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Volume 24 • Number 11

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Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Uniting Ukraine



BURTON GESTNER LED THE "UNITING UKRAINE" special church service on Sunday, March 13 at New Life Church in Dwight. Gestner chose five songs for all goers to sing between scripture and prayers from five different speakers including Pastor Randy (Victor Randle), Rev. Grant Speece, Paul Dyer, Bonnie Randle, and Catrina Canady.

by Brandon LaChance

The war Russia and the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, has engaged with Ukraine has affected the world, not just Europe.

Cities, towns, and villages across the United States have spent many hours over the last

week thinking, talking, and studying the world matter. This of course leads to trying to figure out ways to help in any way possible.

New Life Church in Dwight and pastors from other churches in Dwight aided the way they know best on Sunday, March 13, as prayer and song

were dedicated to Ukraine with a special service called "Uniting Ukraine".

"I really felt moved to do this. I really feel for Ukraine and the things that are going on over there," said Burton Gestner, who led the service with songs on his guitar. "I just felt like I needed to be here. My

son left to fly back to North Carolina before the service. I was supposed to drive him to the airport. I decided my wife could take him because this was a little more important because someone had to be here to lead the worship.

"I decided to do this today; that's how important it is to me.

We needed to draw attention to it, make awareness of it, and to get people thinking about it."

The service, which had 20 viewers and participants, had five speakers as New Life Church's Pastor Randy (Victor Randle) began and ended the gathering with scriptures and prayer.

Grant Speece, Pastor of First Congregational Church, New Life Church member Paul Dyer, Bonnie Randle (Pastor Randy's wife), and Dwight resident Catrina Canady shared their thoughts and led prayers throughout the service.

Between each speaker, (continued to page 3)

DTHS BOE Looks To Fix Heat Problems

by Mark Boma

The Dwight High School Board of Education met Wednesday, March 9, at 6:00 p.m.

Casey Pullem, representative from A & R Mechanical Contractors, was on hand to discuss ongoing problems with the heating sys-

tem in the High School building. There were many times during the current heating season that areas of the building were not sufficiently warmed. It's been determined the current heat pump system does not have enough capacity to meet necessary output when the temperature falls below 30 degrees. The two attic units heat only a portion of the building and are only able to create about half the necessary yield. The heating units were installed in the attic with the concept they would be able to gain efficiency from that location, but that has not been realized. This has resulted in cold sections of the school as well as the units being overworked and falling into disrepair.

A & R did not design the current heat pump system, although they installed and have been servicing it.

The Board discussed options which included replacement and upgrade. It was decided the first step would be to request an engineering study proposal from A & R. If that was approved, costs for options could be considered and potentially put out for bid. The intent is to have problems corrected before next winter. The study proposal would be addressed at a Special Board Meeting on March 30.

Principal Andy Pittenger reported that enrollment had dropped by four, down to a total of 220. Winter Ball had been held on February 26 and the Spring Musical was on March 4, 5, and 6. The annual Booster Bash was on March 12 and Spring Break will be March 21 through March 25.

Dillon Sarff was recognized for his second place finish in the IHSA State Wrestling Tournament.

In the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Jancek informed the Board that a new Driver's Education vehicle would need to be purchased

and that a 2020 Ford Explorer from DeLong Ford had been identified at an approximate cost of \$37,000.

Jancek also told the Board that he would be submitting for a bilingual teacher's license grant that would reimburse tuition for any teacher interested in obtaining certification. In addition, Jancek had received notice from Livingston County State's Attorney Randy Yedinak that the individual responsible for damage to school grounds would be in court April 13. Restitution of \$1,490 was expected.

The Board had discussion regarding an incident at the High School Musical. It was reported that one of the performers made an inappropriate and offensive comment while on stage during the Sunday matinee. The person involved was a last minute fill-in and was not a DTHS student or graduate. Jancek stated the administration was gathering more details but hoped the incident did not overshadow the great talent displayed by the DTHS Fine Arts students.

Consent agenda items were approved which affirmed Dan Edwards as Volunteer Track Coach and the resignation of Stephanie Flott as Class Sponsor. An update was given on the Blue Sky Solar Project which included projections on property tax estimates spread across its 35 year life span. Construction is now estimated to complete September of 2024 with a commitment to begin delivering power by the end of 2024.

Graduation ceremonies will be held Friday, May 27, and will once again be held outside, weather permitting. There were no speakers during Public Comments.

Present were Max Sulzberger, Paul Warner, Kevin Berta, Eric Scheuer, and Joel Sandeno. Tim Henson and Susan Legner were absent.

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FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police
March 4: Sarah E. Storcz, DL expired more than a year; Jason C. Smith, driving 21-25 MPH above limit.
March 7: Jessica R. Dzwonkoski, pass school bus loading/unloading; Matthew A. Compton, passing school bus loading/unloading.

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

5 Written Warnings
Speeding – 3; Fail to Yield from Private Drive – 1; Expired Registration Sticker – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter
Traffic Stop – 11; Medical Aid – 8; Assist Agency – 5; Miscellaneous – 4; Burglar Alarm – 5; Return Call – 8; Unknown Problem – 1; Transient – 2; Loose Dog – 1; Check Vehicle – 1; Reckless Driver – 1; Domestic Physical – 1; Structure Fire – 1; Check Area – 1; Lockout – 5; 911 Open Line – 1; Loud Music – 1; Stop Arm Violation – 2; Dog Bite – 1; Subject Removal – 1.

US Marshals from LaSalle Cty., IDOC Members Assist in Arrest

Sheriff Adam Diss reports on March 11, members of the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force from the LaSalle County Sheriff's Office and Illinois Department of Corrections arrested Austin Rodriguez (23-years old) at a residence in Ottawa on an outstanding Illi-



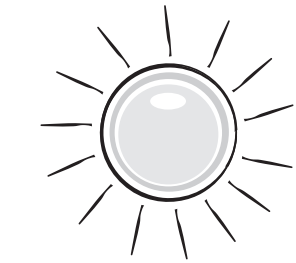
Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS
March 3: Prairie, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Mazon, trauma, Morris; Morris, medical, Morris; Watters, medical, Morris; John, medical, Morris.
March 4: Main St., medical; Northbrook, medical, St. James; Front, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell.
March 5: Julie, trauma; Delaware, trauma, Morris; Grand Ridge, fire, mutual aid to Verona; Northbrook, medical; John, medical, Morris; De Witt, fire, mutual aid to Coal City.
March 6: 2600 Rd., fire; Prairie, trauma, Morris; I-55, trauma, mutual aid to Gardner.
March 7: Prairie, medical, Morris; Spencer, medical, St. James, mutual aid from Pontiac; 2600, fire.
March 8: Julie, trauma; Mazon, medical, Morris; John, medical, Morris.
March 9: South, medical, St. James; Sunset, medical, Morris; James, trauma, refusal.
March 10: Franklin, medical, Morris.

nois Department of Corrections warrant for a Parole Violation. The violation was a result of a domestic violence arrest in January 2022 by the Ottawa Police Department. Rodriguez was transported to the LaSalle County Jail and is being held with no bond.

Free Food to Be Distributed March 23

Free food will be distributed to qualifying households in Dwight Township Wednesday, March 23, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.

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



Temps - 2022
Mar. 3 – high 35°, low 24°
Mar. 4 – high 44°, low 26°
Mar. 5 – high 70°, low 36°
.02” precip.
Mar. 6 – high 43°, low 30°
.39” precip.
Mar. 7 – high 34°, low 22°
Mar. 8 – high 40°, low 23°
Mar. 9 – high 42°, low 22°
One Year Ago – Mar. 16, 2021
high 60°, low 31°



Dwight Fire Incidents 3/4 - 3/11

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:
March 4: Mutual Aid to Verona; Mutual Aid to Coal City.
March 6: Structure Fire – Rural Dwight; Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55.
March 9: Mutual Aid to Morris.
March 10: Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55; Smoke Scare/Smell of Smoke – East Mazon Ave.; Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55; Mutual Aid to Gardner.
March 11: Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55.
Dwight FPD also responded to 14 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

Mobile Food Pantry in S. Wilmington March 21

On Monday, March 21, 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

Dwight House Fire Update; Donations Accepted at SOCU

After suffering injuries during a house fire on March 6, James Beier was cleared and released from the hospital this past week.

Beier is receiving help as he is in a hotel room – permanent living arrangements are being sought – and Dwight Police Chief Mike Nolan and Tim Henson set up an account at Streator Onized Credit Union for donations to help the Dwight resident in his time of need.
The home located on Dwight Road outside of town has been labeled a total loss.

Hines VA Outreach Team in Gardner March 21

The Edward Hines Jr. VA Medical Center Outreach Team, along with the Grundy County Veterans Assistance Commission, will continue their outreach visits at the South Resource Center of the Community Foundation of Grundy County at 229 Liberty Street, Gardner, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 21.
The outreach team and the VAC staff are there to educate and assist veterans with a variety of US Department of Veterans Affairs benefits, along with veterans benefits available

from other agencies. 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. You may be eligible for VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service and didn't receive a dishonorable discharge. If you

enlisted after September 7, 1980, or entered active duty after October 16, 1981, you must have served 24 continuous months or the full period for which you were called to active duty. There are other conditions under which you might be eligible, attending these outreach events will allow you to discuss your situation with the enrollment coordinator directly.

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

Storm Season Around the Corner

In Illinois, we could be enjoying beautiful sunny skies, and the next moment, experience thunderstorms and a deluge of torrential rain. While the variable weather is second nature to many of us, it is important to not become complacent about the severe weather threats that exist in Illinois. With spring storm season fast approaching, the Livingston County Health Department (LCHD) is reminding everyone to plan and prepare for the dangers of hazardous weather. Here are some simple, but important, actions you can take to keep your family safe:
• Update your family communications plan. Cell phone service and electricity may not be reliable during an emergency, so the entire family should have a plan for how to reach one another.
• Make a severe weather preparedness plan. Identify your safe place to go during a storm. Designate a person outside of the area that everyone may be able to reach as a single point of contact.
• Build an emergency preparedness kit. In addition to items like nonperishable foods and

water, be sure to include personal care items, extra medications, copies of important documents, food/meds for pets, portable phone charger, or anything else you may need in case of an emergency.
• Know the various weather watches/warnings/advisories. Be sure to have a weather radio on-hand, with extra batteries if necessary.
Watch – Conditions are favorable or expecting, but not occurring or imminent.
• In a Tornado Watch, this DOES NOT mean a tornado has been seen or even indicated by radar...it just means that conditions are favorable for the formation of tornadoes in thunderstorms.
• A Severe Thunderstorm Watch means that conditions are just conducive for the development of severe weather, and DOES NOT indicate that severe weather has been reported. While no immediate action on the part of the general public is required for the issuance of a watch, citizens should keep up to date on the current weather situation and be prepared to seek shelter if necessary.

Warning
• A Severe Thunderstorm Warning indicates that severe weather is imminent in your area or is already occurring (based on either human observation or doppler radar). The term severe refers to hail greater than or equal to 1.00” in diameter and/or wind gusts that meet or exceed 58 mph. Although these storms can also be associated with dangerous cloud to ground lightning or heavy rainfall that is capable of causing flash flooding, neither of these two items serve as criteria for a severe thunderstorm warning being issued.
• A Tornado Warning can be thought of as a very specific severe thunderstorm warning, and means that a tornado has been either spotted by a human observer or indicated by doppler radar. Similar to a severe thunderstorm warning, once a tornado warning is issued for your area, you should take cover immediately...as the likelihood of you being directly impacted by a tornado is at a heightened risk.
More information, including helpful resources, can be found at www.ready.gov.

Driver's License, ID Card Expiration Dates Extended Until July 31

Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White has announced that expiration dates for driver's licenses, ID cards and learner's permits are being extended until July 31, 2022. The previous extension was set to end on March 31, 2022. As a result, expired driver's licenses, ID cards and learner's permits will remain valid until July 31,

2022, so customers do not need to rush into Driver Services facilities, especially during inclement weather. This extension does not apply to commercial driver's licenses (CDL) and CDL learner's permits.
White's office has expanded online renewals for expired driver's licenses and ID cards and continues to mail letters to eligible customers. The letter provides driver's license and ID card holders with a unique PIN needed to renew online instead of visiting a facility and waiting in line. Customers may call 217-785-1424 to confirm their eligibility for online renewal or to obtain their PIN.
Customers who must visit a facility include first-time driver's license or ID card applicants, first-time REAL ID

applicants, and drivers ages 75 and older who are required by state law to visit a facility when renewing their license.
White continues to encourage people to conduct other business online at ilsos.gov. In addition to driver's license and ID card renewals for those who qualify, online services include obtaining a duplicate driver's license or ID card, ordering a driver record and purchasing license plate stickers.
White noted his office is also extending the expiration dates of Restricted Driving Permits (RDPs) to July 31, 2022, for those that expired on or after December 1, 2021, through July 30, 2022.
As a reminder, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has extended the federal REAL ID deadline to May 3, 2023.

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Use Your Financial Strategy Like GPS

When you're driving these days, it's pretty hard to get lost because your smartphone's Global Positioning System (GPS) can get you just about anywhere. And as an investor, you can have a similar experience by employing another directional tool – a personalized financial strategy.
Let's look at the parallels between your GPS and this type of strategy.
To begin with, your GPS pinpoints your exact location at the start of your trip – in other words, it tells you where you are. And when you create a financial strategy, your first step is to evaluate your current situation by answering these types of questions: What are your assets? How much do you earn? How much do you owe? How much are you contributing to your IRA, 401(k) or other retirement accounts? Once you've got a clear picture of your finances, you'll be ready to begin your journey toward your long-term goals.
Once your GPS has identified your starting point, it will then show you where you want to go and the routes to help you get there. And it's the same with your financial strategy – you want it to help lead you to a particular place in your life. In fact, a well-designed strategy can show you the steps you need to take to help reach more than one destination – to a place where you can send your children to college, a place where you can retire comfortably, a place where you can leave the type of legacy you want, and so on.
Here's another element of your GPS that applies to your financial strategy – the warnings. You're certainly familiar with those thick red lines your GPS shows to indicate traffic slowdowns ahead. And while they're annoying, they're also useful in cautioning you that you may arrive at your destination later than you had originally planned. Your financial strategy can also express "warnings" about events that could hinder you from reaching your goals. These obstacles might include an illness or disability that could keep you out of work for a while, or the need for some type of long-term care, such as a nursing home stay or the services of a home health aide. Your financial strategy can not only identify these threats, but with the guidance of a financial professional, suggest potential solutions.
In addition to providing warnings about things such as heavy traffic and road construction, your GPS can change your route if you miss a turn or if you decide, for whatever reason, to go a slightly different way. Your financial strategy can also show you alternatives, if it's comprehensive and overseen by a financial professional, who, using specialized software, can create hypotheticals – illustrations that provide alternative outcomes for different steps, such as retiring at various ages, investing different amounts each year or earning different rates of return. These hypotheticals can be quite helpful to you as you chart your course toward your goals, especially if you need to change your plans along the way.
Your GPS and your financial strategy are two great tools for helping get you where you want to go.
This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.
Edward Jones, Member SIPC

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Vermilion Valley ETSB Meetings March 16

A meeting of the Vermilion Valley RECJA/ETSB Finance Committee is set for 10:00 a.m. Wednesday, March 16, in the Public Safety Complex, 911 Training Room (downstairs), 844 W. Lincoln St. in Pontiac.

In addition, there will be a regular meeting of the Vermilion Valley Regional ETSB at 11:00 a.m. at the same location.

The next regular meeting of the Vermilion Valley ETSB is slated for Wednesday, April 20, at the same time and place.

Handcrafted Paintings Bring Hope to Cancer Patients at Morris Hospital



SHERAH STICE, Morris Hospital Radiation Therapist, was one of the artists behind the new Tree of Hope at the Radiation Therapy Center of Morris Hospital.

From welcome gift bags, to bouquets of daffodils, to graduation ceremonies on the last day of treatment, the staff in the Radiation Therapy Center of Morris Hospital is always coming up with unique ways to help support and encourage patients who are undergoing cancer treatment. The latest touch is the addition of three canvas paintings of trees that are now on display in a hallway that leads patients to the room where they undergo daily radiation treatment over a period of several weeks. The paintings were handcrafted by staff from the Morris Hospital Radiation Therapy Center.

While the largest painting may seem stark in comparison to the other two that are vibrant with colorful leaves, that will change over time as patients are invited to add an impression of their thumbprint on a tree branch after completing their last treatment. The staff is calling it the Tree of Hope.

“So far, the patients have been really excited to be part of the Tree of Hope,” says Sherah Stice, Morris Hospital Radiation Therapist and the artist be-

hind two of the paintings. “Cancer treatment is a long journey. We are always doing what we can to encourage our patients along the way,” she says, adding that patients are invited to date and initial their thumbprint if they choose.

The Radiation Therapy staff wanted to put their permanent mark on the Tree of Hope as well, so each of them added impressions of their thumbprints that were then turned into butterflies.

Located at 1600 W. US Route 6 in Morris, the Radiation Therapy Center of Morris Hospital provides cancer treatment using advanced radiotherapy technology that integrates imaging and radiation delivery to treat cancer with speed and accuracy. The Morris Hospital cancer program is accredited by The Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons, an indication that Morris Hospital has voluntarily committed to providing the highest level of quality cancer care and has undergone a rigorous evaluation process and review of performance.

Area COVID-19 Stats as of March 14

Town	Total Tests Performed	Cases	Deaths
Dwight	25,461	1,179	359
Herschler	6,074	512	379
Gardner	5,496	488	135
Odell	5,866	376	137
Mazon	3,932	362	111
Braceville	4,097	329	64
Essex	2,666	268	
S. Wilmington	2,090	171	
Saunemin	2,653	160	
Cullom	3,218	159	
Reddick	1,972	145	
Verona	1,659	141	
Cabery	1,965	132	
Ransom	1,729	119	
Buckingham	1,483	109	
Kempton	1,729	102	
Emington	1,108	86	
Blackstone	1,214	72	
Kinsman	1,323	45	
Campus	778	29	
Union Hill	269	19	
County	Tested	Cases	Deaths
Kankakee	462,514	28,662	359
LaSalle	471,010	28,709	379
Grundy	148,084	12,551	135
Livingston	236,693	10,650	137
Iroquois	107,738	7,116	111
Ford	73,077	4,386	64

Illinois - Confirmed Cases: 3,045,718; Deaths: 33,075; Probable Deaths: 4,235; Total Tests Performed: 55,731,994.

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.



Uniting Ukraine — — —

(continued from page 1) Gestner began a new song. The five songs he chose were “Overcome”, “He Reigns”, “You Never Let Go”, “Our God”, and “Living Hope”.

“A lot of them were about how God helps us and how he is there for us in times of trouble,” said Gestner, who has played music at the church for 18 years. “He always has us, he never lets us go. I felt those were good, supportive songs that people could get behind and understand that God is here for them through all the stuff.”

“Uniting Ukraine” was put together to help spread the word of peace and stop war. It was also made to help share sympathy for the people of Ukraine and other countries in Europe as there was a bomb

sighted just outside of Poland. Donations were taken that will be dispersed to organizations set up to aid Ukraine.

The service was moving to all as tears and emotions were shed to those who have lost their lives, lost their loves, and to those who have had their lives turned upside down in the worst way.

“This service means the world to me,” said congregational member Karl Kemper. “God is our lord and savior and we need to reach out to him in times of need. We have to pray for each other because he shares his love to people through us.”

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

Grundy County COVID-19 Update

The Grundy County Health Department has COVID-19 vaccines available for homebound residents in Grundy County. If you or a loved one are homebound and are still in need of a COVID vaccine, call their office at 815-941-3404 for more information on this service.

COVID-19 vaccines for persons 12 years and older are still available at the Health Department by appointment only

on Tuesdays and Thursdays. If you would like to make an appointment, call their front desk at 815-941-3404 to schedule. All vaccines will be available while supplies last.

Local pharmacies continue to have pediatric and adult vaccine available, and residents may consider visiting clinics in neighboring counties as clinics are intended to be available for any Illinois resident.



Easter Egg Hunt at Heritage Health April 2

Heritage Health in Dwight is holding an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 2, at 2:00 p.m. (sharp!), with a special appearance by the Easter Bunny.

The Hunt will be held in front of the Heritage Health building. Designated age groups will be posted, and participants are asked to take their own bag.

Heritage Health is accepting individually wrapped candy donations through Tuesday, March 29. Donations can be dropped off in the reception office.

GLO BINGO Returns to Kankakee April 8

Back by popular demand, Clove Alliance’s GLO BINGO is coming back bigger and better.

They expect a sell-out crowd at GLO BINGO Friday, April 8, at the Expo Center (Kankakee Fairgrounds), 213 W. 4000 Rd. S., Kankakee.

This is not your Grandma’s BINGO, but it’s a special 18-years and older night of high energy, loud music, black lights, and tons of fun.

The doors open at 5:30 p.m. (open seating) and BINGO starts at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar and food will be available for

purchase. This is a cash-only event. Individual tickets can be purchased online at clovealliance.square.site, which includes six BINGO cards per game, a glow hat, and a BINGO dauber. Tickets for a reserved table of six are also available.

Every ticket sale helps provide the necessary resources to the survivors they serve. If you are not already familiar with the cause, mission, and upcoming events, visit their website, clovealliance.org, or contact their office at 815-932-7273.



Treats & Eats



Queen of Hearts RAFFLE

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‘I slept with my Medal’

Former Dwight Hooper Helps Yorkville Christian Win a State Title

by Brandon LaChance

Since the beginning of high school basketball, it would be a difficult task to find a player who has not thought, dreamed, or obsessed over winning a state championship.

After Yorkville Christian's 54-41 victory over Liberty in Saturday's IHSA Class 1A Championship, junior Brayden Long doesn't have to dream any longer.

"I'm not going to lie, it really hasn't set in yet," Long said. "We had the parade (Sunday) and it was fun and exciting to see the trophy again. I slept with my medal last night. It was kind of good to know that, 'Yeah, you guys won.' But, it hasn't set in yet."

During the battle against Liberty, the Mustangs trailed 10-8 after the first quarter and 21-20 at halftime.

However, the speed of the game shifted in Yorkville Christian's favor in the second half as it led 31-27 after three frames and the Mustangs held on to hoist the championship trophy.

"I think it was the fact we hadn't played a Class 1A team with their kind of size," Long said. "I'm not saying they were huge by any means, but we weren't used to that kind of size with a 1A team. They had length and were blocking our shots and getting tips on some of our passes. It was pretty difficult for us to wrap our minds around at first."

"Once we got used to it, we got the game going at our tempo in the third quarter. We kept our heads and made sure we finished out the game. One of our main adjustments at half-time was to take it to the paint



BRAYDEN LONG DRIVES PAST Steeleville defenders in an IHSA Class 1A State Tournament Semifinal on Friday at the University of Illinois in Champaign. Long, a junior at Yorkville Christian who helped Dwight reach the state tournament in seventh and eighth grade, scored 23 points and grabbed four rebounds in a 70-27 victory to advance to the final.

instead of shooting 3s. It helped pick up the pace offensively and it sparked our defensive intensity."

Against Liberty, Long did a little bit of everything but it didn't show up in the box score as he finished with three points, four rebounds, two assists, and one block.

However, in a 70-27 state semifinal victory over Steeleville on Friday, Long scored a game-high 23 points with four rebounds and a block.

The humble junior gives credit to his performances to his teammates including senior Jaden Schutt, who is committed to play at Duke University next season.

"The main focus was to

make it to the championship game. I knew I needed to box out their guy, who is 6-foot-5," said Long, who is listed at 6-4. "It ended up with me not getting a bunch of offensive boards, but being in positions to get the ball around the hoop and be able to finish easy plays."

"We definitely have interesting practices with our squad because we have some of the most competitive guys I've ever known on one team. Especially with Jaden pushing every single one of us every day at practice. It's one thing to talk the talk, but you have to be able to play to back it up. Going up against him every day in practice makes us all better and

having guys like DJ (David Douglas Jr.), K.J. (Vasser), and Tyler (Burrows) constantly pushing you makes for a really fun atmosphere and I enjoy being around those guys."

Long has attended Yorkville Christian for the last three years after moving from Dwight in the summer before his freshman campaign.

The hooper helped Dwight go to state in both seventh and eighth grade, but once Long's father, Eric Long, was added to the Mustangs' coaching staff as an assistant, the move had to be made.

Although the transition was difficult, Yorkville coach Aaron Sovern knew he had a solid ballplayer immediately.



YORKVILLE CHRISTIAN SHOWED ITS MUSCLE on and off the court during the state tournament. Junior Brayden Long (No. 23) and senior Jaden Schutt, who has committed to Duke University, were two main reasons why the Mustangs won the Class 1A State Championship.

"As a freshman, he scored 13 points a game on a sectional championship team. Last year with the abbreviated three-week season, he didn't get a chance to show much," Sovern said. "He had a foot injury and has been out of commission for eight or nine months. We were able to get him back in action in December around Christmas time. It was a process easing him back."

"He's such a good kid. He's a very good basketball player obviously, but he's that much better as a kid. Having a strong family support system and having a strong relationship with the Lord has helped him get through those times. Getting him back added so much."

"He's a knock-down shooter. He's a very capable ball-handler. His court vision is tremendous. He brings that toughness as he's going after loose balls to help us get those extra offensive possessions that we don't get. There was one

play during the championship game. It was away from our bench, he saved the ball between his legs, it went out on a Liberty player, and it gave us possession at a time we dearly needed it because it was right when we were going on a run to extend our lead. Brayden is huge for us."

Yorkville Christian has only been a school for the last eight years and Sovern has maintained key roles in the school's success as the principal, athletic director, and the head boys basketball coach.

What once started as a school of 16 students, where he searched for five players to form a team, is now a school of 165 students. Although the IHSA website says there are only 61 students at the institution, Sovern said the correct enrollment was updated to IHSA in October.

The Mustangs boys basketball squad couldn't be an IHSA (continued on page 11)

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Free Family Event at DTHS March 28

Raising Resilient & Bullyproof Kids

Join for a free meal and speech by author Tom Thelen Monday, March 28, from 6:00-7:15 p.m. in the Auditorium at Dwight Township High School. Everyone is invited: kids, teens, parents, and community members. The meal will be served from 5:15-6:00 p.m. in the Café. Childcare will be provided after the meal for kids ages three to 10. RSVP at dwightk12.org. Look for the link on the website and in e-mails/texts.

What is it about? Author Tom Thelen is traveling from Florida to speak in the school district. During the day, he will speak to third through 12th grade students, and in the evening, everyone is invited back for a free meal and an inspiring speech about bullying prevention and mental health. The program includes additional material on positive parenting skills and family dynamics.

Key takeaways will include: • 7 Tools for Reducing Anxiety (free PDF download) • Practical steps for responding to bullying and cyberbullying • Mental health and well-being skills

Tom Thelen is the lead au-

thor of Mental Health 101 for Teens and the founder of Reset Schools, a nonprofit that teaches practical mental health skills and resiliency. Since 2012, Tom has spoken at over 800 schools and conferences and has been featured on PBS, CBS, and NBC. He and his wife, Casie, have four school-aged children and a dog named Willie.



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How To Donate to the Red Cross

The Red Cross helps communities across the globe every day. The Red Cross is perhaps most visible in the aftermath of natural disasters. However, they are active year-round, and there are plenty of ways for individuals to contribute throughout the year.

• Receive training from the Red Cross. The Red Cross offers an array of courses, including lifeguarding, caregiving and babysitting, swimming and water safety, that train individuals about how to effectively prepare to respond to emergencies. Enrolling in these courses contributes to the mission of the Red Cross by building its potential base of qualified volunteers who can pitch in when natural disasters or other emergencies occur.

• Donate blood. Blood donations are uniquely valuable to the Red Cross at any time, but the organization noted in early 2022 that it was experiencing its worst blood shortage in more than a decade. Eligible adults, including students, can contribute to the Red Cross by donating as often as possible.

• Pitch in with disaster relief. The American Red Cross notes that it responds to an emergency every eight minutes. Perhaps most remarkable is that 95 percent of the organization's disaster relief workers are volunteers. The organization has plenty of opportunities for individuals willing to give back. Learn more about volunteering at www.redcross.org

• Contribute financially. The work of the Red Cross continues after the emergency phase of a response has ended. The Red Cross provides emergency financial assistance in the immediate aftermath of a disaster, but also offers such aid to households that need extra help in the long-term. The financial contributions of donors help make that assistance possible.

Individuals who want to assist the American Red Cross and Canadian Red Cross help those in need can do so in myriad ways.

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Lenten Worship Concert at Emmanuel Lutheran, Dwight, March 18

On Friday, March 18, the 64 musicians of the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir of Valley Lutheran High School, Saginaw, MI, under the direction of Rebecca Sugden and Paul Eschmann, will present a Lenten worship concert beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight.

The theme of this year's worship is *breathe*. They con-

sider how God the father breathed life into Adam, God the Son gave up his breath for others. The music program at Valley Lutheran High School has Christ as its foundation and strives to teach students that their musical gifts are a unique and powerful way to share the message of Christ with others. This tour is an extension of that teaching and offers their students the opportunity to share

their faith in that way. Christ's message, as presented through their concert, is for all people to hear.

This is the third concert of a five-day, six-concert tour through Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Michigan.

Invite a friend to hear this important message of Christ's love for us.



JUAN C. SANTOS (JC), a 2019 Dwight Township High School graduate, graduated from the US Air Force as Dorm Chief and with honors on January 20. Currently, he is in Monterey, California at the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center where he will learn a foreign language and be a Cryptologic Language Analyst.



Donna and Bill Masching

Bill and Donna Masching to Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Bill and Donna Masching, of Cabery, will be celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary May 9.

They were married on May 9, 1962, in Cabery at the Catholic Church. They have four children: Chris (Tom) O'Brien, Myrna Masching, David (Dana) Masching, and Michele (Dustin) Wright. They have 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Bill has been a lifelong farmer in the Cabery/Campus

area and Donna worked at the Wedding Center in Kankakee for 20 years, as well as assisted Bill with the farming operation.

The couple invites you to help them celebrate with an open house Sunday, April 3, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Herscher Athletic Club. There will be hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided. No gifts are necessary.

Bill will be turning 80 on April 13 – help them celebrate that milestone, as well.

Correction

On Friday, April 1, Dwight Common School PTO will be hosting their 4th Annual Trivia Night. The event will be held in the banquet room at Station 343.

Trivia Night will feature ten rounds of themed questions. Teams can have up to eight players, age 21 and older.

The cost to participate is \$100 per team. Each table will

Dwight Common School PTO Trivia Night April 1

get pizza and bar nachos from Station 343 as part of the registration fee. Bucket drink specials will be available.

There is a cash prize for the first place team. Additionally, each round a team will win a prize from a local business sponsor.

All money raised by PTO is used to support the students and staff at Dwight Common

School.

You can help raise funds for DCS and have a fun night out.

Registration is limited to the first 17 teams that pay to reserve their tables.

For more information, visit Dwight Common School District #232 PTO on Facebook or e-mail:

dgspto@dwight.k12.il.us

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

Some Answers from DOC

A few weeks ago, I told you about efforts I have been making in cooperation with several other Representatives and Senators to get answers from the Department of Corrections about their plans for the future of the Pontiac Correctional Center.

We received a reply which answered some of our questions but left some others in need of further clarity. One key takeaway was this sentence: *“This will result in neither the closure of the facility or layoffs.”*

We have since followed up with the director to make sure that the people of Livingston County get the full and complete answers they deserve about the important facility.

DOC hosted a job fair at the Pontiac Rec Center on March 15. DOC is hiring for positions such as correctional officer trainees and correctional treatment officer trainees.

Congratulations to Dwight Police Chief Henson as he celebrates his retirement after 35 years of service. I was honored to join new Dwight Police Chief Mike Nolan, Chief Henson and Mayor Paul Johnson to present Chief Henson a certificate from the General Assembly to help add to the celebration, which had a wonderful turnout of family, friends and law enforcement, a few days ago.

Bennett-sponsored education bills pass House. I am proud to be the lead sponsor and the chief co-sponsor of a pair of bipartisan bills to help our schools. Both passed the House with wide bipartisan

majorities.

I have been working for several months on a bill to help Illinois schools get funding for facilities construction. The current system is clearly not working: it has been more than eight years since schools received any kinds of grants from the General Assembly for new construction.

Standing with Ukraine. We were all shocked to see the pictures of Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine. The world has rallied against Russian aggression in Ukraine in the days since. As state legislators, there are a few steps we can take to oppose this assault.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin has introduced legislation which would require the state of Illinois to divest any of its pension funds which are invested in Russian companies. Another bill would prohibit the state treasury from holding any Russian assets.

Putin's invasion has caused one of the largest refugee crises in Europe since the end of World War II. Refugees from the conflict have been streaming into neighboring countries and some will likely make their way here to Illinois. To assist those in need, my colleague Rep. Tom Demmer has filed legislation to include \$20 million in the Department of Human Services budget for this fiscal year and next to help resettle Ukrainian refugees who come to Illinois.

The DHS refugee resettlement program has helped more than 100,000 refugees from over 60 countries since it was created in 1975. The program offers help with learning Eng-

lish, vocational training and job placement, counseling, orientation and multi-lingual health services.

DHR reports final totals on 2021-22 deer season. Hunters in Illinois reported taking 147,004 deer this year.

That number is down from the 162,752 deer harvested a year ago. In our area, Vermilion County led the way with 1,731 deer reported. Woodford was next at 1,390. Hunters in Iroquois County took 897 deer, followed by Livingston at 683 and Ford County with 165.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$3,711,589,949 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$5.4 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment.

Did You Know? One hundred years ago the Illinois General Assembly contained 51 Senators and 153 Representatives (today it is 59 Senators and 118 Representatives). Rep. Gotthard Dahlberg of Chicago was chosen as Speaker of the House, leading a 95-58 Republican majority. Under the state Constitution in effect at that time the Lieutenant Governor, Fred Sterling of Rockford, was President of the Senate. The legislature had its usual collection of lawyers, farmers and businessmen, but also included a barber, a drug-gist, and a cigar manufacturer. That year's state budget totaled \$170 million. This year's proposal is over \$45 billion.

Online Registration for GSW High School Now Open

Attention parents and guardians: Gardner-South Wilmington High School's online registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open. Online registration is accessible through Teacher Ease. Early Registration will run through May 1.

If you complete the online process and pay general fees by May 1, you will receive a \$10 discount. General Fees are \$125.00, but online \$115.00 if paid by May 1.

Payments cannot be done online, however. You will need to pay either cash or check to GSW High School for all fees. Only the General Fees need to be paid at time of registration. All other fees can be paid after your student receives their schedule this summer (you will be billed for these additional fees).

All incoming freshmen will need to have a physical and dental exam. All seniors will need to show proof of their meningitis vaccination. Any students participating in sports will need to have a sports physical.

If you are new to the district, or if you have any questions, contact the school office at 815-237-2176.

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Dwight's Library Presents Talk On the Life of Alex Trebek March 21

Prairie Creek Library, located at 501 Carriage House Lane in Dwight, welcomes back popular historian Jim Gibbons as he presents "The Life of Alex Trebek". The program is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 21, in the library's community room.

Gibbons will discuss the life and career of Alex Trebek, best known for hosting the popular game show Jeopardy for over 37 seasons. Trebek passed away in November of 2020 from pancreatic cancer at the age of 80.

Gibbons is a Marengo resident and historian who has made a name for himself by giving riveting presentations of historical events or people. In the past, he presented programs

at Prairie Creek on the Hindenburg disaster and the life of Princess Diana.

This program is free and open to the public. However, due to limited seating, sign-up is required. Call 815-584-3061 to reserve a seat.

Prairie Creek Library is mindful of their patrons with disabilities and aims to accommodate them as best they can and in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. If you are disabled and plan to attend a program at the library, you are invited to call them in advance at 815-584-3061 to make sure they are aware and prepared to meet your needs. Their building is accessible and equipped with an elevator.

Barron Ryan Performs in Pontiac March 22

Enjoy a musical adventure when Barron Ryan goes to Pontiac. His style combines vintage and fresh, historical and hip, and classic but cool.

Barron Ryan grew up with parents as musicians, enjoying a variety of styles from Mozart to Michael Jackson in his home. His father started teaching him piano at the age of four. This love of music continued throughout adolescence and into a major in piano performance at the University of Oklahoma.

After becoming disheartened by rejection from many music conservatories, Barron briefly gave up piano in pursuit of a career in hip-hop. But upon winning a piano competition which sent the winner to perform a tour in Israel, Barron found his new focus. He discovered the joy of jazz- and ragtime-inspired concert music.

Barron Ryan will be sharing his talents Tuesday, March 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium of Pontiac Township High School. See how Classic Meets Cool through his program of Scott Joplin's The Entertainer to Debussy's Claire de Lune and Chopin's Fantasie Impromptu.

Members of the Livingston County Concert Association (LCCA) are in for an interesting blend of great music. If you are interested in tickets, call Ruth Schlosser at 815-844-6369 for more information. Additional tickets for this concert will be available for purchase at the door. High school students, and children accompanied by an adult, are admitted free of charge.

For more information about the LCCA, contact Rod Patterson at 815-844-7833 or rod.hjemme@gmail.com.

Regional Transportation Meeting - Region 3 - March 25

The Human Services Transportation Plan (HSTP) - Region 3 - Transportation Committee (Bureau, DeKalb, Grundy, Kendall, LaSalle, Lee, Ogle, and Putnam Counties) will be held **Friday, March 25, at 10:00 a.m. at Veterans Assistance Commission of LaSalle County**, 4231 Progress Blvd., Peru.

Individuals with an interest in public transportation are strongly encouraged to attend, especially human service organizations serving individuals who use public transportation.

The Regional Transportation Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of the HSTP. HSTP

identifies transportation needs and develops solutions to improve transportation services for the general public. An emphasis is placed on seniors, people with disabilities, individuals with lower incomes, and veterans.

The Illinois Department of Transportation has formed an agreement with North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG) for the purposes of preparing, implementing, and updating the plan for Region 1 (Boone, Carroll, Jo Daviess, Stephenson, and Winnebago Counties) and Region 3. For more info., contact Katie Korn at 815-433-5830.

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OBITUARIES

Kenneth Wayne Clark

Kenneth Wayne Clark, age 61, of Romeoville, Illinois died Thursday, February 24, 2022 at the University of Chicago Medical Center in Chicago.

Born March 24, 1960 in LaGrange, Illinois, Kenneth Wayne is a son of Wayne Allan Clark of Karnak, Illinois and the late Lynda Gail (nee Foster) Clark - Richardson.

Ken worked as a roofer his entire career, was a member of Roofers and Waterproofers Local #11, and was employed with Elens & Maichin Roofing and Sheetmetal until his retirement in 2020.

One who enjoyed the outdoors and camping, Ken was not keen on hunting because of his love of animals. He took pleasure in fishing, catch and release of course; raising his motorcycle; and boating. He had fondness for old westerns, particularly "Gun Smoke," and those who knew him were familiar with his knack of buying and trading.

Ken was a fierce fighter, especially over the past year as he battled cancer, but will most of all be remembered for his love of family. He was always doing something for the kids, and was proud to share a unique relationship with each of his children.

Survivors include his father, Wayne Allan Clark; wife, Yvonne; seven children: Mindy Kay (Justin) Riley of Mulkeytown, Illinois; Hollie Ann Kott (Kyle) of Geneva, Illinois; Neal Allen Huerta (Mindy) of Iowa; Nicholas Stephen Huerta (Dominique) of Bowling Green, Kentucky; Richard Wayne Clark (Amber) of Algonquin, Illinois; Crystal Annette Clark of Dwight, Illinois; and Alexander James Clark of



Romeoville, Illinois.

Also surviving are 13 grandchildren: Hannah, Hailey, Emily, Lily, Charlotte, Jordan, Alexis, Makayla, Ericka, Chase, Emerson, Bentley and Brantley; one great-grandchild expected; and siblings: Pamela (Thomas) McLelland of Karnak; Allan (Debbie) Clark of Brighton, Tennessee; Teddy (Marcia) Clark of Gardner, Illinois; Shannon (Chris) Smith of Paducah, Kentucky; and Melissa Smith of Metropolis, Illinois.

Ken was preceded in death by his mother and step-father, Lynda and Ron Richardson; step-mother, Clara Clark; and one nephew, Cody Smith.

Green flameless cremation rites have been accorded.

The family will receive friends for a memorial visitation at Reeves Funeral Home, 203 Liberty Street in Gardner, on Sunday, March 20, 2022 from 1:00 p.m. until the time of service at 2:00 p.m.

Those wishing to participate in the services virtually are welcome to join the live-stream or watch on-demand by following the link on Ken's memorial page.

Preferred memorials may be made as gifts in Ken's memory to his family for their distribution.

Family and friends are encouraged to sign the guest-book, upload photographs, and share Ken's memorial page online through social media.

Funeral services and green Flameless cremation rites have been made under the direction and care of Reeves Funeral Homes, Ltd., 203 Liberty Street in Gardner, Illinois (815/237-2526)

www.ReevesFuneral.com

Rachel Marie Thomas

Rachel Marie Thomas, age 29, of Kalamazoo, Michigan and formerly of Dwight, Illinois, went to her heavenly home on January 31, 2022.

Rachel was born on November 14, 1992 in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. She was a graduate of Pontiac Township High School and attended Heartland Community College in Illinois, Cornerstone University in Michigan, and the University of Illinois.

Rachel was a kind and generous person with an incredible wit and sense of humor. She loved intellectual conversations and debates. Rachel was never selfish with her time and devoted many hours volunteering for Salt & Light Ministry, local animal shelters and was an advocate and spokesperson



for those with disabilities.

She loved to crochet, write poetry, fly trick kites, raising hedgehogs, and cooking.

Rachel is survived by her loving mother, Christine Marie (Lasser) Thomas; brothers: Richard Stephen Thomas and Timothy Frank Thomas; grandfather, Frank A. Lasser; many loving aunts, uncles and cousins; numerous loyal friends; and her service dog and faithful companion, Scout.

Rachel was preceded in death by her grandmother, Carolyn B. Lasser.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at a later date.

Memorial contributions in Rachel's memory may be given to 4 Paws for Ability (www.4pawsforability.org/).

Cindy L. Leonard

Cindy L. Leonard, age 63, of Verona passed away Friday, March 11, 2022 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet, Illinois.

Visitation was held from 9 until 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Goodfarm, Illinois.

Funeral services followed the visitation at 11 a.m., also in the church.

Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial will be at a later date in Goodfarm Cemetery.

Memorials in honor of Cindy may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is in charge of arrangements.

Cindy was born February 6, 1959 in Pontiac, Illinois, the daughter of Kenneth Eugene and Barbara (Bruback) Anderson. She married Ray Scott Leonard on March 25, 1983.

He survives in Verona, Illinois.

Also surviving are a son, Jeffery Scott (Jen) Leonard of Dwight; brothers: Roger L. Anderson of Dwight; John Robert "J.R." (Barbara) Anderson of Odell; grandchildren,

dren, Jeffery and Courtney Leonard; nieces and nephews: Jamie, Jenn, Dillion and Sean Anderson; aunts: Delores Herman of Morris and Beverly Beecher of LeRoy, Illinois; uncle, Gerald Anderson of Dwight; and sister-in-law, Denise (Frank) Sereno of Morris.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Cindy was a member of Trinity Lutheran Church and worked over the years at ITW (Illinois Tool Works) in Mazon, Illinois. She enjoyed crocheting and loved spending time with family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

Condolences may be left at www.calvertmemorial.com

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.

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

ESTATE OF: :
:
BURL R. LUCUS, : No. 2022-PR-23
Deceased :
:

CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of Burl R. Lucas. Letters of Office were issued on February 18, 2022 to Beverly J. DeLong, 2995 West Goodfarm Road, Dwight, IL 60420, and Sheryl M. Landstrom, 502 Boulder Street, Heyworth, IL 61745-8808, as Independent Co-Executors. The representative's attorney of record is Alan M. Schrock, Blakeman & Schrock, Ltd., 307 West Washington Street, Pontiac, Illinois 61764. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by e-filing a Petition to Terminate with the Livingston County Circuit Clerk, pursuant to instructions found on the Circuit Clerk's website.

Claims against the estate may be e-filed on or before the 16th day of September, 2022 or if by mailing or delivery of a notice to the Independent Co-Executors as required by Section 8-3 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/18-3) by the date stated in this Notice. Any claim not filed on or before said date is barred. Claims may be e-filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Livingston County Law and Justice Center, 110 North Main Street, Pontiac, IL 61764, or claims may be filed with the Independent Co-Executors or to the attorney for the estate, or both. If e-filed with the Clerk, the claimant must, within ten (10) days, mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Independent Co-Executors and to the attorney for the estate and e-file with the Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

Dated this 3rd day of March, 2022.

Beverly J. DeLong and Sheryl Landstrom,
Independent Co-Executors of
the Estate of Burl R. Lucas, Deceased

Alan M. Schrock
BLAKEMAN & SCHROCK, LTD.
Attorney for Estate
307 West Washington
Pontiac, IL 61764
Telephone: 815-844-6177
Fax: (815)-842-3288
alan@sbsltd.com

5 Minutes
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The Tourney

It's March, which means that it's time for madness... clocks changing.

No, not that. Although, that can be madness if you're someone like me who can take a while to get around to changing the clocks that don't automatically change. I think the only one I had was the one in my car, so it was a pretty easy change for me.

However, the real madness I'm referring to is that of college basketball and the best playoff format in all of sports. I've probably been less interested in college basketball this year than I ever have been in any years past, but there's something about the tournament that always draws me back in.

At this point in my college basketball viewing experience, I mostly just take in college basketball through the lens of Illinois and the Big 10 as a whole. So, when the bracket comes out I find myself very biased in looking at match-ups involving Big 10 schools.

This works both positively and negatively. If I have a negative experience of watching a team in the Big 10, then maybe I'm more likely to have them kicked out of the tournament early.

Then there's Illinois. It's very difficult to view them through an objective lens and not have them moving on further than, maybe, they realistically will. In the NCAA tournament, however, almost everything and nothing is realistic, as anything can happen. So it's probably as equally ridiculous to have them in the title game as it is to have them losing in the 1st round.

We can check back on this in a few weeks when none of these picks are even close to being correct, but my final 4 consists of Gonzaga, Purdue, Arizona (I have them beating Illinois in the Sweet 16) and Auburn, with Purdue beating Auburn in the title game.

This is mostly based off of catching Purdue on nights when they looked really good. We'll see how it plays out!

Go, Bulls!

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY - IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF

DEBORAH J. PALMORE,
Deceased.
Case No.: 2022-PR-27

CLAIMS NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given to you of the death of DEBORAH J. PALMORE who died on February 5th, 2022. At the time of her death, DEBORAH J. PALMORE was a resident of Forrest, Livingston County, Illinois. Letters of office were issued on March 2nd, 2022, to SEAN PALMORE, Independent Executor, whose address is 220 N. Center St., Forrest, IL 61741. His attorney is WILLIAM J. GERBER, 210 W. Oak St., Fairbury, IL 61739, whose phone number is (815) 692-2224.

Claims may be filed on or before September 7th, 2022. Any claim not filed within that period is barred. Claims may be filed with the office of the Clerk of Livingston County Court at 110 N. Main St., Pontiac, IL 61764, or claims may be filed with the Independent Executors, or both. If filed with the Clerk, claimant must within 10 days mail or deliver a copy of the claim to the Independent Executors and to their attorney and file with the Circuit Clerk proof of such mailing or delivery.

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

DATED: MARCH 7, 2022
Sean Palmore
Independent Executor

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

Farmers and growers face a significant threat in the years to come as industrial agriculture operations continue to expand. According to the National Resources Defense Council, industrial agriculture is the large-scale, intensive production of crops and animals. Such operations make it more difficult for small farmers and growers to turn a profit, and they often involve the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. The use of such products poses an additional threat to small farmers and growers, as the Union of Concerned Scientists notes that the heavy application of fertilizers and pesticides accelerates soil erosion and increases pest problems. Consumers concerned by the effects of industrial agriculture on the environment and on small farmers' and growers' ability to earn a good living can support efforts such as regenerative farming and organic farms.

Corn, soybeans, pork, wheat, and cattle are some of the top agricultural products in Illinois.

How Farmers Use Cover Crops to Protect the Land



MATT BOUCHER uses a soil compaction tester in the fields where he planted cover crops. (Photo by Jeff Adkins, Farm Flavor Media)

by Joanie Stiers
*Illinois Farm Bureau
Partners Contributor*

After farmer Lucas Roney spends the fall season gathering crops, he likes seeing his fields greening with new growth as he parks harvesting equipment in the shed.

“As farmers, we always like to see things growing,” said Roney, who grows corn and soybeans with his family in Moultrie County. “Whenever you can look out there in the winter and see there are plants growing in the field, it makes you feel good about what you are doing. You feel like you’re keeping the soil alive.”

They’ve Got It Covered

Throughout the Illinois landscape, more and more farmers have adopted the use of cover crops, a ground cover planted but not harvested in the traditional sense. Instead, a cover crop’s job is to hold soil in place, keep the soil active, store nutrients, retain moisture and improve the soil structure. (Some cover crops are harvested for forage, such as oats and turnips used for feeding cattle.)

Environmental benefits abound, including reduction of both soil erosion and nutrient loss into rivers and streams. By spring, farmers terminate the cover crop and plant corn and soybeans directly into the residual blanket that naturally gives yield-robbing weeds less space to grow.

An Unharvested Benefit

An early adopter of cover crops, Livingston County farmer Matt Boucher remembers neighbors asking if he was growing hay or planned to harvest a field of rye before planting it to soybeans.

Instead, he planted right into the green cover on his field, contrary to the most popular practice of planting into a field considered “clean,” or free of growth. Today, his farm primarily uses a drill to sow cover crops on about 70% of the family’s farmland. He also has hired aerial application, which involves showering cover crop seed above standing corn or soybeans just before fall harvest to grow by late fall. Sometimes, fertilizer-spreading trucks have broadcasted cover crop seed across a harvested field.

Boucher’s most common

cover crop choices include annual rye, cereal rye, buckwheat or radish (not the type for eating, rather a deep-rooted variety that breaks up compacted soil).

“We’ve gone from a straight single product to 12- to 15-way mixes of cover crop varieties, and we’ve seen good results in both their various situations,” said Boucher, who grows corn, soybeans and wheat with his family.

Boucher doesn’t measure the results of cover crops in bushels or the boost to his corn and soybean production. Instead, his family sets environmental goals for the cover crops to accomplish, such as reduced erosion, weed control, nitrogen naturally produced from a legume cover crop or even “tillage.” He finds that cover crops and their various root systems loosen the soil and produce a suitable seedbed without relying on means of mechanical tillage.

Barriers to Adoption

Cover crop adopters recognize that the investment in management, time and expense creates the largest barrier to wider adoption.

Namely, cover crops do not generate income for farmers. Cash crops like corn and soybeans do, and farmers fear risking the profitability that puts food on their tables.

“We are putting something out in the field that isn’t going

to be harvested, that we are not necessarily going to get a direct financial result from year one,” Boucher said. “It can be a challenge for some farmers to see the return on their investment.”

After about seven years of cover crops, his family now sees improvements in the soil structure. Boucher shares these results and cover crop tips on the farm’s Facebook page and through the family’s seed company, Potential Ag. In addition to corn and soybean seed, Boucher also sells seed for cover crops and works with farmer customers who want to learn more about this trending conservation practice.

Roney’s cover crop practices are enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program, a U.S. Department of Agriculture initiative that helps with its costs. He also provides updates on his cover crops in reports for the Illinois Farm Bureau Crop-Watchers® 2.0 program on FarmWeekNow.com, which provides farmers statewide with internet-based regional crop updates during the growing season.

“I really think there is going to be increased adoption in cover crops,” Roney said.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit ILFBpartners.com



CEREAL RYE cover crops grow over recently harvested corn. (Photo by Jeff Adkins, Farm Flavor Media)

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Livingston County SWCD Cost-Share Assistance Sign-Up

The Livingston County Soil and Water District (SWCD) is now accepting applications for their Partners for Conservation Cost-Share Program. This is open to producers and land-owners in Livingston County

Some of the eligible conservation practices include cover crops, no-till/strip-till, pollinator habitat, grassed waterways, terraces, well decommissioning, and many more.

The application deadline is May 1, 2022. For practice information and applications, contact Becky Taylor, Livingston County SWCD, at 815-844-6127, ext. 3, or rebecca.m.taylor@il.nacdnet.net.

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Did you know?

Agricultural technology, often referred to as “AgTech,” is playing an increasingly bigger role on modern farms, and that role is evident when examining AgTech startups’ growing access to venture capital. Data from PitchBook and the National Venture Capital Association’s PitchBook-NVCA Venture Monitor, a quarterly report on venture capital activity in the entrepreneurial ecosystem, indicates that AgTech startups received \$6.1 billion in VC investments in 2020. That reflects a nearly 60 percent increase in investment over 2019.

Weaknesses in the agricultural and food supply chain revealed during the pandemic undoubtedly drove some of that investment. Widespread recognition of a need for improvements within the agricultural sector so it can meet the demands of a global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion people by 2050 also likely contributed to the considerable rise in VC investment in AgTech startups.

There are about 72,200 farms in the state of Illinois, averaging 358 acres each.

How agricultural technology can help improve sustainability

Sustainable agriculture is an approach to farming that will allow modern farmers to meet the needs of a growing population while enhancing environmental quality. That can benefit both current and future generations, and technology will play a vital role in realizing the goals of sustainable agriculture.

According to the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, sustainable agriculture is designed to meet the needs of the present without compromising future generations’ ability to meet their own needs. That’s a worthy goal, especially in the face of a growing global population that the United Nations estimates will increase by two billion persons by 2050.

There are numerous benefits to utilizing sustainable agriculture technology, which can be especially advantageous to modern farmers.

Efficient land management

Modeling technologies can be utilized to make more efficient use of land. According to Sustainable Brands, a global community of brand innovators, modeling technologies can be employed in a host of ways, including to identify tillage practices and the status of tile drainage. Certain agricultural technologies have been designed to predict the performance of cropland, which can allow farmers to more effectively and efficiently use their land. Farmers also can employ modeling technologies to determine soil health and water needs and usage, which can benefit the land and ensure resources aren’t wasted. Utilization of such technologies ensures farmers can meet the needs of modern consumers without affecting future farmers’ ability to do the same.

Reduce runoff

The United States Environmental Protection Agency notes that runoff poses a significant threat to the environment. When runoff occurs, fertilizer, bacteria and other pollutants find their way into streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean. Sustainable Brands notes that nanotechnology is an efficient way to deliver nutrients to crops that can improve both the efficacy of the nutrients and reduce runoff.

Protect crops

Sustainable Brands notes that agricultural biologicals are inputs derived from natural materials that have low toxicity. That low toxicity reduces their environmental impact. Agricultural biologicals utilize the properties of such things as bacteria, fungi and even insects to support healthy crops, potentially improving yield without adversely affecting the environment.

Sustainable agriculture technologies can help modern farmers and their successors meet the needs of a rapidly growing global population.



Understanding smart farm automation

Modern agriculture looks little like the early days of farming. All aspects of farming have been modified by the access farmers now have to technologies to meet the demands of their work and the pressure a growing population places on farmers to produce quality food.

Farm automation, precision farming and smart farming are strategies utilized by today’s farmers. These technologies have become important ways for farmers to optimize the production of food and improve its quality. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, agricultural production must increase by 70 percent in order to meet global food demand by 2050, by which time the population could be 9.7 billion persons.

Smart farming can make raising livestock more accurate and controlled. While farm automation is a broad term, precision smart farming zeroes in on exact measurements between variations in land conditions and livestock, according to Techie Loops, a technology information website. Examples of farming automation technology include:

- autonomous vehicles and machines
- drones
- robotics
- GPS guidance
- micro-forecasting and weather forecasting
- soil sampling
- yield mapping
- use of artificial intelligence
- geomatics
- statistical processes, and more.

Farmers can employ these technologies to save time and also manage labor shortages. Robot-assisted irrigation systems, for example, can maximize efficiency of water distribution where it is needed the most. Weeding robots can use artificial intelligence and computer vision to target field areas and reduce use of pesticides. Driverless tractors can make labor cheaper for farmers by plotting the machine’s route and letting it run the course automatically. Harvest robots also exist to grab crops gently (some with vacuum technology) and reduce reliance on field workers. Some harvesters can determine ripeness of fruit via AI technology, according to Eastern Peak, a provider of custom hardware and software solutions for businesses.

Technology is changing farming in many ways. Innovations in automation can make operations more efficient and less costly.

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THE AVERAGE SIZE OF AN ILLINOIS FARM, including hobby farms, is 375 acres. Most farm acreage is devoted to grain, mainly corn and soybeans. About 3 percent of Illinois farms have swine. Beef cows are found on about 22 percent of farms, while about 1 percent have dairy cows. Some farms produce specialty crops and livestock, including alfalfa, canola, nursery products, emus and fish. Many farming operations also support recreational activities such as hunting and fishing.



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Projected job openings in the field could be as high as 4,400 opportunities per year, making a career as an agricultural and food scientist one of the more enticing professions in the agriculture industry.

MARKETING OF ILLINOIS' AGRICULTURAL commodities generates more than \$19 billion annually. Corn accounts for 54 percent of that total. Marketing of soybeans contributes 27 percent, and the combined marketings of livestock, dairy and poultry generates 13 percent. The balance comes from sales of wheat and other crops, including fruits and vegetables.

A female student with brown hair, wearing safety goggles and a grey t-shirt, sits at a lab bench. She is looking at a laptop screen that displays a line graph with multiple data series. On the bench, there is a compound microscope, a blue cloth, and some small containers. In the background, a human anatomy model is visible near a window.

The agricultural sector employs millions of people across the globe. Many of those people do interesting work as they attempt to address issues facing the agricultural sector.



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- **Agronomist:** Agronomists work with crops and soil management and may work as analysts, environmentalists or

- **Climatologist:** Climatologists will figure prominently in the agricultural sector as the effects of climate change manifest themselves more readily over the next several decades. Climatologists study climate change, variability and the biosphere. Climatologists offer insight about the effects of climate change on the growth and



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CONGRATULATIONS to two young artists at St. Paul School in Odell. Rowan Legner received second place in the postcard contest sponsored by the Livingston County Ag Literacy Partnership. Debbie Ruff, of the Livingston County Soil & Water Conservation District, presented him with his award. Charlee Cleary was the first place finisher at St. Paul in the "Run for Respect" poster contest sponsored by Pontiac High School, a Special Olympics Unified Champion School.



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GSWB VARSITY CLUB welcomed Mr. Dean Vigna, center, pictured with his #23 Gardner-South Wilmington Panthers uniform.

Dean Vigna Speaks to GSWB Varsity Club

Gardner-South Wilmington-Braceville Varsity Club recently had an alumnus of Gardner Grade School as their guest speaker. Dean Vigna, a 1975 graduate of Gardner Grade School, was a three-sport athlete, playing baseball, basketball, and track. Dean spoke about how the IESA had a one-class system in 1975, meaning GGS would often face opponents in district championships such as Kankakee Kennedy, Kankakee King, and Shorewood Troy, who had much larger enrollments.

Now, there are currently four separate classes divided by a school’s seventh and eighth grade enrollment.

While speaking Dean noted that he would be focusing on two simple things: goal setting and controlling what you can control as an athlete.

Goal Setting:

Dean stated goal setting is important, as it gives the athlete a direction or path. He set two short-term goals and two long-term goals for himself as he entered GSW High School. He wanted to make the varsity baseball team as a freshman. He also wanted to start on the varsity basketball team as a freshman. He did make the varsity baseball team, however, starting on the varsity basketball team wasn’t as easy. Although Dean did make the varsity basketball team as a freshman, he didn’t start right away as he had hoped. But after five or six games, Dean found himself in the starting five for the Panthers, which made him accomplish both goals he had

shot for. He also set two long-term goals, one was to become an All-State selection in basketball, and the second was to play college basketball. Dean went from being one of the biggest players on his high school team to being one of the smallest players at Eureka College, where he played four years of collegiate basketball.

Controlling What You Can as an Athlete:

Dean noted there are multiple things you can not control as an athlete, such as umpires/officials, talent on the other team, and height. But Dean did note multiple things you can control, such as being prompt and on time. Each day you go into practice, you can control your effort. Practice is where a coach notices you, not in a game.

When you are on the court, you can control your body language, not looking at an official questioning a call or your coach with your palms up.

You can also be a good teammate. Dean gave various examples of things he did to be the best teammate he could be.

He talked about showing good sportsmanship and playing within the rules. If you see a loose ball, jog over and get it to an official. After a game is completed, shake hands and tell someone “good game” and be a good sport about it.

Lastly, he talked about the will to be better as an athlete. Start working in the off-season when nobody is watching. He remembers having a paper route to earn money. He saved all of his money so he could at-



DEAN VIGNA uses his broomstick and chair to show GSWB Varsity Club members a real-life example of what he used to do to get better at his game of basketball.

tend a week-long basketball camp to improve his game. He spoke about always having a folding chair in his car in high school, along with a broom attached to it to portray a defender. He would take this with him when he would go to the local park to practice his game.

In his conclusion, Dean took a keepsake that he shared with the group, which was his varsity basketball uniform. He explained to the student-athletes to always wear their jerseys with pride. He told them about the traditions of GSW athletics and the numerous athletes who have worn a GSW jersey, along with the great coaches the Pan-

thers have had in their school’s history.

In case you were wondering, Vigna did meet his other long-term goal, as he was selected to the Honorable Mention All-State Team.

“Anyone who has had the opportunity to be a student or athlete of Mr. Vigna is very lucky for such an incredible experience,” commented GGS/SWGS Athletic Director Austin McDowell. “His passion and dedication to education and athletics rank at the top. Mr. Vigna is one of the best!”



BRAYDEN LONG (NO. 23) SIZES UP Steeleville’s Evan Buch during IHSA Class 1A State Tournament Semifinal.

‘I Slept With My Medal’

(continued from page 4)

member until after the school’s second year, but since then, the team has steadily improved as it won a sectional in 2019 and was 25-13 this season with a schedule full of Class 3A and 4A teams.

“When we first started, we weren’t an IHSA approved program because you have to be state board recognized and that can’t happen until after Year 2,” Sovern said. “We had very low population numbers.

“As the program has started, we’re not in a conference. That’s intentional so we can have some flexibility with scheduling. Early on in our existence, I had to throw requests out to anybody and take anybody who would play us. Our first couple of years as an IHSA member, we played some pretty good Chicago teams and developed relationships with

those coaches that are still in place today.”

Although being a state champion hasn’t fully set in for Brayden Long, his Yorkville Christian teammates, Sovern, and Dwight are helping him realize his accomplishments.

“I stay in contact with the guys in Dwight,” Long said. “I came down for Senior Night. Quite a few of them got ahold of me after the state championship game. It’s cool to still have relationships with those guys because we went to state in seventh and eighth grade. It’s different in junior high and high school, but it’s a unique experience to be part of two basketball families. I can’t be more thankful for it.”

Brandon LaChance is a journalist with The Paper. He can be reached at 815-976-7941, blachance20@gmail.com, or on Twitter @LaChanceWriter.

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Saturday, March 12

Seneca at Reed-Custer Invite

Seneca took part in its first indoor invite of the season March 12, with the Lady Irish taking first place overall.

First place finishes included:

- 200: Anna Bruno.
- 400: Clara Bruno.
- 800: Evelyn O’Conor.
- 1600: Ashley Alsvig.
- 4x800: Alsvig, C. Bruno, O’Connor, Gracie Steffes.
- 4x400: C. Bruno, O’Connor, Keeli Pumphrey, Emma Smith.

- 4x200: A. Bruno, Faith Deering, Taylor Draves, Caitlyn O’Boyle.
- 60 Hurdles: O’Boyle.
- Triple Jump: O’Boyle.
- Pole Vault: Teagan Johnson.
- Long Jump: A. Bruno.

For the boys, the 4x200 team, consisting of David Bergeson, Sam Churchill, John Farcus, and Colton Pumphrey, finished first.

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This Week

New survey data from AAA finds that two-thirds of Americans felt gas prices were too expensive just a few weeks ago at \$3.53 per gallon. Now with the national average at an all-time high of over \$4, Americans may have reached a tipping point. Over half (59%) said they would make changes to their driving habits or lifestyle if the cost of gas rose to \$4 per gallon. If gas were to reach \$5.00, which it has in the Western part of the country, three-quarters said they would need to adjust their lifestyle to offset the spike at the pump.

City/Village	March 14	March 7
Dwight	\$4.49	\$4.12
Kankakee	\$4.51	\$4.37
Streator	\$4.55	\$4.19
Pontiac	\$3.91	\$3.96
Gardner	\$4.49	\$4.14
Braceville	\$4.53	\$4.19
Morris	\$4.56	\$4.36
Herschler	\$4.59	\$4.34
Chicago	\$4.74	\$4.50
Illinois	\$4.59	\$4.34
U.S.	\$4.33	\$4.07

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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’19 F250 Crew XL, 45K, 4WD, Diesel.....	\$52,900
’19 F250 Crew XL, 55K, 4WD, Diesel.....	\$50,900
’19 F150 S/C XLT, 25K, 4WD.....	\$39,900
’19 F250 Crew Lariat, 47K, 4WD, 4” Lift.....	\$56,900
’18 F150 Crew XLT, 45K, 4WD.....	\$37,900
’18 F150 Crew XLT, 56K, 4WD.....	\$36,900
’18 F150 S/C XLT, 63K, 4WD.....	\$31,900
’18 F150 S/C XLT, 47K, 4WD, 8’ Bed, HD Susp.....	\$37,900
’18 F150 Crew King Ranch, 32K, 4WD.....	\$54,900
’13 F150 Crew Platinum, 110K, 4WD.....	Just In
’11 Silverado 1500 Crew LT, 114K, 2WD.....	\$16,900

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---------------------------------------	---------

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’20 Escape Titanium, 2K, AWD.....	\$38,900
’20 Explorer XLT, 31K, RWD.....	\$34,900
’19 Nautilus Reserve, 13K, AWD.....	\$49,900
’18 Terrain SLT, 75K, AWD.....	\$27,900
’17 MKX Reserve, 35K, AWD.....	\$33,900
’16 Explorer XLT, 116K, 4WD.....	Just In
’14 Escape SE, 156K, FWD.....	\$10,900
’14 Escape SE, 92K, FWD.....	\$14,900
’14 Escape SE, 103K, FWD.....	\$13,900
’10 Escape LTD, 201K, 4WD.....	\$6,900

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This 1200 sq. ft. unit includes a one car attached garage, 1-2 bedrooms, appliances including a ceramic top stove, ice maker refrigerator, microwave hood, washer and dryer hookup. Huge walk in closet in master bedroom, large loft bedroom with cathedral ceiling overlooking a 28 x 12 living room, oak trim throughout, large bathrooms, open kitchen, nice private patio and fireplace area, ample off street parking, \$1000.00 plus all utilities. (815) 483-3384

AUCTION

Estate Auction

Located At: #25179 N. 2600 East Rd., Odell, IL 60460
Directions: From the Jct. of IL Rt. 17 & IL Rt. 47 (at the East Edge of Dwight, IL.), Go South (on Rt. 47), 6 Miles to 2600 N. Rd., Then 1 Mile West to 2600 E. Rd., and 8/10 Mile South **OR:** Exit I-55 at Odell, IL. (Exit #209), and Go East on 2600 N. Rd. 5-1/2 Miles to 2600 E. Rd. & 8/10 Mile South. **Watch for Auction Signs!**

Sunday, March 27 @ 10:00 A.M.
See Over 100 Photos @ www.bradleyauctionsinc.com

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AUCTIONEERS' NOTE: This will be a Large Auction, with 2 Auction Rings selling simultaneously. **View photos @ www.bradleyauctionsinc.com & Plan to Attend!!**

Watch for full ad in next week's edition of The Paper

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SECRETARY

Livingston County Sheriff's Department - 2 Full time secretarial positions to perform clerical and administrative functions for the Sheriff's Department. For more information and how to apply, go to www.livingstoncountyil.org, click on Employment under "About Livingston". Application deadline 3/25/2022. EOE

Special Education Teacher

Odell CCSD #435 is taking applications for a Special Education Resource teaching position. Interested candidates should send letter of interest, resume, 3 letters of recommendation, copy of transcripts and proof of licensure by May 31st to: Mark Hettmansberger, Superintendent, Odell Grade School, 203 N. East St. Odell, IL 60460.

2nd Shift Janitor Wanted

Odell Grade School is seeking applicants for a 2nd shift janitorial position. The hours are from 2:30 P.M. til 11:00 P.M. Interested persons should fill out an application, send letter of interest to Mark Hettmansberger, Superintendent, 203 N. East St. Odell IL 60460, or call 815-998-2272.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE SUPERINTENDENT

Supervisory position that helps provide veterans with assistance. Must be a veteran. For more information, visit www.livingstoncountyil.gov, click on About Livingston, Click on Employment. Send resume/application to Livingston County Human Resources, 112 W. Madison, Rm 202, Pontiac, IL 61764 no later than 3/21/2022.

Nutrien Ag Solutions

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Nutrien Ag Solutions in Dwight, IL is seeking to fill multiple positions. Openings are posted at www.nutrien.com/careers. Full time positions are available and include Health, Dental, Vision, 401K Plan, Sick, Vacation, Life and Disability with competitive wages. Nutrien Ag Solutions is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Apply in person or online at:
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<p>ORGANIC GRAINS & FLOURS</p> <p>Brian Severson Farms www.qualityorganic.com</p>	

HELP WANTED

5th Grade Teacher

Odell CCSD #435 is taking applications for a 5th grade teaching position. Interested candidates should send letter of interest, resume, 3 letters of recommendation, copy of transcripts and proof of licensure by May 31st to: Mark Hettmansberger, Superintendent, Odell Grade School, 203 N. East St. Odell IL 60460.

Dwight Economic Alliance Is Hiring

We are looking for a competent **Office Clerk** to perform various administrative and clerical tasks to support our office. You will undertake a variety of activities in the office ranging from social media content and answering the phone to basic bookkeeping. Please submit your resume to DwightEASupport@gmail.com or return via mail or in person to 132 East Main St., Dwight, IL 60420.

IT'S SUPER KLEEN Carwash is looking for Part Time Help

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GARDNER GRADE SCHOOL has been busy with spelling competitions in the past month. Students took part in classroom spelling bees to advance to the county and IVC Spelling Bees. Pictured are the top spellers for the sixth through eighth grade classes at GGS. Two of these spellers, Haley Galvan (8th grade) and Case Christensen (6th grade) competed March 14 at Reed-Custer Middle School, as part of the IVC Spelling Bee, with the top spellers from surrounding schools. Haley Galvan, after winning the whole school bee, then represented GGS by competing in the county bee on March 24. All of the class representatives have done a nice job of spelling and representing their classes well. Pictured, front row, from left, are Julianna Moats (6th), Aidan Miller (7th); back, Ryan Dennis (7th), Case Christensen (6th), Aubree Stein (8th), Haley Galvan (8th), and Superintendent Dr. Michael Merritt.

Dwight Peace Meals

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

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

Thurs., Mar. 17: Chicken tetrazzini, honey glazed carrots, tossed salad w/ dressing pkt., hot fruit crisp.

Fri., Mar. 18: Cheese salad, hearty vegetable & bean soup, pickled beets, grapes, bun.

Mon., Mar. 21: Chicken pot pie, Nantucket vegetables, apricots, whole grain biscuit, hot fruit compote.

Tues., Mar. 22: Taco salad w/ meat, lettuce, beans, tomatoes & salsa, pears, taco chips, sugar free pudding.

Wed., Mar. 23: Country fried chicken w/ white gravy, mashed potatoes, Scandinavian veggies, pineapple, whole grain bread.

Thurs., Mar. 24: Baked ham, candied sweet potatoes, Brussels sprouts, cranberry salad, roll.

Milk served each day.

For reservation, call: 1-800-543-1770.

Pet of the Week

Hello everyone! My name is Ruka! I am a sweet girl of 4 years old! I am potty trained and I know how to sit! I am very food motivated too! I love to play fetch outside as well! I might be a little chunky, but I am full of energy! Once all my energy has worn off I'm ready for snuggles and hugs! The ladies say my hugs are the best! Because of all my energy, I would probaby do best in a home without small children! I would do well in a home with cats, but I will need a dog free home.

Livingston County Humane Society

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lchumanesociety.com • Check us out on facebook and PetFinder!
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Ransom Grade School Third Quarter Honor Roll

High Honor Roll
Fifth Grade: Kane Burton, Audrina Hewitt, Logan Ludkowski, Maddox Magana.
Sixth Grade: Evan Graff, Sophia Keri, Hanna Peters, Parker Sedlock, Kinslee Sweeten.
Seventh Grade: Colin Byers,

Morgan Kostal, Rebecca Minick, Kaitlyn Pettyjohn, Brennen Stillwell, Jackson Studnicki, Caitlin Talty, Madisyn Trainor.
Eighth Grade: Madison Bedeker, Hannah Keri, Lily Michael, Daniel Sergenti, Cody Taylor.

Fifth Grade: Tashyia Glass, Zach Minick, Reagan Pettyjohn, Jenna Shaughnessy.
Sixth Grade: Hector Rodriguez, Malea Zavada.
Seventh Grade: Johnathan Vazquez.
Eighth Grade: Tanihya Glass, Logan Meiners, Riley Stevens.

Family Activities To Get Kids Off The Couch

Thanks to increasingly busy weekday schedules that have families running in different directions for work, school and extracurricular activities, weekends are an ideal time to recharge. Too often, however, family members retire to their respective rooms, devices in hand.

Kommando Tech says people spend an average of three hours and 15 minutes on their phones each day, with Americans spending 5.4 hours a day using phones. Those statistics do not include how much additional time is likely spent on devices like tablets or laptops.

Chances are phones are being used while lounging on the couch or bed, something that has negative health consequences for many children and adults. A sedentary lifestyle can lead to weight gain, loss of muscle strength, weak bones, diminished immune system response, and poor blood circulation, according to the health information site Medline.

These fun activities can get kids and parents off the couch on weekends:

Take a family bike ride

Inflate those tires and tighten your helmet chin straps. A family bike ride is an ideal activity for the family because it is something that can be enjoyed by all age groups. Choose the pace and the terrain based on the age of the youngest and/or oldest rider



(flat, easy-to-navigate paths for the very young or the elderly), and enjoy exercise in the great outdoors.

Wash the cars

It's a chore, but it's one that has the potential for lots of laughs along the way — and possibly a suds fight. Washing vehicles also is a great way to cool off when the weather is warm.

Engage in sports training

Whether the children participate in organized sports or not, set up an obstacle course or fitness circuit in the backyard. Everyone takes turns going through the course. The family can spend time together as everyone gets beneficial exercise.

Do a walking tour

Educational attractions like museums, zoos, aquariums and

arboretums are great to visit on weekends. The family will see new sights and learn important information about exhibits, all the while walking a few miles.

Visit an amusement park

Research the nearest amusement park and take a road trip for the day. Hours will be spent walking around the park and going on thrilling rides. Consider discounted memberships or season passes if this is the type of activity the family plans to repeat.

Check out a driving range

Practice golf swings at a driving range or a virtual driving range. Everyone can compete to see whose drive is the longest.

The possibilities for physically active family engagement are endless and beneficial for the body in myriad ways.

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Tito's Handmade VODKA

\$29⁹⁵

1.75 liter

U.V. or Platinum Vodka 1.75 liter

\$13⁹⁹

New Amsterdam Vodka 750 ml.

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Kraken Black Spiced Rum 750 ml.

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Seagram's V.O. 1.75 liter

\$19⁹⁹

Canadian Mist 1.75 liter

\$14⁹⁹

Canadian LTD 1.75 liter

\$11⁹⁹

Captain Morgan RUM

\$19⁹⁹

1.75 liter

Fireball WHISKEY

\$19⁹⁹

1.75 liter

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\$14⁷⁸

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\$15⁹⁹

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\$16⁶³

Shiner Beer 12-pack cans or bottles

\$9⁹⁹

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Sutter Home Wines 1.5 liter

\$7⁹⁹

Bodega Norton Malbec 750 ml.

\$7⁹⁹

Nautilus Sauvignon Blanc 750 ml.

\$12⁹⁹

Ca' Momi Rosso Napa Red Blend 750 ml.

\$8⁹⁹

Jack Daniel's COUNTRY COCKTAILS

\$5⁹⁹

6-pack bottles

Fireball BUCKETS

\$14⁹⁹

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