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Volume 24 • Number 2 | *Proudly* serving the area since 1999 | Wednesday, January 12, 2022

Sweat Factory is open

by Brandon LaChance

In November, a sign on the door of the gym in Dwight read temporarily closed.

Members were shocked and wondered what was next for their fitness journey without a center in town to cut some calories and work up a sweat.

Stephan and Rodney Connor and Shayla and Harold Smith, all gym members who participated in Crossfit classes, immediately put their brains to work to figure out a way to help reopen the gym.

"This gym has changed my life for sure and I believe the same could be said for all four of us through the Crossfit programs that have been here," Rodney Connor said. "It's been really important to all of us. One day a lot of people came to the gym and the doors were locked.

"That scared us because we need a place to work out at in town. We immediately called the landlord of the building (Jeff Schade) and asked, 'What do we need to do to get this place opened?' We all have our own jobs, so this is a part-time job for all of us. I don't think any of us would have been willing to take on the gym by ourselves. We split it and decided to share the work, the risk, and the income of owning a gym in a small town."

The ownership group renamed the gym located at 108 Watters Dr. to the Sweat Factory.

The Sweat Factory opened membership signup on Dec. 8 and opened the doors Dec. 10. Jan. 15 will be the grand opening as a ribbon cutting will be held at 8:45 a.m. and an open house will be 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

"I'm pretty excited. It's kind of surreal, but we're getting a lot of great feedback," said Stephan Connor, who is a painter who applies his craft to signs, murals, and basically any canvas looking for a splash of color.

"I never thought I'd be involved in something like this until a month and two weeks ago. I was taking classes at the gym and Shayla was the instructor. We watched the gym deteriorate week after week. We kind of talked after class a few days. Then we talked to Rodney and then we met with the old gym owner (Jennifer Woodburn) to see if it was something we would even be interested in and then it went from there.

"We feel pretty strong with the support we have had with the village. When they found out we were taking the gym over, lots of people reached out. Everybody in town knows all of us. They've known us for a long, long time.

"I didn't expect anything like that. I went to the grocery store and people told me thank you for opening the gym. A lot of people are excited that it's

(continued to page 9)

Dwight Village Board Special Meeting
EMS Director Hired, Another Paramedic Fired

by Mark Boma

The Dwight Village Board convened in a special meeting on Tuesday January 4 at 4:30 p.m. to address employment issues in the EMS Program.

Prior to any official business, Patricia Groll addressed the Board providing her feedback and input on the recent firing of paramedic Samantha Marshall. She expressed her opinion that there have been infractions by other village employees in the past that she would consider more serious, and no similar disciplinary termination had taken place. The Board thanked her for comments.

Michael Callahan

In New Business, the Board proceeded to approve the hiring of two new employees. Michael Callahan,who was present at the meeting, was hired as EMS Director, and Joseph Beagle was employed as part time EMS B. Following the hiring action, the Board voted to move into executive session.

After more than an hour of deliberation, the Board returned to regular session and in further personnel matters voted 4 - 0 to terminate paramedic Rachel Keller.

Along with Mayor Paul Johnson and Village Administrator Kevin McNamara, trustees in attendance were Randy Irvin, Marla Kinkade, Pete Meister, and Justin Eggenberger. Absent were Chuck Butterbrodt and Jenny Johnson.

What an Experience...
Timestamping Leone's Rose Bowl Adventure

by Brandon LaChance

In 2020, Gardner-South Wilmington band director Michael Leone was chosen as one of 250 band directors by the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation to take part in a float in the Rose Parade.

After Covid-19 hit, the 2021 parade was canceled. Leone wasn't able to receive the full benefits of being one of the great band directors spread across the country.

This New Year's weekend was a different story as Leone was able to play his trumpet down Colorado Boulevard in Pasadena, Calif. to help honor music education and usher in the Rose Bowl Game between the Ohio State University and the University of Utah played on Jan. 1.

"We were supposed to be walking behind the float as they were saluting all the band directors. Then a note was sent out asking about instruments. I said I was a trumpet player. They sent, 'We talked to the Rose Parade and we're going to play.' Then they formed us into a group."

Although the parade and the Rose Bowl, which is a College Football Playoff Semifinal, were on Saturday, Leone's excursion was Wednesday-Sunday.

Here is a timestamp (in Central Time Zone) of the GSW band director's Rose Parade journey.

6 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29

"I arrived at LAX (Los Angeles International Airport) and by the time I got to my hotel, it was 4 p.m. on the west coast. I met up with all of the band directors and we played until 10 p.m."

"Obviously, I'm not a rock star, but it was the rock star experience. Even when we were at rehearsals, they were being filmed. It was raining on Wednesday when I got there. We rehearsed for about four hours inside. That's when I knew this was real."

6 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 30

"We had a rehearsal and a performance at Band Fest, in which all the Rose Parade bands get an opportunity to perform beforehand. We practiced how we were getting on the field, running through the song. When we went outside, the stands were full of people that were there just to watch us rehearse.

GARDNER-SOUTH WILMINGTON HIGH SCHOOL Band Director Michael Leone played the trumpet in Jan. 1's Rose Parade in Pasadena, California. Leone was selected by the Michael D. Sewell Memorial Foundation as one of approximately 250 band directors from around the country to walk along Colorado Boulevard sharing the gift of music.

"Everywhere we went it was police escort. There was a turn the same as there is for one of the Rose Parade TV zones, we were practicing, and there were people just cheering us on. It was insane. I'd never seen so many people go just to watch you practice. It was unbelievable."

Thursday Afternoon

"When we played at Band Fest, they started listing off names and all of the awards and accomplishments of the band directors. They would say a different award and people would raise their hands. They asked, 'How many people were Teachers of the Year in their state?' People raised their hands.

"Then they said, 'We have eight semifinalists for a Grammy Award for Music Educator of the Year.' I was one of them. I didn't make the finals, but I was a semifinalist."

"After we did Band Fest, we got back on the bus and went to the Rose Bowl. They were showing us how we were going to get introduced during halftime of the game.

Last Event of the Day

"After a long day, Thursday night we also had a banquet and they started handing out awards. Through the Fogelberg Foundation (Dan Fogelberg, from Pekin), I got an award for being a leader of the band. I also got a baton with a red han-

(continued page 11)

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• M A Y •

Wyllie Named Olney Head Coach

Olney Community College named Casey Wyllie, former Dwight Trojan, as their men's basketball team's head coach.

"Doing it at a place like Olney, I couldn't have asked for a better administration and it's a great town with great support," said Wyllie. "I'm really excited and thankful for the opportunity."

• J U N E •

St. John's Lutheran Church, Cullom, Celebrates 150th Anniversary

On June 12-13, St. John's Lutheran Church in Cullom celebrated its 150th Anniversary with music, food and fun for all, along with a special worship service and pork loin dinner.

Regional Champs!

The Dwight Lady Trojans' softball squad defeated rivals Gardner-South Wilmington, 11-1, on June 3 to capture the regional championship title.

Trojans Find New Home in Tri-County Conference, Vermilion Valley Conference

Following the disbanding of the Sangamon Valley Conference, Dwight athletics joined the Tri-County Conference – except for the Trojan football program, which became a member of the Vermilion Valley Conference.

Futures Celebrates 50 Years

Futures Unlimited held festivities June 16 in Pontiac to celebrate its 50th Anniversary, featuring food trucks and ice cream.

A Certificate of Recognition was presented to Executive Director Patty Haberkorn from Senator Jason Barickman's office.

Dwight Awarded ITEP Grant for Rt. 66 Walking/Bike Path

The Village of Dwight will be the recipient of a $735,000 Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program (ITEP) Grant, which will be used to create a bike and walking path by restoring the out-of-service southbound lane of Rt. 66 from Lions Lake to Morris Road, then continuing south along Morris Road and connecting with Renfrew Park.

Work on the project is not expected to begin until 2022.

Dollar General Now Open in Saunemin

Dollar General announced its store at 26867 E. 1800 North Road in Saunemin is now open, and plans to employ approximately six to 10 people, depending on the individual needs of the store.

(continued on page 2)

FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police

December 30: Jacob W. Smith, 31, Creve Coeur, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; James M. Andreasen, 21, Dwight, operate uninsured motor vehicle.

December 31: Rebecca M. Cortez, 33, Dwight, poss. cannabis/10-30 gram/1st; Olivia R. Cortez, 25, Dwight, poss. cannabis/10-30 gram/1st; Erron L. Hall II, 27, Kankakee, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Teddy J. Bryan, 61, Bourbonnais, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

January 3: Jay V. Dunn, 58, Dwight, improper traffic lane usage; Jin Chuanzhi, 34, Bainesville, GA, fail obey stop sign.

January 4: Gabrielle A. Shaffer, 34, Champaign, fail obey stop sign.

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

18 Written Warnings

Disobey Stop Sign – 9; Speeding – 4; Improper Turn Signal – 1; No Registration Plate Light – 2; Expired Registration – 1; Fail to Notify S.O.S. - Change of Address – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter

December 31: Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop. Citations for Possession of Cannabis in a Vehicle were issued to Rebecca Cortez, 33, of Dwight, and Olivia Cortez, 25, of Dwight.

Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

December 30: Delaware, trauma, refusal; Chippewa, fire; Delaware, trauma, refusal.

December 31: 2900 N., trauma, refusal; Main, medical, Morris; Delaware, trauma, refusal.

January 1: Front, medical, St. James; Mazon, trauma, Morris.

January 2: North, medical, Morris; Delaware, medical, Morris; Union, medical, St. James; William, medical, Morris.

January 3: Waupansie, medical, Morris; Union, trauma, refusal; Seminole, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Morris, mutual aid from Gardner; Waupansie, medical, Morris.

January 4: Mazon, medical, refusal; Union, fire; Greenfield, trauma, refusal.

January 5: Wolf, medical, St. James; East, trauma, refusal; Columbia, fire, no patient; Main, medical, Morris.

January 6: Mazon, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, Morris, mutual aid from Gardner; James, medical, refusal; I-55, trauma, refusal, mutual aid from Gardner; Mazon, medical, Morris.

Temps - 2021/22

Dec. 30 – high 36°, low 30°
Dec. 31 – high 41°, low 32°
Jan. 1 – high 34°, low 16°
2" snow
Jan. 2 – high 21°, low 0°
Jan. 3 – high 20°, low 1°
Jan. 4 – high 32°, low 17°
Jan. 5 – high 17°, low 3°
trace flurries

One Year Ago – Jan. 12, 2021
high 29°, low 23°

Dwight Fire Incidents *12/31 - 1/7*

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

December 31: Mutual Aid to Verona.

January 1: Motor Vehicle Accident – Dwight Rd. @ Stonewall Rd.

January 3: Motor Vehicle Accident – Rt. 47 Near the RR Tracks.

January 4: Automatic Fire Alarm – N. Union.

January 5: CO Detector Activated – S. Columbia.

January 6: Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55; Power Line Down – Rt. 17.

Dwight FPD also responded to 18 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

In 2021, Dwight Fire responded to 869 emergency incidents: 660 EMS-type incidents and 209 Fire/accident/other related incidents.

Railroads - Gardner IL History

The Chicago & Alton Railroad, which passes through Gardner, was built in 1853-4, the people of Gardner and the vicinity contributing $3,000 for right of way. The first ticket agent at Gardner was C.K. Snyder, and it is interesting to know that as he had no station house at the time, he carried all his papers in a tin trunk. The "Big Four" railroad trains also stop at Gardner, although its station is not in the center of the village as is that of the Chicago & Alton. Gardner's business houses are centered in a compact area so that it is not difficult to attend to very important affairs, for a few blocks hold the concerns mentioned above. There are some very comfortable homes at Gardner, and the people themselves are alive, wide awake and progressive, eager to take advantage of improvements, and utilize advantages offered.

Livingston Cty. Offices Closed January 17

All Livingston County Offices will be closed Monday, January 17, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Vermilion Valley ETSB 2022 Schedule of Meetings

The Vermilion Valley Regional Emergency Communications Joint Authority is scheduled to meet on the following dates in 2022:

January 12 (Board); February 16 (Committee of the Whole); March 16 (Board); April 20 (Committee of the Whole); May 18 (Board); June 15 (Committee of the Whole); July 20 (Board); August 17 (Committee of the Whole); September 21 (Board); October 19 (Committee of the Whole); November 16 (Board); December (**No Meeting**).

All meetings begin at 11:00 a.m. in the Public Safety Complex at 844 W. Lincoln Street in Pontiac. Meetings are held downstairs in the 911 Training Room.

Premise Alert Program Aims to Assist Those with Special Needs and First Responders

Do you have someone in your home who would be physically unable to get out of the house in case of a fire? Do you have an adult child with Autism or a developmental disability who has limited language skills or may be a runner if frightened? Do you know someone that demonstrates paranoia or depression and may get defensive or combative if approached by a policeman or sheriff's deputy?

Over a year ago, Livingston County implemented a notification system that passes pertinent information on to the responding law enforcement officer, firefighter, and ambulance personnel to make them aware and better-equipped to understand and appropriately respond to a call involving a citizen with a special need.

This voluntary and free program was implemented by the Livingston County Law Enforcement community and VCOM 911 and is named the Premise Alert Program. The program allows individuals, legal guardians, or family members to register someone with special needs, such as Alzheimer's, Autism, hearing impairment, mental illness, etc., to be entered into the county-wide database system.

Brochures and registration forms are available on livingstoncounty-il.org, Pontiac.org, at the Chatsworth, Dwight, Fairbury, Streator, and Pontiac Police Departments, as well as the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

Again, this is a voluntary program and all information is solely for the purpose of assisting police, fire, and emergency response agencies to more effectively respond to an emergency situation. By providing this information for the purpose stated above, it does not entitle the individual to any preferential treatment nor a timelier response to any emergency or potential emergency situation.

Any questions – call 815-844-7708.

Dwight Economic Alliance

- Three seats on Dwight Economic Alliance Board set for election on January 18, 2022.

- There are no requirements for the board except passion for small towns, loving what you're doing, and making a difference.

- To pick up an application, questions, or to return the application, DEA office is located at 132 E. Main Street, Dwight, IL 60420, call 815-584-1830,
or e-mail DwightEAStaff@gmail.com.

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Don't Fall Victim to Tax Scams

It's that time of year, when we gather our W-2s, 1099s and all the other forms and documents we need to file our taxes. However, it's also busy season for tax scammers. How can you avoid being scammed?

Your chief defense, of course, is to recognize a scam. Here are some of the most common ones:

• **Tax-related identity theft –** Some thieves might try to steal your personal information and file a tax return in your name, hoping to claim your refund. Always guard your personal data, especially your Social Security number (SSN). You can also apply to the IRS for an Identity Protection Personal Identification Number (IP PIN). To succeed in their efforts, identity thieves would have to know your unique IP PIN in addition to your SSN and other information. And watch for signs that your identity has been compromised, such as the IRS rejecting your online return, saying that a tax return associated with your SSN has already been filed. If this happens, you can file IRS Form 14039 – Identity Theft Affidavit.

• **"Ghost" tax preparers –** These individuals aren't supernatural, but their actions can be pretty scary. A ghost preparer may finish your tax return but won't sign it or provide a Preparer Tax Identification Number (PITN). This is a huge red flag, possibly indicating any number of bad actions, such as using fake information to generate a larger refund, and then charging you a fee based on that refund, or even worse, outright stealing the fee you've paid and then disappearing. Don't sign your return until your preparer has also signed it and included their PTIN. And check your own return to make sure everything seems correct. To find a reputable tax preparer, ask your friends and relatives for referrals.

• **"Phishing" emails claiming to be from IRS –** You might receive emails that claim to be from the IRS but that come from scammers. These "phishing" emails might contain messages saying, "Your account or tax return is locked or restricted," or, "You're eligible to receive a tax refund." Or the subject line of the email might contain a phrase such as "Automatic Income Tax Reminder" or "Electronic Tax Return Reminder." These emails may contain links to a website that appears to be that of the IRS, but if you follow these links, you will be asked to open files that contain malware, which could give the scammer remote access to your computer and your personal information. But the IRS does not send unsolicited emails to taxpayers, it won't discuss tax account information with you via email, and it won't use emails to solicit sensitive financial and personal information.

• **Threatening phone calls –** Tax scammers may call you, posing as IRS employees and demanding payment for back taxes, penalties or fees that you don't owe. In reality, the IRS won't call you if you owe taxes without first sending you a bill in the mail. Furthermore, the IRS will neither require that you pay your taxes a certain way, such as with a prepaid debit card, nor ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone.

It's unfortunate that tax scammers are hard at work, but by staying vigilant and getting professional help if you need it, you can help protect yourself from being scammed – this year and every year.

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

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

• J U N E •

(continued from page 1)

New Mexican Restaurant Serving Tex-Mex Cuisine, Margaritas

Before June 23, there wasn't a Mexican restaurant in Dwight.

Now, anyone who wants a burrito, tacos, chimichangas and more can take a trip to El Cancun – a family-owned and operated business, spearheaded by owner Jose Sanchez and his wife, "The Boss", Fabiola.

Sarff Places 4th in IWCOA State Championship

DTHS junior Dillon Sarff wrestled for the 132-pound IWCOA State Championship in Springfield June 24, finishing the tournament with a 3-2 record and a fourth place medal.

DPD Assists in Apprehension of Murder Suspect

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

Dwight EMS and Dwight FPD were called to treat a Marc Holliman, age 53, of Chicago, who was bleeding from self-inflicted injuries. He was transported to an area hospital and later released.

Dwight officers later discovered the lifeless body of Juanita Holliman, age 81, of Chicago – the suspect's mother – in the vehicle driven by Holliman.

The investigation determined the death of the elder Holliman occurred in the City of Chicago at the hands of her own son.

Dwight Village Clerk Jill Haacke Resigns

The announcement of the resignation of Dwight Village Clerk Jill Haacke was made at a June 28 session of the Board of Trustees.

Haacke resigned, effective June 30, after serving as Village Clerk since March 1, 2017.

Diana Loschen Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

Diana Loschen, agriculture teacher at Tri-Point High School, was named the state winner of the National Association of Agriculture Educators) Lifetime Achievement Award at the Illinois Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers conference held in Carbondale.

Loschen, who retired June 30, served as the ag teacher and FFA advisor at Tri-Point HS for over 30 years.

(continued on page 4)

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FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Applications for Marjorie J. Martin Scholarships Now Being Accepted

The Marjorie J. Martin Scholarship trustees announced January 7 that applications for the 17th annual Marjorie J. Martin Scholarships are now being accepted.

Applications are available at Odell Public Library, Odell Bank, Dwight Township High School, and Pontiac Township High School. To be eligible for the scholarships, students must live in the area currently served by the Odell Fire Protection District, Odell Public Library District, or the Odell Grade School District.

Completed applications are due March 1, 2022.

The scholarship was established by Marjorie J. Martin, a lifelong resident of Odell and a teacher in the Odell public schools for 32 years who died March 31, 2004. She stipulated that scholarships be granted to high school graduates seeking continued education at an accredited college or university in the fields of liberal arts, music, science, nursing, business or engineering.

In 2021, the trustees awarded $72,000 to 15 students from Odell. Scholarships were awarded in recognition of academic and extracurricular excellence.

Sec. of State Jesse White's Message

This January 17th, please join me in celebrating the life, influence and contributions of civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This will mark the 37th year our country has honored Dr. King's birthday as a federal holiday and I encourage everyone to take a moment to reflect upon how he impacted our society with his philosophy of embracing equality and rejecting bigotry and segregation.

Dr. King served as one of my earliest mentors while I was a student at Alabama State College in Montgomery, Alabama in the early 1950s. I attended church in northern Montgomery where Dr. King served as the pastor. I had the privilege of listening and observing him firsthand.

In Alabama, I experienced many challenges and frustrations due to segregation. African Americans were not allowed to drink at certain water fountains. We were prohibited from sitting in certain seats on buses and banned from eating at many restaurants.

Following the lead of Dr. King, Rosa Parks and other civil rights leaders, I participated in the Montgomery Bus Boycott that ultimately led to the desegregation of the public transit system. This peaceful protest taught me the importance of perseverance and working together toward a common goal.

To this day, I remain impacted by Dr. King's teachings. His values and dignified behavior continue to inspire and resonate with me. I fondly remember Dr. King attending my college basketball games and staying afterward to offer me words of encouragement and support. He made a difference in my life.

As I consider the legacy of Dr. King in my life, I also find myself reflecting on my tenure as your Secretary of State. This year will be my 24th and final year as Illinois Secretary of State. I am filled with gratitude and appreciation for the opportunity to serve the people of Illinois for six terms in this capacity.

Sixty-three years ago, I established the Jesse White Tumbling Team as a way to give back to the community and to help young people in need of support and guidance. Because of my desire to help others, I became a teacher and a public servant. I cannot imagine that I would have become the first African American elected as Illinois Secretary of State in 1998 without Dr. King's influence on my life and on society as a whole.

On this holiday, let us work to emulate Dr. King's philosophy through our own lives. Let us commit ourselves to the following: never discriminate or dislike someone because of race, creed or color; learn to love your fellow man and woman; do something good for someone every day; and give back to those less fortunate when you become successful. If we do these things, we honor Dr. King through our actions.

Sincerely,
Jesse White
Illinois Secretary of State

Saunemin Firemen's Breakfast February 20

Saunemin Fire Protection District is celebrating 75 years of service to the community with its annual breakfast, set for Sunday, February 20, from 7:00 a.m. to noon, at the Saunemin Fire Station, 56 Center St. in Saunemin.

The menu includes pancakes and sausage, and the meals are takeout only.

Donations will be accepted, with proceeds going to purchase new fire jackets and equipment.

smile :)

Godley Park District's Upcoming Events

Godley Park District, 500 S. Kankakee St. in Godley, will host the following upcoming events:

Godley Resident Luncheon

Adults, 21+, from the Village of Godley can join for a complimentary luncheon Thursday, January 20.

BINGO starts at 10:00 a.m., with lunch being served at noon.

Must register by January 14.

Pizza Party BINGO

Godley Park District's family BINGO night is back – and it's a pizza party.

Join for a night of family fun and tasty food Friday, January 21, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. Enjoy pizza, salad, a beverage, and dessert as you play BINGO games for prizes (no cash prizes). They will play traditional and kid-friendly BINGO games.

Pre-registration is required and there are no walk-ins. A fee applies, with those age five to 12 receiving a discount.

Must register by Monday, January 17.

Lunch Out & About

Go join the laughter and fun as they venture to different area restaurants.

On Wednesday, January 26, they will visit El Cancun in Dwight.

Must register and provide transportation fee by Wednesday, January 19. Lunch is on your own.

All trips depart at 10:30 a.m.

Seniors ALIVE!

Those 55+ are invited to join for a morning of BINGO and lunch Tuesday, February 1, with BINGO starting at 10:30 a.m.

Those interested must register and pay a fee by Monday, January 24.

New COVID-19 Testing Site Open in Livingston County

Livingston County has a new, free COVID-19 testing site open in Pontiac to help meet increased need for testing.

Quick N' Free Rapid/PCR COVID Testing opened for both PCR and rapid testing January 10 at 1041 W. Reynolds St. in Pontiac. Rapid test results are provided within 15 minutes to two hours. PCR test results are provided within 48 to 96 hours.

No appointments or insurance necessary. A valid driver's license or state ID is required.

Hours of operation are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and Saturday-Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

This site is not affiliated with the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD).

Area COVID-19 Stats
as of January 10

Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases
Dwight	21,452	964
Herscher	5,278	429
Gardner	4,742	409
Odell	4,869	307
Mazon	3,406	302
Braceville	3,536	284
Essex	2,263	217
S. Wilmington	1,808	141
Verona	1,438	119
Cullom	2,663	119
Saunemin	2,246	118
Reddick	1,719	117
Cabery	1,608	102
Buckingham	1,311	93
Ransom	1,464	92
Kempton	1,381	83
Emington	980	80
Blackstone	953	55
Kinsman	1,077	38
Campus	678	24
Union Hill	232	15

Numbers as of 1/10/21

Statistics via: dph.illinois.gov

County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	406,978	24,298	301
LaSalle	388,718	21,263	331
Grundy	127,884	10,584	105
Livingston	198,224	7,973	116
Iroquois	92,081	5,832	92
Ford	57,760	3,434	59

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 2,382,437; **Deaths:** 28,361; **Probable Deaths:** 3,299; **Total Tests Performed:** 44,992,122.

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.

LEGAL NOTICE

The following is notice pursuant to the Livingston County Zoning Ordinance (Sec. 56, Code of Ordinances, Livingston County, Illinois, including without limitation Article VIII – Wind Energy and Sec. 56-622) ninety (90) days or more in advance of an anticipated permit application by Livingston Wind Project, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("LWP"), for siting and special use approval to construct, erect, install, and locate wind towers and a Wind Energy Conversion System (WECS) Project identified as the Livingston Wind Project (the "Project") in Livingston County, along with variations and such other waivers and approvals as are required for the Project.

LWP will be hosting an Open House community meeting regarding the Project from 4:30-7:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 8th at Tri-Point High School at 100 East Van Alstyne Street, Cullom, Illinois 60929. All interested persons are invited to attend the Open House to learn more about the Project and to provide feedback to project developers. If applicable rules change so as to prohibit in-person public gatherings, like the Open House at the location above, then a link to a virtual on-line Open House will be posted on the Project webpage identified below.

LWP is an affiliate of EDF Renewables, Inc. ("EDFR"), a market leading independent power producer and service provider with 35 years of experience. EDFR and its affiliates build, own and operate renewable energy power plants across North America, including the nearby Kelly Creek and Pilot Hill Wind Farms in Ford, Iroquois and Kankakee Counties. LWP is in the process of developing the Project, an approximately 255 MW wind farm located primarily in Broughton and Sullivan Townships. The Project may also include up to three turbines in the northeast quarter of Union Township, all located within a half mile of the Township's eastern border. The Project may additionally include up to four turbines and a substation in Round Grove Township, all within a mile of the Township's southern border. Hundreds of your neighbors in Livingston County, representing approximately 29,000 acres of land, are participating in the Project in these areas.

More information about the Project, including a Project map, can be found on the Project webpage, https://www.edf-re.com/project/livingston-wind-project/. Additional information about EDFR can be found here: https://www.edf-re.com/about-us/who-we-are/.

For additional information regarding the Open House, please email LWP at LivingstonWind@edf-re.com or call 1-844-943-0723. For additional information regarding wind siting and the application process in Livingston County, please contact the Livingston County Planning and Zoning Office at 815-844-7741.

Gas Prices For This Week

Gasoline prices edged upward last week, driven primarily by the price surge in crude oil, which is closing in on $80 a barrel. Events on the far side of the globe are fueling the recent rise. Social unrest and violence in Kazakhstan, a member of the OPEC+ alliance, have forced that nation to cut production. Before the recent flare-up of violence, Kazakhstan pumped nearly 2 million barrels of crude a day. In contrast, the United States, as the top oil-producing country in the world, pumped an average of 18.6 million barrels a day. Since the global price for oil accounts for nearly half of what consumers pay at the pump, higher oil costs will usually result in higher gasoline costs. The national average for a gallon of gas rose one cent to $3.30.

City/Village	January 12	January 5
Dwight	$3.20	$3.22
Kankakee	$3.43	$3.26
Streator	$3.44	$3.32
Pontiac	$3.19	$3.22
Gardner	$3.39	$3.39
Braceville	$3.43	$2.92
Morris	$3.36	$3.27
Herscher	$3.43	$3.43
Chicago	$3.56	$3.46
Illinois	$3.44	$3.33
U.S.	$3.30	$3.29

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

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

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GCHD Updated on COVID-19 'Pop-Up' Testing Sites

The Grundy County Health Department is providing information regarding local "pop-up" testing clinics opening in Grundy.

Be advised that several privately owned entities are establishing "pop-up" COVID-19 testing sites throughout and around Grundy County. The Health Department is not authorized to permit or restrict these businesses. The Health Dept. is not coordinating or providing any level of surveillance or oversight to "pop-up" clinic sites.

Testing is scarce at local medical facilities and pharmacies, but these are licensed/regulated by IDPH. Whereas the "pop-up" **may not be**. Proceed at your own risk if you decide to seek testing from these "pop-up" testing sites.

If you believe there may be fraud or other criminal activity associated with a testing facility, contact the Illinois Attorney General's Consumer Complaint Division online or call the Chicago office at 800-386-5438 or TTY: 800-964-3013.

In addition to medical facilities and pharmacies, state-supported community-based testing sites can be found online at dph.illinois.gov under the COVID-19 tab.

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

(continued from page 2)

• J U L Y •

Morris Hospital President, CEO Announces Retirement

Mark Steadham, President and CEO of Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers, announced his plans to retire on July 1, 2022, after serving 12 years in the organization's top leadership position.

Jim Ridings Authors New Book

The little-known story of Ottawa's tuberculosis tent colony is now told in a new book by Herscher author, Jim Ridings, entitled "The Illustrated History of the Ottawa Tent Colony".

Ridings was at the LaSalle County Historical Museum to sign copies on July 10.

Not Your Normal Family Ski Trip

Scott Henderson and his daughter, Eva, both of Lake Greenfield (South Wilmington), participated in the Illinois State Waterski Championships July 24-25 at Lake Richard in Dow. Eva won the slalom event, while Scott won slalom and tricks to defend his previous championships.

"South Wilmington, Essex, and Reddick, believe it or not, are really a hotbed for water skiing because of the recreation clubs and the strip mine lakes around this area," Scott said. "It's a good place to do what we do."

Final Service at Emington Congregational Church

Emington Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) held its final worship service on July 25, holding the service in the afternoon so that visitors from other churches were able to attend.

• A U G U S T •

Celebrating 100!

William (Bill) Henry celebrated his 100th birthday with a drive-by Birthday Celebration in front of Heritage Health in Dwight August 1, with friends and family going through the circle drive to honor Bill.

Dwight EMS to Assume Coverage of Odell FPD

Effective August 1, Dwight EMS will be providing ambulance service to the Odell Fire Protection District.

The change came following an unexpected announcement that Duffy Ambulance Service, Pontiac, would be ceasing its emergency medical services business.

(continued on page 5)

2021 Vital Statistics for Kankakee County Reflects 1,268 Births

Dan Hendrickson, Kankakee County Clerk, released vital statistics for Kankakee County for 2021.

As of January 5, 2022, there were 1,268 births registered in the county for 2021. This is 36 more than were registered in 2020.

The most popular names for boys were Levi, Liam, Oliver and Benjamin. The most popular names for girls were Evelyn, Layla, Nevaeh and Olivia.

More children were born in the month of October (120) in Kankakee County than in any other month in 2021.

The County Clerk's Office issued 531 marriage licenses in Kankakee County in 2021, the same amount as in 2020.

The oldest groom was 79 years old, the oldest bride was 86. The youngest groom was 18 years of age, the youngest bride was 19.

September was the most popular month to get married.

There were 1,392 deaths in Kankakee County last year – a decrease of 18 deaths from 2020.

Morris Hospital Issues Alert Regarding Potential Phone Scam

Morris Hospital & Healthcare Center is alerting the public of a potential phone scam that may appear as though the call is coming from the hospital or one of Morris Hospital's Healthcare Centers.

Based on reports received from patients, the caller claims to be from Morris Hospital or a specific provider's office associated with Morris Hospital and states that they are working with the patient's provider, often correctly stating the provider's name.

Most commonly, the caller states that the patient's provider has asked the caller to make arrangements to send medications or medical supplies directly to the patient's home. The caller may also state that they have been asked to order genetic testing for the patient.

According to Morris Hospital, these calls are not legitimate but instead are likely scams intended to obtain additional personal information from the patient, including home address and the patient's Medicare number. Anyone who receives a suspicious call should not provide any information and hang up.

Patients who are concerned that their provider might have been trying to reach them can call their provider's office using the phone number they normally call to set up appointments.

LTLD Adjusts for Increased COVID Positivity Rate

Limestone Township Library District (LTLD) is concerned with the rise of the positivity rate within their community.

Because of that, programs held within the building are being re-directed for the month of January. This includes any group meetings held in their meeting room. They will use Discord and Facebook for library programs in order to ensure the safety of their patrons and staff.

The hours of the library will not change and mask usage within the library remains in place. Should there be any changes in accessibility of the library, they will announce it in newspapers, on radio stations, Facebook, Instagram, and their website.

They are having a Winter Reading Challenge that runs through February 5. They are working their way towards understanding the Danish "quality of coziness and comfortable conviviality that engenders a feeling of contentment or well-being," otherwise known as hygge (hue-gah).

There will be a variety of challenges found on the Beanstack app and log-in sheets at the library. These challenges will help patrons learn about hygge and how they can add these practices into their own lifestyle. To find their challenge pages on the Beanstack app use this address: limestonelibrary.beanstack.org.

Every 100 minutes logged earns a ticket for one of their three raffle baskets that are built on the hygge theme.

Science Demo will air on Facebook Wednesday, January 12, at 6:00 p.m. with Ms. Faith and Ms. Holly. Watch as they demonstrate a science experiment using items you can find in your home. This program is for kids in first through fifth.

STEAM Workshop, a part of their Getting Ready for Kindergarten grant program, will be held Thursday, January 20, at 6:00 p.m. Each participant who signs up will receive a kit to complete an experiment with adult supervision following along a video with Mr. Austin on Facebook. This program is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley.

Every Saturday, they have a new take-it-and-make-it craft that anyone can pick up. The crafts are geared for children in first through fifth grades. You can always post your finished product on Facebook or Instagram and tag Limestone Township Library District.

Every day that the libray is open, their first hour is reserved for those community members/patrons with compromised immune systems, and/or who are seniors. Their remaining hours are open to all members of the community.

Masks are required for all visitors from the age of two and up while in the library building. Contactless Curbside Service is also available for those who want their checkouts taken to their vehicle.

Any questions? Call them at 815-939-1696, e-mail them at info@limestonelibrary.org, or message them at Facebook or Instagram. Visit their website at limestonelibrary.org for more information.

Morris Hospital Reports Short Supply of Monoclonal Antibody Therapy

A MORRIS HOSPITAL nurse prepares monoclonal antibody therapy.

Individuals hoping to receive outpatient monoclonal antibody infusion therapy to treat COVID-19 may be in for a disappointment.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has announced a pause in the distribution of the two popular therapeutics that were being used at Morris Hospital to prevent hospitalization in high risk individuals due to data showing they are not effective against the now-dominant Omicron variant. Another monoclonal antibody therapeutic, sotrovimab, has remained effective against the Omicron variant, but it is now both in high demand and in low supply.

While Morris Hospital has received a very limited supply of sotrovimab, future allotments still remain uncertain. Prior to the Omicron variant, Morris Hospital was administering as many as four to six monoclonal antibody infusions per day when supply was at its peak.

"It's disheartening considering the high rate of infection and hospitalizations," says Alyssa Knoderer, pharmacy director at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "The reality right now is that we have very, very few doses available due to the significant demand because there are so many people who are COVID-positive. There's just less overall to go around."

The monoclonal antibody infusion delivers a neutralizing antibody medicine containing man-made antibodies that are similar to the antibodies of patients who recovered from COVID-19. Since December 2020, it has been given to high risk patients at Morris Hospital in an effort to minimize hospitalizations. Patients eligible for treatment have mild-to-moderate COVID-19 infection and meet specific criteria that makes them at higher risk for severe illness.

In addition, those being considered for monoclonal antibody infusion must be able to be scheduled for infusion as soon as possible after testing positive for COVID-19 and within 10 days of symptom onset. Hospitalized patients and those requiring oxygen therapy are unable to receive the treatment.

While monoclonal antibody infusion has been an important tool to help prevent hospitalization in high risk individuals, Knoderer emphasizes that it is not an alternative to getting vaccinated. She believes this point is of even greater importance considering the infusion is in such short supply.

"Vaccination is always the best option in the fight against COVID-19," Knoderer says. "It's the safest and most effective method against severe illness and hospitalization."

Among other approved treatments, one encouraging development came in December when the FDA gave emergency-use authorization of two oral antiviral medications that aim to reduce hospitalizations. But Knoderer says many unknowns are still left to be answered about these medications both with regards to distribution and eligibility due to potential drug interactions and other risk factors.

Morris Hospital's COVID hospitalizations have been above 30 patients each day since December 3. The only other time COVID hospitalizations have been above 30 patients since the start of the pandemic was over a six-day period in November 2020. January 7 marked the 35th consecutive day that Morris Hospital had more than 30 hospitalized COVID patients.

Go For It – Advertise in *The Paper...* Success is Fun. 815-584-1901

New Books at Odell Library

Adult Fiction

Autopsy by Patricia Cornwell; The Dark Hours by Michael Connelly; Daughters of War by Dinah Jeffries; Fear No Evil by James Patterson; Flying Angels by Danielle Steel; Go Tell the Bees That I Am Gone by Diana Gibaldon; Mercy by David Baldacci; Never by Ken Follett; The Postmistress of Paris by Meg Waite Clayton; The Thursday Murder Club by Richard Osman; Wish You Were Here by Jodi Picoult; The Wolf by J.R. Ward.

DVD

American Night; The Crown, Season 4; Dear Evan Hansen; Emily in Paris, Season 1; Flag Day; Hinterland, Series 1, 2, & 3; Jungle Cruise; The Match; One Shot; Paw Patrol: Pups Save the Alien; Paw Patrol: The Movie; Pig; Reminiscence; Respect; Surge; Venom: Let There Be Carnage; Zone 414.

Young Adult

City of the Dead by James Patterson; The Midnight Lock by Jeffery Deaver.

Audiobooks

No One Goes Alone by Erik Larson.

Adult Nonfiction

The Atlas of a Changing Climate by Brian Buma; The Dawn of Everything by David Graeber; The Dictionary of Obscure Sorrows by John Koenig; Flying Blind by Peter Robison; The Library: A Fragile History by Andrew Pettegree; Mind-Blowing Magic Tricks for Everyone by Oscar Owen; The Taking of Jemima Boone by Matthew Pearl; Where the Deer and the Antelope Play by Nick Offerman.

Easy/Juvenile

The Bad Mood! by Moritz Petz; Bathe the Cat by Alice B. McGinty; Bigger Than a Bumblebee by Joseph Kuefler; Cat Kid: Comic Club Perspectives by Dav Pilkey; Child of the Flower-Song People by Gloria Amescua; Cold Turkey by Corey Rosen Schwartz; Diary of a Wimpy Kid: A Novel in Cartoons by Jeff Kinney; Doris' Dear Delinquents by Emma Ward; Dragon Was Terrible by Kelly DiPucchio; Fox: A Circle of Life Story by Isabel Thomas; I Don't Want to Read This Book by Max Greenfield; I Love You More Than All the Stars by Becky Davies; Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening by Robert Frost; What Isabella Wanted by Candace Fleming; Winter Lullaby by Dianne White; Yes! No. by Kellie Byrnes.

Open House for Leslie Houch
Thursday, Jan. 13 • 3:30 - 5:30
Dwight Village Hall Board Room
209 S. Prairie Ave., Dwight
After working 21 years at the Dwight Village Hall Leslie is leaving her position and moving to Alabama.
Leslie's husband, Charlie, is hosting the Open House and invites everyone to stop by and say goodbye.
Leslie has made many friends in her 26 years in Dwight and would love the chance to see everyone!

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

(continued from page 4)

Dwight FPD, EMS Assist in Emergency Incident at Heritage Woods

The Dwight Fire Protection District and Dwight EMS responded to Heritage Woods, Dwight, for a fire alarm on August 4.

The first fire company arrived to find that the staff was evacuating residents from the facility due to smoke filling up the common corridors and hallways on the first floor.

No residents or staff, nor firefighters, were injured during the operation. Residents were all back in the building in the morning and the problem which created the smoke was fixed.

Relay For Life Celebrates 25-Year Anniversary

The town square in Pontiac looked different August 6, as there were luminaria displayed along the courthouse and the courthouse lawn – lit for the Relay For Life 25th Anniversary luminary ceremony honoring those lost because of cancer, those battling cancer, and those who survived cancer.

Mead on the Rise

Unpossible Mead in downtown Dwight celebrated Mead Day August 7 with a band, a food truck, and the relaunching of its Mead Club.

"Mead Day is a day of awareness," said owner Brian Galbreath. "It's always the first Saturday in August. We call it National Mead Day, but it's actually International Mead Day. Someone just picked a day on the calendar and said, 'Mead Day'.

New Hair Salon in Dwight Offers Many Beautiful Options

Taylor Weikle, 29, of Dwight, held the grand opening of Taylor Rose Salon, at 106 West Main Street in Dwight, on August 14.

"This has always been a dream of mine," Weikle said. "I've always wanted to work for myself."

John Branz Named Grand Marshal of 2021 Herscher Grand Labor Day Parade

The Herscher Chamber of Commerce and its Labor Day Parade Committee announced that John Branz, who grew up in Saunemin, was selected as the Grand Marshal of the 2021 Herscher Grand Labor Day Parade.

Paddling the Mississippi

Pontiac resident Dan Faust paddled the Mississippi River in his 14½-foot kayak, the Tsunami 145, beginning his journey on May 29 at Lake

(continued on page 6)

Area Students Make WIU 2021 Fall Dean's List

A total of 1,164 undergraduate students enrolled at Western Illinois University were named to the Fall 2021 Dean's List, including the following area students:

• **Blackstone:** Eden E. Beier (sophomore).
• **Braceville:** Sophia I. Berrong (freshman); Joseph R. Svoboda (junior).
• **Coal City:** Joshua M. Olesen (senior).
• **Dwight:** Lucy T. Rieke (senior); James L. Soto (senior).
• **Fairbury:** Colton Cottrell (senior); Sophiana E. Small (senior).
• **Mazon:** Alexis L. Davis (sophomore).
• **Pontiac:** Alec J. Bristow (senior); Michael J. Fitzsimmons (junior).
• **Seneca:** Faith E. Hacker (junior).
• **Verona:** Kylie Winsor (senior).

To receive this award, an undergraduate student must earn at least a 3.6 grade point average on a scale of 4.0, which equals an A in a minimum of 12 credit hours of graded courses; pass-fail hours are not counted (e.g., student teaching, internships).

Isabelle Schultz Earns President's List Honors at Shenandoah U.

Isabelle Schultz, of Dwight, is one of 428 students at Shenandoah University, Winchester, VA, who made the President's List for the fall 2021 semester.

Students who achieved this prestigious academic recognition attained a grade point average of at least 3.90.

Isabelle, who is majoring in Sport Management, is the daughter of Scott and Mary Schultz of Dwight.

OBITUARIES

Daniel G. Bennett

Daniel G. Bennett, 51, of Villa Hills, Kentucky, passed away unexpectedly Friday, December 10, 2021.

A celebration of life will be from 12 until 2 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, at Seals - Campbell Funeral Home, Marseilles, Illinois.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m. following the celebration at the funeral home with Rev. Kris Zierke officiating. The family requests that you wear your favorite flannel shirt to honor Dan.

Burial will be in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Seneca, where he will be laid to rest near his mother. Due to current State of Illinois guidelines, face coverings will be required.

He was born on January 23, 1970, in Verona, Illinois to Gary and Karen (Biros) Bennett.

Daniel graduated from M-V-K High School with the class of 1988. He formerly worked for Alumax Aluminum Company in Morris and was a Local 75 Laborer in Joliet, Illinois.

His career with CSX Railroad spanned 26 years. He started his career with them as a conductor out of Seneca-Ottawa line and went on to be an engineer out of the Queensgate yard in Cincinnati, Ohio. Daniel proudly advanced to railroad dispatch at the CSX home office in Jacksonville, Florida. He was also a Union member of the railroad and a lifelong member of the Masons.

He loved a good game of euchre, fishing, and riding around in his golf cart. He enjoyed talking with friends, listening to '70s country music, grilling by the pool, and riding in Cadillacs. He also loved playing a round of golf with his daughter, Danielle.

He is survived by his loving wife of 23 years, Julie; his daughter, Danielle; his father, Gary Bennett of Verona; his sister, Angie (Joel) Issert; and his niece and nephew, Alex and Tyler of Wilmington.

Daniel was preceded in death by his mother, Karen; and both his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Michael E. Foley

DWIGHT – Michael E. Foley, 49, of Coal City, Illinois passed away at 3:58 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2021 at Morris Hospital in Morris, Illinois.

Private family services will be held and a burial will follow in Sacred Heart Cemetery, Campus, Illinois.

Hager Memorial Home is in charge of arrangements.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Michael's name may be made to an education fund for his daughter, Lilly.

Michael was born December 16, 1972 in St. Mary's Hospital, Kankakee, a son of Leo "Paul" and Barbara Ann (Bauer) Foley. His mother survives in Campus, Illinois.

He is also survived by his daughter, Lilly Ann Foley of Coal City, Illinois; step-sons: Dominick, Cameron and Vinny Foley; brothers: Joseph (Lori) Foley; Nicholas (Mary) Foley; and twin brother, Mathew (Kim) Foley; nieces and nephews: Samantha (Bryan) Woods, Emily Foley, Tristan Foley, Alaina Foley and Jordan Foley.

He was preceded in death by his father, Leo "Paul" Foley.

Michael was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church and Teamsters Local 179. He was a graduate of Herscher High School. Over the years, he worked for RTD Transport/Grundy Redimix.

Michael deeply loved his daughter and enjoyed spending time with her. He also enjoyed watching the Chicago Bears, and could often be found polishing his truck.

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

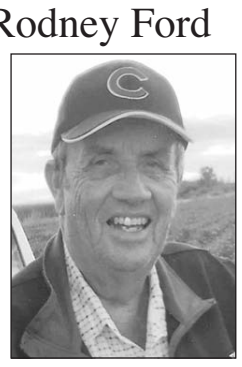
COVID-19 VaccineWalk-In Clinic

Grundy County Health Department is offering COVID-19 vaccine walk-in clinics every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday in January (excluding the 3rd, 17th, and 31st), from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Grundy County Administration Building, 1320 Union Street in Morris.

Vaccines available include Moderna, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson.

*First, second and third doses are available for residents 12 years and older. Booster doses are available for **anyone** 16 years and older. * = **subject to change based on FDA/CDC approvals.**

Rodney Ford



Rodney Ford, age 78, of Gardner, Illinois passed away Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove.

Rodney was born June 9, 1943 in Joliet, Illinois to the late Fred and Pearl Ford.

He graduated from Gardner - South Wilmington High School. He married Sharon Ford (Austin) on January 9, 1965 in South Wilmington, Illinois. He worked as a machinist for Caterpillar for 35 years, where he retired in 1996. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Germany during the Vietnam Conflict.

He was involved with the Knights of Columbus and the Catholic Men's Club of St. Lawrence Parish.

Rodney was preceded in death by his mother, father, sister, brother-in-law, nephew, and his infant daughter who passed away at birth; and his father-in-law and mother-in-law, John and Delores Austin.

Rodney is survived by his wife, Sharon Ford; his two daughters, Toni Schaner and Teri Ford; and his four grandchildren: Ryan Schaner, Kaylee Schaner, Julia Kevin and Jack Kevin.

Cremation rites were accorded.

A Memorial Visitation for Rodney was at the R. W. Patterson Funeral Home & Crematory, Braidwood, Tuesday, January 11, 2022 from 11:00 a.m. until the time of the prayer service at 1:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to GSW High School Bass Fishing Team, where we hope to inspire others to find a love of fishing just like Rodney did.

Rodney's family wishes to extend their sincere thanks to the doctors and nurses at Morris Hospital and Burgess Square Rehabilitation Center in Westmont.

For more information and to sign his online guestbook, please log on to: www.rwpattersonfuneralhomes.com or find us on Facebook.

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

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Itasca, Minnesota, and ending it at Burns Point Park in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana – a total distance of 2,125 miles.

Dwight Appoints New Village Clerk

The Dwight Village Board of Trustees met on August 23 and approved a recommendation to appoint Whitney Scott, a DTHS graduate, as Dwight's Village Clerk, effective September 1. Her term will run until the next Consolidated Election in Spring 2023.

Townhomes Proposed for 401 W. William Street, Dwight

John Cronin of North Arrow Realtors was present at the Dwight Village Hall August 31 to give a presentation on a proposed townhome development on West William Street in Dwight.

The four-acre, $7 million project is being built by North Arrrow Partners of Villa Park and will be comprised of 32 residences in eight townhome buildings.

Construction is slated to begin in the spring of 2022 and take 12-14 months to complete.

• SEPTEMBER •

It's Time to Eat

Dwight's Rhonda Branz took over the helm of Dwight Pizza April 1 after working for the previous owner, John Nakashima, for about 10 years – revamping the original name to Dwight Pizza & More, while adding some new menu items and redesigning some of the interior of the restaurant.

Braceville Elementary School Receives Recognition from Midwest PBIS Network

Braceville Elementary School District #75 was recognized by the Midwest Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports Network with 13 badges for their work toward fully and successfully implementing a school-wide framework that leads to improved student outcomes both with social-emotional competence and academics.

Domestic Disturbance in Dwight Results in Two Stabbing Victims

On September 9, Dwight Police were called to the 100 block of W. Waupansie St. in Dwight, in reference to two stabbing victims.

(continued on page 7)

OBITUARIES

Gwen Suttory Best Rosenfeld

Gwen L. Suttory Best Rosenfeld, 89, of Elkhart, Illinois passed away Tuesday, January 4, 2022 at Heritage Woods in Dwight, Illinois.

Visitation will be held on Friday, January 14, 2022 from 12 noon to 1 p.m. in St. Patrick's Church in Elkhart, Illinois. Mass will follow with Rev. Joseph Dondanville officiating. The family is requesting masks to be worn.

Graveside services will follow in Elkhart Cemetery. She will be the seventh generation of her family to be buried there.

She was born July 29, 1932 in Elkhart, Illinois, a daughter of William and Chrystle Shockey Suttory. She grew up in Fancy Prairie, Illinois. She married William Best in 1952. They divorced in 1977. Sadly, he passed away in 2006. She later married Lloyd Rosenfeld in 1980. He preceded her in death in 1992.

She is survived by her children: Greg (Janet) Best of Greeley, Colorado; Raymond Best of Parker, Colorado; Laura (Mike Martin) Haacke of Dwight, Illinois; William Best II of Lincoln, Illinois; and Daniel (Ruth) Best of The Villages, Florida.

Six grandchildren; one step-grandchild; 11 great-grandchildren; two step-great-grand children; one great-great-grandchild; and five step-great-great-grandchildren also survive.

She leaves behind one brother, Louis (Rochelle) Suttory of Springfield, Illinois; and many nieces and nephews; great-nieces and nephews; and a very dear niece, Judy Carlson. She also leaves three step-children: Cindy, Mike and Mark Rosenfeld.

She was preceded in death by her parents; two brothers, William and Darrell Suttory; two sisters, Cordelia Shelton and Leahdell Turner; and one daughter-in-law, Pamela Best.

Gwen graduated from Elkhart Community High School in 1950, then worked for Franklin Life Insurance as a proofreader, and then as a proofreader at Phillips Printing.

She was co-owner of the Buzz Box Tavern in Sherman, Illinois and co-owner of the Trojan Inn Cafe in Dwight, Illinois. She worked for Playhouse Toys for 17 years, which allowed her to travel all 50 states and nine countries. In 1994, she retired from State Farm Insurance.

She spent her retired years as the elected Village Clerk of Elkhart, Illinois, serving from 1997 to 2009, and was treasurer of the Elkhart American Legion Auxiliary until 2016.

She was a historian of the Elkhart Community in having written two books on the Village and its residents. She was a lifelong avid St. Louis Cardinals fan and loved playing rummy (only for money).

Due to Gwen's dedication and patriotism in supporting our troops, memorials may be made in her name to the American Legion Post 616.

Arrangements made by Fricke - Calvert - Schrader, Lincoln, Illinois.

Raphael J. Corrigan

Raphael "Ray" J. Corrigan, 88, of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and formerly of rural Blackstone, died peacefully Monday, December 27, 2021 at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center following a lengthy illness.

It was Ray's wish that there be no visitation that might jeopardize the health of family and friends due to the COVID pandemic.

Cremation rites were accorded with private burial in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Ransom.

The Solon-Telford Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Peace of Mind Funeral Home assisted the family in Milwaukee.

He was born October 31, 1933 in Sunbury Township to Martin R. and Mayme V. (Broderick) Corrigan. He married Valerie R. Armstrong August 13, 1966 in Streator.

Surviving are daughter and son-in-law, Shari and Paul Hanneman of Franklin, Wisconsin; granddaughter, Marjorie Hanneman of Ithaca, New York; grandson, Harrison Hanneman of Chicago, Illinois; former wife, Valerie R. Hebler, Park Hill, Oklahoma; sister, Mary Jo Corrigan of Pontiac, Illinois; and niece Kathleen Condon of Sycamore, Illinois.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Justin M. Corrigan; and niece, Kristine Corrigan.

Ray was a lifelong farmer in the Blackstone, Ransom and Kernan areas. He was a graduate of Dwight Township High School, class of 1951, and served in the United States Army as a tank mechanic.

He was a member of the former Immaculate Conception parish; the Msgr. George A. Dzuryo Knights of Columbus Council #790; and BPOE Lodge #591.

Ray never knew a stranger and is remembered for his congeniality and ability to converse with anyone about any topic. In his retirement, Ray never missed a recital, concert, or competition involving his grandchildren. He would end each event with a hearty "Good show! Good show!"

The family is grateful to the ninth floor palliative care team at the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center for their loving and dignified care of dad.

Memorials may be directed to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Online condolences may be left for the family at:
www.solontelford.com

Fern Burkhardt

Fern Burkhardt, 84, of Dwight, Illinois passed away peacefully at 4:20 a.m. on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 at Heritage Health in Dwight, Illinois.

Fern was born August 22, 1937, the daughter of Odley and Elna (Hahn) Ingram. She married the love of her life, Richard H. Burkhardt, on September 24, 1955, and got to spend 65 amazing years together.

Surviving are her husband, Richard of Dwight; one son, Tom (Sandy) Burkhardt of Dwight; five grandchildren: Amie (Mikey) Graham of Dwight; Angela Baggett of Dwight; Justin (Shelly) Burkhardt of Emington; Faith (Nick) Lavezzi of Braidwood; Katie (Pete) Stanton of Chicago.

Also surviving are 10 great-grandchildren: Blake and Logan Graham of Dwight; Lennox Baggett of Dwight; Austin, Lane and Waylon Burkhardt of Emington; Sydney Christensen of Braidwood; Payton (Kellen) Christensen of Effingham; Owen and Claire Stanton of Chicago.

She also leaves many nieces and nephews, and her special friends, Pam Wahl and Kathy Bunting.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her daughter, Connie, who she missed dearly for three years; and five brothers: Kenny, Bob, Donnie, Lee and Ralph.

Fern retired from Fox Center after 30-plus years. She had a strong passion for her job and people she worked with and cared for.

She was a huge Bears and Cubs fan. She treasured watching all of their games with her husband, who also has a love for the teams. For all who knew them though, it was not surprising to anyone of the hollering back and forth that took place between them during the games.

Fern was a kind and all-around great person to know. She loved her family with all her heart, and also adored visits with family and friends. She savored the occasional sweet treat, and cherished it when her granddaughter, Shelly, brought in her mother's famous bread pudding. She was a very outspoken person who told you how it was. Definitely a firecracker for sure. If you knew her, then you know Fern was a blessing to have in your life, and was very unique.

Memorials may be made in her name to St. Jude's, Fox Center, or any charity of the donor's choice.

There will be no service per Fern's request. There will be a service at a later date for the family.

Arrangements are by Hager Memorial Home in Dwight, Illinois.

The family would like to thank Heritage Health in Dwight for all the care and love that Fern got in her short stay with them.

John J. 'Joe' Smith

John J. "Joe" Smith, 85, of Dwight passed away Friday, January 7, 2022.

Joe was born December 1, 1936 to Miley and Ira (Cary) Smith. He graduated from Young America High School in Metcalf, Illinois at the age of 16. He served in the U.S. Army as a Russian translator during the Cold War from 1955 to 1958, earning the Good Conduct Medal.

Joe retired from Caterpillar in Joliet after 35 years of service to the company as a maintenance supervisor. He was a member of the American Legion and the First Congregational Church, where he served as a Deacon.

Joe was a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, played several musical instruments, and was an expert woodworker, but he loved nothing more than his family.

Joe was a loving husband for 63 years to Kay (Wood) Smith. She survives in Dwight.

He was also a proud and devoted dad to Kayla (Steve) Smith-Malm; Diana (Mark) Watters; Michael (Karen) Smith; and Patrick (Shannon) Smith.

Joe fiercely loved his grandchildren: Ryan (Mary Beth) Andreasen, Elizabeth (Aaron) Bowden, Michael (Kristina) Andreasen, Allison Kelly, Christopher (Kelly) Watters, Alyssa (Kevin) Kucera, John Smith, Alexandra Smith, Mackenzie Haas, Hayleigh Wert, and Madelyn Smith.

He also truly enjoyed his great-grandchildren: Evan and Abby Andreasen, Clara and Audrey Bowden, and Sawyer, Harper and Callan Kucera. Joe is also survived by one sister, Geraldine Rienbolt; one brother, Harold Smith; as well as several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers-in-law, Earl Rienbolt, Don Wood and Bill Wood; as well as his father- and mother-in-law, Irvin and Geraldine Wood.

Services will be held at Hager Memorial Home in Dwight on Wednesday, January 12. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 12 noon, with the funeral immediately following.

Burial will follow in Oaklawn Cemetery, Dwight.

Memorials may be made to the American Heart Association.

Joe was well-loved, and will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

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

The Paper

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

5 Minutes with Boma

Coffee Ranks

This week, I am doing a ranking of something very near and dear to my heart: caffeine. That's the very broad view of it. More specifically, I am going to rank the 5 best cups of coffee that one can enjoy at a given time or event.

As most great lists go, I am going to start at the 5th best, and work my way to the number-1 best coffee.

#5 - The weekend coffee. This can be Saturday or Sunday morning. This coffee is usually a little bit later than the normal before-work coffee, but it's nice to have the pick-me-up while knowing there usually isn't anything too extensive planned for the day. Just a nice cup of mud and a day to relax or knock out some tasks around the house. A nice, ease-into-your-day cup.

#4 - The afternoon coffee. You've knocked out whatever is your profession you had to handle in the morning. You've had your lunch. You're probably riding the small morale bump from lunch into the afternoon...and then 2:30 happens. If you're like me, and mildly to very addicted to caffeine, this is where you need a cup to get you through the rest of the day. And it usually does.

#3 - The diner cup with brunch. There's something about coffee in the diner cup. (You know the cup.) It's usually slightly smaller than a regular coffee cup, is like a dingy white/beige, and has some wear and tear to it. But the coffee in it just works a little bit better in this scenario.

#2 - The pre road trip cup. This is usually coming from a chain. Maybe a little fancier on the drink, with some cream on top and some espresso infused into it. You're driving away with more than you would normally dress up the coffee with, but it's fine. You've got a lot to do. You have to set your cruise and drive mindlessly for a few hours.

#1 - The morning cup. Old reliable. It never fails. It's always there for you. What's the saying? Every great morning starts with Folgers? Something like that. Change Folgers to coffee and you've got yourself the number-one rated coffee. (No free ads.) This has to be number-one – it does the heavy lifting for the day and I'm very grateful for it.

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

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ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 10, 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 Dwight Vision Care Center, located at 110 E. Main St., Dwight, IL 60420.

Dated this 10th day of December, 2021.

Kristy A. Masching
Livingston County Clerk

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(continued from page 6)

Upon arrival, DPD observed a female with a lacerated arm and a male with stab wounds to the stomach and chest cavity.

DPD Chief Tim Henson stated he believes it was an isolated incident.

Body Recovered in Illinois River

An autopsy was conducted September 5 on the individual who was recovered from the Illinois River near Peru September 4.

The autopsy revealed that the decedent was male, but due to the condition of the recovered body, positive ID would take several weeks to months.

It was later discovered that the body was that of missing person, Jelani Day.

School Bus Rolls Over in LaSalle County

On September 9, LaSalle County Deputies responded to a Deer Park School bus rollover. The bus, carrying three juvenile passengers at the time, ended up rolling onto its side after the driver, Mary E. Hatch, 51, of Varna, stated she attempted to avoid an animal in the roadway.

Hatch and all three passengers were transported to OSF St. Elizabeth for treatment of minor injuries.

Area Author Jim Ridings Has 30th, and Final, Book Published

A new book, "Western Kankakee County", has been published by Arcadia Publications. It is the 30th book by Herscher author Jim Ridings. He said this is his last book.

The book covers the history of the towns in western Kankakee Cty. – Herscher, Bonfield, Buckingham, Cabery, Essex, Goodrich, Irwin, Lehigh, Limestone, Reddick, Union, and the now-gone coal mining town of Clarke City.

Strolling Along Rt. 66

Dave Cox, and his poultry-pal pet, Sammi Chicken, were traveling Rt. 66 and stopped off at the historic Ambler-Becker Texaco Station in Dwight to chat with volunteer attendants.

"I have to say stopping into the Ambler-Becker Texaco Station was one of my favorite visits along Rt. 66."

Lady Redbirds Win Regional and Sectional

The Dwight Lady Redbirds softball team was State-bound following a regional win over rivals GSWB September 14, then a 10-0 victory over Grant Park September 18.

Dwight would fall to Bloomington Corpus Christi at State September 24, by a score of 6-4

(continued on page 8)

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Dwight Wins at Home Over GSW, 57-45

Saturday, January 8
Dwight vs. GSW

It was rivalry night in Dwight January 8, as the Trojans hosted the Gardner-South Wilmington Panthers – earning a 57-45 victory.

"We played a pretty well-rounded game," stated Dwight's head coach Jeremy Connor. "We stepped it up a little more on the defensive end."

Through the first three quarters, the Trojans held GSW in check defensively, and kept them at bay long enough late in the game to improve to 7-7 (1-1 in TCC) on the season.

"We fought until the end," Panthers head coach Allan Wills said, "but we just fell too far behind in the first half."

Leading Dwight, and all scorers, with 21 points was Wyatt Thompson, who hit two threes and went 3-4 from the line. Jeremy Kapper added 14 points (2-2 FT), while Connor Telford put up eight points (2 3-pointers). Kaleb Duden was good for seven points (1 3-pointer), with Landon Brown coming up with five points (1-3 FT). Dawson Carr chipped in with a bucket.

For GSW, Cale Halpin was high scorer with 14 points (2 3-pointers), adding that to three steals and two blocks. Garrett Grant (3-3 FT, 6 rebounds, 2 steals) and Gabe McHugh (11 rebounds, 4 steals) put up 11 and 10 points, respectively. Ethan Mack and Bennett Grant each scored four points, with Ryan Cacello providing two points.

The Panthers are now 5-13 overall, with a 1-4 record in conference play. They will take on Tri-Point Friday night at home.

Dwight hosts Woodland on Friday.

Lady Irish Top Dwight, 49-25

Wednesday, January 5
Seneca vs. Dwight

In a battle between Seneca and Dwight January 5, the Lady Fighting Irish were victorious, 49-25.

"Started a little slow," said Seneca's Coach Holman, "but our posts Emma Smith, Faith Deering and Harleigh Varland really turned it up a notch for us starting in the second quarter. It was nice to see us getting some clean rebounds and running the floor. We're still working our way back from being off over break – but tonight was a step in the right direction."

Kennedy Hartwig had 20 points to lead the Lady Irish. Smith followed with 10 points of her own.

For the Lady Trojans, cold shooting from behind the three-point line haunted them throughout the contest, going 1-19 from beyond the arc.

Lilly Duffy was high scorer for Dwight with 10 points, adding that to four rebounds. Mikalah Bregin had five points, three boards, a steal, and one assist. Kassy Kodat came up with four points, four rebounds, and two swipes. Brooke Vigna had four points in the first quarter, in addition to seven boards, two steals, and an assist. Njomza Asllani chipped in with two points, a rebound, and one steal. Alayna Airgood contributed two steals and one rebound, with Emerson Peters pulling down two boards to go with two steals. Ellora McCullough had one rebound.

The win puts Seneca at 11-8 overall, while the loss sits Dwight at 3-15 on the season.

DTHS Trojans Basketball

Tuesday, January 4
Dwight vs. Pontiac

The varsity Trojans were dealt a 73-43 loss at the hands of Pontiac on the road January 4.

"We really struggled with the physicality of this game," stated head coach Jeremy Connor. "Pontiac shot the ball extremely well and we just couldn't keep up."

Wyatt Thompson scored a team-high 13 points, hitting one three-pointer and shooting 2-3 from the line. Jeremy Kapper supplied eight points, going 1-2 from the charity stripe and connecting on a three. Dawson Carr came up with seven points (2-6 FT) on the night, followed by five from Kaleb Duden, who also drilled a three. Landon Brown and Jack Duffy each added a bucket, with Jack Denker making a free throw.

Friday, January 7
Dwight vs.
Henry Senachwine

After a rough first quarter, Dwight was able to get back on track and take down Henry Senachwine on the road, 56-42, on January 7.

"Had a very slow start, but we finally got it going a little in the second half to give a little cushion," Coach Connor said. "We still need to make strides offensively and defensively."

Wyatt Thompson (2-6 FT) and Connor Telford (2-4 FT) led the way with 12 points each, followed by 11 points each from Jeremy Kapper (7-9 FT) and Landon Brown (1 3-pointer, 2-2 FT). Dawson Carr kicked in seven points, hitting one three, while Kaleb Duden knocked down two free throws. Jack Groves chipped in with a free throw.

The Trojans are now 6-7 overall, with a 1-1 record in the conference.

GSW Panthers Basketball

Friday, January 7
GSW vs. Beecher

In a battle with Beecher January 7, the GSW Panthers fell by a score of 58-35.

"It was a much closer game than the final score shows," stated Coach Wills. "We cut it to three partway through the fourth, but they pulled away at the end. I am proud of our effort tonight."

Cale Halpin led Gardner-South Wilmington with 12 points and two steals. Gabe McHugh (8 rebounds) and Garrett Grant (5 rebounds) provided 10 and seven points, respectively.

GSW Lady Panthers Basketball

Monday, January 3
GSW vs. Beecher

The Lady Panthers lost 51-39 in a contest with Beecher January 3.

Addi Fair scored a game-high 24 points, hitting three threes and going 7-9 from the line. Riley Klingler (2-2 FT) and Aspen Lardi had four points each. Hannah Balcom put up three points (1-5 FT), with Eva Henderson and Chloe Wells each scoring two points.

Tuesday, January 4
GSW vs. Grace Christian

In a match-up with Grace Christian January 4, Gardner-South Wilmington fell 36-28.

Addi Fair put up 18 points, going a perfect 4-4 from the charity striple. Hannah Balcom scored eight points, while Chloe Wells had two.

Thursday, January 6
GSW vs. Momence

GSW earned its second victory of the season January 6, taking out Momence by a score of 41-24.

Addi Fair led with 12 points, going 2-5 from the line and connecting on two threes. Chloe Wells had eight points, with Hannah Balcom providing seven points (1-2 FT). Riley Klingler scored six points, while Aspen Lardi had four points. Grace Olsen and Mary Clare Phillips both scored two points.

The Lady Panthers are now 2-17 overall and 2-5 in the conference.

Tri-Point Lady Chargers Basketball

Thursday, January 6
Tri-Point vs. Beecher

The Lady Chargers were knocked off by Beecher January 6, 66-27.

Kyra Cathcart was the leading scorer for Tri-Point with 11 points (1-2 FT). Melina Schuette added eight points, with Milie Ruiz (1 3-pointer) and Lanie Woods each scoring three points. Kadie Hummel chipped in with a bucket.

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DTHS Lady Trojans Basketball

Monday, January 3
Dwight vs. Fieldcrest

The varsity Lady Trojans fell to Fieldcrest January 3 in a non-conference match-up.

Leading the way for Dwight was Brooke Vigna with 15 points. Kassy Kodat contributed five points, going 3-4 from the free throw line. Mikalah Bregin had four points (2-3 FT), with Lilly Duffy scoring three points (1-1 FT).

Tuesday, January 4
Dwight vs. Prairie Central

Dwight suffered a 56-41 non-conference loss to Prairie Central January 4.

Brooke Vigna led the Lady Trojans with a double-double, putting up 11 points and 17 rebounds. Mikalah Bregin registered 11 points, six boards, three steals, and two assists. Kassy Kodat added 10 points, six rebounds, two steals and an assist. Njomza Asllani rounded out the scoring with nine points, in addition to two steals and one assist.

Thursday, January 6
Dwight vs. Henry

In action against Henry January 6, the Lady Trojans lost a heart-breaker in overtime, 27-25.

Kassy Kodat led Dwight with 12 points, four steals, and four rebounds. Brooke Vigna added nine points, 10 boards, with Mikalah Bregin putting up three points and seven rebounds. Lilly Duffy came up with four steals and four boards. Njomza Asllani grabbed seven rebounds.

The Lady Trojans are now 3-16 on the season and 1-6 in the Tri-County Conference.

Victory Lanes, League Results

Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: Curtis Price, 266; Doug Gassman, 243; Josh Gernentz, 236; Shawn Delong, Jr., 228; Crazy Hallam, 224 – Brandi Farcus, 182; Paula Watts, 175; Shelah Gaston, 169; Sheri Colebank, 162; Stacy Richie, 149. HSS: Josh Gernentz, 701; Curtis Price, 671; Doug Gassman, 670; Crazy Hallam, 629; Eric Knobbe, 597 – Brandi Farcus, 499; Paula Watts, 473; Sheri Colebank, 435; Shelah Gaston, 429; Stacy Richie, 403. HSG/HHG: Benson Racing #19, 1062. HSS/HHS: Benson Racing #19, 3020.

League Standings	W	L
Agritile	7	1
Cherry RR	7	1
Gaston Construct.	7	1
Victory Lanes	5	3
Pumpkin Patch	5	3
Benson Racing	4	4
Willy's Pub	4	4
Whiskey Cav.	3	5
Dairy Queen	3	5
Maxwell Truck.	1	7
Coleman/Son	1	7

Sportsman League Bowlers

HSG: Chris Cook, 265; Shawn Delong, Jr., 258; Bosco Gassman, 248; Doug Gassman, 246; Brandon Petry, 244. HSS: Chris Cook, 725; Shawn Delong, Jr., 691; Doug Gassman, 688; Brandon Petry, 674; JD Gernentz, 657. HSG/HHG: LTG Shuttles, 1105. HSS/HHS: LTG Shuttles, 3060.

League Standings	W	L
LTG Shuttles	14	2
Star Trucking	13	3
Stumble Inn	12	4
DeLong Ford	10	6
Cafe 110 West	9	7
Rockey's Pub	8	8
Jensens I	8	8
Rambo Construct.	5	11
Jeremy's Barber	5	11
Rury's Tap	4	12
Willy's Pub	4	12
Jensen BP II	4	12

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(continued from page 7)

Dwight Rotary Club Presented 'Rotary Citation' Recognition

Earl McCoy, immediate past President of Dwight Rotary Club, was presented with the most significant award a Rotary Club can achieve – the "Rotary Citation" – at the club's September 15 meeting.

Harvest Days a Success

Dwight Harvest Days was held September 16-19, after not setting up shop in downtown Dwight in 2020 because of COVID-19.

"What makes it successful is the community was able to come out and enjoy themselves and bring people together," said Randy Irvin, president of the Harvest Days Committee.

Dwight Resident Arrested for Possession, Dissemination of Child Pornography

Illinois State Police Division of Criminal Investigation Zone 5 officials announced the arrest of David A. Fromherz, 51, of Dwight, on September 29, for seven counts of Possession and Dissemination of Child Pornography.

• O C T O B E R •

Multiple Agencies Combine to Get Answers in Jelani Day Case

The LaSalle County Sheriff's Office, Illinois State Police, Peru Police Department, LaSalle Police Department, and Bloomington Police Department have combined a collaborative multi-jurisdictional unit to further the ongoing investigation into the death of Jelani Day, with the assistance of the FBI-BAU.

Man Arrested for Pushing Woman Down Stairs

On October 2, Dwight EMS responded to a female who had reportedly fallen down the stairs in the 200 block of East North St. in Dwight.

After being transported to Morris Hospital, staff there learned the victim had been pushed down the stairs, and Dwight Police were notified – later arresting Ralph Coyle, 45, of Dwight, on two counts of felony Domestic Battery and one count of Aggravated Domestic Battery.

Grundy County Deputy Shot On Duty; Offender Detained After Car, Foot Pursuit

On October 7, a Grundy County Deputy attempted to conduct a traffic stop in Mazon when the offending vehicle took off and was ultimately involved in an accident just south of Grand Ridge Road.

(continued on page 9)

Seneca Fighting Irish Wrestling

Tuesday, January 4
Seneca vs.
Peotone and Plano

The Irish were at home January 4 hosting Peotone and Plano, winning in both match-ups, 57-19 and 48-30, respectively. Individual results are as follows:

vs. Peotone

106: **Kyler Hahn** by FF; 113: **Tommy Milton** by FF; 120: Laith Abunmigeh Major 10-0 over **Bill Farcus**; 126: **Jaden Casey** F 2:45 over Mo Abunmigeh; 132: **Robby Nelson** F 5:29 over Santino Izzi; 138: Ian Kreske 7-5 OT over **Ryan Flynn**; 145: **Owen Feiner** 3-2 over Marco Spinazolla; 152: **Asher Hamby** F 1:00 over Seth Lonard; 160: Kevin Hogan F 3:02 over **Chris Smith**; 170: **Brendan Smith** by FF; 182: **Chris Peura** by FFF; 220: Alex Cardenas F 1:21 over **Alex Bogner**; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

vs. Plano

106: **Kyler Hahn** by FF; 113: **Tommy Milton** by FF; 120: **Bill Farcus** F 5:06 over Marcos Garcia; 126: **Jaden Casey** 9-2 over Cain Hernandez; 132: **Robby Nelson** F 3:15 over James Brooks; 138: **Ryan Flynn** 3-2 over Norbert Gajola; 145: **Owen Feiner** F 1:16 over Anton Gilford; 152: **Asher Hamby** F :58 over Gio Diaz; 160: Will Collins F :55 over **Brendan Smith**; 170: Vince Herbig F 2:33 over **Kyle Hamby**; 182: Jack Olivier by FF; 195: **Chris Peura** F 4:26 over Carnall Walls; 220: Ander Harrelson F 1:13 over **Alex Bogner**; 285: Alex Diaz F 1:49 over **Liam Blue**.

Seneca is now 13-10 during the 2021-22 season.

Saturday, January 8
Seneca at
Fighting Irish Invitational

Seneca hosted the Fighting Irish Invitational January 8, winning the Invite, that featured 12 teams in total, for the second consecutive season.

The Irish were led by championship performances from Robby Nelson (132), Owen Feiner (145), and Chris Peura (195).

Other placers were: 106: Kyler Hahn (2nd); 113: Tommy Milton (2nd); 120: Bill Farcus (2nd); 126: Jaden Casey (4th); 138: Ryan Flynn (3rd); 152: Asher Hamby (5th); 170: Kyle Hamby (2nd); 220: Alex Bogner (4th).

Also placing as non-scoring athletes were: 126: Nick Grant (6th); 132: Nate Othon (3rd); 138: Will Milton (2nd).

Senior Night in Seneca kicks off at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 12.

Dwight Wrestling Club Shows Out at El Paso Titan Rumble

Sunday, January 2
Dwight Wrestling Club
at El Paso Titan Rumble

The Dwight Wrestling Club was well represented at the El Paso Titan Rumble January 2. Taking home medals were:

Kimari Nelson, 1st; Dalton DeLong, 2nd; Sophia Medema, 2nd; RJ Christensen, 2nd; Vinny Stipanovich, 2nd; Remington Paulsen, 2nd; Landon McGann, 2nd; Cayson Bean, 2nd; Landon Hoffner, 2nd; Zachary Thompson, 3rd; Damien Coleman, 3rd; Colton Dippon, 3rd; Cole Bradbury, 3rd; Christian Ochoa, 3rd; Jeffrey Medema, 3rd; Dax Turner, 3rd; Kamren Olbrot, 3rd; Sadie Burke, 3rd; Caiden Bean, 3rd; Kevin Peterson, 4th; Mia Hoffner, 4th; Jack Tjelle, 4th; Jeff Leonard, 4th; Olivia Turner, 4th; and Eli Jensen, 4th.

DCS Redbirds Basketball

Tuesday, January 4
Dwight vs. Prairie Central
6th Grade -
Saunemin Tournament

The sixth grade Redbirds started the Saunemin Tournament with a victory over Prairie Central, 24-15, on January 4.

Leading Dwight in scoring and rebounding was Evan Olson with 12 points, nine boards. Walter Bradley added eight points and five rebounds, while Kayden Wood had four points and seven boards. Axel Kargle also had a big game offensively.

Friday, January 7
Dwight vs. PBL
6th Grade -
Saunemin Tournament

In second round action of the Saunemin Tournament January 7, Dwight was beaten by PBL, 21-18.

Leading the Redbirds was Axel Kargle, Jude Hurt (7 rebounds), Walter Bradley (6 rebounds), and Kayden Wood with four points each. Evan Olson snagged five boards.

Hines VA Outreach Team in Gardner

The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Outreach Team will be at the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, 229 Liberty Street, Gardner from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 18.

If you would like more information, call Patrick Grimes at 708-904-1473.

DCS Lady Redbirds Volleyball

Tuesday, January 4
Dwight vs. Tri-Point
8th Grade -

On January 4, Dwight opened up their season with a victory over Tri-Point, 25-20, 25-20.

Sophie Buck had nine aces, four assists, and a kill, with Taylor Heath providing four aces, one assist, a dig, and a kill. Sarah Parker (3 assists, 2 digs) and Taylor Frobish each came up with three aces. Madi Ely added two aces, while Makayla Wahl-Seabert (3 kills, 2 digs) and Dori Wilson put up an ace each. Ryan Bean contributed three kills.

7th Grade -

In the seventh grade meeting, the Lady Redbirds won 25-7, 25-13 over T-P.

Kit Connor (1 kill) and Mikayla Chambers led with four aces each, followed by three aces and a kill from Sophie Bastian. Delaney Boucher had two aces and three kills, with Claire Sandeno (3 kills) and Honorine Mwizerw each coming up with an ace. Avery Connor had two kills and a dig.

Thursday, January 6
Dwight vs. GSWB
8th Grade -

Dwight's Lady Redbirds were defeated by Gardner-South Wilmington-Braceville 20-25, 11-25 on January 6.

Madi Ely had two aces, three digs, and a kill, with Sarah Parker (4 digs, 3 assists, 1 kill) and Taylor Heath (5 digs, 2 blocks, 1 kill, 1 assist) adding an ace each. Taylor Frobish put up five digs, a kill, and one assist. Sophie Buck had three kills and two assists. Makayla Wahl-Seabert (1 dig) and Ryan Bean (1 block) both had one kill.

7th Grade -

Dwight lost in the seventh grade match-up with GSWB, 25-21, 23-25, 11-25.

Delaney Boucher led with six aces, two kills, and two digs. Claire Sandeno added four aces, three digs, and a kill. Kit Connor contributed two aces, three assists, and a kill, while Avery Connor came up with an ace and an assist. Mikayla Chambers put up five kills and two digs, with Cloe Gall adding two kills.

6th Grade -

The sixth grade contest saw Dwight fall to GSWB in three sets, 12-25, 25-20, 19-25.

Kaitlyn Todd led with four aces, followed by two aces each from Addie Alivez, Addie Taylor, and Grace Tjelle. Emma Anderson, Raegan Brown, and Kailyn Haggard each had one ace.

"B" -

In the "B" game, the Lady Redbirds were defeated by GSWB, 16-25, 13-25.

Sweat Factory Is Open – – –

(continued from page 1)

being run by local business owners in town. Three of the four of us are local business owners. I think it's a more secure feeling for customers after the gym closing and not being able to go."

Schade was the first owner of the gym as he called it Champion Fitness when the building was built in the 1990s.

When Schade relocated to Arizona, Woodburn took over the management role. In September 2021, Kenny Taylor became the new owner until November.

Coaching and working out at the facility on a regular basis, it only seemed right for Shayla Smith to join the ownership group.

"Being a Crossfit coach, there really isn't room for advancement except for owning your own gym," said Shayla, who owns Shayla Loring Photography. She is a member of the Dwight Economic Alliance Board, is a Christmas for Kids organizer, and is part of a co-op called One Collective – which is formed by high school photographers. "It's just kind of cool to make that the next step. I clearly have a love for small businesses and I enjoy everything about them. It's fun to be a part of another one and to provide a good, fun atmosphere for people in Dwight to have a healthy habit.

"I think we all have the same mentality of wanting to keep the gym alive. We've all owned businesses or been a part of a business endeavor. Stephan is a creative business owner. I've known the Connors forever. I think the trust is there to have a business together and to share the responsibilities. I think it's going to be all-hands-on-deck. It has been for the last two months. Some people excel in other spaces than another owner. I'm coaching classes that we have, so that's my area. We all share the cleaning duties. We're all having fun with the social media."

Harold Smith, who tied the knot with Shayla on Sept. 5, 2021, is employed by the Department of Corrections and has always been interested in owning a small business.

With the help of his wife and two friends in the Connor family, Harold saw this as a great opportunity to expand his horizons.

"We're really excited to get the community back involved in the gym. We want to keep the doors open and giving everyone a safe and healthy spot," Harold Smith said. "We want to get younger students involved and keep older citizens involved by giving them something to do. It's definitely an exciting time."

"Shayla has been very involved with the gym and very passionate about it. When the opportunity came up, it just seemed like a no brainer to have an adventure together. We're a newly married couple (Sept. 5. 2021) and it's nice to explore the adventure of owning a small business and helping the community.

"The gym is a nice outlet to get your focus on something more positive than some of the negativity you see within a prison system. It's a nice area to release some of the energy and focus on something positive."

The owners welcome all comments and suggestions of ways to improve the Sweat Factory.

They can be reached on Facebook (Sweat Factory) or their website:

sweatfactorydwight.com.

Potential members can go to the Sweat Factory at any time and fill out the membership application. A phone number is listed on the application so people can text it to receive a code to enter the gym if an owner is not present.

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

(continued from page 8)

The offender took off on foot into the residential area of Mazon. While chasing him, the Deputy was fired upon and struck multiple times. However, his ballistic vest stopped the bullets.

The offender, DeMarcus Tremaine Denwiddie, 18, of Joliet, was located and came out of a residence without a struggle and taken into custody.

Hancock Retires After 53 Years on Nursing Home Board

Del Hancock, usually synonymous with the Hancock Jewelry Store which supplied Dwight with the finest gems for 68 years until it closed its doors one last time this past summer, retired from the Nursing Home Board – which was part of the investing group that brought Heritage Health to Dwight.

Bob Klingler Honored for Years of Public Service

Bob Klingler, who ran Klingler's Jewelry for 40 years in Dwight and moved to Overbrook, Kansas 18 years ago, was honored for his service with Overbrook proclaiming November 25 as Bob Klingler Appreciation Day, and commemorating it with a new sign in front of the Overbrook kid's pond on September 11 – naming it the Bob Klingler Kids Fishing Pond.

LCHD Collects Over 300 Tires...So Far

In an effort to help rid the county of those common mosquito breeding grounds, the Livingston County Health Department collected over 300 old, unused tires.

New Brush Truck for Emington-Campus Fire

The Emington-Campus Fire Protection District has put together a Brush Truck for the district, which will also be used to run EMS calls. The truck was donated from Sterling-TerraLam CLT Mats and Turnkey Site Access Solutions of Phoenix.

Dwight Historical Society Creates Cemetery Walk

The Dwight Historical Society created a cemetery walk through Old Town Cemetery, Oaklawn Cemetery, and McDowell Cemetery to share some of Dwight's greatness October 17 – featuring local actors sharing the tales of the past as the ones who lived them.

(continued on page 11)

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• Cafeteria/Custodial M-F - contact Keith Martin, 815-448-5238.
• Bus Drivers Regular and Extra-Curricular Routes M-F - contact Laura McCullough, 815-448-2197.

Please contact the above persons regarding each position. MVK ESD 2C is an equal opportunity employer.

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SOUTH WILMINGTON – South Wilmington Firemen's Beach & Park Club is looking for a full-time secretary and a gate guard, 56 hours every two weeks. Call 815-237-8640 or email swfbpc.office@gmail.com 52-4wp

General/Special Education Paraprofessional

Dwight Common School has a vacancy for a general education/special education paraprofessional. Please email a letter of interest and resume to Mrs. Julie L. Schultz @ schultzju@dwight.k12.il.us by 8/13/2021. Call 815-584-6221 with any questions.

The position will be open until filled.

PARAPROFESSIONAL

South Wilmington Grade School has an opening for a Paraprofessional to cover a leave of absence from February 21-May 13, 2022. Candidates must be at least 19 years of age and have proof of a High School Diploma or GED Equivalent. Interested candidates please contact Mrs. Cynthia Christensen, Superintendent at 815-228-4280 or email cchristensen@swil74.org with "Paraprofessional" in heading.

Village of Dwight
Secretary/Utility Billing Clerk

The Village of Dwight seeks applicants for the position of Secretary/Utility Billing Clerk. Successful candidates need to possess exceptional computer skills and knowledge, excellent organizational skills, and the ability to deal and communicate with the public on a daily basis.

Applicants must possess a high school diploma and successful candidates must be able to pass an extensive background check. Starting pay will be commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Interested professionals should submit a completed resume, cover letter and contact information by 4:30 p.m. January 21, 2022 to Village Administrator, Village of Dwight, 209 S. Prairie Avenue, Dwight, IL 60420. Electronic submissions should be sent to kmcn@dwightillinois.com.

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Pet of the Week

Hi guys! I'm Miss Melody! I'm a year-old Catahoula mix! I came to LCHS at the end of July very pregnant and heartworm positive! The beginning of August I gave birth to 8 of the most gorgeous babies! With the help of the amazing ladies here, I raised my pups until mid-October when they were finally old enough to find homes of their own! Soon after, I began the process of heartworm treatment! After 5 long and hard months of being here, I am finally ready to find a home of my own! I am a very sweet and excitable girl! I have an extreme case of wiggle butt when I get really happy! I'm a pretty energetic girl and I would LOVE a very active home! Walking, running, hiking, playing, you name it and I will most likely enjoy it! I could see myself being a traveling dog as long as I get to sit in your lap on the way to our destination! I'm a bit of a big baby! The ladies spoiling me during all of my time here didn't help that either! I love hugs and being talked to! I will even talk back! I'm a vocal girl and I'm not afraid to voice my opinions! I haven't been tested with other dogs and cats yet as I am just finishing up my heartworm treatment, but my description will be updated when that has been completed! Please come meet me and give me a chance! I'm beyond ready to find my forever home!

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Dwight Peace Meals

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

Wed., Jan. 12: Mushroom crusted chicken, au gratin potatoes, Capri vegetables, pineapple, whole grain bread.

Thurs., Jan. 13: Cheeseburger soup, pickled beets, broccoli salad, peaches, roll.

Fri., Jan. 14: Salmon burger w/ condiment, baked beans, Brussels sprouts, apricots, bun.

Mon., Jan. 17: Lasagna, broccoli, corn, tossed salad w/ dressing pkt., cheddar biscuit.

Tues., Jan. 18: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy, collard greens, Mandarin oranges, whole grain bread.

Wed., Jan. 19: Beef stew w/ vegetables, green beans, Jell-O w/ mixed fruit, roll, surprise dessert.

Thurs., Jan. 20: Chicken tetrazzini, honey glazed carrots, tossed salad w/ dressing pkt., hot fruit crisp.

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Experience – – –

(continued from page 1)

dle and a medallion for dedication to music education."

6 a.m., Friday, Dec. 31

"We were rehearsing trying to get ready for the parade because we hadn't done a whole lot of street marching. We were trying to figure out where we were positioned in the parade and how we were going to make it around the curve. There are 12 people across, so it wasn't easy.

"Then we practiced how we were going to split during the parade because we were in front of the float, but when we got into the ABC TV zone, we opened up. We split the band literally in half as one half went to one side of the street and the other half went to the other side of the street. Then we practiced the float going through the middle. They had it down. They knew how fast the float could drive. They knew what part of the song all of this was happening. It was timed out perfectly."

5:45 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 1

"When I woke up, I had an email from Southwest Airlines saying my flight had been canceled. I didn't have plans to stay another night and I couldn't find another flight out on Saturday. There was a snowstorm in Illinois and it delayed air travel.

"I was on the bus to the Rose Parade with a police escort. I was trying to figure out what I was going to do and how I was going to get home while I was on the bus. I couldn't do anything and had to wait until after the parade. I was thankfully able to stay in my room.

"Even though I was worried about my travel plans, it was fun being part of a police escort. We were all staring out the windows, looking at all of the police officers and security that was surrounding us. I had never experienced this before.

11 a.m., Saturday

"As we were working up to where it was time for us to come in, we're talking 30 rows of bleachers just lining the parade.

"On one side it was the University of Utah fans and on the other side was the Ohio State University fans. They were cheering back and forth as we were playing. There were cameras everywhere. The crowd was just erupting. You realize how tired you are for how much you've been playing, you just find whatever you have left in the tank and give it everything you have.

"Then we went into the CBS' TV zone. They brought the trumpet players together and told us to pace ourselves out and that we weren't going to be able to play for 5 ½ miles. They told us to take a song off here or there.

"We went into Superman mode. I didn't take any song off, nor did the other guys. We may have taken a little section off here or there because it was 60-degree weather and the sun was beating on us. We all took the mentality, there are people here who this is the first time they've been to this parade. We wanted to make sure it was a good experience. We went superhuman mode, beast mode, and blew for almost six miles.

"I had my phone on me in my jacket pocket. I had it set to vibrate. All I kept feeling was the zzzz. The buzzing in my jacket was nonstop. In my mind, I was thinking, 'I'm either on TV or they can see us.'"

2 p.m., Saturday

"We took off our suit coats and ties and we went to the game. It was an unbelievable experience. You were just non-stop on the go. I didn't care who won the game. I watch college football, but I'm a University of Illinois guy.

"We were sitting behind the Ohio State band. I was giving the I-L-L-I-N-I type thing to them. They were razzing me back. The game was awesome. It was a complete shootout. You don't realize how big and fast those guys are until you really see them."

Halftime of the Game

"I was texting somebody before we were about to be introduced, 'Hey I'm about to be on the field.' They said, 'Yeah, but it went to commercial.' I responded, 'Oh man.' We walked out and there were 100,000 people in the stadium. They said, 'This is a salute to American band directors.' They went through all of the different awards that had been won by the people in the band. The crowd just went crazy."

Ohio State defeated Utah in the Rose Bowl, 48-45.

2:30 a.m., Sunday, Jan. 2

"Since the plane was leaving at 6 a.m. and the airport is probably an hour away, I decided to wake up at 2:30 a.m. to get ready before the Uber was going to arrive at 3 a.m. I got another email stating my plane was canceled. I started laughing and just couldn't believe it was canceled again.

"I was supposed to fly into St. Louis and then St. Louis to Chicago. I was scrambling trying to figure out what to do next."

6 a.m., Sunday

"Southwest called me around 6 a.m. and said they had rescheduled me for an 8 a.m. flight. There was no way I was going to make it."

11 a.m., Sunday

"They changed it and I left at 11 a.m. I had to fly from Los Angeles to Dallas. Once I got to Dallas, I had to wait three hours before I could jump on another plane to fly from Dallas to Chicago. By the time I got to Chicago, it was 11 p.m.

"When I was on the plane, a woman who sat next to me asked me if I had switched my plane from one to the other. I hadn't, so then I was on the plane trying to figure out if my luggage was switched to the other plane. It did, thankfully, but I was freaked out. The people at LAX put a transfer tag on my luggage so it was transferred."

Midnight, Sunday

"By the time it was over, I had a 20-hour odyssey trying to get home. It was insane trying to get home. By the time I got home, I was exhausted. I went from L.A. to Dallas to Chicago. I was originally going L.A. to Chicago. It was canceled. Then it was L.A. to St. Louis to Chicago. It was canceled. Then L.A. to Dallas to Chicago.

"I kept posting my travels on Facebook. People kept telling me I was living on planes, trains, and automobiles. I definitely was."

YEAR IN REVIEW...

(continued from page 9)

Stoecklin Sentenced to 12 Years for Child Pornography

James "Mike" Stoecklin, 58, was sentenced to 12 years in prison October 21 for one Class X felony of child pornography production.

The former Mayor of Saunemin, Saunemin Grade School employee, and youth basketball coach pleaded guilty to the charge in June 2019 after a Livingston County investigation and arrest.

Junior Trojans Win the Super Bowl

The Dwight Junior Trojans, comprised of fifth and sixth graders along with six Mighty Mites, went 3-0 in the postseason – culminating in a 65-44 Junior League Super Bowl win over Clifton Central Oct. 17 in Gibson City – led by 10 touchdowns scored by Avery Crouch.

Youth Wrestling Returns

In 2017, the Dwight Wrestling Club dissolved. Fast forward to 2021, Josh DeLong and Justin Eggenberger set out to resurrect the club – offering area grapplers an opportunity to hit the mat and improve.

"We wanted to bring the club back because there hasn't been one for the last several years," said DeLong. "There is just a lack of youth wrestling and we want to bring it back. There hasn't been a junior high team or a club team in several years. We want our community to have this."

(continued on page 12)

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SULLIVAN TOWNSHIP
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

	Town		General Assistance		Community Building	
Balance on hand, March 31, 2020		$66,960.49		$35,712.93		$41,626.00
Bank adjustments						
RECEIPTS:						
Real estate taxes	$71,620.43		$4,267.64		$15,715.75	
Illinois Department of Revenue:						
Replacement taxes	3,137.02					
Interest	140.16		73.54		89.09	
Rent					295.65	
Grant Revenue						
Miscellaneous					0.00	
		74,897.61		4,341.18		16,100.49
Total cash available		141,858.10		40,054.11		57,726.49
DISBURSEMENTS:						
Compensation:						
Persons earning $25,000 to $49,999:						
David Taylor	30,177.00					
Persons earning less than $25,000:						
Rick Allen	369.40					
Chris King	643.32					
Dan Deany	643.32					
Kip Harms	643.32					
Marcia Stalter	92.35					
Erran Melton					1,876.36	
Mike Haberkorn	2,680.52					
Richard Gassler	461.75					
Tim Taylor	4,467.52					
William Kerrins	92.35					
Total compensation		40,270.85		0.00		1,876.36
Disbursements to vendors in excess of $2,500:						
EFTPS	16,221.08					
TOIRMA	3,423.00					
IMRF						
Ron Schwartz	2,700.00					
Utilities					5,688.39	
Total disbursements to vendors in excess of $2,500		22,344.08				5,688.39
Disbursements to vendors less than or equal to $2,500		5,733.72		1,776.24		3,557.01
Interfund loan to:						
Community Building fund						
Road & Bridge fund						
Total cash disbursements		68,348.65		1,776.24		11,121.76
Balance on hand, March 31, 2021		$73,509.45		$38,277.87		$46,604.77

Timothy Taylor states that he is the Treasurer of Sullivan Township and that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements for the year shown.

Timothy Taylor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of December, 2021.

Amy E Eshleman
Notary Public

SULLIVAN TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021

	Road and Bridge		Aid to Bridges		Building & Equipment	
Balance on hand, March 31, 2020		$257,842.08		$24,468.73		$18,595.03
RECEIPTS:						
Real estate taxes	$65,821.88		$993.03		$993.03	
Illinois Department of Revenue:						
Replacement taxes	4,108.98					
Interest	458.10		50.01		38.26	
Motor Fuel Tax						
Berberich Trust	12,548.00					
		82,936.96		1,043.04		1,031.29
Total cash available		340,779.04		25,511.77		19,626.32
DISBURSEMENTS:						
Compensation:						
Persons earning $25,000 to $49,999:						
None						
Persons earning less than $25,000:						
Dave Taylor	4,800.00					
Total compensation		4,800.00		0.00		0.00
Disbursements to vendors in excess of $2,500:						
Caterpillar Financial	68,433.27					
Ace in the Hole	9,652.50					
Heritage FS	4,500.66					
TOIRMA	4,537.00					
Total disbursements to vendors in excess of $2,500		87,123.43		0.00		0.00
Disbursements to vendors less than or equal to $2,500		9,463.63		0.00		0.00
Total cash disbursements		101,387.06		0.00		0.00
Balance on hand, March 31, 2021		$239,391.98		$25,511.77		$19,626.32

Timothy Taylor states that he is the Treasurer of Sullivan Township and that the foregoing is a true and accurate account of all receipts and disbursements for the year shown.

Timothy Taylor

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of December, 2021.

Amy E Eshleman
Notary Public

State Bank of Graymont Buys Saunemin

by Brandon LaChance

The State Bank of Saunemin has been helping customers with banking needs since 1911 on North St. in Saunemin.

With society's economics shifting and it being difficult for small banks to offer products with more technological expenses, the State Bank of Saunemin sought out the State Bank of Graymont to see if a union could be formed to help each other out as Saunemin needed products to keep its doors open and Graymont wanted to expand.

"This has been in the works for one year; almost one year exactly," said State Bank of Saunemin President Denny Stephens, who has been at the bank for 44 years and has been the president since 2004. "Our ownership and the age are what put it in motion. The Lannon family founded the institution in 1911 and now they're not really active in the bank management anymore. They started talking about it a couple of years ago.

"Graymont has always been on our radar as a bank to merge with. In our mind, they're still small enough but big enough to have more products. It's community oriented and a bank that would be a good fit for us. I called Ron (Minnaert) about a year ago and we started discussing the possibilities."

On January 4, the buyout was official as the State Bank of Graymont now owns the State Bank of Saunemin.

The Saunemin location will remain open indefinitely, while the Pontiac branch is up for debate as Graymont has a Pontiac branch as well and is debating whether it's feasible for both banks in one location.

The State Bank of Graymont has been in operation for 108 years.

"We've always had it in the back of our mind. We may have had loose discussions about a buyout 15 years ago," said State Bank of Graymont President Ron Minnaert. "We just wanted a chance. When they were ready, we were going to be ready. Denny gave me the call and we started working together to reach the goal of us purchasing the State Bank of Saunemin.

"For Graymont, we've been looking for opportunities of acquisition for multiple years. We've done some small things. We bought a branch in Chenoa and we added a branch in Pontiac. Saunemin also added a branch in Pontiac.

"We looked at ways to expand and other opportunities. We never got anything to work for us until this. Saunemin is a good fit for us. We are looking forward to offering some of the services that Denny mentioned that they can't offer as a smaller institution. We're going to offer mobile deposits and mobile capture, so you can deposit a check by taking a photo of it on your phone."

Residential home loans are a product Graymont will bring back to Saunemin.

As regulations became stricter and more of a financial burden, Saunemin had to cut the product and was sending customers looking for home loans to Graymont.

"We had to stop making residential home loans back in 2015," Stephens said. "The regulations just got overwhelming for a bank of our size. If you only had one or two applications a month, you just couldn't keep up with it. A lot of banks our size did drop residential home loans, it wasn't just us.

"Over the last years, I've been sending them directly to Ron. We have a lot of mutual customers."

The State Bank of Saunemin has been on North St. since 1911, but was two doors down of its current location of 59 North St. until the Great Depression.

There was a second bank in Saunemin until the FDIC closed its doors in the 1920s. Since then, the state bank has handled all of the town's banking needs.

"It hasn't sunk in yet. I've been in tears a couple of times because this bank has been my life," said Stephens, who has had a savings account at the institution since 1965 and began his banking career as a cashier and wrote loans as soon as he started. "I am excited with what is going to happen next. We haven't been able to offer some things to our customers because of the size of our bank. I think this move here, for the next generation of customers, will offer more technology and more products.

"The customers have of course asked us the big questions like, 'Are you guys staying open? Are you leaving us?' We have all been offered jobs. We are all staying here at the bank."

In a letter sent by Graymont to all Saunemin customers, Saunemin branch hours will remain the same, daily transaction cut-off time is 4 p.m., operating systems will change to Graymont's software in June, 2022, and all existing checks, direct deposits, and automatic payments will continue as scheduled.

THE CLOSING DAY OF THE BANK PURCHASE saw State Bank of Saunemin President Denny Stephens, left, State Bank of Graymont Controller Drew Keller, right back, and Graymont President Ron Minnaert, right front, sign all the necessary documentation for the State Bank of Saunemin to become State Bank of Graymont's property.

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YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...YEAR IN REVIEW...

(continued from page 11)

New Officers Sworn In

Two new police officers, Matthew Sheldon and Brandon Larson, were sworn in at the October 25 Dwight Village Board meeting. Both are recent graduates of the Macon County Law Enforcement Training Center in Decatur.

Stevenson Hosts Seneca FFA

The Seneca FFA visited an old chum during the National FFA Convention Oct. 27-30 in Indianapolis.

DTHS graduate Joey Stevenson has opened the doors to Victory Field, home of MLB's Triple-A team the Indianapolis Indians, to all Seneca FFA members who want to see the stadium since 2009.

• N O V E M B E R •

Library Sign in Memory of Jane Broeksmit

Through donations in remembrance of Jane Broeksmit, head librarian at Prairie Creek Library from 1973-1992, the library installed a new sign, painted by Conman Painting, which will have a monument for Broeksmit in front of it.

Evenglow Breaks Ground for Incoming Upgrade

Evenglow Senior Living in Pontiac broke ground on Nov. 3 at a new location, East Indiana Avenue, where a 66-thousand square-foot, three-story assisted living building named The Lodge at Evenglow will be built.

Drama Club Brings the Laughs in Fall Play

DTHS put on its first play of the 2021-22 school year, this time with a new director – former DTHS student, Abigayle Groves, who took over the drama department after Kathy Stewart left the position in 2019.

"The Imaginary Invalid" is Groves' first production at DTHS – and the students helped her make this play come to life.

Rogers Finishes Second at State

Herscher senior Drew Rogers crossed the finish line at 14:29.00 to take second place at the IHSA Class 1A Boys Cross Country State Meet at Detweiller Park in Peoria November 6.

Dwight Public Schools Approve New Superintendent

At a special joint board meeting November 9, the Dwight Public Schools boards approved a three-year contract for new Superintendent Josh DeLong. He will begin July 1, 2022.

(continued next week in *The Paper*)