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SHAW LOCAL
News Network

The kidnapping of Della Stackhouse made national headlines in 1946



COMMUNITY VOICES

Tom
Wadsworth

Throughout its history, Dixon has made national headlines only a few times, such as the Truesdell Bridge collapse of 1873, Ronald Reagan's election in 1980 and 1984, the Rita Crundwell scandal of 2012, and the kidnapping of Della Stackhouse in 1946.

The kidnapping of Della Stackhouse? Della Stackhouse was "the attractive" wife of a prominent Dixon physician, Dr. Stirling Stackhouse. And yes, her 1946 kidnapping is one of those riveting stories that made headlines from coast to coast. Here's why.

The third Friday in December

It all happened at this time of year on the third Friday of December. On the afternoon of Dec. 20, 1946, 27-year-old Frank L. Sickles of Wyoming, Illinois, went to the Dixon home of Dr. Stirling Stackhouse. The physician's upscale residence was at 808 N. Galena, near the later site of C. Marshall Oldsmobile and the present-day site of Angelo's III.

To be sure that the doctor was not at home, Sickles called Dr. Stackhouse's downtown office and arranged a 3:30 p.m. appointment under a false name. While the doctor was waiting for this new patient downtown, Sickles knocked on the door of Stackhouse's North Galena residence.

When Della Stackhouse, 40, answered the door, Sickles said he was a reporter for the Rockford Morning



Photo provided by Tom Wadsworth

The Dixon Evening Telegraph print paper covered the Dec. 21, 1946, kidnapping of Della Stackhouse.

Star, writing a story about her husband. After she let him in, he brandished a .38 Smith & Wesson revolver and demanded money.

Described as "gaunt," "rangy" and "pimplly faced," Sickles ordered Della on the floor as he bound and gagged her with tape and clothesline he had just bought from the Montgomery Ward store in downtown Dixon.

Sickles' plan was to hold Della for a ransom. But a few minutes later he was surprised when Della's two daughters, Linda, 8, and Diana, 7, arrived home

from school. Sickles then bound and gagged them and locked them in an upstairs bedroom closet.

Into the cold countryside

He told Della to put on a coat and ordered her – at gunpoint – to walk in front of him out of the house. Even though Della was terrified at leaving the home with this desperado, she had to be relieved that her children were out of danger.

See **COMMUNITY VOICES** on page 8

LOTTERY

ILLINOIS LOTTERY

Midday Pick 3: 5-0-7 (1)
Midday Pick 4: 4-3-5-1 (2)
Lucky Day Lotto Midday:
2-6-31-43-45
Lotto jackpot: \$7.25 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Est. jackpot: \$28 million

POWERBALL

Est. jackpot: \$535 million

INDIANA LOTTERY

Daily 3 Midday: 6-3-8 (2)
Daily 4 Midday: 5-5-8-9 (2)
Est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.2 million

WISCONSIN LOTTERY

Pick 3 Midday: 5-7-6
Pick 4 Midday: 5-6-7-1

Some numbers were not
available at press time.

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ON THE COVER

Santa speaks with Torin Lynch, 8, while visiting Thursday at the Dixon YMCA pool. The Y staff plans fun events in the pool for the holidays, including Easter, Christmas and Halloween.

See photos on page 4.

Photo by Alex T. Paschal

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LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS

Christmas Singalong set for Dec. 17 at rural Polo church

POLO – Pine Creek Christian Church members invite everyone to join in a Christmas Singalong at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at 8061 W. Penn Corner Road, Polo.

Mary Mead-Cantrell will be the pianist. “It will be wonderful to put all our voices together to celebrate the Christmas season,” said Sheryl Hopkins, a church member. “Come join us for music and

singing followed by fellowship and refreshments.”

The church is located 8 miles north of Dixon on Lowell Park Road.

Sauk Valley Wedding Expo set for Feb. 4 in Sterling

STERLING – Does your business sell products and services for weddings, receptions, catering, flowers and more? If so, the Sauk Valley Wedding Expo is a perfect venue to showcase your products

or services.

Sauk Valley Media is accepting vendor booths for the 2024 Sauk Valley Wedding Expo from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 4, at Northland Mall, located on Route 2 in Sterling.

The event is considered the area’s largest wedding expo and is designed for couples to help plan their perfect wedding all in one stop. The expo will feature a fashion show along with exhibits from flowers to tuxedos and everything in

between. All couples who register could win a \$250 gift certificate to use at the wedding expo vendor of their choice.

The 2024 Sauk Valley Wedding Expo is sponsored by Selmi’s Weddings & Events, Selmi’s Formal Wear, 7:24 Fitness On The Rock and Sauk Valley Media.

For information about becoming a vendor, call Kelly Null at 815-632-2566, email marketing@saukvalley.com or visit Sauk Valley Media’s Facebook page.

– Shaw Local News Network

• COMMUNITY VOICES

Continued from page 2

In 1946, that area of Dixon was at the north edge of the city. To avoid detection from the street, the kidnaper directed Della through a tunnel under North Galena, emerging on the west side and proceeding northwest into the countryside.

The city reacts

Shortly after they left the home, Della’s 14-year-old son, Stirling Jr., came home from high school. When he found his sisters crying in the closet, he called his father’s office.

As the city entered the evening hours, word of the kidnapping quickly spread. Authorities notified the FBI, state police blockaded highways around Dixon, and a sheriff’s posse of 50 to 100 men searched the residential district for Mrs. Stackhouse.

The shocking news also reached the Friday night Dixon-Hall Township basketball game at the Dixon High School (old) gym. A swarm of men spilled out of the gym and marched to the nearby armory, where they formed “dozens of armed searching parties.”

Conflicting rumors spread rapidly.

One story claimed that “the abductor was an escapee from the Dixon State hospital and a Negro.”

Throughout town, frightened people bolted their doors and notified their neighbors.



Della Stackhouse

Into the night

Now in darkness with light snow and temperatures dropping into the 20s, Sickles and Della continued trudging through snow, brambles, ravines and mud, climbing over fences along the way. At one point, Sickles decided to cut the tape around Della’s wrists, but he accidentally sliced her arm.

Although bleeding, frightened and weary, Della persistently tried to reason with her captor. After trekking 5 miles almost to Woosung, Sickles forced Della into the hay mow of a vacant barn on the Charles Russell farm.

Sickles gives up

In the hay mow, Della continued her pleas and asked Sickles what his parents would think if he went through with the crime. Her cool-



Frank Sickles

headed reasoning finally broke down the hardened criminal mind of Frank Sickles.

He agreed to release her, and he demonstrated his sincerity by emptying the bullets out of his

revolver onto the dusty barn floor.

About 8:30 p.m., they left the barn and entered the nearby John Mensch farmhouse a mile west of Route 26 at the intersection of Penrose and Swarts roads. Sickles put down his gun and allowed the mother of three to use the Mensch telephone to call home.

The line was busy. The Stackhouse home was full of people. She tried again in five minutes and finally got through.

‘Electrified’

Police Chief Harry Fischer answered the Stackhouse phone. When he announced to the crowded room that it was Della, the room was “electrified” and hushed into wide-eyed silence.

Authorities then piled into cars and rushed north to the farmhouse. Arriving in mass, police drew their

revolvers and charged the door. Sickles offered no resistance and was taken into custody.

The angry mob

Ever since Della’s phone call, word quickly spread that the kidnapper was giving up. About 9 p.m. that evening, “a mob estimated at several hundred” gathered at the city jail.

Fischer came out and calmed the angry residents, informing them that the kidnapper was in custody and that Della had not been seriously harmed.

Della suffered from shock and from cuts and bruises incurred during the overland trek. The cut on her arm required 10 stitches. Her clothing was torn and disheveled.

When she was finally free from her captor, she broke into tears. Her strength and composure during the ordeal were described as “truly remarkable and courageous.”

Who was Frank Sickles? Why did he do it? Was he convicted ... or even sentenced? Whatever happened to the Stackhouse family? All the answers will become clear in part two, which will be published Dec. 22.

• A Dixon native, Tom Wadsworth is a writer, speaker and occasional historian. He holds a Ph.D. in New Testament.

• CHRISTMAS TREE FARMS

Continued from page 3

Wessels, 76, said he thinks he saw an uptick in consumer interest in real trees this holiday season. He’s also noticed that over the years, tree-hunting seems more of a family affair.

“It seems to go with family, you know, a lot of times when a family gets a little baby and they decide they want to get a real tree, so they can start some family traditions with a real tree. So that’s kind of a fun thing,” Wessels said.

According to the Illinois Christmas Tree Association – a passion project Richardson and his wife Carol Richardson created to help Christmas tree farms in Illinois – cutting a fresh inch

off the bottom of a tree just before securing it to a stand, and subsequently giving it warm water, is best way to keep a real Christmas tree looking and smelling fresh.

The organization has 34 Christmas tree farms listed on its website but Richardson said the number of member farms has grown to more than 50. Annual membership costs \$70.

Richardson said he’s seen the Christmas tree farm landscape change over the past four decades. He doesn’t have to watch Christmas movie classics to imagine pop-up tree shops in the parking lots of malls and retail stores – he can remember those days.

Richardson said he thinks there’s fewer tree farmers around.

“The demand is there, it’s just hard

to meet,” Richardson said before mentioning the numerous small tree farms he’s seen close.

At Richardson Christmas Tree farm, however, they’ve been able to increase growth, he said.

“We had the luxury of having enough land that we could increase our production and try to keep pace with the demand, which was hard to do. For a few years we kind of got backwards. We were selling too many trees. We were selling next year’s trees this year, and so we kind of go behind on our production, so we’ve been trying to catch up,” Richardson said.

The Illinois Extension lists 21 types of tree species that commonly are used as Christmas trees, including types of Cedar, Fir, Pine and Spruce trees.

Richardson said he he thinks supply issues might come from consumers wanting one type of tree over another.

“There’s been a lot of talk the last several years particularly about the Christmas tree shortage, and that’s kind of true I admit. Personally, I kind of think part of that is because many of the magazine or media outlets are going to tell people they should plant, or they should chose a Fraser Fir for their Christmas Trees,” Richardson said. “They’re great trees but in my area [McHenry County] they will grow here but they won’t thrive here. We do plant some Frasers, they tend to be kind of narrow and a little bit thinner, but there are alternatives to the Fraser. A Canaan Fur is a cousin to the Fraser and it grows better here.”

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SHAW LOCAL
News Network

The kidnapping of Della Stackhouse, Part 2

COMMUNITY
VOICES

Tom
Wadsworth

On Dec. 15 in Part 1, we told the story of the 1946 kidnapping of 40-year-old Della Stackhouse, the mother of three and wife of a prominent Dixon doctor. The minute the city heard the news that Della had been taken, men spilled out of the Friday night Dixon High School basketball game, and a sheriff's posse of 50 to 100 local men began a nighttime search.

Later that same night, on the third Friday of December, kidnapper Frank Sickles gave himself up.

After being taken to the city jail, a mob estimated at several hundred gathered at the jail until dispersed by the police chief.

Here, in Part 2, we tell the rest of the story.

National news

The harrowing story of the kidnapping of Della Stackhouse was front-page news across the country. The Telegraph coverage was extraordinary and exhaustive, and staff was flooded with calls and requests for coverage and photos.

Della's story appeared in scores of newspapers, from the Boston Globe to the Miami Herald to the Sacramento Bee and even north to Saskatchewan, Canada. Newspapers continued their coverage through the court case and sentencing of Sickles.

Fessing up

While in jail, Sickles not only admitted to the details of his crime, but he also confessed to raping a woman a few months earlier in Decatur. That offense was accomplished in the same way that he trapped Della Stackhouse – by posing as a newspaper reporter and binding and gagging the victim.

LOTTERY

ILLINOIS LOTTERY

Midday Pick 3: 9-0-2 (1)

Midday Pick 4: 7-1-2-8 (2)

Lucky Day Lotto Midday:

11-13-18-28-43

Lotto jackpot: \$7.7 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Est. jackpot: \$57 million

POWERBALL

Est. jackpot: \$620 million

INDIANA LOTTERY

Daily 3 Midday: 1-4-4 (2)

Daily 4 Midday: 3-6-4-4 (2)

Est. Lotto jackpot: \$1.6 million

WISCONSIN LOTTERY

Pick 3 Midday: 0-8-9

Pick 4 Midday: 4-2-2-3

Some numbers were not
available at press time.

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ON THE COVER

The Dixon High School Madrigal choir kicks off Act II on Thursday during their dinner at the Elks Club.

See story on page 3.

Photo by Alex T. Paschal

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SAURDAY, JANUARY 25, 1947 10 PAGES PRICE FIVE CENTS

Kidnaper Sickles Given Maximum Sentence of 150 Years in Prison

Lesser Concurrent Terms Imposed by Judge Dixon Today

Sentences of Life Behind Bars, Penalties for Kidnaping of Stackhouse Children

Admits Rape in Decatur

Judge George C. Dixon this morning sentenced Frank Lee Sickles 27, Wyoming, Ill., to 150 years in the Illinois state penitentiary on a charge of kidnaping Mrs. Della Stackhouse Dec. 20 for ransom, and to life terms on each of four other charges in Lee county Circuit court. Sickles must also endure solitary confinement the third Friday of each month for the first 10 years and Dec. 20 annually thereafter. The 100-year sentence and Dec. 20 anniversary for the kidnaping of Della Stackhouse, 7, daughter of Mrs. Stackhouse, will run concurrently. According to Frank Sickles, will be 37 years of age before he has served his penalty. The other life sentences are to run concurrently with the first ten.

Face Expressions Standing before Judge Dixon his face expressions, Sickles, when asked if he had anything to say, revealed "worried" and "hopeless" days. This is all forgotten.

Frank Sickles' rough speech in court yesterday afternoon, when one man of the courtroom

Frank L. Sickles, 27, of Wyoming, Ill., deliberately kidnapped mother, who this morning was given a maximum sentence of 150 years in the Illinois state penitentiary for the kidnaping of Mrs. Della Stackhouse of Dixon, Dec. 20, 1946, by George J. Stutz, George C. Dixon.

Stenographic Report of Judge Dixon's Sentence of Kidnaper

Following is a stenographic report as given to George J. Stutz, Dixon's secretary, of Frank Sickles, defendant charged with kidnaping Della Stackhouse, in this city last

in his candid and objective to the court, the court is not interested. The state's attorney made certain recommendations to the court, in his opinion by the defendant. On the

Sickles Weeps as Counsel Presents Letter to Spouse

Frank Sickles' rough speech in court yesterday afternoon, when one man of the courtroom

Photo provided by Tom Wadsworth

The Telegraph covered Frank Sickles' sentencing on Jan. 25, 1947.

Sickles also admitted that he thought about raping Della but gave up on the idea when she resisted.

Sickles revealed that just before the kidnapping, he decided to become a bandit and "pick up a lot of soft money."

He chose the Stackhouse family because he assumed that a doctor would have plenty of money for the ransom.

Background checks revealed that Sick-

les had lived in Dixon as a foster child and attended North Central and South Central schools.

Later, after moving away, he served two terms in Vandalia for robbery and was dishonorably discharged from the Army after spending time in a military prison and going AWOL.

See COMMUNITY VOICES, page 11



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Dixon School Board approves personnel changes Wednesday

DIXON – The Dixon Public Schools Board approved personnel actions Wednesday:

New hires

Alicia Oleson, lunchroom attendant at Madison School, effective Nov. 27
Sheryl Wilson, paraprofessional at

Washington School, effective Dec. 4
Kymerly Lawson, paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Jan. 8
Kristi Arjes, secretary to athletic director, effective Jan. 8

Change in status

Anne Mills, from paraprofessional at Jefferson to paraprofessional at Reagan

Middle School, effective Nov. 27
Rodolfo Martinez-Trejo, custodian at Dixon High School to custodian at Washington School, effective Dec. 12

Retirement

Stacie McCullough, pre-K teacher at Washington School, effective at the end of the 2027-28 school year

Resignations

Amee Kurth, paraprofessional at Washington School, effective Nov. 27
Brian Shippert, music teacher at Reagan Middle School, effective Jan. 31
Anita Gilliland, family consumer science teacher at DHS, effective Aug. 1
– *Shaw Local News Network*

• **COMMUNITY VOICES**

Continued from page 2

Judge George Dixon

Police arrested Sickles on Friday, Dec. 20, 1946, the same day of the kidnapping. His sentencing came only a month later, on Jan. 25, 1947, when his case was presented before Judge George C. Dixon, a former mayor and direct descendant of Dixon's founder.

Judge Dixon sentenced Sickles on one count of kidnapping for ransom, two counts of confining Della's daughters, and another count of stealing \$17 from Della's purse. Such crimes, in total, could have received as little as seven years in prison. But the judge thought otherwise.

In pronouncing the sentence, Judge Dixon cited the unusually large number of criminal indictments in

Lee County in the previous two years, noting that the county needed to aggressively discourage crimes of violence.

Further, he said, his sentence was based on the principle that "a man's home is his castle," and Lee County homes must be protected.

Frank Sickles sentenced

Judge Dixon said that he would have sentenced Sickles to be executed by electrocution. However, since Della Stackhouse had asked that his life be spared, Dixon sentenced Sickles to 150 years in prison.

In addition, the judge specified that during Sickles' first 11 years of imprisonment he must spend the third Friday of each month in solitary confinement. After the 11th year, he must spend every Dec. 20 in solitary confinement as a reminder of what he

had done.

The 27-year-old Sickles would not have the possibility of parole until he reached the age of 97.

What happened to the Stackhouses?

You might think that Della, traumatized by the horrific ordeal, would want to move her family away from Dixon as soon as possible. But the Stackhouse family, who had lived here since 1932, remained in Dixon for another 14 years.

Dr. Stackhouse was elected to the Dixon school board in 1949. Della bore another son, Jamie, around 1952. Daughter Linda married Kennard Bowers of Grand Detour in 1957. In the late 1950s, Dr. Stackhouse was elected as school board president before resigning from the board in 1959.

In 1960, Stirling and Della Stackhouse moved the family to Rome, New York.

Linda and Kennard soon followed to the same town. Daughter Diana found her husband there, and she married William Ruane in 1965.

Frank Sickles, born in 1919, is surely dead by now, but I couldn't find a time or place of his passing. Although he would have been eligible for parole at age 97, it seems unlikely that he lived that long.

Dr. Stackhouse died in 1979 at age 76, in Rome, New York. Della Stackhouse remained in Rome until the close of her life in 2003.

Her age at death?
97.

• *A Dixon native, Tom Wadsworth is a writer, speaker and occasional historian. He holds a Ph.D. in New Testament.*

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SHAW LOCAL
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The Stackhouse kidnapping: Linda Stackhouse tells the rest of the story



COMMUNITY VOICES

Tom
Wadsworth

A few days after part two of “The kidnapping of Della Stackhouse” was published Dec. 22, I got a voicemail on my phone.

An elderly voice said, “My name is Linda Stackhouse Bowers. I am the daughter of Della Stackhouse.”

My mouth dropped wide open. Linda Stackhouse was one of Della’s two young daughters who was tied up and left in a closet on that fateful day, Dec. 20, 1946.

The voicemail continued: “I recently received your report of my mother’s kidnapping, and I thought you might be interested in the most important thing that happened that day.”

I immediately returned her call. Linda Stackhouse Bowers is now 85 and still living near Rome, New York, where she moved in 1965. She is the lone surviving member of the household who can testify as to what happened that day.

Remembering the day

“I remember that day very well,” she said.

She and her little sister, Diana, had just come home from their Christmas party at Dixon’s North Central School, where Heritage Square now stands.

“We were sitting on the living room floor, going through our Christmas treats when a strange man’s voice said,



Della Stackhouse
in her 20s.



Della Stackhouse
in her later years.

‘Linda, come up here.’ I’ll never forget that voice.”

When she and Diana got to her mother’s bedroom, they saw Della, in a dress, tied up on the bed and gagged so that she couldn’t speak. But Della’s eyes communicated a clear message to behave themselves and do what he said.

Frank Sickles, the kidnapper, tied up the girls with their father’s neckties, taped their mouths and put them in the closet.

“We were scared. I’d never been around anyone like that. Up to that time, everyone had been loving and caring to us. We didn’t understand what was happening, but we knew we didn’t like it.”

The most important detail

The “most important thing” is what happened next. A neighborhood boy, David Raymond, came into the house to see Linda and Diana. It was strange because David had never let himself in the house before.

But as one newspaper reported, Sickles confronted David and said, “Merry Christmas, my boy, now run along.”

Shortly after David left, the phone

rang, which made Sickles worry that the boy had alerted others.

Linda said that Sickles had planned to lure Dr. Stirling Stackhouse, her father, into the home and get money from him.

“He was then going to kill the family and take the money and disappear,” Linda said. “But because of David Raymond and the phone call, he decided to take my mother and leave the house.”

In addition to this important revelation, Linda shared a few other details.

About her father

Dr. Stackhouse wasn’t as wealthy as Sickles assumed. Linda explained that her father had served in the U.S. Army in World War II and had been in the Battle of the Bulge and in Germany.

He had returned to Dixon only a few months before the kidnapping and was restarting his practice.

“Father was very strict,” she said.

“Up until I was married, I had to ask permission to go out on a date or go anywhere. But we knew that he loved us.”

About the attempted rape

Newspaper stories in 1946 reported that Sickles thought about raping Della. But Linda said he actually tried to rape her.

Why didn’t he succeed?

“She always wore a girdle very tight, and he was unable to remove it,” she said.

Linda added that the attempted rape took place in the barn, which is the same place where Sickles finally decided

See VOICES on page 7

LOTTERY

ILLINOIS LOTTERY

Midday Pick 3: 0-0-8 (6)

Midday Pick 4: 4-4-3-0 (7)

Lucky Day Lotto Midday:

2-4-7-21-38

Lotto jackpot: \$8.6 million

MEGA MILLIONS

Est. jackpot: \$140 million

POWERBALL

Est. jackpot: \$35 million

INDIANA LOTTERY

Daily 3 Midday: 1-3-1 (7)

Daily 4 Midday: 6-4-7-3 (7)

Est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.4 million

WISCONSIN LOTTERY

Pick 3 Midday: 9-3-9

Pick 4 Midday: 7-7-6-3

Some numbers were not
available at press time.

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ON THE COVER

Steve Fassler (left) and Austin Clark of the Dixon Street Department work to remove downtown holiday decorations Wednesday. The decorations were put up just before Thanksgiving.

See more photos on page 5.

Photo by Alex T. Paschal

CORRECTIONS

Accuracy is important to the Telegraph. Please call errors to our attention by phone at 815-625-3600 or email at news@saukvalley.com.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

We want to hear from you. Email us your thoughts at feedback@shawmedia.com.

LOCAL EDUCATION BRIEFS

Majeski graduates from Marquette University

MILWAUKEE – Dylan Majeski, of Sterling, has graduated from Marquette University in Milwaukee. Majeski earned a bachelor of science in business administration. Majeski was one of 135 students to graduate from Marquette last semester.

Area students named to Marquette fall dean's list

MILWAUKEE – Nine students with ties to the Sauk Valley have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2023 semester at Marquette University in Milwaukee. They are:

Amboy: Jairon Hochstatter, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences.

Arlington: Beau Bonnell, Bachelor of Science, Exercise Physiology.

Dixon: Ethan Sherman, Bachelor of Science, Human Resources.

Ladd: Andi Cattani, Bachelor of Science, Exercise Physiology.

Oregon: Sarah Tunink, Bachelor of Science, Exercise Physiology; Abbi Virgil, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science.

Rochelle: Ayah Sbeih, Bachelor of Science, Biomedical Sciences.

Sterling: Sarah Kuhns, Bachelor of Arts, International Affairs.

Stillman Valley: Ruby Mulvaney, Bachelor of Arts, Journalism.

Watts contributed to Augustana's production of 'Dracula'

ROCK ISLAND – Emma Watts, a junior from Rock Falls, contributed to Augustana College's production of "Dracula: a Feminist Revenge Fantasy," Oct. 12 to 15 at the Brunner Theatre Center Main Stage Theatre. The Quad-Cities regional premier was directed by Dr. Jennifer Popple, associate professor of theater arts and co-chair of the theater department.

Watts contributed as Van Helsing. The cast of nine included alumnus James Wheeler, who played the titular character. The New York native performed as a student actor at Augustana in "Boy," "The Three Musketeers," "The Crucible" and "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time."

484 Wartburg students named to fall term dean's list

WAVERLY, Iowa – Wartburg College has recognized 484 students who were named to the 2023 fall term dean's list.

Justin Null of Sterling and Allison Taylor of Morrison were named to the list.

The college recognized 484 students for the fall term.

UW-Whitewater announces fall semester dean's list

WHITEWATER, Wisconsin – A total of 3,757 students earned a spot on the dean's list at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater for the 2023 fall semester.

The following students were named to the list:

Dixon: Logan Griswold, Abby Guthrie, Aidan Johnson, Brody Potter.; Kayleigh Thomas, Mitchell White.

Rock Falls: Emily Lego.

Rochelle: Baylie Sutton.

Oregon: Evan Vache.

Polo: Laura Wright.

Erie: Tyler Holldorf.

Fulton: Amy Hughes.

Morrison: Anna Rinker.

Lanark: Jenna Green, Naomi Mullen, Emma Norton.

These students demonstrated their academic abilities by receiving a grade-point average of 3.4 or above in a single semester.

– Shaw Local News Network

• VOICES

Continued from page 2

to give up, surrender his gun and allow Della to call the police.

About Della

"My mother was in the hospital after the incident, and we stayed with some friends of the family," she recalled. "But when she came home, we went back to our normal life."

I wanted to know more about her mother, the remarkable woman who endured the six-hour ordeal and finally persuaded her lawless captor to release her.

"She was a strong woman her whole life," said Linda. "She was always able to handle anything that came along."

She said that her mother had been a nurse, which explains some of her resilient personality. Della and Stirling met in Chicago where he was a doctor, and she was a nurse. After marrying in 1931, they

moved to Dixon in 1933 when he bought a retiring doctor's practice.

Della's final years

Stirling died in 1979, and Della lived her remaining 24 years alone. Authorities notified her when Sickles was finally released from prison.

"She worried about it for the rest of her life," said Linda. "She had numerous locks on every door."

In her final years, she was sustained by some close friendships and some favorite habits. "Until she was well into her 90s," said Linda, "she enjoyed her daily scotch and cigarette."

Linda remembers her mother fondly, and she particularly remembered one lesson that her mother taught her.

"My mother told me to never let somebody tie you up."

• A Dixon native, Tom Wadsworth is a writer, speaker and occasional historian. He holds a Ph.D. in New Testament.

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