Volume 24 • Number 6

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Wednesday, February 9, 2022

\*\* ECRWSS \*\* **Local Customer** 

## **Armed Robbery at Love's**

Curtis Johnson Arrested

by Brandon LaChance

The Dwight Police Department was called around 1 a.m. on Feb. 1 about an armed robbery at the Love's Travel Stop & Country Store located on Northbrook Drive in Dwight.

The suspect was reported to have left the Love's parking lot in a black vehicle.

With notification of the crime and the vehicle being sent out to dispatch (VCOM) and then to surrounding police departments, the vehicle was pulled over at approximately 1:45 a.m. on Interstate 55 and Curtis D. Johnson, 39, of Aurora, was arrested for armed robbery, unlawful use of a weapon, and possession of a weapon by a felon on parole, by the Channahon and Elwood police departments.

Detective Gary Beier was on the call for the DPD.

"He was a passenger in the vehicle. There were only two people in the vehicle," said Beier, who has been with DPD for 28 years. "Through the investigation, it was determined the driver wasn't aware of what Grundy County Jail pending a Mr. Johnson had done. That's

why the driver wasn't taken into custody. The vehicle was pulled over because of the dispatch of the armed robbery.

"The quick response from Love's, our guys getting the information out to our dispatch center and VCOM being able to get it to the surrounding agencies was huge. Without that getting out as quick as it did, we may have not caught

Johnson did not attempt to rob Love's as soon as he walked in, but instead waited to make his move.

The armed robbery attempt didn't involve any violence and an undisclosed amount of cash was taken.

"He was in Love's shopping, if you will, and came up to the cashier island," Beier said.
"From the surveillance camera video, you can tell he was nervous waiting for his time.

"He then pulled out a fire arm, pointed it at the female clerk, and demanded the money."

Johnson is being held at the

#### **Dwight Village Saves on Cost of Cots**

by Mark Boma

The Dwight Village Board met in a special meeting on Monday January 31 at 4:30 p.m. in a move to head off some projected cost increases.

The issue at hand was the approval of ordering two powered emergency patient transport cots. The ambulance beds would see a 7% price increase as of February 1 and with the estimated cost of the units being approximately \$105,000, the Board chose to place the order before the increase took effect. The two beds are to be was Chuck Butterbrodt. The included as part of the current next regular meeting will be ambulance upgrades and have February 14.

a life expectancy of 14 years. Placing the order now would also allow the beds to be fitted along with the current remount process. The method of paying for the cots was discussed but deferred to a subsequent meet-

In other financial actions the Board approved January 18 bill payments of \$61,337.76 and January 24 bill payments of \$128,450.38.

Present at the meeting were Randy Irvin, Pete Meister, Marla Kinkade, Jenny Johnson, and Justin Eggenberger. Absent

## It's Time to Eat!

#### Local Fire Departments Host Fundraising Meals

by Brandon LaChance

There are only a few things we have to do every day as human beings.

One of them is eat.

Since we have to intake food, why not eat for a cause as local fire departments are holding breakfasts and dinners to provide you a meal with a fundraising opportunity connected.

The Saunemin Fire Protection District is holding their Saunemin Firemen's Annual Breakfast 7 a.m.-noon on Sunday, Feb. 20 at the fire station located at 56 Center St. in Saunemin.

"We're going to get some new fire coats for when we go on an EMS call, we can wear a coat that distinguishes who we are and what department we are," said Saunemin's assistant fire chief, Craig Cramer. "We've had them in the past,

but haven't had any recently, so we thought it was time to upgrade our clothing.

"I know we're volunteers, but it's a plus to look professional when we go out on a call. We need to look and act professional to do the best iob we can."

Cramer, who has been with the fire department for 22 years, says he remembers attending the annual breakfast when he was a kid 30-35 years

The long running tradition has had different menu items, but this year the breakfast will

include pancakes and sausage. This year will also be carry-

"We have a couple of Blackstone Grills that we cook the pancakes on and we got a deep fryer right there for the sausage," Cramer said. "You'll get some delicious pancakes

(continued on page 12)



THE SNOW SEASON IS UPON US! Last week saw one foot of snow fall from the sky and cover absolutely everything. Schools took a day or two for remote learning and offered a snow day, while some businesses closed and all travel plans (at least driving wise) were canceled, postponed, or delayed. Although it was cold and hard to move around, children were able to make snowmen, icicles made buildings look like a Hollywood set, and city workers got to use their big machines!

# Pove is in the air

by Brandon LaChance

Cupid's arrows will be soaring through the air soon as Valentine's Day is less than a week away.

Some of those arrows find appropriate landing pads such as arms, legs, hearts, and butts, and some miss.

For this special time of the year, we don't care about the misses, it's all about the connection point of two hearts forming love and a great couple.

Here are a few awesome love stories Cupid can claim.

Jonathan and Sarah Tock

The two love birds met in Mrs. Callison's English class in Maryville University in St. Louis.

"I, of course, needed extra help on every assignment," Jonathan Tock said. "It became easier for her just to say yes to a date instead of only helping

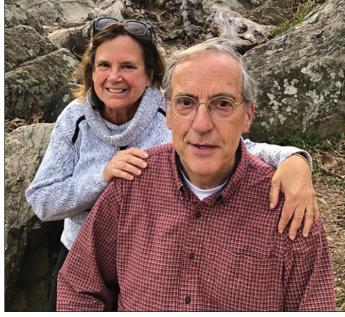
"I walked her back to her dorm after every class from Week 2 on. The rest is history. Now we have a little 16-month baby boy and a little girl coming in June."



Sarah, Noah and Jonathan Tock

How couples meet **\\\** 





Susan and Tom Smith

Tom and Susan Smith (1962)

Tom met Susan Dickey when her father became the director of the Veterans Hospital in Dwight.

Actually, a few family members played a role in linking Tom and Susan together.

"My aunt, Mary Smith, the secretary at Dwight Township High School, came home one evening in the summer of 1962 and announced that a cute girl had registered for our junior year," Tom Smith said. "We played opposite each other in our junior play, one of Miss Mudge's dramatic offerings, and we started dating each

other that summer."

Tom and Susan remember their meeting every time they go past the railroad station in Dwight.

"There's a historical marker on the plaza near the railroad station where we played in Mr. Ness' summer band concerts,' Tom Smith said. "Our brick reads, 'It all started here."

We've now been married nearly 53 years. If it weren't for the fact that the older of our two sons just turned 50 and two of our four grandchildren are now teenagers, I'd think it was still quite recently that I took

(continued on page 12)





**BIG GAME SAVINGS** AT **BERKOT'S!** 



#### FOR THE RECORD

#### **Tickets Issued**

by Dwight Police January 28: Dylan R. Mann, fail obey stop sign.

January 30: Joshua S. Mayer, speeding 26-34 MPH over limit.

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

#### **6 Written Warnings**

Expired Registration - 1; Disobey Stop Sign - 2; Speed-

#### **Dwight Police Blotter**

Medical – 9; Accident – 1; Traffic Stop – 10; Ordinance Violation – 4; Motorist Assist – 3; Lock Out – 4; Suspicious Activity -9; Check Area -1; Out with Subject – 1; Domestic Verbal – 4; Return Call – 8; Burglar Alarm – 4; Out with Vehicle - 4; Accident Unknown - 1; Assist Agency - 5;

**Dwight** 

**Fire Incidents** 

1/28 - 2/4

trict responded to the following

incidents:

Accident - I-55.

Accident - I-55.

Semi Fire – I-55.

Dwight EMS.

Dwight Fire Protection Dis-

January 29: Motor Vehicle

January 30: Motor Vehicle

February 4: Motor Vehicle

Dwight FPD also responded

Accident - Rt. 66 at Odell Rd.;

to 15 medical assists with

Livingston Cty.

**Offices Closed** 

February 11

fices will be closed Friday,

February 11, in observance of

Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

All Livingston County Of-

Miscellaneous – 1; Found Dogs – 3; Subject Walking on Road -1; Extra Patrol -2; Domestic Unknown - 2; Armed Robbery – 1; Victim Notification -1; Out With Vehicle -4; Gas Odor - 1; Walk In - 5; Check Vehicle - 1; 911 Cell Hang Up - 1.



#### Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

January 27: 2900 N. Rd., medical, Riverside; Morris Rd., odor invest., mutual aid from Coal City; St. Louis St., med-

January 28: Franklin, medical, Riverside; Mazon, med-

January 29: I-55, trauma, Morris, mutual aid from Gardner; Mazon, medical, Morris, mutual aid - Coal City; Chippewa, medical, Riverside; Northbrook, trauma, Morris.

January 30: Mazon, medical, Morris; I-55, trauma, refusal; Main, medical, Morris.

January 31: Julie, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Morris; William, medical, St. James: Mazon, trauma, Morris: Prairie (Odell), medical, mutual aid from Pontiac EMS.

February 1: Main, medical, Morris; Mazon, trauma, Morris; 3000, trauma, St. James; Franklin, medical, Morris; Prospect, trauma, refusal.

February 2: Main, trauma, refusal; Main, medical, Morris; I-55, trauma, refusal, mutual aid to Odell; Chippewa, medical, Morris; Waupansie, medical, refusal, mutual aid to Odell; Union, medical, refusal.

February 3: Prairie, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, Riverside; John, trauma, Morris; Mazon, medical, St. James.



2011 Blizzard: A Chilly Cherub and animals on Cravens farm.

A blizzard has taken the area by storm - literally. Dubbed "Blizzaster," "Snowpocolypse," and "Snowapalooza," the winter storm that blasted through the area February 1 and 2 dropped between one and two feet of snow everywhere in The Paper's circulation area and across much of the state. It was accompanied by wind gusts reported at 50 mph, causing drifts that rose much higher than the actual accumulation.

February 9, 2011 edition of *The Paper*.

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

#### Governor Pritzker delivers State of the State

Governor JB Pritzker delivered his State of the State address Wednesday, February 2, 2022.

The speech had been planned for the Illinois House chamber, but as a major snowstorm blew into Central Illinois session was cancelled and the Governor delivered the speech to a much smaller audience at the Old State Capitol.

The Governor painted a rosy picture of the state's fiscal condition, but did not address the structural problems which have caused so many of the fiscal challenges Illinois has had to face over the years. Much of the fiscal progress of the last year has been temporary, due mostly to federal bailout funds from Washington which are now running out. Without structural change in state government we risk falling back into the same old difficulties.

After three years of promoting higher taxes it was nice to hear the Governor call for some small tax relief as a way to fight the inflation which has driven up prices and eaten up paychecks. It remains to be seen whether these ideas are gimmicks or if they have any

Health Department (ICPHD) is

offering two free "after hours"

day, February 9, from 4:30-

6:00 p.m. The second option

will be Saturday, February 26,

from 9:00 a.m. to noon. All

three vaccines (Pfizer, Mod-

erna, and Johnson & Johnson)

will be available. Individuals

ages five and up are eligible for

a primary series (Pfizer only

for ages five to 17) and individ-

The first clinic is Wednes-

COVID-19 vaccine clinics.

chance of becoming law.

I also would have liked to hear more about the Governor's plans for fixing the mess at DCFS, about the deadly failures at the LaSalle Veterans Home, as a concrete timeline for when we will see mandates lifted and an end to the series of executive orders and emergency proclamations which have dominated so much of state government the past two years. Overall I thought the Governor's remarks fell short of the solutions Illinois needs as we go into 2022.

Illinois unemployment stands at 5.3%, higher than neighboring states. The December 2021 Illinois unemployment report found that the state's unemployment rate had fallen to 5.3% from November's standing of 5.7%. That is a welcome improvement, but Illinois continues to have joblessness that is much higher than the numbers posted throughout most of the rest of the country, including our neighboring states. Nationwide the unemployment rate in December was 3.9%, 1.4% lower than the Illinois rate. Among our neighbors, Iowa

**ICPHD Hosting 'After Hours' COVID-19 Vaccines** 

The Iroquois County Public a booster dose (Pfizer only for observation after the vaccina-

Note that individuals

ages 12-17). Call 815-432-

under the age of 18 must have

a parent or guardian present

at the time of vaccination. At

this time, there is no cost for

day of your appointment, or are

in isolation or quarantine, do

not attend. Patients will need to

wear a face covering, practice

social distancing, and plan to

If you do not feel well the

the COVID-19 vaccine.

2483 to schedule a vaccine.

fared much better in December with a rate of only 3.5%, 1.8% better than Illinois. We trail the other states around us, too.

Illinois' disadvantages when compared to our neighbors have been well known for years: high taxes, significant crime challenges, burdensome pension debts, a poor publicsector credit rating, labor laws that impose liability burdens on employers and customers, and a physical infrastructure that is only now beginning to be repaired after a long period of neglect. Many of our neighbors do not face these challenges. These are topics we need to address now that the spring session of the General Assembly is underway.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$2,918,024,437 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$4.7 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.

tion. Wear clothing to allow

easy access to the upper portion

Public Health has compiled a

comprehensive list of fre-

quently asked questions about

the COVID-19 vaccination. Information can be found at

dph.illinois.gov/covid19/vac

cine-faq. For individual con-

cerns regarding allergies or

other medical conditions, con-

provider.

your own medical

The Illinois Department of

of the arm for the injection.

#### LCHD Closed Feb. 14-18

The Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) will be closed to the public February 14-18, as they move into their new health department building and prepare their clinic spaces for clients.

to pick up supplies from one of their programs, such as Family Planning or WIC.

The building may be changing, but their address will stay the same as it has been since 1922, back when they were a TB Sanitorium (310 E. Torrance Ave., Pontiac).

The LCHD will open its Plan accordingly if needing new building's doors to the public Tuesday, February 22 (closed Feb. 21 for President's



Temps - 2022

Jan. 27 - high 33°, low 14° 1" snow

Jan. 28 - high 18°, low 1° Jan. 29 - high 25°, low 0°

6" snow

Jan. 30 - high 26°, low 8° Jan. 31 – high 36°, low 7°

Feb. 1 – high 51°, low 20°

3" snow Feb. 2 – high 24°, low 13°

6" snow One Year Ago-Feb. 9, 2021 high 2°, low -13°

1" snow

#### Walk-In COVID-19 Vaccine **Clinics** in Morris **Every Friday** in February

Every Friday in February (2/11, 2/18, 2/25), from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Grundy County Administration Building (1320 Union Street in Morris), walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinics will be held.

All vaccines will be available, with booster doses available for anyone 16 years of age and older. First, second and third doses are available for residents 12 years of age and

> **Thank You** for Reading!







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#### What Should You Do With a Tax Refund?

Are you expecting a tax refund this year? If so, what will you do with it? Of course, the answer largely depends on the size of your refund. For the 2020 tax year, the average refund was about \$2,800, according to the Internal Revenue Service. But whether your refund this year will be about that size, smaller or larger, you can find ways to benefit from the money.

Here are some possibilities:

· Contribute to your IRA. You've got until April 18 to fully fund your IRA for the 2021 tax year. But if you've already reached the maximum for 2021, you could use some, or all, of your refund for your 2022 contribution. Assuming you did get around \$2,800, you'd be almost halfway to the \$6,000 annual contribution limit. (If you're 50 or older, you can

• Invest in a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren, you might want to invest your refund in a 529 education savings plan. A 529 plan's earnings can grow federal income-tax free, and withdrawals are federal income-tax free provided the money is used for qualified education expenses. If you invest in your own state's plan, you might get a tax deduction or credit. A 529 plan can be used to pay for college, vocational training and even some K-12 expenses in some states. Plus, if you name one child as a beneficiary, and that child's educational journey does not require the funds from a 529 plan, you may change the beneficiary to another eligible family member of the original beneficiary. Add to the "cash" part of your portfolio. It's generally a smart move to keep at least a portion of your overall investment portfolio in cash or cash equivalents, because the presence of cash can help you in two ways. First, since its value won't change, it can help cushion, at least to a degree, the effects of market volatility on your portfolio. And second, by having cash available, you'll be ready to take advantage of attractive investment opportunities when they

 Boost your emergency fund. You could use your tax refund to start or supplement an emergency fund. Ideally, this fund should contain three to six months' worth of living expenses, with the money kept in a liquid, low-risk account. (If you're already retired, you might need this fund to cover a full year's worth of expenses.) Without such a fund, you might be forced to dip into long-term investments to pay for costly housing or auto repairs or large medical bills.

· Reduce your debt load. It's not always easy to minimize your debt load, even if you're careful about your spending habits. But the lower your debt payments, the more money you'll have available to invest for your future. So, you may want to consider using some of your tax refund to pay off some debts, or at least reduce them, starting with those that carry the highest interest rates. Donate to charity. You could use part of your refund to donate to a charitable organization whose work you support.

And if you itemize on your tax return, part of your gift may be deductible.

A tax refund is always nice to receive – and it's even better when you put the money to good use.

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

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# Dignified and Personal Funeral Services

## Tips to Cope With the Loss of a Loved One

The loss of a loved one can be difficult to confront. That difficulty might have been heightened in recent years, when a global pandemic has caused the death of millions, including many people who were otherwise healthy prior to contracting the COVID-19

Each individual may experience the grieving process in their own unique way, but the American Psychological Association notes that researchers have found that social support and healthy habits can help most people recover from loss. The APA also urges individuals to speak with a licensed mental health professional if they are dealing with severe or complicated grief, a condition marked by broad changes to all personal relationships, a sense of meaninglessness, a prolonged yearning or searching for the deceased, and a sense of rupture in personal beliefs.

The APA reports that some additional strategies may help grieving individuals process and come to terms with the loss of a loved one.

- Discuss the death of your **loved one.** The APA notes that avoiding talking about a deceased loved one can lead to isolation and a disruption in the healing process. Speaking about the death of a loved one can help individuals understand what happened, and that understanding can facilitate the healing process.
- Take care of your health.



Mental Health America, a com- als avoid the pitfalls of addicmunity-based nonprofit committed to promoting mental health, urges individuals dealing with the loss of a loved one to take care of their own health. After losing a loved one, some people may be in danger of developing a dependence on medication or alcohol that they're using to deal with their grief. It's important that grieving individuals recognize that threat and the role that maintaining one's personal health can play in the healing process. Regular contact with your physician, routine exercise and a healthy diet can promote personal health and may help individu-

tion after the death of a loved

Accept your feelings. The APA notes that it's normal for grieving individuals to experience a range of emotions, including sadness, anger and exhaustion. Individuals who feel overwhelmed by their emotions are urged to speak with a licensed mental health professional. Such professionals can recommend various strategies to cope with emotions that can sometimes feel overwhelming.

• Celebrate your loved one. The APA recognizes that many people find the anniversaries of a loved one's death to be especially difficult. The APA recommends individuals use such anniversaries as opportunities to celebrate their loved one's life. Plant a garden in a loved one's memory or honor them with a donation to a charity they supported. Such gestures can add some positivity to the anniversary and help in the healing process.

The death of a loved one can inspire a range of emotions. Various strategies can help individuals cope with such losses. More information about grieving is available at www.apa.org.











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#### Morris Hospital Occupational Therapist Thrives in Helping Patients Restore Independence

It takes a pretty special healthcare worker to demonstrate care, compassion, calmness, and creativity in everything she does. Along with delivering A+ patient care, Morris Hospital's seasoned inpatient occupational therapist Jenny Kumrow is all that and more. For all that she does to make a difference in the lives of everyone around her, Kumrow, of Plainfield, was selected as Morris Hospital's Fire Starter of the Month for January 2022.

"Jenny cares deeply about her patients, her co-workers, and the success of Morris Hospital," wrote Physical Therapist Renee Joder in nominating Kumrow as Fire Starter of the Month. "To watch Jenny in action is to observe a true professional who wants to make a difference."

When Kumrow came to Morris Hospital in 2015, she already had 25 years' experience in the hospital and nursing home setting. Throughout her career, she has used her special creative talents for the benefit of her patients and co-workers.

"You have to think outside the box when you're trying to motivate people to get moving," says Kumrow, who has a special way of putting patients at ease and gaining their trust, which ultimately improves patient participation with treatment and outcomes.

"Jenny has a way of connecting with people and takes a very individualized approach with each patient by trying to find out something personal about them," says Sarah Wrightson, Manager of Rehabilitation Services at Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers. "She always puts patients first and is always creative in motivating them to reach their goals."

"Despite what's going on around us, she is very calm and collective and keeps her focus where it needs to be," adds Wrightson. "She's extremely reliable and brilliant in a quiet way, never seeking recognition."

Whether she's helping patients learn to dress and groom themselves following a stroke, surgery, or lengthy hospitalization, or offering an empathetic ear, Kumrow's ultimate goal is to give patients the tools they need to be able to perform functions on their own.

For example, when Kum-



row observed that many patients were having difficulty ordering off the menu because they didn't have their readers with them, she went to the dollar store and purchased multiple pairs so patients would be able to read the menu and order their food independently. She has been a proponent of providing reading material and puzzle books for hospitalized patients to give them something to do, especially in light of visitor restrictions that have resulted from the pandemic.

"Finding a way to give them their independence is important," says Kumrow, who particularly enjoys working with seniors. "So is just sitting and talking to them about their family or things they like to do. It takes them out of the hospital for a little while and brings them to their happy spot."

Kumrow says she loves helping patients with their recovery. "It's definitely rewarding when patients can get up and get dressed after breaking a hip, or when they have an a-ha moment after realizing they can do something on their own and no longer feel helpless."

In addition to the extraordinary care she provides for patients, co-worker Joder says Kumrow is always looking for ways to improve the work environment for staff as well and that she is a "legend when it comes to bright ideas to make the hospital experience better for everyone."

"Her ability to think outside the box not only in patient care but also in hospital improvement situations makes an awesome impact on our department and the hospital," said Joder.

In early civilizations, fire starters were individuals who had the important job of keeping the flame alive. With over 1,400 employees, Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers is the largest employer in Grundy

#### **Area COVID-19 Stats** as of February 7

Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases	
Dwight	23,867	1,127	
Herscher	5,755	499	
Gardner	5,214	472	
Odell	5,442	364	
Mazon	3,686	352	
Braceville	3,911	327	N7 1
Essex	2,552	266	Numbers
S. Wilmington	1,982	169	as of
Cullom	3,070	158	2/7/22
Saunemin	2,495	154	
Reddick	1,904	138	Statistics via:
Verona	1,561	137	dph.illinois.gov
Cabery	1,865	126	
Ransom	1,612	114	
Buckingham	1,410	106	
Kempton	1,625	101	
Emington	1,066	85	
Blackstone	1,120	72	
Kinsman	1,223	46	
Campus	737	28	
Union Hill	249	17	
County	<b>Tested</b>	Cases	<b>Deaths</b>
Kankakee	439,927	28,055	345
LaSalle	436,359	27,740	363
Grundy	140,738	12,269	126
Livingston	222,435	10,328	127

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 2,957,563; Deaths: 31,296; **Probable Deaths:** 3,861; **Total Tests Performed:** 51,846,053.

6,934

4,284

105

62

101,258

67,588

Iroquois

Ford

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.

> *Visit us online at:* THEPAPER1901.COM

#### Kindergarten **Pre-Registration** at South Wilmington **Grade School March 2-3**

School will be holding kindergarten pre-registration Wednes-3, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. each

Your child must be fiveyears old on or before September 1, 2022, and reside in the school district (District #74) to be eligible to attend for the 2022-2023 school year.

your child's birth certificate

South Wilmington Grade and two proofs of residency. If you are a homeowner, this could be your property tax bill. day and Thursday, March 2 and If you are a renter, it could be your rental agreement. Other options are any utility bill or voter registration card with your name and correct physical address on it.

If you are not able to make it at this time, call the school SWGS will need a copy of office at 815-237-2281 to make other arrangements.

### Jesse White Awards Nearly \$6 Million to Libraries Focused on Pandemic Recovery

and State Librarian Jesse White has awarded nearly \$6 million to libraries focused on responding directly to the COVID-19 pandemic by modifying services, transforming spaces and developing resources for their local recovering workforce.

"During the ongoing pandemic, libraries have had to retool their services to match the needs of the community and I am honored to be able to provide funding to allow these libraries to expand access to their patrons," said White. "I applaud the library community in Illinois for their hard work as they continue to provide essential services during this challenging time."

A total of \$5,740,350 funded 211 academic, school, special and public libraries, all of which received grants ranging from \$5,000 to over \$1 million. A combination of funding sources provided through the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and Library Serv-received grants: ices and Technology Act (LSTA), both from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, and state technology funds were used to maximize the statewide impact.

three categories:

• Bouncing Back from the Pandemic – Developing Resources • LaSalle Public Library – for the Local Workforce: Proj- \$19,000.00. ects focus on providing essen- • Morris Area Public Library

Illinois Secretary of State can access employment services and training to build the necessary skills to become job ready. Thirty libraries received \$730,730.

> • Expanding Digital Inclusion – Transforming Library Services: Projects focus on restoring services and enhancing digital inclusion efforts focused on circulating internet hotspots, laptops and other devices that support pandemic recovery. Forty-seven libraries received \$809,409.

• On the Road to Recovery -Transforming Library Spaces: Projects focus on academic, public, school and special libraries that prioritize health and safety while focusing on restoration of the library's capacity to operate and offer clean, safe library spaces while preventing the spread of COVID-19. One hundred thirty-four libraries received a total of \$4,200,211.

The following area libraries

- Bradley Public Library District - \$17,174.00.
- · Coal City Public Library Dis-
- trict \$5,500.00.• Gibson City: Moyer District
- Library \$11,346.00. Grants were awarded under • Kankakee: Limestone Township Library District -

\$24,820.00.

tial resources so job seekers District – \$5,328.00.

## **Riverside Adds New Immediate Care** Location in Kankakee

expanded its network of Im- and will be open Monday mediate Care clinics, open-through Friday, 10:00 a.m. to ing an additional location 8:30 p.m., Saturday and Suninside the Riverside Pavilion at Riverside Medical Center. Immediate Care offers the pointment time with the appropriate level of highquality care without the high tients 18 months and older. emergency room cost.

Immediate Care services include: Cold & Flu Symp- Pavilion. toms; Sneezing, Cough, Fever, Sore Throat; Nausea mediate care services in or Vomiting; Sinus & Ear In- Bradley (The Atrium), Coal fection; Minor Cuts or City, Monee and Watseka. Burns; Rashes & Poison Ivy; Allergies; Urinary Tract Infection; Conjunctivitis; and side's Kankakee Immediate

The new Pavilion location org/IC.

Riverside Healthcare has opens Friday, February 11, day, 8:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Walk-in or reserve your apmyRiverside app. Seeing pa-Conveniently located at 375 N. Wall St. in the Riverside

Riverside also offers im-

Learn more about River-Care at riversidehealthcare.





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#### The Lights are Back On at The Barn III

The Barn III in Goodfield is gearing up for its next big performance comedy, "Weekend Comedy", which is running through February 27 on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Baby Boomers, Frank and Peggy, have rented a romantic cabin in the woods for Valentine's Day only to find that Millennials, Tony and Jill, were promised the same one bedroom cabin through the same rental agency. Can these two vastly different couples put up with each other for the weekend or will merry mayhem be the result? A generational collision between these unique couples will have guests laughing and reflecting on the generational perspectives of aging, marriage, and happiness.

The Barn will be welcoming back to the stage Dan and Tamra Challacombe and Jimmy LaHood who were last seen in "A Christmas to Remember" and Miranda Axsom who was last seen in "Is There Life After Fifty" in 2021.

"Weekend Comedy" is produced by Abby Reel and directed by Mary Simon along with assistant director/lighting designer Sagan Drake and technical director Jimmy LaHood. Set design is by Tracy Simmons and sound by James

Tickets for dinner theatre shows during 2022 are available for all regular performances. Tickets can be purchased online at thebarniii.com or by phone at 309-965-2545 from the box office, which is open

from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 1:00-5:00 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays.

The Barn has moved to a fully plated dining experience where they bring the buffet line straight to your table. Guests can enjoy unlimited Barn favorites like fried chicken and their famous beer cheese and crackers along with additional entree choices including prime rib and chicken parmesan. No more waiting in line or balancing your plate back to your

The Barn III also offers a full service bar on site and as such outside alcohol is not al-

For more information, visit thebarniii.com or e-mail: boxoffice@thebarniii.com





CONGRATULATIONS to Ryan Cacello and Blake Huston for receiving Grundy Area Vocational Center Director's Awards in Building Trades and Engineering Technology, respectively. Ryan is a junior at Gardner-South Wilmington High School. This is his first year in the Building Trades program. He is the son of Matt and Elizabeth Cacello of South Wilmington. Blake is a senior at GSW High School in his second year in the Engineering program. He is the son of Aron and Carla Huston from Gardner.

#### **Programming for Limestone Township Library District Online**

Don't let winter weather and big snow storms keep you down. Limestone Township Library District (LTLD) continues to hold their programming online through Facebook so you can still have some fun learning experiences.

Storytime is held every Tuesday at 10:15 a.m. on Facebook. Watch Mr. Austin read a picture book every week and help pre-schoolers discover the joy of reading.

Science Demonstration with Ms. Holly and Ms. Faith will be on Facebook on February 9 at 6:00 p.m. Watch as their intrepid staff members demonstrate a science experiment using items you have at home. This program is for kids in first through fifth grades.

Internet Security 101, a program for the whole family, takes place on February 10 at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook. Austin will show the ways to remain safe while surfing the web. If you have any questions, e-mail them to LTLD or send them by Facebook Messenger by Febru-

Chess Club will take place Thursday, February 17, at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook. Austin will lead us through various game moves that can help improve your plays.

They are having a DIY Mini-Golf Course craft session on Facebook Friday, February 18. at 6:00 p.m. Kids in third through fifth grades can pick up their Grab-and-Go kit at the library after registration before the Facebook presentation to learn how to create their own mini-golf course.

Books and Baking will occur Wednesday, February 23, at 6:30 p.m. on Facebook. This program for kids in first through fifth grades will have a grab-and-go bag for each child once they register. Join Austin on Facebook as he shares books about baking and demonstrates how to decorate cupcakes.

STEAM Workshop takes place Thursday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m. on Facebook. A part of their Getting Ready for Kindergarten grant program, STEAM Workshop is geared for students entering kindergarten in 2022. This month, they are doing Stuffed Froggy Dissection Lab. Each participant who registers will receive a kit to complete an experiment with adult supervision, following along a video with Mr. Austin on Facebook. This program is sponsored by the Com-Foundation Kankakee River Valley.

Every Saturday, they have a new take-it-and-make-it craft that anyone can pick up. The crafts are geared for children in first through fifth grades. You can post your finished product limestonelibrary.org.

on Facebook or Instagram and tag Limestone Township Library District.

At this time, lengthy stays within the library are discouraged. Seating will not be available, including for those doing independent tutoring or working from a personal laptop. In addition, their meeting room is closed for community use.

The hours of the library have not changed and mask usage, per the governor's mandate, within the library remains in place. Should there be any changes in accessibility of the library, they will announce it in newspapers, on radio stations, Facebook, Instagram, and their

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

Masks are required for all visitors from the age of two and up while in the library building. Contactless Curbside Service is also available for those who want their check-outs taken to their vehicle. Call the library to schedule your pick-up.

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



organization, Angels of Hope. Pictured, from left, are Isabela Garcia, Jen Phillips, Lori Bonarek, Kristine Perino, Marv Perino, Mary Rossio, Nicole Lusson, Felicia Riggi, Sarah Sallese, and Jim Ludes.

## Holiday Hustle 5K Helps Raise Over \$8,600 to Angels of Hope

The Holiday Hustle 5K was created by a group of area people that love their community and want to see it grow and thrive. Each year, a new charity is selected to receive the profits from the Holiday Hustle 5K.

This year's recipient was Angels of Hope, a non-profit organization that serves as beacons of hope for those suffering from emotional and physical absence of a child. Angels of Hope provides grants, resources, and positive support to

families dealing with the loss amount of \$8,631.81. of a child or the loss of fertility.

This year's race took place on November 28, starting and finishing at Babe's Tap in Coal City. Over one hundred registered participants and business donations brought a record year presented by committee members to Angels of Hope in the

Charities wishing to be considered can fill out an application. Applications are available at the Lori Bonarek Realty office, 640 S. Broadway St., Coal City, or request by e-mail to in fund-raising. A check was admin@loribonarekrealty.

#### **Dwight VFW Post 2608** SPAGHETTI & MEAT BALLS DINNER 2nd Friday of Every Month

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Serving from 5-7:30 p.m. @ VFW Post 2608, 506 S. Old Rt. 66

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Dwight VFW Post 2608 and its Auxiliary

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## Herscher's Naomi Benoit Named the Newest Jr. Member of American Angus Association

Naomi Benoit, of Herscher, Association and take part in is a new junior member of the American Angus Association®, reports Mark McCully, CEO of the national organization with headquarters in Saint Joseph, Missouri.

Junior members of the Association are eligible to register cattle in the American Angus Association, participate in programs conducted by the Na-Junior

Association-sponsored shows and other national and regional

The American Angus Association is the largest beef association in the world, with more than 25,000 active adult and junior members. NJAA.info for more information about the National Junior Angus Angus Association.





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#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### An Open Letter to the Community

Throughout OSF Health-Care, our hospitals, clinics and staff are being challenged in ways we haven't experienced in two years of the COVID-19 pandemic. But if you look back on OSF history, those before us faced similar challenges. Our founding Sisters cared for patients with contagious diseases, and as it is today, the need for care was tremendous. Those Sisters were willing to do whatever was needed, saying, "This is a person created in God's image, and I'm going to take care of them."

Today's Sisters – and their 24,000 partners in the OSF HealthCare Mission – are also saying that.

Yes, our health care workers are tired and worn out. Just like health systems across the country, our doctors, nurses, clinical support staff and others continue to endure mental, emotional and physical strain. The surge we are experiencing with omicron is the latest test.

But our caregivers and other Mission Partners draw strength from the example and legacy of the OSF founding Sisters. It's what energizes them and gives them purpose for showing up every day. For that, we are so very thankful to them. They know, no matter the crisis or illness, our patients come first. They trust us and continue to know that OSF Mission Partners have their best interest at heart. We do whatever it takes to provide them with the greatest care and love, as we have for 144 years. This is what OSF is built on. This is our purpose. This is our calling. This is our Mission.

Even as we face staff shortages – due to illness and a nursing shortage, a trend across health care – our Mission Partners are answering the call to serve. Mission Partners from across our Ministry are stepping up to volunteer time in patient-care areas – clearing food trays, placing meal orders, stocking supplies, transporting patients within our hospitals ... and so much more. It's more proof that the sacred Mission we have been entrusted with continues, and will continue whether we are enjoying good times or navigating the most challenging situations.

We would appreciate your help during this latest chapter of the pandemic. There are so many things you can do for us. For individuals with COVID-

19 symptoms, please seek out testing at our walk-in urgent care clinics or through your primary care provider. Individuals who aren't experiencing symptoms or have been exposed to the virus can get tested at community sites and retail pharmacies or use an at-home test. It is best that our emergency departments dedicate efforts towards patients needing emergency

But it's imperative that you do not delay using the emergency department, or calling 911, for life-threatening emergencies, such as severe shortness of breath, chest pain, stroke symptoms, traumatic injuries or uncontrolled bleeding.

Most of all, please be kind. Be patient. Be understanding of what our Mission Partners and all health care workers are experiencing.

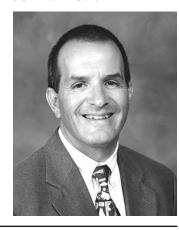
At OSF, we're confident we are carrying out our purpose to care for all those who need care. We will continue to embrace and be lifted up by our Mission as we hope for a brighter future for our patients and the communities we serve.

Thank you, and God bless



Sister Diane Marie McGrew, O.S.F. President OSF HealthCare

Mike Cruz, MD **Chief Operating Officer** OSF HealthCare



# Morris Hospital Infectious Disease Physician Offers Advice for Minimizing COVID Illness

are testing positive for COVID-19, Morris Hospital Infectious Disease physician Dr. John Bolden knows there are steps people can take at home to minimize COVID illness.

"For those who test positive for COVID or begin to experience symptoms, taking the right steps early on may decrease the chances of severe illness," says Dr. Bolden. "There are several things that can be done at home to try to limit the illness from progressing.'

If you test positive for COVID, Dr. Bolden recommends informing your primary care provider, especially if you have symptoms. This allows the primary care provider to establish a baseline and offer specific guidance based on individual risk factors, symptoms and progression.

While recovering at home even for people who test positive but don't have symptoms – Dr. Bolden recommends getting plenty of rest, staying well hyeating small healthy meals with fruits and vegetables, and exercising. For hydration, he recommends approximately six to eight glasses of water a day in order to loosen any congestion in the nose and lungs. Exercising can be as simple as doing stretches in the home, such as arm stretching and waist bends,

and going about a daily routine around the house. Movement and activity can help expand the lungs.

'One of the important factors in recovery from COVID infection is trying to keep your lungs and airways opened up. That's why it's important to get up every few hours during the day to stretch, exercise, shower and walk around," he says. "Staying in bed for long periods of time is not beneficial when trying to re-

When it comes to vitamins and supplements, Dr. Bolden says the ones that prove effective for treating COVID are Vitamin D, Vitamin C, and Zinc Sulfate to boost the immune system, along with a daily dose of aspirin to prevent blood clots, if advised by your physician. Another overthe-counter supplement Dr. Bolden suggests is the supplement quercetin, which has many anti-viral, anti-inflammatory and antioxidant effects that can help with recovery from the virus. Quercetin is found in plants and foods such as onions, green tea, apples, berries and red wine, and is available at vitamin

Your primary care provider can offer specific guidance for appropriate over-the-counter medications to alleviate discomfort from COVID symptoms such as headache, sinus congestion, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea and sore throat. Your provider may also prescribe steroids or an antibiotic, depending on the severity of illness. For high risk patients, providers may give a referral for treatment with the monoclonal antibody infusion, although supply is very limited at this time.

"Monoclonal therapy has shown great evidence that it does help in terms of decreasing the duration and severity of COVID infection, but unfortunately treatments are very limited right now," he says.

Dr. Bolden also recommends additional measures to keep the lungs and airways clear. He says nebulizers and humidifiers have been proven to decrease severity and inflammation, and a handheld device called an incentive spirometer can help expand and strengthen the lungs. Another recommendation is singing a few songs every couple of hours.

"Singing at home every few heen shown to heln speed recovery by opening up the airways," Dr. Bolden says.

Good ventilation in the home is also important. Dr. Bolden suggests opening a window and turning on a fan to increase the airflow and move germs outside the home. Stepping outside for a few minutes each day also gives

an opportunity to breathe in fresh

"You can make it part of your daily exercise routine to expand your lungs," Dr. Bolden says.

While two oral antiviral medications are on the horizon that aim to reduce hospitalizations resulting from COVID-19, their availability is still not yet known. Rumors and misinformation continue to circulate about the use of drugs like hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin as COVID-19 treatments, but Dr. Bolden stresses there is insufficient evidence to support their use.

"These medications have not been approved for treatment of COVID," Dr. Bolden says, "and there's not enough evidence to show that they're an effective or safe treatment for COVID."

While it's always important to contact your medical provider any time symptoms occur that are severe or concerning, some of the most common emergency warning signs for COVID-19 that require prompt medical atpersistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips or nail beds, or a blood oxygen level consistently below 92%.

"Medical emergencies always require immediate attention," he



#### **Super Bowl**

This weekend is the Super Bowl. If you were asking me from just a football perspective, I don't really care all that much about the teams involved. It's the Rams and Bengals (although, I"m probably pulling for the Bengals just given their lack of success over the years and Cincinnati has a nice zoo).

However, the Super Bowl isn't just a game. It's an event. It's become a social function, a hangout amongst friends or family, even when the teams involved have little to no tie to anyone in the room watching it. I think most holidays, at their core, are fairly dumb and just exist to get you

The Super Bowl isn't really a holiday, but it's basically that next tier down - sort of like St. Patrick's Day. You just hangout. I think there's something nice about pseudo-holidays with no real obligation other than to just be in the company of people you enjoy (or maybe, sometimes, don't enjoy spending time with.)

I think the first Super Bowl I remember watching was the Giants and Ravens in 2000 - meaning this is my 22nd Super Bowl I'll have watched on TV. Here are a few small things I've picked up on in my years.

Be the chip person. Okay, maybe this one is just for me because I don't really know how to make any dip and am fairly inadequate in and around the kitchen. But there's just a lot less pressure being the chip person. You get some Doritos, you get some Tostitos, maybe even a restaurant style tortilla chip, too, to really round it out.

Next, if you're eating any sort of dessert, pastry, cake, really anything in that general vicinity, and you like it, always ask first if it's homemade or not. If it is, in fact, homemade, and you enjoy it, you have to claim that you like it even more than maybe you did. We are complimenting people on their hard work, and the people who are brave enough to not be the chip people and succeed should be accoladed

Last, and finally, you're not going to win the bet of what color the Gatorade is. There always seems to be some dumb chicanery that comes along with it. It's green, but it's tinted blue. Maybe they use water, not even Gatorade. Maybe they won't even dump it at all this year. It's the ever-elusive Super Bowl prop bet that you won't win. It's the claw game of prop bets. Please avoid.

My prediction:

Bengals 24 Rams 20

Aaron J. Boma 2016 ISU Grad

#### February is **American Heart Month**

February is American Heart 16, 2022, at the Iroquois Month. During American Heart Month, the Iroquois County Public Heatlh Departfocus on cardiovascular health.

Over 350,000 cardiac arrests occur outside of the hospital each year. Most cardiac arrests happen at home. Calluntil help arrives increases the chance of survival for individuals experiencing cardiac ar-

CPR/AED classes on February il.us.

County Administrative building. There are two class times scheduled: 1:00-3:30 p.m. and ment encourages residents to 6:00-8:30 p.m. The Heartsaver course is a certification course that provides hands-on training for CPR/AED. A fee applies for the course, and includes certification upon ing 9-1-1 and providing CPR completion. To register for the course, or to inquire about future CPR/AED or First Aid courses, contact Gina Greene at the ICPHD at 815-432-ICP is offering Heartsaver 2483 or ggreene@co.iroquois.

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

**ESTATE OF:** 

IDA R. HAACKE **Deceased** 

No. 2022-PR-8

#### **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 efiled 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 & SCHROCK, LTD. Attorney for Estate 307 West Washington Pontiac, IL 61764 Telephone: 815-844-6177 ARDC#6180398 Fax: (815)-842-3288 bonnie@sbsltd.com

## **Grundy County Health Dept. to Host Walk-In COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic February 10**

partment will host a walk-in COVID-19 vaccine clinic at The Wesley Center (111 W. North Street in Morris) Thursday, February 10, from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

No appointment is needed, but is encouraged through www.grundyhealth.com.

All three vaccines will be available as supplies last. Initial doses and boosters are available per current CDC recing a first dose, record of previous doses administered must be presented. To request free transportation through the Morris Hospital Patient Transportation Service, call 815-705-7250. A minimum of 72 hours advance notice is requested for rides.

Local pharmacies continue to have pediatric and adult vaccine available, and resi-

Grundy County Health De- ommendations. Unless obtain- dents may consider visiting clinics in neighboring counties as clinics are intended to be available for any Illinois resi-

> GCHD is also offering walk-in COVID vaccine clin

ics every Friday in February (Feb. 11, Feb. 18, Feb. 25) from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Grundy Administration Building (1320 Union Street in Morris).

No appointment is needed.



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#### The Paper

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

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

We welcome your thoughts.

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# SPORTS SPORTS



# Tuesday, February 1 game tonight," said Trojan

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ROUTE

# **Dwight Defeats GSW in Road Rivalry Win**

Dwight vs.

**Gardner-South Wilmington** 

The Dwight Trojans and Gardner-South Wilmington Panthers squared off in Gardner February 1, with Dwight coming away with a 58-45 victory.

After one quarter, the Panthers held a 17-16 lead, but Dwight would step it up in the second and head into the half with a 35-31 advantage.

In the second half, the Trojan defense only allowed seven points in the third and fourth quarters – resulting in their 12th win of the season.

"We played a pretty solid

head coach Jeremy Connor. "Turned the ball over a little too much, but we did a better job of shooting behind the arc. Gardner really played a tough game - I don't think their record shows how tough they can be.'

Dwight was led by Wyatt Thompson's 25 points, which included a three-pointer and 4-5 shooting from the charity stripe. Jeremy Kapper had 17 points (7-9 FT), with Conner Telford tallying 13 points (4 3pointers, 1-2 FT). Kaleb Duden chipped in with two free throws, while Dawson Carr knocked down one.

For GSW, now 6-20 overall, Cale Halpin had 20 points (2 3-pointers, 6-6 FT) and six steals. Gabe McHugh followed with 12 points, six boards, with Garrett Grant scoring five points (3-9 FT). Bennett Grant provided four free throws, while Ethan Mack and Brody Fatlan added a basket each.

"Like the majority of our games, we fought hard and competed very well versus an oversized team," stated GSW's head coach Allan Wills. "But we have to start playing four complete quarters and get some wins."

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# LCHD Moving Out of the Old & Into the New

Livingston County, IL – After 100 years, Livingston and Family Planning & STD testing/treatment. In 1971, County's Health & Education Building will finally be retired as the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) opens the doors to its new building on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

Built in 1922 as Livingston County's Sanatorium, the site initially was dedicated to the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of tuberculosis, holding 38 beds for Livingston County residents suffering from the illness. The LCHD was then established in 1966 by resolution of the County Board and later approved by popular vote through a referendum in 1976, finally consolidating Tuberculosis and Public Health in 1980 and achieving status as a certified public health department by the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH).

The LCHD has greatly expanded its public health services since 1966, changing from a public health nursing agency to a full-service health department in 1976. More comprehensive health services have been established over the years, such as maternal & child care, school health, food and water safety, environmental health, family planning & STD testing/treatment, emergency preparedness, health screenings, and immunizations.

Serving on Livingston County's Board of Health since 1976 and as Board President since 1983, James Day, D.D.S., has been an integral part of the health depart-

"As a result of continued investments made by the Livingston County Board, the essential public health services our county has grown to depend on over the years will now be offered in a building better-suited to meet the needs of our community members," said Day. "We are grateful to the Board for their sustained efforts in supporting our county's health."

While times have changed, the public health needs of Livingston County remain. Beginning in 1968, maternal & child health services have since transformed to meet the needs of the whole family with programs like Family Case Management; Women, Infants & Children (WIC); Healthy Families Illinois; Better Birth Outcomes; LCHD nurses were busy facilitating a county-wide oral polio immunization program in cooperation with Livingston County schools; much like the immunization efforts in 2009 to combat H1N1 and in 2021 for COVID-19. During the encephalitis outbreak of 1976, the LCHD advised Livingston communities regarding mosquito breeding grounds and prevention of the vector-borne disease, just like the more recent West Nile Virus. Routine inspections of food service establishments were also initiated in 1976 and persist today. The Case Coordination Unit (CCU) program was started in 1983 to assist seniors in their homes, and remains busy. The Hubert Wellness Clinic was established in 1988 with funds from the Michael Hubert Trust of Dwight to help residents identify health risks early and still serves county residents today. The LCHD's only school-based health center was started in 1995 at Pontiac Township High School and continues to care for students. Starting just four years later and still active, the Illinois Breast & Cervical Cancer Program was initiated at the LCHD to assist women with their cancer screenings and treatment. When the State implemented the Smoke-Free Illinois Act in 2008, it was the LCHD who helped county businesses make the healthy change and continues to provide enforcement of the law and help with smoking cessation & prevention. The history of the agency is so immense, this list captures only a portion of the public health support and services that have impacted Livingston County.

While many have helped to cultivate strong public health programs in Livingston County, few have had the impact that Gladys Kohrt, RN, and MaLinda Hillman, RN, have had at the health department. Starting their careers at the LCHD as public health nurses, both went on to become the agency's longest serving administrators with a combined 42 years - Kohrt having served in the role from 1971-1990 and Hillman having served from 1996-2019.

As one of the first nurses employed by the LCHD, Kohrt was vital in establishing a strong foundation for the health department. "Gladys was instrumental in building

the agency's public health nursing program and enrollment in Medicare for home health services," said Hillman. "She established a well-run program which helped lay the foundation for all of our public health efforts that have followed." Kohrt sadly passed away in 2001; however, her care for the LCHD continues as the Gladys Kohrt Donation Fund offers assistance for professional development of staff.

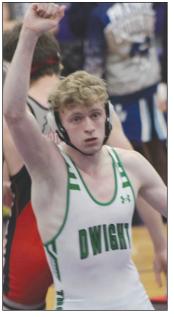
Hillman, LCHD nurse of 39 years and protegee of Kohrt's, further bolstered the agency's programs and funding during her 23 years as administrator. In 1966, the agency started with a budget of \$7,500 and facilitated 761 home nursing visits. Upon Hillman's retirement in November 2019, the LCHD operated a budget of \$1,205,254, almost half of which was awarded through grant funding, and had expanded to over 30 public health programs serving nearly 10,000 individual Livingston County residents.

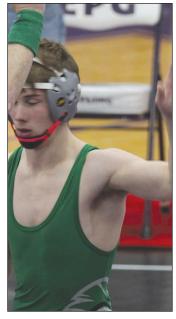
In 2016, the LCHD celebrated its 50-year anniversary and was recognized by IDPH as having "established a distinguished record of accomplishment and dedication to providing quality health services to north-central Illi-

Speaking to the history of the health department, current administrator and LCHD nurse since 1990, Jackie Dever, said, "As we prepare to move and find remnants of our past throughout our 100-year-old building, it is overwhelming to think of all of the people helped over the years and the positive impact the LCHD has had in the county. We are grateful and excited to continue our long-standing tradition of proudly serving Livingston County in a new building that will better serve our community."

The LCHD will be closed to the public February 14-18 during the move. Please plan accordingly if needing resources from the health department. The building may be changing, but the address will stay the same - 310 É Torrance Ave, Pontiac. The new building will be open to the public on Tuesday, February 22 (closed 2/21 for President's Day). Plans to demolish the old building will follow at a later date.

# SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS







THE DWIGHT TROJANS had five athletes wrestling their way into sectional action, following regional wins February 5 at El Paso-Gridley. Pictured, from left, are Emmett Emmons (3rd), Dillon Sarff (1st), Dylan Crouch (1st), Samuel Edwards (1st), and Austin Burkhardt (2nd). These Trojans travel to Olympia High School in Stanford for sectionals February 11-12 for a shot at a state finals berth.





**Good Luck to All Student Athletes in Sectionals!** 



#### SENECA FIGHTING IRISH BASKETBALL

Friday, February 4 Seneca vs. Midland

8 (5-2 in conference) following and Calvin Maierhofer each an overtime thriller against scored four points, with Noah Zach Pfeifer followed with 16 Midland February 4, which Quigley coming up with three points (3 3-pointers, 5-5 FT), ended in a 48-45 score.

"We played a very solid game, with a six-point lead with just under three minutes to go," said Coach Russ Witte, "but they hit a couple of threes to get back into it and force OT. We definitely had opportunities, just couldn't get the final stop and bucket. We need to have a short memory and bounce back at Wilmington."

Seneca's Paxton Giertz had a team-high 15 points (1 3pointer, 2-5 FT), with Zach Pfeifer hitting three threes for

nine points on the night. Kysen Klinker had six points, going 4-The Fighting Irish fell to 16- 4 from the line. Braden Ellis ers, 2-2 FT) led the way with points (1-2 FT). Given Siegel and Lane Provance each added a basket.

> Saturday, February 5 Seneca vs. Wilmington

In b-ball action February 5, Seneca won over Wilmington, 79-54, to move to 17-8 on the season.

"Nice bounce back win," Coach Witte said after the game. "Battled a very physical team, and a power outage, to come away with a convincing

Noah Quigley (5 3-pointers) and Paxton Giertz (2 3-point-21 and 20 points, respectively. while Given Siegel supplied 10 points (2-3 FT). Lane Provance added seven points, going 3-4 from the chairty stripe. Owen Quigley contributed three points (1-2 FT), with Kysen Klinker and Calvin Maierhofer each knocking down a free throw.

"Nice to see Noah Quigley get his game back on track with 21 points," Witte added. "Four players in double figures is always nice to see."

The Irish travel to Dwight Friday night.

## Five Trojan Wrestlers Move on to Sectional in Stanford February 11-12

Dwight wrestlers traveled to El Paso-Gridley High School to compete with nine other schools in one of 16 IHSA 1A regional tournaments held February 5. After some entertaining and grueling bouts, the Trojans as a team finished in a respectable fourth place.

Five Trojans fought their way to stand on the championship podium and earn a qualification to IHSA sectionals. Dylan Crouch (freshman), Dillon Sarff (senior), and Samuel Edwards (senior) earned a first round bye at sectionals for finishing as the regional champion for their weight class.

Austin Burkhardt (junior) Emmons (senior) fought his way to a third place finish. Both will move on to compete • Quarterfinal – received Bye.

Trojan in sectionals.

The five Trojan sectional qualifiers will be competing on February 11 and 12 at Olympia High School in Stanford, with a berth to the IHSA state finals in Champaign on the line.

for each of the Dwight sectional qualifiers are as follows:

#### Dylan Crouch (1st, 19-7) • Semifinal – received Bye.

- over Clay Wiegand (Deer Creek Mackinaw).
- Dillon Sarff (1st, 25-4)
- Quarterfinals received Bye. • Semifinal – won by tech fall over Peyton Hixon (Deer Creek Mackinaw).
- 1st Place Match won by finished second, while Emmett tech fall over Waylon Melick (El Paso-Gridley).
  - Samuel Edwards (1st, 15-0)

- Semifinal won by fall over Aaron Shrewsbury (Pontiac).
- 1st Place Match won by tech fall over Hunter Hull

#### (Clifton Central). Austin Burkhardt (2nd, 22-7)

- Quarterfinal won by major Individual regional results decision over Caden Travis (Prairie Central).
  - Semifinal won by fall over Dillon Wiles (Eureka).
- 1st Place Match lost by de-• 1st Place Match – won by fall cision to Gage Sweckard (Deer Creek Mackinaw).

Emmett Emmons (3rd, 17-11)

- Quarterfinal won by decision over Tyler Bippus (Prairie Central).
- Semifinal lost by fall to Dax Gentes (El Paso-Gridley). • Cons. Semi – won by fall over
- Boden Brooks (Pontiac). • 3rd Place Match – won by fall
- over Justice Rockhold (Deer Creek Mackinaw).

## Eighth Grade Redbirds Fall in Regional Championship; Seventh Grade Goes **Down in State Quarterfinal**

Tuesday, February 1 Dwight vs. St. George 8th Grade -Regional

The Dwight Redbirds picked up a 44-25 semifinal win over St. George in regional action February 1.

"Nice regional semifinal win," said Coach Stevenson. "We played well – defense was superb."

Leading the way for the Redbirds was Evan Cox (4 steals, 2 rebounds) and Jake Wilkey (3 rebounds) with 15 and 12 points, respectively. Colin Bachand added 10 points, one steal, with Graham Meister putting up seven points and three boards.

Thursday, February 3 Dwight vs. **Riverdale Washington** 7th Grade -Sectional

Dwight defeated Riverdale Washington 40-23 to capture the 7-2A sectional title in Gardner February 3.

"It was a costly win, as Colin Bachand went out with a serious ankle injury," said Coach Conroy. "We don't know if he will be available for the state tourney."

Graham Meister led the Redbirds with 18 points (12 rebounds, 2 assists, 1 steal), while Bachand put up 15 points (6 steals, 2 rebounds, 2 assists).

Matt Watchinski added four Bishop McNamara points, four steals, and six boards, while Trevor Jensen had three points, five rebounds, three steals, and two assists.

Friday, February 4 Dwight vs.

8th Grade -Regional

The eighth grade Dwight Redbirds had their 2021-22 season come to a close February 4, losing to Bishop McNa-

(continued on page 10)







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THE SENECA FIGHTING IRISH had six wrestlers (pictured in no particular order) earn a shot in the sectional tournament this weekend, after competing at their own regional tourney February 5. The Irish also had three others available as alternates, hoping for a chance to compete. Qualifiers include: Kyler Hahn (106, 3rd); Tommy Milton (113, 2nd); Jaden Casey (120, 3rd); Robby Nelson (132, 3rd); Owen Feiner (145, 2nd); and Chris Peura (195, 3rd). Alternates are: Nick Grant (126, 4th); Asher Hamby (152, 4th); and Alex Bogner (220, 4th).



#### SENECA LADY FIGHTING IRISH BASKETBALL

Monday, January 31 Seneca vs. Gardner-South Wilmington

dismantled Gardner-South Wilmington 51-9 on January 31, led by Kennedy Hartwig and Cassia Buchanan with 14 and 11 points, respectively.

"Good win tonight," said head coach Brian Holman. "Ten girls scored and our defense was really tough."

#### Tuesday, February 1 Seneca vs. St. Bede

In a back-and-forth contest against St. Bede Febru- eight points.

ary 1, Seneca held on to win, 48-41.

"Another great effort from The Lady Fighting Irish the girls," Coach Holman stated. "Zoe Hougas was outstanding and Allie Arwood knocked down some huge jump shots for us down the stretch. Really nice to see us playing good basketball at the right time of the sea-

> Hougas ended up with 19 points on the night, followed by 12 from Kennedy Hartwig. Arwood put up



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#### TRI-POINT LADY CHARGERS BASKETBALL

#### Monday, January 31 **Tri-Point vs. Momence**

The Lady Chargers earned a 50-36 "W" over Momence January 31.

Lanie Woods had a teamhigh 12 points (2 3-pointers, 4-6 FT), with Lainey Bertrand (2

3-pointers) and Kyra Cathcart adding 10 points each. Melina Schuette (2-2 FT) and Kadie Hummel (1-1 FT) came up with eight and seven points, respectively. Millie knocked down a three.

Ruiz

#### **DTHS LADY TROJANS BASKETBALL**

#### Monday, January 31 Dwight vs. Midland Varsity -

The Dwight Lady Trojans lost to TCC foes, Midland, January 31, 37-29.

Kassy Kodat led the way with 11 points, three assists, and two steals. Njomza Asllani followed closely with eight points, seven boards, and three steals. Brooke Vigna added six points, 10 rebounds, with Kira Bean putting up three points and six boards. Alayna Airgood hit one free throw to go with one rebound. JV -

The JV meeting saw the Lady Trojans fall to Midland, 38-20.

Lilly Duffy and Isabella Bunting led with six and four points, respectively. Pulling down rebounds for Dwight were Njomza Asllani, Emerson Peters, Ella Legner, and Ellora McCullough.

Tuesday, February 1

#### Dwight vs. Wilmington Varsity -

Dwight's varsity girls suffered a heart-breaking loss to Wilmington, 37-36, on a lastsecond shot February 1.

"It was a great game," stated Coach Butterbrodt, "but a tough loss for the Lady Trojans."

Lilly Duffy had a team-hgih 13 points, with Brooke Vigna scoring 12. Kassy Kodat came up with nine points, while Njomza Asllani hit a huge three to take the lead with 20 seconds to go in the game. Emerson Peters went 1-2 from the free throw line.

JV -The JV Lady Trojans started out great against Wilmington, but ended up falling to the Lady Wildcats, 26-13.

Lilly Duffy had four points, with Kassy Kodat adding three. Njomza Asllani, Emerson Peters, Isabella Bunting, and Olivia Folkers all contributed points.



#### **DTHS Trojans Basketball**

#### Friday, February 4 Dwight vs. Roanoke-Benson

The Trojans trounced Roanoke-Benson February 4 by a score of 52-29, upping their record to 13-10 overall (3-2 in TCC).

'We played one of our best second halves," Coach Connor said after the game. "So many players made impacts in this game, a complete team effort." Wyatt Thompson put up a

game-high 20 points (2 3pointers, 6-10 FT), with Jeremy Kapper adding 13 points (3-3 FT). Kaleb Duden (3-4 FT) and Dawson Carr (3-4 FT) had nine and seven points, respectively. Conner Telford chipped in with a third quarter bucket, while Landon Brown

Dwight hosts Seneca at home Friday night.

made good on a free throw.

#### **Dwight Redbirds Basketball (continued)**

(continued from page 9)

mara, 57-20.

"COVID got some of our team," said Coach Joe Stevenson following his final game as Dwight head coach. "We played with three out. Tough timing, but I'm proud of our team! They always play hard."

Evan Cox led with 14 points, five rebounds, and one steal. Jackson Launius (3 re-

(6 rebounds) added three and two points each. Jake Wilkey hit a free throw.

The Redbirds end the season with an overall record of 16-4.

Saturday, February 5 Dwight vs. Decatur Robinson 7th Grade -State

February 5 against Decatur vided six points, six boards,

bounds) and Graham Meister Robinson, as they suffered a 41-19 defeat in Macon at the 2A state quarterfinals.

"A very good run," Coach player hadn't been hobbled by a serious injury, we may still be playing."

Graham Meister was high scorer for the Redbirds with nine points, adding that to 12 Dwight concluded its season rebounds. Matt Watchinski pro-

while Colin Bachand, playing through an ankle injury, added four points, four rebounds, three assists, and a steal. Trevor Conroy said, "and if our best Jensen pulled down three rebounds, with Blake Thetard (1 steal) and Carson Sandeno (1 assist) each snagging one board.

> Dwight finishes the season with 17-5 record, a Conference Tournament title, in addition to a sectional championship.

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19 F250 Crew Lariat, 47K, 4WD, 4" Lift\$58,9	'20 Corsair 16K AWD
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18 F150 Crew XLT, 56K, 4WD\$36,9	<sup>100</sup> '20 Explorer XLT, 31K,
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18 F150 Crew King Ranch, 32K, 4WD\$54,9	14 Escape SE, 156K,
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Blustery winter weather and geopolitical tensions are helping to drive the price of oil higher, which is in the low-\$90s per barrel, nearly \$30 more than in August. The recent cold weather in the U.S increased the demand for heating oil. Meanwhile, the concern that Russia will react to potential western sanctions by withholding crude oil from the already tight global market puts heavy upward pressure on prices. The national average for a gallon of gas has surged to \$3.44, eight cents more than a week ago. Gas was last this expensive in 2014. Today's national average for a gallon of gas is \$3.44, which is 14 cents more than a month ago and 98 cents more than a year ago.

9		8
City/Village	February 7	January 31
Dwight	\$3.47	\$3.45
Kankakee	\$3.57	\$3.45
Streator	\$3.58	\$3.37
Pontiac	\$3.35	\$3.03
Gardner	\$3.45	\$3.45
Braceville	\$3.52	\$3.47
Morris	\$3.53	\$3.47
Herscher	\$3.59	\$3.49
Chicago	\$3.76	\$3.63
Illinois	\$3.64	\$3.51
U.S.	\$3.44	\$3.37

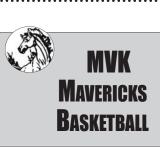
Sources: GasBuddy.com and U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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



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Monday, January 31 MVK vs. Odell 8th Grade -Regional

Mazon-Verona-Kinsman's 2021-22 season came to an end January 31, as the Mavericks fell to host Odell, 48-34, in regional semi-final action.

Cameron Shriey led the way for MVK with 14 points. Brady Sheedy added six points.



Friday, February 4 GSW vs.

**Grace Christian Academy** 

The GSW Panthers snuck by Grace Christian Academy on the road, 53-52, in basketball action February 4.

"We did not play very good tonight until the fourth quarter," stated Coach Wills. "But at the end of the day, a win is a win and we did just enough to get the job done."

GSW's Gabe McHugh led with 20 points, eight boards, and two steals. Cale Halpin followed closely with 19 points, five steals, and three rebounds.

The Panthers improve to 7-20 on the season, and sit at 3-7 in the conference. They take on Donovan at home Friday night.



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BLACKSTONE - D&S Auto Parts looking for a car The Paper dismantler part-time, fulltime position possible. Call 815-584-1901 815-672-8426 or 773-715-2522 for more details. 6-2wp

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Full time employee wanted. Must have valid driver's license and CDL. Work seasonal hours. Work independently or in team setting. Help repair facilities and equipment.

Sun Ag Inc. offers full benefits to full time employees including health, dental, vision, life ins., 401K and paid vacation. Competitive Compen-

Call Matt Durbin @ (815) 689-2144 or stop in for an application at 236 S. Cherry Street, Cul-

#### PART TIME SECRETARY

Clerical position, two days a week for the Veterans Assistance Commission. Must be a Veteran or a spouse of a Veteran. For more information, visit www.livingstoncountyil.gov, click on About Livingston, Click on Employment. Send resume/application to Livingston County Human Resources, 112 W. Madison, Rm 202, Pontiac, IL 61764 no later than 2/11/2022.

#### DWIGHT POLICE DEPARTMENT NOW HIRING ENTRY LEVEL POLICE **OFFICERS & LATERAL TRANSFERS COME JOIN OUR TEAM**

#### The Village of Dwight is accepting applications for the

position of entry level police officers and lateral transfers. We anticipate the need to hire up to three officers in the next several months. We are creating a hiring list with preference to Police Training Certified applicants, but not necessarily required. We are seeking qualified individuals pursuing a rewarding career in law enforcement who want to work in a caring community who supports them.

Population: 4,034 Full Time Officers: 9 Part Time Officers: 2

**Entry Level Police Officer Requirements** • High School Diploma or GED • U.S. Citizen • Minimum 21 years old • Valid driver's license

· No felony convictions • Pass physical agility (POWER Test) • Pass Written Exam

(National Police Officer Selection Test)

**Entry Level Benefits** 

 Starting Salary \$46,779 (Will be changing in April, actively bargaining) • Health Insurance, Dental, and Vision • IMRF Retirement Plan,

Optional 457 Deferred Compensation • Specialty Positions (SRO, Detective, Narcotics Unit, K9, Range Officer, FTO) • No Residency Requirement

• Yearly clothing allowance • 11 Paid Holidays

#### **Lateral Transfer Requirement**

Same as above, except no physical agility or written exam • In depth background check and medical exam • Two years experience preferred · Submission of previous employers'

performance evaluation (if completed) **Lateral Transfer Benefits (other than above)** • Salary range \$48,160-\$52,550 (Will be changing in April, actively bargaining)

• Ten days vacation · Applications available at the Village of Dwight website: www.dwightillinois.org

Submit applications in person by February 25, 2022 at the Village of Dwight, 209 S. Prairie Ave. Dwight,

# SERVICES OFFERED

Shayla Loring photography Full-Service Photography Studio WWW.SHAYLALORING.COM SHAYLALORING@GMAIL.COM

**Dwight** Mini Storage 7 Sizes Available Low Rates

# Tire & Auto



606 S. Union (Rt. 47), Dwight 815-584-1333

#### Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sat. 7:30 a.m. - Noon



authentictock@gmail.com

The Village of Dwight, Illinois is now accepting resumes for the position of Water Operator. Dwight, a community of 4,000, is located in North Central Illinois on Interstate 55

Water Operator

The successful candidate will be responsible for servicing and maintaining the needs of all routine and nonroutine maintenance and surveillance of the Village water distribution system. A technical knowledge of operating, maintaining, and managing a utility system is

Hands on experience in all laboratory techniques in water treatment facilities, EPA regulations and the ability to keep detailed records and manage reports is es-

Certification as a Class B Water Plant Operator is mandatory. Three to five years' experience is preferred.

As a full-time employee you will qualify for all Village benefits including health insurance, dental and IMRF retirement plan. The Village of Dwight is an equal opportunity employer. Salary is commensurate to experi-

If interested, please send resume by February 25, 2022 to Village Administrator, Village of Dwight, 209 S. Prairie Ave., Dwight, IL 60420.

#### **Dwight Peace Meals**

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

Wed., Feb. 9: Mushroom crusted chicken, au gratin potatoes, Capri vegetables, pineapple, whole grain bread. Thurs., Feb. 10:

Cheeseburger soup, pickled beets, broccoli salad, peaches, roll. Fri., Feb. 11: Salmon burger w/ baked condiment,

Brussels

sprouts, apricots, bun. Mon., Feb. 14: Lasagna, broccoli, corn, tossed salad w/

beans,

dressing pkt., cheddar biscuit.

Tues., Feb. 15: Fried chicken, mashed potatoes w/ gravy, collard greens, Mandarin oranges, whole grain bread.

Wed., Feb. 16: Beef stew w/ vegetables, green beans, Jell-O w/ mixed fruit, roll, surprise dessert. Thurs., Feb. 17:

Chicken tetrazzini,

honey glazed carrots, tossed salad w/ dressing pkt., hot fruit crisp.

Milk served each For reservation, call:

1-800-543-1770.



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#### It's Time to Eat!

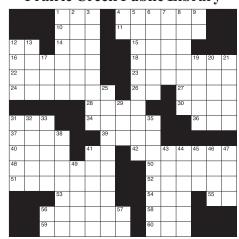
#### Local Fire Departments Host Fundraising Meals

(continued from page 1) and sausage, a couple of butters, some syrup, silverware, and you're ready to go.

"The guests can eat in the parking lot or take it home; Whatever they feel more comfortable doing.'

Last year, the Saunemin fire department was able to serve 350-375 meals to raise funds

#### This Week's Crossword brought to you by **Prairie Creek Public Library**



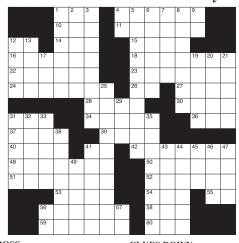
- 1. One point east of due south
- 4. City in Maine

- 15. Millisecond
- \_ the ante
- 22. Eurasian ryegrass 23. Authentic
- 27. Salvador
- 28. Cargo (abbr.)

- 34. Slang for trucks with trailers
- 36. Helps you hear 37. Steer a boat
- 39. British School
- 40. Genus of olive
- 48. Give off
- 51. Exposing human vice or folly to
- 53. Sailboat
- 55. Sodium
- 56. American state
- 58. Soak in water

Each fireman received two nity together. We usually see shirts to celebrate the department's 75th Anniversary, which was during the summer

This year, Cramer and fire chief Craig Swartz have set their goal for 400 meals served on a donation basis instead of a set dollar amount.



1. One of the four seasons

6. Japanese car manufacturer

3. A lens for correcting defective vision in

2. Its sultan is famous

one eye
4. College degree 5. Soldiers need it

7. A way to address

9. Atomic number 45 12. Ill-mannered

13. Opaque gem

21. More cunning 25. Rich dessert

29. Payment (abbr.)

32. Famed Alabama city

35. Arrogance 38. Clergical vestment

43. An evening party

46. Egyptian Sun god 47. Industrial German city

41. Serving no practical purpose

Answers on

thepaper1901.com on Thursday

19. Remove

31. Footwear

33. Sheep's cry

44. Print errors

49. Scottish island

56. Early multimedia

45. Not good

17. Indicates before

20. Populous Argentine city

8. Obstruct

CLUES ACROSS

- 10. Inquire too closely
- 11. Make dirty
  12. Small Greek island
- 14. Bitterly regret
- 18. Without value
- 24. Having a mournful quality 26. Not out
- \_, Spanish artist
- 30. This (Spanish) 31. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)

- 41. Computer term (abbr.) 42. Horse gear
- 50. A type of salt
- ridicule 52. One who watches birds
- 54. A major division of geological time
- 59. Thin decorative covering of fine wood

"It helps bring our commupeople at their worst time in life whether it's a car accident, a loved one passes away, or a house fire," Cramer said. "Having this is joyful. You get to

race."

instead of a sour note. "We're trying to give people a good meal and help them start their Sunday morning off in a positive way. The breakfast is usually before the Daytona 500, so a lot of people start with us and then get to watch a

talk to people on an upbeat note

The Reddick Fire Protection District hosts an all-youcan- eat breakfast buffet every third Sunday of the month from October-March for \$7 at Reddick's historical gymnasium.

Although the holiday season is tricky to plan events as people are usually pretty busy, Reddick does hold Breakfast with Santa, has an Easter breakfast, and is having its annual prime rib dinner for Valentine's Day on Feb. 12.

"It's always a good time. I've had numerous people tell

me I make the best prime rib in seven states," said Reddick fire chief, Andy Kelson. "I don't know which seven states, but that's what I was told. We appreciate the support and look forward to seeing everyone everytime we have one of these."

Kelson, who has been the fire chief in Reddick since 2017, is trying to raise money for the construction of a research and training site built behind the fire department.

The two-phase project will start with a three-story burn building and will then include a commercial industrial structure for the fire fighters' training process.

Kelson said the fire department has raised \$20 thousand of the \$300 thousand needed for the completion of the training site.

Odell Fire Rescue and EMS also brings the community together for meals as it held an all-you-can-eat pancake, sausage and biscuits and gravy breakfast Jan. 30 at the Odell Firehouse.

# Pove is in the air

How couples meet

(continued from page 1)

Susan to our senior prom in the Dwight gym."

#### Mary Dietler

The Dwight native didn't date or marry a boy from elementary school, but she remembers a special moment even 50-plus years later.

"I lived in Dwight for a few elementary schoolyears, and on May Day when I was in second grade, a boy hung a hand-made paper basket of wildflowers on

our front doorknob. He rang the bell and pedaled away quickly on his bike.

"My mother said I was supposed to chase him, but I was too shy and not quite sure what I'd do with him if I caught him. I didn't stay in Dwight long enough to marry him, but 50some years later, it's a favorite memory."

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



TEACHER AT DWIGHT HIGH SCHOOL, gave his students a remote learning assignment they've never had before. Instead of book work or a worksheet, Standiford assigned his students to help their parents shovel their walkways and driveways. "Anytime we have to go remote, whether it's Covid-19 related or from a foot of snow, kids are on their computers all day. I figured this assignment would be a great way to get them out of the house to do something active. I think anyone who went out to shovel would agree that it was a pretty good workout, too."

#### Shop This Week's Inserts: **ALDI**

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> Fireball WHISKEY 1.75 liter



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