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Wednesday, February 23, 2022

## New Chief in Town Mike Nolan's promotion set for March 5



RETIRING POLICE CHIEF Tim Henson, right, congratulates Mike Nolan, Dwight's new Chief of Police.

by Brandon LaChance

The question of who is going to be the next Chief of Police for the Dwight Police Department has been answered.

At the last Village of Dwight Board Meeting (Feb. 14), officer Mike Nolan was promoted to replace Tim Henson, who has been the chief for the last 29 years.

Henson announced his retirement in September, but the process to find his successor had started previously. Nolan knew this would be a good opportunity for him and he should at least put his name in the hat since this was the first time in 29 years Dwight needed a new chief.

"I definitely reflected on it a little bit," said Nolan, who has

been with the DPD for 21 years. "I asked Chief Henson what his thoughts were and if he thought I was ready to take it to that level. He immediately encouraged it. Chief Henson has a forward type of thinking and he put it out there early on a few years ago. He said, 'I'm not going to be here forever, and 'If anyone wants to come be the chief for a day, I'll let you shadow me and show you what it's like to see if it's something you're interested in doing.'"

"For the past several years, I've been filling in for him when need be. I've been able to learn over the years what it actually entails to be the chief. I still have a lot to learn, but at least I have some of the basic concepts down to where I was comfortable enough to at least

interview for the position and take the Dwight Police Department to the next level."

Nolan, who has lived in Livingston County his entire life with stops in Emington and Odell before moving to Pontiac in the fourth grade and graduating from Pontiac High School in 1998, has thought about this moment since he was a kid.

Maybe he didn't know he would be chief one day, but it only makes sense after knowing what he wanted his profession to be since childhood.

"I knew from a very early age what I wanted to do. We had a neighbor who was a police officer and I would always see his squad car when he would come home for lunch and dinner," said Nolan. "It was basically love at first sight. From there, I knew I wanted to be a police officer. I was very fortunate that I figured it out very early on. I was probably in third or fourth grade and I knew I was going to be a cop."

"I love it. I understand the current climate is a little off, but it always swings back our way. I think as long as you're doing this for the right reasons, I don't see how you couldn't love doing this. I've had a great career so far."

Nolan has been assigned to different drug task forces including Task Force 6 with the Illinois State Undercover Narcotics Unit and he's been part of the Proactive Unit for 20 years.

Once he takes over in March, Nolan plans to change a few things such as update policy and procedures and he wants to assess who is going to stay with the department and their short and long-term goals for their career with the DPD.

Henson, who hired Nolan in 2001, feels an internal hire was the best way to go because Nolan knows the community and the community knows him.

"He has a lot of the same characteristics and beliefs that I do as far as community oriented policing, being involved in the community, and getting out and getting to know the

folks in business and the residents," Henson said. "He's the first guy to volunteer to help out and lead a project to make our community not only safer but better. He would recognize and do things without being asked. He's a great team player and somebody that really loves and cares about Dwight."

"I think he demonstrated leadership skills when I had a couple of surgeries. I came back to the police department and we hadn't lost a beat. I think that he's somebody when I look at who would I like to see take Dwight to the next level, Chief Nolan is a perfect candidate to do that. I know the community has said that I've done a lot of great things, but I've also been there for 29 years in the chief spot. I think that Mike will bring in some new, fresh ideas and will take the Dwight Police Department and the community to the next level. With Mike, the community is in good hands and he'll make it proud."

Although Henson is retiring, he plans to help Nolan and the department in any way he can. Nolan may not have Henson's number on speed dial, but he knows his predecessor will always be there in a time of need.

"It means the world. Even though he isn't going to be here every day, I know he's only a phone call away if we need something," Nolan said. "He definitely has us on the right track. I know it's a team effort and everybody within the police department has my back and I definitely have theirs. I think this is going to be a seamless transition moving forward. Other than personnel issues and having to replace people as they're leaving, I don't think there is going to be a bunch of extra stuff."

"I know my position as chief means it's not going to be about me so much anymore, it's going to be about how to successfully get these guys where they need and want to be. That's going to be my main focus."

## Nolan Named Chief, Mayor's First Year, Personnel

by Mark Boma

On February 14, a day designated for love, the Dwight Village Board showed some of its own by naming a new police chief.

Mike Nolan, a Dwight police officer since 2001, was named to take over for Chief of Police Tim Henson who is retiring after 29 years in that capacity. Nolan was selected from a group of six finalists who had interviewed for the job. Nolan will take over the position on March 5 and be officially sworn in at the March 14 village board meeting.

During the Public Forum portion of the meeting, Dwight resident Leslie Gingery spoke on the need for the village to have an appropriate location to walk dogs. She said her usual method of walking her canine is to go along city sidewalks but would prefer a park or some other venue with more space and safety. She indicated there

are times she drives to Godley just to find a suitable spot, as Renfrew Park does not allow animals.

Mayor Paul Johnson replied that her concerns were heard and that he believes city parks should be welcoming, but there are insurance and other concerns to be addressed. He added everyone is not in favor of allowing dogs in Renfrew, but the issue is on the radar screen and other alternatives continue to be explored.

In the President's Report, Mayor Johnson described to the Board how he felt the first year of his administration had been spent addressing policy and personnel issues, but felt the time was now to focus on economic development. He said he is seeing positive movement with new businesses downtown and that bringing further new business to town would be where efforts would be concentrated.

Director of Public Works

Cory Scoles thanked city residents and the police department for helping keep streets cleared during the recent snowstorm. He also added that if anyone sees signals or hears alarms from city water stations, to please notify the village. He asked residents to not assume they are not significant and everyone's awareness is beneficial.

The Keeley Trust Resolution was approved which affirms that the Village has complied with the annual terms of trust and that certain sums have been expended for the building and repairing of sidewalks and roads in the city. The Keeley Trust stood at \$1,352,648.82 in 2021.

Interviews are being set up for the Village Secretary/Billing Clerk position and the hope is to have someone named for the position before the next village meeting.

In new business, advertising

will begin for the open Water Operator position and a liquor license was approved for Tio Tino's Mexican restaurant at 114 S Franklin.

Proposed new board members from Dwight for Vermilion Valley Regional Emergency Communications Joint Authority (or VCom) will be Josh Jahn and Mike Callahan.

From a Services Health and Safety Committee meeting on January 25 it was learned that part-time police officers Graham Haley and Blake Krewer had resigned. Additionally, Dwight police officer John Hoy has stated his intention to retire effective March 2 and Police Sergeant Glenn Peters will retire effective August 3. Also from this meeting, EMS Director Mike Callahan reported that the program responded to 31 calls to Odell in the fourth quarter and the Odell Fire District has been invoiced. To (continued on page 14)



## Sarff Earns 2nd Place at State



Dwight Wrestling results  
feature story on page 10

## Get-it-done Guy

*Al Arnolts has got the job done  
in Saunemin for 50 years*

by Brandon LaChance

If you've lived in the Village of Saunemin at any point in the last 51 years, you either know Al Arnolts or you've benefited from his hard work as a member of the village board.

The Saunemin Community Building, the gas station and convenience store (Marathon), and the water system are just a few of the village's projects Arnolts had a hand in to bring in services, fix a much-needed resource and bring the townspeople together.

"We were without a convenience store or a grocery store for 12 years," Arnolts said. "The board and the mayor at that time worked pretty hard to get a convenience store in Saunemin. We fought our water system for years and years. We finally got to the point where we ended up selling the water system to Illinois American Water. That was probably one of the best things we ever did."

"I played a part in the building of our community building. It was a real big deal to everyone on the board and the entire town because we didn't have a good place to have a get-together like a family reunion. We didn't have a place to have our Saunemin United Methodist Church chicken suppers we have two times a year."

Those are a few of the past projects Arnolts has worked on. Arnolts, 77, is currently assisting Saunemin to improve its sewer system and upgrade the park.

Saunemin Mayor Bob Bradford, who has been in office for nine years but will be leaving in May to be closer to his family in Rockford, has seen the



Al Arnolts

trusted board member in action and calls on him when he needs a job to get done.

"Al is in charge of the Village Community Building. He's the one who makes sure that it's maintained. He's one of those dependable guys, who gets involved in all of the odd-ball kind of chores that a small village will have," said Bradford, who has lived in Saunemin for 25 years. "If he says he is going to do something, you know it's going to be done. He's always dependable. He's always been involved in the community."

"When I first met Al, we had just moved to town and we had family that was coming in for the weekend. We lost our water, so I started nosing around and met Al while he was working on a broken water main. He's just one of those people who is always around to help, take care of people, and help with anything."

"He's one of the good guys."

Arnolts' passion for Saunemin began before he was appointed to take the position of (continued on page 5)

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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued  
by Dwight Police

February 10: Darius M. Rodgers, 29, Bloomington, driving on suspended license.  
February 11: Austi Carroll, 25, Manteno, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Brent D. Of-fill, 47, Bourbonnais, driving 21-25 MPH above limit.  
February 12: Darian D. Gauge, 24, Indianapolis, IN, operate uninsured motor vehicle.  
February 13: Brian C. Sommer, 71, Morton, operate uninsured motor vehicle; Nathan E. Meek, 20, Wheaton, improper u-turn/curve, etc.; Brian L. Weatherbee, 35, Dwight, driving on suspended license, operate uninsured motor vehicle.  
February 15: Justen Krismanits, 22, Chebanse, driving 11-14 MPH above limit.  
February 17: Jeffery E. Barbee, 48, Kankakee, driving 15-20 MPH above limit.

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

11 Written Warnings

Speeding – 5; Only One Headlight – 3; Fail to Obey Stop Sign – 1; Improper Lane Use – 1; Expired Registration – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter

February 13: Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop. Arrested for Driving on Suspended License and Uninsured Motor Vehicle was Brian Weatherbee, 35, of Dwight. The vehicle was towed. Weatherbee was transported to Dwight Police Dept., where he was issued citations and given a court date.; Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop on Rt. 47 at I-55. Arrested for possession of a controlled substance was Jacob Hudson, 30, of Gilmer, TX. Hudson was also charged with Disorderly Conduct. He was transported to Grundy Cty. Jail.  
Be aware, there are many scam callers circulating again.

PLEASE BE SURE TO HAVE YOUR  
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DEPARTMENT CAN DO THEIR JOB  
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Essex Community Club

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Estate Plans Let You Control Your Legacy

When you hear "estate planning," what do you think of? For many people, these words evoke images of immense wealth. But estate planning isn't just for the wealthy – it's for everyone. And it's about more than preserving wealth – it's about putting you in control of your own legacy. But how can you achieve this worthy goal?

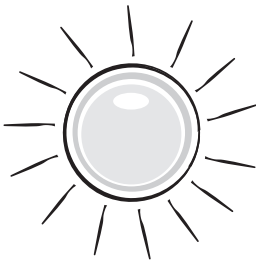
You can start by identifying your estate planning objectives. Here are some of the most common ones:

- *Controlling movement of assets to beneficiaries* – During and after your lifetime, you will want to ensure your loved ones receive what you want them to have, and when. Through documents such as a will and a living trust, and techniques involving life insurance and using proper beneficiary designations, you – not the courts – will control the movement of your assets to the desired recipients.
- *Naming someone to make decisions for you if you become incapacitated* – Naturally, you hope to stay in good physical and mental shape throughout your life and remain capable of making your own financial and health care decisions. But the future is not ours to see, so, to protect your interests and those of your loved ones, you may want to consider creating arrangements such as a power of attorney, health care directive and a living will. In this way, you'll still be able to control the key choices that may lie ahead.
- *Providing for minor children or dependents* – If you have young children or other dependents, you'll want to be sure they'll be looked after if you aren't around. In your estate plans, you can name a guardian for them. You can also use various estate planning tools, such as life insurance, beneficiary designations and the establishment of a trust to provide the necessary financial resources for your loved ones.
- *Supporting charitable organizations* – Leaving something behind for your family is obviously an enormous part of your legacy – but it may also be important to you to provide support for charitable groups whose work you've admired. Of course, you can contribute to these organizations while you're alive, but through strategies such as donor-advised funds and charitable remainder trusts, you can include these groups in your estate plans.
- *Managing taxes efficiently* – If you're likely to have a large estate, your heirs may need to be concerned with income and estate taxes. To help control these taxes, you can take a number of steps, such as making outright gifts to your family during your lifetime, establishing an irrevocable life insurance trust, creating a family limited partnership and making charitable donations.

All the estate-planning strategies and techniques mentioned here can be complex – so, to implement them, you'll need to work with an estate planning attorney and a tax professional. You may also want to include your financial advisor, who can help ensure your estate planning objectives align with your important financial goals, such as living comfortably in retirement and providing for your children's or grandchildren's education.

By identifying your objectives and working with your professional team, you can create an effective estate plan – and help yourself maintain control of your legacy.

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



Temps - 2022

Feb. 10 – high 36°, low 25° trace snow flurries  
Feb. 11 – high 42°, low 15° trace snow flurries  
Feb. 12 – high 16°, low 10° trace snow flurries  
Feb. 13 – high 15°, low 8° trace snow flurries  
Feb. 14 – high 27°, low 13°  
Feb. 15 – high 40°, low 14°  
Feb. 16 – high 51°, low 31° .60" rain  
One Year Ago – Feb. 23, 2021 high 38°, low 17° .03" rain



Dwight  
Fire Incidents  
2/11 - 2/18

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

February 12: Automatic Fire Alarm – E. Mazon Ave.

February 14: Mutual Aid to Braidwood – Canceled en route.

Dwight FPD also responded to 17 medical assists with Dwight EMS.



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“We must sail . . . sometimes with the wind,  
and sometimes against the wind . . .  
but we must sail . . . and not drift . . .  
nor lie at anchor.”

Let's sail!

Voter Registration Cards  
Mailed to Grundy County Voters

Grundy County Clerk Kay Olson has announced that new Voter Registration Cards have been mailed to all 35,096 current Grundy County registered voters, as required by law.

The new Voter Registration Card replaces all previously issued cards and will include the voter's name, address, township, precinct, polling place and units of government for which the voter is entitled to vote. Olson urges voters to check their voter's card and familiarize themselves with their voter information. Recent legislative changes, and those made by the County Board, have redrawn the boundaries of several districts and the new cards will reflect these changes.

Review and sign your new card and destroy your old card. Should there be any errors, make the necessary corrections

and return the card to the County Clerk's Office immediately. You may also use your new card to change your address within Grundy County by filling out the change of address section on the back of the new card. If you have changed your name, you must re-register.

In order to assist the Clerk's office in keeping registration files up to date, any voter card received for an individual, no longer residing in the household, should also be returned to the Clerk's office. If the addressee is deceased and the death occurred out of Grundy County, notify the Clerk's office in writing.

“Now is the time for voters to check their registration status for accuracy and notify the clerk's office if they notice a problem. Now is also the time

for those people who are not registered to vote, to get registered,” Olson said. “Taking these steps now will help to eliminate any Election Day issues for the upcoming June 28 General Primary Election.”

Anyone wishing to serve as a Judge of Election is encouraged to fill out the back of the voter registration card and return it to the County Clerk's office. Voters are not required to present their voter card in order to vote early or on Election Day, though it is helpful as a quick reference tool for your correct precinct number and voting districts.

If you have any questions, or have not received your new voter card by March 1, contact the County Clerk's Office at 815-941-3222, #1, or at: elections@grundyco.org

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

Demanding Answers About  
Pontiac Correctional Center

Last week the Department of Corrections (DOC) began moving inmates out of the Pontiac Correctional Center. This move happened with no notice to legislators, local officials, or the public.

The Pontiac Correctional Center serves as one of the largest employers in Livingston County and has a tremendous economic impact on the surrounding area.

Because of the importance of the facility to the local com-

munity, I have reached out to Governor Pritzker and the Director of DOC to demand an explanation about what transpired last week and to get information about what the plans are for the future of the facility. We need to know the facts, the plan, and the directions.

The people of Livingston County deserve to know what is going on, and I am determined to get an answer.

Thank you to the VFW and American Legion in Dwight for having their spaghetti dinner over the weekend. There was delicious food and great conversation.

I had the most wonderful conversation with Donald Scott. Donald is 95 years old and a veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

I really enjoyed listening as he shared some of his amazing stories in these different time periods. Thank you, Donald, for your service. I really enjoyed this time with you.



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# Braceville Elementary Online Registration

## Returning Students Begins March 3; Kindergarten Pre-Registration Night March 1

Early bird online registration will be open from March 3 to April 29 for students returning to Braceville Elementary School.

Registration packets will be sent home with students this week. If online registration and the required paperwork are completed, and registration fees are paid, by April 29, families will receive a \$10 discount per student on fees. This paperwork does not include the required medical exams for second and sixth graders. Those will need to be turned in by August 17, the first day of school.

Completing registration early helps BES plan for the upcoming year.

All families must provide three documents showing proof of residency, such as a valid

driver’s license, a current utility bill, current auto registration, and a current lease, or a current mortgage bill.

For parents that will have a child turning five-years old prior to September 1, and will be entering kindergarten in the fall, they are holding a kindergarten pre-registration night Tuesday, March 1, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. A copy of their official birth certificate will need to be given at registration and proof of residency. In order to begin school on August 17, a current physical/immunization record, a dental exam, and an eye exam will need to be on record.

If you are new to the district, or you have any questions, contact the school office at 815-237-8040.

# St. Paul School to Hold Spring Raffle, Online Auction March 5



ST. PAUL SCHOOL online raffle March 5. Do you have your ticket? All proceeds to benefit St. Paul school.

Tickets are available now for St. Paul School’s upcoming spring raffle where a \$20,000 grand prize is up for grabs. The drawing will take place virtually Saturday, March 5.

In addition to the \$20,000 grand prize, there will also be a \$5,000 second prize and third prize will take home \$1,000. The raffle drawing will take place **online** at approximately 7:00 p.m. on St. Paul School’s Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/stpaulschoolodell](http://www.facebook.com/stpaulschoolodell). For those that do not have internet access, winners will be contacted immediately following the drawing.

St. Paul School will also hold an online auction starting Friday, March 4, at 5:00 p.m. Bidding will end Saturday, March 5, at 8:00 p.m. Some of the items on the auction block include a trip to Cancun or Florida, a “Sheriff for the Day” experience, tons of gravel (literally), seed hauling, hand-crafted custom items, “world famous” baked goods, and much more. To view items and to bid starting March 4, visit [biddingowl.com/stpaulschool](http://biddingowl.com/stpaulschool). More items will be added as the auction draws near.

For tickets or more information, call 815-998-2194 or e-mail [schooloffice@saintpaulodell.com](mailto:schooloffice@saintpaulodell.com). The tickets can be purchased at St. Paul School or the Odell Bank, or in Dwight at St. Patrick’s Parish Hall, the Weller Agency, or Route 66 Family Restaurant.

All proceeds benefit St. Paul Catholic School in Odell.

TAX DEED NO. 2022TX5 FILED FEBRUARY 17, 2022

TAKE NOTICE

TO: KRISTY A. MASCHING, LIVINGSTON COUNTY CLERK; NICHOLAS J. TARNOWSKI; OCCUPANT; VILLAGE OF DWIGHT; UNKNOWN OWNERS OR PARTIES INTERESTED; AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS.

This is NOTICE of the filing of the Petition for Tax Deed on the following described property:

THE SOUTH 65 FEET OF LOTS 12 AND 13 IN MORGAN’S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS. Property Index Number 05-05-09-178-010

On July 6, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. the Petitioner intends to make application for an order on the petition that a Tax Deed be issued. The real estate was sold on November 15, 2019 for general taxes of the year 2018. The period of redemption will expire June 24, 2022.

Jerry A. Tuffentsamer, Attorney for Petitioner  
(309) 839-8049

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

COMMUNITY BANC MORTGAGE CORPORATION,

Plaintiff,

v.

THOMAS W. SEGGERMAN, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

Defendants,

Case No. 2022-FC-3  
NOTICE OF PENDENCY OF ACTION

Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS of the real estate described below, Defendants in the above-entitled case, pursuant to the provisions of Sections 2-206, 15-1218 and 15-1502 of the Code of Civil Procedure, that the above-entitled mortgage foreclosure suit is now pending in said court and the day on or after which a default may be entered against Defendants is March 30, 2022.

Plaintiff has certified the following regarding said foreclosure action filed on January 26, 2022.

- The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: Community Banc Mortgage Corporation case 2022-FC-3.
- The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois.
- The name of the title holder of record is: Thomas W. Seggerman.
- A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

LOT 3 IN BLOCK 2 IN HUBER’S ADDITION TO PONTIAC, IN LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS SHOWN IN PLAT BOOK 6 AT PAGE 79.

- A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:

927 E. Washington St., Pontiac, Illinois

- An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

Name of Mortgagor: Thomas W. Seggerman

Name of Mortgagee: State Bank of Graymont

Date of Mortgage: November 25, 1998

Date of Recording: November 25, 1998

County where recorded: Livingston County, Illinois

Recording document identification: Document number: 505636

LEANN DIXON  
CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT

BROWN, HAY & STEPHENS, LLP  
Emmet A. Fairfield  
Registration No. 6180505  
205 S. 5th Street – Suite 1000  
P.O. Box 2459  
Springfield, IL 62705  
(217) 544-8491  
[efairfield@bhsllaw.com](mailto:efairfield@bhsllaw.com)

## Dwight Township Meeting Mar. 1

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

### INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids are invited by the Board of Trustees, Prairie Creek Public Library District, Dwight, Illinois, for Built-in Gutter/Roofing Repairs, in accordance with Bidding Documents prepared by Kmetz Architects, Inc., 111 Bucklin Street, LaSalle, Illinois.

#### A. CONTRACT TYPE:

- Project will be constructed under one (1) lump-sum contract.

#### B. TIME AND PLACE:

- Bids for all Work will be received until 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, March 2, 2022, prevailing time, at the Prairie Creek Public Library, 501 Carriage House Lane, Dwight, IL. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time. Bids received after prescribed time will not be accepted and will be returned to Bidders unopened.

#### C. BIDDING DOCUMENTS:

- Bidding Documents will be available on and after Thursday, February 10, 2022, and may be examined at the office of the Architect subsequent to that time. These documents will also be on file and available for examination at the following locations: Prairie Creek Public Library, Dwight, IL; Dodge Data & Analytics; Bidtool, One Oakbrook Terrace, Suite 510, Oak Brook Terrace, Illinois 60181; Illinois Valley Contractors Association, 1120 First Street, LaSalle, Illinois 61301; Contractors Association of Will and Grundy Counties, 233 N. Springfield Ave., Joliet, Illinois 60435; Greater Peoria Contractors Association, 1811 W. Altorfer Dr., Peoria, Illinois 61615; Master Builders of Iowa, 221 Park St., Des Moines, Iowa 50309; and Northern Illinois Building Contractors Association, 1111 South Alpine Rd., Suite 202, Rockford, IL 61108.

- Bidders may obtain electronic Bidding Documents from the office of the Architect on or after the above stated date by email request to [docs@kmetzarchitects.com](mailto:docs@kmetzarchitects.com). Request shall include company name, address, phone number, contact person, and contact e-mail.

#### D. PRE-BID MEETING:

- A Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Thursday, February 17, 2022, prevailing time, at Prairie Creek Public Library. The Owner and Architect will be represented and will discuss and provide information relevant to Project conditions and the Bidding Contract Documents. Prime Bidders, prospective Subcontractors, and Material Suppliers are invited to attend.

#### E. STIPULATIONS:

- Bid security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the Base Bid amount proposed, must accompany bids.
- Selected Bidder will be required to provide satisfactory Performance and Payment Bonds covering the full performance of the Contract.
- Selected Bidder must assure that all persons employed by Bidder, and all applicants for such employment, will not be discriminated against because of their race, creed, color, sex or national origin.
- All laborers, mechanics and other workmen employed on this project shall be paid no less than the prevailing hourly wage rate determined by the Illinois Department of Labor.
- Owner reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any irregularities in the Bidding, and to award a contract in their own best interests.

By: Ms. Sherrie Rhodes, Director.

## Register for Upcoming Activites for Kids and Teens at Prairie Creek Library

Prairie Creek Library, Dwight, will host two upcoming activity programs, both requiring advanced registration.

On Thursday, March 10, children in kindergarten through fifth grade are invited to go to the library to paint a pot from 3:15-4:00 p.m. Satur-

day, March 12, is National Flower Day, so the kids are invited to go to Ace Hardware on that day to plant their pot. Children must be registered by Thursday, February 24, in order for materials to be purchased.

On Monday, March 7, teens (grades six through 12) are invited to go to the library for craft time from 2:15-3:15 p.m. Students will be creating the rock photo holders pictured. Registration is required prior to the event by Friday, March 4.



### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON AMENDING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON AND GRUNDY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held before the President and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight, Illinois with respect to Amending the FY 2021/2022 Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022 for the Village of Dwight. **The Public Hearing shall be held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Hour of 6:00 P.M. at the Public Services Complex, 209 South Prairie Avenue, Dwight, Illinois.**

Copies of the Amended Budget are available for public inspection commencing Monday, February 28, 2022 at the Office of the Dwight Village Clerk, Public Services Complex, 209 South Prairie Avenue, Dwight, Illinois 60420 during regular business hours.

At the time and place of the Public Hearing on the Amended Annual Budget, all interested parties are invited to attend and make their views known, either orally, in writing, or by a representative.

After the close of the Public Hearing, the President and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight shall vote on the Amended Annual Budget Ordinance for the above Fiscal Year, either as presented or as modified after the Public Hearing.

For further information, contact the Village Administrator as set forth below during regular business hours:

Kevin McNamara  
209 S. Prairie Avenue  
Dwight, Illinois 60420  
PH#: 815-584-3077

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF DWIGHT, LIVINGSTON AND GRUNDY COUNTIES, ILLINOIS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held before the President and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight, Illinois with respect to the Tentative Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year commencing April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023 for the Village of Dwight. **The Public Hearing shall be held on Monday, March 28, 2022 at the Hour of 6:15 P.M. at the Public Services Complex, 209 South Prairie Avenue, Dwight, Illinois.**

Copies of the Tentative Annual Budget are available for public inspection commencing Wednesday, February 23, 2022 at the Office of the Dwight Village Clerk, Public Services Complex, 209 South Prairie Avenue, Dwight, Illinois 60420 during regular business hours.

At the time and place of the Public Hearing on the Tentative Annual Budget, all interested parties are invited to attend and make their views known, either orally, in writing, or by a representative.

After the close of the Public Hearing, the President and Members of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Dwight shall vote on the Annual Budget Ordinance for the above Fiscal Year, either as presented or as modified after the Public Hearing.

For further information, contact the Village Administrator as set forth below during regular business hours:

Kevin McNamara  
209 S. Prairie Avenue  
Dwight, Illinois 60420  
PH#: 815-584-3077

# Get-it-done Guy

Al Arnolts has got the job done in Saunemin for 50 years

(continued from page 1)

village clerk in June of 1971 or to take a seat on the board one year later.

It actually blossomed when he didn't even live in the village.

"I have this love for Saunemin, and I have had it for as long as I can remember," Arnolts said. "I was born on a farm just south of town, but we moved into town before I was one year old. We lived in town until I was in the middle of second grade and we moved to California. We were out there for less than two years and then we came back.

"My dad (John Arnolts) had worked at International Harvester in Saunemin before we left and then he worked for them again when we came back. We lived in Pontiac for five years. I had such a love for Saunemin. I thought it was just a fascinating place for a young kid. He worked every Saturday and I'd go to work with him to spend the day with him in Saunemin. In the summer, I spent almost every day in town with him even though we lived in Pontiac. Saunemin has just been so good to me and I have so many memories from childhood until now.

"When the opportunity to be part of the village board came up, I thought, 'I plan on being here unless something out of the ordinary happens. I need to volunteer my time and help.' Once I got on the board, it snowballed from there and be-

fore I knew it, I'd been there for 50 years."

Bradford has built a friendship and a complementary working relationship with Arnolts over the years as both men thank each other for their work toward the betterment of Saunemin.

Through many shared stories, Bradford has also built an appreciation for Arnolts' efforts for not only being on the board but fighting through the bad times.

"He tells stories all of the time," Bradford said. "One of the stories that come to my mind immediately is, 'I can remember back in the early days when I was here. We had to borrow money to pay the bills. We had to decide which bills we were going to pay and which bills we would pay next time.'

"Things have moved around and changed a little bit. We're not rich, but we're not desperate either."

Arnolts has been on the board through the tenures of four different mayors.

He said it's astonishing to know there have been so many great people in Saunemin who put in the time to make the village thrive, including the people currently involved.

Alongside Arnolts on the board are Cindy Brackney, Lesa Kline, Randy Mauser, Steve Schaffer, and Dave Todino, while Nancy Haag is the clerk and Mary Billington is the treasurer.

"It's paramount to the suc-

cess of a village to have people on the board who care about everything to do with it," Arnolts said. "If we didn't have some people that care about what's going on enough to volunteer, a small village will be in trouble. We earn a small salary every year, but it doesn't equal the amount of time you put in.

"Of course, that's not the reason you're on there. You don't join a village board to make money. If you are, you shouldn't be there. We've had some really good folks on our board. I recommend joining a village board, a town board, or a city board. It's a worthwhile cause to play a part in the community. If you join and don't like it, OK, you tried and you can leave the board anytime you want. But, at least you tried. I know I feel that I've gotten more out of it than I've put into it."

Haag has been a part of Saunemin operations for almost as long as Arnolts as she was appointed to be the village treasurer in Nov. 1978 and was elected to be the clerk in 1988.

She has seen Arnolts finish many missions.

"He's always been a trustee, but he has stepped up at times to be the Mayor Pro Tem when the mayor is not there. He does wear two hats sometimes. He is considered our village historian. He's very knowledgeable about the town including where water mains are located, or city tiles. He knows where certain people used to live. His dad,

John, was very knowledgeable about the Village of Saunemin also. When he passed away, we teased Al about him taking his dad's position.

"He does many things behind the scenes. I sit at my desk at the State Bank of Saunemin (now the State Bank of Graymont), look out the window, and he's washing the windows at the community building. He takes care of the flags when they're tattered and torn. When he sees something that needs to be done, he tries to do it himself instead of asking someone else."

It doesn't seem like Arnolts is going to stop being the get-it-done guy.

He'll leave the board if he needs to, but he doesn't see a reason to leave anytime soon.

"I don't have any plans to get off of the board," Arnolts said. "If someone came along and really wanted to get on the board to help the village, I wouldn't have any qualms about stepping down. You need to get some new blood in there every once in a while.

"If I thought I wasn't contributing anything to it, I would definitely get off the board. I'm still involved in just about everything that happens in town, so I don't have any plans in the immediate future to get off of the board."

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

# Video Gaming Slumps in New Year

by Tom Tock  
Statewide, Illinois had 77 fewer video gambling locations during January than in December, with 169 fewer terminals to be played.

State income from the vgt's slipped to \$56,688,383 in January from \$62,873,881 in De-

cember.  
Local players invested \$615,092 in Dwight's 44 terminals in January compared to \$666,823 in December.

The Village of Dwight earned \$8,110 from the January gambling, \$8,996 from December's.

## Dwight

Jan.	Funds In	Funds Out	NTI*	State	Dwight
Aly Anne's	79,097	54,466	24,630	7,142	1,231
Cherry Red's	4,371	3,795	575	167	28
Lili Mae's	114,361	82,731	31,629	9,172	1,581
Love's	198,026	149,407	48,618	14,099	2,430
VFW	91,014	68,353	22,660	6,571	1,133
Vic. Lanes	34,808	24,811	9,996	2,899	499
Virbapa	7,999	5,621	2,377	689	118
Willy's	85,416	63,701	21,714	6,297	1,085
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$615,092	452,889	162,202	47,039	8,110

## Gardner

Jan.	Funds In	Funds Out	NTI*	State	Gardner
Buddies (3)	1,489	1,812	(323)	(93)	(16)
Marks (5)	39,981	22,440	17,540	5,086	877
<b>TOTAL:</b>	\$41,476	24,253	17,216	4,992	860

\*The State of Illinois and Villages receive a total of 33% of the Net Terminal Income monthly (State 28%, Village 5%). Of the remaining 67%, Scientific Games receives 0.7275% of the NTI as compensation for building and maintaining the Central Communications System, which is monitored by the Illinois Gaming Board. The remaining income is divided equally between the terminal operator and location.

Gambling problem? Call 1-800 GAMBLER.

# Alpha Beta is Updated About Teacher Retirement System

On February 8, Alpha Beta Chapter met via Zoom to hear Rich Frankenfeld, Director of Outreach with TRS, to present a review of the history and learn the updates concerning the Teacher Retirement System. Presently, he is in the process of holding "time to retire" meetings.

Founded in 1939 to benefit the teachers outside of Chicago, the TRS was to provide retirement, disability, and survivor benefits (Chicago teachers have their own retirement system). TRS is overseen by a Board of Trustees consisting of 15, with eight appointed by the Governor, five elected by active teachers, and two elected by retirees. Revisions have occurred over the years. For example, in 1990 retirees were granted a 3% COLA (Cost of Living Allowance). In 2011, Tier 2 was created for new teachers being hired. Also, new programs have been added for individuals to increase their personal investments.

The System is funded by the state of Illinois (41.5%), investments (40.34%), active teachers (15.75%), and employers (2.34%). As of June 30, 2021, TRS investments totaled \$62.5 billion. Over a period of the last 40 years, TRS has had an average of 9.17% increase of investment funds. TRS is protected by the State Constitu-

tion which states: "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the State...shall not be diminished or impaired." Illinois is also one of the few states that does not tax its pensions.

Co-President Lou Ann Jacobs (Normal) encouraged members to attend the upcoming Illinois Convention which will be held April 29-May 1 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield. A pre-convention tour to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum is planned for Friday afternoon. It has been two years since the state has had an in-person convention. It will be a great opportunity to meet up with members of other chapters.

Nominations Chair Nancy Wier (Fairbury) announced that most of the Alpha Beta officer positions for the 2022-24 biennium have been filled.

Vice-President Marcia Wahls (Chenoa) said the deadline to apply for Alpha Beta \$200 grants is rapidly approaching for high school senior and college junior women wanting to be teachers. Call

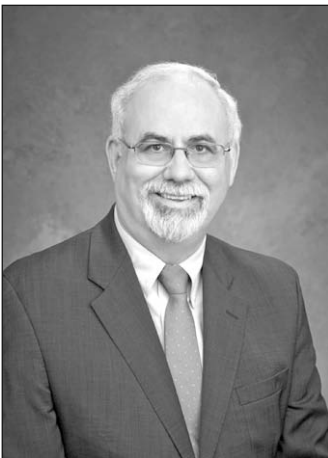
309-830-9856 or e-mail marcia.wahls@gmail.com.

Barb Baumann, Creative Arts Chair (Minonk), announced that the Creative Arts Retreat which will be held on June 21-23 at Allerton Park in Monticello still has a few openings. Also, she asked members to donate works of art to sell at the Art Mart during the convention.

Carol Hughes, Communications and Publicity Chair (Roanoke), said that the August mandate from Governor Pritzker concerning masks being worn in the school will not allow the *Newscaster* to publish photos taken after that date unless the individuals are wearing masks.

The next meeting will be held March 19 at Edinger's Restaurant in Pontiac. Members are to take a 300-350-page hard back book with nice binding, small cm. ruler, and mechanical pencil for "Book Folding Craft - From Book to Heart" by Barb Baumann.

For more information, visit dkg.org or contact Carol Hughes at chughes@mtco.com.



**RICH FRANKENFELD, Director of Outreach with Teacher Retirement System, spoke and answered questions at the Zoom meeting held by the Alpha Beta Chapter.**

**Want to read more?**  
**Visit us online at:**  
**thepaper1901.com**

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www.godleypark.com

Join us for some carnival fun for the little ones!  
There will be inflatables, carnival games, prizes, hot dogs, popcorn and so much more!

**Friday, February 25 • 6-7:30 p.m.**

**Ages: 2-5 (must be accompanied by an adult)  
Fee: \$6 per child through Feb. 24  
\$8 per child day of or at the door.**

**Pre-registration strongly recommended!**



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## Grundy Cty. Summer Internship Program Offers Unique Opportunity

Area juniors and seniors attending Coal City, Gardner-South Wilmington, Minooka, Morris High School or Grundy Area Vocational Center are strongly encouraged to apply for the exciting summer internship opportunities being offered through the Grundy County Summer Internship Program.

The online application deadline is Friday, February 25.

All 29 internships are **paid**, and a wide variety of industries and specialties are represented in the program, including healthcare, manufacturing, engineering, IT, government, machinists, and accounting. Summer internships can provide meaningful workplace experience, enhance college applications, and facilitate networking, which can lead to future employment opportunities.

Students should visit [www.gavc-il.com](http://www.gavc-il.com) to apply.



THE GSW HIGH SCHOOL Scholastic Bowl team came in third place at the RVC Tournament February 12. Buzz totals were: Trey (22), Ambi (5), Josh (4), and Cam (1) and Andrew (1). Trey Schweitzer received First Team All-Conference, and Ambi Krah received second (most successful buzz-ins).

## Musical Acts Announced for Streator's 4th of July Celebration

The Streator 4th of July Celebration Committee has announced the musical lineup for Streater's 4th of July Celebration 2022, with main stage entertainment occurring in Northpoint Field in Streater July 7-10.

Committee Chairman Randy Dominic said, "As you have seen over the past few years, the committee has tried to put together a lineup that has a little something for everyone. This year is no different. We have some great national bands coming in that we hope people will be excited to see."

This year's event headliners include the **double platinum** rock artist, Firehouse; The C.M.A., A.C.M., and Grammy award-winning country artist Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry; the iconic 90s alt-rock band, Everclear; Georgia's renegade redneck rap duo The LACS; and the chart-topping country group Confederate Railroad.

Support artists include Jack Russell's Great White, Fastball, The Nixons, Jordan Fletcher, NATU Band, and local favorite 80's BUSH.

In addition to the great bands, Streater's 4th of July Celebration hosts downstate Illinois' largest fireworks display. This year, the best viewing area will be from Northpoint Field, right by the main stage. The show's soundtrack will be played off the main stage, thanks to Starved Rock Media. Chairs are welcome everywhere inside the V.I.P. area.

General admission to all the concerts is **free**. V.I.P. passes are available and include access to the section in front of the stage, private restrooms and bars, and an exclusive lanyard. V.I.P. passes are on sale now at [www.streators4th.org](http://www.streators4th.org). Two-Day Rock and Two-Day Country passes are also available.

### Grundy County SWCD Pond Seminar March 9

The Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District, along with the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District, will be holding its Annual Pond Seminar Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m.

It will be held virtually and in person this year.

They will hold the in-person portion at the Kendall-Grundy County Farm Bureau office, located at 4000 N. Division St. in Morris. Their featured speaker will be Seth Love, who is the District Fisheries Biologist from Silver Springs State Park in Yorkville.

The seminar is open to everyone and is free of charge.

If you plan to attend, call 815-942-0359, ext. 3, or e-mail Brooke at [brooke.baker@il.nacdn.net](mailto:brooke.baker@il.nacdn.net) by noon on Tuesday, March 8.

A link for the meeting will be sent by the end of the day on March 8.

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DWIGHT

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(815) 584-3110

ON THE MENU:  
Baked Cod, Fried Pollock or Fried Shrimp  
Baked Potato or French Fries,  
Coleslaw or Applesauce  
and a big chocolate chip cookie

Adults: \$12.00 Grade School: \$5.00

**FRIDAYS:**  
**March 4 • March 11 • March 18**  
**• March 25 • April 1 • April 8**

## SCHOOL of ROCK THE MUSICAL

### DTHS Drama Department Presents School of Rock March 4-6

After a long two years, Dwight Township High School will be putting on their first musical since the COVID-19 pandemic ran rampant on the world.

The DTHS Drama Department proudly presents Andrew Lloyd Webber's School of Rock The Musical.

The Drama Dept. has two seniors this year, Dalton Galloway and Emily Scott. The musical is directed by Abigail Groves. The pit and band director is Eric Hall, and the music director is Drew Smith.

When fired from his own rock band, No Vacancy, Dewey Finn needs to raise some money to pay for his rent. He is notorious for his extreme laziness and lack of responsibilities, making this very difficult.

When Dewey intercepts an offer intended for his best friend, Ned Schneebly, to teach as a substitute teacher at a highly prestigious prep school, Dewey takes the job in Ned's name. Dewey meets the kids of Horace Green Prep School and both Dewey and his students are taught a very valuable lesson: Always be comfortable in your own skin.

School of Rock will show Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, at 7:00 p.m., followed by a 2:00 p.m. showing Sunday, March 6.

Show tickets are available for pre-sale at the main office at DTHS. Tickets will also be available at the auditorium doors. Students, children, and seniors receive a discount.

Parental guidance is advised for minor language.

### Mobile Food Pantry in South Wilmington Feb. 28

On Monday, February 28, at 4:00 p.m., Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry will be distributing food at St. Lawrence Church (135 Rice Road in South Wilmington) in the church parking lot (rain or shine).

Catholic Charities and the Northern Illinois Food Bank have partnered to deliver nutritious food (meat, produce and nonperishable items) to people in need.

Participants are asked to stay in their cars. The Mobile Food Pantry will use a "drive thru" method to distribute pre-packed groceries to ensure that all participants are safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

You do not have to be Catholic to participate. For more information, visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org).

### Hines VA Outreach Team in Gardner February 23

The Edward Hines, Jr. VA Medical Center Outreach Team, along with the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission, will be at the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County, 229 Liberty St. in Gardner, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 23.

The outreach team and the VAC staff will be there to educate and assist veterans with a variety of VA and other veterans' benefits. This event is free and open to all veterans.

Seasonal flu shots are available for eligible veterans. The nurse can also provide information regarding other immunizations available from the VA.

If a veteran is interested in enrollment in the VA Health Care System, take a copy of your DD214 and a government-issued photo ID.

If you would like more information about the Hines VA outreach program, call Patrick Grimes at 708-904-1473.

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OBITUARIES

Doris M. Courchene

Doris M. Courchene, age 94, of Dwight, Illinois passed away Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at Heritage Healthcare and Rehab in Dwight, Illinois.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., Friday, February 25, 2022 at Hager Memorial Home.

A brief remembrance will be held at 6 p.m. that same day, also at the Memorial Home.

According to Doris' wishes, cremation rites will be accorded following the services. Private family burial will be at a later date in Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Dwight.

Memorials in honor of Doris may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in charge of arrangements.

Doris was born April 1, 1927 in Chicago, Illinois, the daughter of Albin and Margaret (Johnson) Engstrom. She married Thomas F. Courchene on June 16, 1949. Sadly, he passed away June 26, 2005.

Surviving are her children: Mary Courchene-Svoboda of Dwight; Thomas A. Courchene of Dwight; and Kathy (Gregg) Widaman of Berwyn, Illinois; grandchildren: Kerin (Dave White) Larson of Odell;



Lisa (Mike VanDiepenbos) Hoogenboom of Goshen, Indiana; John (Kyra Conley) Courchene of Elkhart, Indiana; Michelle (Jason Trittippo) Courchene of Niles, Michigan; Barbara (Robbie

Hendrix) Courchene of Elkhart, Indiana; Clint (Patty Cook) Courchene of Elkhart, Indiana; Natalie (John) Kronforst of Mt. Prospect, Illinois; and Gregg (Jackie Segura) Widaman Jr. of Berwyn.

Also surviving are 15 great-grandchildren: Kinzie, Noah, Milly, Whitney, Devin, Delmar, Lydia, Clay, Alexander, Belle, Derek, Bo, William, Madison and Austin; and one great-great-grandchild, Myla.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Walter Engstrom; and sisters: Elaine Chamberlin and Lois Covlasky.

Doris was a nurse for many years. She loved flowers, gardening, playing bingo and other gambling, fishing, needlepoint, painting and many other arts and crafts.

She will be remembered for her piano playing and singing. She was a member of the Downers Grove Oratorio Society.

Condolences may be left at [www.calvertmemorial.com](http://www.calvertmemorial.com)

Raymond A Gannaway

Raymond A Gannaway, 81, formerly of Dwight, Illinois, passed away Monday, February 14, 2022 in San Diego, California.

He was born September 4, 1940 in Shelby County, Illinois to Thelma Theola (Ross) and Lester McKinley Gannaway. They preceded him in death.

Ray married Martha P Black on July 21, 1972 in Dwight. Together they lived in Dwight until June of 2020 when they moved to California to be near Martha's family. She survives.

Raymond served in the United States Army from 1961-1964. He retired from Fox Center after working there

for 29 years. He was a member of the Dwight United Methodist Church.

Ray is also survived by his mother-in-law, Dorothy Black, and his brother-in-law, Bill (Lorraine) Black, all of San Diego, California, and a sister-in-law, Marilyn Gannaway of Pontiac, Illinois. Several nieces, nephews and cousins also survive.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Forrest, and two sisters, Tobie Miller and Christine Mahoney.

Inurnment will be in the Miramar National Cemetery in San Diego, California.

Esther J. Pierce

Esther J. Pierce, age 99, of Dwight, Illinois and formerly of Yorkville, Illinois, passed away at Morris Hospital on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

She was born April 4, 1922 in Aurora, Illinois, the



daughter of Robert and Irene Stephens.

Esther was united in marriage on May 4, 1942 to Mr. Russell G. Pierce, and they spent the next 61 years happily together until his passing on January 18, 2004.

She attended art school at The Art Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, studying under Ruth VanSickle Ford. After this she worked as a bookkeeper for a few years before World War II. When the war started she helped in the war effort and was an inspector in the making of parts for fighter planes.

When her husband was stationed in Florida, she was a night watcher for enemy planes at the air base. When the war ended, she worked alongside her husband helping to farm the land and occasionally

drawing for her own pleasure.

Mrs. Pierce was a 50-plus year member of the Eastern Star. She was an active member in her church, always helping in some way. She loved to cook and bake and make meals for people in need. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grand mother who will be deeply missed by her family and many friends.

Esther is survived by her daughters, Lynette (Robert) Pleiss of Naples, Florida and Penny (Dan) Russ of Dwight, Illinois; her grandson, Ryan (Christy) Mindell of Mission Diejo, California, as well as her great-grandson, Jaxon Mindell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Irene Stephens; her husband, Russell G. Pierce; and her infant son, Charles Pierce.

Interment will be private. Arrangements by Nelson Funeral Homes & Crematory, [www.NelsonFuneralHomes.com](http://www.NelsonFuneralHomes.com) or (630) 553-7611.

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

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

IN RE: The matter of the Estate of )  
 ) 2022-PR-21  
CAROL ANN COULTER, Deceased. )

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of CAROL ANN COULTER whose place of residence at the time of her death was 404 S. St. Louis Street, Dwight, IL 60420, and who died on January 27, 2022.

Letters of Office as Independent Executrix of the Estate of CAROL ANN COULTER were issued on February 14, 2022 to, JULIENNE ELLEN COULTER, 404 S. St. Louis Street, Dwight, IL 60420, and whose attorney is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Office, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of a copy of this notice to a known and reasonably ascertainable creditor, whichever date is later. The date of first publication of this notice is February 23, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before the above dates is barred. Claims against the estate may be filed at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Law & Justice Center, 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764, in cause No. 2022-PR-21 or with the Independent Executrix or both. Copies of all claims filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent administrator and the administrator's attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed with the Circuit Clerk.

DONALD R. MCCLAREY

Attorney for the  
Independent Executrix of the Estate of,  
CAROL ANN COULTER,  
Deceased.  
313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9  
Dwight, Il 60420-0009  
(815) 584-1525

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with  
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All-Star Weekend

This weekend concluded with the NBA All-Star festivities. There were some fun, and not so fun, things that happened over the course of it, which I'm going to quickly get into.

First and foremost, the Chicago Bulls had two players involved. Two! This is the first year they've had two players in the NBA All-Star game since 2015-16 when both Jimmy Butler and Pau Gasol were members of the team.

This year, they slightly altered the Rising Stars competition on Friday (which I was a fan of) and they also slightly altered the Skills Competition, which I also was a fan of. The dunk contest was horrendous. So many failed attempts took way too long for each person. I'm honestly not sure how this can be fixed either. I think we may have just reached a point where all the dunks have more or less been attempted and completed.

The other really cool part of this All-Star weekend is that it was the 75th anniversary as a League. I think integrating their past stars with their current ones is one of the best things that the NBA does as a league, especially as it compares to other leagues. Seeing Shaq interact with Kareem, Magic, Jordan, LeBron and many others is just really cool.

They all feel like they're from the same piece of entertainment but their times in the league only overlap so much. They all represent different parts of not just NBA history, but history as time periods as a whole.

It also puts things in perspective, too. LeBron and Jordan were seen having a pretty joyful, light-hearted conversation but the discourse around them is always pitting them against each other. While there is likely still a competitive nature between the two (Jordan is maybe the most competitive athlete ever), I think it's shortsighted to think that they aren't both very appreciative of each other's talents and what they've brought to the game.

Now that the fun is over, it's time for the Chicago Bulls to get healthy and make a playoff run!

Aaron J. Boma  
2016 ISU Grad

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

IN RE: The matter of the Estate of )  
 ) 2022-PR-20  
RICHARD HUGH BURKHARDT, Deceased. )

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of the death of RICHARD HUGH BURKHARDT, whose place of residence at the time of his death was 115 E. Waupansie Street, Dwight, IL 60420, and who died on January 13, 2022.

Letters of Office as Independent Executrix of the Estate of RICHARD HUGH BURKHARDT were issued on February 14, 2022 to AMIE MARIE GRAHAM, 303 E. Mazon Ave., Dwight, IL 60420, and whose attorney is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Office, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Claims against the estate may be filed within six (6) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within three (3) months from the date of mailing or delivery of a copy of this notice to a known and reasonably ascertainable creditor, whichever date is later. The date of first publication of this notice is February 23, 2022. Any claim not filed on or before the above dates is barred. Claims against the estate may be filed at the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Law & Justice Center, 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764, in cause No. 2022-PR-20 or with the Independent Executrix or both. Copies of all claims filed with the Circuit Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Independent administrator and the administrator's attorney within ten (10) days after the claim has been filed with the Circuit Clerk.

DONALD R. MCCLAREY

Attorney for the  
Independent Executrix of the Estate of,  
RICHARD HUGH BURKHARDT,  
Deceased.  
313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9  
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THE 2021-2022 HERSCHER FFA OFFICER TEAM.



HERSCHER FFA members took part in State Degree Interview Day. Maggie O'Brien and Alie Kohl have been recommended to receive their state degree, with Kohl also competing for her Star in Agribusiness at Districts.



SOME OF THE EVENTS that Herscher FFA has hosted and participated in include: the Labor Day Kiddy Tractor Pull, the Labor Day Parade, the Agronomy CDE (received 1st in the section), and the National Convention.

### Herscher FFA

It's FFA Week 2022 and Herscher FFA is excited to kick things off, expanding on what they do throughout the year. Some activities and events they are a part of include doing a lot over Labor Day, like putting together a float to be in the Labor Day Parade and organiz-

ing a Kiddy Tractor Pull for kids to participate in. The Herscher FFA has its Auction coming up Saturday, March 12, and the group sells mums in the fall and poinsettias in December for the holidays. They also attend various CDEs, with Agronomy being a

big one, in which they won their section contest. Other CDEs include: Meat Evaluation, Vet Science, Parliamentary Procedure, Job Interview, and Livestock Judging.

Currently, some of the topics they are covering in each class consist of:

- Horticulture: Floral Design
- Intro to Agriculture: Equine Breeds and Industry
- BSAA: Plant Science – Germination
- Ag Science: Poultry Breeds and Industry
- Ag Business: Commodity Marketing

They also cover many more.

The group also recalled a funny moment from their FFA year in which their bumper fell off of their charter bus at National Convention and they had to go back and pick it up. The kids thought that was hilarious and they still talk about it.



SOME OF THE HIGHLIGHTS of the year for Dwight Township High School's FFA have been their Harvest Days activities, including the Kiddie Tractor Pull, Tractor Show, and Petting Zoo. They have also participated in several CDEs, and are getting ready for proficiency interviews. They also had a great time at national convention, where they toured a honey farm, attended the career fair, a concert, a rodeo and several sessions. They have also been doing fun hands-on activities in classes like floral arrangements, making popcorn, growing plants by seed, among others. They also had a great year with their FFA test plot, harvesting soybeans this year, and the students were able to learn a lot about the different varieties that were planted. They are very excited for their dress-up days and FFA Week activities that they have planned.



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THE SENECA FFA MEATS CDE TEAM, pictured, from left, consists of Ben Biros, Chris Poyner, Zach Sulzberger, Tyler Sulzberger, and Forest Stuedemann.



PREPARING FOOD FOR ALL. Seneca FFA members use their secret seasoning to prepare for the Food For All pork chop lunch planned for National FFA Week.

Tri-Point FFA

by Cali Statler,  
Chapter Reporter

Tri-Point FFA is excited for FFA Week. Even though the icy weather caused us to cancel our kick off bowling trip, we still cannot wait to celebrate FFA Week. We will be starting our week off with an animal print dress up day, and ending with an FFA spirit day. We are excited for truck and tractor day Thursday when we will find

who has the biggest truck and biggest tractor, as well as the loudest truck. Along with that, Tri-Point FFA cannot wait to welcome State FFA President Adam Loker to our assembly Thursday. We have planned an ag olympics, including contests to see which class can eat the most pies, dress up in farm clothes the fastest, and more. On Wednesday, February 16, Tri-Point High School also hosted Section 10 Proficien-

cies. Our chapter had five proficiency competitors. This included Mikayla English, who placed 1st in Poultry Production; Kailey Dedie, who placed 2nd in Food Service; Lanie Woods, who placed 1st in both Agriscience Integrated Systems and Agriscience Animal Systems; Addisyn Rock, who placed 1st in Ag Communications; and Jose Amador, who placed 3rd in Ag Mechanics Design & Fabrication.



Congratulations, FFA!

We proudly congratulate our local FFA chapters on another successful year! We salute the National FFA Organization for continuing to make a positive impact in the lives of our students by developing their leadership skills through agricultural education.

Seneca FFA Celebrating National FFA Week

National FFA Week 2022 will see the Seneca FFA getting back to normal. After several postponements last year due to the pandemic, Seneca FFA will conduct its usual recreational and community service activities as they celebrate with over 735,000 FFA members across the country February 19-26. Designated a national week in 1947, the week of George Washington’s birthday, National FFA Week runs from Saturday to Saturday and gives FFA members an opportunity to educate the public about agriculture. During the week, chapters conduct a variety of activities to help others in their schools and communities learn about FFA and agricultural education. On Saturday night, the FFA hosted its annual “Lock-In” as 100 FFA members enjoyed the facilities of SHS playing sports in the gym, board games in the commons, movies in the auditorium, or video games in the ag department. And food – lots of food. There will be one community activity that the public can even participate in. Seneca FFA served their traditional two pork chop lunch with all the fixings February 20 in drive-by fashion. Lunch donations were accepted, but were not mandatory. Over \$4,000 was raised for local food pantries. “To support our programs, the Seneca FFA has made a profit off of our pork chops for years from people who had the financial means to do so,” explained FFA officer, Case Biros. “For this lunch, we wanted to include meals for our community’s families even if

they are financially challenged.” Seneca FFA took advantage of the day off of school February 21 and went skiing in Iowa. Today, FFA provides the next generation of leaders who will change the world. As the top school-based youth leadership development organization in the nation, FFA helps young people meet new agricultural challenges by developing their unique talents and exploring their interests in a broad range of career pathways. FFA members are the future leaders, future food suppliers, future innovators, and more. Whether it is through service projects or community gatherings, National FFA Week is a time for FFA members to raise awareness about the role the National FFA Organization plays in the development of agriculture’s future leaders and the importance of agricultural education. The National FFA Organization has more than 735,000 student members as part of 8,817 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Section 7 FFA recently held their section proficiency award interviews and Seneca took home winners in eight categories. Proficiency awards pit students from different schools against each other and test their knowledge about their respective Supervised Agricultural Experience Programs. Winners will compete at the district competition in March.

**Section Proficiency Award Winners**

- Araujo – Food Service
- T. Sulzberger – Diversified Crop Production
- Smith – Fruit Production
- Weber – Diversified Crop Production
- Stuedemann – Safety
- Matthew Wright – Turfgrass Management
- Ellis – Landscaping
- Kaitlin Kline – Specialty Crop Production

Varland was named the Section 7 Star in Agribusiness with her firewood and beef enterprises.

Meats Evaluation CDE Team

The Seneca FFA Meats Evaluation Career Development Event Team of Tyler and Zach Sulzberger, Forest Stuedemann, Ben Biros, and Chris Poyner has been competing in the Illinois Meats Judging Series in order to prepare for the State FFA Meats CDE to be held in March. The team placed first at the Seward site and second in Peoria. Team members are required to identify 120 retail cuts of meat from three different species, yield and quality grade carcasses, and rank wholesale cuts.

Seneca FFA Members Have Successful Beginning to 2022

Recent accomplishments by Seneca FFA members include 12 members receiving the State FFA Degree, the highest honor bestowed in Illinois. Members receiving the degree include: Tyler Sulzberger, Case Biros, Harleigh Varland, Hailey Kennedy, Miranda Araujo, Forest Stuedemann, Owen Quigley, Noah Quigley, Peyton Weber, Carter Ellis, Given Siegel, and Emma Smith.

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A map of the service area in Illinois, showing a network of roads and towns. Red arrows point to specific locations: Blackstone, Ransom, Kinsman, Verona, Mazon, Gardner, South Wilmington, Essex, Union Hill, Herscher, Reddick, Dwight, Odell, Buckingham, Campus, Cabery, Emington, Kempton, Cullom, Saunemin, and Portabac. The map is framed by a blue border.

A photograph of a sign for 'The Paper'. The sign is white with a torn edge and is mounted on a dark blue wooden wall. The text 'The Paper' is written in a large, black, serif font. Below the text is a small graphic of a star and stripes. The sign is partially obscured by tall grass in the foreground.

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### DTHS TROJANS BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, February 15  
Dwight vs.  
Lowpoint-Washburn**

Dwight's varsity Trojans put down Lowpoint-Washburn February 15, by a score of 78-52.

"We had a slow start defensively in the first quarter," said Coach Connor. "When our defense finally kicked in, we put up 27 in the second quarter."

Conner Telford led Dwight with 19 points, while Wyatt Thompson tallied 15. Landon Brown and Jeremy Kapper came up with 10 and nine points, respectively. Kaleb Duden scored seven points, with Gavin Wykes scoring six. Jack Duffy and Jack Denker chipped in with five and four points, respectively. Luke Gallet had three points in the win.

**Saturday, February 19  
Dwight vs.  
Henry-Senachwine  
Regional**

Wyatt Thompson and Jeremy Kapper combined for 49 of the Trojans' 73 points against Henry-Senachwine in regional action at home February 19, leading to a 73-55 Dwight win.

"Both teams shot really well tonight," Coach Connor said post-game. "Henry plays really hard and really gave us some trouble, but we came up with some clutch shots and were able to pull away."

Thompson had a game-high 29 points, hitting three threes and going 2-2 from the line. Kapper came up with 20 points (2-3 FT), followed by 11 points (2 3-pointers, 1-2 FT) from Conner Telford. Landon Brown knocked down two three-pointers, with Kaleb Duden adding five points, including a three. Jack Denker provided a fourth quarter bucket.

The Trojans improve to 17-12 with the victory.



### GSW PANTHERS BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, February 15  
GSW vs. St. Anne**

The Panthers were in action against St. Anne February 15, and took a 62-48 loss.

"The game was much closer than the final score shows," said Coach Wills. "We had the lead for a lot of the third quarter. We just missed way too many shots in the paint tonight, and had a lot of turnovers in the fourth quarter."

Cale Halpin had 19 points, three steals, and three boards to lead GSW. Gabe McHugh (7 rebounds) and Bennett Grant (4 rebounds) added 10 and nine points, respectively.

**Saturday, February 19  
GSW vs. St. Bede  
Regional**

In a regional meeting with St. Bede February 19, Gardner-South Wilmington had its season come to a close following an 83-66 loss.

"With only eight wins this season, we weren't happy with the record, but we were very competitive in almost every game and we improved throughout the year," stated head coach Allan Wills. "We will miss the few seniors on the team, but with starting one junior, two sophomores, and one freshman, we are excited for the future."

Cale Halpin's 22 points and four boards led the Panthers. Gabe McHugh (8 rebounds) and Bennett Grant (5 rebounds) each scored 13 points. Ethan Mack had eight points and eight rebounds.

GSW ends the 2021-22 season with an overall record of 8-23 and a 4-8 record in the conference.

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### SENECA LADY FIGHTING IRISH BASKETBALL

**Monday, February 14  
Seneca vs. Beecher  
Regional -**

In a regional semifinal match-up between #6-seed Seneca and #4-seed Beecher February 14, the Lady Irish won in an upset, 48-40.

"What an effort," exclaimed Coach Holman. "Down four heading into the fourth, we really made some great plays under pressure to get us back in it."

Seneca shot 18-25 from the free throw line on the night.

"Nine for 13 in the fourth quarter sealed it for us," Holman stated. "We really did a nice job guarding and playing the style we wanted to play. Emma Smith was huge early with eight points in the first quarter to keep us alive. Extremely proud of the girls."


**Friday, February 18  
Seneca vs. Fieldcrest  
Regional -**

On February 18, the Lady Fighting Irish had their season come to a close following a 30-17 loss to #1-seed Fieldcrest in the regional final.

"Great team effort against the #6 team in the state," Coach Holman said afterwards. "Nothing to regret and everything to be proud of. We did everything we could defensively in the second half, but couldn't get the momentum on our side. Give Fieldcrest credit for controlling things, but I'm really proud of our girls for giving us every opportunity to get back in it. We've come a long way since a 30-point loss to them in December and played our hearts out tonight."

Kennedy Hartwig scored 11 points to lead Seneca. Zoe Hougas, Alyssa Zellers, and Emma Smith all had two points.

The Lady Irish end the season 22-12 overall, with a 10-2 record in the Tri-County Conference.



### DTHS LADY TROJANS BASKETBALL


**Monday, February 14  
Dwight vs. Newark  
Regional -**

The varsity Lady Trojans had their season come to an end February 14, falling to Newark, 53-29, in regional play.

Leading the offense for Dwight was Brooke Vigna with 10 points, followed by eight from Lilly Duffy. Kassy Kodat and Njomza Asllani added six and five points, respectively.

"The coaching staff would like to thank the girls for all of their hard work this season," said Coach Butterbrodt after the game.

The Lady Trojans finish the season with a 5-26 record.




### TRI-POINT CHARGERS BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, February 15  
Tri-Point vs.  
Illinois Lutheran**

The Tri-Point Chargers hosted Illinois Lutheran February 15, picking up a 71-61 win.

Connor Cardenas led his squad with 26 points (4 3-pointers, 2-2 FT). Ayden McNeill scored 16 points (2-2 FT), followed by 11 and 10 points, respectively, from Dominic Carrera (2 3-pointers, 1-1 FT) and Bobby Mogged. Jose Amador added eight points, shooting 2-4 from the charity stripe.

The JV Chargers were knocked off by IL Lutheran, 55-47.



### DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

**Monday, February 14  
Dwight vs.  
Bishop McNamara  
8th Grade -**

The Lady Redbirds won over Bishop McNamara, 6-25, 25-20, 25-23, on 8th Grade Night in Dwight February 14.

Taylor Heath had a team-high eight aces to go with nine digs and a kill. Sarah Parker added three aces, five digs, and three assists, with Sophie Buck contributing two aces, six digs, and two assists. Madi Ely (3 digs), Makayla Wahl-Seabert (6 digs, 5 kills), and Dori Wilson all had one ace. Ryan Bean provided four kills and two digs, with Jeri Dunning coming up with a dig.

**7th Grade -**

In the seventh grade meeting, Dwight lost to Bishop Mac, 11-25, 21-25.

Miranda Bovellev led with two aces, followed by an ace each from Avery Connor (2 assists, 1 kill, 1 dig) and Sophie Bastian. Claire Sandeno supplied nine digs and one kill, with Addy Sulzberger (1 kill) and Delaney Boucher (3 kills) adding four digs each. Kit Connor (1 assist) added three digs, with De'Lana Marsh and Mikayla Chambers (1 kill) each putting up two digs. Cloe Gall had one dig.

**6th Grade -**

Dwight's sixth graders earned a win over Bishop McNamara in three sets, 19-25, 28-26, 15-10, while the "B" team fell 18-25, 25-15, 12-15.

Callie Robison had 13 points (3 aces), with Isabel Hakey (3 aces) and Raegan

Brown each adding 10 points. Kaitlynn Todd followed with eight points (2 aces), with Addie Taylor (1 kill) adding seven points. Sienna Burke (1 ace) and Emma Stanton had five and four points, respectively. Kailyn Haggard (1 kill) and Grace Tjelle (2 aces) chipped in with three points each. Addie Avilez came up with two points, while Leanne Ruth contributed one point.

(continued on page 12)

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**9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**

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For more information or to set up an appointment, call Jill @ 815-458-6129 or email: jill@godleypark.com



### SENECA FIGHTING IRISH BASKETBALL

**Tuesday, February 15  
Seneca vs. Serena**

In a contest between Seneca and Serena February 15, the Irish earned a 63-45 home victory on Senior Night.

"It was a great first half tonight," stated Coach Witte. "Seniors stepped up in a big way on Senior Night. Second half got a little sloppy again, as we let Serena cut the lead to single digits. I am extremely proud of these seniors and the season and career they have had. Zach Pfeifer, Noah Quigley, Owen Quigley, and Given Siegel all have played a huge part in our success this year and last. They will be extremely missed."

Pfeifer led all scorers with 17 points, hitting three three-pointers. Noah Quigley had 15 points, with three threes, while Paxton Giertz put up nine points (3-4 FT). Lane Provance scored seven points (1-4 FT), followed by five each from Kysen Klinker (1-1 FT) and Calvin Maierhofer (3-4 FT). Siegel contributed three points (1-2 FT), with Owen Quigley coming up with a bucket.

"Now on to the postseason," said Witte. "We need to be ready to get after it, as we open at home versus Fieldcrest."

**Saturday, February 19  
Seneca vs. Fieldcrest  
Regional**

The Fighting Irish were able to fend off a fiery Fieldcrest team at home February 19, 70-62, to move on in regional play.

"Well, it is post-season and all you can say is survive and advance," said head coach Russ Witte. "We did not play well from the middle of the first quarter to the middle of the third."

Down 43-31 with under four minutes to go in the third, Seneca finally got on a run, causing some turnovers and hitting some shots.

"Calvin Maierhofer came up big today with 22 points when Fieldcrest did a really good job taking Zach Pfeifer out of his game. We had to find a different way to put points on the board. Paxton Giertz had all 17 of his points in the second half, as did Zach and his 10 points."

Maierhofer led all scorers with 22 points (3 3-pointers, 5-7 FT). Giertz hit two threes and went 5-7 from the charity stripe to help get him to 17 points. Pfeifer added 10 (4-7 FT), while Lane Provance put up eight. Given Siegel scored six (1 3-pointer, 1-2 FT), followed by five from Braden Ellis (3-3 FT). Noah Quigley contributed a second quarter basket.

"Now on to the semifinals, Witte said, "where we take on a very tough and talented Pontiac team. We will see if we can put it together one more time."

That game will take place Wednesday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Wilmington.

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THE PANTHERETTE SPIRITLINE from Gardner-South Wilmington High School competed at the Illinois Drill Team Association State Competition February 12. The team had two amazing performances and placed second in A Pom and second in A Pom/Dance. They also received the third place Grand Champion Award. Teams are eligible for this award if they qualify two routines for the state competition. Their two routines scores are added together and then ranked with other teams in their division who also qualified two routines. Coaches Nicole Leigh and Holly Swisher say they are incredibly proud of the team's accomplishments this season and have truly enjoyed watching each team member grow throughout the season.

DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

(continued from page 11)

**Tuesday, February 15**  
**Dwight vs. Morris**  
**8th Grade -**

On February 15, the eighth grade Lady Redbirds lost to Morris, 15-25, 20-25.

Madi Ely (3 digs) and Taylor Heath (2 digs) led with four and three aces, respectively. Sophie Buck followed with two aces, eight digs, and two assists, with

Makayla Wahl-Seabert supplying an ace, two digs, and one kill. Sarah Parker (1 kill) and Ryan Bean (1 kill) had six and two digs, respectively.

**7th Grade -**

It took three sets, but Dwight won over Morris in the seventh grade match-up, 23-25, 25-7, 25-18.

Kit Connor's eight aces, four digs, three assists, and two kills

led the Lady Redbirds. Avery Connor added four aces, three assists, and one dig. Mikayla Chambers (8 kills, 5 digs) and Miranda Bovellev (7 digs, 2 kills) came up with two aces each, while Claire Sandeno had an ace, five kills, and five digs. Delaney Boucher tallied two kills, with Sophie Bastian adding a kill and a dig.

GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

On February 7 and 8, the Lady Tigers of Gardner-South Wilmington-Braceville traveled to Seneca to compete in their conference tournament.

They came out strong and were able to beat Elwood in

two sets, 25-18, 25-12.

In the battle for third place against Seneca, GSWB fought hard – taking Seneca to three sets – but ended up taking fourth overall following the loss.

“We have been struggling with serve receive,” said Coach Faletti, “and that is something we have been working on. I have no doubt this team will continue to work hard and be where we need to be at regional time.”

# Questions arise after prisoner transfers

## People wonder if Pontiac Prison is in trouble

by Brandon LaChance

The population of the Pontiac Correctional Center decreased by 200 when prisoner transfers took place during the week of Feb. 7.

In a plan engineered by the state of Illinois, this is just the beginning.

“They have a plan in place to basically consolidate and move inmates around,” said the Mayor of Pontiac, Bill Alvey. “In the plans that they're professing, there will be no loss of staff. We're not going to lose any employees at the prison. A portion of Pontiac's medium-security prison inmates have been moved out of there to places like Centralia and a couple of other correctional centers. This is happening with the prison in Vandalia as well.

“It's kind of like there is a master plan, but apparently it's subject to change. We're keeping in touch with everyone, our legislators such as Tom Bennett (State Representative of the 106th District) and trying to facilitate what we can to make sure, for the community and the county, that we are aware of operations and keeping the facility functional as much as possible.”

According to this plan, the medium-security unit at the Pontiac prison will be completely shut down by March 16. This unit currently holds 329 inmates and has a maximum capacity of 431 prisoners.

By the summer, the east and west barracks of the maximum-security sections of the center will also be emptied. These two cell houses have 667 beds, which are currently occupied by 339 inmates.

After all of the prisoners are transferred to Lawrenceville, Menard, or shuffled around Pontiac, only the north, south, and mental health units will be functional. This means the population will plummet from 1,740 to 642.

In terms of staffing, Pontiac currently employs 927 people.

“This last census, Pontiac lost a number of people and some of that was attributed to prison decline,” said Alvey as the prison population dropped from 38,000 to 27,000 in Illinois. “It happens from time to time. If we can keep the employment levels where they are or better, it's good for the entire community because not all of the guards live in Pontiac or Livingston County. They come from Streator, Bloomington, and other places.

“Revenue comes to the city from them working here because they spend money here also. We want to keep as many people working as we can. The overall plan that they're professing from the state, not everything is publicized, so that's why we're relying on our legislators to work with us and keep us informed. Hopefully, the Department of Corrections will keep working toward the ends that they've stated and we'll have a fairly smooth year in this transition that they're going through.”

The concerns of the state of Illinois are Pontiac needs maintenance done on its buildings as there is plenty of wear and tear on the foundation of the buildings that were built in 1971.

Also, the department of corrections is struggling to find employees. With a lack of help, the overtime hours for the hired correctional officers are at an all-time high.

However, the prisoners count in the population for the city of Pontiac. Losing the proposed 1,098 prisoners also means losing the tax money for each individual.

In 2020, each inmate at the Pontiac Correctional Center was worth \$70,366.

“I don't have much information on how it affects me or my department because they're the state and

we're the county,” said Livingston County Sheriff Tony Childress. “We're two totally separate entities. What I can tell you is I don't like to see things happen that diminish or have an impact on the economic light in the area. That's what I see happening here just like when the women's prison in Dwight closed. That really had a sorrowful impact on Dwight.

“If Pontiac ends up closing, that's going to have a real sorrowful impact on the citizens and the economy of Pontiac.”

Childress could not speak on numbers or the exact matters of the state plan.

“This administration has chosen to ignore me during the eight years I've been the Livingston County Sheriff,” Childress said. “I realize Governor J.B. Pritzker has only been in office for one term and now he's running for another. Sadly as it may be, he has never sought to avail himself to the sheriff's office or stop by and introduce himself. Nor has the Director of the Department of Corrections (Rob Jeffreys) unless he did when I wasn't here or I wasn't aware of it.

“He may have come in and spoke with the jail superintendent, but I don't know if that's the case. I would think that they would have told me. I don't believe he's ever been here and I don't think he has the intentions of coming here, the governor or the director. That's just the way it is. They don't contact me and I don't contact them. They run their show and I run mine.”

The Dwight Correctional Center, also known as the Oakdale Reformatory for Women, was open from 1930 until 2013.

When the doors closed locking everyone out instead of in, Dwight was hit hard.

Tim Henson, Dwight Police Department Chief of Police, hopes the same situation doesn't happen

to Pontiac.

“I think that nobody knows the inmates that were transferred from Pontiac better than the guards and the administration at the Pontiac Correctional Center,” Henson said. “When it comes to the safety of the guards, the administration, and of the inmates, I think it's better to keep them where there are relationships.

“Coming from a community that lost their prison, dollars economically, housing, and shops and gas stations, I just hope that the correctional center is still going to be stable and a stable part of Pontiac's community. You can see what has happened to ours. They tore it to pieces and it's totally inoperable for anything. That's never good for any community. Just the number of inmates that have already been transferred is a big hit for Pontiac.”

Alvey knows plans are subject to change, but he hopes any future adjustments don't alter Pontiac's employment rate.

The mayor's number one priority is to keep the jobs the prison has offered residents of Pontiac and other towns in Illinois for five decades.

“It's hard to say if it's good or bad, it's a change,” Alvey said. “If it deteriorates and becomes where it's detrimental, we will be in Springfield pleading our case. Right now, from the preliminary plans that they're putting out there, it's not going to be as detrimental as you might think with the various rumors that have been flying around.

“Right now, we're happy that they're keeping the staffing at the levels they said they will. At this point and time, we're hoping this is just a way to continue to make the penal system a better product for the entire state. We all benefit from that.”

# GSW High School Board Holds Regular Meeting, Special Joint Meeting with BES #75 February 16

The Board of Gardner-South Wilmington High School District #73 held its regular meeting February 16, in addition to a special joint meeting with Braceville Elementary School #75.

There was no public comment, however Mr. DeLong read a Thank You note from Mrs. Terese Kukman, GSW Drivers Education teacher. GSW made a donation in her father's name to Hospice of Joliet.

**Principal Engelman discussed the following:**

- GSW is looking into hiring a trainer for all GSW athletic events next school year and going forward. This person would be an employee from the Morris Hospital. They would like the trainer to be at all home athletic events.

**The Director's Report included:**

- Ms. Angel Dallio, Student Services Coordinator, submitted her report electronically to the board members. Ms. Dallio discussed MAP testing, scores, tracking data and growth. Her report showed Fall vs. Winter scores. Some highlights were: sophomores tested strong in reading skills, but their freshmen class had low test scores in both reading and math.
- Mr. John Williams, Technology Director, submitted his report electronically to the board members, stating what he has

been working on lately.

**In regard to the Building and Grounds Report, Mr. DeLong discussed the following:**

- Parking lot update – This project is slated to start this summer. An engineer was there and surveyed the area. The cost will be approximately \$400,000.
- Possible phone system upgrade – Their current phone system is very old, outdated, the lines are static, dates and times are off, and it is very hard to hear. The project would take place this summer. It will be a big job to run new lines throughout the entire building.

**Superintendent DeLong presented the following:**

- COVID mandates/mitigation plans/discussion – GSW HS will vote to remain mask optional for the remainder of the school year.
- GAVC Director's Awards for the month of January 2022:
  - Ryan Cacello, junior, Building Trades I.
  - Blake Huston, senior, Engineering II.
- Maternity Leave – Mrs. Boaz, English teacher, for early May. They have already found a sub to cover her leave.
- Working Cash Bonds – Next month, David Pistorius from First Midstate Inc., will be there at the March board meeting to discuss options. They have until December to finalize.
- Scoreboard Donation – Their

new scoreboard has been installed and is ready to use for the Spring 2022 baseball season. The total cost was approximately \$8,500 – which was split 50/50 by GSW and the Athletic Boosters. The Todd Sandeno family generously donated the money to pay for the entire cost.

- Online Registration – They will open up online registration in early March and it will run thru May. There will be a \$10 discount fee. Information will be going out soon.
- FY 21 Financial Recognition – 4.0 (highest rating possible). Listed as 51% adequate as a Tier 1 school under the EBF formula.
- Donation from Knights of Columbus #1574 – Once again this year, Mr. William Pohl from the Braidwood Knights of Columbus, dropped off a check/donation to the GSW HS - Special Ed Department. The check was for \$776.72 - he said the largest donation they have given to date. GSW special education teachers, Jen Arrambide and Erin Duffy, split the donation and decide what to purchase for their classrooms/kids/ departments.
- Fishing Team Discussion – The board discussed a letter that Coach Jerry Olsen had sent regarding tournaments they will be attending and looking at what the team will be doing this year. The school will pay for IHSA

State and Sectional entry fees, vehicle and boat gas, and mileage. The coach is paid a \$500 stipend and can use the Bass Fishing Team activity account with prior approval. This specific account received a good amount of money from the family of Rodney Ford memorial donations.

- GSW HS Staff Christmas Party – Will be held at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, February 26, at Everybuddies in Gardner. All faculty and staff are welcome to attend, including board members.

**Action Items (Special Joint Board Meeting) included:**

- Approved the three-year Superintendent Contract for Susan Avery, July 1, 2022, thru June 30, 2025.
- Approved the three-year Intergovernmental Agreement with Braceville Elementary School #75 for a shared Superintendent July 1, 2022, thru June 30, 2025.

**Action Items (Regular Meeting) included:**

- Approval of Milk Contract renewal with Clover Farms.
- Appointed Superintendent to begin tentative budget for fiscal year 2023.
- Approval of 2022-2023 District Calendar, as presented.
- Approval of School fees for 2022-2023 school year.
- Approval of COVID mitigation plan for the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year.

# Gardner Village Board: Horns or No Horns

The Gardner Village Board met in regular session February 14.

Resident Don Phillips asked the board what the cost of the suggested referendum regarding train horns was to the village. While the county does not charge for the ballot item, the proposal would most likely need to be drafted by legal counsel. Phillips, who noted that any referendum would be non-binding, as the Federal DOT has the ultimate say, also asked why the board is unwilling to make a decision on the matter, noting that governing bodies are elected to make these decisions.

Mayor Mike Serena noted the board had already voted unanimously to maintain train horns in the village. He also stated the public forum will be held at the American Legion on February 22. The UP has been contacted – their representative will be out of state. Village Engineer Casey McCollom noted the process includes filing notice of intent with RR and FRA, meetings with FRA, DOT and railroads, complete risk assessments, and allow a public comment period. None of the commissioners had an estimate of the legal and other fees associated with the project.

The board discussed and approved the use of \$180,000 in ARPA funds for repairs to the water and sewer plants, with \$90,000 allotted to each plant. Commissioner Dick Hileman noted the \$180,000 will not be enough to finish the projects, but will be a good start. Serena commented he would like to see a new gate installed at the sewer plant as part of the repairs. He also suggested widening the gate to accommodate

larger equipment.

The board discussed and approved the use of Stewart Spreading, Inc. to clean the sewer ponds. Hileman noted there are two options, based on pumping two or all three ponds. The material must be tested for radium. Radium is not expected based on the installation of the water softening system installed several years ago. Hileman noted several area towns have used the service. McCollom commented Stewart includes all of the engineering work, such as testing and permitting. Because of the specialty nature of the project, the award can be made with a unanimous vote. Serena commented he would like to do more research regarding the effect of the action on the village's prevailing wage ordinance. The matter was tabled.

The board approved permission for the annual Dad's Day fund-raising for June 18. The event raises funds for diabetes research.

The board approved the painting and purchase of paint to paint Route 66 information on the village streets for Red Carpet Corridor on the first weekend of May.

Commissioner Hileman received a letter from the Grundy County Sheriff regarding fees for services to the villages. Hileman and Serena will set up a meeting with the Sheriff. Hileman contacted Representative Haas and Senator Joyce regarding the hole at the Carbon Hill Road railroad crossing. The issue continues to wait for response from the railroad. Serena noted he had provided a price to the railroad some time ago and there has been no response.

Area COVID-19 Stats as of February 21				
Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases		
Dwight	24,653	1,158		
Herscher	5,915	507		
Gardner	5,348	481		
Odell	5,627	369		
Mazon	3,810	356		
Braceville	3,980	327		
Essex	2,600	267		
S. Wilmington	2,015	171		
Cullom	3,144	159		
Saunemin	2,569	158		
Reddick	1,940	144		
Verona	1,611	140		
Cabery	1,928	131		
Ransom	1,658	115		
Buckingham	1,445	108		
Kempton	1,668	102		
Emington	1,089	86		
Blackstone	1,160	72		
Kinsman	1,256	46		
Campus	762	29		
Union Hill	255	17		
County	Tested	Cases		
Kankakee	450,645	28,464	353	
LaSalle	451,989	28,390	374	
Grundy	144,082	12,431	132	
Livingston	229,408	10,553	133	
Iroquois	104,156	7,062	111	
Ford	70,466	4,367	63	
Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 3,013,709; Deaths: 32,299; Probable Deaths: 4,061; Total Tests Performed: 53,621,982.				
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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sels sprouts, cranberry  
salad, roll.

Fri., Feb. 25: Pan-  
gasius fish sandwich  
w/ condiment, pinto  
beans w/ bacon, Cali-  
fornia blend, tangy  
cole slaw, bun.

Mon., Feb. 28:  
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corn, creamy cole  
slaw, bun.

Tues., Mar. 1:  
Turkey pot roast w/  
carrots & celery, Ital-  
ian green beans,  
pineapple, whole grain  
roll.

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vory sausage stew,  
broccoli, chunky ap-  
plesauce, biscuit, sur-  
prise dessert.

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# Nolan Named Chief, Mayor’s First Year – – –

(continued from page 1)  
make up for the loss of income due to Duffy Ambulance Service shutting down, the VCOM 911 Board is now charging Dwight an additional 10% service fee. Village Administrator Kevin McNamara and Callahan were instructed by the Board to work on further con-

tract and financing details with the Odell Fire District. Callahan added there are three new medics currently on training status with Dwight EMS. Present at the Feb. 14 meeting were Marla Kinkade, Randy Irvin, and Jenny Johnson. Absent were Chuck Butterbrodt, Justin Eggenberger and Pete Meister.

## Gas Prices For This Week

Since last Monday, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has increased by five cents to \$3.53. According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 1.3 million bbl to 247.1 million bbl last week. On the other hand, gasoline demand decreased from 9.13 million b/d to 8.57 million b/d. Typically, a decrease in gas demand during winter would put downward pressure on pump prices, but elevated crude prices continue to push pump prices higher. Pump prices will likely rise if crude prices continue to climb.

City/Village	February 21	February 14
Dwight	\$3.56	\$3.48
Kankakee	\$3.67	\$3.59
Streator	\$3.68	\$3.54
Pontiac	\$3.47	\$3.30
Gardner	\$3.65	\$3.65
Braceville	\$3.56	\$3.59
Morris	\$3.61	\$3.57
Herscher	\$3.67	\$3.68
Chicago	\$3.82	\$3.77
Illinois	\$3.71	\$3.67
U.S.	\$3.53	\$3.49

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

Gasoline price data collected by  
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# Money Matters Hold Board's Interest; Congratulations to 7th Grade Boys B-Ball Team

by Mark Boma

Money topics occupied the Dwight Common School District #232 Board of Education meeting on February 16. The District holds an 18 month Certificate of Deposit at the Bank of Pontiac which will soon be reaching maturity. A new rate of .65 percent was quoted for renewing the CD at an invested amount of \$1,750,000. The current rate is 1 percent. With interest rates expected to increase over the next few months, the Board opted to move the money to a money market account paying .35% and review at a future meeting where to place the money.

Similar to the High School, District #232 is also faced with the upcoming expense of paying its portion of the HVAC upgrade at the Livingston County Special Service Unit (LCCSU) in Flanagan. The facility in Flanagan is an extension of the District's ownership and estimated cost for the Grade School of the \$1.4 million project would be \$156,415. Superintendent Dr. Richard Jancek's suggestion is to make a one time upfront payment to avoid interest charges. The matter



SEVENTH GRADE DWIGHT REDBIRDS were recognized by the Board of Education February 16 for their State appearance. Coach Joe Stevenson was congratulated on his retirement and 25 years of coaching.

would be reviewed with LCCSU Executive Director Dr. Joshua Olsen before the Board will make a final decision.

Jancek also reported the intent to submit a grant proposal for the Jump Start Summer Program, which aids in moving students from Pre-K to kindergarten.

On hand were the seventh grade boys basketball team and coaches to be recognized for their qualifying and participa-

tion in the State basketball tournament. Coach Joe Stevenson was also congratulated on his retirement from coaching after 25 years of service to the Dwight School District.

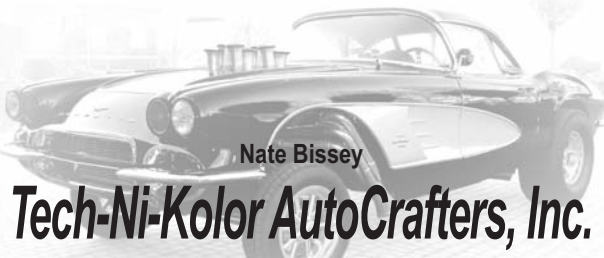
In consent agenda items the Board accepted the resignation of Anna Oelschlagher from, and approved the employment of, Kara Stork as Head Boys Track

Coach. The employment of Teri Kennedy as substitute teacher was affirmed.

Executive Session was scheduled on the agenda but was deemed unnecessary so the meeting was adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be March 16. All Board members were present.

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RYAN BOHM, a Cornell resident and Livingston County Police Officer, left, was the guest speaker at the Dwight Rotary Club meeting February 16 to discuss his candidacy for Livingston County Sheriff. He is pictured with Mike Heath. Future Rotary guests include Father Haake of St. Patrick Church, Dwight, and Tom Vagasky, who is also running for Livingston County Sheriff.

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