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The Paper

Volume 24 • Number 4

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Darts or baseball?

Dartball mixes both to form a fun game

by Brandon LaChance

Every other Monday night from November to February, there are quite a few vehicles surrounding local churches.

The parking lots and side roads are not packed because of bible study or choir practice, it's because of Dartball.

Dartball is a game combining darts and baseball as church teams of 5-9 guys stand 25-feet from the board featuring a baseball diamond. Each zone or section of the diamond signifies baseball terms players are trying to hit or trying not to hit with the darts they throw underhand.

Each Monday the churches meet to play the game, there are three games consisting of nine innings.

"I started playing seven years ago. My son (Mark Christenson) said, 'Hey, our church (Dwight United Methodist Church) is going to form two teams for darts and we're going to need some more players,'" said Tom Christenson, a Dwight resident who threw his first dart at the age of 55. "We had a young team and an older team. We had a great bunch of kids. We had six high school kids and some of them played basketball. Dartball is during the basketball season and they rarely missed a game. It amazed me.

"I really enjoyed it. They gave me a hard time and would say, 'Why are you on a young team, you're old.' The scorekeepers can't heckle or harass whoever is shooting, but the other guys can. It's all in good fun. Some players and some teams are really talkative and some are not. It gets really competitive."

Christenson usually aims



ABOVE: TOM CHRISTENSON SWINGS FOR TRIPLES to help the Dwight Methodist team get on the scoreboard. RIGHT: The Dartball board at the First Congregational United Church in Dwight was created by Bud Denker in the 1950s.



The white sections are a strike, red is an out (the thin red circle around the pitcher's mound is called a horse collar and is an out), brown is a ball, green is foul, and the black circle between second and third is an error.

(continued on page 8)



Schools battle Covid

Administrators, Teachers, ADs, parents speak up

by Brandon LaChance

This has been said and written many times: Covid-19 has changed our society.

One of the biggest areas being re-sculptured every second of every day is school systems and how they're adapting to mandates and policies, national and statewide, to make sure students are still getting a proper education.

It's not like schools are created on a McDonald's cook line and are all made with the same ingredients and are the exact same every school you visit.

Instead, there are different intangibles affecting each school whether it be enrollment size, the age of the students, a certain area being hit with Covid more than another, who becomes sick

learning that takes place in the building. A lot of kids experience trauma outside of school. If they have tough situations at home and are forced to be out of school, they may be in an environment that's not as safe as the one we provide in school.

"The kids are much more resilient than I think people give them credit for. We follow the mask policy here and we don't have any kids giving us grief about it. We laid the expectation out and we've stuck to it. We don't have any resistance on that end. When we go to remote learning, I know it's tough on the kids and it's different, but we haven't had any defiance."

Saunemin Elementary School hadn't turned to remote learning after the initial first

hard to cover," Doughan said. "We have some substitutes who are regulars in the building, but when they get sick it becomes an even bigger challenge."

"The staff has been amazing. They're making sure kids are getting what they need in the classrooms. When they get sick or when the teacher's kids get sick, that creates a challenge. A lot of the staff members are also parents and have to be out with their own children if they get sick. It's definitely problematic. We're like any other district where it doesn't take much before trying to cover a classroom becomes a puzzle of who do I move where to make sure everybody is covered and all the children are supervised."

Although E-Learning has had its fair share of issues, of Doughan believes digital learning has become an asset even though it was forced on schools due to

"The kids are much more resilient than I think people give them credit for. We follow the mask policy here and we don't have any kids giving us grief about it. We laid the expectation out and we've stuck to it. We don't have any resistance on that end."

Saunemin Elementary School educator and athletic director, Michael McDermaid

DEA Board adds new faces



by Brandon LaChance

The Dwight Economic Alliance had originally announced three board positions were up for election as Rodney Connor stepped down as president and John Salzer and Gibb Nielsen were re-running for their positions.

At the January 18 board meeting when the members would be named, Max Salzberger resigned from the board.

With four spots on the board up for election, the DEA made

these decisions: John Salzer was re-elected and Stephanie Alexander, Randy Irvin, and Jill Mann were announced as new members.

Here is a little information on the four and their thoughts on the DEA and how they can help the Village of Dwight.

John Salzer

Salzer initially joined the DEA as a staff member in 2014, shortly after the alliance was created. He left in 2016 for a position at Eureka College but continued to volunteer

when he could.

He was then voted onto the board in October 2018.

"I came aboard because of a desire to continue to give back to a community that took a socially awkward autistic out-of-towner, invited him to church, invited him to softball games, and in general made him feel like he truly belonged for the first time in his life," Salzer said. "That's a special thing. What got me to put my name back on the ballot for another three years is a new energy that is surrounding the DEA right now. Katie Folkers is going to be an amazing ambassador for the DEA. I hope that everyone in town is bending her ear on what we can do to become better."

(continued on page 5)

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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued
by Dwight Police

January 13: Scott C. Drovitz, 44, Geneva, fail obey stop sign; Cassie A. Leigh, 48, Dwight, fail obey stop sign.

January 14: Kenneth J. Christensen, 60, Dwight, illegal passing of school bus; Taiana A. Villarruel, 24, Valparaiso, IN, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Ashley B. Galateau, 23, Hammond, IN, driving 21-25 MPH above limit.

January 15: Lucas A. Lee, 18, Reddick, driving 21-25 MPH above limit; Rosa M. Leon, 35, Aurora, operate uninsured motor vehicle; Henry T. Gubemat, III, 49, Dwight, operate uninsured motor vehicle.

January 18: Christian J. Tillman-Brooks, 28, Toledo, WA, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Brian J. Schnepf, 38, Mokena, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

January 19: Kyle A. Zawadzke, 23, Streator, expiration of registration, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

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

18 Written Warnings

Failure to Carry Driver's License - 3; Speeding - 5; Disobey Stop Sign - 5; Expired Registration - 3; Failure to Notify Sec. of State - Address Change - 1; No Registration Plate Light - 1.

Dwight Police Blotter

January 13: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of Taylor for a Domestic Disturbance.

January 14: Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle on Union. Cited was Brandon Collins of Chicago for No Valid Driver's License, and a written warning for Failure to Stop at Sign. Kenneth Christensen was cited for Passing School Bus/Loading-Unloading Stop Arm Violation on Mazon Ave.

January 16: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of W. Mazon for a possible theft.

January 17: Dwight Police were dispatched to W. Northbrook Dr. for a lost/missing item.

January 18: Dwight Police were notified/dispatched for a complaint of graffiti on E. Northbrook Dr.

Assist Agency - 3; Well Being Check - 6; Traffic Stop -

22; Warrant Check - 1; Out with Vehicle - 2; Graffiti - 1; Walk In - 7; Return Call - 9; Lost Item - 1; Domestic Unknown - 1; Medical Aid - 3; Cell 911 Hang-Up - 2; Runaway - 1; Out with Subject - 1; Follow Up - 7; Burglar Alarm - 4; Found Dog - 1; Vehicle in Ditch - 1; Domestic Verbal - 1; Threats - 1.

Accident Report

Tuesday, January 18, 10:10 a.m., a single-vehicle accident was reported at N. Union St. and McNamara Dr. involving a 2007 Chevrolet sedan, driven by Stephanie Davis, Dwight, which struck a wooden roadway sign - breaking it off.

Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 p.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2016 Pete, driven by a semi-driver from Texas, which struck a parked 2005 West, being driven by a semi-driver from Missouri, while attempting to pull away from the fuel island.

Ambulance Runs
by Dwight EMS

January 13: Front, medical, refusal, mutual aid to Odell.

January 14: Seminole, medical, refusal; Julie, medical, St. James; William, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Morris.

January 15: Waupesa, fire; 3200 E. Rd., medical, refusal, mutual aid to Emington.

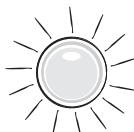
January 16: Mazon, trauma, Morris; Northbrook, trauma, refusal; Spencer, medical, refusal; Front, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Union, medical, Morris, mutual aid from Coal City.

January 17: 3300, trauma, refusal; John, medical, Morris, mutual aid from Coal City; James, medical, Morris.

January 18: Mazon, medical, refusal; Mazon, medical, Morris.

January 19: Watters, medical, refusal; Chicago, medical, refusal.

January 20: Chicago, medical, Morris; Mazon, trauma, Morris; Main, fire; Mazon, medical, Morris; Susan, fire; Mazon, medical, Riverside; 3200, fire.



Temps - 2022

Jan. 13 - high 41°, low 27°
Jan. 14 - high 32°, low 21°
.06" snow

Jan. 15 - high 25°, low 5°
Jan. 16 - high 24°, low 5°
Jan. 17 - high 27°, low 16°
Jan. 18 - high 44°, low 20°
Jan. 19 - high 25°, low 5°

One Year Ago - Jan. 26, 2021
high 36°, low 24°

Dwight
Fire Incidents
1/14 - 1/21

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

January 15: Carbon Monoxide Incident - Waupesa St.

January 16: Carbon Monoxide Incident - Clinton St.

January 20: Mutual Aid to Seneca - Canceled; Fire Alarm - W. Main; Carbon Monoxide Incident - Susan Dr.; Report of an Accident West of Town - False Call.

Dwight FPD also responded to 13 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

Free Food to
Be Distributed
January 26

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, January 26, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.

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

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Does Your Business Have An Exit Strategy?

If you're a business owner, you've got so much to think about, and you work so hard, that it might be difficult to envision the day when you're in a different place in life. However, that day will likely arrive, so you'll want to be prepared for it, which means you'll need an exit strategy. But how do you create one?

Here are some steps that can prove helpful:

- **Start planning early.** Making a quick exit is probably not a viable strategy for most business owners. Instead, you'll want to plan ahead for when you want to leave your business behind. This will require some thinking about the big picture: What will the company look like when you're gone? Are you essential to its survival? If not, do you want to sell it to a key employee or an outsider? Or would you prefer to keep it in the family? After you've answered these types of questions, you can then move on to consider specific solutions, such as creating a buy-sell agreement with an employee or gradually transferring the business to family members.
- **Determine how to fill a retirement income gap.** You could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement - so you'll want to be sure you'll have an adequate income stream to cover all those years. You may be able to draw on Social Security and whatever retirement plan you might have established, such as an SEP-IRA or an owner-only 401(k), but these sources may still leave you short of what you'll need to live on during your retirement. However, your business will probably be your biggest asset, especially if you own some real estate connected with your operations. So, if you're planning to sell your business, how much will you need to get for it to fill any retirement income gap you may face? Of course, it can be somewhat tricky to place a valuation on a business that may not be sold for several years, but with some research and the right forecasting tools, you should be able to develop a pretty good estimate.
- **Get professional help.** Creating and executing a business exit strategy takes time - and expertise. So, as you think about your own situation, you might want to assemble a team that includes your financial, tax and legal advisors and an expert in business valuation. This last position - business valuation professional - will obviously be particularly beneficial in estimating the value of your business for a future sale.
- **Include the next generation in your plans.** If you're planning on transferring your business to the next generation of your family, you'll certainly want to involve them in every step of the process. But even if you're going to sell the business to an outsider, or liquidate it entirely, you should keep your grown children informed of what you're doing, since they may be affected by the outcome. You also may want to include them in any meetings you have with your financial, tax and legal advisors.

Selling or transferring your business will be one of the most important financial moves you'll make - so plan ahead, get the help you need and find the exit strategy that's right for you.

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

Edward Jones, Member SIPC

IT'S HISTORY...



2012 LOVEFEST was held in the DTHS gymnasium. Dwight and Gardner would go head to head in basketball and play some serious school competition amongst the fans. Where have the 10 years gone since this photo was taken by J7 Images? WOW!

Petition Filing Dates for June 28
General Primary Election in Grundy County

Grundy County Clerk Kay Olson has announced that established political party Grundy County candidates wishing to appear on the June 28, 2022 General Primary ballot may begin picking up petition packets from the County Clerk's Office.

Candidates may also download the packets from the County Clerk's website at grundycocounty.org, under "Election Information", and may also request a petition packet by e-mail by contacting the Clerk's Office at elections@grundycocounty.org.

The first day to circulate petitions for signatures was January 13. Grundy County Offices to be nominated at the Primary include: County Clerk, Sheriff, Treasurer and County Board Members for Districts 1, 2, and

3. Precinct Committeepersons will be elected at the General Primary Election.

Petitions may be filed in person by the candidate, or a candidate representative, beginning Monday, March 7, through Monday, March 14. The Clerk's Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the last day of filing. Petitions may also be filed by mail, by mailing to: Grundy County Clerk, 111 E. Washington St., Room 12, Morris, IL 60450; however, they must be returned by Monday, March 14. Petitions received before the first day of filing cannot be accepted.

Note that the County Clerk and staff cannot provide legal opinions regarding petition packets. Prospective candidates

are encouraged to consult their own legal advisors on questions related to their petition packets. Once petition papers are filed, they cannot be changed or amended. Note that a candidate's nominating papers are subject to legal challenge by qualified opponents.

The 2022 Candidates Guide and the 2022 Election and Campaign Disclosure Calendar are available online at the Illinois State Board of Elections website at <http://elections.il.gov>.

Petition packets for independent and new party candidates will be available after the June Primary. For more information, contact the Grundy County Clerk's Office at 815-841-3222, option #1, or e-mail elections@grundycocounty.org.

Petition Materials Available for 2022
General Primary Election in Kankakee Cty.

Dan Hendrickson, Kankakee County Clerk, has announced that prospective candidates interested in running for specific offices in the June 28, 2022 General Primary Election may now obtain their nominating petition packets with the County Clerk's office.

Packets may be picked up at the County Clerk's office, located at 189 East Court Street in Kankakee, or may be downloaded from the County

Clerk's website, kankakeecountyclerk.com. The first day to circulate petitions was January 13.

Every precinct in Kankakee County will hold elections for political party nominees for offices including U.S. Senate, Statewide offices, U.S. Representatives, Illinois General Assembly, Countywide Offices, County Board Members and Precinct Committeepersons.

Only candidates running for

a county office - County Clerk, County Treasurer, Sheriff, County Board or Precinct Committeeperson will submit their petitions with the County Clerk's office. Candidates running for other offices will file with the State Board of Elections in Springfield. Prospective candidates must file their petitions between March 7 and March 14.

Candidates running for the same office that file simultaneously at 8:30 a.m. on March 7 will be eligible for a lottery to determine the top position on the June 28 ballot, Hendrickson said. Candidates who file within the last hour for filing on March 14 will be eligible for a lottery to determine the last position on the ballot.

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The Dwight Fire Protection District is looking for recruits for our Cadet program. This program will allow High School students (16 yrs old and up with parental consent) to join the DFDP in a "Support/Trainee" capacity outside of school hours. Cadets will learn to perform outside/support functions at training events and limited fire calls as well as receive fire department training to jumpstart a potential career in the fire service.

Requirements

- Must be at least 16 years of age, but have not yet reached their 18th birthday.
- Excellent physical condition.
- Be a person of high moral character.
- Individuals that are currently taking courses in Fire and EMS at the Livingston Area Career Center will be given priority for positions as Cadets.
- Maintain a GPA above 2.0.

Contact
Dwight Fire Station:
111 South Prairie Ave.
Dwight, Illinois
(815) 584-2373
Program Coordinators:
Captain Brandon Rivette and Firefighter Kelsey Christensen

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Vaccine, Booster Making Difference in COVID Patients



Dr. John Bolden, above, says vaccinated patients are having a much better outcome when infected by COVID.

Even with the increase in breakthrough COVID infections, there isn't any doubt in Dr. John Bolden's mind: when it comes to the COVID patients he has seen at Morris Hospital, vaccinated patients are having much better outcomes than unvaccinated. But being boosted

or up to date on any additional doses a person is eligible to receive is making the biggest difference of all.

Being "up to date" means a person has received all of the additional COVID vaccine doses that they are eligible to receive. The vaccine schedule

is outlined on cdc.gov and varies depending on type of vaccine received, age, and whether a person has a weakened immune system.

As the recent wave continues and possibility of additional variants looms, Dr. Bolden says the need for staying up-to-date on the vaccine only increases. The booster receives neutralizing antibodies as much as 20 to 30 times from before getting boosted. Those who are not up to date face an increasing chance of being infected or even hospitalized with COVID.

Dr. Bolden says individuals who have multiple co-morbidities especially need to keep up with the recommended COVID vaccine schedule, including those who have lung conditions such as COPD, asthma, bronchitis and emphysema; heart conditions such as coronary artery disease or stents; a recent history of cancer; organ transplant patients; immunocompromising conditions; diabetes and those who are considered obese.

According to the Illinois Department of Public Health, 69.4% of the people in Illinois are fully vaccinated and approximately 28.7% have received a booster dose. In Grundy County, about 54.4% of the county is considered fully vaccinated, but only 11,921 booster doses have been administered. For a population of 50,972, that would represent only 23.4% of the county.

When it comes to the types of vaccines, Dr. Bolden has not seen a significant difference between Moderna and Pfizer, but he has seen more breakthrough infections in those who have received the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

Whether you are vaccinated or not, Dr. Bolden advises everyone to take greater precautions like masking, social distancing and handwashing, especially until the current wave subsides. He also encourages people to consider upgrading their mask from cloth to the surgical or N95 masks and to try to minimize risks especially when going out in public.

Gardner-South Wilmington Teachers Work on New Classes for Next Year

On January 19, the Gardner-South Wilmington High School District #73 board held its regular meeting.

Principal Mr. Engelman discussed the following:

- January 5 was a Teacher Institute Day – GSW teachers worked on curriculum for the new classes that will be offered next school year. They also worked in groups to discuss gaps in classes and grades due to the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Josh DeLong discussed the Building and Grounds Report.

- ESSR-III Grant – Mr. DeLong plans to write-in five or six of the roof-top units into this grant. That way, if they need to purchase new ones in the next three years, they will be covered.

Superintendent DeLong presented the following:

- Superintendent Search Update – They had eight total applications. All are solid candidates. Mr. DeLong and Mr. Engelman have completed first round interviews. They will recommend five candidates to their Committee to interview.

This committee will determine two or three final candidates. A Special Meeting will be held on February 2 for the full GSW HS board to interview. It is anticipated that at the February 16th meeting, a Superintendent will be hired.

- School Calendar 2022-2023 – The calendar will be approved next month at the February meeting. The calendar, as always, closely aligns with GAVC. Spring Break will be combined with Good Friday and Easter next year.

- Latest COVID Guidelines – GSW is following the latest CDC five-day quarantine. Mr. DeLong praised the staff on being there consistently and their substitutes as well. GSW has been fortunate in regards to the staffing and substitute shortage issues.

- GSW HS Bass Fishing Team – Mr. Rodney Ford, a long-time Gardner resident, passed away on January 5, and his family asked for donations to be made to the GSW High School Bass Fishing Team. They have received almost \$700, with more to follow.

- Hall of Fame / Homecoming Game – Was held Friday, January 14, at the boys' home basketball game versus Reed-Custer. It was a nice evening, with a packed house to support their Panthers.

Action Items included:

- Approved the Second Reading of Press Policy 108
- Approved the Second Reading of Paraprofessional job descriptions

- Approved the Destruction of Closed Session Audio Recordings 18-months and older

- Approved the Opening of Board of Education Closed Session Minutes from January 2021 - December 2021
- Approved the TRS Supplemental Savings Plan
- Approved the two-year Football Co-op Agreement (2022-2023) with Dwight Township High School

- Affirm the employment of Veronica Smolkovich as part-time kitchen worker
- Accept the Retirement Notice from PE Teacher, Jon Posing, effective at the end of the 2025-26 school year

Area COVID-19 Stats as of January 24

Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases	Deaths
Dwight	22,797	1,055	
Herscher	5,529	480	
Gardner	5,056	455	
Odell	5,203	352	
Mazon	3,578	336	
Braceville	3,787	315	
Essex	2,465	244	
S. Wilmington	1,925	162	
Cullom	2,926	150	
Sauemin	2,396	148	
Verona	1,522	135	
Roddick	1,853	132	
Cabery	1,760	118	
Ransom	1,555	108	
Buckingham	1,371	104	
Kempton	1,532	94	
Emington	1,031	84	
Blackstone	1,051	68	
Kinsman	1,158	45	
Campus	706	26	
Union Hill	242	17	

Numbers as of 1/24/21

Statistics via: dph.illinois.gov

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 2,773,362; Deaths: 29,845; Probable Deaths: 3,601; Total Tests Performed: 49,488,107.

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.

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Dwight Township Meeting Feb. 1

The monthly meeting of Dwight Township will be held Tuesday, February 1.

All regularly scheduled meetings are held in the Dwight Township Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight, at 7:00 p.m., unless otherwise noted.

GEDC Has a New Business Director

The Grundy Economic Development Council (GEDC) has welcomed Monica Schild as its new Business Director.

Schild is passionate about the Grundy County community and joins the organization with excellent professional skills. Schild earned a master's degree from the University of St. Francis and graduated Cum Laude from Northwestern University. She worked the last five years as a teacher at Minooka School District #201.

Nancy Norton, GEDC President & CEO, commented, "We were very pleased with the pool of candidates and Monica rose to the top. She was born and raised in Grundy County and her commitment to the community was a big plus. I am excited for the energy and



Monica Schild

knowledge she will bring to our organization."

The position became avail-

able as Nikki Wills, a 15-year employee, is transitioning to a part-time position within the office as she moves toward full retirement.

Schild begins her new position on February 7, 2022. She added, "I am thrilled about the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution to the GEDC's work as its business director. Having grown up in this area, my goal has always been to make a positive and tangible impact in this community. In this role, I look forward to learning from and collaborating with all of the talented professionals working to ensure a bright future for Grundy County's economy, its businesses, and its residents."

Schild lives in Channahon with her husband.

Mazon-Verona Kinsman ESD 2C Kindergarten Pre-Registration February 17-24

MVK District 2C will be holding kindergarten pre-registration Thursday, February 17, through Thursday, February 24, between the hours of 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. in the Elementary School office.

Your child must be five-years old on or before September 1 of 2022 and reside in the Mazon-Verona-Kinsman

School District to be eligible to attend for the 2022-2023 school year.

Take your child's certified birth certificate and two proofs of residency. If you are a homeowner, this could be your property tax bill. If you are a renter, you could take your rental agreement. Other options are any utility bill or your voter

registration card with your name and your correct physical address on it.

Physical, dental and vision forms will be available.

If you are unable to enroll your child at this time, call the Elementary School office at 448-2471 to make other arrangements.

Gas Prices For This Week

Despite typical low seasonal demand for gasoline, pump prices are clawing their way higher. The national average for a gallon of gas is \$3.33, two cents more than a week ago. The culprit is the rising price for oil, which is now bobbing around \$85 per barrel, nearly \$20 more than in November. Last week, both OPEC and U.S. energy officials said the COVID-19 omicron variant is no longer expected to slow the continued recovery of petroleum demand in 2022. Despite this, OPEC and its allies are maintaining their planned modest production increases and will not dramatically ramp up output. The result will be a continued tight supply of oil.

City/Village	January 24	January 17
Dwight	\$3.43	\$3.26
Kankakee	\$3.42	\$3.37
Streator	\$3.41	\$3.43
Pontiac	\$3.07	\$3.14
Gardner	\$3.34	\$3.34
Braceville	\$3.37	\$3.37
Morris	\$3.41	\$3.36
Herscher	\$3.35	\$3.39
Chicago	\$3.57	\$3.57
Illinois	\$3.45	\$3.44
U.S.	\$3.33	\$3.31

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

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THE 2022 HOMECOMING COURT from Gardner-South Wilmington High School, pictured, front row, from left, consists of Addi Fair, Riley Klingler, Hannah Frescura, Kendall Huston, Jarrek Hirsch; back row, Nathan States, Easton Ashley, Brody Fatlan, Taylor Conger (Queen), Michael Madonna (King), Jacob Shaughnessy, Claire Hennessy, Braxton Brassard, Mallory Wolf, and Taeryn Lardi.

DEA Board — — —

(continued from page 1)
Stephanie Alexander

The Coal City 2004 graduate has lived in Dwight since 2017 and has already made an impact in the community.

"I was involved in HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)," said Alexander, who is a member of the Parent Teacher Organization. "I was the Grundy County President and the Illinois State Historian. Over time, if there was a club or organization, I would help fundraise. Helping out the community is very important to my husband (Jacob Alexander) and I.

"I have moved around a lot, but when Jacob and I moved here, I knew I was home. I've always been searching for a place to grow roots and give my children stability. I fell in love with that small-town charm when we moved to

Dwight. It's been a great place to raise kids and I love the school system."

Stephanie and Jacob have been married for three years and share four children in Leah (8), Harley Quinn (7), Jacklyn (5), and Gemma (2).

Randy Irvin

Although new to the DEA, Irvin is a well-known name in Dwight as he is president of Dwight Harvest Days, runs Buzz the Gut, is a member of the Lions Club, is on the Village Board, and helps out in any way he can.

"It's simple why I put my name in the running for the DEA Board," Irvin said. "I just want to help make Dwight a better place. I have young kids and I want them to grow up in the town I grew up in, which has a nice, strong community. Everyone is a good person here."

Irvin is married to Jen and they

have two sons in Cooper (9) and Seth (7).

"I like the fact that my kids see that we're invested in the town, so they'll be invested in the town, too," Irvin said. "They see us doing community service and community work, and they do it with us."

Jill Mann

When Mann moved to Dwight in 1989, the downtown area was the place to be. She feels the DEA can help return it to its former glory.

"I've been involved on numerous committees in Dwight in the past. I'd like to see the downtown thrive. I'd like to see the downtown area, all of the business locations, full," Mann said. "It's getting better with the new restaurants that have opened. I know there is going to be a coffee shop opening this summer."

"I'd like to see it thrive like it used to."

Mann works at Midland States Bank and is on the Dwight Harvest Days Committee, co-president of the Dwight Women's Club, and was a member of the Dwight Main Street Program when it existed.

She has already thought about new village activities like Tasty Tuesdays where residents could earn gift cards when patronizing a DEA-member restaurant and Wandering Wednesdays where gift cards could be earned from shopping at DEA-member businesses.

"I'm just excited to be on the board and I'm looking forward to helping out with all of the activities," Mann said. "I'm also excited to help plan new activities for the DEA to do to create new businesses to help the downtown area thrive again."

Never the Last Chance

by Brandon LaChance

Life has been tough lately, right?

It's cold again.

Taxes have risen.

Prices for everything we need to survive have followed suit.

Covid-19 won't go away.

Ourselves and our loved ones have felt the virus' wrath.

The Chicago Bears were laughable.

Add on all of our own individual issues (small, big, anywhere between) and there is enough to scream in a pillow, write a memoir about life during a pandemic, or drink a night away into a week, a month, or longer.

Or we could look at these as trials and tribulations of life and realize there is adventure, knowledge, fun, smiles, laughter, and incorporate the mindset of having as many great times as we can with the people we care about during turbulent times.

The Lil' Wayne song, "Up-roar", you've heard on NFL commercials for the last few weeks asks, "Where the love go?" For some, it's probably a great question. But for all of us, the better question is, where did the fun go?

Fun, knowledge, laughter, family, and friends...sounds like a trivia night.

Having a good time and forgetting about all of the negativity that has been circling us like sharks in a small pond with one tiny fish is how we should all spend our weekends. We have Monday-Friday to worry about work, school, paying bills, and adulthood. And usually, Sunday is spent in terror preparing for the weekdays.

This leaves Friday and Saturday.

Why not kick off Friday at Victory Lanes in Dwight with your loved ones competing against another group of friends and family to see who can win. There are even multiple concepts behind the word, win.

Which squad is going to get the most trivia questions correct? Which table can eat the most pizza or other fabulous food options at Victory Lanes? Seriously, I used to manage a bowling alley and have bowled in multiple different



centers in Illinois and have never, never, ever had food like this while wearing multi-colored shoes without a Nike swish.

Which table can be the loudest? Which team can drink the most sodas (wink wink)?

Who will do whatever they have to in order to have an amazing night including food, beverages, family, friends, laughs, sighs because you were sooooo close to the right answer but your wife or husband knew (just tell them good job, it works in your favor), and everything else included in absolute enjoyment of a Friday evening?

Sure, there is a possibility of Covid. Just like there is in class, at work, at the grocery store, the gas station, and anywhere else you have to go. There are also the same protective measures in masks and social distancing.

We can play trivia, have fun, and laugh at each other over who was right or wrong during a pandemic. We've already done it once and everyone involved had a blast.

Join me, your handsome, witty, sarcastic, charismatic, thinks-he-knows-it-all host, in learning new fun facts, surprising your significant other or potential better half, eating and drinking well, and just overall having a fun-filled night like we used to be able to have.

Let's make it happen.

I'll see you at Victory Lanes at 7 p.m. Friday, February 4. And every first Friday of the month after.

Brandon LaChance is a journalist with The Paper. He can be reached at (815) 876-7941, blachance20@gmail.com or on Twitter @LaChanceWriter.

Odell Firemen Annual Breakfast Jan. 30

On Sunday, January 30, the Odell Firemen will hold their annual all-you-can-eat Pancake and Sausage - Biscuit and Gravy Breakfast from 7:00 a.m. until noon at the Odell Fire Station.

A fee applies, with children under 12 receiving a discount and preschoolers dining for free.

Carry-outs are available. There will also be a 50/50 drawing.

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Family Pack #3 \$59.99 • 24 pc. Breaded Chicken • 4 lbs. Colelaw • 4 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, 2 lbs. Gravy • 10 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread Serves 8 to 10 people	Family Pack #4 \$79.99 • 32 pc. Breaded Chicken • 6 lbs. Colelaw • 6 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, 3 lbs. Gravy • 14 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread Serves 12 to 14 people

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DECEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH at Dwight Common School, pictured (in no particular order), consist of: PreK - Luna Weikie, Cheyenne Dennis and Jaxon Szczepkowski; Kindergarten - Cleo Moore and Cailey Watts; 1st - Jeffrey Henson, Charlotte Sassenger and Dominic Fleming; 2nd - Payton Elsey, Makenzie Mallaney and Aiden Fromherz-Herald; 3rd - Maxwell Hurt and Emma Bovelie; 4th - Libby Stipanovich and Levi Rhodes; 5th - Dalton Thacker and Reagan Connor; 6th - Sarah Stukel and Lucas Rhodes; 7th - Ethan Marques and Avery Connor; and 8th - Sophie Buck and Belle Kelleher.

Dwight Township High School Honor Rolls

Honor Roll 1 (3.50 GPA and Higher)

Seniors: Alayna Aigrood*, Eric Bermudez*, Landon Brown, Ashton Burkhardt, Carter Butterbrod*, Leticia DeLara*, Kortney Dyer*, Samuel Edwards*, Emmett Emmons*, Darien Guyer, Rachel Heath*, Jeremy Kapper, Ella Kargle*, Keegan Krug*, Jacob Maccani, Blake Peet, Shawn Romanetto*, Dillon Sarff, Jordan Schultz*, Emily Scott*, Justin Seibert, Malaki Slaughter, Alexis Thetard*, Ryan Turner, Brooke Vigna*, Orrin Webster.

Juniors: Erin Anderson*, Sophia Anderson, Iris Beier*, Olivia Bond, Charlie Boucher, Dawson Carr, Cheyenne Condeary, John Duffy*, Emelia Eit-

nmiller, Timothy Ellis, Lola Furbee*, Maya Green, Hailey Heath*, Ashlyn Heikkila, Ava Kargle*, Jace Kern, Deidre Miller*, Noah Scott, Wyatt Thompson, Christopher Tut-torow.

Sophomores: Njomza Asllani*, Mia Buck*, Murphy Connolly*, Sarah Dolan*, Reid Gall, Andrew Gartke, John Groves*, Ryan Hilt*, Mia Juarez*, Kassy Kodat*, Megan Livingston*, Kathryn Parker*, Domingo Ramirez, Claire Robison, Evan Sandeno*, Avery Scheuer, Conner Telford, Kaitlyn Thetard, Jacob Weissmann*, Terry Wilkey*.

Freshmen: Drew Anderson, Nicolas Boucher*, Vincenzo Boyd, Isabella Bunting*, Landon Burkhardt*, Brynn Con-

nor*, Dylan Crouch, Lillian Duffy*, Luke Gallet, Cecilya Groves, Samantha Harsh, Libby Imhoff, Brayden Jensen, Maci Johnson*, Averi Jury*, Ella Legner, Kary Lin*, Emerson Peters, Samuel Pugh, Jennifer Ramirez, Sophia Richie, Ayden Roff, Tristen Sassen-ger*, Wyatt Statler*, Tanner Styck.

* = denotes Board Scholar
(4.0 GPA or Higher)

Honor Roll (3.0-3.499 GPA)

Seniors: Max Bean, John Chronister, Kaleb Duden, Dalton Galloway, Nathanael Granby, Michelle Hall, Scott Harkenrider, Cheyenne Holzhauser, Kyle Kosek, Evan Lee, Daniel Petree, Bryson Scroggins.

Juniors: James Ammons, Kira Bean, Tyler Frauli, Jace Gall, Desirae Kerr, Brianna Kosek, Reid Legner, Michael Michon, Amber Moore, Clayton Peck, Xander Pempe, Tyler Pugh, David Soto, Logan Stevens.

Sophomores: Eloise Becker, Milana Bradley, Hayden Col-clasure, Briana Cuaya, Jarrett Emmons, Olivia Folkers, Steven Kincaide, James Leach, Jayden Lorenz, Emma Maier-hofer, Sabashgin Masters, David Miller, Mark Redman, Lisbet Soto, Kaitlynn Street, William Trainor.

Freshmen: Hannah Brown, Tracer Brown, West Bulhuis, Tru Connor, Ellora McCul-lough, Caiden Olson, Hailey Streit, Nathan Stukel, Owen Woods.



Catherine and Nick Izzo

Izzo-Olsen Tie the Knot

Catherine Olsen and Nick Izzo were joined in marriage on August 14, 2021, at the Drake in Oakbrook.

Mrs. Rita Pierce, God-mother of the groom, officiated the ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of

Bill and Maureen Olsen of Os-wego. The groom is the son of Joe and Shelley Izzo of Os-wego and grandson of Bernice Skinner and the late Ron Skin-ner of Dwight.

The couple resides in Myr-tle Beach, South Carolina.

St. Paul Catholic School Second Quarter Honor Roll

Straight A's
Seventh Grade: Evan Wolf,
Fifth Grade: Mike Josefik,
McKenna Lovell, Lilly Wolf.

Fifth Grade: Emma Eggen-berger.

Honors
Seventh Grade: Addison Eggenberger, Coe Peters.
Sixth Grade: Stella Turner.

High Honors
Seventh Grade: Joe Duffy,
Luke Josefik, Hunter Paulsen.

Gardner-South Wilmington High School Honor Roll

Summa Cum Laude

Seniors: Easton Ashley, Elaine Brandon, Alexander Clayton, Taylor Conger, Katelyn Farris, Ashley Frideres, Kaden Griv-etti, Claire Hennessy, Braeden Hirsch, Blake Huston, Riley Klingler, Ambiance Krah, Ethan Mack, Bethani Nicoletti, Edith Ochoa, Trey Schweitzer.

Juniors: Amelia Brock, Emma Cowan, Brody Fatlan, Colby Grief, Robert Gunty, Station Latimer, Delaney Platt, John Schaubley, Jacob Shaughnessy, Avery Williams.

Sophomores: Jessica

Dominguez, Addison Fair, Eva Henderson, Allison Latimer, Mia Ledlow, Miguel Ochoa, Sophia Ochoa, Rianna Platt, Hunter Purdy, Ava Schultz, Robert Shutes, Bella Vyce.

Freshmen: Tess Brooks, Ryleigh Dvorak, Allison Howard, Kendall Huston, Abigail Leveille, Andrew Nelson, Eathan Patrick, Tyler Wilkey.

Magna Cum Laude
Seniors: Tyler Ambrogio, Braxton Brassard, Blake Bucciarelli, Olivia Cerutti, Molly Conger, Cristina Dominguez, Lexi Latimer, Adrian Mena,

Alaina Reader, Melissa Traver, Jasmine Wampler, Alyssa Woodworth.

Juniors: Tanner Fisher, Kevin Frideres, Taeryn Lardi, Ethan Maxard, Jacob Oze, Tobias Riley, Anne Rogers.

Sophomores: Cale Halpin, Briann Nelson, Madalyn Olsen, Hayden Partilla.

Freshmen: Maya Cello, Cole Hampson, Jarrek Hirsch, Gabriel McHugh, Landyn Oliver, Grace Olsen.

Cum Laude

Seniors: Michael Madonna, Logan Malacina, Jacob Mam-

mosser, Julie Manzello, Blake Patterson, Colt Platt-Schultz, Madison Ragland, Sophia Randolph, Mallory Wolf.

Juniors: Dylan Carpenter, Cade Croy, Chris Civanovich, Hannah Frescura, Kaylyn Wallerich, Cameron West, Emma Wilson, Noah Wise.

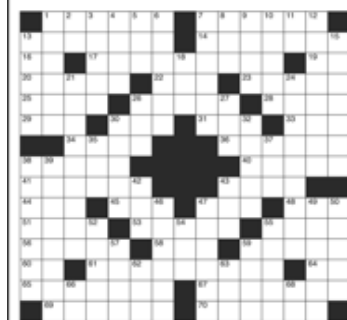
Sophomores: Cree Croy, Mal-lory Dougherty, Aspen Lardi, Makaila McDaniel, Mary Clare Phillips, Annabelle Pumfrey.

Freshmen: Hannah Balcom, Madalee Handzus, Cheyenne Jett, Ryan Millette, Justin Pahl, Chloe Sutton.

This Week's Crossword brought to you by:

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Answers will appear on thepaper1901.com



CLUES ACROSS

1. Neckwear
7. Fish parts
13. Cooking
14. Quality
16. Rural delivery
17. Popular superhero
19. Partner to Pi
20. Shivering fin
22. Wraith
23. Linguistics pioneer
25. Large integers
26. A way to prepare food
28. Group of badgers
29. Peyton's little brother
30. Rock out
31. Danish home
33. Take from with force
34. Baroque musical instrument
36. Zodiac sign
38. Hebrew alphabet letter
40. Independent member of a clone
41. Type of garment
43. Sundry
44. One point south of due east
45. A way to wipe out
47. Moved quickly on foot
48. Bar bill
51. An idiot
53. Perfumed with the voice silent
55. Body fluids
56. Rhythmic patterns
58. "my i's"
59. Type of wrap
60. It shows who you are
61. Carousel
64. Type of college degree
65. Molding
67. Closes again
69. Verses
70. Surface

CLUES DOWN

1. Short, thick stick
2. Rhode Island
3. Animals of the horse family
4. Very important persons
5. Folk singer Di Franco
6. Bowdoin
7. Long speech
8. Footballer Newton
9. Expression of sorrow or pity
10. Linear accelerator
11. One quintillion bytes
12. Smallest interval in Western music
13. Box
15. Cheese dish
18. Make a mistake
21. Done by all people or things
24. Circumference
26. Chum
27. Electrocardiogram
30. Sandwich chain Jimmy ...
32. Showed old movie
35. Important event on Wall St.
37. Where wrestlers work
38. Free from contamination
39. Eastern Canada coastal region
42. Slang for gun
43. High schoolers' test
46. Fathers
47. Call it a career
49. Productive
50. Musical groups
52. Yellowish-brown
54. Lowest point of a ridge
55. Beloved late sportscenter Craig
57. Fill up
59. Cardinal number that's the sum of 5 and 1
62. Front
63. Jewel
66. Atomic #45
68. Top lawyer

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OBITUARIES

Beverly Joyce Robinson

Beverly Joyce Robinson, 94, passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, on January 1, 2022 in Spokane, Washington.

Beverly was born October 7, 1927, in Normal, Illinois to Josephine (Beckworth) and Clarence Outram. She lived her early years in Normal and in Long Point, Illinois.

In 1943 the family moved to Gardner, Illinois, where she lived for over 50 years. Beverly graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University and from St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago as a registered nurse.

She worked several years in small hospitals in southern Illinois and later devoted 22 years of nursing at the Fox Center Home for special needs children in Dwight, Illinois.

Her kindness and compassion for others overflowed into all areas of her family and community life.

In 1951 she married Lewis Robinson. They raised three children and made their permanent home in Gardner, Illinois. Traveling adventures soon began and the family lived one year in Finland, where Lewis was a Fulbright Exchange teacher, and later, a year in Denmark. Beverly enjoyed many years of travel experiences with family and friends.

In 2003 she moved to Spokane to be near her three children.

Beverly was preceded in death by her husband Lewis, a son-in-law Randy Bauer, and daughter Gwendolyn, and a sister-

and brother-in-law, Rosemary and William King.

She is survived by son Martin Robinson and daughter-in-law Jan, daughter Joyce Robinson, son-in-law Larry Pancoast. Grandchildren Matt (Kim) Robinson, Nathan (Julie) Robinson, Sierra Pancoast, and Sara Bauer. Two great-granddaughters, Genevieve and Xena, one nephew, two nieces and numerous cousins, including the "Long Point" cousins.

In Illinois, she was a long-time member of Gardner Presbyterian Church (the Church of Hope), Lions Club, and I-Care International. She also served as a Cub Scout den mother and a Girl Scout leader.

In Spokane, she was a member of Shadle Park Presbyterian Church and enjoyed working on various charitable projects with her church friends.

Beverly was an avid reader, crossword and puzzle player, and faithfully watched "Jeopardy". She was blessed with a sharp mind until the end.

Beverly was a respected, strong, independent woman who quietly lived her faith and never stopped striving to be a better person. She was slow to anger and quick to celebrate the joys of life. She will always be an inspiration and role model to those who knew her.

Beverly was cremated in Spokane, and a service may be planned for the family in the future.

Donna K. Shepherd

Donna K. Shepherd, 64, of Odell, Illinois passed away Sunday, January 23, 2022 at 6:59 p.m. at her home.

Cremation rites will be accorded with burial in Memorial Park Cemetery in Pontiac, Illinois at a later date.

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

Donna was born November 2, 1957 in Pontiac, Illinois, to Dale and Linda (Moser) Welch. Linda survives in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

She married Michael "Pat" Shepherd on April 20, 1974. He survives in Odell.

Also surviving are her son, Barry (Jocelyn Ross) Shepherd of Flanagan, Illi-

nois; brothers: Dale Welch, Jr. of Mexico and Danny (Joy) Welch of Lake Charles, Louisiana; twin sister, Diane (Donald) Butcher of Odell, Illinois; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father,

Dale.

Donna was a graduate of Odell High School. She worked in the laundry department at Evenglow Lodge for over 30 years.

Donna loved spending time with her family, especially her great-nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society.

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

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

The Paper

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

The Paper is FREE. But, oh, so valuable.

Letters to the Editor in The Paper should be limited to 250 words.
We welcome your thoughts.

We wish to thank our family, neighbors, and friends who gave memorials, sent cards, and expressed kind words of sympathy following the passing of our parents. Your acts of kindness were truly appreciated.

The Family of Bill and Elaine Andersen

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Tammy and Scott Klein & Family
Debra and Steve Bennett & Family
Keith Anderson

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

ESTATE OF: :
IDA R. HAACKE : No. 2022-PR-8
Deceased :

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Ida R. Haacke. Letters of Office were issued on January 19, 2022 to Roger W. Haacke, 9470 S. Kodat Rd., Dwight, IL 60420 as Independent Executor, whose attorney of record is Alan M. Schrock, Blakeman & Schrock, Ltd., 307 West Washington Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by e-filing a Petition to Terminate with the Livingston County Circuit Clerk, pursuant to instructions found on the Circuit Clerk's website.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed with the Court on or before the 31st day of August, 2022 or by mailing or delivery of a notice to the Independent Executor as required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/18-1) by the date stated in this Notice. Any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Claims may be e-filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Livingston County Law and Justice Center, 110 North Main Street, Pontiac, IL 61764, or claims may be filed with the Independent Executor or to the attorney for the estate, or both. If e-filed with the Clerk, the claimant must, within ten (10) days, mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Independent Executor and to the attorney for the estate and e-file with the Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

Dated this 21st day of January, 2022.

Roger W. Haacke, Independent Executor of the Estate of Ida R. Haacke, Deceased

Alan M. Schrock
BLAKEMAN & SCHRÖCK, LTD.
Attorney for Estate
307 West Washington
Pontiac, IL 61764
Telephone: 815-844-6177
ARDC#6180398
Fax: (815)-842-3288
bonnie@bsltd.com



Football

From an entertainment standpoint, this weekend of football was the best weekend of football ever. I realize that's probably hyperbolic on its face, but the body of evidence in favor of this is fairly substantial.

Let's start with the Bengals and Titans: the first big thing is the number-one seed went down. And while Tennessee probably wasn't the strongest #1-seed in recent memory, they still got there for a reason. Couple that with the fact Joe Burrow was sacked an NFL-record-tying 9 times and it makes the outcome that much more improbable. I'm happy for Cincinnati - not sure they have a lot going for them there.

Then in the night cap on Saturday, the boogiemane went down. Aaron Rodgers and the also-number-1-seed Packers lost to the San Francisco 49ers in Green Bay! They had all the home field advantage in the world, playing a team from sunny California, and squandered it. They lost largely because Rodgers couldn't move the ball and they had a punt blocked that tied the game.

Sunday is when things got really crazy. The Rams and Buccaneers faced off in Tampa Bay. The game was going right for Los Angeles in every way possible...until it wasn't. The Rams jumped out to a 27-3 lead, which is suspiciously close to the lead the Falcons had on the Patriots in the Super Bowl...a Patriots team that was quarterbacked by...Tom Brady. Tom Brady. AGAIN, led a comeback from 20-plus points down to tie it up, only to have a broken coverage play lead to the Rams quickly getting into field goal position. Even in a loss, Tom Brady was doing very Tom Brady things.

Then, to cap off the craziness, there was the Chiefs-Bills game. This, in my eyes, may be looked back on as the Super Bowl for all intents and purposes. It will also go down as one of the best NFL playoff games ever. The last two minutes were madness: 3 touchdowns and a field goal in one minute and 57 seconds of game play. Then the game sort of came down to a coin toss. Since both defenses were gassed, Mahomes and the Chiefs eventually won the game.

Compile all this together and you've got yourself one incredible weekend of football.

Go, Bulls! (They need every bit of positive thought at this moment.)

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY - PONTIAC, ILLINOIS

QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
PLAINTIFF

vs.
DANIEL CARPENTER A/K/A DANIEL L. CARPENTER;
DEFENDANT
2021CH18
Judge Robert M. Travers

Address: 109 E. Seminole Street Dwight, IL 60420

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 3, 2021, I, Sheriff of Livingston County, Illinois, will on February 24, 2022 at the hour of 10:00 AM at the Law & Justice Center, 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Livingston, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

THE EAST HALF OF LOT 11, LOT 10 AND THE WEST HALF OF LOT 9, ALL IN BLOCK 10 OF THE ORIGINAL TOWN, NOW VILLAGE OF DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
COMMON ADDRESS: 109 E. Seminole Street, Dwight, IL 60420
P.L.N.: 05-05-04-456-028

The real estate is improved with a single-family residence.
THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$136,903.67
Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605.9(g)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 230 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60606, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 21 8477.

Sheriff of Livingston County, Illinois
Johnson, Blumberg, & Associates, LLC
230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 1125
Chicago, Illinois 60606
Email: jlplendings@johnsonblumberg.com
Ph. 312-541-9710 / Fax 312-541-9711
JB&A # IL 21 8477
13185172

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Gold Star

Last week we were stopped behind a Dwight school bus which was discharging three children.

Two boys and a younger girl walked across to their house, in front of the bus.

The first boy (10 years old, maybe) grabbed a blue trash

can that was at the street from that morning's pickup, and pulled it toward the house. The second boy did the same thing.

Those kids have been taught. What an inspiring sight.

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Dwight

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STATE OF ILLINOIS
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
LIVINGSTON COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

BRAD A BROWN,
Deceased
Case No.: 2021-P-141

CLAIMS NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to you of the death of BRAD A BROWN who died on October 31st, 2021. At the time of his death, BRAD A BROWN was a resident of Fairbury, Livingston County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on December 17th, 2021, to SHANNON M BROWN, Independent Executor, whose address is 4 Timber Ridge, Fairbury, IL 61739, and whose attorney is William J. Gerber, of the Law Office of William J. Gerber, LLC, 201 W. Oak St., Fairbury, IL 61739.

Claims may be filed on or before July 19th, 2022. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Claims may be filed in the office of the Livingston County Circuit Clerk, 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764, or claims may be filed with the Independent Executor, or both. If filed with the Clerk, claimant must within 10 days mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Independent Executor and to its attorney and file with the Circuit Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

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

DATED: 1/12/2022
SHANNON M BROWN, Executor
/s/ William J. Gerber

William J. Gerber, his attorney
Prepared By:
William J. Gerber
Attorney at Law
Law Office of William J. Gerber, LLC
210 West Oak Street
Fairbury, IL 61739
Telephone: 815.692.2224
Facsimile: 815.692.8227
Email: will@Gerberlaw.net
ARDC: 6303375

Dwight Grade School Board Reviews Storage Needs

by Mark Boma

With storage space becoming a premium, the Dwight Grade School Board of Education spent a large portion of the January 19th meeting discussing options on building a storage unit on the school grounds.

A 24' x 115' cold storage unit with a concrete floor and a series of overhead doors was the original proposed design, but at the December meeting the Board had instructed Director of Building and Grounds Jack Connor to

widen the scope and solicit bids on larger structures.

Connor was on hand to provide some rough estimates he had solicited for different sizes of the proposed shed and various designs were discussed but no consensus was reached. Board President Nick Strpanovich offered his input that the Board move cautiously before making any decisions and be sure whatever was decided addressed all the needs of the District and fell in line with any other future capital projects. Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek suggested that

a joint meeting be scheduled with the Dwight High School Board of Education to align common needs and resources. Jancek pointed out the High School had been awarded a building grant from the State of Illinois which was intended to be used for an additional storage facility on its grounds, but had been delayed due to state red tape. Because of the two district's shared resources, the construction of that unit could potentially impact the needs at the Grade School. The Grade School Board instructed Jancek to proceed

with scheduling the joint meeting.

In other matters, employment of Halie Weikle as Special Education Paraprofessional was affirmed.

In the Principal's report Julie Schultz informed the Board that a contract was signed with NuToys (Landscape Structures) to complete the playground upgrade. Installation is tentatively set for the first week of June. Additionally, the Redbird Leadership Team met and continues to work through the Goals Strategic Planning document.

Schultz also reported on a new grief counseling program. School social workers can provide social/emotional support for students as needed within a school setting, however school social workers are not required to be fully licensed grief counselors. Currently the Grade School social workers are not fully licensed in grief counseling, but they are looking into options for professional development. In order to best meet the needs of the students, the District has collaborated and created grief support groups for students

and their families that have suffered the loss of a loved one. Parents/guardians were sent information regarding this new opportunity.

The Board voted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters, but no actions resulted from it.

Board members in attendance were Nick Strpanovich, Mark Christenson, Tara Hansen, Lori Bowman, and Jaime Mallaney. Absent were Michael Cornale and Marc Ellis. The next regular meeting will be February 16.

Darts or baseball? — — —

(continued from page 1)

Grant Speece started playing Dartball when he took over at the First Congregational United Church four years ago. This season is his first as team captain.

"We have a lot of fun. We're here more for the fun than anything else. We enjoy it," Speece said. "We're competitive, but it's fun competitiveness. It's a very good way to have fellowship with the other churches. I get to know folks from other churches because of Dartball that I wouldn't get to know otherwise."

On Jan. 17, Speece and First Congregational hosted Dwight Methodist during the eight-team, seven-week league, but every church does some traveling.

This season, First Congregational went on the road to Herscher (which has two teams/churches) and Zion Lutheran in Essex and will be at Dwight's Emmanuel Lutheran on Feb. 7. Trinity Lutheran and New Life Assembly (both in Dwight) are also in the league.

"It's the same distance for the dashboard. It's not really a home-field advantage," Speece said. "It's set up the same at each church. One of the most fun things about it is going to all of the different churches. When it's another church in Dwight, we all meet at that church."

"If it's an out-of-town church, we all take the same vehicle. We go together as a group and it adds to the fun. It's easier for all of us, too."

The first Dartball board was produced by Apex in 1923. Dartball leagues were established in 1928 as the game was spread by "Johnny Applesseed types" as Lutheran ministers traveled with Dartball boards and bibles from one congregation to the next.

John Geschwind, a member of the Dwight Methodist team, has been playing since 1960.

"I went to the Methodist Church and they had a team going. Someone mentioned it to me and I decided to come



AT THE DARTBALL SCORER'S TABLE, Junior Wilson (top) keeps the book for Dwight Methodist United Church, while Pastor Grant Speece pens in the Dwight First Congregational United Church's runs and outs during a Dartball game Jan. 17 at First Congregational. Watching the action is Dwight Methodist United teammates John Geschwind (above scoreboard), Tom Christenson (blue stripes), and Marvin Hill.

throw some darts," Geschwind said. "That's how I got into it and I've never stopped. I enjoy playing this game. It's good fellowship between guys at our church and with guys from other churches. We get to know each other. We've built some fun, friendly rivalries over the years."

"We don't really play enough to get really good. It's two weeks apart, so we don't play consistently enough for anyone to get really good. We didn't play at all last year because of Covid. Before then, we would have snacks or sandwiches at every church, but we haven't brought it back because Covid is still here."

The teams pay their dues of \$25 (per team) at the begin-

ning of the season to fund the prizes.

At the end of the regular season, the winning team receives two dozen darts (which used to be \$33 a dozen but are now \$53 a dozen as only one company makes them) and the second-place team earns one dozen.

The season finale is a round-robin tournament held at Emmanuel Lutheran on March 6 as four boards are set up for the eight teams to see who is the one-day best of the best.

The winner and the second-place team will both receive a dozen darts.

Brandon LaChance is a journalist at The Paper. He can be reached at (815) 876-7941, blachance20@gmail.com, or on Twitter @LaChanceWriter.

Schools Battle Covid — — —

(continued from page 1)

book or a worksheet. They can access it through Google Classroom and the platforms that two years ago, when I started, we weren't utilizing.

"Even if a kid is only out one day, they know where to go to find the missing work. They're not waiting on the teacher to give them a worksheet they missed in class yesterday, they can just find it and complete it. Teachers and students have both adapted to that work being accessible digitally. I think it already has. I think it solidifies that this brick-and-mortar institution is still very necessary. I know there is a lot of information that can be found online. Our work can transition to digital. But, the social aspect is lost. Schools are hugely important."

Richard Decman, the 11th-year superintendent for Herscher's four schools which hold 1,800 students from pre-kindergarten to senior year of high school, is seeing a little bit of everything.

Herscher's philosophy through the pandemic has been to do whatever it can to keep the doors open to educate students.

However, Decman and his staff have had to put up a good fight as staffing issues, a spike in Covid cases after Christmas, and some parents haven't made their jobs easier.

"Staffing has been extremely difficult because we have had faculty out due to Covid and other reasons. This is a struggle our principals deal with on a daily basis in any given year, but especially the last couple of school years," said Decman, who hasn't been forced to shut down any of the Herscher schools during the last two school years. "That would be the major thing that would shut us down if we weren't able to staff our buildings."

"Fortunately, the most concern we've had has been with bus driving because we're a large rural district. We have almost 40 regular routes on a daily basis with a staff of 75 bus drivers. We don't have a lot of drivers."

Herscher has been able to fill spots, but maybe not by the

most qualified person.

Anyone who can help has been asked for assistance.

"We've had principals sub in classes at any given time when needed," Decman said. "A couple of us went back and got our bus driver's license, myself included. I can drive a bus now. All of us have driven routes. We've had paraprofessionals and custodians answering phones."

"Everybody has chipped in to keep us afloat."

Although everyone in the school has seemed to work together, it isn't the same outside the institution doors.

"Within the district, we've been brought together to make sure children are being educated. Most people are trying to work together to keep schools open for kids. Politically speaking, the approaches to Covid have been quite divisive," Decman said. "We absolutely have had some backlash. You can say that in any year, but we have a group of parents that don't like mask policies. They've been to board meetings to protest them and anything else that has to do with Covid. We have the other extreme, I've had folks tell me we're not doing enough. You have the two extremes and our philosophy has been to keep the school open but do as many precautions to keep the students and staff as safe as possible."

"The amount of criticism has increased the level of stress for not only myself, but for our teachers, custodians, secretaries, bus drivers, and for everybody. The amount of just outright, unwarranted criticism has been intense at times. It has caused an enormous amount of stress for the entire school system."

"We have appealed to people and told them, 'Hey, we're professionals.' Kind of like the postman, the mail has to go out rain or shine, we're going to have kids come to school. We want kids here and they're going to come, so we have to be professional and keep on teaching kids as we have in the past. We're very fortunate most of our folks have helped us with our goal to keep the doors open. I think our kids in the long term are going to benefit greatly."

Stephanie Alexander sends her four children to the Dwight Common School.

The mother understands the circumstances the education system is facing and accepts the school is trying to create some normalcy during a time no one

knows what normal is.

"With everything that has been going on and the countless changes that not only us, but families have to face, our school systems are facing those same challenges, but at a much larger scale," Alexander said. "I couldn't even begin to imagine the difficulty and frustration our educators face daily with policy changes and trying to reach their students through a phone or screen the same way as a classroom."

"I feel that the Dwight Common School handled and continues to handle the situation well. During remote learning, teachers provided an abundance of information and were hands-on as often as students needed. The school kept us informed and remained user-friendly."

Austin McDowell — a teacher, baseball coach, and athletic director at Gardner Grade School as well as an official — has tried his best to adapt to remote learning although he is not tech-savvy.

Through 10 years of his education career (six years at Gardner), he has never gone through some of the issues he has the last couple of years.

"Just like everything else with Democrats and Republicans, half believe in the masks and the other half doesn't. That's one of the difficult things. The students I have — sixth, seventh, and eighth grade — they do a pretty good job with the mask policies," McDowell said. "As far as the classroom, our staff has done a great job of using Google Classroom and having live-stream videos with students for the kids that are out."

"It turns into a whole new ballgame, so you have to do about twice as much work for students that are at home and in class. It's made my job a little more stressful."

Being an athletic director, he's seeing changes on the field and in the gym, too.

"Half of the parents walk into a game with no masks on and the kids playing usually have them below their chin. It's kind of a lose-lose situation, but it is a difficult thing for sure," McDowell said. There have been a lot of discussions between myself and the administration and we've definitely battled at Gardner Grade School.

"Our softball team was down for a couple of weeks. All of our basketball programs have been shut down for at least two weeks at one point this year. It's made it difficult, but we're doing as much as we can to prevent it and at the same time still allow the kids an opportunity to play. As an athletic director, I'm in the middle of teaching class and I'll get a message saying my game has been canceled. It'll say, 'There is no junior varsity game, it's only varsity.' Then you have to call and cancel referees and buses. Then you have to reschedule a conference volleyball game. It's been pretty constant for two years now. "It is definitely stressful."

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DWIGHT defeated Marquette January 19 at home. Conner Telford and Jace Gall pitched in on offense during the game.

J7images



DTHS TROJANS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 19
Dwight vs. Marquette

In a varsity match-up with Marquette January 19, Dwight cruised to a 59-43 victory at home.

"Overall, I think we played a very balanced game tonight," commented head coach Jeremy Connor. "We took care of the ball and got good looks at the hoop. This team is really playing well as a team right now."

The Trojans' Wyatt Thompson led all scorers with 20 points, hitting a three and going 1-3 from the free throw line. Jeremy Kapper provided 15 points (3-4 FT), with Dawson Carr scoring six (1-3 pointer, 1-1 FT). Gavin Wykes (1-1 FT)

and Conner Telford added five and four points, respectively. Jack Duffy went 3-4 from the charity stripe, while Landon Brown, Kaleb Duden, and Tyler Frauli all had a bucket in the win.

Friday, January 21
Dwight vs. Midland

It was a back and forth game for three-and-a-half quarters between Dwight and Midland in Varna January 21, but the final score found the Timberwolves victorious over the Trojans, 61-48.

"We got ourselves into some foul trouble midway through the fourth and just couldn't hang on," Coach Connor

stated. "Midland hit some tough three-point shots and we ended up needing to foul at the end and they hit every one."

Wyatt Thompson had a team-high 19 points, knocking down two threes and going 1-2 from the charity stripe. Jeremy Kapper added 12 points (4-4 FT), followed by seven points (1-3 pointer) from Kaleb Duden. Conner Telford hit one three, en route to a five-point night. Landon Brown (1-3 pointer) and Gavin Wykes had three and two points, respectively.

Dwight is now 9-9 overall and 2-2 in the Tri-County Conference, and are in TCC Tournament play this week.

7th Grade Redbirds Win IVC Tourney

Saturday, January 15
Dwight vs. Saratoga

In the IVC Tournament championship January 15, Dwight won big over Saratoga, 39-11.

"We jumped out to an 18-3 lead after one quarter and never

looked back," Coach Conroy said.

Colin Bachand led with 21 points, five rebounds, five steals, and two assists. Graham Meister (4 rebounds, 1 steal, 1 assist) and Blake Thetard (2 rebounds) added eight and six points, respectively, while

Trevor Jensen (4 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists) and Matt Watchinski (4 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist) put in two points each. Evan Olsen snagged four boards, with Carson Sandeno dishing one assist. Honore Mzwizwara had one steal.



DCS REDBIRDS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, January 18
Dwight vs. Coal City

The Redbirds earned an impressive victory over Coal City, 50-37, on January 18.

"Nice win against a 4A team," Coach Stevenson stated. "We played well - defense was awesome."

After trailing 9-4 after one quarter, the Redbirds returned fire and recaptured the momentum - taking a 19-18 lead into the half. They would build upon their lead throughout the second half, putting it away for good in the fourth.

Evan Cox led Dwight with 17 points, six boards, and four steals. Joey Starks was good for 11 points, five rebounds, and two steals. Colin Bachand put up 10 points, two steals, and two boards, with Asher Kargle coming up with eight points, a rebound, and a steal. Jackson Launius (3 rebounds) and Graham Meister (4 rebounds) each scored two points.

The Redbirds are 15-3 overall.

7th Grade -
Dwight's seventh graders suffered a 40-29 loss to C.C.

"Tough game," stated Coach Conroy. "We battled until the end, but poor shooting and foul trouble did us in."

Leading the now 14-4 Redbirds was Colin Bachand's 17 points, five rebounds, and one assist. Trevor Jensen (8 rebounds, 1 assist) and Graham Meister (5 rebounds) scored four points each. Blake Thetard added two points and one rebound. Matt Watchinski chipped in with four boards, two swipes, and one assist. Evan Olson brought down two rebounds.



MVK MAVERICKS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, January 18
MVK vs. Reed-Custer

The eighth grade Mavericks defeated Reed-Custer, 41-16, on January 18.

Brady Sheedy scored 23 points to lead all scorers, including four first quarter three-pointers. Cameron Shriey scored 10.

7th Grade -

In the seventh grade meeting, MVK lost 34-23.

Brant Roe put up 10 points

for the Mavs.

Thursday, January 20
MVK vs. St. Michael

8th Grade -

On January 20, the Mavericks were in Ransom taking on St. Michael, outscoring their opponents 19-4 in the final 10 minutes to earn a 32-23 victory.

Brady Sheedy scored eight points, while Cody Clennon and Cameron Shriey each scored six.

7th Grade -

MVK's seventh graders won over RSM 44-26.

Colton Baudino led with 16 points, followed closely by Kolten Pfeifer's 12 points.

Saturday, January 22
MVK vs. St. Anne

7th Grade -

Regional

In the 1A regional semifinal January 22, MVK fell in overtime to St. Anne, 22-18.

Brant Roe scored nine points, with Landon MacDonald scoring eight.

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TRI-POINT CHARGERS BASKETBALL

Friday, January 21
Tri-Point vs. Mommence

It was a heated contest throughout the January 21 match-up between Tri-Point and Mommence, but in the end, the Chargers would fall 65-62 at home.

Bobby Mogged led T-P with 19 points, with Connor Cardenas right behind him with 15. Ayden McNeill and Dominic Carrera scored 14 and 11 points, respectively. Jose Amador put up three points.



GSW PANTHERS BASKETBALL

Tuesday, January 18
GSW vs. Iroquois West

Despite the game being knotted up at 44-44 part-way through the fourth quarter, the Panthers fell to Iroquois West, 60-52, on January 18.

"We just fell a bit short to a very good team," Coach Wills stated after the game. "If we continue to play like this, we will win a lot of games down the stretch."

Gabe McHugh led GSW with 20 points, eight boards, and three steals. Garrett Grant provided 13 points, two rebounds, and two steals. Cale Halpin had nine points and two assists.

Thursday, January 20
GSW vs. GCA

Gardner-South Wilmington whooped Grace Christian Academy, 61-34, on January 20.

"After losing our last five games, it was nice to get a win tonight," said head coach Allan Wills. "We have been playing decent basketball, so hopefully that will continue moving forward."

Cale Halpin's 19 points and six steals led the Panthers. Bennett Grant added 12 points,

eight boards, with Dane Halpin helping out with seven points and three rebounds. Gabe McHugh and Alic Gill each scored six points.

Saturday, January 22
GSW vs. Clifton Central

The Panthers put up some big second half numbers against Clifton Central January 22, but wound up on the wrong side of a 54-52 decision.

"We got off to a nice start, but they made a big run at the end of the first and second quarters," stated Coach Wills. "Our guys did an awesome job to battle back in the third. It was back and forth in the fourth, but we just fell short. We had a shot at the buzzer that was just a bit off. It was a great game."

Cale Halpin led his squad with 22 points, two rebounds, and two steals. Bennett Grant grinded out 13 points, six boards, and four swipes. Gabe McHugh had seven points, 10 rebounds, and three steals.

GSW drops to 6-17 overall and are now 2-6 in conference play. They take on Herscher at home Wednesday, January 26, beginning with a 5:30 JV game tip-off.

GSW Spiritline Statebound



THE PANTHERETTE SPIRITLINE from Gardner-South Wilmington High School qualified for the IHSA 1A Competitive Dance State Competition on January 22. The team placed fourth out of 16 teams at the Fieldcrest High School Sectional. This is the fourth consecutive year the team has qualified. The team will compete Friday, January 28, at Grossinger Motors Arena in Bloomington.

photo by Shayla Loring Photography



SENECA LADY FIGHTING IRISH BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 19
Seneca vs. Marquette

TCC Tournament
The Lady Irish took part in the Tri-County Conference Tournament January 19, taking a 54-44 loss to Marquette.

"The slow start did us in," admitted head coach Brian Holman, "but credit Marquette

for coming out ready to play. Great second half, but couldn't get big stops when we needed to."

Kennedy Hartwig and Emma Smith (13 rebounds) led Seneca with 14 and 13 points, respectively. Lainie Olson added eight points.



TRI-POINT LADY CHARGERS BASKETBALL

Thursday, January 20
Tri-Point vs. GCA

The Lady Chargers kept it close throughout their contest against Grace Christian Academy January 20, but ended up taking a 41-36 loss at home.

Melina Schuette led all scorers with 14 points (2-4

FT). Lanie Woods went 4-4 from the line, en route to a six-point showing. Tess Heinkel (1 3-pointer) and Kyra Cathcart (3-6 FT) scored five points each, with Lainie Bertrand putting up four points. Millie Ruiz hit two free throws.



GSW LADY PANTHERS BASKETBALL

Wednesday, January 19
GSW vs. Clifton Central

Addi Fair was on fire January 19, aiding GSW in beating Clifton Central, 61-52, by putting up 37 points (12-14 FT, 1 3-pointer) on the night.

"Addi dominated throughout the game," said Coach Adam Leigh of his squad's standout who scored 14 of her 37 points in the fourth quarter.

Hannah Balcom had seven points (1-2 FT), with Chloe Wells scoring five (1-2 FT). Eva Henderson and Riley Klingler each contributed four points, followed by two points each from Grace Olsen and Aspen Lardi.

Thursday, January 20

GSW vs. IL Lutheran

The Lady Panthers continued their hot streak January 20, defeating Illinois Lutheran in convincing fashion, 47-30, led by another stellar performance from Addi Fair.

Fair ended up with 31 points, going 6-7 from the free throw line and connecting on three three-pointers. Eva Henderson added eight points, with a three and a free throw, followed by Aspen Lardi and Hannah Balcom with four points each.

Gardner-South Wilmington is now 5-19 overall with a 5-6 conference record. They are at home Thursday, January 27, taking on Central, with the JV game tipping off at 5:30 p.m.



Landon Brown



Jack Duffy



Jack Denker

TROJAN POWER!!



Gavin Wykes



DTHS LADY TROJANS BASKETBALL

Monday, January 17
Dwight vs. Ottawa Marquette
TCC Tournament

The Dwight Lady Trojans fell to the Ottawa Marquette Lady Crusaders in the first round of the Tri-County Conference Tournament January 17, 54-34.

Dwight was led by Brooke Vigna with 18 points and 24 rebounds. Lilly Duffy had six points, three swipes, three assists, and three boards, while Kassy Kodat contributed five points and four rebounds. Njomza Asllani and Ellora McCullough added two points each. Kira Bean hit a free throw to add to four boards and two assists.

Wednesday, January 19
Dwight vs. Midland
TCC Tournament

In second round play of the TCC Tourney January 19, the Lady Trojans won over Midland in a physical, hard-fought battle, 32-30 – earning Dwight a spot in the consolation championship game.

Well-rounded scoring was the key for the Lady Trojans, who were led by Brooke Vigna's 11 points, nine boards, and two steals. Kassy Kodat (6 rebounds, 3 steals) and Njomza Asllani (8 rebounds, 2 steals)

each scored seven points, with Lilly Duffy adding six points, five boards, and two swipes. Kira Bean hit a free throw, in addition to grabbing two rebounds. Emerson Peters hauled in four rebounds.

Thursday, January 20
Dwight vs. Putnam County
TCC Tournament

Dwight was defeated by Putnam County, 40-26, in the consolation championship of the Tri-County Conference Tournament January 20.

Brooke Vigna had a team-high 11 points, 13 boards, and two steals. Kassy Kodat came up with nine points, a steal, and one assist. Lilly Duffy chipped in with two points, three rebounds, and two swipes, with Njomza Asllani (2 rebounds, 1 steal) and Kira Bean (5 rebounds) each scoring two points.

Following the conclusion of the tourney, Brooke Vigna was selected to the TCC All-Tournament Team. Vigna averaged 13 points and 15 rebounds a game during the tournament.

The Lady Trojans are back in action against Putnam County in a conference match-up at home at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, January 27.

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Victory Lanes League Results

Commercial League Bowlers

HSG: Josh Germentz, 285; Blain Wilkey, 260; Brandon Petry, 241; Doug Gassman, 236; Curtis Price, 232 – Paula Watts, 197; Anne Sporer, 177; Chris Bryant, 169; Shelah Gaston, 160; Kaitlin Kenny, 158. HSS: Doug Gassman, 695; Brandon Petry, 670; Blain Wilkey, 628; Eric Knobbe, 625; Curtis Price, 621 – Anne Sporer, 474; Paula Watts, 470; Brandi Farcus, 460; Chris Bryant, 446; Shelah Gaston, 428. HSG/HHG: Benson Racing #19, 1057. HSS/HS: Benson Racing #19, 2894.

League Standings	W	L
Agritile	13	3
Cherry RR	12	4
Gaston Construct.	11	5
Benson Racing	10	6
Willy's Pub	9	7
Pumpkin Patch	9	7
Whiskey Cav.	8	8
Dairy Queen	8	8
Victory Lanes	7	9
Coleman/Son	4	12
Maxwell Truck	3	13

Three Trojan Wrestlers Pose on the Podium

Edwards - 1st, Sarff - 2nd, Crouch - 3rd

Saturday, January 22

Dwight at Randy Bowman Invite

On January 22, the Dwight Trojan Wrestling team traveled to Leroy High School to compete in the Randy Bowman Invite. After some very tough matches, three Trojan wrestlers stood on the podium. Dylan Crouch, a freshman, finished third in the 113 lb. weight class, while senior Dillon Sarff came in second in the 138 lb. class. Senior Samuel Edwards, in his first individual tournament after more than a year away due to injury, finished as the Champion in the 220 lb. weight class.

Individual results for the three wrestlers

from Dwight who placed at the Invite are as follows:

- 113 lb. - Dylan Crouch (15-6)**
 - Quarterfinal - Won by fall over Griffin Marlaht (Oregon)
 - Semifinal - Lost by decision to Danny Tay (Ridgeview)
 - 3rd Place Match - Won by fall over Logan MaHaffey (Westville)
- 138 lb. - Dillon Sarff (20-4)**
 - Round 1 - Won by fall over Jack Green (Leroy)
 - Quarterfinal - Won by fall over Wayne Melich (El Paso-Gridley)
 - Semifinal - Won by decision over Seth Stevens (Oregon)
- 220 lb. - Samuel Edwards (10-0)**
 - Quarterfinal - Won by fall over Harley Grimm (Oakwood)
 - Semifinal - Won by fall over Andrew Moore (Leroy)
 - Championship - Won by fall over Evan Antonio (Ridgeview)

The Dwight Trojans wrap up their regular season schedule this week in Ottawa (Jan. 26, 6:00 p.m.) and Morris (Jan. 27, 5:30 p.m.), before kicking off the IHSA state series on February 5 at El Paso-Gridley.



THE DWIGHT TROJANS had three wrestlers place during action in the Randy Bowman Invite January 22 at Leroy High School. Dylan Crouch (113 lb.) placed third; Dillon Sarff (138 lb.) took second; with Samuel Edwards (220 lb.) being crowned champion.



SENECA FIGHTING IRISH WRESTLING

Wednesday, January 12
Seneca vs. St. Bede and Ottawa Marquette

It was Senior Night in Seneca January 12, and the Fighting Irish did not disappoint - beating Ottawa Marquette, 77-0, and St. Bede, 75-0.

vs. Ottawa Marquette

106: **Kyler Hahn** by FF; 113: **Tommy Milton** by FF; 120: **Bill Farcus** Tech Fall 23-7 over Kaden Englert; 126: **Jaden Casey** F 2:16 over Nolan Demink; 132: **Robby Nelson** by FF; 138: **Nate Othon** F 1:40 over Maclean Rinearson; 145: **Owen Feiner** by FF; 152: **Asher Hamby** by FF; 160: **Nathan Grant** by FF; 170: **Kyle Hamby** by FF; 182: **Double FF**; 195: **Chris Peura** by FF; 220: **Alex Bogner** by FF; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

106: **Kyler Hahn** by FF; 113: **Tommy Milton** F 3:55 over Hunter Savage; 120: **Bill Farcus** by FF; 126: **Jaden Casey** by FF; 132: **Robby Nelson** F 1:58 over Henry Orteza; 138: **Nate Othon** F 1:31 over Garrett Connelly; 145: **Owen Feiner** F 1:33 over Jack Machmann; 152: **Asher Hamby** F 1:14 over Ben Koyak; 160: **Nathan Grant** by FF; 170: **Kyle Hamby** TF 18-1 over Jake Migliorini; 182: **Double FF**; 195: **Chris Peura** Major Dec. 13-5 over Ryan Migliorini; 220: **Alex Bogner** F 3:7 over Gavin Hahn; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

"It was a very solid effort from all of our guys with scoring a lot of points and then looking for falls," said Coach Yegge. "We accomplished a lot of our goals as far as leg attacks and set ups too. It was a very

nice sendoff to our senior athletes and parents to not lose a single match on the evening."

Friday, January 14

Seneca at Reed-Custer Comet Classic

It was day one of the 21-team Reed-Custer Comet Classic January 14, which featured numerous state-ranked teams from all three classes.

Semifinalists from Seneca include: 106: **Kyler Hahn**; 120: **Jaden Casey**; 132: **Robby Nelson**; 145: **Owen Feiner**; 152: **Asher Hamby**; 195: **Chris Peura**.

Jaden Casey's victory was the 100th of his career.

Saturday, January 15

Seneca at Reed-Custer Comet Classic

The Fighting Irish finished third overall as a team in the 21-team field of the Reed-Custer Comet Classic.

Seneca's place winners included: 106: **Kyler Hahn** (5th); 113: **Tommy Milton** (3rd); 120: **Jaden Casey** (2nd); 132: **Robby Nelson** (2nd); 138: **Nate Othon** (6th); 145: **Owen Feiner** (5th); 152: **Asher Hamby** (3rd); 195: **Chris Peura** (2nd); 220: **Alex Bogner** (6th).

"Great job in a tough tournament with many quality teams," Coach Yegge stated afterwards.

Tuesday, January 18

Seneca vs. Prairie Central and Streator

The Fighting Irish were in Fairbury January 18, dominating Streator 68-0 and beating Prairie Central 45-24. Individual results are as follows:

vs. Streator

106: **Double FF**; 113:

Tommy Milton 10-7 over Nicholas Pollet; 120: **Jaden Casey** by FF; 132: **Robby Nelson** TF 17-2 over Jaylen Richardson; 138: **Ryan Flynn** F 1:02 over Taylor Barbee; 145: **Owen Feiner** F 1:48 over Mikey Greer; 152: **Asher Hamby** F 1:33 over Steven Goplin; 160: **Nathan Grant** F 1:18 over Keiran Lesuire; 170: **Kyle Hamby** F 3:11 over Braxton Mushimba; 182: **Double FF**; 195: **Chris Peura** by FF; 220: **Alex Bogner** by FF; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

vs. Prairie Central

106: **Double FF**; 113: **Tommy Milton** F 1:30 over Wyatt Strait; 120: **Jaden Casey** F 3:10 over John Traub; 126: **Makennon Steidinger** 5-2 over Nick Grant; 132: **Donovan Lewis** 8-3 over Robby Nelson; 138: **Ryan Flynn** 15-2 over Tyler Bippus; 145: **Owen Feiner** 11-7 over Jerome Brower; 152: **Asher Hamby** F 2:57 over Aidan Mackey; 160: **Nathan Grant** F 2:42 over Aidan Harbarger; 170: **Owen Steidinger** F 4:48 over Kyle Hamby; 182: **Jack Rathbun** by FF; 195: **Chris Peura** F 3:03 over Hunter Shawback; 220: **Connor Steidinger** F 1:00 over Alex Bogner; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

Feiner won his 137th career match, moving him into second place in school history for career victories.

Wednesday, January 19

Seneca vs. Somonauk and Putnam County

Seneca was in action again January 19, beating Somonauk 75-0 and winning over Putnam County 78-0. Individual results

from the contested matches are as follows:

vs. Somonauk

113: **Tommy Milton** 8-5 over Mason Smith; 132: **Robby Nelson** F 5:54 over Aiden Rowan; 170: **Kyle Hamby** F 5:53 over Michael Anderson.

vs. Putnam County

220: **Alex Bogner** F 1:02 over Eli Pelota; 285: **Liam Blue** F 5:05 over James Irwin.

Thursday, January 20

Seneca vs. Byron

The Irish battled it out with Byron January 20, winning 49-27. Individual results are as follows:

106: **Kyler Hahn** F 2:3 over Damien Palacios; 113: **Tommy Milton** F 2:23 over B. Denton; 120: **Jaden Casey** 11-3 over Jackson Norris; 126: **Nick Grant** F 4:45 over C. Huff; 132: **Robby Nelson** F 2:48 over J. Ross; 138: **Carson Behn** 9-7 over **Ryan Flynn**; 145: **Owen Feiner** F 3:46 over Callum Abasi; 152: **Coy Lind** F 1:43 over **Asher Hamby**; 160: **Nathan Grant** 8-4 over Finn Remhof; 170: **Kyle Jones** F 2:41 over **Kyle Hamby**; 182: **J. Ross** by FF; 195: **Chris Peura** by FF; 220: **Reed Claunch** F 1:30 over **Alex Bogner**; 285: **Liam Blue** by FF.

"The Irish wrestled very well in an aggressive and attacking style tonight against a quality team," stated Coach Yegge. "Special congratulations to our senior group, which has reached 20-plus dual wins in every year of their four-year wrestling career."

Seneca is now 20-9 on the season.



GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, January 4

GSWB vs. St. Michael

8th Grade -

GSWB kicked off its season on the road January 4 with a 25-5, 25-10 win over St. Michael.

7th Grade -

The Lady Defenders came out strong against the Lady Tigers with some tough serves that GSWB couldn't handle, and they would fall 16-25, 16-

25.

Thursday, January 6

GSWB vs. Dwight

8th Grade -

The Lady Tigers earned a 25-20, 25-11 win over Dwight January 6.

7th Grade -

In the seventh grade match-up, GSWB picked up a victory over the Lady Redbirds in three sets, 21-25, 25-23, 25-11.



DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, January 18

Dwight vs. Seneca

6th Grade -

The sixth grade Lady Redbirds fell to Seneca January 18, 17-25, 19-25.

Isabel Hakey had 14 points, including five aces, while Raegan Brown added 12 points (3 aces), Olivia Buck and Addie Taylor each had seven points, with three aces. Addie Alvez supplied six points (1 ace), with Kaitlyn Haggard scoring five points. Sienna Burke and Kaitlyn Todd both had three points, followed by two points each from Leanne Ruth (1 ace), Braelyn Schou (1 ace), and Grace Tjelle. Callie Robison scored one point.

Dwight's "B" team beat Seneca in three sets, 25-19, 25-27, 15-7.

Thursday, January 20

Dwight vs. Peotone

6th Grade -

Dwight lost to Peotone 14-25, 9-25 on January 20.

Leading the Lady Redbirds was Isabel Hakey with eight points, followed by three from Raegan Brown. Addie Alvez and Sienna Burke both had two points, while Olivia Buck, Callie Robison, Braelyn Schou, and Kaitlyn Todd scored one point each.

In the "B" game, Peotone won over Dwight, 25-13, 25-11.

Friday, January 21

Dwight vs. Reed-Custer

8th Grade -

The Lady Redbirds battled hard against Reed-Custer January 21, but were defeated in three sets, 21-25, 25-22, 16-25.

Madi Ely led with five aces, three digs, and a kill. Sophie Buck (8 digs, 3 kills, 2 assists, 1 block), Makayla Wahl-Seibert (5 kills, 5 digs, 2 blocks), and Sarah Parker (6 digs, 2 kills, 2 assists) had two aces each. Ryan Bean (8 kills, 2 digs, 1 block, 1 assist) and Taylor Frohish (6 digs, 4 kills) each added an ace.

7th Grade -

In a seventh grade meeting between Dwight and Reed-Custer, the Lady Redbirds took a 14-25, 12-25 loss.

Delaney Boucher led with two aces, two kills, and one block. Avery Connor (2 digs, 1 assist), Kit Connor (2 digs, 1 kill, 1 assist), and Claire Sandeno (2 digs, 1 kill) had an

ace each. Mikayla Chambers (3 kills) and Addy Sulzberger each provided two digs.

6th Grade -

On January 21, the Dwight Lady Redbirds were beaten by Reed-Custer in three sets, 20-25, 26-24, 10-15.

Raegan Brown led with 11 points. Kaitlyn Todd contributed nine points (3 aces), with Olivia Buck (3 aces), Isabel Hakey, and Addie Taylor (1 ace) each with six points. Kaitlyn Haggard had five points, with Addie Alvez supplying four points, with an ace and one kill. Grace Tjelle added three points and one kill, while Sienna Burke, Callie Robison (1 ace), and Braelyn Schou put up two points each.

Dwight was a winner in the "B" game, 25-17, 9-25, 15-10.

Saturday, January 22

Dwight vs. Cornell

8th Grade -

Dwight's eighth grade girls lost to Cornell 23-25, 25-18, 23-25.

Sophie Buck's three aces, two kills, and two assists led the Lady Redbirds. Madi Ely (1 kill, 1 dig), Taylor Frohish (1 kill, 1 dig), and Makayla Wahl-Seibert (2 kills, 1 block) put up two aces each. Sarah Parker (3 assists, 1 dig) and Ryan Bean (4 kills, 2 digs, 2 blocks) both added an ace. Kamryn Folkers contributed two digs and two blocks.

7th Grade -

The seventh grade Lady Redbirds won 28-26, 25-23 over Cornell January 22. Mikayla Chambers' five aces, one dig, and one kill led Dwight, with Kit Connor contributing four aces, two assists, and a kill. Addy Sulzberger (1 dig) and Avery Connor (2 assists, 1 kill) had two aces each, with an ace and three kills coming from Claire Sandeno.

6th Grade -

The sixth grade match-up saw Dwight win over Cornell, 23-25, 25-19, 25-11 to move to 2-4 on the season.

Olivia Buck led with 12 points (1 ace), with Kaitlyn Todd right behind her with 10 points (5 aces, 1 kill). Addie Alvez (2 aces, 2 kills) tallied nine points, while Raegan Brown added eight points (4 aces). Callie Robison chipped in with seven points (1 ace).

Victory Lanes League Results

Sportsman League

Bowlers

HSG: Brandon Petry, 279; Chris Cook, 268; Shawn DeLong, Jr., 257; JD Gernentz, 248; Mike King, 245. HSS: Bosco Gassman, 703; Brandon Petry, 657; Chris Cook, 651; JD Gernentz, 650; Jeff Gallup, 642. HSG/HHG: Rockey's Pub, 1044. HSS/HHS: LTG Shuttles, 2972.

League Standings

Team	W	L
LTG Shuttles	22	2
Star Trucking	17	7
Rockey's Pub	14	10
Cafe 110 West	14	10
Jensens I	12	12
Stumble Inn	12	12
DeLong Ford	11	13
Rambo Construct.	10	14
Will's Pub	9	15
Rury's Tap	8	16
Jeremy's Barber	8	16
Jensen BP II	7	17



MVK LADY MAVERICKS VOLLEYBALL

Monday, January 10

MVK vs. Ransom

8th Grade -

In volleyball action January 10, MVK defeated Ransom, 25-19, 25-18.

Madison DeGrush had 10 points and one kill, with Aurora Weber and Gracie Smith (2 kills) supplying six points each. Lily Pfeifer provided four points, three kills, and a block.

7th Grade -

MVK's seventh grade squad lost, 21-25, 16-25.

Gracie Smith led with eight points, two blocks, followed by three points from Tori Skelton. Aurora Weber added two points, two

kills, and a block.

6th Grade -

In the sixth grade match-up, MVK fell to Ransom, 24-26, 23-25.

Brooklyn Sheedy and Kay-dence Wardlow had six points each to lead the Lady Mavs. Brynlee Hunt had four points, while Grace Biers put up one kill.

Tuesday, January 11

MVK vs. Dwight

8th Grade -

The Lady Mavericks were defeated by Dwight, 18-25, 23-25, on January 11.

Madison DeGrush and Lexie Buis (3 kills) led the way with eight and five points, respectively.

Lily Pfeifer added a point and four kills.

7th Grade -

The seventh grade Lady Mavs lost 18-25, 17-25. Aurora Weber led with nine points and a kill. Tori Skelton and Gracie Smith (2 blocks) had seven and three points, respectively.

Thursday, January 13

MVK vs. GSWB

8th Grade -

The eighth grade Lady Mavs suffered a 14-25, 11-25 loss to GSWB.

7th Grade -

MVK fell to GSWB January 13, 10-25, 10-25. Kendall Jones and Gracie

Smith each had three points.

Tuesday, January 18

MVK vs. Saratoga

8th Grade -

The eighth grade Lady Mavs lost to Saratoga, 17-25, 8-25, on January 18.

Hannah Paputsa led with seven points, followed by three from Aurora Weber. Lexie Buis added a block and one kill.

7th Grade -

In the seventh grade meeting, MVK fell 19-25, 4-25.

Gracie Smith had four points to lead her team.

Wednesday, January 19

MVK vs. Nettle Creek

8th Grade -

MVK's eighth graders were victorious over Nettle Creek in three sets January 19, 17-25, 25-12, 15-9.

Hannah Paputsa and Madison DeGrush (4 kills) each had eight points, while Gracie Smith had seven points. Lily Pfeifer chipped in with five points and two kills.

7th Grade -

The Lady Mavs' seventh grade squad won over Nettle Creek, 25-18, 25-15.

Gracie Smith had a team-high nine points to go with two kills. Blaire Nevins put up seven points, with three points each from Payton Turner (1 kill), Hayden Pfeifer, and Kendall Jones.

Thursday, January 20

MVK vs. Seneca

8th Grade -

In an eighth grade match-up between MVK and Seneca January 20, the Lady Mavericks lost 15-25, 17-25.

Lexie Buis led with 11 points, four kills, and two blocks. Hannah Paputsa provided two kills.

7th Grade -

Seneca topped the seventh grade Lady Mavs in two sets, 18-25, 11-25.

Blair Nevins had four points, followed by three each from Aurora Weber (2 kills, 1 block) and Tori Skelton. Gracie Smith contributed a point and two kills.



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Why a Wedding Planner Can Be a Couple's Best Asset

The average cost of a wedding today is enough to make a sizable down payment on a home. According to The Knot's 2019 Real Weddings Study, the average wedding in the United States cost \$33,900 in 2019, though the price tag can vary widely from state to state. Canadians spend similarly,

with Canadian Buzz stating a modest wedding will cost between \$25,500 and \$30,000 CAD, but more likely around \$42,400 CAD.

Though love may not cost a thing, weddings certainly do. One of the best ways to maximize wedding budgets and ensure that all that money is well spent is to enlist the services of a wedding planner. Wedding planners wear many hats, which underscores how valuable they can be.

Sounding board

An experienced wedding planner can help couples keep their worries at bay. Countless decisions must be made when planning a wedding, and some couples may feel as if they need to micromanage their nuptials. A wedding planner can take tasks off of couples' plates and serve as a sounding board as couples try to make the best decisions.

Financial guru

A wedding planner may help couples score insider deals and will know when a vendor's price is on target or inflated. That savvy saves couples money in the long run. Wedding planners also can advise on ways to save money and allocate funds to couples' highest priorities get the financial attention they deserve.



Problem solver

Wedding planners step in to save the day when hiccups threaten to derail plans. A planner will know what to do should a gown become torn or if a vendor fails to respond to calls on the day of the wedding. Removing some stressors allows couples to relax and more fully immerse themselves in their weddings.

Idea generator

Pulling together ideas from every corner requires a creative eye. Couples can rely on a professional wedding planner to help with brainstorming and

putting different elements together. He or she likely has seen a vast array of celebrations and can make suggestions based on what's worked before.

Time saver

Wedding planners already have a bevy of industry contacts and can pull together wedding details in much less turnaround time than couples with no wedding planning experience.

Wedding planners are invaluable resources who wear multiple hats as they help couples plan the wedding of their dreams.

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- ☐ Open a joint savings account
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Plan for the Big Wedding

Fun Ways to Utilize Social Media in Your Wedding



Young couples tying the knot today grew up with social media, so it's no great surprise that so many want to utilize various platforms when planning their weddings. In fact, a Brides American Wedding Survey found that 87 percent of brides turned to the social media platform Pinterest for inspiration when planning their weddings.

On the surface, modern wedding ceremonies and receptions may look similar to the nuptials of yesteryear. How-

ever, engaged couples have increasingly incorporated social media into their weddings, and the following are some fun and creative ways to embrace that trend.

• **Create a social media photo booth.** Guests may take more pictures at modern weddings than the photographers who were hired to document the happy couple's big day from start to finish. Social media boards are digital screens that display social media walls. Live event social media boards

collect and curate content from social media channels and display it on a single digital screen. Users, in this case a couple's guests, simply use a predetermined hashtag when posting photos and the images are then displayed on digital screens in real time. This can be a fun way to engage guests during the reception.

• **Live stream the wedding.** Live streams became very popular during the pandemic, when couples getting married had to pare down their guest lists in

order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. But live streams can continue to be used after the pandemic, as there will always be guests who can't make it to the wedding. Facebook Live was a go-to social media platform for live streaming weddings during the pandemic, and it can be utilized to involve loved ones in the festivities even if they can't be there in person. Live streaming via social media may be especially useful for couples who want to enjoy destination weddings, which tend to be small affairs due to travel constraints.

• **Hashtag the wedding.** A couple-specific hashtag can serve as something akin to a wedding album, only it's one everyone can easily access via the couple's chosen social media platform. Encourage guests to hashtag photos from the wedding so everyone can have a good time looking back on the ceremony and reception once the day has come and gone.

• **Plan with your party.** Social media can be as fun, inclusive and useful when planning the wedding as it can during the wedding itself. Brides and grooms can create their own private Pinterest boards and share them with the wedding party. Everyone can then use the private board to bounce ideas off each other. Couples can infuse a little fun into the Pinterest board by encouraging

their groomsmen and bridesmaids to post outrageous outfit ideas or submit sing-along song requests to be played during the reception.

Social media is a big part of modern couples' lives, so it makes sense for them to find fun ways to incorporate various platforms into their weddings.

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Did You Know?

Modern weddings are increasingly multicultural affairs. According to The Knot 2019 Real Weddings Study, 51 percent of all couples tying the knot involve partners from a different race or ethnicity or from a different geographic area.

Those couples are still in-

corporating their heritage into their weddings, as 46 percent indicated they wore something with special meaning to their families during their weddings.

In addition, the survey found that 38 percent of couples incorporate cultural/ethnic or religious elements into their ceremonies.

Location. Location. Location.

When tying the knot, couples continue to do so in familiar venues. Houses of worship, hotels and country clubs remain wildly popular wedding venues.

Couples who want to stray from that norm often look for

unique locations to say "I do," and there's no shortage of special spots to do just that.

Some examples to inspire: Vineyard or Winery; Stadium; Rooftop Venue; Museum; or an Historic Home.

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LEGAL		
ORDINANCE NO. 22-01-01 AMENDED ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE		
For the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Allen Township Fire Protection District of LaSalle, Livingston and Grundy Counties, Illinois, BE IT ORDAINED by the District's President and Board of Trustees as follows:		
SECTION 1: The fiscal year for the fire protection district commences on the 1st day of May, 2021 and ends on the 30th day of April, 2022.		
SECTION 2: The following budget for the General Corporate Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, estimate of the cash expected to be received and estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
GENERAL CORPORATE FUND		
Total Income and Opening Balances		\$163,514.12
Opening Balance May 1, 2021	\$43,509.30	
LaSalle County Tax	\$92,961.18	
Grundy County Tax	\$5,169.40	
Livingston County Tax	\$11,874.24	
State of Illinois	\$4,000.00	
Foreign Fire Insurance Payment	\$900.00	
Interest from NOW Account	\$100.00	
Refunds, Grants and Misc. Income	\$5,000.00	
Expenses		
Administrative		\$10,475.00
Dues	\$350.00	
Postage and Office Supplies	\$1,400.00	
R and R Program	\$1,000.00	
Trustee Mileage		
and Exp. Reimbursement	\$225.00	
Community Support Programs	\$7,500.00	
Audit		\$500.00
Audit Fee	\$500.00	
Equipment Fund		\$27,950.00
Apparatus Maintenance	\$1,500.00	
Fire Equipment Purchases	\$7,700.00	
Fire Equipment Supplies	\$1,500.00	
Fuel and Oil	\$750.00	
Portable Equipment Maintenance	\$2,000.00	
Pump, Hose Ladder		
& Rescue Tool Testing	\$3,000.00	
Repairs to Apparatus		
and Equipment	\$10,000.00	
SCBA Fit Testing	\$1,500.00	
Legal Fund		\$3,400.00
Attorney Fees	\$2,500.00	
Court Costs	\$100.00	
Publication Fees	\$800.00	
Licensing Fund		\$200.00
Licenses	\$100.00	
Vaccines & Medical Expenses	\$100.00	
Station Fund		\$13,050.00
Building Security System	\$400.00	
Building and		
Ground Maintenance	\$1,600.00	
Dispatch Services	\$500.00	
Electricity	\$1,200.00	
Natural Gas Expense	\$3,000.00	
Telephone	\$3,000.00	
Water Fund	\$2,700.00	
Generator Maintenance	\$650.00	
Contingent Fund		\$2,778.75
Contingency Expenses	\$2,778.75	
Transfer to other Funds		\$77,500.00
Transfer to General		
Corporate Reserve Fund	\$75,000.00	
Transfer to Volunteer Fund	\$2,500.00	
Total Income	\$163,514.12	
Transfer to other Funds	\$77,500.00	
Total Expenses	\$58,353.75	
Ending Balance	\$27,660.37	
SECTION III: That the following budget for the Ambulance Service Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, an estimate of the cash expected to be received and an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal years as follows:		
Ambulance Fund		
Total Income and Opening Balances		\$146,430.46
Opening Balance May 1, 2021	\$42,828.98	
LaSalle County Tax	\$86,197.55	
Grundy County Tax	\$4,793.63	
Livingston County Tax	\$11,010.30	
Interest from NOW Account	\$100.00	
Refunds, Grants and Misc. Income	\$1,500.00	
Expenses		
Administrative		\$10,475.00
Dues	\$350.00	
Postage and Office Supplies	\$1,400.00	
R and R Program	\$1,000.00	
Trustee Mileage		
and Exp. Reimbursement	\$225.00	
Community Support Programs	\$7,500.00	
Audit		\$500.00
Audit Fee	\$500.00	
Ambulance Equipment Fund		\$10,250.00
Ambulance Maintenance	\$1,000.00	
Ambulance Supplies	\$4,000.00	
Fuel and Oil	\$750.00	
Maintenance of Medical Equipment	\$1,000.00	
Purchase of Equipment	\$2,000.00	
Repairs of Ambulance		
and Equipment	\$1,500.00	

(continued in next column)

(continued from previous column)		
Legal Fund		\$3,400.00
Attorney Fees	\$2,500.00	
Court Costs	\$100.00	
Publications and Printing	\$800.00	
Licensing Fund		\$175.00
Licenses	\$75.00	
Vaccines & Medical Expenses	\$100.00	
Station Fund		\$8,400.00
Building Security System	\$400.00	
Electricity	\$900.00	
Natural Gas Expense	\$900.00	
Dispatch Services	\$500.00	
Telephone	\$3,100.00	
Water Fund	\$700.00	
Generator Maintenance	\$400.00	
Building and Grounds Maintenance	\$1,500.00	
Contingent Fund		\$1,660.00
Contingency Expenses	\$1,660.00	
Transfer to other Funds		\$72,500.00
Transfer to		
Ambulance Reserve Fund	\$70,000.00	
Transfer to Volunteer Fund	\$2,500.00	
Total Income	\$146,430.46	
Transfer to other Funds	\$72,500.00	
Total Expenses	\$34,860.00	
Ending Balance	\$39,070.46	
SECTION IV: That the following budget for the Audit Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, an estimate of the cash expected to be received, an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
Audit Fund		
Total Income and Opening Balance		\$2,908.58
Opening Balances May 1, 2021	\$202.09	
LaSalle County Tax	\$2,288.19	
Grundy County Tax	\$126.88	
Livingston County Tax	\$291.42	
Expenses		\$2,520.00
Audit Fee	\$2,520.00	
Contingent Fund		\$126.00
Contingency Expenses	\$126.00	
Total Income	\$2,908.58	
Total Expenses	\$2,646.00	
Ending Balances	\$262.58	
SECTION V: That the following budget for the Insurance Liability Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, an estimate of the cash expected to be received, an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
Insurance Fund		
Total Income and Opening Balances		\$32,587.23
Opening Balance on May 1, 2021	\$18,386.72	
LaSalle County Tax	\$11,831.30	
Grundy County Tax	\$657.96	
Livingston County Tax	\$1,511.25	
Misc. Income & Refunds	\$200.00	
Expenses		\$13,900.00
Commercial Package	\$10,200.00	
Accident and Health	\$1,750.00	
24 hr. Accidental Death and Dismemberment	\$200.00	
Workers' Compensation	\$1,750.00	
Contingent Fund		\$695.00
Contingency Expenses	\$695.00	
Total Income	\$32,587.23	
Total Expenses	\$14,595.00	
Ending Balance	\$17,992.23	
SECTION VI: That the following budget for the General Corporate Reserve Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, estimate of the cash expected to be received, an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
General Reserve Fund		
Income		\$193,779.25
Total Income and Opening Balances		
Opening Balances May 1, 2021	\$118,779.25	
Transfer from		
General Corporate Fund	\$75,000.00	
Expenses		\$38,200.00
Painting Building at		
102 South Lincoln	\$25,000.00	
Gutters and Downspouts at		
102 S. Lincoln	\$6,500.00	
Emergency vehicle repair	\$6,700.00	
Contingent Fund		\$1,910.00
Contingency Expenses	\$1,910.00	
Total Income	\$193,779.25	
Total Expenses	\$40,110.00	
Ending Balance	\$153,669.25	
SECTION VII: That the following budget for the Ambulance Reserve Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, an estimate of the cash expected to be received, an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
Ambulance Reserve Fund		
Income		\$135,787.21
Total Income and Opening Balances		
Opening Balance as of May 1, 2021	\$65,787.21	

(continued in next column)

LEGAL		
(continued from previous column)		
Transfer from Ambulance Fund	\$70,000.00	
Expenses		\$22,000.00
LUCAS 3, v3.1	\$20,000.00	
LifePak 1000	\$2,000.00	
Contingent Fund		\$1,100.00
Contingency Expenses	\$1,100.00	
Total Income	\$135,787.21	
Total Expenses	\$23,100.00	
Ending Balance	\$112,687.21	
SECTION VIII: That the following budget for the Volunteer Fund contains a statement of cash on hand, an estimate of the cash expected to be received, an estimate of the expenditures and an estimate of cash expected to be on hand at the end of said fiscal year as follows:		
Volunteer Fund		
Income		\$9,480.35
Total Income and Opening Balances		
Opening Balance on May 1, 2021	\$4,480.35	
Transfer from Corporate Fund	\$2,500.00	
Transfer from Ambulance Fund	\$2,500.00	
Expenses		\$8,900.00
EMS Training	\$2,500.00	
Fire Training	\$2,500.00	
Professional Services		
EMS Inservice Training Fees	\$900.00	
Intercept Fees	\$2,000.00	
Professional Services Fees	\$1,000.00	
Contingent Fund		\$445.00
Contingency Fund	\$445.00	
Total Income	\$9,480.35	
Total Expenses	\$9,345.00	
Ending Balance	\$135.35	
SECTION IX: That the following amounts, or so much thereof as shall be authorized by law, are appropriated for said fiscal year to defray all necessary and proper expenses and reserves, the object and purposes of such appropriated amounts being described in above SECTIONS II, III, IV, V, VI, VII and VIII.		
FUND		
	Appropriated Expenditures	Appropriated Transfers Totals
General		
Corporate Fund	\$58,353.75	\$77,500.00 \$135,853.75
Ambulance Fund	\$34,860.00	\$72,500.00 \$107,360.00
Audit Fund	\$2,646.00	
Insurance		
Liability Fund	\$14,595.00	
Ambulance		
Reserve Fund	\$23,100.00	
General Corporate		
Reserve Fund	\$40,110.00	
Volunteer Fund	\$9,345.00	
Total	\$183,009.75	\$150,000.00 \$333,009.75
SECTION X: That the unexpended balance of any item or items of any appropriation made by this Ordinance may be guaranteed in making up any deficiency in any items under the same general appropriation made by this Ordinance.		
SECTION XI: That should any portion of this ordinance be declared invalid, then all other portions of this Ordinance shall remain valid and in full force and effect.		
SECTION XII: That this Ordinance shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage, approval and publications as provided by law.		
The foregoing Ordinance was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of the Allen Township Fire Protection District this 19th day of January, 2022.		
Henry F. Hepner District President ProTem		
Sean C. Kelly District Secretary		
CERTIFIED ESTIMATE OF REVENUES		
State of Illinois) County of LaSalle)		
To the County Clerk of LaSalle, Grundy and Livingston Counties		
In compliance with 30ILCS 200/18/50, I the undersigned chief fiscal officer of the Allen Township Fire Protection District do hereby certify to you that the following is an estimate of all revenues, by source, anticipated to be received by the Allen Township Fire Protection District for the fiscal year commencing May 1, 2021 and ending on the 30th day of April, 2022.		
REVENUE FROM PROPERTY TAXES		
Levy for General Corporate Fund		\$110,000.00
Levy for Ambulance Fund		\$102,000.00
Levy for Audit Fund		\$2,700.00
Levy for Insurance Liability Fund		\$14,000.00
OTHER REVENUE		
Foreign Fire Insurance Payment		\$900.00
Interest from NOW Account		\$400.00
State of Illinois		\$4,000.00
Refunds and Misc. Income		\$6,700.00
Dated this 19th day of January, 2022.		
Henry F. Hepner District Treasurer & Chief Fiscal Officer		



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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 11TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT LIVINGSTON COUNTY - PONTIAC, ILLINOIS
QUICKEN LOANS, LLC
PLAINTIFF

vs.
DANIEL CARPENTER A/K/A DANIEL L. CARPENTER;
DEFENDANT
2021C118

Judge Robert M. Travers

Address: 109 E. Seminole Street Dwight, IL 60420

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on December 3, 2021, I, Sheriff of Livingston County, Illinois, will on February 24, 2022 at the hour of 10:00 AM at the Law & Justice Center, 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL, 61764, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Livingston, State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

COMMON ADDRESS: 109 E. Seminole Street, Dwight, IL 60420

P.L.N.: 05-05-04-456-028

The real estate is improved with a single-family residence.

THE JUDGMENT AMOUNT WAS: \$136,903.67

Sale terms: 25% down by certified funds; the balance, by certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "as is" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representations as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.

Pursuant to 735 ILCS 5/15-1512, the amounts of any surplus bid will be held by the sheriff until a party obtains a Court Order for its distribution, or for 60 days following the date of the entry of the order confirming sale, at which time, in the absence of an order directing payment of the surplus, it may be automatically forfeited to the State without further notice.

If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(a)(1) and (g)(4).

IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC, 230 W. Monroe St., Chicago, IL 60606, telephone 312-541-9710. Please refer to file number IL 21 8477.

Sheriff of Livingston County, Illinois

Johnson, Blumberg & Associates, LLC

230 W. Monroe Street, Suite 1125

Chicago, Illinois 60606

Email: hlplandings@johnsonblumberg.com

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FOR RENT

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Downtown 2

bedroom apartment for rent.

Includes a stove, refrigerator,

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Dwight Library Offers New Book Club

Prairie Creek Library, located at 501 Carriage House Lane in Dwight, is offering a new book club for anyone who wishes to join. The Pop Fiction Book Club will focus on fiction titles that would make for good

discussion. Although some titles will be by well-known, best-selling authors, other titles may introduce readers to new authors.

The club will next meet on Thursday, February 10, in the

library's community room. The book being discussed is "The Last Thing He Told Me" by Laura Dave. Before Owen Michaels disappears, he smuggles a note to his wife of one year: *Protect her*. Despite her confusion, Hannah knows exactly to whom the note refers – Owen's 16-year old daughter Bailey. Bailey lost her mother as a child and wants nothing to do with her new stepmother. As Hannah's calls to Owen go unanswered and the FBI arrests Owen's boss, Hannah realizes her husband isn't who he said he was. And Bailey may hold the key to figuring out Owen's true identity and why he really

disappeared. Hannah and Bailey set out together to discover the truth.

Even if you have not had time to read this month's book, but are interested in attending future meetings, feel free to attend. Due to COVID restrictions, attendees are asked to register for the club. To register, stop by the main desk at the library or call 815-584-3061.

For anyone who would like to get a head start on reading, the March title is "The Perfect Couple" by Elin Hilderbrand. A complete list of club selection titles for the year is available at the library.

Illinois State Historical Society Awards Herscher Author

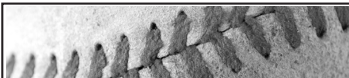
The Illinois State Historical Society has announced that two books published last year by Herscher author Jim Ridings have been selected for awards of excellence for 2022.

"The Illustrated History of the Ottawa Tent Colony" and "Western Kankakee County" have been honored. The awards will be presented at the histori-

cal society's annual meeting in Springfield in April.

This follows two other books by Ridings, "The Cherry Mine Disaster of 1909" and "The Society of the Living Dead: The Story of Ottawa's Radium Dial Scandal", which won awards from the state historical society the previous year.

54 days until spring!



ATTENTION!!!!

Dwight Youth Baseball & Softball registration has been extended until **Jan. 31st**.

If you have not done so, please register your kids now.

Also, all volunteers and umpires should register at www.dwightyouthbaseballandsoftball.org

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

House Republicans Call For Repeal of Policing Overhaul

Last year on the final day of the lame duck 101st General Assembly a comprehensive overhaul of policing was passed.

The language was introduced at 3 a.m. and passed both houses by noon. I voted "No" because it was clear to me that the bill – which was opposed by almost every law enforcement group in the state – would make Illinois less safe.

Unfortunately, those dire warnings were ignored, and crime has gone up considerably in Illinois. Now legislation has been introduced to repeal the hastily-written 2021 law in an attempt to pass better legislation that will respect our police and keep Illinois safe.

Since enactment of the law one year ago, many areas of the state have seen an increase in violent crime such as murders, shootings, carjackings, assaults, armed robberies, smash-and-grab robberies and mob retail theft.

Crime in Chicago is up 7.5% compared to 2019. The Chicago Sun-Times reported that "in the seven most-violent police districts in the city, the rate was 25 times higher than the rest of the city – nearly 100 murders per 100,000 residents. That's the largest such gap between the safest and least-safe areas in the 60 years of data tracked by the Crime Lab."

Meanwhile police officers are leaving the profession citing the constant attacks from politicians. This has to stop.

My colleague Rep. Patrick Windhorst, a former state's attorney, has introduced a resolution calling for the repeal of last year's policing bill, and another member, Rep. Ryan

Spain, has filed legislation to do just that. A companion bill would set up a task force with strong involvement from the law enforcement community to put together a reasonable reform bill.

We need to act to improve public safety, and we can best do that by listening to our law enforcement officers and making changes that will keep Illinois safe.

Unemployment trust fund debt continues to climb. Like many other states, Illinois borrowed from the federal government to meet the wave of unemployment claims which came in at the beginning of the pandemic lockdowns in the spring of 2020. But unlike most of those other states, Illinois has not paid back the money it borrowed and now the debt is beginning to accumulate interest.

Since September the amount of interest Illinois owes on top of the debt has been growing, now reaching a rate of around \$2 million each week. If the debt has not been refinanced by the time the next payment is due, the interest payment will have to be made from the state's general revenue which is where we find the money to fund so many of our other important priorities.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$4,110,105,814 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$5.4 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment, it does not include debts that can only be estimated.

www.thepaper1901.com

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me heaven you are my Mother. Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother, Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse in thee. (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life You are with me, I want in this short prayer to Thank You for all things as you confirm once again, that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank You for your mercy toward me and mine.

The Person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

TPT

Pet of the Week

Hi! My name is Kira! I am a very sweet and spunky girl! I love affection, that is when I am in the mood for it! I will let you know when I've had enough! I can be playful at times, but overall I am a pretty laid back girl! I enjoy lounging in the beds and cat trees around the room! I absolutely love when the ladies here sprinkle catnip around the room! It makes me so happy, especially when they put it inside a cardboard box! I also don't seem to mind the other cats in the room!



Livingston County Humane Society

21179 N. 1358 E. Rd., Pontiac, IL 61764 • 815-842-1025
lchumanesociety.com • Check us out on facebook and Petfinder!
Would you like to sponsor a pet? Call The Paper 815-584-1901.

Dwight Veterinary Clinic

Old Rt. 66, Dwight • 815-584-2732 •
dwightvet.com

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Whiskey 750 ml. **\$8.99**

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Mist 1.75 liter **\$14.99**

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LTD 1.75 liter **\$11.99**



Captain
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WHISKEY **\$13.99**
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Busch 30-pack cans **\$14.78**

MGD, Miller 64, Coors Light,
Lite or
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Miller Lite or
Coors Light
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Modelo 12-pack cans or bottles **\$13.99**

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WINES
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750 ml.



Bread + Butter
Wines 750 ml. **\$11.99**

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Pinot Noir 750 ml. **\$9.99**

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Wines 750 ml. **\$8.99**
(Snoop Dogg \$9.99)

Terra D'Oro
Chenin Blanc or
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BOURBON
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Seagram's
ESCAPES **\$9.99**
12-pack
cans or bottles

Ad Prices Effective 1-26-22 through 2-1-22
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