

TELEGRAPH

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DIXON



Finishing touches

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Victims identified

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VOLLEYBALL



Happy seniors

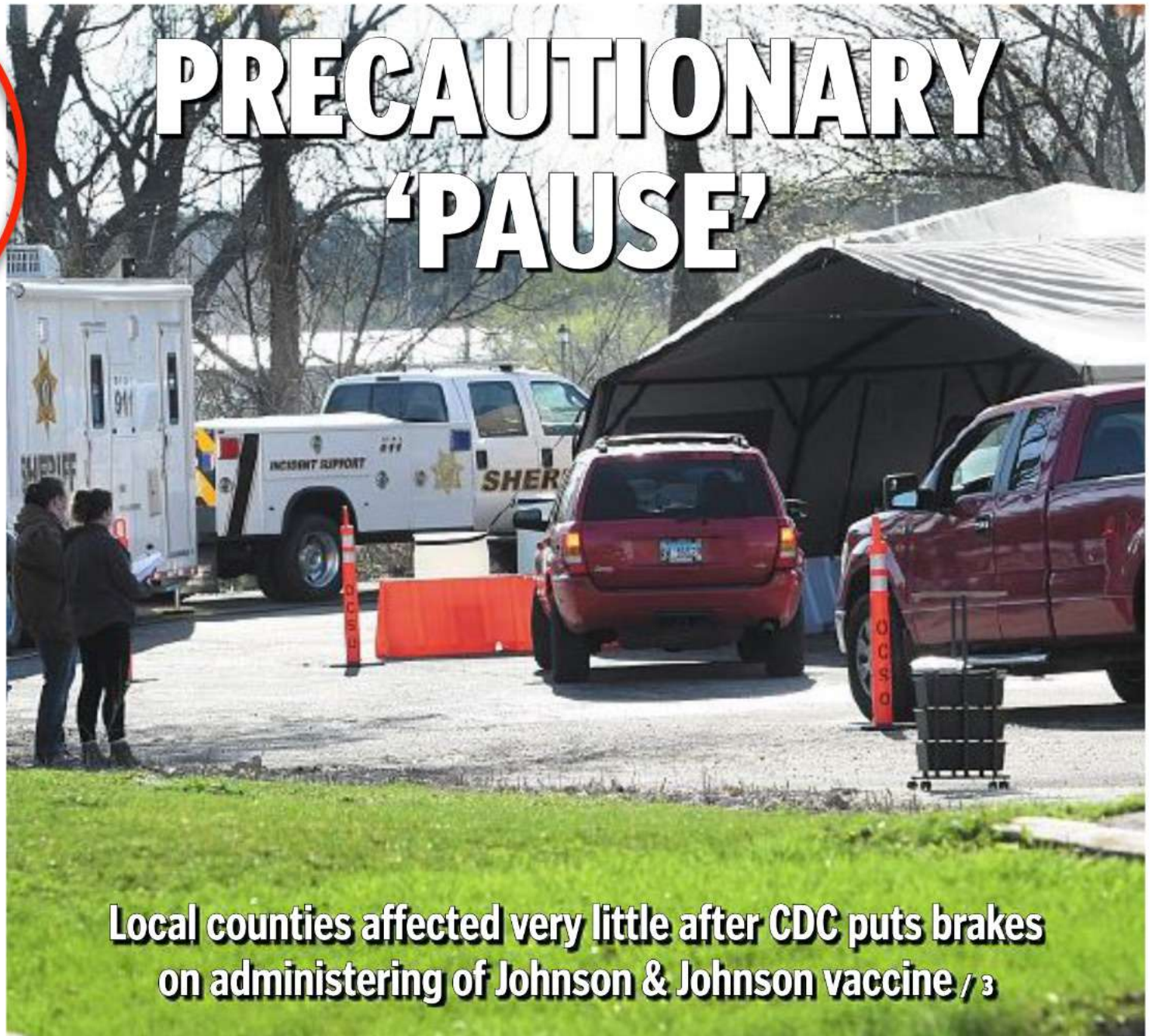
Dixon sends out seniors in style with win over Rockford Christian / 19

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PRECAUTIONARY 'PAUSE'

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TODAY'S WEATHER



HIGH
45
LOW
35

Complete forecast on page 10

Community of collaborators in Dixon

Coworking office should be ready to open by June

By **BRIAN WEIDMAN**
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DIXON – Small businesses or people in and around Dixon seeking a productive place to do their work may find just the space they're looking for, near the busiest intersection in town.

The finishing touches soon will be put on Dixon RiverWorks Coworking, 114 E. Everett St. It's the former home of the accounting firm CliftonLarson-Allen, just east of the intersection of state Routes 2 and 26.

The building was acquired by Dixon-based Everest Hospitality LLC, and renovations began in February to turn the 11,000-square-foot property into coworking and leased office space.

Coworking is an arrangement in which remote workers, entrepreneurs, freelancers and business professionals can innovate, collaborate and find inspiration in a shared workspace environment. The coworking tenants save money by sharing wi-fi, kitchen space, coffee bar, printers, meeting rooms, utilities and custodial services.

Other perks include 24/7 building access, bottomless coffee and virtual mail delivery services.

Lance Schaefer is president of Everest Hospitality, which also operates three hotels and one coworking space in Wisconsin. The building is slated to be ready sometime in June, and Everest already has one client lined up: Ehrmann, Gehlbach, Badger & Conside will use about 4,400 square feet of office space on the west side of the two-floor facility.

"There was an anchor tenant location within this building that would be ideal for somebody that wanted their patrons to come right in off Everett Street and visit them, without necessarily going through the coworking space," Schaefer said. "Someone there picked up on that information, contacted us, we worked with them, and we were able to negotiate a new location for them in this building."

Besides the space already allotted for the law firm, there will be 20 private offices, five dedicated desks (not in an office), as well as flex seats, for those looking for a quiet place to work for a day, or even just a few hours. All will have access to the business center, meeting room, coffee bar, etc.

The offices are designed for individuals or small groups, not necessarily larger corporations, Schaefer said.

"Our brand of coworking is more centered on the private offices. Yes, there are common areas for



Photos by Alex T. Paschal – apaschal@shawmedia.com

ABOVE: Everest Hospitality president Lance Schaefer heads downstairs during a tour of the new Dixon RiverWorks Coworking building, the former site of accounting firm CliftonLarsonAllen, located at 114 E. Everett St. in Dixon, near the corner of state Routes 2 and 26. Coworking is an arrangement in which remote workers, entrepreneurs, freelancers and business professionals can innovate, collaborate and find inspiration in a shared workspace. **BELOW:** Jayne Rose, director of marketing and communications for Everest Hospitality, stands in what will be an office area. **BOTTOM:** The finishing touches soon will be put on the building for a planned June opening.

socializing and for collaboration with other members of the community, but really, you've got a private office, your desk, locked door – you can get things done. Some coworking spaces have very large social gathering areas and they do all kinds of events. That is one style. We're more on the private offices and private desks."

Other features include lockers for those who would like to store items they don't want to haul in and out of the building, a room specifically designed for podcasts, and 55 parking spots for tenants and guests.

In a time when many people are working from home due to COVID-19, Dixon RiverWorks will provide an option for those who don't want to work out of their home, or who need a few services they don't currently have.

"You don't want to always work from your house, with your kids around or your dogs, or in a busy coffee shop," said Jayne Rose, Everest's director of marketing and communications. "You want to present a more professional image. People have access to our business center and conference room. They don't have to buy business machinery. It will all be set up."

Go to DixonRiverworks.com, call 608-478-0919 or find Dixon RiverWorks Coworking on Facebook for updates and more information.

