

# Brumleve ... off the Record

By Fred Swink

Will Brumleve is leaving the Paxton Daily Record to advance his journalism career in a larger market.

Brumleve has been working at the newspaper since June 2003 as a full-time reporter and the newspaper's associate editor.

"I have enjoyed working at the Paxton Record," Brumleve said Friday morning, his last day. "I felt like the former publisher, Bill Frye, gave me an opportunity that has certainly influenced the rest of my life, because I have gained an extreme love for journalism."

"I feel like I have learned more about the real world working as a reporter than I could have learned doing anything else."

"I hope the community has appreciated the work I have done, and I appreciate the chance I have been given to do this job for the community."

"I really learned a lot from (former Editor) Dave Hinton, who helped me work out some of the flaws in my writing that were evident when I first started. I also appreciate the personal advice he has given me."

"Some of the articles (I wrote) that I thought were most interesting revolved around subjects that people did not want to talk about, but were nonetheless all too important for the community to be made aware of."

"I always made an effort in every article I wrote to find the truth — and nothing else."

"Thanks to everyone who encouraged me to do a good job. I appreciate it."

## Future remains uncertain

Brumleve said he has "not found a job yet, but I am actively searching for one within Central Illinois. I am exploring all options."

Brumleve said he believes he is leaving Paxton's newspaper "in good hands," referring to reporters Paige Maul and Fred Swink.

"I hope the community can accept some transition issues that may arise, but I am confident all those issues will eventually solve themselves because I know our new reporters can do a good job," Brumleve said.

Brumleve said he has moved to Urbana to live with his father, Tim, and dog, Libby — Brumleve's "best friend." Brumleve said he refers to his dog as a "skink poodle," due to its "interesting appearance."

"Some think she looks really ugly, but there's something about her that makes her so cute," Brumleve claims.

Brumleve and his dog have spent much time together since they were involved in a traffic accident last November that claimed the life of Brumleve's mother, Dorothy, Brumleve said.

Brumleve has a twin brother, Joseph, who works as a graphic designer for Sports Publishing, Champaign; and three other siblings: Dan, 27, who works as a computer programmer in the San Francisco Bay area; Catherine Roland, 23, who is working on her master's degree in recreation at the University of Illinois; and Abraham, 19, a student at Parkland College. Their father is vice president of APL Engineered



Will Brumleve

Materials, Urbana.

Brumleve is a December 2002 graduate of the University of Illinois, with a bachelor of science degree in journalism. He graduated from Urbana High School in 1998.

Brumleve, born in Buffalo, N.Y., moved to Urbana at age 2, spending the rest of his childhood in the Champaign County community.

Brumleve lived in Paxton for some of the time he was working at the Record. Brumleve said he hopes to remain in contact with the people of Paxton.

"I hope I can continue to make an appearance in town occasionally, and I plan on remaining in contact with several people I have met here and

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# Fred Swink ... on the Record

"(Journalism is) not a (subject) that's really emphasized right now in the schools," Swink said, noting the high school recently eliminated its journalism club. "But students have still been expressing an interest (in journalism), and as a community newspaper it's our pleasure to develop that talent."

Swink said the local newspaper has a lot to offer already.

"I think that as a local paper, it's one of the few local papers that focuses 99 percent of its attention on the local community, and I'd like to see that maintained," Swink said. "And I'd like to see professionalism reflected in our articles."

While working as the Loda correspondent, Swink said he has learned a lot about the value of a local newspaper to a community.

"I have come to understand the relevance that reporting has to the community and how off-track government agencies can get when there isn't someone, not just watching and participating, but recording (the community's) events," Swink said.

Swink said he has gained an interest in writing about subjects that can change a community. Swink said he does not want to write about "things that have no real application."

Swink, who was born at Chanutte Air Force Base, Rantoul, while his late father, David, was in the U.S. Air Force, traveled the world as a child, getting educated in countries such as Italy, Germany, South Africa and Venezuela.

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Fred Swink

After his parents moved to Nevada in 1987 and then Swink graduated from high school, Swink left the U.S. again in 1991 to serve as a missionary for his church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

At the same time Swink moved to Belgium, his parents moved to a house at 220 W. Orleans St., Paxton. Swink arrived in Paxton a year and a half ago "because of concerns with my parents' health, specifically my dad."

Swink's father died March 17, 2005. Swink has been living in the Paxton area ever since.

Swink lives at the former Loda

# Swink

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Grade School building, which he has dubbed "Poplar Court."

When Swink is not "keeping track of the 83-year-old building," which he describes as "a full-time job," he is "very active" in his church. As a practicing Mormon, he attends a church based in Rantoul.

Swink also spends time with his two St. Bernards, Hellfire and Brimstone, both age 4. Swink said he rescued them from the anti-cruelty society in Chicago.

Swink also teaches ethics part-time via the Internet through Axia College at Western International University.

The 6-foot-9 Swink is actually not the tallest person in his immediate family. He has a 7-foot-tall brother, Casey, 32.

Other siblings include Leah, 10; Beth, 17; Daniel, 18; Heaven, 19; Anne, 38; and a late sister, Jane.

His mother, Susan, has moved to Crowne Point, Ind., to live with her new husband, John.

# Brumleve

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have gained valuable friendships with," Brumleve said.

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