

Golf Carts, Chickens, and Alleys **Discussed at Gardner Village Board Meeting**

by Don Phillips

The Gardner Village Board met in regular session April 25, opening with the approval minutes of the April 11 meeting and payment of the bills, and the treasurer's report.

Haleigh Fjelde addressed the board regarding chickens in the village. Fjelde asked the board what the process was to allow chickens in the village. Mayor Mike Serena commented there were prior issues with chickens in the village and the ordinance was passed to ban chickens in the village. Serena stated it has been voted down several times and it could be placed on the agenda again in the future.

The board approved several activities related to the Red Carpet Corridor including the Lions Club using village property to serve root beer floats at the dining car, and the craft show on the property adjacent to the parking lot. The board also approved the American Legion distributing poppies for donations on May 7, also during the Red Carpet Corridor.

The board revisited the Golf Cart ordinance, with Mayor Serena presenting the latest

noted that Grundy County has not provided permission for the use of Main Street, and Campus Road operation is also not allowed due to Campus being a truck route. The draft ordinance would require inspections and permits for both residents and non-residents wishing to operate carts in the village.

Commissioner Rob Wolf inquired if the tickets issued would go on the operator's state driving record and if loss of a driver's license would also result in loss of the golf cart permit. Wolf also inquired if the loss of an operating permit required a vote by the board.

Commissioner Tim Hill inquired about the requirement for a child restraint system. Hill noted car booster seats are not designed for golf carts, and Serena commented the village legal counsel felt the village was fairly well protected from liability if they choose not to require child seats.

Serena suggested language requiring child restraint seats in vehicles designed to accept them, stating once the language is approved, he will approach the county again concerning Main Street. The motion was

draft of the ordinance. Serena made by Rob Wolf, seconded by Tim Hill, and approved unanimously with Erik Smith absent.

> Commissioner Wolf inquired about alley maintenance. Commissioner Dick Hileman suggested coring the alleys to allow the alleys to hold up better and require less maintenance. Serena commented if the alleys are cored, they should also be spiked to show the village right-of-way.

> Serena inquired of Village Engineer Casey McCollom of Chamlin & Associates if it was worthwhile to core and pave the alleys. McCollom stated asphalt may be cost-effective long term, but short term would be very expensivve. McCollom further suggested coring and laying fabric below the C6 gravel and then regularly treating with a box scraper.

> The board directed McCollom to develop an estimate of the cost per alley based on a list the village will provide.

McCollom reminded the board the road bids will come May 5.

Mayor Serena reminded residents of the Red Carpet Corridor on May 7, including the car show.

Village Looks to Lock Up Prison Deal

by Mark Boma

The Dwight Correctional Center may be coming back to life.

The Dwight Village Board voted at the April 25 regular meeting to proceed with negotiations with the State of Illinois to purchase the closed women's prison for one dollar.

Mayor Paul Johnson informed the Board that there have been meetings with state officials from CMS (Central Management Services), State Senator Jason Barickman, State Representative Tom Bennett, and the city administration to discuss details of the acquisition. CMS took over control of recreation center as part of the the prison when it was shut down in 2013 and has been used sparingly since then. Legislation would need to be developed to allow for the transfer. The Village approached the State about acquiring the prop-

erty as it sees benefits in taking control of the water tower and as a location to burn yard waste. Currently there is only one household on the water main leading to the prison and the need for routine flushing wastes a large amount of water. Yard waste is currently collected and hauled away at a major expense to the village. Creating a burn area on the site would eliminate that cost.

According to the Mayor, there are several other uses being discussed for the grounds once again become the primary which could include a museum, entity for the coordination and police and fire training, community garden, a dog park, and a concert venue. There is also a complex which includes a gymnasium. The Village would not be able to sell the property but could modify as needed.

and Odell was approved regarding the licensing of golf carts and low speed vehicles. Both Villages will now honor the registration of these vehicles from the other municipality. Only one permit will be required.

The Board moved to reestablish an Economic Development Committee which would take back some duties currently handled by the Dwight Economic Alliance. The village committee will development of commercial and industrial growth. The Dwight Economic Alliance will still get funding from the Village, of which a major portion goes to the annual fireworks, but it is scheduled to be reduced over time.

GOOGLE EARTH view of the Dwight Correctional Center that closed in 2013 and has re-

mained vacant. The 160 acre tract of land is being considered by the Village of Dwight for purchase once legislation is developed.

 Dwight Economic Alliance Online Auction/ **Traveling Prize Board** Dwight Garage Sales

RED CARPET CORRIDOR FUN

• Town Events along the Corridor MORE INSIDE! Pages 13-15

In other business, an intergovernmental agreement between the villages of Dwight

Chief of Police Mike Nolan informed the Board that recent (continued on page 2)



A motorcycle tour group from the Czech Republic stopped at the Ambler Texaco Station in Dwight on Saturday, April 30. Their trip is dubbed "The Jubilee Tour" because it is the 25th Route 66 tour organized by the Czech Route 66 Association. The group rented

motorcycles in Chicago on their way to Los Angeles by way of the Mother Road. Lunch followed at the Old Route 66 Restaurant. At right, Patty Drechsel, one of the Dwight hosts, passes out a commemorative pin to one of the visitors.



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Wednesday, May 4, 2022

FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police

April 22: Abigail M. Novy, 28, Reddick, operate uninsured motor vehicle.

April 25: Danielle M. Miles, 27, Dwight, operate uninsured motor vehicle, driving on revoked license.

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

11 Written Warnings

Only One Headlight -2; Violation - Display of Plate -1; No Registration Light – 2; Stop Sign Violation – 2; Improper Turn Signal -1; Speeding -3.

Dwight Police Blotter

April 21: Dwight Police were dispatched to 300 E. Spencer for a suspicious subject shining a light in houses.

April 24: Dwight Police were dispatched to W. Northbrook Dr. for a custody exchange issue.

April 25: Dwight Police conducted a traffic stop for speeding. Arrested for Driving with a Revoked Driver's License, No Proof of Insurance, and an In-State Warrant was Danielle Miles of Dwight. She was issued a written warning for speeding and transported to Dwight Police Department where she was given court dates and posted bond. Her vehicle was towed.

April 27: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 400 block of East James St. for a dispute between a property owner and contractor.

Information – 2; Domestic Unknown -1; Walk In -8; Well Being -4; Lockout -3; Vicious Dog – 1; Break In Not In Progress – 1; Burglar Alarm – 2; 911 Hang Up – 1; Medical Aid – 3; Illegal Burn – 1; Extra Patrol – 6; Suspicious Subject – 1; Mutual Aid – 1;

Traffic Stop - 14; Break In Unknown - 1; Road Hazard - 1; Return Call - 6; Customer Problem -1; Loose Dog -1; Cell 911 Open Line - 1; Fight Not in Progress - 1; Disturbance - 1; Motorist Assistance – 1; Audible Alarm – 1; Assist Agency - 6; Miscellaneous -1; Accident/Injury -1; Smoke Investigation - 1; Reckless Driver -1; Follow Up -1; Transient Asst. – 1.



Weekly Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

April 22: Seminole, trauma, refusal; Seminole, medical, Morris; Watters, medical, citizens assist; I-55, no patient.

April 23: Mazon, medical, refusal; Bannon, medical, refusal; Mazon, medical, Morris; South St., medical, refusal, mutual aid to Emington; Watters Dr., medical, refusal; Bannon, medical, St. James; I-55, fire, mutual aid to Gardner.

April 24: Seminole, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Morris; Prairie, medical, refusal; Mazon, trauma, Morris; John; Prairie, medical, refusal; Jefferson, fire, mutual aid to Gardner; Main, trauma, Morris.

April 25: Wabash, trauma, Morris; Lane, medical, refusal, mutual aid to Allen Twp.; Waupansie, trauma, refusal; I-55, trauma, Morris; Old Rt. 66, medical, Morris, mutual aid to Odell

April 26: Rt. 66, trauma, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Chippewa, medical, Riverside; Rt. 47, fire.

April 27: Seminole, medical, Morris.

April 28: Mazon, medical, Morris.

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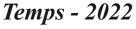
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Apr. 21 – high 68°, low 48° .02" precip. Apr. 22 - high 73°, low 52° trace precip. Apr. 23 - high 85°, low 57°

Apr. 24 - high 72°, low 48° .29" precip. Apr. 25 - high 53°, low 35° Apr. 26 - high 53°, low 29°

Apr. 27 – high 56°, low 31° One Year Ago-May 4, 2021 high 80°, low 58° trace precip.



Dwight Fire Incidents 4/22 - 4/29

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

April 22: Mutual Aid to Gardner.

April 23: Mutual Aid to Gardner. April 24: Mutual Aid to

Gardner.

April 25: Assist PD and EMS – I-55.

April 26: Motor Vehicle Accident - Mutual Aid to Buckingham; Structure Fire Mutual Aid to Bonfield; Grass Fire - S. Union St.

April 27: Mutual Aid to Seneca.

Dwight FPD also responded to 14 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

Mobile Pantry in Dwight, Odell

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

This month, the date is Thursday, May 12.

Individuals are given items such as blankets, socks, cleaning products, personal hygiene products, and baby products. These items may change monthly depending on needs and what is donated.

You must fill out an application in order to utilize this monthly service. You can do so

*** OPERATION S.O.S. (Support Our Soldiers) ***



OPERATION S.O.S. packed Easter boxes at the monthly VFW Spaghetti Dinner April 8. Chris Legner, 10, joined in to help. Chris had won a gift card and purchased items for the troops. He personally signed every S.O.S. letter that was included in the packages. Forty-one boxes were sent to the troops. Operation S.O.S. extended its thanks to everyone who stopped by and observed what Operation S.O.S. was sending and those who gave financial contributions. Operation S.O.S. has been very blessed to have the support of Dwight since April 2003.

Livingston County Candidate Forum May 31 in Pontiac

The Livingston County Farm Bureau, WGCY – 106.3 Radio, The Central Illinois Farm Network are hosting a Livingston County Candidate Forum Tuesday, May 31, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The event is open to the public and will be held at the Eagle Theatre at 319 N. Plum St., Pontiac.

The candidates for County Sheriff, County Clerk and County Treasurer have been invited to participate. They will have the opportunity to give their insight into the key issues involving the county and how they would address those issues.

Kent Casson, Central Illinois Farm Network, will serve as a moderator for the event. The County Clerk candidate will begin at 6:30 p.m. The candidate for County Treasurer will immediately follow. Following that will be the candidates for County Sheriff. Each candidate, in ballot order, will have up to three minutes for an opening statement. Following, there will be a series of questions presented by the moderator. Following the questions, each candidate will be given up to three minutes for a closing statement.

submitted before the event. The committee for the event will approve all questions to ensure it is a fair and balanced forum. They will also provide notecards at the event to be given to the committee. All questions should be submitted to Chris Bunting at the Farm Bureau at livcfbmgr@gmail.com or 815-842-1103.

Make your plans to attend the forum so you can be an informed voter in the June 28 Illinois State Primary election.

For more information, contact Chris Bunting at the phone They ask that questions be number/e-mail address above.

Village Looks to Lock Up Prison Deal to Saturday at 5 p.m., Franklin

(continued from page 1)

hire Brandon Larson was resigning and that Sergeant Glenn

Street from East Main to Chippewa will be closed along with all of Park Street. In addi-Peters was retiring effective tion the street parking on the

granted for the Dwight VFW Poppy Days at the corner of Route 17 and 47 on May 6 and 7.

Trustees present at the April June 1. Two new recruits, northeast side of East Main will 25 meeting were Randy Irvin Pete Meister, Marla Kinkade, and Jenny Johnson along with Mayor Johnson and newly-hired Village Attorney Nick Ehrgott. Absent were Chuck Butterbrodt and Justin Eggenberger. There were no comments during Public Forum. The next regularly scheduled meeting will be Monday May 9 at 6:30 p.m. in the Public Services Complex.



at cdop.org/catholic-charities. Click on Region 3 and then the Link button.

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

Twin Size Quilted MATTRESSES \$60 Each Limit Two Hunter Kenney and Jace Kennedy, were hired and would soon be attending the police training academy.

Street and lot closures for the upcoming Route 66 Smokeout on May 5, 6 and 7 were approved. Beginning Thursday May 5, at 6 p.m. the north east parking lot on East Main will be closed. Starting Friday at 8 a.m.

be shut and the northwest parking lot on East Main Street. There will be no change to current alcohol ordinances.

The Board took the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals and approved a rear yard variance request from thirty feet to 10 feet for Michael and Kelly Cornale at 307 Julie Drive. A solicitation request was

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New Opportunities for 529 Plan Owners

If you want to provide educational opportunities for your children or grandchildren, you may want to consider investing in a 529 plan. In recent years, this plan has gotten more flexible, and potentially more powerful, than ever.

A key benefit of a 529 plan is that earnings are generally tax free, provided the money is used for qualified educational expenses. As the owner of the plan, you can essentially name any beneficiary you want, and you're free to change the beneficiary as needed. Contribution limits are quite high, so you can put away considerable sums in a 529 plan - and you may want to, because college costs have risen steadily over the years. In fact, for the 2021-22 academic year, the College Board reports that the average cost (tuition, fees, room and board) of a public, four-year college or university is more than \$27,000 for in-state students and nearly \$56,000 for students at private schools.

But 529 plans are no longer just for higher education. Over the past few years, the rules governing 529 plans have changed, so they can now be used for:

K-12 tuition expenses (up to \$10,000 per student, per year),

Apprenticeship programs registered with the U.S. Department of Labor, and

• Student loans (\$10,000 lifetime limit for student loan repayments per each 529 plan beneficiary and another \$10,000 for each of the beneficiary's siblings.

And soon, a major change will affect the relationship between grandparent-owned 529 plans and the financial aid packages awarded to their grandchildren. Families applying for aid have not been required to report grandparent-owned 529 account assets on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). However, under previous rules, you had to report withdrawals from the grandparent-owned plans as untaxed student income, which could reduce aid eligibility by up to 50% of the amount of cash received.

But that's changing for the 2024-25 FAFSA, which won't require students to report cash support, including money taken from a grandparent-owned 529 plan. Instead, a student's total income amount will be reported directly from federal income tax returns. This means that a grandparent-owned 529 plan won't have any effect on need-based financial aid eligibility. This benefit to families is already here, because 2022 will be used as the base year for the 2024-25 FAFSA, so any withdrawals taken in 2022, and also going forward, won't need to be reported as student income.

With this change, families will now have more options on using 529 plans without jeopardizing financial aid. You can generally withdraw any amount from the aggregate of all 529 plans for higher education costs, but only the qualified withdrawals - the ones used for typical education-related expenses - will be tax-free. The earnings portion of non-qualified withdrawals are taxable and could also incur a 10% penalty.

Given the new rules affecting a grandparent-owned 529 plan, you should consult with a financial professional to determine how this plan can work with other strategies to help meet educational expenses while, at the same time, not detracting from the progress you'd like to make on other important goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

In any case, consider looking into a 529 plan - it was already a great tool for education funding, and it can now offer your family even more options.

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



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FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

Emma Smith Wins Inaugural Schaefer Memorial Scholarship

left a legacy of agriculture and community service to their nine children. Those children have now perpetuated that legacy by establishing the Herman and Carol Schaefer Scholarship to be administered through the Seneca FFA.

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The inaugural, \$1,000 scholarship was presented to Emma Smith at the Seneca FFA's banquet and awards program conducted April 24. Emma is the daughter of Luri Maier-Lorntz and Dave Smith. She will take advantage of her scholarship when she attends Illinois State University this fall, where she will study animal science.

Smith excelled in all areas of the agricultural education program at Seneca High School including receiving the State FFA Degree, being a state runner-up twice in the fruit production proficiency award area, and ranking high in many FFA Career Development Events (contests). This includes being a member of the recent state champion horticulture team.

"Emma is a true leader, not only as an officer of the FFA but in everything she does in the classroom and in the athletic area at Seneca High School," commented FFA Advisor, Jeff Maierhofer. "Her work ethic, love of agriculture, and the gen-

Herman and Carol Schaefer uine care she shows for others have to be exactly what the Schaefers wanted in the first scholarship winner."

Pam Schaefer-Punke spoke on behalf of the Schaefer family at the FFA awards program and presented the award to Smith. 'Our parents came from very humble beginnings, lived through the depression, went to great lengths just to get to high school, and then put all nine of their kids through college. They taught us the value of education and hard work."

Herman Schaefer, a 1945 graduate of SHS, was a lifelong grain and cattle farmer who believed strongly in community involvement. He served on the Grundy County Board for a decade and was involved in township government serving as Norman Township Supervisor for almost 30 years. In addition, he was on the Immaculate Conception Church parish board in Morris and on the Illinois State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) board of directors.

Carol (Hill) Schaefer was one of the founding board members of We Care of Grundy County as well as helped form the original Grundy County Community Hospice. Herman and Carol believed in "paying it



EMMA SMITH of the Seneca FFA is flanked by Pam Schaefer-Punke and Seneca FFA Advisor, Kent Weber, as she is presented the first Herman and Carol Schaefer Memorial Scholarship recently at the Seneca FFA banquet and awards photo by Tom Maier ceremony.

forward" before it was even a

thing. "That's why my family "That's bere today," continued Pam, "to do the right thing and pay it forward, as my Mom and Dad would have wanted and would have been proud to do...to give back to the community that they came from...by sharing their financial legacy to help educate future generations of their alma maters who have a passion to further agriculture and be active community servants, just as they were...continuing to pay it forward for generations to come."



CAROL AND HERMAN SCHAEFER, whose family recently established a scholarship in their memory for a Seneca FFA member, were leaders in agriculture and their community.

LCCA Presents Sundae & Mr. Goessl in Pontiac May 4 Sundae & Mr. Goessl -

charming wife/husband duo incorporate humor, nostalgia and serious chops in their vintage inspired act.

Does this sound like a concert you might find interesting? If so, you would be right on the money and indeed could not go wrong attending this upcoming husband and wife duo who are now scheduled to play as part of the Livingston County Concert Association's 2021-2022 season. The date is Wednesday, May 4, and will be held in the Auditorium of Pontiac Township High School at 7:00 p.m.

The LCCA has always been looking to offer new and different artists to Livingston County and in this case it has scheduled a married couple from Seattle who have developed a wonderful vintage jazz and pops show.

Sundae is adorable on stage, her voice, equal parts Billie Holiday and Teresa Brewer. Light and silly when it needs to be and tinged with an old soul's wry wit that pulls these vintage themes away from forced innocence into something more pure. She's a charmer. She casts a spell on you.

But Sundae is not singing a cappella. None of this would be possible without Mr. Goessl's hot Parisian acoustic guitar played with deft strums from the Djano Reinhardt School. Just when you think you have a handle on his style he switches it up and turns up the reverb and is off in another direction.

If you like hearing vintage tunes such as Cheek To Cheek, Caravan, Ain't Misbehavin'. La Vie En Rose, S'Wonderful, One Note Samba, and many others, be sure to put Sundae & Mr. Goessl on your calendar.

This is the last concert of the 2021/2022 Season.

People who purchase memberships for next year will be able to attend the Sundae and Mr. Goessl concert free of charge.

Individual tickets will be available for purchase at the door the night of the concert.

For ticket information, contact Ruth Schlosser at 815-844-6394. For more information about LCCA, contact Rod Patterson at 815-844-7833, or through e-mail at patterson. hjemme@gmail.com.



Your wedding timeline guide...

Wedding planning involves many movable pieces that ultimately need to come together on the big day. Planning is typically a months-long process, and adhering to certain monthly benchmarks can help couples stay the course.

Brides magazine offers that the perfect engagement period is 12 to 14 months, which affords ample time to get organized and work with vendors. With that in mind, here's a 12month timeline for couples getting ready to say "I do."

12 months out

At the start of the planning process, establish your budget, hire a wedding planner (optional), choose the wedding party, pick a date, and start to assemble a cursory guest list. This also is a great time to begin touring venues to get a feel for potential ceremony and reception locales.

11 months out

Now is the time to get a firm handle on the theme and scope of the wedding. Start

picking wedding colors and overall design. Also, interview and hire vendors, such as photographers, bands and videographers. These vendors tend to book up quickly as wedding season draws near, so it's never too early to book them.

10 months out

This is a good time to start shopping for a wedding gown because it might take some trial and error to find the perfect dress. You also can start shopping for wedding party attire at this time. Check with formalwear vendors to see how long it will take for the gowns to arrive in the shop for alterations. If you haven't already done so, be sure to book the wedding venue.

8 months out

Reception halls may have their own schedules, but you should think about setting your menu at this time, including deciding if you will host a

COUNTR



seated dinner, a buffet or something else.

Eight months out also is a good time to finalize the guest list and send save-the-date cards.

This also is a good time to visit stores to create registry gift lists.

6 months out

Meet with potential florists and other vendors, like transportation companies and hoto secure these tels, arrangements. Your place of worship also may require certain classes or preparatory meetings, so be sure to inquire about these.

Meet with a makeup and hair stylist and book a trial. Choose attire for groomsmen

(continued on page 5)



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Seneca FFA Horticulture Team Wins State



Seneca FFA's Horticulture Career Development Team has repeated as the State FFA Horticulture CDE Champions.

The Seneca FFA Horticulture CDE concluded its season last week by winning the state contest held at Parkland College in Champaign. Laura Yegge led the state team by placing third, Chris Poyner was fourth, Calvin Maierhofer was fifth, Ashlin Jackson was seventh, and Emma Smith was ninth.

There were 40 schools and 150 individuals in the event.

The event concluded the horticulture judging circuit which saw the team winning the Joliet Junior College Contest and placing second in Section V11 FFA Career Development Event. The quintet claimed the top five spots in the JJC

event in the following order: Maierhofer, Yegge, Jackson, Poyner, and Smith. Trevor Otey also contributed to the team.

In the section CDE held at Newark in early April, Yegge was fourth, Jackson was seventh, Maierhofer was eighth, and Smith, 10th.

The horticulture competitions involved identifying over 210 plants, evaluating the quality of live specimens, taking a written exam, evaluating a landscaping plan, and discussing pest control in nursery plants. The contest was a component of the year-long introduction to Horticulture course in the agricultural education department at Seneca High School.

Winning the CDE propels the team into the national championship in Indianapolis in October at the National FFA Convention.

IN THE SPRING OF 2021, the Illinois Prairie Community Foundation awarded the **Tri-Point National Honor So**ciety \$1,200 to plant trees behind Tri-Point High School in Cullom. The grant money, along with additional funds from the NHS group, allowed the kids to plant 51 green giant arborvitae trees on April 15. NHS had additional help from the FFA sponsors, Miss Miller and Miss Baker, and four other FFA members. The group will continue to water and maintain the trees throughout the year with hopes of adding more vegetation in the future.







How to give weddings a modern touch

No two weddings are the same. Some couples go to great lengths to personalize their weddings, while others make a few minor tweaks to traditional components to make ceremonies and receptions more reflective of their style and the sentiments they hope to convey.

Embracing modern trends is one way couples have looked to set their weddings apart from traditional ceremonies. There are no rules governing weddings, and that affords couples certain freedoms as they seek to incorporate a modern sensibility into the festivities. That choice of how modern to make a wedding is up to the couple tying the knot, but the following are some ways to give weddings a modern



that information with loved ones. When picking a hotel for guests, find lodging that incorporates sustainability into its day-to-day operations.

 Retire certain traditions. Couples need not feel pressured to incorporate traditions that no longer reflect

create a clean, modern feel. Outdoor ceremonies also can create a modern ambiance.

• Adjust your attire. Black tuxedos and white wedding dresses are among the first things to come to mind when imagining traditional weddings. Couples can stay formal but embrace a more modern look by choosing more colorful tuxes for grooms and groomsmen and picking a wedding gown with a flair of color. Brides also can allow bridesmaids to pick their own bridesmaid dresses to expand the modern look even further.

There's no shortage of ways for couples to give their weddings a modern touch.

(continued from page 4)

and give them a deadline for fittings and orders. If you will not be getting married in a place of worship, hire an officiant at this time.

4 months out

Grooms traditionally arrange the honeymoon, so this is a fine time to get those travel plans in order. If you need passports, you should secure them as early as possible, and no later than four months prior to the wedding to ensure

processing times. Book cake tastings and order the cake if it is not part of the venue food and beverage package. If you haven't already done so, the bride should have an initial gown fitting, and wedding invitations should be ordered at this time.

2 months out

Secure your wedding license and buy wedding party gifts. Address and mail the wedding invitations. Undergo a second gown fitting and work with the seamstress for

Your wedding timeline guide... the final fitting date just before the wedding. Finalize any song selections with the DJ or band.

The final details will occur in the last weeks before the wedding. Buy all the small accessories and items, undergo final fittings and check in with all vendors for final payments and to ensure they are on schedule. Notify the reception hall of the final guest count.

Once the wedding day arrives, couples who have done their best to stay on schedule can relax and have a great time with family and friends.



touch.

• Leave a small carbon footprint. Eco-conscious couples can embrace an environmentalist ethos when planning their weddings by doing everything they can to eliminate waste and promote conservation. Send electronic invitations and savethe-date cards in lieu of alternatives and paper choose a reception venue that serves only locally sourced food and beverages. In lieu of wedding favors, which tend to be individually wrapped, make a donation in guests' names to a local environmental group and share

I DO Proposals.

I DO Showers.

I DO Weddings.

I DO Engagement Parties.

modern sensibilities. It's up to couples to determine which traditions to retire, but customs like the garter toss and bouquet toss may no longer resonate with modern couples or their guests. In addition, brides who want to be walked down the aisle by both of their parents, as opposed to just their father, should not hesitate to do so.

• Look for a modern venue. One of the most aweinspiring ways to give a wedding a modern touch is to choose a venue that reflects a modern aesthetic. Vaulted ceilings, white walls and floor-to-ceiling windows can

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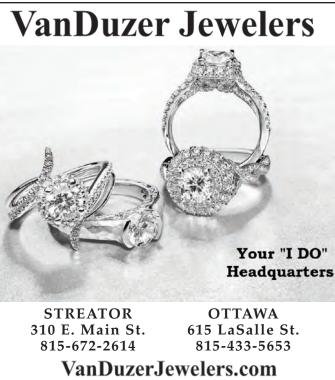




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OWEN PULVER received his white coat at the Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine ceremony held April 8. Juniors in the College of Veterinary Medicine are presented their white coats by Dean Willie Reed. This ceremony marks the passage of third year students from the classroom to the clinics. History of the White Coat Ceremony: The Purdue University College of Veterinary Medicine has held the White Coat Ceremony for the past 29 years. First established in 1993 by Dr. Arnold Gold at Columbia University's Medical School, the ceremony was designed to impress upon students, physicians, and the public the important symbolic role of the white coat in patient-doctor interactions. Today, this ceremony continues in medical schools and has become a tradition in veterinary schools throughout the country. The White Coat Ceremony marks the passage of third-year veterinary students from the classroom to the clinics.

The Paper ... connecting the area's 21 communities.

Morris Hospital Fire Starter of the Month Makes Diamond-Coal City Campus Shine

Morris Hospital Environmental Services Associate Carl Pohl is the full package. He takes pride in his work. He is self-motivated. He brightens the day of everyone around him. He understands how he contributes to the Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers mission. For all of these reasons, Pohl was selected as Morris Hospital & Healthcare Centers April Fire Starter of the Month.

"Carl is always very positive and does whatever is necessary to keep the Diamond-Coal City Campus running smoothly," wrote Chris Finch, a Morris Hospital Courier, in nominating Pohl as Fire Starter of the Month. "He is always there to offer a helping hand and always does more than he has to on a daily basis. He really puts patients first, making sure everything is clean and all the departments have what they need."

A lifelong resident of rural Gardner, Pohl was a meat cutter in Coal City for 30 years before joining the Environmental Services team at Morris Hospital in April 2019. He started at the Braidwood Healthcare Center and assisted at the Dwight and Gardner offices until Morris Hospital opened its Diamond-Coal City Campus in February 2020. He has devoted the past 26 months to keeping Morris Hospital's premiere fa-



cility looking as good as it did the day it opened.

"Carl exemplifies the Morris Hospital standards of conduct," says Kathy O'Neill, Healthcare Centers Practice Manager at Morris Hospital. "He has an excellent work ethic and takes great pride in keeping the Diamond-Coal City Campus clean. This is verified by the excellent patient satisfaction scores in regards to cleanliness. He completes every task promptly, efficiently, and with a smile. He is a vital part of our Diamond-Coal City team."

Adds Kirsten Gribbin, Morris Hospital Immediate Care Practice Manager, "Carl is always on the move in the Diamond clinic. He goes above and beyond to make sure that the environmental needs of the building are above taken care of. We are honored to have him here taking care of the facility.

He keeps it in brand new condition all the time."

Pohl spends his day mopping the floors, vacuuming the carpet, removing trash, wiping down surfaces, all with a goal of keeping the facility "as clean as possible for our patients."

"Our patients expect a clean place. The staff expects a clean place. I like things in order, too," says Pohl. "When I clock out, I like knowing that everything is clean, sanitized, and ready for the next day.'

A clean environment isn't the only way Pohl makes a difference day in and day out at the Morris Hospital Diamond-Coal City Campus. He makes a point to say hello to every person he encounters as he goes about his work day, and that includes both employees and patients.

"I pretty much say 'Hi, how's it going?' to every person I see," says Pohl. "I got to know a lot of people after working in Coal City my whole life, so I enjoy seeing the patients. A simple 'hi' helps connect people. It might even make someone's day.'

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



Shirley and Leon Malone

Leon and Shirley Malone to **Celebrate 70th Anniversary**

their 70th wedding anniversary on May 18.

The couple was married May 18, 1952, at St. Rose Catholic Church in Kankakee. They are parents of four children: Steve (Debbie),

Leon and Shirley (Arse- Cabery; Kathy (Ed) Robisky, neau) Malone will celebrate Huntley; Karen, Kempton; and David (Loren), Farmer City.

> The Malones will celebrate with an open house on May 22 from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the Kempton Legion Hall in Kempton (no gifts necessary).



HERSCHER UNITED METHODIST WOMEN met on the morning of April 27 to assemble May Day Baskets for senior citizens in the Herscher area. Participating were Carol Desch, Mija Phillips, Sharon Price, Thelma Webber, Paula Schwark, Penny Berger, Alta Merrill, Jennie Donley, and Sally Schneider. The 80 baskets were delivered to celebrate May 1.

Teachers Invited to Attend Livingston County's Summer Ag Institute 'From Bluestem and Bison to Corn and Cattle'

County Agriculture in the Classroom program is offering a multi-day teacher workshop. It is titled, "From Bluestem and Bison to Corn and Cattle" and will be held June 8-10 at the Livingston County Farm Bureau office in Pontiac. Each day begins at 8:00 a.m. and concludes at 4:00 p.m.

Lunch and most transportation will be provided. Twentytwo CPDUs are available.

Teachers at all levels and in both traditional and non-traditional classrooms are invited to attend and participate in engag-

This summer, the Livingston activities to showcase standards-based lessons that teach math, science, ELA and social studies.

> The sessions provide elementary and secondary teachers a better understanding of the complexity, scope, and scale of Illinois agriculture, its impact on each person's life and on the economy of Illinois and the nation.

> Educators are also treated to great food, time for collaboration, free resources for their classrooms, and plenty of fun.

Registration is being accepted until Friday, May 13, on

Queen of hearts **RAFFLE**

NOTICE OF LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY

The Prairie Creek Public Library District Board of Trustees is seeking



Dwight Superintendent **Rich Jancek**

Open Mic starts at 8 p.m. for anyone who wishes to share any of their best Dr. J stories.

The public is invited to come and wish him well on his retirement.

to fill a board seat vacancy. This vacancy will be filled by appointment. Qualifications for this office include the following:

 Must be a registered voter in the Prairie Creek Public Library District and has resided in the library district for a minimum of one (1) year. Some of the duties and responsibilities include attending the monthly board meetings which are held at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday of every month, as well as other special meetings as called. Board members also oversee the financial and policy development of the Library. The term for this appointment will go through April 2023. Interested persons should contact the Library at (815) 584-3061 and speak to the Library Director.

Thank You We want to thank everyone who remembered us in any way for our 70th wedding anniversary. Thanks to those who offered congratulations, cards, phone calls, and gifts.

> We feel blessed and grateful for all our friends and family.

SHOPPING . SALES

FOOD TRUCKS

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May 6 4-8 p.m. Shopping

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Smokin BBQ • Auntie Anne's Pretzels

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orris

ing, hands-on agriculture-based activities that can be implemented in their classrooms. Activities will include: field trips to local farms and agribusiness operations; guest speakers from Illinois commodities groups and Illinois Ag in the Classroom staff; and many hands-on

a first-come basis. A fee applies, which is payable on the first day of class.

For further information or to register, contact Ag Literacy Coordinator, Debbie Ruff, at aitc.livingston@gmail.com or by calling 815-844-6127, ext. 3.

Grundy County SWCD Rain Barrel Sale

Looking into conserving know at 815-942-0359, ext. 3. water or a healthier way to water your garden?

The Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District is starting a Rain Barrel Sale, which goes until June 9, with the pick-up date being June 16.

The sale includes different colored rain barrels, as well as attachments for the barrels.

If you would like an order form mailed or e-mailed to you, call their office to let them

Order forms are also available on their website, grundycountvswcd.weeblv.com. or the link can be found on their Facebook page by searching Grundy County Soil & Water Conservation District.

If you have any questions or would like help in the selection process, feel free to contact them at the phone number listed.

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8!

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Shirley Ann Brown

Shirley Ann Brown, (nee Hammerstein), age 86, of Dwight, Illinois and formerly of Marley, passed away Sunday, April 24, 2022 at Lightways Hospice Home in Joliet, Illinois.

Shirley was born in Chicago on October 26, 1935, to the late Charles and Margaret Hammerstein.

Surviving are her children: Marvin (Terry) Brown, Jim (Chris) Brown, Margaret Mc-Grath, and Gary (Darla) Brown; seven grandchildren: Jamie (Marty) Hughes, Sara (Joe) LePore, Jenna (Patrick) Riccolo, Jeff (Annie) Brown, John Brown, Gwyn Brown, and Scott (Gabby) Brown.

Eleven great - grandchildren: Thomas, Seth, Makayla and Liam Brown; McKenzy Brown, Joey, Michael and Nicholas LePore, Samuel and Sadie Riccolo, and Ellie Brown; two sisters-in-law,

Jackie Hammerstein and Bonnie (the late Charles) Davy; special nephews and family, Steve (Mary) Hammerstein, Megan and Lindsey Hammerstein; two special nieces, Janet (Phil) Harvey and Cathy (Al) Davis; and several other nieces and nephews also survive.

Preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Brown; her son, Tom Brown; her parents; and two brothers, Charles J. and Tom Hammerstein.

Funeral services were held at the Fred C. Dames Funeral Home, 1201 W. Route 6 at Deerpath Drive in Morris.

Interment will be private. Please omit flowers. Memorials in her name to Lightways

Hospice would be appreciated. For information, please call (815) 942-5040 or visit her Memorial Tribute at:

www.fredcdames.com where you can share a favorite memory or leave a condolence.

Have Fun at Limestone Township Library District Night Tuesday, May 17, from

Spring is finally here, so stop in at Limestone Township Library District (LTLD) for some programs.

Story Time takes place each Wednesday. They will meet at 10:15 a.m. in person with Mr. William to read an exciting picture book or two and work on a craft to help preschoolers discover the joy of reading.

Wednesday, May the Fourth, promises to be filled with Star Wars fun. You can return books in their R2D2 book drop inside the building. Star Wars-themed books will be read during Story Time and have a themed craft. And try your hand at making Star Warsthemed paper airplanes to test their flying ability into their Death Star. Get a Wookie Cookie for participating.

STEAM Workshop will take place in person Thursday, May 5, at 10:00 a.m. A part of their Getting Ready for Kindergarten grant program, STEAM Workshop is geared for students entering kindergarten in 2022. This month, they are doing Sensory Dough. Each participant who registers will receive a kit (while supplies last) at the event to complete an experiment with Mr. William. This program is sponsored by the Community Foundation of

6:00-8:00 p.m. at the library. Pallet blanks and art materials provided. Creativity encouraged. You may request in advance another team logo as well as make your own. Register today - space is limited. This program is for Adults. There is a fee, which must be paid before craft night. Limit of 10 people. Every Saturday, there is a

new Take and Make craft that anyone can pick up for their kids who are in first through fifth grades. On May 7, the craft is Mother's Day Bouquet.

Summer Reading is on the way. This year, they are going to Read Beyond the Beaten Path. Registration begins Monday, May 23, and the kick-off party is Saturday, June 4. Watch for more information.

The library continues to reserve its first hour of operation as a time for seniors and immuno-compromised patrons/community members with the remaining hours of operation open to all. The use of masks within the library is optional.

Check their website at limestonelibrary.org, as well as Facebook, Instagram, and The *Paper* for updates.

Any questions? Call them at

Livingston County SWCD **Cost-Share Assistance Sign-Up**

Don't miss out - the Liv- crops, no-till/strip-till, pollinaingston County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is now accepting applications for their Partners for Conservation Cost-Share Program.

This is open to producers and landowners in Livingston County who would like to implement conservation practices on their land. Some of the eligible practices include cover

For practice information and applications, contact Becky Taylor, Resource Conservationist for the Livingston County SWCD, at 815-844-

6127, ext. 3, or: rebecca.m.taylor@il.nacdnet.net.

Morris Hospital Welcomes Family Nurse Practitioner in Braidwood and Dwight

Family Nurse Practitioner Amy Bohland is now seeing patients at Morris Hospital's Healthcare Centers in Braidwood and Dwight.

As a family nurse practitioner, Bohland is qualified to serve as the primary health care provider for patients of all ages. She holds a Family Nurse Practitioner certificate, allowing her to order and interpret diagnostic tests, diagnose disease, provide appropriate treatments and prescribe medications. In her role, Bohland is committed to listening and building trust with her patients to foster an open, honest relationship.

"I strive to help my patients understand their health to empower them to be an active participant in their health," Bohland says. "I want my patients to be able to discuss their concerns with me. I promise to listen without bias or judgment.'

Bohland has worked as a family nurse practitioner since 2019, and she has worked as a registered nurse since 2013. She received her master's degree in nursing from Governor's State University. Prior to that, she acquired her bachelor's degree in nursing from Purdue University Calumet and her associate's degree in nursing from Joliet Junior College.

At the Braidwood Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital, 389 E. Main Street, Braidwood, Bohland is working in the same office as Dr. Mark Passerman and Dr. Jennifer Thomas, both board-certified family medicine physicians. At the Dwight Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital, 101 S. Prairie Avenue, Dwight, she joins Dr. Passerman and Kathy Ulivi, also a certified family

tor habitat, grassed waterways, with terraces, well decommissioning, and many more. Boma



The Chase!

Rarely does Dwight, Illinois make it into the Chicago news spectrum. And even more rarely does it make it into the national one. But that briefly changed last week when there was a stolen ambulance chase which ended just outside of Dwight, Illinois on Interstate 55.

With the disclaimer that it was a serious event and people could've been hurt, I am now going to analyze it from an entertainment and chaos perspective.

For starters, an ambulance being the stolen vehicle choice was quite the choice. If you were playing the most notorious game that involves stealing vehicles aptly named, "Grant Theft Auto," you would have to put in a cheat code or peruse whatever city you were in for a while to find an ambulance to steal.

Then, maybe the most improbable portion of the chase is that this man made it out of Chicago, and the greater Chicago area...during rush hour. I would never steal an ambulance. However, the thought of making it through Chicago rush hour traffic in a relatively quick amount of time may have me reconsidering this.

Amy Bohland, FNP

titioners. In 2020, she also earned certification in Skin and Wound Management from Wound Care Education Institute.

"I am a wound specialist and do love helping people heal wounds, not only with bandages, but with changes to their health that ultimately affects how we heal," Bohland savs.

Born and raised in Joliet, Bohland has lived her entire life in the area. She currently lives in Wilmington with her husband and two sons.

To schedule an appointment with Amy Bohland, call 815-458-2532 (Braidwood) or 815-584-3291 (Dwight).

The Braidwood Healthcare Center of Morris Hospital is located one block southeast of the intersection of Route 53 and Route 113 in Braidwood. The Dwight Healthcare Center is located a half-mile west of the intersection of Illinois Route 47 and Route 17. For more information, visit morris hospital.org/braidwood or morrishospital.org/dwight.

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

Another fun development, watching the news stations refer to Dwight as a "southwest suburb." I'm all for being inclusive but I have to be honest that feels like a stretch. I know Dwight pops up often when they show the weather...is that the threshold for being a suburb? I suppose so!

Then finally, and obviously, there is inherent danger that comes along with a live chase, but watching a live chase is always exhilirating. I was not around for the OJ live chase, but I imagine it was something like this in terms of a spectacle but x10,000.

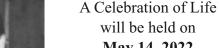
It was nice to have a slightly goofy, moderately serious event happen near Dwight. Thanks for the first responders who apprehended the individual and kept the general public out of harms way. (Traffic aside.)

Go whatever Chicago team doesn't stink right now!

Aaron J. Boma 2016 ISU Grad



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Page 7



Kankakee River Valley.

make a DIY Open Air Terrarium in the library Monday, May 9, at 6:30 p.m. They will be discussing The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek by Kim Michele Richardson, a novel about the Horse Librarians in Appalachia during the 1930s. Books are available for check-out at the Front Desk.

The Friends of the Library is hosting a Pallet Painting

Junk In The **Trunk Sale in Morris May 15**

The "Junk In The Trunk" or "JITT" community sale will take place Sunday, May 15, and the third Sunday of each month through October, weather-permitting, at 100 Commercial Drive in Morris (located just west of Rt. 47 behind BP Amoco).

There will be a sign at the Rt. 47 entrance to Commercial Drive. Set-up time is 8:30 a.m., with the sale running from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

This is a community event that raises money for charities in and around the Morris area. Donations and vendor fees are given to a different charity each month. Participants will need to read and agree with the rules pertaining to attending the event before participating.

No commercial or homebased businesses or tables of mass-produced imported items are allowed at this sale.

For more information, contact Ken at willis824@com cast.net or call 815-942-2032 (no texts).

All participants do so at their own risk.

815-939-1696, e-mail them at Do you enjoy plants? Go info@limestonelibrary.org, or message them at Facebook or Instagram.

nurse practitioner. Bohland is certified as a nurse practitioner by the American Association of Nurse Prac-

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.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING **ON DWIGHT TOWNSHIP BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Dwight Township in the County of Livingston, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023, is on file and conveniently available for public inspecting at the Dwight Township Hall from and after 1:00 on Friday, April 15, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 6:45 P.M., Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the Town Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight, Illinois, in this Dwight Township, and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting held at the Town Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight Illinois at 7:00 o'clock, Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

Patricia S. Rosenbaum Dwight Township Supervisor Janice M. Masching Dwight Township Clerk The Paper

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

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on April 14, 2022, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Livingston County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all the persons owning, conducting and transacting business known as Flo's on Franklin Antiques & Flowers, located at 106 S. Franklin St., Dwight, IL 60420.

Dated this 14th day of April, 2022.

Kristy A. Masching Livingston County Clerk



Notice is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Road Purposes of the Dwight Township Road District, in the County of Livingston, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2022 and ending March 31, 2023, is on file and conveniently available for public inspection at the Dwight Township Hall from and after 1:00 on Friday, April 15, 2022.

Notice is hereby given that public hearing on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 6:30 P.M., Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at the Town Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight, Illinois, in this Dwight Township, and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting held at the Town Hall, 201 North Franklin Street, Dwight Illinois at 7:00 o'clock, Tuesday, June 7, 2022.

Patricia S. Rosenbaum

Janice M. Masching Dwight Township Clerk

Dwight Township Supervisor

ELECTION JUDGES NEEDED for the June 28, 2022 **General Primary Election.** Help Ensure our Future One-Vote-at-a-Time

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For more information, please contact the Livingston County Clerk's Office at 112 W. Madison, Pontiac, IL Ph.# 815-844-2006

kmasching@livingstoncountyil.gov or gsmythe@livingstoncountyil.gov

May 14, 2022 for Mike O'Hare at the Dwight, Illinois VFW from 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Dinner will be served.

Sips of Encouragement



Mindy Thomas, owner of Sips Coffee Consignment & More

by Brandon LaChance

When you turn south onto Franklin St. off of Mazon Ave. in Dwight, you'll notice a new shop.

The sign says "Sips."

Yes, you will find coffee to sip on inside, but there is so much more involved in Sips Coffee Consignment & More.

"This has been a 21-year vision. I had a vision years ago about this place," said Mindy Thomas, the owner of Sips. "I had all of these things going on. But, I was young and didn't quite understand everything that I was dreaming about. Throughout the years, the Lord really opened my eyes to a lot of things that he was trying to show me in terms of connecting the community and how important it is."

"I didn't even have a name for what I wanted to do here because there was so much. God gave me the name Sips because I'm trying to give sips of encouragement to the community. Sips of care. Sips of love.

Sips of coffee."

Thomas, who is originally from the Rockford area and came to the Dwight area in 2000, opened her new shop on May 25.

Over the years her ideas of what the store was going to entail changed. She thought about resale. She thought about ways to help the community.

When it was time for Thomas – who worked at the Empress Casino for 13 years, has a Seminary Degree from Andersonville Baptist Seminary in Camilla, Georgia, and is a paraprofessional in Gardner - to officially draft a blueprint, coffee and consignment wrote the clearest.

'We do consignment, where I'll take your items in and sell them for you," said Thomas. "In my store, we do a 50/50split. A lot of consignment places do 60/40 where the store owner will get the 60 percent because there is overhead expenses. Here, we're going to do 50/50 because I want to be reasonable.

"I want to have a reasonable price point, also. I don't want someone to walk in and think, 'I can't afford to shop here.' This is a shop for everyone. I want to offer nice things, so we have gently used items and new items. We have to be a little more picky when things are brought in to make sure everything is in good repair."

Thomas will accept consignment - she's always looking for home décor – as long as the items are in working order and you agree to the 50/50 split.

Sips Coffee Consignment & More has a Facebook page and she accepts phone calls and texts at 815-830-3133.

With school in session, Thomas opens her shop around 3:30 p.m. But with summer quickly approaching, she hopes to be open 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday.

Not only is Sips open to drink coffee and shop, it's also a safe haven for kids and a spot to mingle as there is a kid's zone, games available to play while relaxing, and a book selection for you to read on the same principles as the book boxes people have outside of their residences to exchange books.

"This area is open for kids. I want them to have a safe place to go," Thomas said. "Their moms can know this is a safe place for them to hang out. Hopefully, they're getting a word of encouragement. I'm trying to interact in my community with the young kids that I feel really need that involvement

"Kids are funny when it's not their parents talking to them. You can almost become

like one of them where they trust you. I'm hoping to give sips of encouragement. I try to recognize if they have a talent and we'll talk about it."

The kids can gather...and so can the adults.

"Gathering is essential. I think in the last two years, we saw that breakdown of communication and people not gathering," Thomas said. "I think gathering is really important. We were meant to be with each other. We need to work with each other and hang with each other.

When you're a mom, you're a mom for 24 hours. There is no break. It's nice to be able to go somewhere where their kids are welcome. They can play and mom can shop and kick back. The kids love the play area. They immediately go there as soon as they realize they can go play. We have kid friendly snacks and juice boxes."

Thomas is excited about the feedback Sips has received and how it has been accepted by the community.

One of her main goals is to interact with the community and have an open door for kids, adults, playing, laughing, talking, reading, shopping, drinking coffee, and anything else you may need a sip of.

Another goal is to be a partner with other business owners, not a competitor.

"Dwight is a really unique town. I've only been in business for five weeks and it's beyond my understanding of how much love and support they've brought in," Thomas said. "There are a lot of new shops coming in this year. We don't want to be in competition, we want to complement each other. I'm humbled by the love I've been shown. Dwight has been great.

"We want to figure out ways that we can all help each other. I'm making sure I don't have the same things the other shops are selling. It's a respect thing. I don't want to sell the same things as them."





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SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Trojans, Chargers, and Tigers Compete in Herscher Invitational

Friday, April 29 **Herscher Invite**

The Herscher Tigers hosted the Herscher Invitational April 1.85 (SR); T. Mogan, 7th, 1.64. 29, with area schools Dwight and Tri-Point competing. Individual results are as follows:

Herscher Boys -

100: Adin Morrical, 15th, 12.74; AJ Cotter, 16th, 12.77. 200: Joshua Thorson, 9th, 25.31 (PR); Morrical, 11th, 25.61.

400: Ben Morgan, 1st, 54.03; Cotter, 9th, 59.04.

800: Matthew Benoit, 9th, 2:22.23; Connor Overacker, 14th, 2:25.64.

1600: Drew Rogers, 1st, 4:16.72 (SR); Brayden Shepard, 3rd, 5:06.42.

3200: Shepard, 1st, 11:05.96 (PR); Ezekiel Houberg, 11th, 14:22.52

110 hurdles: Kaleb Gordon, 7th, 20.97; Augie Azzarelli, 9th, 23.28.

300 hurdles: Azzarelli, 11th, 54.53; Gordon, 12th, 55.71.

4x400: Cotter, Thomas Morgan, B. Morgan, Rogers, 1st, 3:43.10. 4x800: Overacker, T. Mor-

gan, Benoit, Rogers, 1st, 8:50.95.

Shot put: Lance Johnston, 2nd, 12.98; Travis Jones, 3rd, 12.73 (SR).

Discus: Jones, 2nd, 38.43; Johnston, 10th, 32.00.

High jump: B. Morgan, 2nd, Long jump: Cotter, 4th, 5.37; Braiden Linnabary, 23rd, 3.74 (PR).

Herscher Girls -

100: Marissa Contreras, 5th, 14.30; Savanna Drozda, 20th, 15.87 (SR). 200: Sophie Howard, 15th,

33.45 (PR); Claire Hertz, 21st, 34.95 (PR).

400: Claire Chinski, 6th, 1:10.08 (PR).

800: Emery Robinson, 12th, 3:12.06 (SR).

1600: Gracie Kent, 6th, 6:26.06.

3200: Kent, 1st, 13.19.51 (PR).

100 hurdles: Layla Keen, 12th, 22.53; Howard, 13th, 23.19 (PR).

300 hurdles: Emma Kruse, 12th, 1:09.72; Keen, 14th, 1:14.08.

4x100: Contreras, Chinski, Drozda, Mary Grace Brinkman, 4th, 57.89. 4x400: Chinski, Drozda,

Robinson, Kent, 7th, 5:21.14. Shot put: Contreras, 12th, 7.54; Charlotte Baker, 14th, 7.41.

Discus: Baker, 13th, 20.64; Contreras, 17th, 18.35.

100: Paul Langer, 10th, 13.45;

200: Donovan Conner, 9th, 27.08: Kaleb Metke, 13th, 29.53.

400: Spencer Moreno, 11th,

4x200: Langer, Moreno, Bren-

Shot put: Conner, 10th, 30'1"; Langer, 13th, 28'1.5" (PR).

Discus: Likes, 7th, 85'7";

Long jump: Moreno, 8th,

don Likes, Conner, 4th, 1:47.47.

Hunter Davies, 14th, 14.94.



1600: Shawn Romanetto,

3200: Frank Lasser, 8th,

4x100: Austin Burkhardt,

Roff,

Butterbrodt, Ayden Roff,

Samuel Edwards, Duffy, 3rd,

Larkin, Edwards, 4th, 3:50.72.

Chambers, Ca. Croy, Owen

Woods, 3rd, 10:05.95.

4x400: Burkhardt, Duffy,

4x800: Butterbrodt, Tristian

14th, 5:51.49 (PR).

Larkin, 5th, 49.21.

4x200: Burkhardt.

12:46.32 (PR).

1:39.13.

Long jump: Brinkman, 14th, 3.54; Chinski, 16th, 3.48.

Dwight Boys -

100: Jack Duffy, 9th, 12.49 (PR); Tracer Brown, 24th, 13.26

200: Brown, 21st, 26.96; Dylan Crouch, 23rd, 27.53 (PR).

400: Tristan Larkin, 8th, 58.23; Crouch, 14th, 1:02.02 (PR).

800: Carter Butterbrodt, 4th, 2:16.98 (PR); Cade Croy, 19th, 2:30.35 (SR).

10.39; Cree Croy, 16th, 9.42. Discus: Edwards, 4th, 36.50 11.55; Conner, 23rd, 8.90. (PR); Cr. Croy, 23rd, 20.88. Long jump: Duffy, 9th, 24.31 (PR).

5.16; Burkhardt, 15th, 4.70.

Dwight Girls -

- 100: Kassy Kodat, 6th, 14.33.
- 100 hurdles: Kodat, 3rd, 18.51. 300 hurdles: Kodat, 4th,
- 56.02.

Shot put: Hailey Heath, 1st, 9.34; Isabella Bunting, 5th, 8.50.

Discus: Bunting, 4th, 23.80; Heath, 15th, 19.83.

Tri-Point Boys -

100: Paul Langers, 18th, 12.97; Donovan Conner, 19th, 12.98 (PR).

- 200: Conner, 20th, 26.92; Langer, 22nd, 27.09 (PR).
- 400: Anthony Harrell, 16th, 1:03.20.

2:29.16; Cole Bruner, 23rd, 2:37.75.

1600: Jose Amador, 4th, 5:09.03; Mihreteab Gilleland, 7th, 5:20.35.

3200: Amador, 2nd, 11:14.33 (PR); Gilleland, 3rd, 11:14.90 (PR).

4x800: Harrell, Bruner, Ayden McNeill, Barriga, 5th, Shot put: Edwards, 12th, 10:17.92.

Shot put: McNeill, 7th,

Discus: Colton Dohe, 18th,

Long jump: Spencer Moreno, 21st, 3.97 (PR); Hunter Davies, 25th, 3.29.

Tri-Point Girls -

100: Cali Statler, 22nd, 16.42.

200: Statler, 20th, 34.66 (PR).

400: Rosmond Prisock, 10th, 1:12.49 (PR).

800: Katelyn Poe, 5th, 2:41.92 (PR); Emma Creek, 18th, 3:49.61 (SR).

100 hurdles: Lainey Bertrand, 7th, 20.11 (PR); Alli Schuette, 10th, 21.17.

300 hurdles: Bertrand, 5th, 56.53.

4x200: Bertrand, Kasi Hughes, Prisock, Schuette, 4th, 2:08.62.

4x400: Prisock, Mikaayla 800: Franky Barriga, 18th, English, Poe, Schuette, 5th, 5:01.52.

> Shot put: Lanie Woods, 7th, 8.20; Haley Hastings, 22nd, 6.09.

Discus: Woods, 2nd, 25.35; Tabitha Jabaay, 14th, 20.39. Long jump: Bertrand, 10th,

3.63; Prisock, 12th, 3.62. Triple jump: English, 4th, 7.87.

TRI-POINT CHARGERS TRACK AND FIELD

Bovs -

1:05.89 (PR).

Tuesday, April 26 Tri-Point at Watseka Fresh./Soph. -

The Freshman/Sophomore squad from Tri-Point competed in Watseka April 26, and Coach Matt Mogged said it was a great experience for the young athletes.

"Big shout out to Spencer Moreno," said Mogged, "who is the meet's donut dash champion." Moreno placed top eight in

shot put and won a 100m dash against the other top throwers. Top three finishes include:

12'10.75"; Davies, 12th, 9'4.25". Boys -



Anthony Harrell: 800, 2nd, 2:32.

Spencer Moreno: 100 donut dash, 1st.

Girls -

Lainey Bertrand: 300 hurdles, 2nd, 58.65; 100 hurdles, 3rd, 20.30.

Thursday, April 28 **Tri-Point** at

Ridgeview Invitational

The Chargers track team took part in the Ridgeview Invitational held April 28, posting the following individual scores.



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Proceeds from the raffle will benefit the Dwight Economic Alliance.

Girls -100: Lainey Bertrand, 11th,

Colton Dohe, 11th, 73'8".

15.43; Katelyn Poe, 14th, 16.22 (PR).

400: Bertrand, 5th, 1:11.72 (PR); Poe, 7th, 1:16.33 (PR). 100 hurdles: Cali Statler, 3rd, 20.33 (SR); Alli Schuette, 6th, 21.41.

300 hurdles: Schuette, 3rd, 58.42 (PR).

Shot put: Lanie Woods, 4th, 27'3"; Haley Hastings, 11th, 20'9.5".

Discus: Woods, 2nd, 85'9"; Tabitha Jabaay, 9th, 62'10". Long jump: Bertrand, 3rd,

12'3". "Even though the weather was not ideal," said Coach Mogged, "we still managed to come away with a lot of personal bests."



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Discus: Meister, 1st, 100'0";

Long jump: Bachand, 2nd,

100: Joey Starks, 7th, 13.73;

200: Starks, 3rd, 26.72 (PR);

400: Mwizerwa, 10th, 1:18.15

800: Ryker Anderson, 9th,

110 hurdles: Wiles, 13th,

4x100: Jason Stukel, Eli

4x200: Peyton Oswald, Kay-

4x400: Bachand, E. Pakula,

Shot put: E. Pakula, 5th,

Discus: E. Pakula, 4th, 88'0";

Long jump: Starks, 8th, 14'11"

(PR); As. Kargle, 12th, 14'3".

Dwight vs. Tri-Point, Ransom,

Point, Ransom, Saratoga and St.

Anne April 26, with the seventh

grade boys finishing in second

place, and the eighth grade boys,

in addition to both the seventh and

eighth grade girls, taking first

place overall. Individual results

20.43; DeLana Marsh, 3rd, 21.71.

1st, 8:03; Miranda Bovelle, 2nd,

Connor, Isabel Hakey, Chambers,

lynn Todd, Claire Sandeno, Chloe

400: Chambers, 1st, 1:08.

200: Taylor, 4th, 32.90.

Hurdles: Addison Taylor, 2nd,

100: Mikayla Chambers, 2nd,

1600: Honorine Mwizerwa,

4x200: Delaney Boucher, Kit

4x100: Bianca Noriega, Kait-

800: Chambers, 1st, 2:37;

4x400: Taylor, Connor, Leith-

Shot put: Kailyn Haggard, 3rd,

Dwight went up against Tri-

28'11.25"; Walter Bradley, 14th,

Jensen, DeLong, Wiles, 7th,

den Conroy, Anson Lucas, Logan

As. Kargle, Starks, 1st, 4:26.69.

Bovelle, 6th, 2:43.73.

Stukel, 9th, 68'7".

Tuesday, April 26

are as follows:

14.04

8:09.

1st, 2:09.

Leithliter, 3rd, 1:07.

Boucher, 3rd, 3:04.

liter, Hakey, 1st, 5:57.

7th Grade Girls -

Saratoga and St. Anne

(PR); Axel Kargle, 15th, 1:26.70.

3:33.20 (PR); Turner, 10th,

Asher Kargle, 15th, 14.80 (PR).

As. Kargle, 12th, 30.21 (PR).

16'0"; Farris, 17th, 11'0".

8th Grade Boys -

4:00.61.

28.87.

1:09.42.

21'11.5"

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS



DTHS TROJANS TRACK AND FIELD

Friday, April 22 Dwight vs. Marquette, Illinois Lutheran, Iroquois West

On April 22, Dwight hosted Marquette Academy, Illinois Lutheran, and Iroquois West in a meet where they honored their five senior boys for their efforts and contributions to the track program.

Senior athletes include: Carter Butterbrodt, Sam Edwards, Emmett Emmons, Shawn Romanetto, and Gabe Seabert.

"These fine young men will truly be missed by their teammates and the coaches," said Coach Lane. "Congratulations and good luck in your future."

In the meet, the boys scored 63 points to win the meet, and the girls finished third with 44.5 points. Individual placers are as follows: Boys -

Emmons: 100, 4th, 12.3;

200, 2nd, 24.6; 800, 1st, 2:23.6. Butterbrodt: 100, 5th, 12.6;

200, 5th, 25.7; 800, 3rd, 2:28.3. Edwards: 400, 1st, 55.5; dis-

cus, 2nd, 35.82; shot, 3rd, 11.54. Jack Duffy: 400, 2nd, 57.4;

long jump, 1st, 5.34. Tristan Larkin: 400, 4th,

57.7. Tristan Chambers: 1600,

1st, 5:09.8; 4x800, 1st, 10:54.2. Frank Lasser: 1600, 4th,

6:03.1; 4x800, 1st, 10:54.2. Romanetto: 1600, 5th,

6:09.8. Owen Woods: 4x800, 1st, 10:54.2.

Cade Croy: 4x800, 1st, 10:54.2.

Seabert: shot, 5th, 10.30; Ayden Roff, 3rd, 1:56.01.

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discus, 4th, 33.82. Girls -

Njomza Asllani: 100, 3rd, 14.8; 200, 4th, 32.2; 400, 3rd, 1:16.4.

Kassy Kodat: 100, 2nd, 14.2; 200, 2nd, 29.8; 300H, 1st, 55.4.

Hailey Heath: shot, 1st, 9.45; discus, 2nd, 23.77.

Isabella Bunting: shot, 2nd, 8.27; discus, 1st, 25.31.

Saturday, April 23 Dwight at

Livingston County Open

The Livingston County Open was held April 23, with the Trojan track team recording 17 boys personal bests, and the girls turning in seven new personal records.

"Fantastic performances!" said Coach Lane.

This meet was a non-scoring event, but the athletes did take home some hardware, as well as those personal records. Medalists included:

100: Kassy Kodat, 3rd, 14.15.

300LH: Kodat, 2nd, 56.57. Shot: Hailey Heath, 1st, 10.30; Isabella Bunting, 3rd, 8.64.

1600: Tristan Chambers, 3rd, 5:06.97.

Discus: Gabe Seabert, 3rd, 38.30

4x800: Owen Woods, Frank Lasser, Cade Croy, Chambers, 2nd, 10:06.12.

4x400: Carter Butterbrodt, Tristan Larkin, Sam Edwards, Emmett Emmons, 3rd, 3:44.63. Co-ed 4x200: Kodat, Ellora McCullough, Dylan Crouch,

Thursday, April 21 Dwight vs. Woodland and Ransom

The Redbirds track team was in action April 21 against Woodland and Ransom, with both the seventh and eighth grade boys and girls squads taking first place overall. Individual results are as

follows: 7th Grade Girls -

Hurdles: Addison Taylor, 1st, 20.40; DeLana Marsh, 3rd, 22.40; Kaitlynn Todd, 5th, 22.94.

100: Taylor, 2nd, 15.34; Claire Sandeno, 4th, 16.52.

1600: Bianca Noriega, 1st, 7:18; Honorine Mwizerwa, 2nd, 8:33; Clara Flott, 3rd, 8:52.

4x200: Chloe Leithliter, Sandeno, D. Marsh, Delaney Boucher, 1st, 2:20.

4x100: Kalei Marsh, K. Todd, Aleah Johnson, Taylor, 2nd, 1:09. 400: Boucher, 1st, 1:17.14; Is-

abel Hakey, 2nd, 1:17.43. 200: Johnson, 4th, 34.68;

Sandeno, 5th, 35.78. 800: Mikayla Chambers, 1st, 2:31 (*New School Record*); Nicole Schmidt, 4th, 3:29; Mwizerwa, 5th, 3:57.

4x400: Boucher, Kit Connor, Hakey, Chambers, 1st, 5:20.

Shot put: Kailyn Haggard, 3rd, 15'7"; Maya Lemke, 5th, 15'1/2".



Friday, April 29 Seneca at Monticello Sages **Girls Invite**

The Lady Irish took part in the Monticello Sages Invite April 29, taking second place overall in the 25-team invitational.

First place finishes included:

Discus: Faith Deering, 41.55.

3.05.

4x800: Ashley Alsvig, nor, Gracie Steffes, 10:07.88.

cluded: 100

O'Boyle, 15.82 (PR).

4x100: Deering, Taylor

DCS Redbirds Track and Field

4'4" Long jump: Taylor, 2nd,

11'9.5"; Boucher, 3rd, 11'7". 8th Grade Girls -Hurdles: Breanna Scott, 3rd,

27.62; K. Marsh, 4th, 28.58; June Woods, 5th, 30.90.

100: Ella Payne, 4th, 16.58; K. Marsh, 5th, 17.68.

1600: Sarah Parker, 1st, 6:29; Woods, 2nd, 7:18; Brooklynn Todd, 3rd, 7:37.

4x200: Gracie Shireman, Payne, Addy Pittenger, Cara Wilson, 2nd. 2:35

400: Connor, 1st, 1:25; Shireman, 2nd, 1:33.

200: Payne, 3rd, 36.37; K. Marsh, 4th, 38.90; Pittenger, 5th, 39.11.

800: B. Todd, 1st, 3:26; Miranda Bovelle, 2nd, 3:52; Indira Bradley, 3rd, 3:59.

4x400: Parker, Woods, Flott, Noriega, 1st, 6:33.

Shot put: Scott, 2nd, 15'11"; Elizabeth Hansen, 3rd, 15'10.5". Discus: Bovelle, 1st, 40'9";

Shireman, 3rd, 36'6" Long jump: Connor, 2nd, 10'3".

7th Grade Boys -

110 hurdles: Frank Digilio, 1st, 22.20; Ty Turner, 2nd, 24.49.

100: Hudson Colclasure, 1st, 15.40; Ameryn Wiles, 2nd, 15.50. 200: Colclasure, 1st, 33.40;

Cason Johnson, 2nd, 33.7. 400: Collin Bachand, 1st.

1:04.71; Digilio, 2nd, 1:14. 800: Joey Farris, 1st, 2:36.30; Sawyer Kucera, 3rd, 3:15.30.

1600: Farris, 1st, 5:49.27; Kucera, 3rd, 6:50.27.

4x100: Kucera, Logan Pakula, Kayden Wood, Honore Mwizerwa, 2nd, 1:06.21.

4x200: Bachand, Johnson, Colclasure, Graham Meister, 1st, 2:07.24.

4x400: Digilio, Axel Kargle, Mwizerwa, Dalton DeLong, 1st, 5:38.

Long jump: Bachand, 1st,

110 hurdles: Wiles, 2nd, 24.81.

100: Joey Starks, 1st, 12.84;

200: Starks, 1st, 26.34; As.

15'1"; Farris, 2nd, 12'6".

Asher Kargle, 4th, 14.27.

Shot: Meister, 1st, 38'8¹/₂"; Evan Olson, 2nd, 28'6"; Wood, 3rd, 14'11".

Pole vault: Teagan Johnson, Discus: Meister, 1st, 112'5½"; Olson, 2nd, 87'9"; Wood, 3rd, 62'10".

Clara Bruno, Evelyn O'Con-Second place finishes in-

hurdles: Caitlyn

High jump: D. Marsh, 1st, in the Illinois Valley Conference 28'11.25". Meet April 23, posting the following individual results: Olson, 2nd, 90'10". 7th Grade Girls -

100: Delaney Boucher, 11th, 15.54; Claire Sandeno, 17th, 16.80.

200: Addison Taylor, 11th, 34.16; Sandeno, 15th, 36.63.

400: Boucher, 2nd, 1:11.94 (PR).

800: Mikayla Chambers, 1st, 2:42.90; Bianca Noriega, 7th, 3:13.11 (PR).

1600: Chambers, 1st, 5:50.95; Noriega, 4th, 6:47.72 (PR).

100 hurdles: Taylor, 5th, 20.55; Kaitlynn Todd, 15th, 23.12.

4x100: Kavlei Marsh, K. Todd, DeLana Marsh, Chloe Leithliter, 9th, 1:09.71.

4x200: Taylor, Kirsta Connor, Sandeno, Isabel Hakey, 3rd, 2:20.46.

4x400: Hakey, Connor, Boucher, Chambers, 5:13.63.

Shot put: Cara Wilson, 11th, 17'7.25" (PR); Kailyn Haggard, 13th, 16'6.75" (PR).

Discus: Haggard, 13th, 42'8" (PR); Wilson, 14th, 41'3". High jump: D. Marsh, 1st, 4'7"

Long jump: Taylor, 8th, 12'2"

100: Leithliter, 15th, 16.55

200: Leithliter, 9th, 34.85;

400: Connor, 9th, 1:19.08

Sarah Parker, 2nd,

(PR); Gracie Shireman, 13th,

2:55.15 (PR); Indira Bradley, 8th,

(PR); Brooklynn Todd, 6th,

1600: Parker, 2nd, 6:31.32

100 hurdles: June Woods,

4x100: Honorine Mwizerwa,

4x200: Shireman, Payne,

4x400: Parker, Woods, Clara

Shot put: Maya Lemke, 6th,

Discus: Lemke, 12th, 40'7"

100: Hudson Colclasure, 13th,

17'2"; Emma Anderson, 13th,

Addy Pittenger, B. Todd, Breanna

Aleah Johnson, Elizabeth Hansen,

Flott, B. Todd, 7th, 6:05.82.

(PR); Boucher, 9th, 12'1" (PR).

(PR); Ella Payne, 16th, 16.88.

8th Grade Girls -

Payne, 13th, 36.48.

(PR).

1:43.00

4:04.84

800:

7:25.59 (PR).

7th, 2:32.02.

14'8" (PR).

7th Grade Boys -

12th, 29.20 (PR).

Scott, 8th, 1:16.13.

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Kargle, 4th, 30.14. Draves, O'Boyle, Emma Smith, 400: Mwizerwa, 2nd, 1:20.

8th Grade Boys -

800: Mikey Groves, 1st, 3:24.70.

4x100: Jason Stukel, Eli Jensen, DeLong, Mwizerwa, 2nd, 1:07.40.

4x200: Peyton Oswald, Kayden Conroy, Anson Lucus, Logan Bovelle, 2nd, 2:41.24.

4x400: Bachand, Ethan Pakula, As. Kargle, Starks, 1st, 4:39.

Shot put: E. Pakula, 3rd, 28'7"; Stukel, 4th, 23'4¹/₂"; Walter Bradley, 5th, 23'2". Discus: E. Pakula, 1st, 96'7½";

Stukel 4th 66'9" Long jump: Starks, 2nd, 14'6";

As. Kargle, 5th, 13'9".

Saturday, April 23

Dwight at IVC Meet

17.62.

(PR); Anderson, 13th, 33'3".

200: Caleb Peters, 11th, 34.80; Cason Johnson, 13th, 35.39.

16.41 (PR); Logan Pakula, 17th,

400: Collin Bachand, 1st, 1:01.75 (PR); Frank Digilio, 6th, 1:12.87 (PR).

800: Joey Farris, 2nd, 2:35.67 (PR).

1600: Farris, 3rd, 5:45.79 (PR).

110 hurdles: Digilio, 7th, 22.53 (PR); Ty Turner, 10th, 24.06 (PR). 4x100: Sawyer Kucera, L. Pakula, Kayden Wood, Landon

Hoffner, 8th, 1:06.14. 4x200: Bachand, Johnson,

Colclasure, Graham Meister, 5th, 2:12.25

4x400: Digilio, Axel Kargle, Honore Mwizerwa, Dalton De-Long, 9th, 6:09.04.

Shot put: Meister, 1st, (PR – *NEW IVC 41'10.5" Dwight's track squad took part **RECORD***); Evan Olson, 6th,

16'6¹/₂"; Maya Lemke, 4th, 16'3". Discus: Cara Wilson, 3rd, 52'6"; Lemke, 5th, 41'7".

Long jump: Taylor, 4th, 11'3½"; Boucher, 5th, 11'2".

8th Grade Girls -

Hurdles: K. Todd, 3rd, 22.39; June Woods, 5th, 28.40.

100: Leithliter, 5th, 15.68. 1600: Clara Flott, 1st, 8:37; Indira Bradley, 2nd, 9:06.

4x200: Gracie Shireman, Ella Payne, Aleah Johnson, Elizabeth Hanson, 1st, 2:33.

4x100: Mwizerwa, Addy Pittenger, Nicole Schmidt, Flott, 2nd, 1:21

400: Sarah Parker, 2nd, 1:11.7; Brooklynn Todd, 4th, 1:27.

200: Payne, 4th, 36.11; Johnson, 5th, 36.24.

800: Parker, 1st, 3:08; Connor, 2nd, 3:13; B. Todd, 3rd, 3:29.

(continued on page 11)



SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS



THE DWIGHT TROJANS Basketball Awards Banquet was held recently. Pictured, from left, are Wyatt Thompson (MVP), Jack Denker (Points Champion), Gavin Wykes (MIP), and Kaleb Duden (MIP).

DTHS LADY TROJANS SOFTBALL

Tuesday, April 26 Dwight vs. Lowpoint-Washburn

The Dwight Lady Trojans were victorious in a big way April 26, defeating Lowpoint-Washburn, 21-0.

Samantha Harsh got the win, allowing just one hit while striking out six in three innings of the shortened contest.

Offensively, Averi Jury led with three RBI on a 3-3 showing that included a double and two runs scored. Brynn Connor (2 R), Lilly Duffy (single, R), and Alexis Thetard (HR, R) each had two RBI. Megan Livingston (double, BB, 2 SB, 3 R), Jordan Schultz (HBP, SB, 3 R), Erin Anderson (single, 2 R), Katy Parker, Njomza Asllani (double, HBP, SB, 2 R), and Lily Walkup (single, R) added one RBI each. Avery Scheuer (R), Rachel Heath (double, 2 R), and Harsh (triple) contributed two hits each. Emerson Peters was hit by a pitch and later scored.

Thursday, April 28 Dwight vs. Lowpoint-Washburn

Dwight continued its dominance over Lowpoint-Washburn, winning big once again, 22-2, on April 28.

Samantha Harsh earned another victory in the circle, giving up one earned run on three hits and two walks, striking out six.

at the plate, going 2-3 with a double, a home run, four RBI, and a run scored. Alexis Thetard was 2-3 with a double, three RBI, and two runs scored. Lily Walkup (single), Erin Anderson (3-4, double, 4 R), Averi Jury (HBP, R), Emerson Peters (single), Mia Buck (single), Rachel Heath (2-3, 2 R), and Njomza Asllani (single, R) added one RBI each. Megan Livingston singled, doubled, and scored twice. Jordan Schultz (3 R) and Brynn Connor (SB, 3 R) each singled, with Avery Scheuer getting hit by a pitch and scoring twice. Lily Duffy scored a run.

(continued on page 12)

Tuesday, April 26 GSW vs. Donovan

The Lady Panthers pummeled Donovan, 17-1, when they met April 26.

Jayden Buchanan pitched all three innings of the mercy ruleshortened game, throwing a perfect game, while striking out two.

At the dish, Makaila Mc-Daniel (HR, 2 BB, 3 SB, 3 R) and Grace Olsen (single, BB, 2 SB, 2 R) led with three RBI. Hannah Balcom singled, doubled, walked once, stole two bases, scored once, and batted in two runs. Buchanan singled, drew a walk, swiped a bag, scored twice, and tallied one RBI. Katelyn Farris chipped in with a single, a walk, a stolen

GSW Lady Panthers Softball

Aspen Lardi walked twice, was hit by a pitch, stole a base, and scored two runs. Bella Vyce (3 SB) and Ashley Frideres (2 SB) each walked once and scored twice. Hannah Frescura walked twice, swiped two bags, and scored once.

Wednesday, April 27 GSW vs. Hall

GSW fell short against Hall April 27, dropping a 4-3 decision.

"We did a great job on the bases, executed bunts when we needed to, and played a great defensive game," said Coach Carlson. "We were one timely hit away from winning this game. I'd like to see us take advantage of having runners in scoring position."

Buchanan, who gave up three earned runs on eight hits and a hit batter, striking out six.

Aspen Lardi (SB), Hannah Balcom (BB, 2 SB, R), and one RBI. Balcom singled, Grace Olsen (BB, R) each sin-Makaila McDaniel gled. walked once, with Buchanan ley Frideres drew one walk.

base, and two runs scored. reaching on an error and later scoring.

Thursday, April 28 **GSW vs. Donovan**

The Lady Panthers went off on Donovan April 28, winning 21-1.

Jayden Buchanan threw one inning, allowing just one hit and striking out one. Hannah Balcom got the win, giving up just two walks while striking out three.

The offense was led by Bella Vyce, who doubled, walked twice, was hit by a pitch, stole three bases, scored four runs, and batted in three runs. Makaila McDaniel (single, BB, 4 SB, 3 R), Aspen Lardi (double, BB, HBP, 3 SB, 3 R), Hannah Frescura (triple, 2 BB, 4 SB, 3 R), and Taking the loss was Jayden Buchanan (3 BB, 3 SB, 2 R) provided two RBI each. Katelyn Farris (single, double, 2 BB, 2 SB, 2 R) and Grace Olsen (2 BB, SB, 2 R) each had walked twice, swiped four bags, and scored two runs. Ash-

Seneca Lady Fighting Irish Softball

Tuesday, April 26 Seneca vs. Midland

The Lady Irish cruised to a 12-0 victory over Midland

"Good win against a conference team," said Coach Holman afterwards.

Taya Roe remained undefeated for the season following a no-run, three-hit, two-walk outing in which she struck out 11 batters in five innings of work

R) and Sam Vandevelde (HR, 2 BB, R) each had two RBI. Kennedy Hartwig had a solo homer and scored twice. Callee Bauer tripled and scored a run.

Wednesday, April 27 Seneca vs. Coal City

In a game that took extra innings to decide a winner, Seneca fell to Coal City, 10-9, on April 27.

"Tough loss up 8-1 going into the sixth," Coach Holman said. "Give Coal City credit for coming back, but we let a few innings get away where we

could have added on. Some really good things from the bottom of our lineup to get some runs."

Alyssa Zellers dropped to 5-4, allowing nine earned runs on 14 hits and two walks, fanning five in five-plus innings in the circle.

Madi Mino went 2-4 with a double, four RBI, and a run scored. Audry McNabb (double, triple, 2 R) and Kennedy Hartwig (3-4) added an RBI each.

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DCS Redbirds

April 26.

Harsh also had a big impact

Alyssa Zellers (4-4, 2 HR, 4

Want to read more?



(continued from page 10) 4x400: Woods, Noriega, B.Todd, Parker, 1st, 6:10. Shot put: Shireman, 4th, 15'8.75"; Hansen, 5th, 15'3' Discus: Hansen, 1st, 39'0; Shireman, 2nd, 38'7" Long jump: K. Todd, 4th, 9'7.5"

7th Grade Boys -

110 hurdles: Frank Digilio, 3rd, 21.72

100: Hudson Colclasure, 4th, 15.37.

1600: Sawyer Kucera, 5th, 6:52.

4x200: Caleb Peters, Cason Johnson, Hudson Colclasure, Honore Mwizerwa, 1st, 2:20.

4x100: Kucera, Logan Pakula, Kayden Wood, Ryker Anderson, 4th, 1:08.

400: Collin Bachand, 1st, 1:05; Digilio, 4th, 1:15.14.

4x400: Digilio, Anderson, Mwizerwa, Dalton DeLong, 3rd, 5:58.40.

Shot put: Graham Meister, 1st, 40'3"; Evan Olson, 2nd; Wood, 5th.

Discus: Meister, 1st, 97'3"; Olson, 2nd; Wood, 3rd.

High jump: Bachand, 1st, 4'9"; DeLong, 4th.

Long jump: Bachand, 1st, 15'6".

8th Grade Boys -

110 hurdles: Ameryn Wiles, 4th. 23.74. 100: Joey Starks, 2nd, 13.34.

1600: Mike Groves, 3rd, 7:01. 4x200: Peyton Oswald, Kayden Conroy, Anson Lucus, Logan

Bovelle, 1st, 2:42. 4x100: Jason Stukel, Eli Jensen, DeLong, Wiles, 4th, 1:07.

400: Asher Kargle, 2nd, 1.08; Mwizerwa. 5th.

200: Starks, 1st, 26.90. 800: As. Kargle, 2nd, 2:40.43;

Groves, 3rd, 3:35.46. 4x400: Bachand, E. Pakula, As.

Kargle, Starks, 2nd, 4:49.47. Shot put: E. Pakula, 3rd, $29'4'_{4''}$

Discus: E. Pakula, 2nd, 89'; Jude Hurt, 5th, 59'4".



Gas Prices For This Week

Pump prices rose again over the past week due primarily to the high cost of crude oil. Fear of a global energy supply disruption due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine outweighs the demand con-cerns prompted by the impact of COVID-19 on China's economy. The cost of a barrel of crude continues to hover around \$100. With the oil price accounting for about 60% of pump prices, the national average for a gallon of regular is now \$4.19, an increase of seven cents since Monday, April 25.

City/Village	May 2	April 25
Dwight	\$4.35	\$4.35
Kankakee	\$4.36	\$4.37
Streator	\$4.33	\$4.37
Pontiac	\$4.19	\$3.96
Gardner	\$4.29	\$4.29
Braceville	\$4.12	\$4.27
Morris	\$4.35	\$4.36
Herscher	\$4.34	\$4.34
Chicago	\$4.65	\$4.60
Illinois	\$4.45	\$4.43
U.S.	\$4.19	\$4.12

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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Your life - our Mission

SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS



Above: DTHS Trojan Jack Denker up to bat, Jacob Watchinski with a great catch, below, Dawson Carr catch and tag.







Tuesday, April 26 GSW vs.

Crossroads Christian

A match-up between the GSW Panthers and Crossroads Christian ended wildly April 26, as the C.C. coaching staff refused to play following an argument with an umpire's ruling. The ump, ultimately, ruled a forfeit, which resulted in a Panthers win, 7-0.

Wednesday, April 27 GSW vs. Beecher

The Panthers were taken down by Beecher, 7-5, on April 27.

"We were way too sloppy on defense today," admitted Coach Wills. "No one can beat a good team if you make eight errors. However, I am happy that we never gave up. We scored two in the seventh and had the bases loaded at the

GSW Panthers Baseball

end." Bryce Handzus was handed the loss, allowing two earned runs on six hits, a hit batsman, and one walk, striking out one. Blake Huston threw in relief, striking out two while giving up one earned run on three hits and a walk.

Ethan Mack led on offense, hitting a two-run home run. Gabe McHugh (double, SB, R) and Huston (2-3, double, HBP) had one RBI each. Dane Halpin singled twice, stole a base, and scored a run. Kaden Grivetti (BB, R) and Garrett Grant (R) singled once each. Ethan Maxard was hit by a pitch.

Thursday, April 28 GSW vs. Manteno

On April 28, Gardner-South Wilmington lost to Manteno, 10-3.

"Even though we were a bit Hampson scored one run.

HERSCHER TIGERS BASEBALL

shorthanded, we just played a very good team," Coach Wills said afterwards. "Hopefully playing this quality opponent will help us in the future."

Taking the loss was Gabe McHugh, allowing three earned runs on six hits and a walk, striking out three in three innings. Dane Halpin pitched two innings, giving up just one hit while striking out one. Cale Halpin allowed one hit, two walks, hit a batter, and struck out two.

Blake Huston (double, BB, HBP) and Ethan Mack (single, HBP, SB) each had one RBI. D. Halpin singled twice, walked once, and scored a run. McHugh and Bennett Grant (SB, R) provided a single each. Kaden Grivetti drew a walk and was hit by a pitch. Cole

Monday, April 25

Herscher vs. Coal City The Tigers fell victim to a combined perfect game thrown by three Coal City pitchers April 25, resulting in an 18-0 loss.

Miles Hoffman was hit with the loss, allowing three earned runs on three hits, four hit batsman, and a walk. Travis Jones pitched an inning-plus, giving up two earned runs on three walks and three hit batters, striking out one. Jace Holt tossed one inning, allowing three earned runs on four hits and two walks, fanning one.

Tuesday, April 26 Herscher vs. Coal City

Herscher took a 14-1 loss to Coal City on April 26.

Cody Lunsford supplied the only run of the game for the

giving up six earned runs on seven hits, one hit batsman, and three walks, striking out four in while Jace Holt (HBP, SB) and four innings. Luke Richmond Luke Richmond scored one run allowed five earned runs on six hits, tallying two strikeouts in one inning of work.

Wednesday, April 27 Herscher vs. Watseka

On April 27, the Herscher Tigers defeated Watseka, 12-5. Braden Dewald got the "W", striking out seven in five-

plus innings, while allowing no earned runs on four hits and two walks. Jace Holt earned the save, giving up two earned runs on three hits but also striking out three.

Joe Holohan led at the dish, going 3-5 with four RBI. Carter Hubert (single, BB, 3 R) and Landon Schultz (2-4, double) added two RBI each. Tyler Tigers on a fourth inning home Murray singled, walked once, Hayden Johnson and AJ run. Tyler Murray would dou- and batted in a run. Clay Patrick each walking once. ble, with Clay Schultz drawing Schultz (2 BB, 2 SB, 2 R), Cody Lunsford (HBP, SB, R), rifice, hit into a fielder's Travis Jones (SB, R), and Hay- choice, and swiped two bags.

Coal City April 27.

SENECA FIGHTING IRISH BASEBALL

Calvin Maierhofer suffered

the loss, giving up five earned

runs on nine hits, a hit batter,

and one walk, striking out two.

Roe (BB, HBP), and Austin

Aldridge each had one RBI for

the Irish. Casey Clennon and

Maierhofer (SB, 2 R) had two

hits each, with Paxton Giertz

doubling and walking once.

Dalton Degrush singled, was

hit by a pitch, and scored a run.

Tyler Sulzberger and Brady

Barla (R) each walked twice.

Thursday, April 28

Seneca vs. Midland

Matt Cruise (2 BB), Bryce

den Johnson all singled. Rylan Hendershott scored two runs, each.

Friday, April 29 Herscher vs. Pontiac

The Tigers gave up two runs in the bottom of the seventh against Pontiac April 29, leading to a 3-2 loss.

Clay Schultz was dealt the loss, giving up two earned runs on seven hits, a hit batsman, and one walk, striking out two.

Joe Holohan hit a solo homer, a single, and was hit by a pitch. C. Schultz singled twice, while Tyler Murray (2 BB), Cody Lunsford, Jace Holt, and Luke Richmond all added one single. Landon Schultz drew three walks, with Braden Dewald supplied a sac-



Dwight Trojans Basebali

1 Monday, April 25

Dwight vs. Marquette

Dwight fell in baseball action to Marquette April 25, 11-1, in five innings.

Will Trainor took the loss, allowing six earned runs on 10 hits, two hit batters, and a walk in three-plus innings. Dillon Sarff gave up two hits and a walk in one inning of work, striking out one.

Luke Gallet led at the plate with a single, a double, and one RBI. Jack Duffy singled, walked once, and stole a base. Trainor drew a walk and later scored. Dawson Carr was hit by a pitch.

Tuesday, April 26

Dwight vs. Roanoke-Benson/ Lowpoint-Washburn

The Trojans took a 6-2 loss to Roanoke-Benson/Lowpoint-Washburn April 26.

Luke Gallet (2-4, double) and Dillon Sarff (double) led with an RBI each. Ryan Turner and Jeremy Kapper each added two hits. Jack Denker doubled and drew a walk. Dawson Carr walked once.

Gallet suffered the loss on the mound, giving up two earned runs on five hits and four walks, striking out three. Drew Anderson threw in relief, allowing two earned runs on four walks and a hit batter, tallying a strikeout. Tyler Cox tossed an inning-plus of relief,

giving up one earned run on two hits, striking out one.

Wednesday, April 27 **Dwight vs. Cissna Park**

On April 27, Dwight lost to Cissna Park, 14-3.

Tyler Cox was hit with the loss, giving up three earned runs on seven hits and three walks. Dillon Sarff (4 ER. 2 H. 3 BB, SO), Dawson Carr (BB), Jacob Watchinski (5 ER, HBP, 5 BB), and Scott Harkenrider (2 BB) all saw relief action.

Jeremy Kapper was 2-3 at the plate, knocking in one run. Jack Duffy (BB, SB, R), Ryan Turner (BB, R), Jack Denker (2 BB), and Daniel Ford all had one hit. Luke Gallet was hit by a pitch.

one walk. Murray suffered the loss,



Tuesday, April 26 Seneca vs. Midland

On April 26, the Fighting Irish fell to Midland, 4-3.

Austin Aldridge went five innings, allowing two earned runs on four hits, a hit batsman, and one walk, tallying ten strikeouts. Paxton Giertz (ER, 2 H, BB, HBP, 2 SO) and Matt Cruise (2 BB, 2 SO) each pitched an inning in relief.

Offensively, Giertz (2-3, HR, BB, 2 R), Tyler Sulzberger (2-4, double), and Cruise (SF) each had one RBI. Calvin Maierhofer (R), Casey Clennon (HBP), Brady Barla, and Aldridge added a single each.

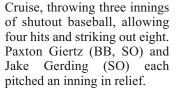
Wednesday, April 27 Seneca vs. Coal City

Seneca took a 5-4 loss to

Earning the win was Matt

The Irish picked up a big

DTHS LADY TROJANS SOFTBALL



Casey Clennon led at the plate, going 3-3 with three RBI and two runs scored. Calvin Maierhofer (2-2, SF, BB, R), Cruise, and Tyler Sulzberger (3-4, 2 doubles, 3 R) added two RBI each. Zack Sulzberger (single, R), Aiden Wood (single, SF, R), Dalton Degrush (BB, SAC., 2 R), and Austin Aldridge (single) each had one RBI. Giertz singled, walked once, was hit by a pitch, stole a base, and scored twice. Bryce Roe was beaned twice and scored twice. Kelton Coffey scored a run.



Friday, April 29 **Dwight vs. Morris**

The Lady Trojan offense struggled to get going April 29, as they fell to Morris, 15-5. Samantha Harsh went all

four innings, giving up six earned runs on nine hits and five walks, striking out one.

walked once, and scored another run. Avery Scheuer went

2-3 with an RBI, followed by Megan Livingston's perfect 3-3 showing which included one Alexis Thetard homered, run scored. Erin Anderson (SB) and Rachel Heath (R) each singled.

The Paper Classifieds Appear Online at: thepaper1901.com

win over Midland April 28, 15-



Experience and Explore, **Celebrating the Mother Road**

Odell Wilmington Pontiac Dwight Godley Braidwood Braceville Gardner Joliet Elwood Chenoa Lexington



Dwight Red Carpet Corridor Festival May 7

pet Corridor Festival. In addition to the 10th annual Kansas City Barbecue Society sanctioned Smoke-Out, now held in downtown Dwight, the Texaco Welcome Center, and Dwight Historical Society Museum will be open.

The Red Carpet commemorative giveaway this year is a sticker with the community's name to be affixed to a poster of

Saturday, May 7, is the annual Red Car- Route 66 Museum in Pontiac. Supplies of the poster are limited, so if you are stopping in all 12 communities, make sure you get your poster at the Texaco first.

This year, the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway has created a flyer with a QR code that will assist visitors to find the Scenic Byway app to download on your phone. When the visitor checks into all 12 locathe noted Bob Waldmire van, located at the tions, they will be entered into a grand

prize drawing of Route 66 gift items valued at \$250.00.

The Dwight PTO is having a spring outdoor Vendor Fair at Dwight Common School from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday and, as always, town-wide garage sales will be taking place.

It promises to be a weekend full of fun in downtown Dwight during the first weekend of May.

Dwight Economic Alliance Online Auction/Traveling Prize Board

Due to COVID, the Dwight Economic Alliance fund-raising gala event has been canceled two years in a row. Their goal is to make up some of that income this weekend during the Route 66 Smokeout with an online auction, a traveling prize board, and \$1,000 Aly Anne's gift card raffle.

They have received so many generous donations from area businesses and families, and say it's been nice to feel the camaraderie within the community while planning this event.

The online portion is viewable at dwightalliance.org/

annual events/auction and bidding is now open, and closing Sunday, May 8. The online auction includes items such as sports/events tickets and passes, local artwork, car maintenance certificates, Chief for a Day with DPD Chief Nolan, carport, grill package, Yeti cooler packed with goodies and much more.

The traveling prize board is a board numbered 1-100. Each space costs \$20 and is a guaranteed winner of a prize which are all valued at \$20 and above. You may keep your prize or turn it back in for a second chance drawing for \$250 in DEA Dollars. Spaces are filled with local gift cards, bas-



kets, cash, and other fun items. Shayla Smith and Destiny Connor will be traveling around downtown Dwight starting Friday afternoon, selling spaces until all spaces are sold out. Be sure to get in on this.

Aly Anne's generously donated a \$1,000 gift card to be spent however the winner chooses at Aly Anne's Bar & Grill. Tickets are \$20 each or three for \$50. You can purchase tickets in person at Aly Anne's or online at the aforementioned website (it will take you to both the auction and raffle). The winner will be drawn Sunday, May 8, at Aly Anne's between bands at 6:00 p.m. Aly Anne's will have live entertainment all weekend, May 5-8. Be sure to stop in and enjoy.

You can visit the Dwight Economic Alliance Facebook page for live updates throughout the weekend.

The annual Red Carpet Corridor Festival is all about family fun on the most famous road in America – Route 66. Sponsored by the twelve communities which make up the 80-mile linear museum from Joliet to Lexington, the annual festival invites everyone to experience the good life in the slow lane.

Each community will produce its own events. From full-blown festivals to antique and craft sales, art sales, car and motorcycle shows, live entertainment, and plenty of yard, garage, and sidewalk sales along the way, everyone is sure to discover something unique.

Food, snacks and treats will be in abundance, and there are plenty of historic sites, outstanding free museums and unique mom & pop businesses to help create a nostalgic journey for all to enjoy. Visitors can simply enjoy the drive, or stop and get out of the car to have their picture taken with Elvis, or do a little shopping in any of the great stores along the Mother Road.

Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway mobile app

Download the Illinois Route 66 mobile app by searching 'Explore Illinois Route 66' in the App Store or on Google Play. Click on 'Passports' and participate in our mobile challenge. Check in via the mobile app at all 12 locations and you will be entered to win a prize package worth over \$250!

Come experience and explore, the Red Carpet Corridor!

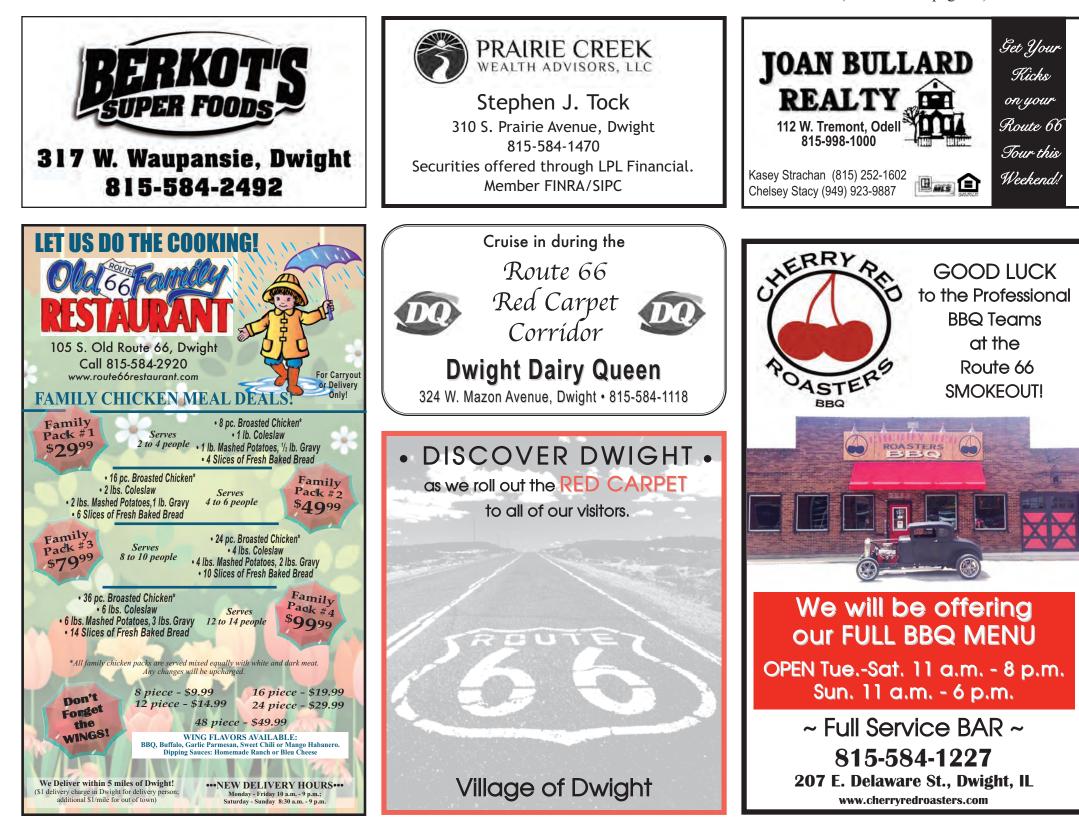
JOLIET

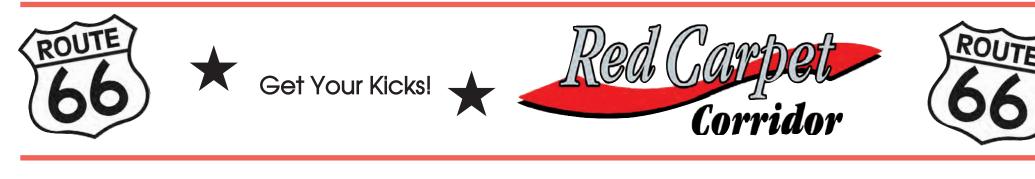
The Joliet Area Historical Museum - Free admission all day from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Museum. Discounted "Self Guided Tours" at the Old Joliet Prison. Various car clubs will be visiting and parking cars at the Museum throughout the day. 15% off discounts on all merchandise in Museum and Old Joliet Prison Gift Shops

ELWOOD

Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm - Elwood Village corner of Mississippi Avenue and Douglas St, Historic Information and Welcome Center. Antique Tractors Exhibit. Quaint Downtown Business Center. Douglas Street Wayside Exhibits: featuring Rosie the Riveter, a statue of a munition's worker, lunchbox in hand, and the original Route 66 pavement. Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. You may pick up a commemorative giveaway at corner of Mississippi Avenue and Douglas St. (while supplies last). More Information contact 815-423-5011.

(continued on page 14)







- MAY 6 and May 7 -

NORTHWEST

401 Morgan: Kids clothes, household appliances, furniture, games, X-Box, DVD's.
202 W North: Kitchen items, plates, cups, clothes; Boys 12/18m, 18/24m, Girls 2T 3/4T, mini crib with mattress & Sheets, baby items

125 Taylor: Household items, Tools

110 Morgan: Lots of miscellaneous items

- 124 Morgan: Quilter's fabric sale, kitchen items, clothes, crafts, hunting equipment & more 401 N Washington: SATURDAY ONLY Material, notions, Christmas,
- 130 W Waupansie: Tools-power & Hand, Chicago Sports team apparel, acoustic guitar,
- 100 luggage, men's clothing 213 W Waupansie: Junior to women's clothes, tons of hoodies and jeans, baby strollers, motorcycle bag and other miscellaneous items

NORTHEAST

 306 N. Franklin: Women's/junior clothes-Everything like new-priced to sell, Shoes size eight, clothes 0-7 (m)
210 E Weueneric Drive price and women's clothing, collectibles

319 E Waupansie: Prints, paintings, men's and women's clothing, collectibles, shelving, furniture and much more

SOUTHWEST

326 W Chippewa: St. Peter's Church: Ride on toys, Barbies, Toddler beds, new swimsuits, tools, pools, puzzles, wooden bench, Pink/VS

- 227 W Delaware: Huge Sale, Toys, games, tools, antiques, household, books, movies, comics, collectibles, 25c girl's clothes & more
- 418 W Delaware: Household items, cabinets, antique toasters, Lots of treasures 419 W James: FREE MARKET Old Rt 66 & W. James, 16ft boat & trailer, tires, aquarium, much more
- 405 S Lincoln: Books, movies, furniture, kitchenware, home goods 110 W South: Close Out Sale-Everything must go. Decorations, household items, stockpile.
- 314 W South: IN ALLEY-Household, collectables, baby clothes & items, Stampin' Up, DVD's, new Avon, furniture
- 324 W South: Men, women, boys, girl's clothes, household items, tools 403 S. Washington: Many miscellaneous items

SOUTHEAST

214 Andrew: Books and crafts-wood items, scrubbies, dishcloths and Afghans 506 S. Chicago: Boys clothes, household-linen-jewelry-women's clothesrugs-much misc. items

907 S Chicago: NASCAR memorabilia, houseware goods, adult clothes

600 S. Franklin: New clothes, size five shoes, purses, jewelry, antique china, crystal dishes 215 E Philmar: Tools, Household, electrical appliances, canisters, Holiday decorations,

Excess lumber, King comforter set with shams & pillows, towels & throw rugs

112 Scott: DWIGHT WOMAN'S ČLUB: Baked goods, hanging plants, kitchen & home goods, knick-knacks Proceeds benefit local scholarships

 302 Scott: Farm toys, toy barns, Longaberger baskets, step ladders, Knitted & crocheted items
819 Sunset: Multi Family-Assorted kid's clothes and items, Home, kitchen, décor and more

A full list of addresses & highlighted items for sale will be available at the Village Hall, 209 S. Prairie Ave. The Garage Sales May 6 and 7 are sponsored by The Village of Dwight.



Come experience and explore, the Red Carpet Corridor!

(continued from page 13)

WILMINGTON

Visit Chamber tent at north end of downtown vendors 200 N. Water St. Purchase a split the pot raffle ticket and get your giveaway. Flea market 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. Hula contest, hound dog contest, dance performance, food, Route 66 Band starting at noon and more. Info contact: 815-476-5991. At nearby Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie, 9 a.m. to noon: Antique Fire Trucks; Photos with Smokey Bear at 9, 10 and 11. Iron Bridge Trailhead – East side of Hwy 53, 2.5 miles south of Elwood Village Hall. Limited number of commemorative buttons.

BRAIDWOOD

Be sure to visit the information booth for the Braidwood give-away, across from the Polk-A-Dot on Rt. 53, at the Rt 66 Zoo, along with vendors. Stop at the Braidwood Museum on Main St. to see exhibits on Route 66 and on coal mining past. Stop at the Polk-A-Dot for the Car Show, photo-ops with Elvis, Superman and others, and experience 1950's dining. Contact (815) 710-0182.

GODLEY

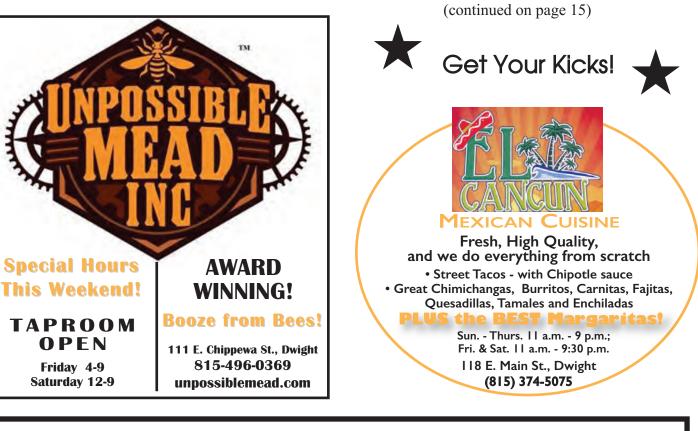
Visit the Route 66 Mining Museum for the Godley code. For info contact 815-458-2222 or 815-405-1906. Museum open Mondays, Wednesdays, Friday, 9 to noon.

BRACEVILLE

Stop at the Village Hall at the corner of S. Mitchell and Rt. 53. Baked goods will be sold by the United Methodist Church, Historical display by Alice Creech, Junk-in-the-Trunk sale in the parking lot, lunch at the Wicked Cricket on Rt. 53. For more information call 815-237-8655.

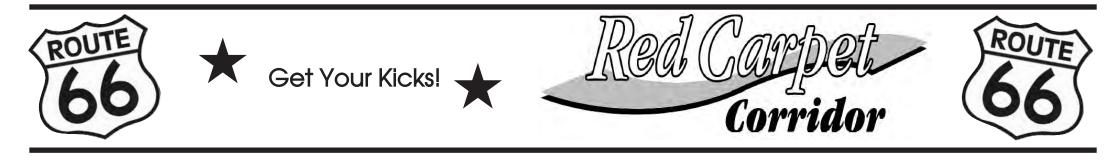
GARDNER

Meet & Greet with the Mayor at Two-Cell Jail where you can get the giveaway and a limited edition postcard. Gardner Lions serving root beer floats by the Diner Car 9-3 and pork chop sandwiches 10 until gone. Visit the Archives in the Village Hall. Scapegoats Car Show 10-4 Depot Street parking lot, Elvis tribute artist Hugo will perform 11-1. Craft show on Depot Street 9-4. Church of Hope Rock-a-thon at the Gazebo. Touch-A-Truck and giveaways during Open House at J&R's Towing on Liberty Street. More info contact: 815.237.2592.





Valid only at Dwight, Pontiac, Chenoa & Lexington McDonald's. Locally Owned & Operated By Paul & Mary Breznay



Come experience and explore, the Red Carpet Corridor!

(continued from page 14)

DWIGHT

Discover Dwight - 10th Route 66 Smoke Out BBQ Contest downtown Dwight with games and entertainment at local businesses. Dwight PTO Spring Vendor Fair begins at 9 a.m. outside the Grade School. Townwide garage sales, FFA Plant sale, Opening Day at the Texaco Welcome Center. 815-584-3077.

<u>ODELL</u>

Historic 1932 Standard Oil Gas Station on Rt. 66, Historic subway, souvenirs, soda, nostalgia for sale. Cafe 110 West—815-998-2500; GD's Saloon-815-998-2556; LOBO's Tap-815-998-2383 More info: 815-998-2133 or email info@odell-il.com

PONTIAC

Saturday and Sunday, May 7 & 8: The Pontiac Art Center hosting its annual Swinging Bridges Fine Arts Festival. The 200 block of West Madison Street and The Eagle Theater will house artists selling handcrafted, fine art pieces. Live music, art demonstrations, entertainment, and food trucks. Museums are open both days 10 a.m. - 4 p.m - Free admission! Giveaway pick up for the Red Carpet Corridor Festival will be at 209 W Madison

CHENOA

Stop in Chenoa, the Crossroads of Opportunity, located at Route 66 and Route 24. The Texaco Star is an original gas station location and Midwest Real Street Machines will be on display. Weave through town and pass the Matthew T. Scott House listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Join other runners in the Chenoa 5k Walk/Run at 8:30 a.m. Stop by the fitness center, take a selfie with the public murals on west side of the building, enjoy historic architecture downtown and stop by Chenoa Pharmacy, still maintaining original 1889 floors and cabinetry. Look for the tent near the pharmacy for giveaway.

LEXINGTON

Activities on Main Street in downtown Lexington. Experience unique restaurants, discover exquisite boutiques, taste craft beer, enjoy live music, selection of vendors, food trucks, family activities and photo ops. Take a drive down Memory Lane, get a picture with the Lexington neon sign, visit Patton Cabin - the oldest building in McLean County and the nationally recognized VanDolah Castle. Giveaway will be available at City Hall.

www.ilroute66redcarpetcorridor.com



HISTORY OF ILLINOIS **ROUTE 66**

Route 66 is the most famous road in America. Generations of travelers have romanticized this highway as a symbol of unlimited mobility and freedom of the road. Its iconic status is enhanced by the unprecedented volume of music, books, films, and other art forms that depict it as the essence of America's highway culture.

It was born in 1926 as part of the new numbered highway network and quickly grew to be the preferred road west for a nation on the move. U.S. Highway 66 was not as old or as long as some other transcontinental routes like the Yellowstone or the Lincoln Highway but it quickly gained fame as the shortest, year-round route between the Midwest and the coast as it passed through the fabled landscape of the Southwest.

The construction of this thin, ribbon of road helped to transform the West from an isolated frontier to an economically vital region of the country and made it accessible to anyone with a car.

In its lifetime this celebrated road witnessed a continuum of highway and transportation evolution from Ford Model Ts plodding through rutted dirt to the rise of the monolithic American Interstate Highway System. Route 66 was the most well known road in a national network of public highways which succeeded in uniting a huge, dispersed nation into a cohesive whole. During its heyday, Route 66 mirrored the mood of the nation.

Enjoy The Road!

Dwight Odell Pontiac Wilmington Braidwood Godley Gardner Joliet Braceville Elwood Chenoa Lexington







THE PROM COURT at Gardner-South Wilmington High School, pictured, from left, are Riley Klingler, Olivia Cerutti, Taylor Conger, Queen Mallory Wolf, King Braxton Brassard, Blake Huston, Easton Ashley, and Garrett Grant. photo by Shayla Loring Photography

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

Illinois Reclaims Title of Having Nation's Highest Property Taxes

For the last several years Illinois and New Jersey have vied for the dubious "honor" of having the highest property taxes in the country. Each state has a population which has been increasingly re-locating to states with lower taxes and friendlier job climates. This year, according to a study from the real-estate data company ATTOM, Illinois has once again claimed the top spot for the highest property taxes in the country.

ATTOM figured the rates in each state by "taking the average annual property tax as a percentage of the 'average estimated market value of homes in each geographic area" and came up with an effective property tax rate of 1.86% for Illinois, putting us ahead of New Jersey's 1.73%. Others in the top five were Connecticut, Vermont and Pennsylvania.

The five lowest rates were in Hawaii, Alabama, Utah, Arizona and Nevada.

Once again this spring the Illinois General Assembly failed to enact any kind of permanent property tax relief or reform, meaning that we will likely continue to be among the worst states in the country for property tax burdens.

Proposed Constitutional amendment sent to the peo-

ple. Amending the Illinois Constitution requires not just the consent of the House and Senate, but also the approval of the people of Illinois. A proposed amendment must receive a three-fifths vote in both the House and the Senate, and then must be approved by either three-fifths of those voting on the amendment in the next general election or a majority of the total number of those voting in the election (Article XIV, Section 2 of the Illinois Constitution.)

This year voters will decide whether to add a "Workers Rights Amendment" to the Constitution. The Constitution requires the Secretary of State to mail to every voter in Illinois a pamphlet with the text of the proposed amendment and a set of arguments both for it and against it.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes \$2,379,698,783 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at \$3.4 billion. This figure represents the amount of bills submitted to the office of the Comptroller and still awaiting payment. It does not include debts that can only be estimated.



Dwight High School held its 2022 Prom April 30 at Station 343. Pictured from left are Lola Furbee, Chris Tutterow, Alexis Thetard, Samuel Edwards, Queen Brooke Vigna, King Shawn Romanetto, Rachel Heath, Dillon Sarff, Ava Kargle, and Tyler Frauli. photo by J7 images





Jesse White Encourages Vehicle **Owners to Sign Up to Receive Online Reminder Notices for License Plate Sticker Renewals**

Jesse White is encouraging vehicle owners to go paperless and visit ilsos.gov to sign up for e-mail reminder notices for license plate sticker renewals.

"This is an environmentally friendly initiative for customers that encourages online transactions with my office," said White. "Those who sign up for this service will also save the state money by eliminating the need to print and mail annual post card reminder notices."

The one-time registration process allows vehicle owners to receive a series of three email notices per vehicle each year highlighting the upcoming vehicle expiration date. The emails also contain the vehicle owner's registration ID and PIN, simplifying the process of renewing license plate stickers online each year.

To register for the program, visit ilsos.gov and click on "Email License Plates Renewal" on the main page under Online Services. Vehicle own-

Fill a Bag.

Illinois Secretary of State ers will then need to enter their assigned registration ID and PIN, which can be found on their current vehicle registration card. If they do not have their vehicle registration card, they can call the Secretary of State public inquiry division at 800-252-8980 to obtain the registration ID and PIN.

> More than 3.6 million vehicle owners have signed up for online reminder notices, which reduces the number of annual postcard mailings, saving the state approximately \$1.4 million annually.

White also noted that the number of license plate stickers renewed online increased by more than four million during the pandemic. From March 2020 through December 2021, more than 9.1 million license plate stickers were renewed online. During this same period ranging from March 2018 through December 2019, more than 5.1 million license plate stickers were renewed online.



Help Feed Families.

The National Association of Letter Carriers is asking community members to Stamp Out Hunger and bag healthy, nonperishable food items and place them by your mailbox Saturdav, May 12, for your letter carrier to pick up and deliver to food banks and pantries in your community.

Donate items such as pasta. cereal, oatmeal, canola oil, peanut butter and canned goods, including beans, fruit, vegetables, soup, tuna in water, meat and sauce. Avoid glass containers.

Visit stampouthungerfood drive.us for more information.



Make Mom's Day Extra Special with a gift from one of our Advertisers!

MOTHER'S DAY IS SUNDAY, MAY 8!

SHOP OUR GREENHOUSE!

We are Packed with every color of Annuals and Perennials!

We also have the area's largest selection of garden stakes and statuary, pottery, fountains, bird baths and gazing balls.





Wednesday, May 4, 2022



Questions Surround Pontiac Correctional Center

by Brandon LaChance

The fear is real.

When the Illinois Department of Corrections transferred prisoners out of the Pontiac Correctional Center in February, immediate concerns arose of whether or not the prison was shutting down.

IDOC employees and the union representing them, AF-SCME (American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees) automatically questioned job security.

William Lee, the President of AFSCME Local 494 and a Lieutenant at the Pontiac Prison, said there hasn't been any layoffs, but the work environment has changed.

"With the state shuttering the East and West Houses and the MSU (Medium Security Unit) as the Illinois Department of Corrections' draft plan still says, those are all potential jobs that are going to not be available," Lee said. "Say we did have a big hiring of employees, that amount of jobs won't be an option. The largest area that would be affected is security officers, sergeants, and lieutenants. That's a direct reduction of those jobs. The MSU being shuttered and the inmates and staffing being moved inside already, it's just causing more confusion and more dismay amongst the staff and inmates. It's not helping anything.

"Plenty of people are quitting and not wanting to work there anymore because of the obvious confusion that is going on every day because of something changing every week and a new direction coming out. Then it's changed again. Overall, it's mismanagement. In that kind of workplace, you're dealing with dangerous people also. You're always worried about working with criminals and now you have to worry about what management is doing and how your job is changing every day."

Lee has been the union president for the last six years and has been at Pontiac since 2008.

He was an IDOC employee when the state almost shut down the correction center in 2018 and he was employed at the Dwight Correctional Center when its doors were closed in 2013.

The red flags thrown by the recent prisoner transfer are different than he's experienced in the past, but they're just as alarming.

"I grew up in Dwight. I was there for 26 years and now live in Bloomington," Lee said. "I had two kids go through Dwight schools. I have friends in Dwight. Economically, if Pontiac Prison closed, it would be a major loss for Livingston County and the city. There are a lot of jobs that would be lost.

"With Dwight closing, the state came out from the beginning and said it was closing. What they're doing now is closing living units at different prisons to slowly condense everything. They're not coming out and saying they're closing a prison, they're doing it bit by bit to not have to go through the whole process.

"I don't know what they're doing, but there is smoke. That's never a good sign."

Camile Lindsay, the Illinois Department of Corrections Chief of Staff, stands by the original statement that the MSU was cleared because there wasn't hot water or heat



available to the living units.

Safety is a top priority with IDOC and it felt the building wasn't suitable to house prisoners any longer.

Lindsay said there hasn't been any layoffs or a thought of layoffs. Since mid-February, there have been 14 resignations (approximately 3% of the staff) and other employees have retired.

According to Lee, the changes to the work environment and distribution of duties has caused employees to leave and he thinks it will continue.

"We have plenty of people quitting. The environment you work in, it's a different environment...I mean, it's a prison. People are finding other jobs," Lee said. "State employment, especially the Department of Corrections, used to be a very prized career. It used to be something where we had classes of 50 people coming in for one prison. When Thompson opened up, I was in a class of 220 in 2008.

"Now, our classes have five people who want to be officers. It's not every week where there are five more people. We have

more people quitting, leaving, transferring out or going to different state agencies like DHS (Department of Human Services).

> "People use to want this job in the same environment. Now, you're in the same environment with bad management. Working with criminals isn't the greatest environment and it's not what a lot of people want to do, but you were paid well compared to other professions. This used to be a profession where the danger was overshadowed by the pay. People have been hurt in this line of work before. With everything going on, the what ifs are now overshadowing the pay and the prestige of the profession. Employees will deal with the environment if they're being guided in the right way, but when you start closing units and making the job more stressful, people will go elsewhere."

The Pontiac prison, which is a maximum security prison and opened in 1871, has a capacity of 2,298 through the Maximum Security Unit, East Cell House, West Cell House, South Mental Unit, and the Medium Security Unit.

Before the transfers, Pontiac held 1,165 prisoners as 780 were in the maximum security units and 385 were in the medium unit.

The transferring cleared the medium unit and shifted inmates from the East and West houses to different parts of the prison.

Eddie Caumiant, the AF-SCME Council 31 Regional Director, feels the way IDOC Director Rob Jeffreys and his staff went about the clearing of Pontiac makes it seem like there is more to come.

"We were in Springfield on Feb. 9 doing a training of our presidents and designated chief safety officers that are part of the statewide Covid-19 response and are a fixture in the department based on some safety arbitration, where basically our folks have to be at the table when there is safety issues happening," Caumiant said. "We were training when we were completely blindsided with seven buses being diverted when they were already on the road, which never happens. They showed up in Pontiac sometime in the afternoon and started emptying the MSU. We heard about it secondhand because none of our presidents were at their facilities like they usually are. It just smelt of doing things under the cover of darkness.

"That was our initial notice from the employer to change the reorganization plan that they had appropriately notified us for the year before. We had a path under that original reorganization plan that we had agreed to in Pontiac, which basically accomplished some of the goals that they later tried to say they had to accomplish when they were cleaning out the MSU."

The plan Caumiant is speaking of is one that identified the East and West houses as living units that IDOC did not think it could adequately maintain long term as there is structural damage and areas that need repaired since they were built in the 1800s.

Caumiant says AFSCME and IDOC agreed to a plan where the East and West houses would be mothballed where they would be used as administrative offices with keeping an eye to maintaining for extra capacity if the prison needed the space.

Where Caumiant says IDOC didn't adhere to the plan and hasn't been cooperative in responding to the union's inquiries, Lindsay says the plan for administrative offices never existed and there have been meetings between the two parties.

"There was no such agreement," Lindsay said. "The department said it would keep things operational for a while in the event we needed the extra maximum security bed space. We met with AFSCME this week (April 22)."

AFSCME is currently trying to come to new bargaining agreements, but is also considering pursuing safety grievances, unfair labor practices, and requirements where IDOC must adhere to their legal priorities of bargaining with the union.

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

