



Avery takes over; Braceville Principal Promoted to Dual Superintendent

by Brandon LaChance

After Josh DeLong was hired as the new Dwight Superintendent for the next school year, his current role as the dual Superintendent for Gardner-South Wilmington High School and the Braceville Grade School was up for grabs.

Sue Avery, the current Braceville Principal, wasn't expecting DeLong to leave or for her to receive the Superintendent promotion she accepted on Feb. 21 during a special board meeting.

"My initial reaction was, 'Oh my gosh, you're leaving us,' said Avery, who has been the Braceville Principal for the last six years. "But, Josh is from Dwight. He went to school there. His kids go to school in Dwight. He lives there. It makes sense. He's a great leader. There were great initiatives he implemented while he was here. He did a really great job.

"It was shocking to me because he was only here three years. He asked me if I was going to go for his job. I said, 'What?' because it didn't even dawn on me. I didn't think in terms of me possibly becoming the Superintendent until he said that."

Although DeLong didn't have a say in who his successor was going to be, he knew she would be hard to pass over if she applied.

"I believe she is qualified. Sue will tell you she was a little hesitant when I told her I was taking the position in Dwight," DeLong said. "I did encourage her to apply. I think she was hesitant because she wasn't done with her classes yet, but just what I've seen from her and her work ethic, she's one that is heavily involved in the community and the school.

"During the interview process, she really knocked it out of the ballpark."

Avery, born and raised in Joliet, also received all of her education in Joliet as she went through the public school system, attended Joliet Junior College, and earned a Bachelor's Degree, a Master's Degree and



Sue Avery

her Superintendent endorsement at the University of St. Francis.

The educator also has the resume to go with her schooling as she was in private preschool for 4½ years, was a dual preschool director and assistant principal, and has taught many students.

"This is what I've been working hard for," Avery said. "I started with private preschool when I was younger. It really piqued my interest in becoming an educator. I went back to school, got my teaching degree, and I've never looked back from public education. I've taught at multiple grade levels. Along the way, other leaders have lifted me up along my journey and pointed me in the right direction in the classroom and with administration roles.

"I had some Superintendents encourage me to get my Superintendent certification. Now, here I am with this new job in front of me. I'm really excited about the dual Superintendent role. I still get to keep one foot in the place that I've called home for the last six years and I have the other foot in Gardner. I hope to do great things in both school districts."

Avery will be at GSW 70 percent of the time and at Braceville 30 percent.

This means she gets to interact with GSW's three feeder schools in Gardner, South Wilmington and Braceville as she will see each student from the time they're school age until they graduate high school.

"I think part of a Superintendent's role is to carry out the board of education's mission and vision, and to insure principals, teachers, students, and families have the resources they need to be successful," Avery said. "I see myself as a servant leader as well as shared leadership.

"My intention is to do what the leaders before me did and lift up other leaders. I want to focus on serving the community. I believe this job is about relationship building. The people are what make the schools so great. When people feel valued and appreciated there is nothing they won't do for you."

Avery, one of seven children, recognizes her roles as a big sister and little sister as helping her find education as her career; leading her younger siblings showcased leadership qualities; looking up to her older sister Tammy, who is a teacher, gave her insight.

DeLong sees all of Avery's talent, skill and dedication every time he steps into the Braceville hallways.

Starting July 1, GSW, Braceville and the communities involved will see them, too.

"Through our work relationship and what I know of Sue, she is a really hard worker and very dedicated to her school building," DeLong said. "For example, Sue is a 10 month employee as the principal. She gets off two months in the summer, but she still shows up every day. She is one that is never gone. She's never out of the building.

"When I do stop by to talk to Sue, she is never in her office. She is always in a classroom or somewhere in the building mingling with students and teachers."

The next Braceville Elementary School Principal has not been named yet as the application process is open until March 18.

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



TWO, TOO CUTE!

PRE-K STUDENTS at St. Paul School celebrated Twos-day with special hats and a song. Pictured are twins Addy and Avery Cassady.

Childress Retires

by Brandon LaChance

Although Livingston County Sheriff Tony Childress' term wouldn't end until Nov. 30, he officially announced his retirement at a county board meeting on Feb. 24.

"I received a really good retirement package I couldn't turn down," Childress said. "I decided it was in my best interest to take it and go ahead and step aside, and let someone else fill out my term.

"It was just one of those things where you have things come to you in the middle of the night. Some of them come in the middle of the day. You make a decision as to what's in your best interest. You go ahead and take it and go. That's how it turned out for me."

Childress has been in law enforcement for 31 years and started his first term as Livingston County Sheriff in 2014.

He was reelected in 2018 and has served three years and nine months of this term.

There was a program scheduled in February in which Childress was going to announce he wasn't running for his position again, but due to unforeseen circumstances, it was canceled.

"I have been honored and privileged to serve as the Livingston County Sheriff. I would like to thank all of the people in the county for allowing me to be sheriff. We tried to do a lot of good things and we were able to accomplish a lot of good things.

"When I campaigned in 2013, I promised I would bring

Livingston County into the 21st century. We didn't have computers in the squad cars. We didn't have a decent cam system for 911. We didn't even have decent radios.

"We went to Starcom and it turned out to be one of the better things we ever did. We went to a new cam system, which made people in this county a lot safer. It enhanced officer safety as well."

During his tenure with the Livingston County Sheriff's Department, Childress introduced new programs for the communities' benefit.

The Cops 4 Kids Program debuted in 2012 while Childress was an investigator.

He also started the Trick or Trunk Halloween program in which squad cars were backed up to the sheriff's office and the back ends were decorated. The officers turn the lights on and kids come to the department for candy, popcorn, and other Halloween treats.

Under Childress' influence school resource officers were added to every high school in Livingston County.

"Many of the things that we did were predicated on officers having good relationships and rapport with the children in this county," said Childress, who also ushered in four canine officers. "A school resource officer isn't just an armed security guard in a school. They take on a lot more responsibilities than that.

"In many instances, our officers are teaching the children tips on officer safety, driving safety, and many other things that are aspects of a child going into adult life.



Tony Childress

"We want them to be in a sense of mind to where they're not going out and creating criminal activity or having negative attitudes toward police officers. We want them to have positive attitudes toward police officers and to understand an officer is their friend and is there to keep them safe."

Childress helped shine the national spotlight on the county as he traveled the Rio Grande River on the Mexican border with the Texas Department of Public Safety as Mexican cartels stood on the opposing coast.

Childress was summoned to the White House by President Donald Trump's assistants to aide with police reform as he sat with Trump three times in 2019, 2020, and 2021.

"I just want to thank the citizens of Livingston County for giving me the opportunity to serve them," Childress said. "If I had to do it all over again, I would do it again. I would just try to include more safety things that I wasn't able to get through.

"It's bittersweet. I hate leaving. After 31 years, it's time. It's time to let somebody else take over and let some different young blood get in there (Continued on page 12)



Ash Wednesday, World Day of Prayer Services at Dwight UMC

Dwight United Methodist Church, 701 S. Columbia St., will be offering Ash Wednesday Services Wednesday, March 2, at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. There will be a time of repentance, imposition of ashes

and Holy Communion. All are welcome.

Dwight Ministerial Alliance is offering a Community World Day of Prayer Service Friday, March 4, at 1:00 p.m. at Dwight UMC. Featured coun-

tries this year are England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Refreshments will be offered following this 30-minute time of prayer, reflection and worship. All are welcome and invited.

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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police
February 17: Jeffery E. Barbee, 48, Kankakee, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Charles R. Lane, 60, Merrillville, IN, fail obey stop sign.

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

3 Written Warnings
No Lights when Required – 1; One Taillight – 1; Expired Registration – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter
February 17: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 300 block of E. Mazon Ave. for a domestic issue.

February 19: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of N. Franklin for a Domestic in Progress. Arrested for Aggravated Assault, Aggravated Domestic Batter, and Domestic Battery were Pandora Bernal, 18, of Dwight, and Spencer Cronk, 24, of Dwight. They were both transported to Livingston County Jail.

Extra Patrol – 3; Out with Vehicle – 3; Found Dog – 2; Well Being – 2; Domestic Verbal – 1; Miscellaneous – 3; Follow Up – 2; Threats – 1; Check Area – 3; Domestic Unknown – 1; Walk In – 7; Citizens Assistance – 1; Vehicle Ditch – 1; Assist Agency – 3; Accident – 1; Fight In

Progress – 1; Motorist Assist – 3; Return Call – 7; Traffic Stop – 4; Lockout – 5; Burglar Alarm – 2; Open Door – 1; Out with Subject – 1; Suspicious Vehicle – 1; Medical Aid – 4; 911 Hangup – 1; Fire Alarm Commercial – 1.



Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

February 18: I-55, trauma, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Waupansie, medical; Stonewall, trauma, Morris.

February 19: Andrew, medical; Prairie, trauma, refusal.

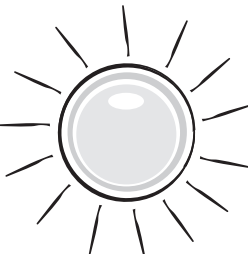
February 20: Mazon, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, refusal; James, medical, refusal; Mazon, medical, Morris; Mazon, medical, Riverside; Mazon, medical, Morris; Morgan, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell.

February 21: Delaware, medical, St. James; Main, medical, Morris.

February 22: Lincoln, medical, St. James.

February 23: Main, medical, Morris; Hamilton, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Spencer, medical, Morris; Bannon, trauma, Morris.

February 24: Mazon, medical, Morris.



Temps - 2022

Feb. 17 – high 31°, low 1° 5" snow
Feb. 18 – high 30°, low 9°
Feb. 19 – high 26°, low 9°
Feb. 20 – high 44°, low 26°
Feb. 21 – high 53°, low 30° trace flurries
Feb. 22 – high 52°, low 15° trace flurries
Feb. 23 – high 22°, low 14°

One Year Ago—March 2, 2021
high 35°, low 21°



Dwight Fire Incidents 2/18 - 2/25

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

February 18: Motor Vehicle Accident – Rt. 47 at Stonewall Rd.

February 23: Automatic Fire Alarm – E. William.

February 24: Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55.

Dwight FPD also responded to 11 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

National Severe Weather Awareness Week

February 28 through March 4 is National Severe Weather Awareness Week, and University of Illinois Extension is offering information on how to stay safe.

Be ready for severe weather before the sirens go off

Weather can change from blue skies to ominous clouds in an instant in Illinois. When the wail of an alert siren is heard, it's a warning sign that should not be ignored.

The early awareness allows communities to prepare before any spring severe weather events. As part of that preparation, many communities will test their Public Alert System.

Duane Friend, U of I Extension natural resources educator, says the siren alert systems were originally designed for civil defense purposes and are now also commonly used by local authorities to notify anyone outdoors about severe weather.

In Illinois, sirens may sound for weather alerts such as a tornado, hail, and extreme winds.

When an alert goes off, head to a safe location, such as a sturdy building or a vehicle if a building is not nearby. The siren is also a cue to turn on a radio or television for emergency updates.

A weather alert is a steady

siren signal for three to five minutes. A civil defense alert will be more of a warbling up and down sound, much like an air raid siren.

In most communities, weather alerts are regulated and activated by local authorities, such as police and fire departments or local emergency management personnel. In Illinois, sirens are tested at 10:00 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

To stay safe during severe weather, be prepared and informed. The National Weather Service recommends knowing how local warning systems work, investing in a NOAA weather radio, and acting when severe weather strikes.

To learn more about disaster preparation and recovery, explore Illinois Extension resources at web.extension.illinois.edu/disaster or visit the Illinois Emergency Management website at www2.illinois.gov/ready/plan/Pages/Sirens.aspx.

Upcoming NWS Storm Spotter Training Webinars

All NWS Chicago Storm Spotter training will be conducted via webinar in 2022 on the following dates:

- Tuesday, March 8, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m.



• Saturday, March 19, 10:00 a.m.

The webinars will cover severe weather hazards including thunderstorms and tornadoes. This includes safety concerns, planning for and anticipating severe thunderstorms, general storm structure and movement, and identification of important storm features.

- All sessions last about two hours.
 - They are **free** and open to the public.
 - Classes are appropriate for all ages. **Ages 10 and up** will likely get the most out of the training.
 - Pre-registration is required to access the webinars.
 - You may attend a class offered by any NWS office, regardless of where you live.
- Visit www.weather.gov/lot/spotter_talk.

www.thepaper1901.com

- Stories, Obituaries and Classifieds
- Links to Area Schools
- Links to Area Groups

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

Mobile Pantry in Dwight, Odell Monthly

St. Nicholas Mobile Pantry, a ministry of Catholic Charities, serves those in need in the Diocese of Peoria. The van stops in Dwight, in the parking lot of St. Patrick Church, and Odell, in the St. Paul Church parking lot, on the second Thursday afternoon of each month.

This month, the date is **Thursday, March 10.**

Individuals are given items such as blankets, socks, cleaning products, personal hygiene

products, and baby products. These items may change monthly depending on needs and what is donated.

You must fill out an application in order to utilize this monthly service. You can do so at cdop.org/catholic-charities. Click on Region 3 and then the Link button.

If you need assistance, contact the Diocese at 309-671-1550 and ask for Catholic Charities.



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Kinzinger's Annual Card Drive for Illinois Veterans

As we get ready to spring ahead, Congressman Adam Kinzinger (IL-16) will hold his annual St. Patrick's Day card drive for the residents of the Illinois Veterans' Home of LaSalle. Members of the com-

munity are welcomed and encouraged to participate in celebrating the 'Luck of the Irish' with their local heroes by sending cards and letters to share gratitude and appreciation. For those interested in participating, **mail** your cards, letters, Irish blessings or proverbs to the Congressman's Ottawa office at **628 Columbus Street, Suite 507, Ottawa, IL 61350**. If you're in the area, **drop it off** at the office during normal

business hours. The **collection deadline** will be the end of the business day **Friday, March 11**, and the cards will be delivered to the veterans a bit after they've been cleared for safety precautions. If you miss the deadline you may submit online.

For any follow-up questions or clarifications, contact the Ottawa Office at 815-431-9271 and a member of the staff will be available to assist.

U of I Money Mentor Volunteer Training April 28

University of Illinois is looking for Money Mentor volunteers who live or work in Grundy, Kankakee, Will, DuPage, Kane and Kendall Counties.

Money Mentor volunteers build financial capacity in local communities by providing financial education and coaching to individuals. Mentoring consists of working one-on-one with people who have asked for help with their personal finances and community outreach through displays, community talks, or other projects.

The next training will be taught virtually and will include both self-directed work on the Learn @ Illinois Extension platform and class discussions online using Zoom. Each week there will be homework

in the form of activities, readings, and online discussions. Assistance is available for anyone who is not familiar or comfortable with Zoom meetings or online coursework.

The next training will begin April 28.

Serve where you live and/or work within Grundy, Kankakee, Will, DuPage, Kane or Kendall Counties. A one-time fee helps cover training and material costs. Partial scholarships are available if needed. Register at <https://web.extension.illinois.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=25223>.

For further information regarding the program, contact Kathy Sweedler, Consumer Economics Educator, at sweedler@illinois.edu or 217-333-7672.



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Women May Need Financial 'Catch-Up'

It's unfortunate but true: If you're a woman, you face more obstacles than men in achieving financial security. And that means you may well need to put in some extra effort.

Just how serious is your challenge? For one thing, women still face a gender pay gap – based on median incomes, women earn about 82 cents for every dollar a man makes, according to the Census Bureau. This pay gap amounts to a nearly \$470,000 difference in lifetime earnings, according to an Edward Jones/Age Wave study. Furthermore, when factoring in the career disruptions women face because of caring for children and elderly parents, that \$470,000 becomes a \$1.1 million lifetime earnings gap, according to the study. Finally, women tend to live longer than men, meaning their lifetime earnings must last longer.

Everyone's situation is different, but these figures at least point to the challenges many women encounter. To help yourself, consider these moves:

- **Pay yourself first.** You always have to pay your bills – but, at the same time, pay yourself by moving money automatically from your checking account each month into a low-risk, liquid vehicle, such as a money market account or some type of cash management account connected with your investment portfolio. This move can help give you a "bucket" of money to use for any reason, such as the need to step away from your job to care for children or aging parents.
- **Increase your 401(k) contributions each year.** If you have a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, take full advantage of it. At a minimum, contribute enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered, and increase your contributions every year, or every time your salary increases.
- **Fully fund your IRA.** Even if you contribute to a 401(k), you may still be eligible to invest in an IRA – and you should. You can put in up to \$6,000 per year to a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$7,000 if you're 50 or older. (However, a Roth IRA does have income limitations that may prevent you from contributing the full amount.)
- **Learn about Social Security options.** Because Social Security provides a lifetime income stream that includes cost-of-living increases, it can help mitigate two key risks you face in retirement: longer life expectancies and inflation. You can start taking Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly checks will be significantly larger if you wait until your "full" retirement age, which will likely be between 66 and 67. If you delay taking benefits beyond your full retirement age, your payments will increase by 8% per year, until age 70, when your benefits max out. You'll also want to learn about spousal and survivor benefits, which can affect how much you'll receive.
- **Get some help.** You may be able to benefit from working with a financial professional, who can evaluate your situation, make investment recommendations, and help answer questions you may have, such as, "What moves can I make so I can afford to become a caregiver for an elderly parent?"

Hopefully, there will be a day when women won't have to play financial catch-up. For now, though, use all the means at your disposal to help yourself.

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

Gas Prices For This Week

Since last Monday, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has increased eight cents to \$3.61. According to new data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), total domestic gasoline stocks decreased by 600,000 bbl to 246.5 million bbl last week. On the other hand, gasoline demand increased slightly from 8.57 million b/d to 8.66 million b/d. An increase in gas demand, alongside a reduction in total supply, is contributing to price increases, but increasing oil prices continue to play a leading role in pushing prices higher. Pump prices will likely continue to rise as crude prices continue to climb.

City/Village	February 28	February 21
Dwight	\$3.72	\$3.56
Kankakee	\$3.91	\$3.67
Streator	\$3.88	\$3.68
Pontiac	\$3.59	\$3.47
Gardner	\$3.69	\$3.65
Braceville	\$3.87	\$3.56
Morris	\$3.83	\$3.61
Herscher	\$3.75	\$3.67
Chicago	\$3.97	\$3.82
Illinois	\$3.86	\$3.71
U.S.	\$3.61	\$3.53

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

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

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Dwight Lions Continue Civic Work; Will Host Breakfast March 6

Dwight Lions Club built a shelter on the west side of Renfrew Park in 1982, and in 2017, completely renovated it. They purchased street signs for all streets in the Village and provided a \$1,000 Lions Scholarship, and a \$500 Lion Lauritsen Memorial Fund Athletic Scholarship for Dwight students. In addition, they also have an Easter Egg Hunt and Halloween Party for the youth each year. The Lions paid for eye examinations and glasses for many needing assistance (278 pairs between October 1998 and February 2018). They also purchased a magnifying machine, talking clocks, watches, a large print bible, canes and assisted a special needs person to receive medical attention at Chicago University. They provide mobile screening for hearing and sight and collect hearing aids, in addition to eye glasses, for people in other countries – an estimated 4,368 pairs of glasses since 2007. The club has also donated to the Christmas for Kids project, as well as the 4th of July fireworks, Camp 911, Project Graduation, Habitat for Humanity, Lions Camp, Show Bus and the local Food Pantry. The Lions have trimmed and cut down several trees at Lions Lake, in addition to cleaning brush out of the pond and planting grass on some bare spots. Lions Royce McBeath, Bruce Bossert, and Bob Dornbierer spent many hours working at Lions Lake and were joined on some weekends by several Lions, as well as several community volunteers. Dwight Lions Club will host its Pancakes and Sausage/Biscuits and Gravy Breakfast Sunday, March 6, at the Dwight VFW, from 7:00 a.m. to noon. A fee applies, with kids age four to eight receiving a discount, and children under four eating for free. A 50/50 raffle will also be held during the meal.

Livingston County Pheasants Forever Chapter Annual Banquet Set for March 14 at Pontiac Elks Club

Conservation groups have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Memberships are down across the nation, which is the blood line of this organization to pursue getting habitat in the ground to allow wildlife to flourish in our county. The Livingston County Chapter of Pheasants Forever will be holding its 37th annual fund-raising banquet Monday, March 14, at the Pontiac Elks Club. The doors open at 5:00 p.m. and dinner will begin being served at 6:00 p.m. “When it comes to conservation, there are a lot of people out there who would like to make a positive difference in the restoration and preservation of farmland wildlife, but just don’t know how to go about doing it,” Doug Wessels said. Doug is the Chairman of the local Chapter. Attending the local banquet goes a long way in getting things accomplished to create the habitat needed for our wildlife to flourish. “Since its inception in 1982, Pheasants Forever’s wildlife habitat projects have benefited more than 15.8 million acres across the continent. In that time, PF has participated in over 1,675 different land acquisitions totaling over 212,194 acres. Those land acquisition projects have been completed in conjunction with local, state and federal natural resource agencies, and all of those projects are today open to public hunting. Our chapter has been one of the leaders in the state in raising dollars and getting seed for habitat back in the ground. Since our inception, the Livingston County PF Chapter has been responsible for investing nearly \$550,000 in seed, equipment, trees and education projects to increase the habitat necessary to increase local pheasant populations.” The Livingston County Chapter was recognized at the State Meeting in 2020 for surpassing \$500,000 in projects. The Chapter has also made a mark in its efforts to involve youth in their activities. Their support for the Prairie Central High School Trap Team helped them compete at the Illinois State High School Tournament and advancing to the National Tournament in Michigan a few years ago. “Pheasants Forever is a unique organization because it promotes using the funds raised here to stay here and be used in Livingston County. It’s Pheasants Forever’s vision that current and future generations of hunters along with conservationists are able to enjoy abundant populations of wild pheasants, quail and other wildlife. Over 90% of the funds raised go into seed and projects right here in Livingston County. “Wildlife habitat faces monumental challenges in an ever-changing world. Agricultural expansion, a growing population, water wars, urban sprawl and oil and mineral exploration are all threats to the habitats pheasants, quail and other wildlife call home. If there are to be places for wildlife going forward, we will have to work harder, to be more creative, and build more partnerships than ever before. “Attending a Pheasants Forever banquet is an excellent way to contribute to a good cause because your county chapter retains all of the money (exclusive of membership fees) we raise and use this money for habitat work with farmers and landowners in our immediate area,” Wessels said. “We also are working to create more opportunities for the youth in our county to get involved with Pheasants Forever through programs geared to the younger generations. This could be in the form of hunting safety courses or possibly some hunting opportunities.” According to Wessels, Pheasants Forever committee members will soon be calling on conservation-minded individuals in the county to help support the banquet. Mailings will go out to current and past members in the near future. For more information on the banquet or Pheasants Forever, contact: Steve Weeks at 815-692-2302; Doug Wessels at 815-657-8682; Bob Condon at 815-674-1370; or Mike Oughton at 815-529-3306. If you need an order form for banquet tickets, you will be able to print from their webpage. Check it often, as they maintain their meeting schedule and other activities on the site: <http://livingstoncountypheasantsforever.org> pheasantsforever.org

HCE \$1,000 Youth Scholarship Offered

Applications for the annual Livingston County Home and Community Education Association (HCE) scholarship are available from Shirley Meenan, the Livingston County Extension office, or your school guidance counselor. This \$1,000 scholarship is open to any student who has graduated or will graduate this May from a Livingston County High School or has resided in Livingston County prior to attending college. Home-schooled youth are eligible. The preferred area of study for applicants is Family and Consumer Sciences, but students from any field of study are eligible to apply. The applicant must be enrolled or have been accepted at an accredited two- or four-year college. Scholarship applications and requirements are available from: Shirley Meenan at 24939 E. 1000N. Rd., Forrest, IL 61741, or call 815-657-8385; or University of Illinois Livingston County Extension Office at 1412 S. Locust St., Pontiac, IL 61764, phone number 815-842-1776. The deadline for applications is May 31. Interviews are held in June. The recipient will be invited to receive the scholarship on Wednesday of the 4-H Fair in July.

USDA Amends National List for Organic Handling, Crops, and Livestock

The Organic Foods Production Act created the National List of Allowed and Prohibited Substances (National List) as a tool for managing the substances used in organic production over time. In general, natural substances are allowed in organics and synthetic substances are prohibited. The National List identifies the limited exceptions to these general rules. The National List also identifies nonagricultural and nonorganic agricultural substances (ingredients) that may be used in organic handling. Changes to the National List require a National Organic Standards Board (NOSB) recommendation and USDA rulemaking, a process that provides multiple opportunities for public comment. On February 28, USDA published a final rule in the Federal Register amending the National List for substances scheduled to sunset in 2022, based on NOSB recommendations and public input. National List Amendments: **2022 Sunsets final rule** This final rule addresses recommendations from previous NOSB public meetings to remove: • One substance currently allowed in organic crop production (Vitamin B1). • One substance currently allowed in organic livestock production (procaine). • Fourteen nonorganic ingredients (including eight nonorganic colors) currently allowed in organic handling. Based on public comment, this rule also renews the allowance for: • Sucrose octanoate esters for use in organic crops, and livestock production. • Oxytocin for use in organic livestock production. This final rule is effective March 30, 2022. View the final rule at: [federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/28/2022-03851/national-organic-program-amendments-to-the-national-list-of-allowed-and-prohibited-substances-2022](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/28/2022-03851/national-organic-program-amendments-to-the-national-list-of-allowed-and-prohibited-substances-2022).

Adult Only Rock Painting Class at Piper City Library March 10

The Piper City Public Library is hosting an **adult only** Rock Painting Class (for houseplants and gardens) Thursday, March 10, at 4:00 p.m. at the library. Master Gardener Nancy Stamm will be conducting the class, which is free, and the library will furnish all the supplies. However, if you have a favorite rock you are welcome to take it. Call the library at 815-686-9234 or e-mail them at piper-citylibrary@gmail.com by Monday, March 7, before 5:00 p.m., to make reservations.

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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 Gal-loway and Emily Scott. The musical is directed by Abigayle Groves. The pit and band direc-tor 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 responsibili-ties, 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 les-son: Always be comfortable in your own skin.

School of Rock will show Friday and Saturday, March 4 and 5, at 7:00 p.m., fol-lowed 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.

A Message from Senator Patrick Joyce

We have a duty to support those who put their lives on the line to protect and serve our communities.

As I travel around the 40th Senate District, I hear time and again the importance of public safety. We see the news reports all the time of lawlessness and crime in our large cities, and we simply cannot stand for that happening here.

I have joined with a strong group of my colleagues in Springfield to do something about it this year. We are teaming with the Illinois Sheriffs' Association and the Fraternal Order of Police Labor Council to release a package of propos-als over several weeks that will give our law enforcement the tools and support they need to crack down on criminal behav-ior and help turn lives around.

New grant opportunities will help departments hire and train officers, and to provide mental health and substance abuse counseling for those in prison or recently released. Of-

ficers will have more tools to track violent crime and spot dangerous behavior with high-way cameras. More DNA evi-dence will be collected to ensure fairer trials and convic-tions for serious offenses.

These are complex issues and will take a lot of work to move forward. But I am confi-dent that our Legislature will put public safety as a top pri-ority this spring and can use this package as a good framework to support the dedicated law enforcement officers who keep our communities safe.

I also am working this spring on a major package to ensure millions and millions of dollars in federal aid is spent correctly through Illinois to support broadband expansion in unserved and underserved areas, like our rural communi-ties. Senate Bill 3683 will help us identify the greatest needs and close the digital divide in Illinois to give more families and children the access that so many of us enjoy today.

As we have discussed be-fore, the Illinois Association of Regional Superintendents of Schools and Illinois State Board of Education have helped us understand clearly our crisis with teacher short-ages around the state.

Thousands of teaching posi-tions remain open, schools are finding it harder to find quali-fied teachers and substitutes, and COVID-19's effects are making the problem even worse.

I am pushing ahead with Senate Bill 3893 to provide some relief by increasing the number of days from 90 to 120 that a substitute teacher can cover in classrooms. This will provide some continuity for the short-term teachers and their students while school admin-istrators work on a longer-term solution.

Finally, I continue to work with our agricultural industry partners to expand the use of biodiesel in Illinois through Senate Bill 3596, which will



help our farmers and our envi-ronment.

The legislative session is scheduled to run until April 8 this year. I urge you to contact me anytime I can help: 708-756-0882 or at senatorpatrick.joyce.com/. I will continue to share the latest news on my website, in *The Paper*, and on my Facebook page facebook.com/senPatrickjoyce40/.

Sen. Patrick Joyce
D-Esex
40th State Senate District



DWIGHT ROTARY held its meeting February 23, hosting guest speakers Father Chris Haake, Mrs. Carrie Lovell, and stu-dents from St. Paul Catholic School in Odell.

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CORRECTION

On page 14 of the February 23 edition of *The Paper*, a photo was misidentified. The photo is of Ryan Bohm, candi-date for Livingston County Sheriff, and Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight and current President of Dwight Rotary Club.



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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:

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

B. TIME AND PLACE:

1. Bids for all Work will be received until 11:00 A.M., Friday March 25, 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:

1. 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.
2. 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. Request shall include company name, address, phone number, contact person, and contact e-mail.

D. PRE-BID MEETING:

1. A Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled for 10:00 A.M., Thursday, March 10, 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:

1. Bid security in the amount of ten percent (10%) of the Base Bid amount proposed, must accompany bids.
2. Selected Bidder will be required to provide satisfactory Performance and Payment Bonds covering the full performance of the Contract.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic in Kankakee March 4

A free COVID-19 vaccine clinic is set for noon to 6:00 p.m. at Hippocrates Medical Clinic, 606 E. Court St. in Kankakee, Friday, March 4. First dose vaccinations will be available for children five and up and adults. Booster shots are also available. The Pfizer-BioNTech vac-

cine is authorized and recommended for persons five years of age and older. Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/4tjj6msf to schedule your appointment. Can't make this event? Find a clinic near you by visiting vaccines.gov or call the hotline at 1-833-621-1284.

Area COVID-19 Stats as of February 28

Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases	Deaths
Dwight	25,063	1,164	
Herscher	5,957	509	
Gardner	5,396	481	
Odell	5,700	372	
Mazon	3,849	357	
Braceville	4,024	327	
Essex	2,628	268	
S. Wilmington	2,034	171	
Cullom	3,161	159	
Saunemin	2,600	160	
Reddick	1,951	144	
Verona	1,630	141	
Cabery	1,942	131	
Ransom	1,681	117	
Buckingham	1,456	109	
Kempton	1,688	102	
Emington	1,095	86	
Blackstone	1,171	72	
Kinsman	1,274	46	
Campus	771	29	
Union Hill	258	18	

County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	454,585	28,535	356
LaSalle	458,205	28,533	375
Grundy	145,401	12,479	133
Livingston	231,868	10,589	136
Iroquois	105,296	7,089	111
Ford	71,443	4,375	64

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 3,026,737; Deaths: 32,654; Probable Deaths: 4,138; Total Tests Performed: 54,338,979.

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.



GSWB LADY TIGERS VOLLEYBALL

February 10 and 11 GSWB at IVC Tournament 8th Grade -

The GSWB Lady Tigers traveled to Dwight February 10 and 11 for their IVC Tournament.

GSWB was defeated by Seneca in first round action in a close, three-set match.

The battle for third place was played February 10 against Elwood. Both teams fought hard, as it also went to three sets. This time the Lady Tigers were able to take the win, 18-25, 25-22, 25-22.

Tuesday, February 23 GSWB vs. Reed-Custer 8th Grade -

GSWB came back from a 10-point deficit in their second set to win their Eighth Grade Night match against Reed-Custer February 23.

The Lady Tigers were down 24-16 and were able to battle back as a team and win 26-24.

Maria Campagna served 10 consecutive points to lead them to victory, with great teamwork keeping Maria at the serving line to secure the win.

7th Grade -

The seventh grade Lady Tigers fell to R-C in two sets. "They have been working hard on their serve receive, but struggled with a few Reed-Custer servers," stated Coach Faletti.

The squad tallied nine kills and three aces, collectively.

Morris Hospital Updates Visitor Policy as COVID Cases Continue to Decline

Effective immediately, hospitalized patients at Morris Hospital will be permitted two visitors at a time, age 18 or older. The announcement comes as COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations continue to decline at Morris Hospital and throughout the region.

Inpatients had been limited to one designated patient representative/visitor for the duration of their inpatient since December 22 when COVID hospitalizations at Morris Hospital were at an all-time high. Over the last weekend, Morris Hospital reported having no hospitalized COVID patients for the first time since July 23, 2021.

In order to maintain a safe environment for patients, visitors and staff, everyone entering Morris Hospital or any of its facilities will continue to have their temperature checked, answer screening questions about any current symptoms, and apply hand sanitizer. Masks will continue to be required at all Morris Hospital facilities regardless of vaccine status per Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations for healthcare settings.

Visiting hours for 2 South, 2 East, and the Family Birthing

Suites will remain 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with visiting hours for the ICU remaining 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

In addition to having two visitors at a time during visiting hours, patients in the Family Birthing Suites may have a support person/significant other 24 hours around the clock. Siblings of newborn babies are permitted to visit regardless of their age.

Visitors will continue to be prohibited for hospitalized patients who have tested positive for COVID-19. Special visiting arrangements may be requested for COVID patients age 17 and younger, patients with intellectual and/or developmental disability that impairs understanding, judgment and decision-making, and patients who have reached end of life.

Patients coming to the hospital for outpatient surgery, endoscopy, cath lab and other procedures will continue to be limited to one support person age 18 or older.

As has always been the hospital's visiting policy, anyone currently showing signs of illness should not visit or accompany a patient.

For the full visitor guidelines, go to morrishospital.org/visitors.



MVK LADY MAVERICKS VOLLEYBALL

Monday, February 22 MVK vs. Odell 8th Grade -

MVK took out Odell in three sets February 22, 25-14, 22-25, 25-19.

Rionah Denato (11 points) and Tessa Krull (7 points) had five aces each. Madison DeGrush added six points, with three aces and a kill.

7th Grade -

The seventh grade Lady Mavs were victorious, 25-20, 16-25, 25-18.

Aurora Weber led with 13 points (5 aces) and three kills. Kendall Jones (4 aces, 1 kill) and Audrey Claypool (3 aces, 2 kills) had seven and five points, respectively.

6th Grade -

In the sixth grade meeting, Mazon-Verona-Kinsman won over Odell, 25-21, 25-9.

Brynlee Hunt was high scorer with nine points (5 aces). Brooklyn Sheedy (4 aces) and Addison Kilmer (2 aces) chipped in with six points each. Bailey Kruger came up

with four points (2 aces).

Thursday, February 24 MVK vs. Reed-Custer 8th Grade -

In an eighth grade volleyball match-up February 24, the Lady Mavericks lost to Reed-Custer, 22-25, 19-25.

Tessa Krull (2 aces) and Lexie Buis (2 aces, 2 kills) led with five and four points, respectively. Madison DeGrush provided four points, while Aurora Weber put up three points (1 ace).

7th Grade -

MVK's seventh grade girls fell in three sets to R-C, 25-21, 18-25, 13-25.

Audrey Claypool led the team with 10 points (2 aces) and three kills. Tori Skelton added eight points (3 aces), with Gracie Smith scoring seven points (2 aces), three kills, and three blocks. Aurora Weber (3 aces, 4 blocks, 1 kill), Hayden Pfeifer (2 aces, 2 kills), and Blaire Nevins (2 aces) all scored four points.



DCS LADY REDBIRDS VOLLEYBALL

Tuesday, February 22 Dwight vs. Odell 8th Grade - In eighth grade volleyball

action February 22, Dwight beat Odell, 25-13, 25-14.

Makayla Wahl-Seabert led with 10 aces, four digs, and one kill. Sophie Buck (1 assist, 1 dig) and Sarah Parker (1 assist) added six and five aces, respectively. Taylor Heath had two aces, seven digs, and a kill, with Ryan Bean chipping in with an ace and a dig.

7th Grade -

Dwight's seventh grade girls won over Odell in three sets, 23-25, 25-16, 15-10.

Kit Connor's five aces, two assists, and two digs led the Lady Redbirds. Mikayla Chambers had four aces, nine digs, five kills, and one assist, while Avery Connor added three aces, three digs, and an assist. Delaney Boucher put up two aces, two digs, and one kill, followed by Claire Sandeno (4 digs, 3 kills) and Madlynn Lucus with an ace each. Addy Sulzberger provided three digs.

6th Grade -

The sixth grade Lady Redbirds were victorious over Odell, 25-21, 25-13.

Raegan Brown led with 10 points, including five aces. Callie Robison came up with six points, with Addie Avilez (2 aces), Isabel Hakey, and Addie Taylor (3 aces) tallying four points each. Kaitlyn Todd had three points (1 ace), with Sienna Burke contributing one point.



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OBITUARIES

Candace M. Abry

Candace M. “Candy” Abry, 66, of Odell, Illinois passed away Monday, February 7, 2022, 4:47 p.m., at OSF St. James Hospital in Pontiac.

Her service was Saturday, February 12, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. at Hager Memorial Home in Dwight, with Pastor Victor “Randy” Randle officiating.

Burial: St. Paul Catholic Cemetery, Odell.

Visitation was Friday, February 11, 2022 from 4:00 until 7:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight was in charge of arrangements.

Candace was born March 24, 1955 in Pontiac to Glen E. and Lorna J. (Matzen) Bloxam. Her mother survives in Dwight.

She married Paul Douglas Abry June 19, 1976 in St. Paul Catholic Church, Odell. He survives in Odell.

Also surviving are her sisters, Cindy A. (Frank) Tomac and Cathy L. (Mike) Daniels, both of Dwight; sister-in-law, Deanna Hassinger; nieces and nephews: Erin (Pam O’Connor), Jen (Rick Behrman) Daniels, Sean Tomac, Lisa Heberg, Lori Abry, Leslie



(Bobby) Foster, Andrew (Hannah) Abry, and Joe (Ashley) Hassinger; great-nieces and nephews: Ryan and Shane O’Connor; Brendan and Jordan Heberg; Riley, Keegan and Hannah Foster; Lily and Adeline Abry; and Addison and Leo Hassinger.

She was preceded in death by her father, mother- and father-in-law, Leo and Jean Abry; and brothers-in-law, Dave Abry and Larry Hassinger.

Candace graduated in 1973 from Dwight Township High School. She worked at Coils in Dwight for more than 20 years; County Market for more than 15 years; and VSI in Pontiac.

Her family suggests memorials be made to Livingston County Humane Society or a charity of the donor’s choice.

Candy enjoyed spending time in the kitchen cooking and baking, watching her nieces’ and nephews’ sporting events, and she was always ready for a ride, especially if it was out to eat.

She will be dearly missed by her family and all who knew her.

Pamela J. Swyndro

Pamela J. Swyndro (nee Seabert), age 75, passed away Friday, February 11, 2022.

She is survived by her loving husband of 55 years, Jim; son, Brian; brothers: Larry (Shirley) Seabert, Todd Seabert, and Doug Seabert; sister, Lynne (Bryan) Barber; numerous nieces and nephews; her rescue dog, Katy; and many dear quilting friends.

Pam was preceded in death by her parents, June and Ford Seabert; and her grandparents.

Pam graduated from Dwight Township High School in 1964, and was valedictorian. She received her Associates Degree from Illinois Central College, and worked in the accounting department for the Village of Mokena from 1999 until 2016.

Pam was a member of Peace Lutheran Church in New Lenox. She had a gift for quilting, and was a founding member of the Manhattan-Elwood quilt group. She was also a member of Ryan’s Case for Smiles, and made numerous personal items for those deployed overseas through Operation Care Package. Pam was known to have volunteered her



time serving others at the food pantry in Manhattan.

She loved all the dogs she and Jim had over the years. Pam appreciated the outdoors and visited many places, including Yellowstone. She also enjoyed hiking/backpacking throughout the Carolinas on the Appalachian Trail, the California Pacific Crest Trail, and biking extensively on the Katy Trail in Missouri.

Pam left a lasting impact on those she met throughout her life and will be dearly missed.

Visitation for Pam was Thursday, February 17, 2022 from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Forsythe Gould Funeral Home in Manhattan.

Her funeral service followed at 7:00 p.m.

Private interment took place in Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery the following morning.

In lieu of flowers, memorials in Pam’s name to P.A.W.S. of Tinley Park would be most appreciated.

Arrangements were entrusted to Forsythe Gould Funeral Home, 507 S. State St., Manhattan, IL 60442. 815-478-3321.



Last week, I wrote about the All-Star game being back. And after all that entailed this week, I’m going to dive into my return to the game of basketball.

This is a fairly trivial thing, given the things going on in the world right now, but sometimes you need fairly trivial things to be temporary distractions.

I played a pick-up basketball game(s) for the first time in a gym since pre-COVID, which was, give or take, March of 2020 – depending on who’s scorebook you’re using. I could’ve played prior to now, but just never materialized.

I found the game using a really cool app, which I hope other cities and areas roll out. But as far as I know, this one is specific to the Chicago area, called grab a game, that makes finding pick-up basketball games very easy.

On the return, the first is the legs. The legs go instantly. I workout maybe 4-5 times a week. Usually, mostly weight-lifting with some cardio sprinkled in. Given those factors, it’s pretty easy to see why the legs were instantly on fire. After the initial shock of pain and running around, that kind of went away and just became this constant dull pain. But it’s tolerable.

The next phase was the breathing and overall cardio ability. I had to get through the 2-3 minute stretch where I was questioning if that was going to be it for me on the court. But then that too faded, and I got the breathing regulated and it all felt pretty good.

Then came the actual basketballing – the thing I came to do. I was really hesitant to shoot. I didn’t get any warm-up shots in because I showed up a few minutes late. When I finally took a shot (it was a 2-pointer, we were playing 1s and 2s. If you play in this format, you should basically never shoot a 1 unless it’s a lay-up, because a 2 is worth twice as much. Much larger than the normal 2 to 3 gap.)

Anyway, I shot it. Missed the hoop by feet, not inches. Given I was playing with people I didn’t know, this was tough. They probably assumed I was not good at basketball (which...relatively accurate assessment). I slowly turned the ship around and started hitting some shots. I know they say some things are “like riding a bike”. If basketball is that, then I very much crashed the bike multiple times.

Fun, nonetheless. And good exercise. Go Bulls.

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

Seniors Health Insurance Counselors Available to Assist with Medicare Advantage Plan

The Medicare Advantage Plan (Medicare Part C) open enrollment period is currently underway through March 31. Volunteer counselors from the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) are available by telephone to assist individuals currently enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan who want to switch to a different Medicare Advantage Plan with or without drug coverage or return to Original Medicare and if needed, join a Medicare pre-

scription drug plan.

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period is not for people who already have Original Medicare.

Morris Hospital serves as the sponsor for the local SHIP volunteers. Health insurance counseling is available free of charge for Medicare beneficiaries and their caregivers.

A program of the Illinois Department of Aging, SHIP counselors are volunteers who are certified by Medicare to ed-

ucate consumers and answer questions about Medicare, Medicare supplements, prescription drug plans, and Advantage plans. SHIP is not affiliated with any insurance company, and the counselors do not sell or solicit any type of insurance.

For those who switch Medicare Advantage Plans or go back to Original Medicare with or without a Medicare drug plan, new coverage will start the first day of the month

after the new plan receives the request for coverage. Those who go back to Original Medicare now may not be able to buy a Medicare Supplement Insurance (Medigap) policy.

Individuals interested in scheduling a phone consultation with a SHIP counselor should call Morris Hospital at 815-705-1063 to schedule an appointment, or call Medicare at 800-633-4227. For TTY users, call 877-486-2048.

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Notice of Availability of Audit Report of Verona-Kinsman Fire Protection District

Verona-Kinsman Fire Protection District hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the period May 1, 2020 through April 30, 2021 has been made, and that a report of such audit dated February 7, 2022 has been filed with the County Clerk of Grundy County, in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/.01 et. seq. The full report of the audit is available for public inspection at 504 N. Division Street, Verona, IL 60479. Please contact Dixie Stitt, Treasurer, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at (815) 287-2295.

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NOTICE – SPRING CLEAN-UP

All grave decorations must be removed by March 15th or they will be discarded. Also, during the year all wilted, faded and broken grave decorations will be removed. Garbage will be placed in containers located next to maintenance building. Please do not replace decorations until clean-up is completed.

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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.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs and Case Number are as follows: Community Banc Mortgage Corporation case 2022-FC-3.

2. The court in which said action was brought is as follows: Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois.

3. The name of the title holder of record is: Thomas W. Seggerman.

4. 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.

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

927 E. Washington St., Pontiac, Illinois

6. 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

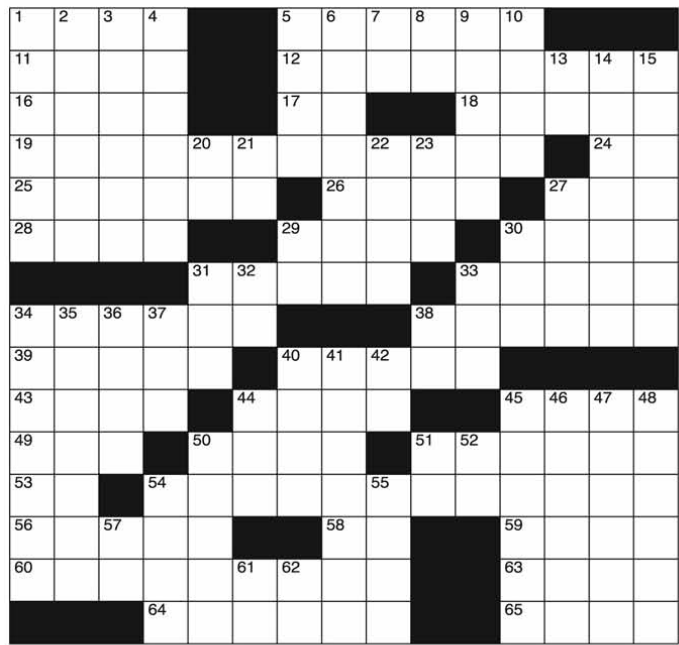
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Recording document identification: Document number: 505636

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CLUES ACROSS

1. Remain as is

5. Functional

11. News magazine

12. Popular treat

16. Area units

17. Artificial intelligence

18. Marten valued for its fur

19. Forms of matter

24. Home of the Dodgers

25. Bordering

26. Part of the eye

27. It might be nervous

28. Visualizes

29. Crest of a hill

30. Measures engine speed (abbr.)

31. Tears in a garment (Br. Eng.)

33. Not easily explained

34. Song in short stanzas
38. Detonations

39. Intestinal

40. EU cofounder Paul-Henri ____

43. Balmy

44. New Mexico mountain town

45. Gobblers

49. Insecticide

50. Golf scores

51. Has its own altar

53. “Pollock” actor Harris

54. Being livable

56. NHL play-by-play man

58. “The Great Lakes State” (abbr.)

59. Unpainted

60. Swam underwater

63. Native American people

64. Containing salt

65. Exam

CLUES DOWN

1. Small bone in middle ear

2. Long, angry speech

3. Move out of

4. Male organ

5. Two-toed sloth

6. Making dirty

7. Article

8. Oil company

9. Emits coherent radiation

10. Amounts of time

13. Unit equal to one quintillion bytes (abbr.)

14. Forbidden by law

15. Drains away

20. Not out

21. Sea patrol (abbr.)

22. Bird genus

23. Gratuity

27. ____ and feathers

29. Spiritual part of an individual (ancient Egypt)

30. Hot beverage

31. Pouch
32. It followed the cassette

33. Large northern deer

34. Ones who offer formally

35. Famed genie

36. Bequeathed

37. Skeletal muscle

38. Atomic #56

40. Silk garment

41. They deliver the mail

42. Equally

44. Check

45. Light-colored breed of hound

46. Drug that soothes

47. Railroads

48. Most slick

50. Jacket

51. A radio band

52. Hello

54. His and ____

55. Supporter

57. Popular software suite (abbr.)

61. Railway

62. NY coastal region (abbr.)



Four Tips for Finding the Right Wedding Venue



Wedding planning requires couples to make many decisions, including where the wedding will take place. A couple’s wedding day is typically broken into two parts: the ceremony comes first, and the reception follows soon after. Depending on couples’ preferences and religious beliefs, ceremonies may take place at a house of worship or another location that is separate from the reception venue. In some instances, couples may choose one location for both the ceremony and the party to follow. Wedding venues are

where the bulk of the day will unfold, and couples can consider these four tips to find a venue that suits their needs. **1. Consider your theme and wedding style.** Most couples know which sentiments they want to convey during their weddings. The venue should match the theme so the entire wedding will feel connected to the space. A modern wedding, for example, will be at home in an art gallery or warehouse. A wedding with natural elements may work better on a ranch or in a botanical garden. Zeroing in on the wedding style helps

narrow down potential venue options. **2. Assess the budget.** A couple may find what seems to be the perfect venue, only to realize that the cost of the space doesn’t fit their budget. Amper-sand Travel says the venue accounts for the most significant wedding expense, at an average cost of \$9,000. Finding a venue that will maximize dollars spent involves looking at what is included. Rentals for chairs, linens, lighting, a dance floor, and other extras can quickly add up. Couples should have a set limit they’re willing to

spend on the venue and let that dictate the location. **3. Availability of the location.** When a couple wants to get married may determine their venue options, especially if they’re planning on a budget. September and October are now the most popular months to get married, so venues will book up quickly during that time of year. Those who have their hearts set on specific days will have to begin the search earlier than couples with no attachment to a particular date. Concessions may need to be made if a certain date is a must. **4. Estimate the size of your guest list.** Price, date and style will factor into wedding venues, but the number of guests also is a major consideration. A trendy restaurant may seem like the perfect locale, but it must be able to accommodate everyone on the guest list. Couples should sit down with their families and come up with a list of potential guests and look for a venue that can accommodate everyone. Couples also should visit potential venues in person to see which, if any, details might be missing from online or magazine advertisements. A host of factors, including accessibility, should be considered when looking for a venue. Finding the right venue requires careful consideration of various factors that are unique to each couple.



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Picture Perfect Wedding Day Photography Tips



Timeline Tips: Factors to Consider When Planning Your Wedding Day Timeline

A wedding day is not a time for the bride or groom to try a dramatic new style, according to photographer Amanda Lamb. Resist the urge for a daring cut or color. It's also likely

Prepare wedding details, like gowns, shoes, accessories, etc., in advance to save time once the photographer arrives, suggests Desi Mendoza, a pro from Dez and Tam Photography. Invest in a beautiful hanger for the wedding gown as well, because you may want to photograph that on its own.

Photos will capture wedding day memories forever. Couples can put themselves in the best positions for success by following some photography guidelines.

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Couples can access wedding day timeline templates on various websites. But it's important that couples remember that their weddings are unique, so online guidelines might not be realistic. A careful consideration of a handful of variables specific to couples' weddings can help them craft timelines that make their big day go smoothly.

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Rev. John F. Mueller, Pastor
Sunday Worship, 9 a.m.
with Livestream on their
Facebook page.
Wednesday Evening Devotions, 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church
401 N. Clinton St.
815-584-3182
**Home of Dwight's
Christian Radio Station
WGVD 97.3 FM**
Pastor Dan Woodward
Wednesday Evening Service & King's Kids Children's Program, 7 p.m.
Sunday School for All Ages, 9:45 a.m.; Sunday Morning Service, 10:45 a.m.; Sunday Evening Service, 6 p.m.

**First
Congregational
United Church of
Christ**
200 W. Delaware St.
584-1260 church
Rev. Grant Speece
Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.
MAR. 2: Ash Wednesday (7 p.m. service); Psalm 51:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; "A Season for Repentance" (If the Governor has relaxed mask restrictions, the service will include the imposition of ashes.)
MAR. 6: Communion Sunday; Deuteronomy 26:1-11; Romans 10:8-13; Luke 4:1-13: "The First Fruits"

**New Life
Assembly of God**
903 S. Old Route 66
Victor J. Randle Jr., Pastor

**St. Patrick Catholic
Church**
Mazon Ave. at Prairie
815-584-3522 Office
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**St. Peter's
Lutheran Church**
326 W. Chippewa St.
815-584-1199
Pastor James Reents
(309) 530-7824
Pastor Dave Castner
(970) 290-1268
Sunday Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.

**Trinity Lutheran
Church "Goodfarm"
LCMS**
515 E. Stonewall Rd.
Rev. William Mitschke
815-725-1341

BRACEVILLE
**Braceville United
Methodist Church**
106 W. Goold St.
815-237-8512 Church
815-483-9343 Cell
bracevilleumc.com
Pastor Donald Batz
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

CABERY
**Cabery United
Methodist Church**
Ames & Chester
815-949-1681
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell

CULLOM
**St. John's
Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
NALC
511 W. Jackson
815-689-2120
st.johns@frontiernet.net
Pastor: Gabriel Baumgardner
Sunday School, 9 a.m.; Worship, 10 a.m.

**Cullom United
Methodist Church**
103 E. Van Alstyne St.
815-689-2484
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell

ESSEX
**Essex United
Methodist Church**
114 Waverly St.

GARDNER
**Church of Hope
Presbyterian Church
(USA)**
202 N. Monroe
P.O. Box 248
Janet Chandler, Pastor
Office hours:
T-W, 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
815-237-8312
ChurchofHope@sbcglobal.net

**United Lutheran
Church ELCA**
309 E. Jefferson St.
815-237-2227
pastorluc@att.net
Pastor Greg Olson

HERSCHER
**Trinity Lutheran
Church LCMS**
255 E. Third St.
P.O. Box 414
815-426-2262
email: trinityher1@comcast.net
Rev. Eric J. Brown, Pastor

**St. Margaret Mary
Catholic Church**
Main Street
Fr. Ron Neitzke
815-426-2153

**Herscher United
Methodist Church**
274 N. Elm Street
Phone: 815-426-6169
Pastor Kevin Boesen

**Herscher Christian
Church**
30 Tobey Drive
Pastor Sam Stow
Office Hours: Tue.-Fri.
8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
815-426-2908
Staff e-mail:
life@herschercatholic.com
herschercatholic.com
On Facebook;
Herscher Christian Church

KEMPTON
**Kempton United
Methodist Church**
305 Main Street
815-253-6373
Pastor John Lyons
815-257-5751 cell

**Kempton Church
of the Nazarene**
105 E. Main St.
815-253-6250
Rev. John A. Mohler, Pastor

KINSMAN
**Sacred Heart Catholic
Church**
219 W. Emmett Street
Rev. Stanley Drenniak,
svkrcatholics.org

MAZON
**Mazon United
Methodist Church**
509 7th Street
815-448-5677 Church
815-483-9343 Cell
mazonmethodist.com
Pastor Donald Batz
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

**Park Street
Congregational
United Church of
Christ**
806 Park Street
Pastor Tyler Carrell
Phone 448-5514

ODELL
**St. Paul Catholic
Church**
200 S. West St.
Father Chris Haake, Pastor

**United Methodist
Church**
109 N. Morgan Street
Phone 815-998-2271
Rev. Janceen Tronc

RANSOM
**St. Patrick Catholic
Church**
110 Wallace Street
Pastor, Fr. Alexander Millar; Parochial Vicar, Fr. Ghislain Inai, SMA; Deacon Ron Wackerlin
Sunday Mass: 7:30 a.m.
Parish Office: 815-795-2240 (Marseilles)
Email: parishgroup3@gmail.com
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**Ransom United
Methodist Church**
*Worship Service
Sunday 10 a.m. and live
on Facebook*
102 E. Plumb St.
Phone: 815-587-0488
email:
RansomUMC@gmail.com
Pastor Andrew King
Pastor cell: 815-257-4485

REDDICK
**Reddick United
Methodist Church**
35900 E 3200 N Road
Pastor Kevin Boesen
815-426-6169

**Zoar Community
Church**
18172 W. Route 17
P.O. Box 87
Reddick, IL 60961
Pastor Andrea Boggs
Email: Zoarcommunity@yahoo.com
Zoarcommunitychurch.com
Sunday School: 9 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.
Sunday Evening Connect with God Service: 5 p.m.
Sunday Supper Connect with Others: 6 p.m.

**St. Mary's Catholic
Church**
216 E. Lincoln Street
Rev. Stanley Drenniak
815-237-2230
svkrcatholics.org

SAUNEMIN
**Saunemin United
Methodist Church**
90 North Street
815-832-4935
Pastor Jane Bradford

**SOUTH
WILMINGTON**
**South Wilmington
United
Methodist Church**
225 Rice Street
Pastor Kevin Boesen
815-426-6169

**St. Lawrence
Catholic Church**
135 Rice Street
Rev. Stanley Drenniak
815-237-2230
svkrcatholics.org

VERONA
**Verona United
Methodist Church**
*The Wayside Chapel
with a Warm Heart*
433 Anne St.
Phone: 815-287-2491
Pastor Andrew King
Pastor cell: 815-257-4485

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Flying High

A Little Bit About Flag Etiquette

by Brandon LaChance

When Betsy Ross sewed the first flag for the United States of America in the 1770s, it instantly became a symbol of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

The red, white, and blue still means the same today as the flag has become a main symbol of our country.

Across the nation the flag is honored, celebrated and has its own etiquette pertaining to how it's treated, how it's represented, what it stands for, and proper procedures during ceremonies such as Memorial Day, funerals, and Veterans Day.

Dwight VFW Post 2608 makes sure it adheres to all of them.

"On Memorial Day we have a celebration at the VFW and we'll do a 21-gun salute," Dwight VFW Quarter Master Randy Provence said. "We try to have a guest speaker. We do it again on Veterans Day, November 11.

"We make sure we follow all of the National Days for all of the flag rituals. Irv Daniels (a member of the VFW Board and the bar manager) gets the information and lowers the flags on the appropriate days. We have the U.S. flag and we have the POW (Prisoners of War) flag."

The flag should be flown on New Year's Day (Jan. 1), Inauguration Day (Jan. 25, every four years), Abraham Lincoln's Birthday (Feb. 12), George Washington's Birthday (third Monday in Feb.), Easter Sunday, Mother's Day (second Sunday in May), Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May), Memorial Day (last Monday in

May), Flag Day (June 14), Father's Day (third Sunday in June), Independence Day (July 4), Labor Day (first Monday in Sept.), Constitution Day (Sept. 17), Columbus Day (second Monday in October), Navy Day (Oct. 27), Veterans Day (Nov. 11), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday in Nov.), Christmas Day (Dec. 25), and the birthday for each individual state.

Provence, who has been active with Post 2608 for 16 years, orders new flags for Daniels as the VFW always has flags for its own use and to sell to the public.

"We have an Honor Guard. It's made up of members of the VFW and the American Legion," said Provence. "What we do is, when a veteran dies, if the family requests the memorial, we will go to the cemetery and do the 21-gun salute for the fallen veteran.

"The other thing that we do is if people have a flag they want to get rid of, other than throw it in the trash, the proper etiquette is to burn it. People bring the flags in. Irv will hold on to them until there are several and then he'll burn them. He has a burn barrel that he uses."

The VFW, which is named after WWI veteran Albert Tunberg and is led by Commander Gary Gillespie, tries to involve other groups and organizations as well.

"On Memorial Day, a group of American Legion veterans and VFW veterans, and in the past we've been able to get one of the Boy Scout troops to help us, put up flags at cemeteries in the area," Provence said. "We have a grave marker that reads

U.S. Veteran. It also has a holder where we will put a small flag in the grave marker. "If you drive by the cemetery on Memorial Day, you can see all of the flags for all of the veterans."

The VFW also folds the U.S. Flag during veteran funerals as a description of every flag is read during the folding and then the flag is distributed to the veteran's family.

The first fold symbolizes life. The second is for the belief in eternal life. The third is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks.

The fourth fold represents our weaker nature as American citizens trusting in God. The fifth is in tribute to our country. The sixth is for where our hearts lie as we pledge allegiance to the flag.

Our armed forces is paid tribute with the seventh fold. The eighth is for the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death.

Womanhood is celebrated with the ninth fold, while the 10th fold is for the fathers. The 11th fold represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

The 12th fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.

The final fold, which has the stars uppermost, reminds us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

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



I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America
And to the Republic for which it stands
One nation, under God
Indivisible with liberty and justice for all

Childress Retires — — —

(Continued from page 1)
and hopefully do some good things."

In a press release sent by Livingston County, the sheriff vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by appointment of the Chair of the County Board, with the advice and consent of the County Board.

The appointed individual shall be someone from the

same political party (Republican), shall be a registered voter in Livingston County and shall serve through Nov. 30.

The vacated position shall be filled by election in the primary election on June 28 and the general election on Nov. 8.

The chairman will announce the appointment at the March 17 County Board Meeting.

Anyone interested in applying for this appointment are asked to submit a letter of interest to County Board Chairperson Kathy Arbogast no later than March 7.

The letter of interest can be sent to:

Kathy Arbogast, Chairperson
112 W. Madison Street
Pontiac, IL 61764

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