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Volume 24 • Number 51 | *Proudly* serving the area since 1999 | Wednesday, December 21, 2022

Dwight Common School #232 Adopts Tax Rate

by Mark Boma

The Dwight Common School District #232 Board of Education met on Wednesday December 14 in the Dwight Township High School Board Room.

Present were Nick Stipanovich, Marc Ellis, Mark Christenson, Tara Hansen, Lori Bowman and Jaime Mallaney. Absent was Mike Cornale.

The regular meeting was preceded with a Public Hearing on the 2022 tax levy proposed at rate of 3.02. There was no Public Comment in the hearing session.

Upon commencement of the regular meeting, Samantha Beier was recognized as December Redbird of the Month and presented with a plaque by Principal Julie Schultz.

Public Comments in this session were offered by a parent looking for clarity on the dress code stemming from a recent dress policy enforcement and asked to be placed on the next Board Meeting agenda. Board President Nick Stipanovich thanked her for comments, but pointed out her concern was an administrative function and could not be an agenda item.

Kathy Stewart gave an update on recent happenings within the Dwight Educational Association.

Principal Julie Schultz reported enrollment continues to climb and currently stands at 559 for Pre-K through 8th grade. She added that substitute teacher coverage continues to be a concern with the administration needing to provide coverage 14 times this semester.

Assistant Principal Jenkins gave recognition to students recently participating in the Illinois Music Education District 3 activity. Non-Audition participants were Reagon Connor, Clara Flott, Makenna Hoeppner, and Gracie Shireman. Audition participants were Joey Groves, William Richards, and Lauren Snyder.

Superintendent Josh DeLong reported he has been in contact with The Pontiac Daily Leader regarding legal publishing now that *The Paper* will no longer be publishing. He also offered his concerns about the increasing level of student behavior on buses and the lack of responsibility taken by parents.

The Board entered briefly into Executive Session to discuss legal matters. No action resulted from this session.

(continued on page 4)

Pastor Randy Returning to India

by Brandon LaChance

Every year Victor Randle aka Pastor Randy of New Life Assembly of God shows his Visa to board a plane.

Every other year, like 2022, he goes to the Czech Republic or also known as Czechia.

The odd years he takes a trip to India.

Pastor Randy is leaving Jan. 3, 2023 and returning Jan. 19 from a trip to Mumbai, Navi, and Goa, India for mission work.

I'm going to talk to different city officials in some of the towns I'll be in. I'll attend some Rotary meetings. We want to try to build a water well and do some work in some slum areas," Pastor Randy said. "I just want to go over there and help some pastors. It's been really tough on them with Covid-19. Their churches were closed. We will be doing some work in the red-light district. We're going to try to minister to kids that are born to prostitutes. There is a day care for them.

"It will pretty much be humanitarian work."

The pastor will be staying with familiar faces.

Masha Ellis is originally from Dwight. She married Caleb Ellis and the couple lives in India, where Caleb is from.

They own a coffee shop where Pastor Randy may find himself between his mission duties.

PASTOR RANDY, pictured, left, with Caleb and Masha Ellis during Pastor Randy's trip to India in 2019.

"When I was 19 years old, I had a prayer vision and wanted to go to India. I first went to India in 2017. It took almost 40 years," Pastor Randy said. "There is just so much humanity there. It's pretty impoverished, but there is so much hope there. I thought, 'If I can go there, it would be a great opportunity.'

"In 2017, New Life Assembly of God and the Dwight Rotary Club went together and built a water well. In 2019, I went and did work in the day care center for the children of prostitutes. I have a 10-year Visa, so I'm trying to go as many times as I can."

One of his duties is presenting letters from Tom Bennett, a Republican member of the Illinois House of Representatives, with greetings from the state of Illinois.

Pastor Randy will be taking the letters to the mayors of Navi, Mumbai, and South Goa.

"It's not just me. It's the whole town of Dwight. The police department, fire department, and EMTs all gave me patches to give to the police and fire departments in India. A lot of people donate things from Old Rt. 66 Family Restaurant and others that I can give out to people.

"People help finance the mission. I pay for my own plane ticket. All of the ministry money goes over there to help them in India. I haven't done a lot of good things in my life but being able to help people have fresh water or hope, you can't ask for more than that as a person.

"What's a kid who grew up in Abingdon, Illinois doing in India? God is crazy sometimes."

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

Christmas Services Schedule

Coal City

• **The Village Christian Church (965 E. Division St.):** Friday, December 23, 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 25, online service at thevillagechristianchurch.com.

Cullom

• **St. John's Lutheran Church (511 W. Jackson St.):** Saturday, December 24, 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Dwight

• **Emmanuel Lutheran Church (325 E. Mazon Ave.):** Saturday, December 24, 1:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 25, 9:00 a.m.

• **First Congregational UCC (200 W. Delaware St.):** Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. – Candlelight Service; Sunday, December 25, 10:30 a.m.

Gardner

• **Church of Hope (202 N. Monroe St.):** Saturday, December 24, 5:00 p.m.

Kinsman

• **Sacred Heart Catholic Church (219 Emmett St.):** Saturday, December 24, 2:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 25, 8:00 a.m.

Ransom

• **Ransom United Methodist Church (102 E. Plumb St.):** Saturday, December 24, 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Service).

Reddick

• **St. Mary's Catholic Church (216 E. Lincoln St.):** Saturday, December 24, 5:30 p.m.

South Wilmington

• **St. Lawrence Catholic Church (165 Rice Rd.):** Saturday, December 24, 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m.; Sunday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Dwight Village Board Approves Tax Levy

by Mark Boma

The Dwight Village Board convened December 12 in their final scheduled meeting of the year. All Trustees were present.

The Administration and Finance Committee met prior to the regular meeting and in that early session Village President Paul Johnson informed the Board that a potential wind farm south and east of the Village was in preliminary discussion stages. Jared Anderson, representing the energy firm, had requested the Board pass a resolution in favor of the project, but there appeared to be too many unknowns to proceed to that point, especially with no map of the footprint being available. Concerns by members of the Board included towers being built too close to Village limits as well as potential encroachment on the MegaSite hoping to be developed.

The Admin Committee also discussed openings on the Planning Commission. It was proposed Earl McCoy would continue his tenure and Josh DeLong would potentially be added.

There also have been recent reviews of insurance options by employee representatives, which potentially could include the addition of a Health Savings Account (HSA) or changing of vendors. Those inquiries are ongoing.

Following the Admin Meeting was a Services, Health and Safety Committee Meeting. The cost of a new police squad car was presented at $56,863 which was approved later in the regular meeting. They also reviewed the potential of approaching outlying townships, which are currently receiving EMS coverage from the Village, with sharing in the overhead of the system. The consensus of the Board was that township residents should be paying the same amount to maintain EMS coverage as Village residents and not just per call fees.

Chief of Police Mike Nolan addressed the group with a report that the Safe-T Act appears to be in the process of being revised, but there is concern the eventual outcome could lead to additional court appearances by officers.

The regular meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. There were no Public Forum comments.

Minutes of the November 28th meeting were approved along with the payment of bills to the amount of $263,293.45.

Mayor Johnson thanked Austin Haacke, who will be leaving his position as Finance Director, for his years of fine service to the Village. He also applauded the Dwight Economic Alliance on the success of the recent Christmas Parade and Ace Hardware for sponsoring the recent Backward Parade.

Village Administrator Kevin McNamara told the Board petitions for open Village Trustee seats are due to be turned in by December 19. There are three 4-year terms and one 2-year term open. Residents who have taken out petitions are incumbents Randy Irvin, Marla Kinkade, Chuck Butterbrodt, and Pete Meister. In addition, petitions were requested by Tim McKellar, Brian Berta, and Josh Jahn.

Chief of Police Mike Nolan reminded residents that the winter overnight street parking ban is in effect and several warnings have been issued. Hopefully, no tickets will need to be written.

EMS Director Michael Callahan reported that a recent EMS call resulted in a resuscitation, for which the crew should be commended. The EMS call report for the year is trending for total calls to be over 1,400. Last year there were 1,033 calls.

The Tax Levy Ordinance for the amount of $975,000.00 was approved for fiscal year ending March 31, 2023. Total expenses for the year are reported at $13,848,816 with total receipts, investments, and cash on hand being $12,873,816.

Meeting dates for 2023 were set for the second and fourth Mondays of each month, with only one meeting in December. Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings were set for the third Tuesday of each month.

The next regularly scheduled Dwight Village Board Meeting will be January 9, 2023. For future meeting updates, read:

thepaper1901.com

FOR THE RECORD

Tickets Issued by Dwight Police

December 8: Janet M. Thrasher, 66, Manteno, driving 15-20 MPH above limit; Angela M. Ehrhardt, 39, Pontiac, expiration of registration; Rauchel L. Borrego, 31, Pontiac, no valid driver's license - expired less than one year.

December 12: Thomas J. Ramos, 20, Bartlett, driving 11-14 MPH above limit; Eric L. Baker, Sr., 41, Peoria, expiration of registration.

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

Seven Written Warnings

Disobey Stop Sign – 2; Speeding – 4; No D.L. on Person – 1.

Dwight Police Blotter

December 10: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 300 block of N. Union for a dog bite.

December 11: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of E. Spencer for a neighbor dispute; Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of Renfrew for a neighbor dispute.

December 14: Dwight Police were dispatched to the 200 block of E. Spencer for a neighbor dispute.

Check Area – 2; Domestic Verbal – 1; Unknown Problem – 2; Traffic Stop – 20; Extra Patrol – 8; Accident – 1; Return Call – 10; Animal – 1; Medical Aid – 8; Lockout – 1; Suspicious Subject – 1; Citizens Assist – 2; Dog Bite – 1; Road Hazard – 1; Assist Agency – 3; OP Violation – 2; Walk In – 8; Harassment – 1; Reckless Driver – 1; Fire Alarm – 2; Follow Up – 3; Threats – 1; Burglar Alarm – 2; Motorist Assist – 1.

Accident Report

Sunday, December 11, 4:50 p.m., an accident was reported at 12 W. Northbrook Dr. involving a 2020 Volvo, driven by Eugene Satterlund, of Lake George, MN, which struck a parked 2015 Volvo, driven by Jean St. Clair, of Princeton, FL, while attempting to back up.

Ambulance Runs by Dwight EMS

December 8: Mazon Ave., medical, Morris; Clinton St., medical, Morris, CC - COQ; John, trauma, refusal; 2900 E., medical, St. James, to Emington; Spencer, medical, refusal.

December 9: Mazon, medical, Morris; Wabash, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell/COQ from Braidwood; South, medical, Morris.

December 10: Susan, medical, St. James; Mazon, medical, Morris; Delaware, medical, refusal; Spencer, medical, Morris; Eisenhower, medical, refusal, mutual aid from Coal City; Eisenhower, medical, Riverside.

December 11: Mazon, trauma, Morris, mutual aid from Coal City; I-55, trauma, refusal; Northbrook, medical, Morris; Spencer, medical, Morris, mutual aid from Coal City.

December 12: Susan, medical, Morris; Union, fire; Aldi, fire; North, medical, Morris; Aldi, fire.

December 13: Northbrook, medical, refusal; Prairie, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Mazon, medical, refusal; Mazon, medical, refusal.

December 14: I-55, trauma, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Mazon Ave., medical, Riverside.

December 15: Boxelder, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Prospect, medical, Morris; N. East, medical, St. James, mutual aid to Odell; Mazon Ave., medical, Morris, COQ from Braidwood; Mazon Ave., medical, Morris; Philmar, medical.

Temps - 2022

Dec. 8 – high 44°, low 33° .36" precip.
Dec. 9 – high 39°, low 34° .04" precip.
Dec. 10 – high 39°, low 34°
Dec. 11 – high 36°, low 33°
Dec. 12 – high 40°, low 30°
Dec. 13 – high 38°, low 31° .64" precip.
Dec. 14 – high 47°, low 32° 1.02" precip.

One Year Ago – Dec. 21, 2021
high 40°, low 21°

Dwight Fire Incidents *12/9 - 12/16*

Dwight Fire Protection District responded to the following incidents:

December 9: Animal Problem – S. Prairie.

December 11: Motor Vehicle Accident – I-55.

December 12: Automatic Fire Alarm – N. Union; System Malfunction (twice) – Aldi Dr.

December 15: Motor Vehicle Accident – Brewster Rd.

Dwight FPD also responded to 16 medical assists with Dwight EMS.

Livingston Cty. Offices Closed Dec. 26, Jan. 2

All Livingston County Offices will be closed Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2, in observance of the Christmas and New Year holidays.

FREE Christmas Dinner

Are you looking for a meaningful way to celebrate Christmas?

Share the Christmas spirit by volunteering on Christmas Day to help deliver Christmas dinners to your friends and neighbors in Dwight who may be shut in or just not able to join their families for Christmas. Many people may be alone this season and simply unable to prepare a holiday meal.

Christmas Day dinners will be prepared by local restaurants, and delivered free of charge to anyone who requests.

Anyone in the community is invited to help deliver meals, or if you wish to donate cash to be used to provide the meals, donations are welcome.

A volunteer will call each dinner recipient on December 25 to inform them what time the volunteers will deliver their meal so they know when it is coming.

By having the meals supplied by local restaurants, the free Christmas Meal tradition continues in a safe manner, provides an outlet for charitable giving, and helps support the local restaurants.

For more information, to volunteer to help, or to offer a donation, call 815-584-1901.

If you would like to make a donation, make checks payable to *The Paper* or visit thepaper1901.com to donate via PayPal. On the check memo line, put down Christmas Dinners.

No Dwight Food Pantry in December

The Dwight Food Pantry, normally held the fourth Wednesday of the month, January through October, will **not** be held during the month of December, as Love Boxes were distributed.

The Food Pantry will return to its regular schedule in January, with Thursday, January 26, being the first date of 2023, held from 1:00-2:00 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, the Gothic Church, 201 N. Franklin St., Dwight.

Permits Issued in Dwight

September 12: B. Franklin, 116 E. South, Shed.

September 21: C. Crouch, 605 S. Old Route 66, Fence.

September 30: J. Kohrt, 205 Taylor, Front Porch.

October 10: M. Cornale, 307 Julie, Addition; B. Franklin, 116 E. South, Garage; B. Scott, 105 W. James, Electrical; C. Sontag, 201 Scott, Shed/Garage.

October 11: M. Snyder, 304 Philmar, Shed; B. Matke, 324 W. William, Garage.

October 19: Coach House Garages, 800 N. Union, Garage.

October 25: M. Snyder, 304 Philmar, Shed.

October 26: S. Korte, 203 Julie, Pergola; E. Haacke, 300 E. South, Fence.

October 27: R. Hansen, 101 E. North, Fence.

October 31: C. Lundberg, 401 E. Chippewa, Plumbing.

November 14: R. Offen, 1002 S. Chicago, Addition.

November 30: M. Olson, 204 W. North, Electrical.

Thomas Bennett, State Representative 106th District

December 16, 2022

SAFE-T Act lawsuit to be heard

Dozens of state's attorneys from around the state have filed lawsuits to stop the implementation of the controversial SAFE-T criminal justice law which was passed and signed last year. The lawsuits were recently consolidated into one case that will be heard in Kankakee County. Now that consolidated lawsuit will get its day in court on Tuesday, December 20.

Originally the case was set to be heard on December 7, but last-minute amendments to the law passed in the fall veto session caused a delay. Both sides were given time to amend their filings in order to reflect the changes to the law. It is expected that there could be a ruling in the case as early as December 28. The law is set to go into effect January 1.

Legislation passes to divest Illinois investments from Russia. Ever since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, legislators in Illinois and throughout the country have been seeking ways to divest state holdings from Russian entities, hoping to ensure that taxpayer money is not going to support the ongoing war.

I co-sponsored a bill back in the spring to prohibit Illinois from investing any public funds in any investment instrument which is based in or tied to Russia. Unfortunately our bill did not get called for a vote.

But finally, during the fall veto session, the House and Senate unanimously passed House Bill 1293, a bill to target state investments in Russia and to investigate other possible third-party Russian involvement in the economy here in Illinois, including real estate.

The bill is similar to legislation which has passed in the past affecting nations like Iran and Sudan. It also affects Russia's ally Belarus, which has been an active supporter of Russia's war on Ukraine.

The bill now goes to Governor Pritzker for his signature.

Fall harvest wrapping up, winter wheat emerging. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the harvest of field corn in Illinois is 94% completed and the harvest of soybeans has hit 98%. In those areas of the state suitable for winter wheat, mainly to the south, 90% of Illinois winter wheat crop has emerged.

The war in Ukraine is having an upward effect on wheat prices throughout the globe, including here in Illinois. Since Russia and Ukraine are signi-ficant wheat producing nations, the disruption to the global supply has driven up prices from other sources. At the end of last week, wheat scheduled to be delivered next spring was trading for $7.75 a bushel on the Chicago exchange.

Supporting a local non-profit. Every month I give a part of my salary to support organizations that help our local communities. This time we presented a check to volunteer Wayne Lehman of Watseka and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

This 501(c)3 non-profit charity provides hand-made bunk beds to children who don't have beds of their own. Their website is shpbeds.org

Thank you, Wayne. God bless.

How much do we owe? As of the time of this writing, the State of Illinois owes $2,552,853,498 in unpaid bills to state vendors. One year ago, the backlog stood at $5.1 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.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I hope that everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I wish everyone the best for a safe and happy holiday season with family and friends. It has indeed been quite a year, and I expect many interesting and exciting things are still to come in 2023. Happy Holidays.

Did You Know? The State Capitol is usually decorated for the season with Christmas lights strung from the top of the dome. The effect creates the appearance of a large Christmas tree which is visible for miles. The tradition was started by Secretary of State Charles Carpentier in 1962.

It halted for a few years in the 1970s, but continued until recently when cracks were discovered near the top of the dome, making it unsafe for workers to string the lights.

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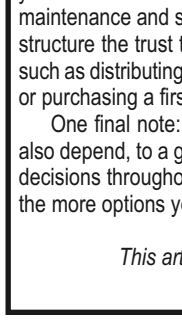
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Passing Assets Through a Trust: What to Know

As the year winds down, your thoughts might drift to the future. And, as part of that future, you may be thinking of where your financial assets will end up. You've worked hard to accumulate them, and you'll certainly need some of them to support your retirement, but what about the rest? What's the best way to pass them on to your loved ones?

There's no single path for everyone to follow. But you might consider establishing a trust, which offers some key benefits. For example, your estate can avoid the time-consuming, and highly public, process of probate. Plus, you can be highly specific about how your assets will be distributed.

To establish a trust, you will need to work with a qualified estate-planning attorney. And while you'll discuss many issues, here are three key questions that will certainly need to be addressed:

Who will serve as trustee of the trust? As the grantor, or creator, of your trust, you will pick the trustee – the individual or corporate entity that will manage the trust's assets and carry out the purpose of the trust. You could choose a trusted loved one, but this individual might not have the knowledge or experience to manage the responsibilities of a trustee. As an alternative, you could choose a corporate fiduciary, such as a bank or trust company. These entities are typically regulated by outside agencies and provide significant public matter expertise. Of course, they charge for their services and often have account minimums.

When are distributions made? As the grantor, you can choose when assets will be distributed to the beneficiaries you've named. You could decide to keep the assets in the trust until a beneficiary reaches the age of majority; note that the age of majority is not the same in all states. Or you could choose to "phase in" the distributions at particular ages – e.g., 30, 35, 40 – or after a certain number of years. You could even hold assets in the trust for the lifetimes of the beneficiaries. These types of choices will depend on several factors, such as your feelings for how responsible a beneficiary might be in managing money.

For what purposes can the trust assets be used? In addition to choosing when your trust should make distributions, you can decide how these assets should be used. You could designate some broad categories, such as health, education, maintenance and support. A beneficiary's request for distributions in these areas is usually granted. But you could also structure the trust to provide mandatory income, perhaps once a year, or include a provision that provides incentives, such as distributing certain amounts of money once the beneficiary has achieved a milestone, such as finishing a degree or purchasing a first home.

One final note: Although you clearly have great control over what your trust can accomplish, its effectiveness will also depend, to a great extent, on its asset level. With this in mind, you'll want to pay close attention to your investment decisions throughout your life and your withdrawal strategy during retirement. The better your choices in these areas, the more options you'll have with your trust – and the greater the potential benefits for your beneficiaries.

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

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Censea JUMBO
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with Sauce-16 oz
Reg. Price $14.99

Wild Caught, Australian
Premium Cold Water
Lobster Tail 5-6 oz

Tis the Season for Savings!

Lay's Potato Chips 7.75-8 oz — 2/$5

Kraft Slices, Shreds, Crumbles or Chunk Cheese 5-8 oz — 2/$5

Simply Orange, Apple or Grapefruit Juice 52 oz, Almond Milk 46 oz, or Smoothies 32 oz — $2.88 EA

Oscar Mayer Sliced Bacon 12-16 oz — $4.99 EA

Fannie May Candies Select Varieties — BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

Nabiso Snack Crackers 6.5-13.7 oz — 2/$3

7 Up Family 2 Liter Btls — 99¢ EA

Nabiso Chips Ahoy!, Ritz or Toasted Chips 6.5-13.7 oz — 2/$5

Nabisco Oreos 10.1-15.35 oz — BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!

Philadelphia Cream Cheese 8 oz — $1.49 EA When Buying 3

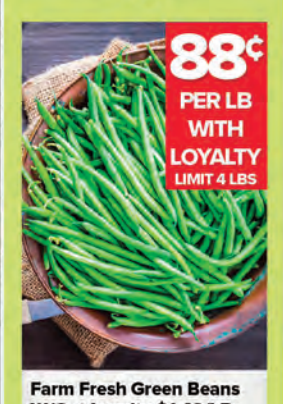
Single Price- $2.99

Best Choice Granulated Sugar 4 LBS- Sale Price $1.99 each — $1.69 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty

Best Choice Butter 1 LB- Sale Price $2.99 each — $1.88 EA LIMIT 1 With Loyalty

Due to shortages across the supply chain, availability limited across locations. No rainchecks at this time.

Fresh market produce



Farm Fresh Green Beans
W/Out Loyalty $1.49/LB

Fresh, Crisp
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Farm Fresh
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Orange Juice 56 oz

FRESH
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3 LB Bag

Red Potatoes
5 LB Bag

PREMIUM
Red or Green
Seedless Grapes

FULL WEEKLY AD @ BERKOTFOODS.COM

THE RED FEZ SHRINE CLUB held their annual Christmas Dinner meeting at Dwight Country Club December 14. The Club's 2023 officers were installed by Jeff Fox (not pictured) of Mohammed Shrine in Bartonville. Pictured, from left, are Jerry Curtis, Secretary; Russ Roudebush, member; Bob Wing, Chaplain; John Burton, Vice President; Daryl Holt, President; Del Hancock, Captain of the Guard. The Club presented Jeff Fox of Mohammed Shrine a $1,000.00 check to Shriners Children Hospital Chicago. This donation is made possible by sponsors from nine area parades that the club participated in this year with their mini cars.

INSTALLED OFFICERS for Livingston Masonic Lodge in Dwight for 2023, pictured, from left, are Richard Leach II, Anthony Milton, David Taylor, Daryl Holt, Mark Dabbs, Delmar Hancock, and Gary Helsing. They meet the first and third Mondays of each month at 106 South Franklin Street in Dwight at 7:30 p.m.

Dwight Common School #232 Adopts Tax Rate

(continued from page 1)

In Consent Agenda items employment was approved for Brooke Whittle, Substitute Teacher; Raechel Clark, Paraprofessional; and Morgan Miller, Substitute Paraprofessional. Employment was also approved for Leanne Soppe and Sarah Jones, Split CLASS Basketball Sponsors. Employment was affirmed for Randy Fontaine, Custodian.

Resignations were accepted for Christine Stephens, Class Basketball Sponsor, and Chuck Butterbrodt, Track Coach.

Retirement was approved for Chuck Butterbrodt, Math Intervention Teacher, effective January 14, 2023.

In Unfinished Business, the 2022 Tax Levy was approved at a rate of 3.0118 along with approving Certification of Compliance with Truth in Taxation requirements.

REDBIRD of the MONTH, Samantha Beier, with DCS Principal Julie Schultz.

In New Business, the Board approved the 2023 Employee Health Insurance contract with Blue Cross and the 2023 Employee Life Insurance contract with Dearborn National.

The January meeting will be held on January 12. For future Board of Education updates, navigate to *The Paper* website at **thepaper1901.com**

THE NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY at Gardner-South Wilmington High School has rung the bell the past two Sundays in December outside the Morris Wal-Mart. Donations go to We Care of Grundy County. The adviser is Terese Kukman.

SERENITY LEITHLITER, 4, of Dwight, tells Santa and Mrs. Claus her holiday wishes.

Merry Meals START HERE

FAMILY CHICKEN MEAL DEALS! For Carryout or Delivery Only!

Family Pack #1 $29.99 — • 8 pc. Broasted Chicken* • 1 lb. Coleslaw • 1 lb. Mashed Potatoes, ½ lb. Gravy • 4 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread — Serves 2 to 4 people

Family Pack #2 $49.99 — • 16 pc. Broasted Chicken* • 2 lbs. Coleslaw • 2 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, 1 lb. Gravy • 6 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread — Serves 4 to 6 people

Family Pack #3 $79.99 — • 24 pc. Broasted Chicken* • 4 lbs. Coleslaw • 4 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, 1½ lbs. Gravy • 10 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread — Serves 8 to 10 people

Family Pack #4 $99.99 — • 32 pc. Broasted Chicken* • 6 lbs. Coleslaw • 6 lbs. Mashed Potatoes, 2 lbs. Gravy • 14 Slices of Fresh Baked Bread — Serves 12 to 14 people

*All family chicken packs are served mixed equally with white and dark meat. Any changes will be upcharged.

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8 piece - $9.99
12 piece - $14.99
16 piece - $19.99
24 piece - $29.99
48 piece - $49.99

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Holiday Meals
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Allen and Jane Hoffman wish to thank our Church Congregation for our wonderful 65th Wedding Anniversary wishes, cards, and gifts.

Thanks to all who came to our party at Station 343. Thanks to Peter and Joy Meister for serving us at their restaurant. A special thanks to Kevin and Shelly for choosing the restaurant. They set up the venue and food. Thank you to our children, Marcy, Colleen, Rachel, Kevin and families for all sorts of many different tasks. All of them were wonderful greeters, as well.

We will never forget all the blessings we experienced on our 65th Wedding Anniversary celebration on September 11, 2022. Our actual wedding date was September 8, 1957. However, the wedding invitation was for September 1, 1957, but Allen had an emergency appendectomy four days before September 1, 1957.

PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN

(Never known to fail)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. Oh, Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein you are my Mother, Oh, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand your power. Oh, show me herein you are my Mother, Oh, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse in thee. (3x). Holy Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3x).

Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems, light all roads so that I can attain my goal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances of my life You are with me. I want in this short prayer to Thank You for all things aa you confirm once again, that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank You for your mercy toward me and mine.

The Person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

Anonymous

THE FIFTH GRADE STUDENTS of Gardner Grade School participated in their 2022 DARE Graduation December 15, and GGS extended its thanks to Deputy Unland and the Grundy County Sheriff's Department for providing the students with a great opportunity. Congratulations to Mikayla Vermaat for winning the DARE poster contest and the DARE essay contest.

Livingston County SWCD Now Accepting Nominations

The Livingston County Soil and Water Conservation District is accepting nominations from all persons of legal voting age who reside in or own land located within the boundaries of the Livingston County SWCD.

Nominations will be accepted for the two-year term of the office of Director of the Livingston County SWCD at the District's Office located at 1510 W. Reynolds St., Pontiac, during business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District.

Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. Monday, January 2.

Bank of Pontiac Donation to OSF Peace Meal Helps Senior Citizens

Bank of Pontiac has donated $40,000 to help seniors improve their nutrition, sustain their independence and enhance their quality of life through meals and fellowship. That is the mission of the OSF Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program.

The Bank of Pontiac Board of Directors approved two separate donations to the OSF HealthCare program. A $20,000 donation was made to support OSF Peace Meal in Livingston County. The donation will be used to provide meals for low and moderate income individuals who participate in the program. A separate $20,000 was donated to support the program in McLean County.

"The Bank of Pontiac is proud to support a program that benefits our senior citizens in Livingston and McLean Counties on a daily basis and enhances their quality of life," said Mark Donovan, President and CEO, Bank of Pontiac.

"I am deeply appreciative of the generous donation to support the Peace Meal program," said Lynn Fulton, president, OSF HealthCare St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington. "This donation will allow OSF to continue to grow the program and serve more people throughout Livingston and McLean Counties. It is generosity like this that enables us to live our mission – serving the greatest care and love."

OSF Peace Meal supports more than just food insecurity.

"The great thing is that OSF Peace Meal brings the community together," said Brad Solberg, president, OSF HealthCare Saint James – John W. Albrecht Medical Center in Pontiac. "Because most meals are provided in a community setting, they also help to promote physical, social and behavioral health."

OSF Peace Meal provides nutritious meals five days a week for seniors age 60 and older. The meals are provided by carryout from an OSF Peace Meal central kitchen. Home delivery is also available.

OSF Peace Meal collaborates with a variety of organizations, transportation providers, home care agencies, food pantries, care centers and the University of Illinois Extension on receiving and providing referrals to connect those in need to resources and services to help maintain their independence.

You can learn more about OSF Peace Meal, make a referral to the program or volunteer, at osfhealthcare.org/OSF-peace-meal.

New Books at Piper City Library

The following books are now available to check out at Piper City Library, 39 Main St., Piper City:

Under The Starry Skies (LP) by Tracie Peterson; The Vanishing at Loxby Manor (LP) by Abigail Wilson; All In Good Time (LP) by Linda Byler; The Amish Quiltmakers Unruly Law (LP) by Jennifer Beckstrand; The Choice by Nora Roberts; A Christmas Deliverance by Anne Perry; A Christmas Memory by Richard Paul Evans; Clive Sussler: The Sea Wolves by Jack Du Bral; Desert Star by Michael Connelly; Going Rogue #29 by Janet Evanovich; Hunting Time by Jeffery Deaver; The Whittiers by Danielle Steel; World of Curiosities by Louise Penny; The Snowy Nap by Jan Brett; I'm So Glad You Were Born by Ainsley Earhardt.

In addition, the library also has available Her Forbidden Amish Child (LP) by Leigh Bale:

No one can ever know the truth…Especially her son. Four years ago, having a child out of wedlock changed everything for Tessa Miller – including her engagement to Amish farmer Caleb Yoder. Now she's determined to provide a better life for her son…even if it means working for her ex-fiancé. Only spending time with Caleb makes it harder to keep her past a secret. Will revealing the truth lead to forgiveness…and a second chance together? From Love Inspired: Uplifting stories of faith, forgiveness and hope.

Secret Amish Babies

Book 1: The Midwife's Christmas Wish

Book 2: Her Forbidden Amish Child

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LETTERS TO Santa

Dwight Common
1st Grade
Emily Brownfield

Dear Santa,
My name is Livi and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a cat squishmellow, pop its, and an American Girl Doll. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the cookies we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Jaden and I am 6¾ years old. I have been a little bit nice and naughty. For Christmas I would like a toy card, the Soggy Doggy game, a remote control stunt car, and an Elf on the Shelf. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the cookies and carrots we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Layla and I am 6¾ years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a Sabrina St. Cloud Rainbow High Doll, an L.O.L. house and L.O.L. dolls. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the milk, cookies and candy canes we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Cailey and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like Minnie's Mouse Happy Helpers Sink Set, and a cat and dog squishmellow. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots, cookies and milk we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Hunter and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like Pokemon TCG Sword and Shield Trainor Box and a Mewtwo plush animal. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots and cookies we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Mason and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a phone, toy car, a Minecraft Axolotl, and a Steve squishy. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the reindeer food we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Freya and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like make-up, L.O.L. dolls, and Polly Pockets. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Cleo and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like the Gabby Doll House, the Barbie Doll Dream House and the L.O.L. House. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots and cookies we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Zeiry and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a mermaid tail, Isabela doll from Encanto and a cute shirt. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the candy canes we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Emma and I am 7 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a mermaid tail, the Barbie Doll Dream House and Gabby stuff. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Axel and I am 7 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a bike and a remote control car. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the crackers we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Hailey and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a crab squishmellow, but all kinds too! I would also like a kitchen set and make-up. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the cookies and carrots we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Ryan and I am 6 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like an Xbox, the game Security Breach and other games for the Xbox. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the cookies we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Harper and I am 7 years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a horse, an American Girl Doll and clothes for the doll. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the carrots we left out for you.

Dear Santa,
My name is Evelyn and I am 6¾ years old. This year, I have been nice. For Christmas I would like a Gabby Doll House, a kitchen set, and dot markers. Merry Christmas Santa! P.S. I hope you and the reindeer enjoy the milk and pizza we left out for you.

Dwight Common
1st Grade
Leanne Soppe

Christian Ochoa: For Christmas I would like a Pac-Man game, an orbeez gun, and the world's smallest laptop.

Isabella Ferrari: For Christmas I would like an American Girl Doll school, a phone, hatchimals, an Encanto house, fingerling, and a makeup set.

Ryder Darling: For Christmas I would like an orbeez gun, a computer, bullets, games, a phone, and an xray machine.

Dallas Wysocki: For Christmas I would like fingerling and a makeup set and a laptop.

Aly Mrozek-Pokarney: For Christmas I would like a makeup set, a Bingo from Bluey, and a laptop.

Colton Dippon: For Christmas I would like RC cars, an orbeez gun, and a phone.

Logan Oswald: For Christmas I would like the AmongUs and the world's biggest laptop.

Brooklyn Folkers: For Christmas I would like an Encanto house.

April Gundlach: For Christmas I would like a bike, makeup, a computer, LOLS, and a girl doll.

Cleo Moore: For Christmas I would like an American Girl Doll school.

Malina Walker: For Christmas I would like a phone and an Encanto house.

Iris Riber: For Christmas I would like an American Girl Doll school and hatchimals.

Olivia Bellinghiere: For Christmas I would like plushies, coloring books, and stickers.

K'Lee Ramsey: For Christmas I would like an American Girl Doll, accessories for an American Girl Doll, and a fidget spinner.

Sophie Medema: For Christmas I would like an American Girl Doll, accessories for an American Girl Doll, new earrings, and a tablet.

Dwight Common
2nd Grade
Mrs. Jones

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite cookie? Thank you for a phone that works, but it is fake. I need some money and I want more toys. Happy Christmas Day.
Love Friend, Willow

Dear Santa,
How many elves do you have? Thank you for the microphone you gave me. I need a phone and I want Mini Brands. Don't eat too many cookies!
Your friend, Oakleigh

Dear Santa,
Do you eat hotdogs? Thank you for a LOL van. I will need a LOL house please because I have been wanting it for a long time.
Love your friend, Sofia

Dear Santa,
How many houses can you get to in a night? Thank you for the sticker earrings. I need a new big dog Toy for my dog Sandy. I hope you have a safe trip.
Love, Layla H.

Dear Santa,
Do your elves ever stop making presents? Thank you for gifts last year. I want 13,500 vbucks and I need glue sticks.
You favorite kid, Caiden B.

Dear Santa,
Do you like cookies? Thank you for a LOL last year. I want 1,000 LOL's and a rug for my bedroom. I hope you have a good trip.
Love your friend, Aubree

Dear Santa,
Have you ever had a break? Thank you for the giant squid. I want a Minecraft book bag. I need new shark shoes that can tie. Don't get hurt.
Love, Jace L.

(Letters continued on page 9)

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OBITUARIES

Shelah J. Oelschlager

Shelah J. Oelschlager, 47, of Dwight, Illinois passed away Friday, December 2, 2022 at her residence.

Cremation rites have been accorded.

Memorials and cards may be sent to the family at: 9955 S. Dwight Road, Dwight, Illinois 60420.

Hager Memorial Home in Dwight is handling arrangements.

Shelah was born March 9, 1975 in Pontiac, Illinois, the daughter of Edward and Connie (Johnson) Oelschlager.

She is survived by her mother, Connie Oelschlager; her siblings: Steve Oelschlager, Kevin (Jackie) Oelschlager, Paul (Misti) Oelschlager, Shari Breeden, Joel (Tiffanie) Oelschlager, and Lisa (Josh) Stevenson.

Also surviving are nieces and nephews: Elizabeth (Justin) Leithliter, Kevin Oelschlager, Jr., Samuel Oelschlager, Simon Oelschlager, Gracie Oelschlager, Trevor Breeden, Lily Oelschlager, Selah Oelschlager, Kaia Oelschlager, and Zach Stevenson; great - nieces and great - nephews: Michael, Chloe and Serenity; and her special friend, Jason Garcia.

Shelah was preceded in death by her father, Edward Oelschlager; and her grandparents.

Shelah was a fan of the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears. She liked to spend time putting together puzzles. She was a baker who loved making sweet treats like brownies. She liked to fish, and enjoyed playing cards.

The thing that she enjoyed the most was her family. She spent lots of time with her nieces and nephews. She will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

This obituary may be read and condolences left at www.calvertmemorial.com or on our Facebook page.

Charles Earl 'Tuna' Palmer

Charles Earl "Tuna" Palmer, 69, of Reddick, Illinois passed away Sunday, December 11, 2022 at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

He was born May 5, 1953 in Kankakee, Illinois, the son of Orville and Dorothy (former Lane) Palmer. He was previously married to Ginger Shelly and had two daughters.

Surviving are his loving twin daughters, Renae (Derek) Wishon of Herscher and Trista (John) Botta of Bonfield; and beautiful granddaughters, Alexa and Rayah Botta; one sister, Pat Wilson of Manteno; and niece, Kim (Trent) Bukowski of Manteno.

Preceding him in death were his parents; his brother-in-law, Charles V. Wilson, Jr.; and nephew, Brian S. Wilson.

Mr. Palmer was a local farmer and worked as a carpenter for many years. He was a member of the Dwight Country Club, where he enjoyed golfing.

Tuna never missed his weekly card games and loved to hunt. He enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

Memorial visitation was from 1:00 p.m. until the 4:00 p.m. Memorial Service on Friday, December 16, 2022 at the Reddick United Methodist Church, Reddick.

Following the Memorial Service, there was a Celebration of Life at the Dwight Country Club, Dwight.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that donations be made to the Reddick United Methodist Church, where Mr. Palmer was a lifelong member.

Please sign his guestbook at www.clancygernon.com

Mary R. Tabor

Mary R. Tabor, 92, of Dwight, Illinois passed away Wednesday, December 14, 2022 at Heritage Healthcare and Rehab in Dwight.

Funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Dwight, Illinois.

A visitation was held the two hours preceding the services, also at the church.

Burial followed the services in Goodfarm Cemetery, rural Dwight.

Memorials in honor of Mary may be made to Emmanuel Lutheran Church.

Mary was born July 13, 1930 in Campus, Illinois to Oliver and Myrtle (Hodges) Stevens. She married Leo Burger in 1967 in Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Dwight, Illinois. He passed away August 25, 1992. She later married Kenneth Tabor in Emmanuel Lutheran Church in 1996. He passed away November 5, 2010.

Mary attended Dwight High School with the class of 1948. She worked at Blankenburg Studios for 19 years, and retired in 1991 from Dwight Correctional Center after 22 years in the business office.

She was preceded in death by her parents, seven sisters, and seven brothers. Two stepchildren, Linda Runyon and Jim Burger, also preceded her in death.

She is survived by Kenneth (Rhonda) Tabor, Jr., Texas; Doug (Debbie) Tabor, Eureka; Patricia (Ron) Jones, Flanagan; Howard (Beth) Tabor, Paxton; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was a member of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Mary & Martha, LWML.

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

The Paper

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

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Livingston County Township Assessors for the 2023 Assessment Year will be held Thursday, January 5, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Livingston County Board Room located at 112 W. Madison St., Pontiac, IL. The purpose of the meeting is to give instructions to the local assessors that will tend to lend to uniformity in the assessment process. This meeting is open to the public.

Shelly Renken
Supervisor of Assessments
Livingston County

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

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

We welcome your thoughts.

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

BANK OF PONTIAC,
an Illinois Banking Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.

MICHAEL QUINN ADAMS, and unknown owners and non-record claimants,
Defendants.

No. 22-FC-54

NOTICE

Notice is given you Defendants, unknown owners and non record claimants, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, praying that a Judgment of Foreclosure be entered against real estate legally described as follows:

The East 50 Feet of a tract of land described as commencing at the Southwest corner of Block 2 in Ladd and McDowell's Addition to the Town, now City of Pontiac, thence East 120 feet, thence North 156 feet 11½ inches, thence West 120 feet, thence South to the place of beginning, being located on a part of the West half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 23, Township 28 North, Range 5 East of the Third Principal Meridian.

PIN: 15-15-23-162-005

Commonly known as: 609 E. Howard St., Pontiac, IL 61764

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is MICHAEL QUINN ADAMS. The mortgage sought to be foreclosed is a mortgage executed on November 26, 2018 and recorded on December 5, 2018 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2018R-04771. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 22-FC-54 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before December 30, 2022, a default may be entered against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2022.

LeAnn Dixon, Circuit Clerk
Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois

8040-928620

Chicago Sports

I've written a lot of columns about the various Chicago sports teams, and the state of those teams, and I thought as one of my last in-print columns that I would (sadly) revisit them again.

Let's start with the Chicago Bears. They're the north star of Chicago teams – everything trickles down from them. While this season has been mostly uninspiring from a team perspective (they're 3-11 and have traded a few key contributors to defense), given that, the season has been just about perfect.

Justin Fields has taken a huge step forward and, as of today, they will have the 2nd pick in the draft this upcoming year, which gives them the ability to add someone who will have an impact right away. The quarterback getting better and landing a top pick is a great thing to have happen simultaneously.

Then there's the Bulls. What happened? They had such promise last year. Lonzo Ball got hurt and the wheels have just completely come off the car since then. They're currently closer to the worst record in the league than they are the best. This year has been an unmitigated disaster and there have been more and more talks of resetting the roster, which at this point is probably justified. It's just very bad at the moment.

The Cubs. They've been very bad for about a year-and-a-half now. This started during the offseason where they sold off Bryant, Baez, and Rizzo. This offseason, they let Willson Contreras go, as well (to the Cardinals, no less – Gross!), but also added their first bigger-name free agent in a few years in Dansby Swanson.

It remains to be seen how big of a jump the Cubs make this year, but they should at least be better. They are also building somewhat of a minor league pipeline. It will likely still be bad this year, but at least it won't be downright disgusting.

I truthfully don't know enough about the White Sox or the Blackhawks on a granular level to give an in-depth assessment, but it also appears bad there, too. The White Sox keep underachieving and the Blackhawks are one of the worst teams in the NHL.

In conclusion, it's very bad in the Chicago sports world right now. Let's hope for better days.

Aaron J. Boma
2016 ISU Grad

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 6, 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 West Chicago Kwik Dry, located at 408 W. South St., Dwight, IL 60420.

Dated this 6th day of December, 2022.

Kristy A. Masching
Livingston County Clerk

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

BANK OF PONTIAC,
an Illinois Banking Corporation,
Plaintiff,
vs.

MICHAEL QUINN ADAMS, and unknown owners and non-record claimants,
Defendants.

No. 22-FC-55

NOTICE

Notice is given you Defendants, unknown owners and non record claimants, that this action has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, praying that a Judgment of Foreclosure be entered against real estate legally described as follows:

A part of Block 2 in Ladd and McDowell's Addition to Pontiac, Livingston County, Illinois described as follows: Commencing at the Southwest corner of said Block 2, and running; thence East 120 feet to the point of beginning; thence East 52 feet; thence North 156.96 feet; thence West 52 feet; and thence South 156.96 feet to the point of beginning.

PIN: 15-15-23-162-006

Commonly known as: 613 E. Howard St., Pontiac, IL 61764

The title holder of record to the above described real estate is MICHAEL QUINN ADAMS. The mortgages sought to be foreclosed are a mortgage executed on December 10, 2021 and recorded on December 22, 2021 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2021R-062622, and an Assignment of Leases and Rents executed on December 10, 2021 and recorded on December 22, 2021 at the office of the County Clerk and Recorder of Deeds in Livingston County, Illinois, as document No. 2021R-06263. The cause of action initiated by the Plaintiff, BANK OF PONTIAC, an Illinois Banking Corporation, against the Defendants in Case No. 22-FC-55 is currently pending. The attorney for the Plaintiff is Donald R. McClarey, McClarey Law Firm, 313 S. Prairie Ave., P.O. Box 9, Dwight, IL 60420-0009.

Consequently, unless you, unknown owners and non record claimants, file your answer to the complaint in this action or otherwise enter your appearance in the Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois, held in the Law & Justice Center in the City of Pontiac, Illinois, on or before December 30, 2022, a default may be entered against you at any time after that date and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint.

Dated this 30th day of November, 2022.

LeAnn Dixon, Circuit Clerk
Circuit Court of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, Livingston County, Illinois

8040-928621

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David
a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...Glory to God
in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Luke 2:11, 14 (KJV)

Letters to Santa Claus

(Continued from page 6)

Dwight Common
2nd Grade
Mrs. Jones

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite snack? Thank you for the clothes. I want a baby doll and a water bottle. Don't eat too many cookies Santa.
Your friend, Mckenzie H.

Dear Santa,
What do you eat? Thank you for the gift last year. I want all the Dog Man books. Have a safe trip..
Your friend, Jeffery

Dear Santa,
What is the best cookie? Thank you for the 1 piece of paper. I want the Ivy Cube and a Floppy Cube. Have a safe trip.
Your friend, Gabe J.

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite snack? Thank you for brand new shoes and a lot of clothes. I want a new bike, Christmas pj's and Christmas slippers. I hope you have a good trip!
Your friend, Leyla D.

Dear Santa,
What is your favorite food? Thank you for the toy pig. I would like gymnastics stuff and I need Christmas books. I hope you have a safe trip.
Your friend, Maya

Dear Santa,
Are your elves good? Thank you for a bracelet kit. I want gymnastics stuff and I need books. Have a good trip and be safe.
Love your friend, Aria

Dwight Common
2nd Grade
Mrs. Legner

Dear Santa,
I've been wondering how you get all of the presents in the bag for Christmas? Also, thank you for the Barbie Dream House you got me last year! This year, I want little Squishmallows and I need clothes. I hope the reindeer are safe.
Love, Bristol

Dear Santa,
How can you get to all the houses in one night? Thank you for the Barbie you got me last year. I want a watch for Christmas this year! Please, I don't have one. I need Christmas clothes too. I hope you have a good flight!
Your Friend, Alexis

Dear Santa,
I'd like to know how old you are! Thank you for the doll house you got me last year. Something I want this year is a realistic baby doll. Something I need this year is new pants. Santa, have a safe trip. If you get a tummy ache, take the cookies with you!
Love Your Friend, Josie

Dear Santa,
How do you eat all those cookies? Oh, thank you for that basketball from last year. I want the new Mario Rabbids. I need new clothes this year too. Don't run out of gas on the sleigh!
Love Your Friend, Callan

Dear Santa,
How old are you? Thank you for the huge Squishmallow you got me last year. This year I would like a realistic monkey and Legos. Santa, have a safe trip home and don't eat so many cookies. I hope you have a good year!
Love Your Friend, Lainy

Dear Santa,
How old are you anyway? Thank you for the playset you got me last year. This year, I need new clothes. Have a good time with your elves.
Love, Natalie

Dear Santa,
How old are you? Thank you Santa for my Barbie doll house you got me last year. I want realistic monkeys and a sewing kit. I need a blanket, pillow, and new shoes. Please can you not eat too many cookies?!
Love, Alaina

Dear Santa,
How old are you? Thank you for the tv you gave me last year. This year I want a desk and I need a new pair of shoes. I hope you have a safe trip. I hope you don't get a tummy ache.
Love, Alexandria

Dear Santa,
How old are you? Thank you Santa for getting me Lovepups. I would like a friend for Horsey and I need a brand new coat. Don't eat too many cookies or else you will get sick.
Your Friend, Jovie M.

Gardner Grade School
1st Grade
Sara Countryman

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I want a Lego set for Christmas this year.
Love, Elliott

Dear Santa,
I want a phone. I hope you're feeling well. I want a phone for Christmas this year.
Love, Logan

Dear Santa,
How are you and how are your reindeer? I want Legos, barbies, and LOL. I hope the elves and Mrs. Claus are feeling well and I hope you are too.
Love, Madalyn

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a LOL and Care Bear stuffed animal for Christmas this year.
Love, Lizzie

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas. I want a big Legos set for Christmas this year.
Love, Weston

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a toy car for Christmas this year.
Love, Crosby

Dear Santa,
I want for Christmas this year a remote control car. I hope you are doing well.
Love, Joshua

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa! I want a diary for Christmas this year.
Love, Raina

Dear Santa,
Is it cold at the North Pole? I want $100 for Christmas this year.
Love, Barrett

Dear Santa,
How are the reindeer? I want a diary for Christmas this year.
Love, Goldie

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I want a turtle for Christmas this year and a gymnastics bar and mat for Christmas this year. I want for Christmas something for my cat and something for my chickens and something for my pig.
Love, Amelia

Dear Santa,
I want Minecraft stuff and rubber zombies vs. plants but the zombies are plastic. I love you Santa!
Love, Matthew

Dear Santa,
Merry Christmas! I want a phone and hot wheels for Christmas this year.
Love, Silas

Dear Santa,
I love you Santa! I want an iPhone, truck, and sunglasses for Christmas this year.
Love, Aaron

Dear Santa,
How are you? I want a phone for Christmas this year. Merry Christmas!
Love, Madison

Odell Grade School
Mrs. Tarnowski

Dear Santa,
I want a car.
Sincerely, Liam

Dear Santa,
this year, I have been good. I want a clown pop's it and I want Dr. Seuss shoes. Please.
Love, Paisley

Dear Santa,
I want the toy bus. I been a good boy. I love Santa. I want a Xbox.
Sincerely, Chase

Dear Santa,
I want a Barbie Dream House, legging and Barbie everything. I will leave a chocolate chip cookies an chocolate milk for U and reinde magic!
Sincerely, Kiaja

Dear Santa,
I wnt a drone and a treehouse.
Sincerely, Kayden

Dear Santa,
I want a tv. I'm 7 years old. Merry Chrimas Eve.
Sincerely, David

Dear Santa,
I want Legos and pop its. I am 7 years old merry christmass.
Sincerely, Harmony

Dear Santa,
This is Regan I am 7 years. I have been good.
Sincerely, Regan

Dear Santa,
This year I want a skateboard.
Sincerely, Rourke

Dear Santa,
I luf to see you kus and I wont a some robux and new gam for my switch.
Sincerely, Reese

Dear Santa,
My name is Sam. I am six. I want robux and I want to see you.
Sincerely, Sam

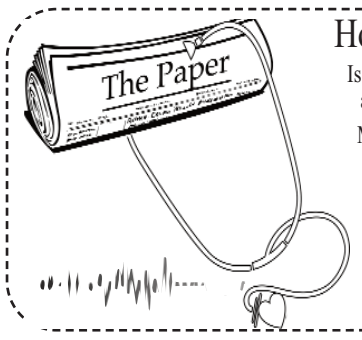
Dear Santa,
I have been bad and good. I wont a drone for chrismis. merry christmas santa. this wus made dy Harrison 6 yers old.
Sincerely, Harrison

Dear Santa,
Plaes give me a toy robot, batman with a moveiball toy batman. You are best!
Sincerely, Carson

Dear Santa,
I saw weird al yacovic play an acordyon so I want an acordyon and i been good i never lie.
Love, thomas

Dear Santa,
I would like to get some pj's and a roblox gift card and a plushy Because I helped people at home and school.
-Xoey

Dear santa,
I wont a Nrefgun And vebux 500 And a ps5 and4 kinchrs And a Fornit game And a Big tetebar And a derhutinggame And a phone.
Mackson



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SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

Seneca Sinks GSW, 57-41

Tuesday, December 13
Seneca vs. GSW

In a varsity basketball match-up December 13 in Gardner, the Seneca Fighting Irish won over Gardner-South Wilmington, 57-41.

"We were taken to the Hustle Shed early in this game," admitted Seneca head coach Russ Witte. "We were not ready to go and GSW came at us and put us on our heels. We were much better in the second quarter but could never really put them away. Too many turnovers and way too many empty possessions. We were much better than we have been from the free throw line and were dominant on the glass."

Leading the Irish were Braden Ellis (5 3-pointers, 2-2 FT) and Kysen Klinker (6-6 FT) with 19 and 14 points, respectively. Paxton Giertz picked up 12 points (2-4 FT), while Lane Provence scored six. Calvin Maierhofer (1-2 FT) and Dominic Traina had three and two points, respectively. Josh Lucas made a fourth-quarter free throw.

"We started well, but some missed lay-ups and turnovers led to easy points for them," said GSW head coach Allan Wills. "Seneca is a very solid team, so I am proud of the fight we showed."

The Panthers' Cale Halpin had a team-high 16 points to go with five boards and three steals. Dane Halpin contributed nine points, five steals, and three rebounds, while Gabe McHugh had seven points, nine boards, five steals, and four assists.

Seneca remains undefeated with a record of 8-0 on the year. GSW is now 5-5 for the season.

MVK Mavericks Basketball

Monday, December 5
MVK vs. Elwood
7th Grade -

MVK's seventh grade boys won their fifth straight game December 5, defeating Elwood 34-30.

Kolten Pfeifer led with 11 points, followed by Colton Baudino's 10.

8th Grade -

The eighth grade Mavericks won over Elwood, 36-17.

Brant Roe led the Mavs with 15 points.

Tuesday, December 13
MVK vs. Seneca
7th Grade -

In a seventh grade game against Seneca December 13, MVK fell 32-14.

8th Grade -

The Mavs were victorious over Seneca, 38-25, in the eighth grade match-up.

Brant Roe led with 19 points, while Kolten Pfeifer provided 11.

Thursday, December 15
MVK vs. Morris
7th Grade -

The seventh grade Mavs won over Morris 37-19 on December 15.

Colton Baudino scored a season-high 28 points, including six threes.

8th Grade -

The eighth grade match-up saw MVK wind up on the right side of a 52-25 decision.

Brant Roe led with 13 points for the Mavericks.

Thank You for Reading!

Village of Odell Invitation to Bid for Purchase of Real Estate

Invitation to Bid
Closing Date: January 9th, 2023 at 7 p.m.

The Village of Odell invites parties to respond to this Invitation to Bid for its sale of parcels of property owned by the Village. The parcels are being sold as-is and are identified as follows:

Parcel 1: LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, AND 5 IN AN UNNAMED BLOCK LYING SOUTHWEST OF BLOCK 24 IN THE TOWNSHIP OF ODELL, AND BEING LOCATED ON A PART OF THE SOUTH HALF OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 10, TOWNSHIP 29 NORTH, RANGE 6 EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS, TOGETHER WITH ALL OF THE VACATED BUFFALO STREET ADJOINING SAID LOTS, INCLUDING ALL PORTIONS OF THE VACATED BUFFALO STREET LYING SOUTHWEST OF LOTS 18, 19 AND 20 IN BLOCK 24 IN THE VILLAGE OF ODELL, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN: 10-10-10-160-073
A minimum bid of at least $10,000.00 is required.

Parcel 2: THE SOUTHWESTERLY 25 FEET OF THE NORTHWESTERLY 60 FEET OF LOT 16 IN BLOCK 1 IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN, NOW VILLAGE OF ODELL, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF LIVINGSTON AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
PIN: 10-10-10-139-007
A minimum bid of at least $1,600.00 is required. Must be brought to grade.

Parcel 3: LOT 15 IN BLOCK 1 IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN, NOW VILLAGE OF ODELL, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN: 10-10-10-139-008
A minimum bid of at least $5,000.00 is required. Must be brought to grade.

Parcel 4: LOT 18 IN BLOCK 1 IN THE ORIGINAL TOWN, NOW VILLAGE OF ODELL, LIVINGSTON COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN: 10-10-10-139-004
A minimum bid of at least $5,000.00 is required. Must be brought to grade.

Bid specifications and bid submission forms may be obtained by contacting the Village of Odell at (815) 998-2133 or by mail to the address listed below.

Sealed bids will be accepted at the Village Hall at the address as listed below no later than January 9th, 2023 at 7 p.m. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately afterwards by a representative of the Village of Odell located at the address listed below. Bids may be raised at time of opening. The Village expressly reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to accept the one that appears to be in the best interest of the Village. The Village expressly reserves the right to waive any informalities or technical irregularities in a bid if to do so is in the best interest of the Village. The Village Board of Trustees will determine the successful bidder within thirty (30) days of all proper bids having been opened. All bids must be good for a minimum period of sixty (60) days.

Submitting of Bids and any questions regarding submitting of bids are to be directed to the following:

Village of Odell
213 South Front Street
Odell, IL 60460
(815) 998-2133

DCS Redbirds Basketball

Monday, December 5
Dwight vs. Ransom
7th Grade -

On December 5, Dwight defeated Ransom, 36-16, using tough half-court defense to hold their opponent to just one second-half point.

Walter Bradley led with 12 points, six boards, and a steal, with Evan Olson contributing 12 points, eight rebounds, and three steals. Cason Johnson had four points, two boards, two steals, and two assists, with Kayden Wood (11 rebounds, 1 assist), Ty Turner (1 rebound, 1 steal), Rylan Woodin (5 steals, 1 assist), and Axel Kargle (5 assists, 3 steals, 2 rebounds) each adding two points.

Tuesday, December 6
Dwight vs. Saratoga
6th Grade -

Dwight's sixth grade boys traveled to Saratoga December 6, taking a 42-16 loss.

Ameryn Wiles (1 rebound) and Landon Hoffner led with five points each, while Oliver Snyder had four points. Caleb Peters added two points and four boards.

The "B" game saw the Redbirds fall, 6-1.

Van Patten knocked down a free throw for Dwight. Nash Minor led with three rebounds. Oliver Snyder directed the offense and Liam Strong played tough defense.

7th Grade -

The seventh grade Redbirds suffered a 25-15 loss to Saratoga, struggling with turnovers against the press.

Evan Olson had eight points, eight rebounds, four steals, and two assists. Kayden Wood provided four points, three steals, two boards, and two assists, with Walter Bradley adding two points, nine rebounds, and two steals. Alex Ortize was 1-2 from the line. Axel Kargle dished two assists and grabbed one board, while Hudson Colclasure came up with two steals. Rylan Woodin had three rebounds; Jude Hurt and Mekhi Hakey, one each. Sawyer Kucera had one swipe.

8th Grade -

In the eighth grade game, Dwight won big over Saratoga, 48-19.

"After a slow start, we really picked it up and played well from the second quarter on," stated head coach Tom Conroy.

Colin Bachand put up a game-high 18 points, seven assists, five steals, and four rebounds. Matt Watchinski added 11 points, eight boards, an assist, and a steal. Graham Meister (6 rebounds) and Trevor Jensen (6 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 assist) contributed seven and six points, respectively. Carson Sandeno (3 rebounds, 2 steals), Kayden Wood (2 rebounds, 2 steals, 1 assist), and Evan Olson (2 rebounds) scored two points each. Axel Kargle snagged two boards. Bradley Thompson (2 steals, 1 assist) and Honore Mwizerwa (1 steal) each pulled down one rebound.

Thursday, December 8
Dwight vs. Seneca
6th Grade -

Dwight's sixth grade boys hosted Seneca December 8, losing 24-2.

Levi Ochoa scored two points, with Caleb Peters pulling down four rebounds.

The "B" game saw the Redbirds fall 13-2.

Oliver Snyder led with two points and two boards. Zadien Rossi and Van Patten pulled down two rebounds each.

7th Grade -

The Redbirds took a tough 32-9 loss.

Evan Olson led with three points, six boards, and five steals. Walter Bradley (3 rebounds, 1 assist), Axel Kargle (1 assist), and Hudson Colclasure (2 steals) added two points each.

8th Grade -

The finale ended with Dwight winning big, 55-19, starting out fast and never looking back.

Colin Bachand's 18 points, nine assists, five steals, and five rebounds led the Redbirds. Matt Watchinski added 10 points, six boards, with Trevor Jensen (5 steals, 4 rebounds) and Graham Meister (5 rebounds, 3 steals) scoring eight points each. Blake Thetard (4 steals, 2 rebounds) and Bradley Thompson (2 steals, 1 rebound) each provided four points, with Honore Mwizerwa scoring three points to go with a steal and one assist. Carson Sandeno (3 steals) and Evan Olson (1 steal) grabbed four and two rebounds, respectively. Axel Kargle came down with one rebound.

Tuesday, December 13
Dwight vs. Nettle Creek
6th Grade -

The Dwight Redbirds hosted Nettle Creek December 13, coming up short, 18-8.

Leading a balanced scoring attack was Caleb Peters with two points and a season-high 12 rebounds. Dalton DeLong, Eli Jensen (7 rebounds), and Levi Ochoa (2 rebounds) each added two points. Jace Jensen pulled down three boards.

Dwight's "B" team lost 18-6.

Levi Ochoa led with four points, while Max Veselak added two points and three rebounds. Oliver Snyder had five boards.

Dwight vs. Elwood
7th Grade -

In a seventh grade match-up with Elwood, the Redbirds lost, 25-22.

Dwight had a shot to tie it up with seconds left on the clock, but came up just short.

Evan Olson led with a double-double, scoring 16 points and grabbing 13 rebounds. Kayden Wood supplied five steals, with Axel Kargle and Cason Johnson each dishing three assists.

The Redbirds go into the Christmas break with a 3-10 record.

8th Grade -

The eighth grade Redbirds won over Elwood 48-9, improving to 8-4 overall and 5-0 in the IVC.

Colin Bachand put up 24 points, eight boards, three steals, and two assists. Blake Thetard (2 rebounds, 1 steal) and Matt Watchinski (4 rebounds, 3 steals, 2 assists) added eight and six points, respectively. Bradley Thompson (3 steals) and Graham Meister (3 rebounds, 1 assist) had three points each, followed by two each from Carson Sandeno (2 rebounds) and Kayden Wood (3 rebounds, 1 assist). Trevor Jensen (2 steals, 1 assist) and Honore Mwizerwa (1 steal, 1 assist) snagged two rebounds each.

Thursday, December 15
Dwight vs.
Streator Woodland
6th Grade -

Dwight's sixth graders hosted Streator Woodland December 15, falling 19-7.

Fifth-grader Levi Ochoa led the Redbirds with five points, followed by Caleb Peters with two points and a team-high seven boards. Big Eli Jensen and Ameryn Wiles grabbed seven and three rebounds, respectively.

The "B" game was a barnburner that ended with Dwight winning, 12-10.

Leading the Redbird offense was Levi Ochoa with eight points. Zadien Rossi and Oliver Snyder had two points each. Eli Jensen stepped in and pulled down five rebounds, with four and two rebounds, respectively, from Liam Strong and Carter Christensen. Alfred Trujillo had one board.

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Gas Prices For This Week

Since last Monday, the national average for a gallon of regular gasoline has fallen by 12 cents to $3.14. According to new data from the EIA, gas demand decreased slightly last week. This coincides with the arrival of the winter driving season when fewer people hit the roads due to less daylight and more inclement weather. Meanwhile, total domestic gasoline stocks rose significantly. Increasing supply and lower gasoline demand are pushing pump prices lower. As demand remains low and stocks grow, drivers will likely continue to see pump prices decrease through next week. Crude prices have increased due to a weaker dollar and higher market optimism after new data showed that inflation rose at its slowest rate since December 2021.

City/Village	Dec. 19	Dec. 12
Dwight	$3.23	$3.48
Kankakee	$3.53	$3.71
Streator	$3.30	$3.45
Pontiac	$3.37	$3.52
Gardner	$3.44	$3.85
Braceville	$3.17	$3.33
Morris	$3.22	$3.55
Herscher	$3.57	$3.75
Chicago	$3.42	$3.58
Illinois	$3.26	$3.42
U.S.	$3.14	$3.26

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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GSWB Tigers Basketball

Monday, December 12
GSWB vs. Reed-Custer
5th Grade -

GSWB's fifth grade squad won over Reed-Custer, 19-6, when they met December 12.

Jaxon Pluger led with six points, followed closely by five from Kash Kerner. Kash Olsen scored four, while Chase Chandler and Ayden Wzorek added two points each.

6th Grade -

In the sixth grade game, the Tigers won, 17-8.

David Allen was high scorer for GSWB with four. Kash Kerner, Ryan Male, Kash Olsen, Fallon Stein, Chris Titus, and Ty Tjelle each scored two points, with Mason Jordan making a free throw.

GSWB vs. Wilmington
7th Grade -

In a meeting with Wilmington, GSWB won, 27-21.

Case Christensen was high scorer with 15, followed by Caden Christensen with nine. Cameron Gray came up with two points, while Brody Grimes made a free throw.

8th Grade -

The Tigers took a 32-19 loss to Wilmington in the eighth grade game.

Cooper Biros led with four points. Chris Ozee and Holden Grimes each scored three, with Tyler Galass scoring two points. Logan Rice and Reed Millette each hit a free throw.

Tuesday, December 13
GSWB vs. Saratoga
7th Grade -

GSWB faced off against Saratoga December 13, suffering a loss despite 29 combined points from Caden Christensen (12), Case Christensen (9), and Brody Grimes (8).

Thomas Phillips, Wyatt McNally, and Isaiah Bouwma added two points each in the loss.

8th Grade -

The eighth grade Tigers won by a score of 27-25.

Holden Grimes had 14 points to lead his team. Cooper Biros and Reed Millette each added four points. Chris Ozee and Aiden Mack had three and two points, respectively.

Thursday, December 15
GSWB vs. Coal City
7th Grade -

GSWB's seventh grade boys were defeated by Coal City December 15.

Caden Christensen led his squad with eight points, while Cameron Gray and Case Christensen each added five. Brody Grimes and Isaiah Bouwma scored two points each.

8th Grade -

The Tigers would fall in the eighth grade game, despite 11 points from Holden Grimes and seven from Reed Millette.

Adding to GSWB's points total were Cooper Biros with three points and Aiden Bodine and Coleman Slush each scoring two points.

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SPORTS SPORTS SPORTS

GSW Panthers Basketball

Saturday, December 17
GSW vs. Ridgeview

The Panthers edged out Ridgeview, 56-52, when they met December 17.

"After a slow start, we made some defensive adjustments and started playing better," said Coach Wills. "We did a very nice job on the defensive rebounds and didn't give many second chance points."

Cale Halpin (4 assists, 3 steals) and Bennett Grant (3 rebounds) led with 19 and 18 points, respectively. Gabe McHugh added 11 points, 13 boards, and five assists.

DTHS Trojans Basketball

Monday, December 12
Dwight vs. Fieldcrest

Dwight was on the road December 12 taking on Fieldcrest, and was dealt a 70-53 loss.

Wyatt Thompson put up a game-high 25 points, including three three-pointers and 6-8 free throw shooting. Conner Telford tallied 17 points (3 3-pointers, 6-7 FT), with Luke Gallet (1 3-pointer) and Dawson Carr (2-4 FT) chipping in with five and four points, respectively. Jack Duffy added a second-quarter bucket.

Friday, December 16
Dwight vs.
Ottawa Marquette

On December 16, the Trojans were beaten by Ottawa Marquette, 65-49.

Leading the way with a team-high 22 points (2-2 FT) was Wyatt Thompson. Conner Telford scored 12 points (2 3-pointers, 4-4 FT), while Jace Gall (2 3-pointers) and Dawson Carr (1 3-pointer) added six and five points, respectively. Tristan Chambers and Luke Gallet scored two points each.

HEY, COACHES!
Send us your team's stats!
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Tri-Point Lady Chargers Basketball

Monday, December 12
Tri-Point vs. Donovan

The Lady Chargers hosted Donovan December 12, winning convincingly, 61-46.

Adriana Hummel (2 3-pointers) and Kyra Cathcart led with 18 and 17 points, respectively. Lainey Bertrand contributed eight points, followed by seven from Kadie Hummel. Millie Ruiz added five points (1 3-pointer), with Kori Weber and Kasi Hughes scoring two points each. Madison McNeill and Rosmond Prisock each knocked down a free throw.

Thursday, December 15
Tri-Point vs. Momence

Tri-Point cruised to a 53-30 victory over Momence December 15.

Lainey Bertrand hit three three-pointers in the contest, en route to a game-high 13 points. Kasi Hughes had nine points, followed by eight from Kadie Hummel (2 3-pointers). Millie Ruiz (1 3-pointer) and Adriana Hummel scored six points each, with Kyra Cathcart supplying five. Kori Weber put in four points, while Alli Schuette had a first-quarter basket.

CONGRATULATIONS to Hannah Frescura and Addi Fair, members of the Gardner-South Wilmington Lady Panthers volleyball team, who were named Joliet All-Area Honorable Mention. Hannah is a senior, and Addi a junior, at GSW High School.

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GSW Lady Panthers Basketball

Monday, December 12
GSW vs. Wilmington
Iroquois West Holiday Hoops Tournament

The Lady Panthers lost to Wilmington, 47-32, in Iroquois West Holiday Hoops Tournament action December 12.

Addi Fair (1 3-pointer) and Hannah Balcom led the way with 12 points each. Grace Olsen, Maya Cacello, Madison Simms, and Annabelle Pumfrey added two points each.

Wednesday, December 14
GSW vs. Milford
Iroquois West Holiday Hoops Tournament

The Lady Panthers finished 2-2 in the Iroquois West Holiday Hoops Tournament, beating Milford 46-34 on December 14.

Addi Fair was monstrous, putting up 34 points, including one three-pointer. Hannah Balcom had six points, with Aspen Lardi and Annabelle Pumfrey scoring two each. Chloe Wells and Grace Olsen both made a free throw.

With the victory, Gardner-South Wilmington ups its record to 5-9 on the season.

Seneca Lady Fighting Irish Basketball

Thursday, December 15
Seneca vs. Newark

The Lady Irish were on the road taking on Newark December 15, and returned home with a 61-58 victory.

Kennedy Hartwig led with 29 points on the night, followed by 15 and nine, respectively, from Faith Baker and Ella Sterling.

"It's been a long seven-day stretch," stated Coach Holman, "but to come out of it 2-2 with a big conference win against Roanoke and a huge win on the road tonight is awesome. Give the girls a lot of credit for getting through the bumps in the road, trusting the process, and playing a great game. Just an outstanding effort against a relentless Newark team."

Seneca improves to 9-4 on the season and sits at a perfect 5-0 in the conference.

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(Continued from page 9)

Odell Grade School
Mrs. Tarnowski

Dear Santa,
i Wold Wunt A farming simulator gam. i have bin god.
Wesley

Dear Santa,
I wont a big tededar. And i have ben good I have ben helping my Mom do desis.
Charlee

Dear santa,
I want a bike And v bucks And a Laptop And a mouse And candy And roblox gife craf,
Isabella

Dear Santa,
I want a helicopter for Chrimas and a talbit, farming simelatr 22. Iwas good vis year.
Cole

Dear Santa,
I want a Gabbysdollhouse with a pandy and a mercat toy. And the magic kitty ears.

Dear santa,
my stufe i want Pochemon card v box pochemon cordes Robus Roblox gift card Pechachue plush Competer Head pones Mine craft stichers Condy chans m&m mouse computer My note I helpet with lander.
Connor

Dear Santa
iwot nrfgun Iwot Alotapes.

Dear Santa,
Iwant a horse for a girl and a toy horse and a horse shrt for a 7/8 i was good.
stariana

Ransom Grade School
1st Grade
Mrs. Stevens

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for the fan. I want a dog. I need a robux too. Check your list twice! Love, Alice

Dear Santa,
Is the Grinch real? Thanks for the card boord house. I want avr. I need robux 9000. Don't eat too many cookies! Love, Johnathan

Dear Santa,
How long does it take to deliver? Thank you for the deer hunting game. I want a Tennessee football. I need some shoes! Do not eat too much cookies! Love, Rylan

Dear Santa,
How do your riandere fly? Thank you for the toy unicorn. I want a mashtif puppey. I need a water bottle. Don't eat too many cookies. Love, Natalie

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for the toys. I want a omg LOL. I need a hot choclit. Don't eat too many cookies.
Love, Lily

Dear Santa,
Have you met the grinch? Thank you for the ladybug skirt. I want a barbie dream house. I need lots of bows. Please wear your seatbelt on the sligh.
Love, Marieeana

Dear Santa,
Have you ever met the Grinch? Thank you for the shirt. I want legos. I need socks. Beware of the dogs. Love, Cooper

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for the Lego set. I want a trampoline. I need clothes. Get a blanket.
Love, Ellie

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for the toys. I want a big tub uf slime. I need a dance bag. Don't eat to many cookies.
Love, Hazel

Dear Santa,
Have you met the Grinch? Thank you for the legos. I want a xbox. I need a shirt. Don't eat too many cookies! Love, Xavier

Dear Santa,
How do your reindeer fly? Thank you for the car. I want a remote control truck. I need new shirts. Check your list twice.
Love, Patrick

Dear Santa,
Have you ever met the Grinch? Thank you for the game. I want two line guns. I need new red carpet. Don't be scared going down the chimney.
Love, Leonida

Ransom Grade School
2nd Grade
Mrs. Ludkowski

Dear Santa,
I ben goot. I be nice to my freind. Pes 5 Pes 4 Mande22 xdox x shot Nref gun Hunter call of the Wold boase ball to sit on wite sniper Mande23 togrit for rell guns deer togrit.
Signed, Cameron

Dear Santa,
I was trying to be good all year and do my work. I would like a vanadey and a desk for my laptop and a callinder like from 2nd grade matching soks and a lot of chap stick and bathroom body works.
Signed, Natalie

Dear Santa,
I was good and I help Xander he fell down and I help him and my sister she drop her tablit and I help her and I want rainbow frinds plushes and slim and a hot weels city and a binsors map and a binsors book and a play troll.
I love you Santa, Tanner

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Dear Santa,
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Dear Santa,
hi my name is Piper here are something you shod know about me I love to read I like to spell and one more thing I love to help my frends when they are hurt ok but anof about that lets talk about how I've been this year ok sometime I do get a littl sasy and nosey but I always say sory in the end I have been rily nic this yera also ok time to talk about what I want for christmas I rely rely want a coputer and a mager – mixecristl ball and some squishamolw stuf. maryy christmas!
Love, Piper

Dear Santa,
I've been good all year and I think I am on your nice list santa one time I saw you when I think I was 5 and I really whant to see your face so can you let me see you this is what I what for christmas a hoverboard a kitten and a phone. Signed, Kendall

Dear Santa,
I have been nice I want a note book and lipgloss more L.e.d. lights markers & stitch pillow makeup books paper colored pens metallica poster stickers school stuff figet toys.
Love, Morgan

Dear Santa,
I ben good to my family I hlep my mom cook and I hlep my dad clen and I hlep my sister clen her room and I hlep my brother wif take my bog out. Dear Santa I wod like a pupe and I wod like hairchalk and makeup and new lipstick. lip goos. and a bren new neclis from clas. Love you santa and have a good cristma. Signed, Walee

Dear Santa,
I've been good every day I helped my freinds take care of swirly your elf & didn't whine about losing this is what i want for christmas a toy from fire emblem plush a toor zelda plush a fox cloud plush a falco plush ike plush lucind plush corrir plush pirhana plant plush & 12 plushes from battle for dream island firey, leafy, flower, blocky, teardrop-woody, smatch, bubble, pin, earaser, pen, coin. I love you Santa. Signed, Xander

Dear Santa,
Hi santa I'm McKenzie. I've been nice this year...well if you've seen me be good this year. guess what i did I play with my sister and I clean my messes. what I want for christmas is a american girl doll *number 68. I want new cowgirl boots and a hoverboard with a diary. Love you Santa! Signed, McKenzie

Dear Santa,
a have bin rely good this year I have helpt sum wun on the playground thing I want en axiotl en hollo hop crats fidjits and some axiotl stuft animal and my vary on room and a song for you tell me if your really thar don't make me fall in love agen if you wont be her next year you are the best. Thank you. Love, Paisley

Dear Santa,
Hi! Santa I help my firends every year. you mite no that I race a jragster. I be good every year maybe some times I will be bad. I wood like a electric scooter for chirimis. thak you.
Love, Allie

Dear Santa,
hi my name is Lakin I bin nis to evre won I got a pirate pride and another my favrit hlday is christmos thak you bie giting us a dog and my makup tabl you are the nisis prsin you wrck uor hordis tiem win you are mainy the prens this is wut I wont for christmos I wont elweis I wont a now hevr board I wont a big elsu dol I wont my on cat I wont now clos and this is the last thing I wont is to gita pitr of me and you santu and rande and elf and my family and my frends and my dog and evih dorlul.
Signed, Lakin

Dear Santa,
I have ben nice dis year. I hope it is good for you. I have Brown eyes and Brown haer I went a slime bin and al of the sqish melose in the would. I went lip glos and makeup. I went hair stof. I went a cat and a Dog. Thank you Santa.
Signed, Kinsley

Dear Santa,
I've ben relley god theis yer I relley wunt for crens is a huver board chord and a cnen citi and a bilding set and one mor thegn and a sno storm.
Signed, Hudson

Dear Santa,
I want a Gameing chare and a computer and a desk. I like to play soccer and play baseball. I have bin nice. I hope you bring lot of presnts. Signed, Beau

Saunemin Grade School
1st Grade
Ms. Zeedyk

Dear Santa,
I would like pokemon cards, remote control lamborghini and a ticket to see the Harlem Globetrotters. Thank you Santa!
Love, Lyndon

Dear Santa,
I would like a phone, a phone case, and a Barbie playhouse. Thank you Santa! Love, Amiah

Dear Santa,
I would like money, spy drone, and a computer. Thank you Santa! Love, Michael

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy tree, toy phone, and a dollhouse. Thank you Santa! Love, Charleigh

Dear Santa,
I would like playdough, coloring stuff, and Gabi dollhouse. Thank you Santa! Love, Hayden

Dear Santa,
I would like an art set, a Santa hat, and a real baby monkey. Thank you Santa! Love, Addison

Dear Santa,
I would like a polaroid camera, a toy guinea pig, and Gabi's play house. Thank you Santa!
Love, Sonny

Dear Santa,
I would like a shiny charzard, a charzard v max, and pokemon cards. Thank you Santa!
Love, Laken

Dear Santa,
I would like a toy guinea pig, playdough, and a Barbie dreamhouse. Thank you Santa!
Love, Aria

Dear Santa,
I would like a yellow toy trux for Christmas. I have been very good. Love, Mason

Dear Santa,
I want a lot of toys. I will make cookies. We will have Christmas dinner. Every Christmas morning we would all have a great Christmas day!
Love, Alex

Dear Santa,
I would like a drone, pokemon card, and a remote monster truck. Thank you Santa!
Love, Tristan

Dear Santa,
I would like a computer, a remote truck, and a monster truck. Thank you Santa!
Love, Remington

Dear Santa,
I would like a new coat, a Barbie, and a Rainbow High doll. Thank you Santa!
Love, Audrey

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The Big Blue (7th-8th Grade Champs)

Titans (7th-8th Grade Runners-Up)

Ball of Famers (5th-6th Grade Champs)

GSWB VARSITY CLUB held a Dodgeball Tournament on December 11 at Gardner Grade School. The tournament had 23 teams ranging from grades 3-8. Area students from Braceville, Coal City, Gardner, Mazon-Verona-Kinsman, and South Wilmington were represented well in the tournament.

Duck, Duck, Chuck (5th-6th Grade Runners-Up)

Subway (3rd-4th Grade Champs)

Hard Targets (3rd-4th Grade Runners-Up)

Livingston County Cancer Fund Donation in Memorium of Susan M. Beecher-Curtiss

After a life of love and service, the family of Susan M. Beecher-Curtiss has continued her devotion to helping others in Livingston County. At the Board of Health meeting December 12, the Curtiss family presented the Livingston County Health Department with a donation of $5,155 to the county's Cancer Fund in memorium of their beloved wife, mother, and grandmother.

Susan worked for many years at The American Lung Association mid-eastern Illinois branch. She later went on to work as the secretary for Pontiac Township, serving in many positions including as a board member for Township Officials of Illinois and Township Supervisors of Illinois. She also served as acting Supervisor for Esmen Township. Ever dedicated to supporting her local community, Susan's husband, Frank Curtiss, and daughters, Tami Putnam and Jennifer Curtiss, spoke at the meeting of her boundless knowledge and dedication to small community government.

Susan was a 37-year survivor of breast cancer and often accompanied family and friends to their treatments as she knew the toll of therapy. Her family's donation to Livingston County's Cancer Fund will help sustain her care and compassion for others battling cancer.

"The money being used here in Livingston County would mean a lot to her," said Tami Putnam.

Managed by the Livingston County Health Department, the Cancer Fund consists of monetary donations contributed by county residents for county residents seeking cancer treatment. Of these donations, 100% are used to assist Livingston County residents during their cancer treatment, most often in the form of gas cards to help individuals travel to their appointments. Donations to Livingston County's Cancer Fund can be made to the Livingston County Health Department.

A DONATION WAS MADE in the amount of $5,155 to Livingston County's Cancer Fund, in memorium of Susan M. Beecher-Curtiss. Pictured, from left, are Frank Curtiss (Susan's husband), Tami Putnam and Jennifer Curtiss (Susan's daughters), Board of Health President Jim Day, and Livingston County Health Department Director of Nursing, Tondra Harris.

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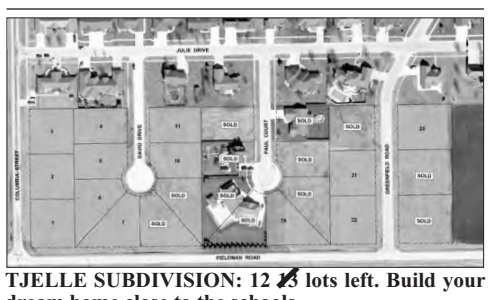

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Pet of the Week

You can say that I'm sarcastic, introspective, compassionate, and fiercely protective of those I consider family. I tend to be strong, witty, sarcastic, and sometimes intimidating, and arguably, I am mostly grounded. I am by the way a tortoiseshell queen and I must live up to my title. I'm Dorothy an 8-month-old with an adult attitude.

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Thurs., Dec. 22: Hearty vegetable & bean soup, cucumber & onion salad, tangy coleslaw, fruit cocktail, whole grain crackers.

Fri., Dec. 23: Baked fish filet, corn casserole, Scandinavian veggie blend, applesauce, whole grain wheat.

Mon., Dec. 26: **CLOSED FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY.**

Tues., Dec. 27: Chicken pot pie w/mixed vegetables, zucchini bake, Mandarin oranges, biscuit.

Wed., Dec. 28: Taco salad w/beans, lettuce, tomatoes, sour cream & taco sauce, tropical fruit blend, taco chips.

Thurs., Dec. 29: Saucy riblet sandwich, au gratin potatoes, Brussels sprouts, blushing pears, bun.

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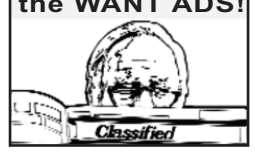

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As we work our way through the last few editions of *The Paper*, we would like to thank everyone for their kind comments over the last few weeks. Many of you have expressed what *The Paper*, and just a local newspaper in general, means to them. Holding a newspaper broadsheet in one's hand is like holding a familiar friend. We share your sentiments, as ceasing publication is somewhat like losing a family member. It's been with us every hour of every day, for nearly 24 years. For the Tock family, the newspaper legacy stretches back to **1917**.

But the time has come to move on. The world is different today in so many ways from when we started. The internet, the iPhone, Facebook, Amazon, COVID, and on it goes.

The printed version of *The Paper* will end, and we will be taking a step back, but not entirely gone.

We will do our best to capture news and events and place them on our website at **thepaper1901.com**. We ask that you continue to send items to our email **thepaper1901@sbcglobal** and help us maintain a common spot for community information. For that news model to work, we will need your help. Give it a try and let us know what you think.

We will be reaching out to potential advertisers in the next few weeks with information on pricing. If you are an out-of-market subscriber, refunds will be issued for the balance of your term.

Thank you,
Mark and Mary Boma

No such thing as a final sendoff

by Brandon LaChance

When I was rushing through my notes, trying to find story ideas and jotting down what I could write about for this week's *The Paper*, I inked, 'Final Sendoff'.

I had asked Mary Boma if I could write a column about my last 1 ½ years with *The Paper*. After she said yes, I called it a final sendoff column.

But is it really?

What are we sending off?

What is final?

The Number 1 mission of a newspaper is to tell the news. From journalism school, the five W's: who, what, why, where, when.

Right after the news, the No. 2 priority is to create memories.

If there is anything that is final, isn't it memories?

Some of you have stories and photos from *The Paper* hanging on your wall, magnetized to your refrigerator, or you've cut out a section to send to your mother, sibling, friend, or loved one.

Readers remember the tales of classic football games, school board meeting hot topics, changes in the village and more because of this newspaper.

In my opinion, it's similar to what we know about World War I, World War II, John F. Kennedy, the industrial revolution, and Martin Luther King Jr. through history books and documentaries.

Through print, we're able to create a file in your brain of memorable keepsake information that we don't forget.

And when we do, the information, the entertainment, the recollection has already been shared with enough people to keep it moving. Newspapers started word of mouth, by the way.

This means there isn't a final for anything that has been in *The Paper* because it will be passed on.

Personally, I'll never forget meeting Danny Tock at Southern Illinois University. Over a decade later, I asked him in Dwight to be a guest on my podcast, Edge of Your Seat Podcast. We had a chat.

During the chat, he asked if I'd be interested in writing for *The Paper*. After a meeting with Mary and Mark Boma, it was official, I was going to write for a newspaper in a town I'd never been to before the meeting and where I didn't know a single person.

It didn't take long to get close to the Tocks and the Bomas because they're great people. Some of my favorite people that I've ever met in journalism and I've worked at 10-plus newspapers and six radio stations at 15 towns or cities in three different states.

And honestly, it takes great, caring, kind people to run a newspaper and put up with all the shenanigans of writers – they are receiving this column more than 24 hours after my deadline – community well-wishers, community sabotages, the cynics, the naysayers, the people who don't pay their advertising bills, the early deadlines, the customers who change what they want every five seconds, and sending their product through the U.S. Postal Service.

This line may be edited out, but I'm going to be real curious about the state of the Dwight Post Office after *The Paper* isn't sending 8,000 to its readers.

I've seen the bill.

I know I'll never forget eating at El Cancun with *The Paper* family and their family. Or our trips to Unpossible Mead, the Christmas meals, them letting me crash their family Christmas last December, or the numerous conversations that supplied learning lessons, family-like advice, and appreciation.

I won't forget my first, and maybe only, Harvest Days. Victory Lanes will see me again. The connections with Mayor Paul Johnson, Village Administrator Kevin McNamara – thank you for sending me a birthday text, I was honored – Dwight High School representatives such as Josh DeLong, Cathy Ferguson, and Jeremy Connor, and Pastor Randy, and so many more will never be forgotten and more than likely will continue.

There is nothing final about my time in Dwight.

There is nothing to sendoff with the Tocks, Bomas, or *The Paper*.

Everything is going on the path it's supposed to which means printing is over and the website will become more of a priority.

But even if the web didn't exist – think about that for a second as our lives are intertwined in everything we do – *The Paper* isn't final or sent off because of the memories it created.

It will never truly be gone, disappear, or be finalized.

I scratched off 'Final Sendoff' from the list and didn't replace it with words.

I drew a smiley face and circled it because all I can do when I think about *The Paper*, Danny Tock, Mary Boma, Mark Boma, Aaron Boma, Caleb Boma, Tom Tock, Louise Tock, and the rest of their great family is smile and say "Thank you."

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

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Did you know?

The holiday season is rife with tradition. Some holiday traditions, such as holiday lighting displays, are impossible to miss, while others are more subtle and possibly even unknown to many celebrants. One tradition that falls into the latter category involves the placing of oranges into Christmas stockings. The origins of Christmas stockings are rooted in legend, and one of the more popular tales involves a widowed father of three beautiful girls. According to Smithsonian.com, this father was struggling to make ends meet and was concerned that his financial struggles would affect his daughters' ability to find a spouse. As the legend goes, St. Nicholas was wandering through the man's town and heard of his concerns. Recognizing that the man was unlikely to accept charity, St. Nicholas slid down the chimney of his house and placed three gold balls in the girls' recently laundered stockings, which were hanging by the fire to dry. The value of the gold balls, which were discovered the following morning, was enough to ensure the girls could eventually wed. So what does that have to do with oranges? Those who wanted to replicate the tale could not so easily come upon gold balls to place in stockings, so they chose something similar in appearance: oranges.

Holiday Food Safety Tips from Grundy County Health Department

As the end of the year approaches, there may be multiple meals and parties in your future to celebrate the holidays. Carrying food from one location to another and sharing dishes with a crowd means more opportunity for bacteria to grow and cause food poisoning. Whether you're an experienced cook, a first-time party host, or simply adding a dish to the potluck lineup, the holidays can make even the most confident chefs feel nervous. Follow these steps to keep your holiday season food poisoning-free.

Steps to follow during holiday grocery shopping:

- Keep raw meat, poultry, and seafood away from other foods in your grocery cart.
- Buy cold foods last.
- Ask the cashier to place your raw meat, poultry and seafood in a separate bag.

Steps to follow during food preparation and cooking:

- Use separate cutting boards for raw meat and ready-to-eat items like vegetables or bread.
- Use separate cutting boards, plates and utensils for raw meats and cooked meats to avoid cross-contamination.
- Wash items such as cutting boards that have touched raw meat with warm water and soap, or place them in a dishwasher.
- Prepare uncooked recipes before recipes requiring raw meat to reduce cross-contamination. Store them out of the way while preparing meat dishes to ensure they don't become contaminated after preparation.
- Use a meat thermometer to check the internal temperature of dishes to ensure they are fully cooked and safe to eat. Fresh beef, pork, veal, and lamb should be cooked to 145º F with a three minute rest time; fish should be cooked to 145º F; ground beef, veal and lamb should be cooked to 155º F; egg dishes should be cooked to 155º F; and all poultry should be cooked to 165º F.

Fool proof tips when cooking for groups:

- Keep hot food hot and cold food cold, using chafing dishes or crock pots and ice trays. Hot items should remain above 135º F and cold items should remain below 41º F.
- Use several small plates when serving food.
- Discard perishable foods left out for two hours or more.

Visit foodsafety.gov for additional information.

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