



The Carroll County Review

A consolidation of The Shannon Reporter, The Lanark Gazette, The Chadwick Review and The Thomson Review

© Volume 158 Number 4

Thomson, Carroll County, Illinois

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

\$1.00

LIBRARY SERVES ALL



Lanark Library Director Janie Dollinger, who recently completed 50 years of service as the director of the Lanark City Public Library, points to names of donors to the library on a painting proudly displayed in the foyer of the Lanark Municipal Building which houses the library. The painting done

by Lanark artist Rachel Tempel Burkholder, a 1996 Eastland graduate and the daughter of Doris and Rod Tempel, also lists the names of the library board members who were serving when the new city hall/library was completed in 2012.

—Review Photo (Jon Whitney)

Janie Dollinger, director of Lanark City Library, serves for 50 years

A simple two-sentence story title “NEW LIBRARIAN” in small type in the November 5, 1970, issue of The Lanark Gazette hardly portended the succeeding 50 years that followed with Janie Dollinger guiding Lanark’s library.

The story simply said, “The Lanark Library Committee has

announced the new librarian, she is Mrs. John Dollinger. Mrs. Dollinger will take the place of Mrs. Hazel Mathias, who retired after giving 13 years of service to the town library.”

From that humble beginning the journey of librarian Janie Dollinger, whose first name did not even make the original

announcement, has been one of a life commitment to improving the myriad of services offered to patrons of the community’s library.

While library director Janie Dollinger was adamant that the story of her 50 years of service was not to be about her, separate- (Continued on Page 6)

County schools receive covid relief funding

Carroll County’s three school districts are the recipients for significant federal COVID-19 relief funding to offset costs incurred to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic.

The West Carroll School District received \$1.1 million, the Eastland School District was awarded \$391,000 and the Chadwick-Milledgeville District was given \$232,900. The awards are based on student population.

According to a story last week in the Chicago Tribune, the funds for the county’s three schools are part of \$2.2 billion dollars being provided to Illinois schools and amount to more than four times the amount provided in the first round of federal funding to schools last spring.

The story said, “The infusion of federal dollars will be released to school districts in the form of grants for “urgent needs,” officials said, including COVID-19 safety protocol, mitigating learning loss during the pandemic, closing the digital divide, and addressing the mental health needs of students, officials said.

School districts were also urged to consider extending the school year, and offering summer learning and before-and-after school programs.”

Asked to comment on the funding, Chadwick-Milledgeville Superintendent Tim Schurman replied, “Chadwick-Milledgeville CUSD #399 has expended a significant amount of money to facilitate safety during this pandemic. We have spent \$150,000 in new technology (wifi access, new laptops, new iPads, web cameras, network upgrades, etc.), \$15,000 in staff professional (Continued on Page 2)

Criminal Justice Bill has high cost

Sheriff Ryan Kloeping informed Carroll County Board members during last Thursday’s regular board meeting of a series of new requirements approved by the state legislature in a sweeping criminal justice bill that will have major impact on several county agencies.

Although Sheriff Kloeping said there were “some

good points” in the legislation, many of the changes will “impact the safety of our communities” and require a number of changes in offices “around the courthouse.”

In particular he said new requirements for mandatory training of police officers will significantly impact his department’s budget because no state funding is provided for the

training through courses “not set up or that even exist.” He said current funding for mandatory training that already exists has been cut by the state that has caused his department to scramble to find ways to provide it.

Much of that training in the past was done through Mobile Team Unit 1, but funding for that agency has been reduced

from a staff of three to a secretary and part time training officer.

A requirement that all police officers have body cameras by 2025 was another item Sheriff Kloeping discussed. He said, “I’m not against it, but there was no funding provided.” He said that in addition to buying cameras for each officer that

will interact with the cameras and computers in the squad cars, a major cost would be to provide a data storage system for all of the video taken by each officer during each shift.

He said the data much be stored for at least two years and in some instances for many years. Once again, he said the new law mandates the camera use and storage, but provides no funding to implement it.

County Administrator Mike Doty said the county is making plans to begin implementing the cameras and storage system very soon so they can gradually have it phased in by 2025 and budget funds over a longer period of time instead of all at once.

He also said the data storage and retrieval is a major cost and said the county will be considering sharing a backup system with a neighboring county or counties. (Continued on Page 2)

Continues quest to lower tax levy

Members of the Eastland Board of Education heard Lake Carroll resident John Grotto ask again that they consider reducing the district’s tax levy during their January 20 board meeting.

Grotto attended the meeting as a follow up to his request at the December 21 tax levy hearing and board meeting that the board reduce the tax levy and use some of

its \$15 million surplus to fund operations in the coming year.

Grotto also sent a letter and an email recently to the board and superintendent addressing those concerns again as well as the district recently being awarded \$391,000 in federal COVID-19 relief funds to offset costs incurred fighting the virus, one of the reasons given for the tax increase.

In the letter he wrote,

“Unfortunately, for the most part the Board chose to disregard what I had to say, even though the District enjoys a healthy cash and investment fund balance in excess of \$15,000,000, and even though the District passed a levy for the prior years which resulted in an incredible and unprecedented surplus of more than \$929,000.00, the amount of which was ultimately added to

what I consider to be an already bloated reserve fund balance.”

Later in the meeting Superintendent Alex Kashner addressed the issue and told board members there are several options including amending the budget, or abating taxes. He suggested the finance committee meet before the February meeting (Continued on Page 5)