond the traumatic mental and physical abuse she endured as a child

under the neglectful watch of an addict mother.

Emory was born after only six months in the womb, a survivor of a failed abortion. Raised by her 3-year old brother and nestled in the dresser drawer in which she slept, her earliest moments were those of pain and rejection. Yet, despite all of the odds stacked against her, she found her true love with her partner Marsha.

From psychiatric wards, to poverty to sexual abuse, Emory survived.

Mother, Can You Hear Me Now? is her story.

Instead of using the name Rhonda Voigts for the book, Emory Easton is the name you’ll see on the cover and as the main character.

“I’ve always liked the name

Emory and I hate the name Rhonda,” Voigts said. “My mom had a thing about naming us all with Rs, which is crazy.

“I couldn’t put all of my four children and other family in it because they didn’t want the book to be written. They said, ‘We have a dysfunctional family and we don’t want anybody to know.’ I changed their names and I changed the names of some people in Dwight. I also changed some landmarks in Dwight. This is also why I wrote under a pen name.”

The memoir is not all about a troubled past as Voigts also wrote about the most important positive person in her life.

“The major change in my life was when I found my soul mate, Marsha,” Voigts said. “I’ve been very lucky. We met in 1985 and have been together for 36 years.”

For all the heartbreak, struggle, trauma, joy, determination, success, love Voigts/Easton shares in “Mother, Can You Hear Me Now?”, you can buy a copy from Voigts if you see her in person for \$17.99 or pre-orders are available at Amazon and Goodreads.com.

The book is set for publication Sept. 7 and will be sold in stores.

“I have books on hand and have given them to several people in Dwight to read them,” Voigts said. “Everybody has given it good reviews except for one person who said they were confused. That’s because it talks about my childhood and adulthood and it goes back and forth and interweaves.

“I owe some of the benefit to Carol Coulter, who was a teacher in Dwight. She gave me the love of writing and reading. She worked at the high school and taught me and all of my children.”

Brandon LaChance can be reached at 815-876-7941, blachance20@gmail.com or on Twitter @LaChanceWriter.

Emergency Alert Sytem Discussion Brought to Gardner Village Board

by Don Phillips

The Gardner Village Board met in regular session June 28.

The board heard from several residents during public comment. Cathy Sorensen asked about a village emergency alert system residents could subscribe to for notifications and emergency warnings. Sorensen also asked about a village website for information and notices. Commissioner Dick Hileman commented the village sent letters several years ago regarding reverse 911, with very poor response and the system ultimately folded. Commissioner Erik Smith responded he had looked at municipal website services, which were cost prohibitive. Sorensen suggested even a bare-bones system to provide basic information, to control cost.

Brad Kingma asked if the village has made a decision on the reimbursement for generator permit fees. Serena and Hileman commented the owners who installed before the permits were mandated can apply for a refund. Installations after the permit mandate are not subject to the reimbursement.

Responding to questions from prior meetings, Serena reported fees, \$125 per hour for paralegals and clerks; to con-

tract allows for periodic adjustments and billing for fees incurred by the village.

Resident Dan Bell again addressed the board regarding the appearance of the village related to weeds, junk, and general deterioration. Bell suggested they give serious consideration to the list of properties to be addressed that will be presented by John Frideres on the agenda.

The board heard from resident John Frideres regarding moving and junk in the village. Frideres expressed concern with residents not following the village ordinances. Frideres commented on properties adjacent to his, as well as the condition of the properties belonging to some of the village employees. Mayor Serena responded he prefers to speak to the property owners before expending funds on legal fees to enforce the ordinances. Frideres provided photos and addresses of some properties of concern. Hileman commented he had spoken to the board in February and March to begin addressing properties prior to the start of the summer. So far this year, the board has towed two vehicles and is working on additional properties. Unfortunately, the legal process takes time and money and the village is limited in how quickly they can respond. Frideres again

asked when the village will act to force the owners to clean up the properties and track the progress. Village Attorney Bryan Wellner commented that many of the villages referenced by Frideres have their own police and code enforcement, making the process more streamlined and less expensive. Wellner also commented that while the Village does not have the ability to recover legal fees, a property owner filing on behalf of the village can seek to recover legal fees.

The board discussed and approved the Budget/Appropriations ordinance. The appropriations total \$12,920,300 for the budget. The total appropriation may or may not be spent, but indicates the total amount available to the village for the budget year. The Appropriation included potential spending increases in Contracted Services from \$300,000 to \$500,000 to address alley work; Sewer from \$250,000 to \$500,000 to address cleaning the lagoons; Motor Fuel from \$160,000 to \$200,000 for street maintenance; and TIF from \$80,000 to \$200,000 also for support of the lagoon cleaning. Motor Fuel Tax revenue was increased from \$60,000 to \$80,000 to reflect changes made by the state of Illinois. The appropriation was passed unanimously.

The board discussed an ordinance to authorize, with limitations, the operation of golf carts on village streets. A draft of a proposed ordinance was presented by Mayor Mike Serena, noting the board can make edits within the scope of the law. Serena noted there will be liability and several items to be looked at related to the ordinance. Commissioner Erik Smith asked what the cost of contractual service with the Grundy County Sheriff’s Department would be. Hileman commented the current contract is at a cost of \$64,000 and is up for renegotiation. Responding to a question, village attorney Bryan Wellner commented any ordinance would be required to follow state statute, including the requirement for the operator to hold a valid driver’s license, applies only to municipal streets, and prohibits operation on or across any street or road with a speed limit over 35 mph. Wellner expressed concern regarding the legality of crossing of railroad grade crossings. The matter was tabled.

Casey McCollom reported the water tower painting is on hold pending appropriate weather. Commissioner Dick Hileman reported mosquito spraying will begin when weather allows.

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8AM - 11AM

every Saturday thru the summer

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WITH ANY QUESTIONS 618-214-4110

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Black Angus Boneless Top Sirloin Steaks

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Best Choice
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Shreds
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122.5-150 oz



\$4⁹⁹
LIMIT 2

Jay's
Potato Chips
10 oz



2/\$4

Cottonelle
Clean Care or
Comfort Care
Bath Tissue
12 Dbl Roll



\$5⁹⁹

Victor Allen
Coffee K-Cups
80 ct



\$16⁹⁹
LIMIT 2

Ice Mountain
Spring Water
28 pk



3/\$10
LIMIT 6

FULL Weekly Ad @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Free Church of Hope Community Vacation Bible School July 19-23

The Church of Hope in Gardner is once again offering **free** Vacation Bible School, July 19-23, from 9:30-11:30 a.m.

They are inviting all children ages four (must be potty trained) to fourth grade to join them for Community VBS. There will be crafts, music, storytelling, recreation, and fun.

The Church of Hope is located at 202 North Monroe (corner of Monroe and Jefferson Streets), Gardner.

Vacation Bible School is **free** every year. Registration forms will be available at the following locations: South Wilmington Post Office, Gardner Post Office, Casey's in Gardner, and the Gardner Laundromat. You may also call the church at 815-237-8312 if you would like one. There is a drop box for registration forms located on the alley side of the church by the red door. You can also access the form from their website: gardnerchurchofhope.org or send an e-mail to

churchofhope@sbcglobal.net. They ask that your child/children be pre-registered by July 16. They will also be requiring that the children take a mask for indoor activities.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, feel free to call the church or Pastor Jan at 815-577-9119. They can always use volunteers and will give community service hours to junior high and high school students.

Jim Ridings Authors New Book About Ottawa Tuberculosis Tent Colony Book Signing in Utica July 10

The little-known story of Ottawa's tuberculosis tent colony is now told in a new book by Herscher author, Jim Ridings.

Ridings will sign copies of his book at the LaSalle County Historical Museum in Utica, from noon to 2:00 p.m., on Saturday, July 10.

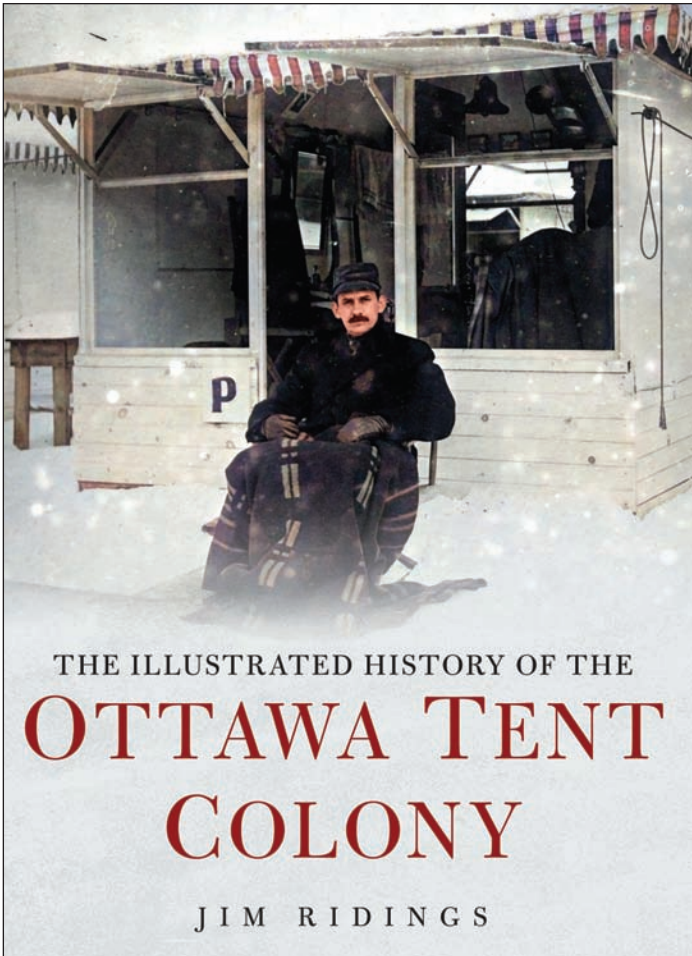
There was no cure for tuberculosis when the Ottawa Tent Colony opened in 1904 along the south shore of the Illinois River. Dr. James W. Pettit of Ottawa started his colony with the revolutionary idea of treating TB with fresh air and a nutritious diet.

Patients were kept outdoors in tents, in weather that could be 20 degrees below zero or a 100 degree heat wave. They also were fed a nutritious, yet incredibly fattening, diet. It seems odd, but it worked for patients in the early stage of the disease.

Tuberculosis attacks the lungs and wastes away the body. The fresh air and food worked to reverse those effects.

"The Illustrated History of the Ottawa Tent Colony" tells the story of the early days of the facility and how it grew into the LaSalle County Tuberculosis Sanitarium. Stories of TB treatment elsewhere is chronicled, as well as another TB tent colony at Buffalo Rock – and how Buffalo Rock almost was sold to a sand company to be leveled.

Tuberculosis has been the number one killer in human history. Tuberculosis pandemics from the 1600s to the 1800s wiped out half the population of Europe several times.



In just the last 200 years, The Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization have estimated that TB killed one billion people worldwide. The CDC and WHO said

that by the dawn of the nineteenth century, TB had killed one in seven of all the people who ever lived. Even today, TB kills 1.6 million people worldwide every year.

DTHS Class of 1975 Reunion Set for August 13

Due to COVID-19, the Dwight Township High School Class of 1975 did not get to hold its 45th class reunion last year.

However, the reunion committee has decided to hold the event this year on Friday, August 13, at the Dwight Country Club.

Information and updates will be put on the DTHS Class of 1975 Facebook page and on Classmates.com. They are trying all avenues to reach out to notify all the classmates, as

they have few addresses.

Cocktails are at 6:00 p.m., followed by the class pictures at 6:30 p.m. and dinner at 7:00 p.m.

If you know someone from that class, reach out to them with the information. They can contact Carol Dippon at cdippon31@hotmail.com or 815-584-1383, or Marcia Drach at marciadrach@hotmail.com or 815-252-3086 for further information.

RSVPs are needed by Saturday, July 31.

WACKY WATER DAY

July 10 • 1-3 p.m.

Ages 2-12

FREE

Our maintenance guys will man the fire hose, lay out the slip-n-slide, and set-up the misting tent. We'll also have inflatable water fun, kiddie pools, and of course FREE SNO CONES!

Parents must attend and sign waiver!

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JULY 8TH

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FRIDAY
JULY 9TH

96.5 WOLF
JOE NICHOLS
TROY CARTWRIGHT
BREAKING STORM

SATURDAY
JULY 10TH

100.7 ROCK
BUCKCHERRY
ADELITAS WAY
BURDEN OF THE SKY
PARALANDRA

SUNDAY
JULY 11TH

96.5 WOLF
COLT FORD
CRAIG GERDES
JOE STAMM BAND
FIREWORKS

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OBITUARY

James Richard Muir

James Richard Muir, 89, of Odell passed away June 30, 2021 at 1:16 p.m. at his residence in Odell.

His service will be Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the Duffy - Baier - Snedecor Funeral Home with Pastor Janeen Tronc officiating.

Burial will follow in Memorial Park Cemetery, Pontiac, with full military rites.

Visitation was Tuesday, July 6, 2021 from 4:00 - 7:00 p.m. at the Duffy - Baier - Snedecor Funeral Home in Pontiac.

Duffy - Baier - Snedecor Funeral Home, Pontiac, is in charge of arrangements.

James was born August 27, 1931 in Pontiac to Fred and Margaret (Semple) Muir. He married Carol Ann Pearson on July 24, 1953 in Odell, IL. She passed away on September 17, 2011.

Surviving are his children: Jennifer L. Muir of Gastonia, NC and Jeff A. (Patti) Muir of Pontiac, IL; three grandchildren: Tony Muir of Gastonia, NC; Abby Muir of Bloomington; and Olivia Muir of Pontiac; and one sister, Mary



Margaret Furry of Tecumseh, MI.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife, Carol; one brother, Chuck F. Muir; and one sister, Katie W. Butterfield.

James graduated from Odell High School, class of 1949. He had farmed his entire

life in the Odell area. He was a member of the United Church of Odell, County Board Member for more than 36 years, Lions Club of Odell, and American Legion of Odell.

Jim was a friend to everyone he met and was always quick to lend a helping hand. He loved the family farm and loved spending time with his grandchildren. His infectious laughter will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

James had served in the United States Marines from 1952 to 1953 in Edington, NC, four months in Japan.

The family suggests memorials be made to United Church of Odell or Odell Public Library.

Online condolences may be made to the family at: duffyfuneralhome.com or visit us on Facebook.

Area COVID-19 Stats
as of July 5

Town	Tested	Cases
Dwight	13,575	603
Herscher	2,993	232
Gardner	2,666	218
Odell	2,841	175
Mazon	1,994	173
Braceville	1,986	154
Essex	1,255	142
S. Wilmington	1,040	95
Cullom	1,389	84
Reddick	1,076	67
Saunemin	1,348	66
Buckingham	805	60
Verona	850	57
Ransom	879	45
Cabery	746	40
Blackstone	387	37
Kempton	690	36
Emington	533	35
Kinsman	270	19
Campus	460	17
Union Hill	135	13

Numbers
as of
07/05/21

Statistics via:
dph.illinois.gov

County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	259,834	14,613	217
LaSalle	215,645	12,802	252
Grundy	70,347	5,995	78
Livingston	121,530	4,908	92
Iroquois	54,635	3,161	68
Ford	32,974	1,892	50

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 1,392,552; Deaths: 23,245; Probable Deaths: 2,451; Total Tests Performed: 25,868,855; Recovery Rate: N/A.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

We welcome your thoughts.

ASSUMED NAME
PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 15, 2021, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Livingston County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting business known as Therapeutic Touch Massage Therapy, located at 320 W. Madison St., Pontiac, IL 61764.

Dated this 15th day of June, 2021.

Kristy A. Masching
Livingston County Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

Dwight Township High School District #230 &
Dwight Common School District #232,
in the County of Livingston, State of Illinois.

Notice is hereby given by the Boards of Education of Dwight Township High School District #230 & Dwight Common School District #232, in the County of Livingston, State of Illinois, that public hearings will be held regarding tuition waiver application at 5:00 p.m. on the 3rd day of August, 2021, in the Dwight Township High School Café, located at 801 S. Franklin St., Dwight, Illinois 60420.

Signed: Dr. Richard Jancek, Superintendent

Braceville Man Loses Life
in Kayak Incident

Grundy County Coroner John Callahan has released the name of the 56-year old Braceville man that died in a kayak incident in Shadow Lakes on the afternoon of Saturday, July 3.

Richard R. Smith was pronounced dead at 3:52 p.m. in the Morris Hospital ER, where he was transported by Coal

City EMS.

Callahan states at this time it is unclear exactly what happened, as Mr. Smith was alone in the area at the time of the incident.

An autopsy was set to take place Sunday, July 4. The investigation is ongoing with Callahan's Office and the Illinois Conservation Police.

New Books, DVDs
at Odell Library

Adult Fiction

And Now You're Back by Jill Mansell; Arctic Storm Rising by Dale Brown; The Break-Up Book Club by Wendy Wax; The Bullet by Iris Johansen; Choose Me by Tess Gerritsen; Golden Girl by Elin Hilderbrand; A Good Kill by John McMahon; The Hive by Gregg Olsen; Holding On by Stacy Finz; The Hunting Wives by May Cobb; Jackpot by Stuart Woods; The Layover by Lacie Waldon; Legacy by Nora Roberts; The Librarian of Saint-Malo by Mario Escobar; Love for Beginners by Jill Shalvis; The Maidens by Alex Michaelides; Murder at Sunrise Lake by Christine Feehan; Night, Neon by Joyce Oates; Nine Lives by Danielle Steel; Notorious by Diana Palmer; Pack Up the Moon by Kristan Higgins; The Path to Sunshine Cove by RaeAnne Thayne; The Perfect Murder by Kat Martin; The President's Daughter by Bill Clinton; The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires by Grady Hendrix; The Stepsisters by Susan Mallery; The Summer of No Attachments by Lori Foster; The Summer Seekers by Sarah Morgan; Unfinished Business by J.A. Jance; The Warsaw Orphan by Kelly Rimmer; Widespread Panic by James Ellroy.

DVD

Minari; The Office, Seasons 1-9; Parks and Recreation, Seasons 1-7; Supernova.

Audiobooks

Legacy by Nora Roberts.

Young Adult

Daughter of Sparta by Claire M. Andrews; Spells

Trouble by P.C. Cast.

Adult Nonfiction

All Things Wise and Wonderful by James Herriot; The Appalachian Trail by Philip D'Anieri; The Biology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained by DK; The Comfort Book by Matt Haig; Jabberwocky by Dr. Steven Gardner; The Lost Boys of Montauk by Amanda M. Fairbanks; Mystical Stitches by Christi Johnson; Rock Me on the Water by Ronald Brownstein; This Is Your Mind on Plants by Michael Pollan; The Western Front by Nick Lloyd; Where Should We Camp Next? by Stephanie and Jeremy Puglisi.

Easy/Juvenile

American Anthem by Gene Scheer; Are You a Cheeseburger? by Monica Arnaldo; Brave as a Mouse by Nicolo Carozzi; Chicken Chickens by Valeri Gorbachev; Foodie Flamingo by Vanessa Howl; How to Be an Artist by S. Natalie Abadzis; If I Were a Tree by Andrea Zimmerman; The Islanders by Mary Alice Monroe; It's Raining Tacos by Parry Gripp; Just Be Jelly by Maddie Frost; Prairie Fire! by Brian "Fox" Ellis; Race Cars by Jenny Devenny, LCSW; Right This Very Minute by Lisl H. Detlefsen; Shaped by Her Hands by Anna Harper Freeman; The Shark Book by Steve Jenkins; Who Was Alexander Hamilton? by Pam Pollack; Who Was Davy Crockett? by Gail Herman; Who Was George Washington Carver? by Jim Gigliotti; The Worm Family Has Its Picture Taken by Jennifer Frank.



The Cubs, It's Over

I end most of my columns with "Go, Cubs", you know, to support the baseball team that currently plays on the North side of Chicago.

Well, as it turns out, they stink. About 2 weeks ago they threw a combined no-hitter against what many believe to be the best team in the National League, fighting for first place, and since then have fallen to .500 on the season and 8, EIGHT games back of first place. They were just in first place, and now they're 8 back.

Now, they had a nice run at the beginning and things *appeared* to be going well. The team had holes then, and they're just more apparent now. There are only two culprits for this and it's really mostly one. It starts with the owner, they've punted on offseason after offseason since the World Series in 2016, and it's been catching up to them more and more.

Then came this offseason and they really punted on it. They traded their best pitcher Yu Darvish, with basically no plan at all to try to fill his spot in the rotation, leaving their staff severely short-handed. They also did things like shave 3 million by letting Kyle Schwarber walk to sign someone who does the exact same things as him, Schwarber before straining his hamstring this weekend had 25 home runs and was on pace for 48 this season.

The only bright spot on this team has been the bullpen, which for most of the season has been the best in baseball, but (stop me if you've heard this before) has performed well in spite of being an area of focus by the front office. There were 0 expectations for the bullpen to perform like it has thus far.

All of these things are now colliding and it just shows that you can't do the one foot in, one foot out on competing, the people at the top knew this season was probably lost, even though there are still talented individuals all around on the roster, and they did nothing to try to enhance it, nothing.

What's happened lately is what probably should've been happening all season, they're losing. They're losing because they're not good enough. At this point the only 3 players I have somewhat of an emotional attachment to are Javy, Contreras and Rizzo, everyone else is expendable in my eyes.

Hit the reset button, this half-guided ship into no-man's-land is not the way.

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

Village of Braceville, Illinois Annual Audit Report
Available for Public Inspection

An audit of the funds of the Village of Braceville, Illinois for the year ending April 30, 2021 has been completed by the audit firm of Mack & Associates, P.C., certified public accountants. A copy of the audit report has been filed with the Grundy County Clerk and is available for public inspection between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at the Braceville Village Office, located at 300 S. Mitchell Street, Braceville, Illinois 60407.

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LEGAL NOTICE

MICHELLE RAE HENDERSHOTT,
Petitioner, v.
JIMMY WAYNE CLARK,
Respondent.

CASE NO. 2021 OP 000066

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

YOU, JIMMY WAYNE CLARK, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that this case has been commenced and is pending against you, asking for a Plenary Order of Protection and other relief.

UNLESS YOU FILE YOUR ANSWER or otherwise file your appearance in this case in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Livingston County Law and Justice Center, Pontiac, Illinois, on or before August 10, 2021 at 1:30 PM, A JUDGMENT OF DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THIS CASE.

Livingston County Clerk of the Circuit Court

/s/ Jillian C. Hanna
Prairie State Legal Services, Inc. ARDC No. 6332770
201 W. Olive St.
Bloomington, IL 61701
Phone: (309) 827-5021

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School Makes Temporary Special Education
Records Available

As of July 7, 2021 special education temporary student records of former Allen-Otter Creek District 65 special education students, are now available to parents/guardians or to students over the age of 18. The special education temporary records, possibly valuable for Social Security purposes or welfare benefits, may include psychological evaluations, disciplinary information, staffing reports, family background information, intelligence test scores, aptitude test scores, teacher evaluations and other information of clear relevance to the student, all subject to regulations of the Illinois State Board of Education.

The files will not include academic transcripts, attendance records or other records contained in the student permanent record.

Parents/guardians or students aged 18 and over desiring to secure these files or objecting to the destruction of a student record, may phone Ms. Lindsey Paul at 815-586-4611 to arrange an appointment to obtain the record. If the student is 18 years of age or older, the signature of the student is required before student record information is released. The Superintendent may be contacted for additional information regarding special education files. Unclaimed special education temporary records will be destroyed 60 days from the date of this notice.



DILLON SARFF, DTHS JUNIOR WRESTLER, took the podium in the IWCOA State Championship in Springfield, after earning a fourth place finish. IHSA cancelled wrestling State Finals for the 2021 season. However, wrestlers were able to compete for the IWCOA State Championship. Congratulations, Dillon!

Sarff Places 4th in IWCOA State Championship

Although the IHSA cancelled its wrestling State Finals for the 2021 season, high school wrestlers across the state were able to compete for the IWCOA State Championship. This year, the Dwight Trojan wrestling program was represented by junior Dillon Sarff, who was wrestling for the 132-pound IWCOA State Championship in Springfield June 24.

Sarff secured two early victories before suffering a tough defeat in the semifinals. Dillon bounced back from his semifinal defeat to secure a third win, which placed him in the third place match.

Dillon finished the tournament with a 3-2 record, earning a fourth place medal and a trip

to the Championship podium. This was the third consecutive year that a Dwight Trojan wrestler has placed at a state wrestling final.

Recap of State Championship Results
1A, 132 lb., Dillon Sarff (25-4) | 4th Place
• Championship Rd. 1 – Sarff won by Inj. over Donovan Crumacker (Stillman V.)
• Quarterfinal – Sarff won by major decision 13-1 over Parker Hopkins (Warrensburg-Latham)
• Semifinal – Ethan Doty (W. Carroll) won by Fall over Sarff
• Consolation Semifinal – Sarff won by 8-2 decision over Bryce Fiegle (Harvard)
• 3rd Place Match – Maddux Blakely (Dakota) won by 8-3 decision over Sarff



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Mustang League Baseball
IPG Falls to Seneca, Gardner

On June 28, the Industrial Parts Group from Dwight lost to Seneca 2, 16-5. The leading hitter was Ameryn Wiles, singling and doubling. Dalton DeLong, Cooper Wright, and Caleb Peters each chipped in with a single. IPG suffered a 16-13 loss to Gardner Orange July 1.

2021 Livingston County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Outing Held June 18

The Dwight Country Club hosted the 2nd Annual Livingston County Farm Bureau Foundation Golf Outing, held on June 18. Although it was threatening to rain early in the morning, it turned out to be a beautiful day to be on the golf course. Twenty teams competed in the four-person scramble with the winning team scoring a 63. First place team members included Jim Wahls, Jon Moyemont, Pete Moyemont and Art Bunting. In the mixed foursome, they had the OSF Team of Brad, Sarah and John Solberg with Adam Dontz card a 67. Finally, in the Ladies Division, the Graymont Coop team of Brenda Collins, Lori Bohm, Abby Mays and Mary Kelly scored a 67.

Individual awards went to the following golfers: Longest Drive for (M) – Patrick Kelly, (W) – Sarah Solberg; Closest to the Pin (M) – Jim Wahls, (W) – Beckie Kelly; Longest Putt (M) – Art Bunting, (W) – Sarah Parker.

The outing had 43 local businesses that supported the outing as hole sponsors.

The Livingston County Farm Bureau Foundation has provided scholarships to graduating high school seniors and continuing education students who are majoring in an agricultural related field, since 1991.

For more information or to make a donation to the Livingston County Farm Bureau Foundation, call the Livingston County Farm Bureau at 815-842-1103.

Summer Reading Program Nears the End at LTLD

Limestone Township Library District (LTLD) has been busy with its Summer Reading Program – *Reading Colors Your World!* It might be the final week, but they are going out with a bang. They have different programs planned on the grounds of the library or on Facebook and YouTube. With every program that you attend – in person or virtual – you can earn raffle tickets for the basket prizes on display at the library. Make sure to sign up for every program you want to attend in order to get your raffle tickets.

They have Storytime every Tuesday and Friday at 10:15 a.m., with Ms. Holly on Tuesdays – who will be outdoors on clear days, and Ms. Karyn on Fridays – who will be on Facebook.

On Wednesday, July 7, at 10:15 a.m., go for Easy Hatha Yoga Class with Anna on the grounds of the library and enjoy a morning of stretching and relaxing.

Later that evening, join them for Tie Dye Tee-Shirts Wednesday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m. The whole family can join in to create individual tee shirts.

On Facebook Wednesday, July 7, at 7:00 p.m., Ms. Faith and Ms. Holly perform another Science Demonstration using items you can find around your home.

Thursday, July 8, features Science with Brian at 6:30 p.m. Mr. Brian is back with colorful science demonstrations to show the power of science.

Holly Froning, of the University of Illinois Extension Office, will present Succulent Basics on Friday, July 9, at 10:00 a.m. on the library grounds. Go and learn about this interesting group of plants.

Finally, remember to take in your reading logs and get your tickets for the raffle baskets. Mr. Austin plans to draw the winning tickets on Saturday, July 10, which is the last day of Summer Reading – *Reading Colors Your World!*

Remember to register for any program you want to attend. You can do that by stopping in at the library or giving them a quick phone call.

For more information on upcoming programs, visit limestonelibrary.org.

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.

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Dwight Village Clerk Jill Haacke Resigns

Fredco Management Plans for New Gas Facility

by Madelyn Fogarty
madelynfogarty@yahoo.com

Dwight will be seeking a new village clerk following the resignation of Jill Haacke effective June 30. The announcement was made at the June 28 session of the Board of Trustees.

Jill Haacke has served as village clerk since March 1, 2017 when she was appointed to fill an opening that occurred with the resignation of long time Village Clerk Patricia Drechsel. Haacke then ran unopposed to secure the seat in the April 2017 Consolidated Election and again in 2021.

Candidates for Village Clerk of Dwight are being sought. The position will be advertised. Following interviews, the successful applicant will be appointed to fill the position until the next election in 2023. Village Administrator Kevin McNamara has assumed the village clerk's duties until the appointment is made.

Ms. Haacke has accepted a career opportunity which will relocate her out of state.

"It has been a pleasure to be able to serve as the Clerk for my hometown," stated Haacke in her resignation letter. "I am so proud to have worked with the board members, mayors and staff members to make this community the best it can be for all its residents. I urge the board members to keep thinking about the enrichment of the Village for everyone now and in the future. This town has helped me to become the person I am today, and I am forever grateful."

Mayor Paul Johnson and Village Attorney Irv Masching thanked Haacke for her service to the community.

"She has done a tremendous job," said Masching.

In other business, a Plan Commission recommendation

July 12 Dwight Village Board Session Cancelled

to accept the application for a Special Use, and the incentives for the business, as submitted by Fredco Management, LLC was approved. David Schwalb, CEO and President of Fredco Management was present to provide information on proposed plans for the property.

As the co-founder of Fred's Fuel and Food truck stop in Gilman IL on I-57, Schwalb has always wanted a facility on I-55. The plan is to use the property at 10 E. Northbrook Drive (current BP gas facility) and Parcel 2, consisting of Lots 1 – 7 in Dwight's Circle Subdivision, as a site for a "destination people want to stop at" using a boutique approach to truck stops and gas stations providing friendly customer service, clean facilities and quality merchandise.

By using the existing facility and the adjacent land behind, a dedicated diesel canopy would be possible behind the current structure. The existing building would be gutted and remodeled. The location allows enough land available for sufficient truck parking, fast food, truck repairs, or other possible services.

The purchase is currently under contract and is in the due diligence phase thru July, with another 30 days anticipated before closing on the property and moving forward with the project.

"We want it to be an impressive location that people will want to stop at when on vacation or just driving around town," said David Schwalb.

In other matters, 2021 MFT street maintenance crack and joint sealing proposals were reviewed. SKC Construction, Inc of West Dundee IL was the

winning bidder at \$22,230.00.

The DEA will hold its annual Let's Buzz the Gut Car Show on July 17 in Dwight's downtown area. The board approved the closure of East Main Street from 3 p.m. – 10 p.m. on July 17 for the event. Trustee Randy Irvin abstained.

In reports to the board, Cory Scoles, Director of Public Works, reported that things held steady in the village during recent rains. He reminded residents to help keep storm drains clear by not mowing grass into village streets.

EMS Director Jenny Allsworth provided updates on ambulance repairs and also noted that new EMT Basic Brandon Sheldon started July 1 which has the department fully staffed.

Deb Karch, representing Dwight Economic Alliance, reported that the Dwight Farmers Markets have resumed on Saturday morning and vendors are happy with the return to the downtown Dwight location. She also noted the addition of a new restaurant, El Cancun, and the opening of an antique store in the Old Village Hall building. The DEA meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 a.m. and "all are welcome and encouraged" to attend.

Mrs. Karch also reported from Representative Tom Benet's office that House Bill 1932, affecting municipalities, has been signed into law. The Bill allows local units of government to waive any fees or costs associated with a permit, inspection, or certification of occupancy required by law for

construction work needed as a result of a disaster, emergency, weather event, or for any reason deemed warranted in the interests of public safety, welfare, and recovery of the community by the governing body of the county, township, or municipality.

Karch also reported that Livingston County Work Force will be hosting a job fair on July 9 in Pontiac

In other discussions, Trustee Randy Irvin asked for updates on the downtown street lights. It was noted that less expensive light pole options are being investigated. The needed repair of Renfrew Park roads was discussed and it was noted that nothing is currently budgeted for these repairs. However, the village will look at putting the repairs in next year's budget. Mayor Paul Johnson stated that the park should be a high priority.

The board also approved:

- payment of bills totaling \$81,523.60.

The board members entered an Executive Session to discuss items related to personnel and collective bargaining.

Following the Executive session, the board approved cancelling the July 12 Dwight Village Board of Trustees meeting due to vacation conflicts causing a lack of quorum.

Present June 28 were Mayor Paul Johnson and Trustees Randy Irvin, Marla Kinkade, Pete Meister, Chuck Butterbordt, Jenny Johnson and Justin Eggenberger.

The next meeting of the Dwight Village Board of Trustees will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, July 26, in the Public Services Complex.



TOP READERS for the 2021 Summer Reading Program at Prairie Creek Public Library, Dwight, are Leo – top summer reader for the toddler group; above, Sophie – top summer reader in the kindergarten and 1st grade group; Bella – top summer reader for the 2nd and 3rd grade group; pictured top right Mackenzie – top summer reader in the 4th and 5th grade group; and Emmalynn, at right – top summer reader in the teen group. These are the kids who read the most books in their age group during the summer reading program.




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Nate Bissey

Mark Your Calendars for Some Sweet Treats from Prairie Creek Library

Prairie Creek Public Library, Dwight, will celebrate **National Freezer Pop Day on Thursday, July 8.** Any child or teen who goes to the library that day and checks out a book will receive a free freezer pop.


In observance of **National Milk Chocolate Day on Wednesday, July 28,** the li-

brary will give out a free chocolatey treat to any adult who checks out a book on that date.

Both events will only take place while supplies last.

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- **1934:** Four Nights of Rioting Against Abolitionists begin in New York City.
- **1954:** Elvis Presley Makes His Radio Debut When His Recording of "That's All Right" Airs on WHBQ Memphis.
- **2019:** The United States Women's Nat'l Soccer Team Wins the World Cup in Lyon, France.

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**Gas Prices For
This Week**
Since June 28, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has increased by four cents to \$3.13. In its latest weekly report, new data from the Energy Information Administration showed that gas demand decreased slightly last week from 9.44 million b/d to 9.17 million b/d, while total domestic gas stocks increased by 1.6 million bbl to 241.6 million bbl.

City/Village	July 5	June 28
Dwight	\$3.17	\$3.16
Kankakee	\$3.30	\$3.22
Streator	\$3.25	\$2.98
Pontiac	\$3.04	\$3.10
Gardner	\$3.25	\$3.27
Braceville	\$3.34	\$3.34
Morris	\$3.24	\$3.22
Herscher	\$3.26	\$3.26
Chicago	\$3.99	\$3.51
Illinois	\$3.36	\$3.32
U.S.	\$3.13	\$3.09

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

**Gasoline price data collected by
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- '19 F150 Crew XLT, 25K, 4WD, Special Ed.....\$43,900
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- '18 F150 S/C XLT, 47K, 4WD, 8' Bed, HD Susp..\$39,900
- '18 F150 Crew King Ranch, 29K, 4WD.....\$58,900
- '18 F150 Crew XLT, 23K, 4WD.....\$44,900
- '18 F150 Crew XLT, 37K, 4WD.....\$41,900
- '18 F250 Crew XL, 27K, 4WD, Diesel, Flatbed.....\$53,900
- '17 F150 S/C XLT, 60K, 4WD, 8' Bed.....\$34,900
- '16 F150 S/C XLT, 65K, 4WD, 8' Bed, HD Susp.....\$33,900
- '16 F150 S/C XL, 41K, 4WD.....\$32,900
- '15 F250 Crew Platinum, 139K, 4WD.....\$44,900
- '05 F250 Crew XLT, 188K, 4WD, V10.....\$7,900
- '99 F150 Reg Cab, 104K, 4WD.....\$1,900

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- '19 Escape Titanium, 8K, 4WD.....\$30,900
- '18 Escape Titanium, 30K, 4WD.....\$23,900
- '18 Edge SEL, 14K, AWD.....\$28,900
- '17 T150 Cargo XL, 112K.....\$22,900
- '15 Escape SE, 100K, 4WD.....\$12,900
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25-2w

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27-3w

Administrative Assistant
– Grundy County History Museum. Thursdays and Fridays; 10am-3pm. Pay is \$12 an hour. Computer and Organization skills needed. For details call 815-942-4880 or e-mail grundyhistory@att.net

27-2w

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Odell Grade School is looking for a kitchen aide. Person will assist with food prep work and lunch. Must be able to lift boxes and food bins up to 25 lbs., continuous standing, walking, cleaning and preparing meals. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on school days that students are present. Must have a valid Illinois Food Service Certification or willingness to obtain. Apply to: Mark Hettmansberger, Superintendent, Odell Grade School, 203 N. East St., Odell, IL 60460.

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4. Adhere to all Board, District, and IESA policies and procedures.
5. Other duties as assigned that relate to the position of a head coach.

Deadline for the application: until filled.

Those interested must apply by e-mailing:
Mr. Jeremy Jenkins, Athletic Director,
jenkinsj@dwight.k12.il.us

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Selected full time candidate must be able to work 40-plus hours a week, be on call as required. Selected part time candidate must be able to have flexible scheduling.

Resumes must be received by July 15, 2021, to be considered for employment. Resumes may be hand delivered to 520 Depot St., Mazon, IL or mailed to P.O. Box 1, Mazon, IL 60444 or emailed to village.clerk@villageofmazon.org

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Dwight Peace Meals

Home delivery Monday - Friday 60 and up homebound – Must make reservations –

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Thurs., July 8: BBQ meatballs, scalloped potatoes, spinach, Texas toast, chunky applesauce.

Fri., July 9: Baked chicken, vegetable rice pilaf, Harvard beets, whole grain wheat, tropical fruit.

Mon., July 12: Beef and noodles, mashed potatoes, seasoned greens,

whole grain wheat, fruit or juice.

Tues., July 13: Brat, baked corn, seasoned steamed cabbage, bun, pears.

Wed., July 14: Chicken salad, cheesy broccoli soup, summer salad, assorted crackers, watermelon.

Thurs., July 15: Meatloaf, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, Lyonnaise carrots, whole grain wheat, pineapple cheese salad.

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State Rep. Tom Bennett, 106th District

Illinois’ Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund Faces Deficit

Illinois’ Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund faces multi-billion dollar deficit. Unemployment insurance benefits in Illinois are funded through the Illinois Unemployment Insurance (UI) Trust Fund, a rainy-day fund built up through taxes paid by employers. With unemployment spiking at high double-digits during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Illinois UI Trust Fund was depleted, and was forced to borrow money from the U.S. Department of Labor in order to pay out benefits already promised to unemployed workers. As a result, the Illinois UI Trust Fund is currently approximately \$5.2 billion in the red with projections that the total debt may rise up to \$8 billion. Starting after Labor Day of this year, we will begin to owe interest to Washington, DC on these billions of dollars in UI debt.

Knowing the interest is coming due, my House Republican colleagues and I demanded in May that Illinois allocate a significant portion of its one-time American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) federal aid money to partially pay down this massive debt. However, the Pritzker Administration and Democrat majorities in the General Assembly only allocated a crumb (\$100 million)

of ARPA money to chip away at this massive new UI debt, forcing employers and workers to pay the remainder of the debt in other ways. I will keep you posted.

600 Pieces of Legislation. Far away from the headlines, members of both parties in the Illinois House and Senate worked on many pieces of legislation in the first half of 2021. Clerks have counted more than 660 bills passed by majorities in both houses.

Although some of the bills enacted by the General Assembly have already been signed into law – in particular three highly partisan measures to enact a State budget, redraw the maps of the Illinois General Assembly, and redraw the maps of the Illinois Supreme Court and its judicial districts – these partisan bills have already run into trouble.

The budget has already had to be re-enacted after the first version was passed with numerous drafting errors, the General Assembly map faces litigation, and the Supreme Court has already placed a stay on the judicial map.

At the same time, most of the day-to-day work of legislators in the first half of this year was not at all partisan and is slowly working its way through the process.

Slight upgrade to Illinois’ credit outlook. The three major New York-based bond-rating agencies agree that the State of Illinois has the lowest credit rating among the 50 states (BBB-, one step above junk bond status), however, Fitch Ratings has this past week revised Illinois’ debt outlook from “negative” to “positive.” The move reaffirmed our very poor bond rating, and for now, ensured that Illinois taxpayers will continue to be required to pay much higher interest rates than those charged to AAA-rated states, such as our neighbor Indiana. But it also offered hope that a move to fiscal prudence could pull Illinois up from the brink of junk bond territory. We desperately need a General Assembly and a Governor committed to spending taxpayer money prudently and responsibly.

What we owe. As of July 1, Illinois’ current backlog of unpaid bills is \$2.6 billion. The backlog includes General Funds liabilities currently at the Illinois Office of Comptroller and the estimated \$418 million reported by state agencies. It does not include \$1.928 billion in short-term borrowing and emergency borrowing that is required to be repaid.

High School Students Work with Sen. Barickman and Rep. Bennett to Create Conservation Task Force

A group of Pontiac high school students have been working with their local lawmakers to protect the state’s natural resources.

“These students are making a difference by working to pass new laws and create the changes they want to see,” said State Senator Jason Barickman (R-Bloomington). “It’s great to have a part in seeing their ideas through to fruition.”

House Bill 3928 creates the Thirty-by-Thirty Conservation Task Force, a panel made up of members of various state agencies and bodies, as well as stakeholders from multiple backgrounds. The task force would hold hearings with the goal of developing plans for how Illinois could protect 30% of its land and water resources by 2030.

The legislation, filed by State Representative Tom Bennett (R-Gibson City) in the House and sponsored by Barickman in the Senate, was the initiative of students at Pontiac Township High School and their teacher, Paul Ritter.

The students took their idea to the lawmakers, and have since worked to help them advance the plan, including testifying via Zoom in a legislative committee.

“This initiative has made us realize how much opportunity exists for change and the need to include younger generations. We have learned that by working together with legislators, government officials, farmers, environmentalists, and everyone in between, we can make a positive change in a major way. We are proud and grateful to be

a part of this legislation and we look forward to working with everyone on the committee,” said PTHS students Keagan Hall and Emilie Collins.

“I can’t say thank you enough to Senator Barickman and Representative Bennett for being amazing champions of our students and the state of Illinois,” said Paul Ritter. “Students are passionate about our world and they want to be heard. It is a great day when students can work hand in hand with lawmakers, and stakeholders to make change in Illinois and beyond.

The legislation passed both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly and currently awaits the signature of the Governor.

Summer Food Safety Tips *provided by ICPHD*

Food is an important part of many summer backyard activities. Don’t let food-related illness ruin your fun.

- Food safety boils down to five basic rules:
1. Keep hot food hot and cold food cold.
 2. Keep everything in the cooking area clean.
 3. Wash hands frequently.
 4. Keep grills and utensils clean.
 5. Properly handle leftovers.

Refrigerate cooked foods that are not served immediately. If food is left unrefrigerated longer than two hours, the chance of bacterial growth increases. Check your refrigerator to make sure it is at 41°F or less.

Prevent Bacteria from Getting Into Food

Hands should always be thoroughly washed with soap and warm water before handling food and after touching raw food. Towels and wash cloths should be kept clean. Grill preparation areas and utensils should be washed with hot, soapy water between each step in food preparation.

Avoid cross contamination by washing or using separate plates when transferring uncooked food onto the grill and from the grill to

be served.

Proper Thawing and Cooking

Many warm-blooded animals, turkeys and other poultry, often harbor Salmonella and other organisms that can cause food-related illness. Purchased and packaged meats, too, can be contaminated with these organisms. Proper thawing and cooking are important to avoid these illnesses.

To avoid contamination, store all raw meat products on the bottom shelf or separate from other food products in your refrigerator, especially during the thawing process. This will help keep raw meat juices from contaminating other foods. Thaw food in a refrigerator where the temperature is no higher than 41°F. Cook fish, meat, and poultry, completely without interrupting the cooking process; an interruption could allow bacteria to grow. Be sure that fish, hot dogs, and steaks are cooked to 145°F, pork, brats, and hamburger reaches the temperature of at least 155°F, and poultry reaches the temperature of 165°F or above. To check the temperature, use a meat thermometer. Insert the thermometer into the thickest part of the meat, avoiding fat and bone. For poultry, insert it into the thick part of the

thigh next to the body. Wash and rinse the thermometer between uses to prevent possible contamination.

Leftovers

The safe storage of leftovers is just as important as proper cooking. After the meal, immediately refrigerate leftovers in small shallow containers. Do not allow foods to sit several hours, as this will provide time for the growth of disease-causing bacteria. Do not cool leftovers on the kitchen counter. Divide them into smaller portions so they will cool quicker, putting them in the refrigerator as soon as possible. Serve leftovers either very cold (directly from the refrigerator) or very hot (heated to 165°F or higher).

Young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and those who are ill or whose immune systems are compromised, should not eat raw or undercooked animal products unless they have consulted their physician.

For more information regarding food safety, contact the Iroquois County Public Health Department at 815-432-2483 or visit their website: co.iroquois.il.us/health-department/.

The Paper

Deadline is Friday at noon.

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Tractors: 1978 John Deere 4240, C.A.H., Quad Range Trans., Rear Wts., R-38 Rear Tires & Hub Mnt. Duals w/ Westendorf TA-29 Loader & 7ft. Bucket, 3,575 Hrs., Ser. No.: 3547; 1980 John Deere 4240, C.A.H., Quad Range Trans., Front & Rear Wts., Front Fenders, 18.4-38 Tires, 5,465 Hrs., Ser. No.: 020070; 1973 John Deere 4230, C.A.H., Quad Range Trans., Front & Rear Wts., Front Fenders, 18.4-34 Tires, 7,760 Hrs., Ser. No.: 009920; 1967 John Deere 3020 Diesel, Wide Front, R.O.P.S. Canopy, Synchro-Range trans., Front Wts., 16.9-34 Tires, 8,313 Hrs., Ser. No.: 105382; 1962 Oliver 1800, (Checker Board, A-Series), Diesel, W.F., Hydra Power Drive, 3pt., P.T.O., 18.4R-34 Tires, Rear Wts., Ser. No.: 120887; Oliver 77 w/ Farmland Trip Bucket Loader, P.T.O., Ser. No.: 57467-702; 1948 Case "LA", New Rear Tires, Ser. No.: 522226; 1951 John Deere "B", N.F., Round Fenders, 540 P.T.O., 11-38 Tires, Ser. No.: 285531; 1948 I.H. Farmall "M", w/ Stan Hoist Trip Bucket Loader, M&W Hand Clutch, Ser. No.: 170173; I.H. Farmall "B" Culti-Vision, w/ Woods 5ft. Belly Mower; Assorted Tractor Weights; **Combine & Heads:** 1990 Case-IH 1680, Rock Trap, Chaff Spreader, (No-Chopper), Hyd. Fore & Aft, Mauer Bin Extension, 30.5L32 Drive Tires, Showing 2,367 Engine Hrs., Ser. No.: 047281; 1990 Case-IH 1020 Grain Platform, 25ft. Hyd. Fore & Aft, 3" Knife, Ser. No.: 063347; I.H. 963 Corn Head, (6-30"); Unverferth HT-30 Head Transport, 30ft.; P.M.C. 20ft. Head Transport; **Hay Equipment:** 2007 New Holland 575 Square Baler, Twine; Kuhn's Model AE15, Hay Accumulator 15 Bale; 2015 New Holland HT230 Disc-Bine, 11ft. Swath; New Holland 1465 Mower/Conditioner, 9ft. Swath, Hyd. Swing Tongue; Tonutti "Dominant V12" 12 Wheel Hay Rake, Hyd. Fold, Center Kicker Wheels; Tonutti GT540 Hay Tedder, 4 Basket, Ser. No.: 668959; Kuhn's KN615 Bale Grapple w/ Stringer, 15 Bale; Kuhn's 615 Bale Grapple, 15 Bale; Hoelscher 15 Bale Grapple; **13 Hayracks:** 5- On Killbros. Hwy. Dty. Gears (8'W x 19', 20', 21'); 2-Hay Elevators w/ Elect. Motors, (16ft. & 24ft.); Bale Spear For Loader, (3 Spike); 30- Rolls of Square Bale Twine, 9,000ft. Each, (Blue); **Gradall Tele-Handler & Scissor Lift:** 2001 Gradall G6-42P Tele-Handler, 4x4, 3,947 Hrs., (Sells With Fork Attachment), Ser. No.: 0189147; **Tele-Handler Accessories:** (To Sell Separately), Haugen Enclosed Platform (4-1/2'W x 16L); Haugen 12ft. Boom; 8ft. Bucket, (Hvy. Dty.); Strato-Lift KRX-20 Elect./Hyd. Scissor Lift, 10ft. Long Platform; **Skid Steer Loaders:** New Holland L785 Skid Loader, Diesel, 6ft. Bucket, Ser. No.: 832331; Case 1816 Skid Loader, 42" Bucket, Ser. No.: 9823683; Pallet Fork Attachment For Skid Loaders; Skidhoe Hyd. Backhoe For Skid Loaders; **Trailers:** 2000 Mustang Deck-Over Flatbed, (8'W x 20'L, Flat w/ 5' Beaver Tail), Tandem Axle w/ Duals, Flip Up Ramps, Pintle Ring Hitch; 1995 Jamar 16ft. Open Car Hauler; 1980 WW, 6'W x 16'L Livestock Trailer, Set Up For On Site Tire Repair w/ Lg. Air Compressor (16 H.P., Gas Power) 4,000 Watt Gas Generator & Air Hose Reel; Skid Loader Trailer, 10ft., Tandem Axle, Homemade; Homemade Implement Trailer (8'W x 30'L), Tilt Bed; Donahue Implement Trailer, (8'W x 28'L); **Trucks & Mini-Van:** **Trucks:** 1986 GMC 7000, V-8 Engine, 5x2 Trans., 12ft. Steel Flatbed, Auto-Crane Boom, 150,000 Miles; 1987 Chev. 60, Diesel, 8.2L, Detroit, 5x2 Trans., Knapheide 11ft. Steel Flatbed, 104,000 Miles; 1979 Chev. C-60 Wrecker, 350 Engine, 4x2 Trans., Detroit Winch, Rear Grader Blade, 99,500 Miles; 1990 Chev. 2500 Silverado, V-8 Engine, Auto. Trans., 4x4, Std. Cab, 8ft. Bed, Full Running Boards, Fifth Wheel Stub, 185,000 Miles; 1985 Chev. Scottsdale 20,350 Engine, Auto Trans., 4x4 w/ Boss 9ft. Snow Plow, Goose Neck Ball, 144,000 Miles, (Red); **Mini-Van:** 2003 Chrysler Town & Country Limited, 3.8L V-6, Leather Interior, 179,000 Miles, (Maroon); **Farm Equipment:** Case-I.H. 4800 Field Cultivator, 26ft.; I.H. 480 Tandem Disk, 21ft.; Brillion Cult-Mulcher, 15ft.; Woods M-84 Rotary Mower, 3pt., 7ft.; I.H. 1300 Sickle Mower, Balanced Head, 3pt., 9ft. Bar; J.D./Van Brunt Grain Drill, 12ft. w/ Small Seed; **Grain Wagons:** 2- D.M.I. 300bu. Center Dump Wagons; Unverferth Center Dump Wagon; Kilbros. 350 Side Unload Wagon; Ficklin 231 Side Unload Wagon; Parker 250bu. Side Unload Wagon; Heider Wooden Barge Box on Case Gear, w/ Hoist; **J.D. Gator -- 4 Wheelers -- Golf Cart -- Snowmobiles; Landscape & Lawn Equipment; Horse Equipment; Shop Equipment & Tools; Antiques.**

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Watch for full ad in next week's edition of The Paper

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ANOTHER BANG-UP JOB, DWIGHT! Thank you to all who are involved in bringing the lights to the night!



Straight to the Consumer

Local Farmers Change Their Business Strategy

(continued from page 1)

“I love anything that has to do with agriculture including learning new ideas and new technology that goes along with the field. I just like being on the farm. This was something I wanted to do and my family has been very supportive.”

The couple have taken their passions and put them together as Marie grew up raising animals on her father Dave Mantia’s farm and Matt has his own lawn care and landscaping business.

“We sell beef, pork, chicken and fresh eggs. We do have some produce. We don’t have much to bring to farmer’s markets at the moment, but we hope to do more for next year,” Marie Becker said. “We have different cuts of meat as far as

ribeye and T-bone steaks. We have the roasts like sirloin tip roast and chuck roast. We sell full chickens for grilling or roasting. We have bacon and it’s all cut up.

“We have a list of all of our cuts and the prices per pound on our Facebook page.”

In August, Winding Creek will offer different cuts of chicken, and turkey will be a selection come November.

On the nursery side, mums and pumpkins will be available this fall and the plans are to have annuals, perennials, bushes and shrubs next spring after the construction of a greenhouse is finished.

The Beckers started going to markets and selling directly to consumers in the last year. One-on-one interaction between the seller and the buyer and the buyer and the product

has been fantastic for Winding Creek.

“I think it’s been worth it. We’ve had a lot of people comment and tell us how good the quality of the meat is,” Marie Becker said. “They know where it’s coming from and the way it was raised. We try to take preventative measures so we’re not using any kind of medication or anything for the animals.

“For example, for our chickens we use free choice garlic and put a little vinegar in their water to keep parasites away. We are taking those steps so you know the meat is free of anything harmful that can sometimes get into our foods.”

Brandon LaChance can be reached at (815) 876-7941, blachance20@gmail.com or on Twitter @LaChanceWriter.



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