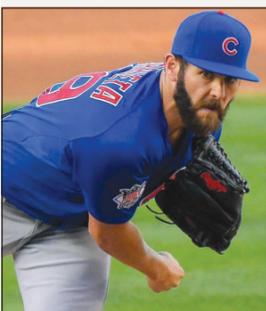


In the know



**ARRIETA TO BE A FREE AGENT**

Cubs pitching ace Jake Arrieta and the organization failed to reach an agreement on an extension for the hurler who has been a workhorse. **SPORTS, 1B**

**Farewell speech is nothing new**

Presidential farewell speeches are nothing new, thanks to a precedent set by George Washington. **HISTORY, 5B**

**Farmers talk better harvests**

Cochran Agronomics hosted area farmers this past week to discuss crop production and how to improve it as well as other ag issues. **AGRIBUSINESS, 7B**



**Heirloom seeds are a movement**

Growing heirloom vegetables — once an area for only the most devoted gardener — is becoming more popular. **AGRIBUSINESS, 7B**

**Drug busts net five arrests**

A sting operation with controlled buys resulted in four arrests by the Edgar County Sheriff's Department while another person was arrested after a search warrant was executed. **RECORD, 3A**

**It's time for term limits**

It's time for term limits for the leaders of the Illinois General Assembly. Michael Madigan is re-elected for the 17th term as house speaker. **OPINION, 6A**

**TODAY'S WEATHER**

H 34 L 26  
Cloudy with freezing rain. **2A**



Drawing by Bailey Pressbr. Grade 3, Chrisman Grade School

**LET'S BE FRIENDS!**

**Latest news, online extras**

Join the conversation and have fun with us on Facebook! Search for **The Prairie Press** and "like" us.

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**Office Hours:** 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday



# The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

LOCALLY OWNED, LOYAL TO OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 2017

## County lawsuit at a halt

Circuit judge dismisses Rides Mass Transit District lawsuit, county treasurer not at fault

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHARLESTON — The breach of contract lawsuit Rides Mass Transit District filed against Edgar County is temporarily stymied.

Circuit Judge James Glenn dismissed the suit Thursday afternoon following a hearing in Coles County Circuit Court, but he also ruled Rides may refile the suit using a different legal approach than was tried in the first attempt.

Rides began providing mass transportation in both Edgar and Clark coun-

**ON PAGE 8A**

Anonymous donation helps Brocton

ties with the demise of the former East Central Illinois Mass Transit District in 2013. The goal of the suit is to obtain more than \$152,000 in assets of the former transportation service. According to Rides attorney, those funds were promised by the county board to assist Rides in assuming the mass transit responsibility.

"Without the transfer of funds, Rides may not have entered Edgar County," said

attorney Patrick Hunn. "It cost Rides over \$600,000 to set up operations."

Hunn, an attorney in the law office of Robert C. Wilson, is representing Rides.

Jason Brokaw, an attorney with Giffin Winning Cohen & Bodewes, is representing Edgar County. The suit was turned over to the county's insurance provider to handle the defense.

The hearing Thursday before Glenn involved only Hunn and Brokaw. No county officials or executives from Rides were present.

According to Hunn, the

2013 county board made clear its intention to transfer funds from the ECIMT liquidation to Rides. He said the money was placed into the hands of Edgar County Treasurer Don Wiseman for deposit until the transfer was complete and the transfer was on track until the Edgar County Watchdogs claimed the money belonged to the county and cannot be transferred to Rides.

The Rides suit was filed against Wiseman and sought an order compelling him to release the funds.

Brokaw argued the suit

was misdirected because Wiseman lacks the authority to enter a contract such as Hunn described. He added Wiseman cannot release money on his own authority and can only do so when directed by the county board. That was the basis for his argument to dismiss.

He additionally argued any purported agreements made in 2013 amount to an unenforceable contract given that elections have occurred which replaced county board members and the county has gone through multiple budgets

See **LAWSUIT, Page 8A**

## CITIZENS WANT DERELICT HOME CLEANED UP



Suzanne Williams/The Prairie Press

Mary Carriere, center, in blue, explains how property owned by the Edgar County Humane Association at the corner of Wood and Eads degraded into an eyesore. While the association owns the property, it lacks funds to take corrective action and some of the property is tied up in a contract sale. Carriere spoke during a meeting Wednesday night seeking public input for ways to address the issue. Approximately a dozen people attended the meeting at the Presbyterian Church.

## Eyesore pains citizens

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS  
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

More than a dozen concerned residents met Wednesday night to discuss the derelict properties at the corner of Eads and Wood Streets in Paris.

Edgar County Humane Association president Mary Carriere led the discussion in which members of the community were allowed to suggest remedies to fix the eyesore and address the public safety issues caused by the rundown premises.

"We would like to find a solution suitable for the property owners, neighbors and community and possibly start a movement for the beautification of Paris,"

said community representative LaNee Pfeiffer.

All of those in attendance agree the property is an eyesore and a health hazard that is in desperate need of clean up, but ownership of the four lots muddles the process.

"It's a very complicated, multi-faceted issue," concerned citizen and Edgar County State's Attorney Mark Isaf explained to the audience.

At the beginning of the informal meeting held at the Paris Presbyterian Church, Carriere explained the complexity of the situation in which three structures on several neighboring lots have fallen into disrepair. A portion of the area is owned by the local humane asso-

ciation, which is a not-for-profit organization, and lacks funding to clean up the grubby real estate.

Carriere said the current humane association leadership was unaware the organization had previously sold the property on contract until a payment check arrived from the occupant of the brick house, which is located on one of the four lots.

After digging through the humane association's past records, it was discovered the property was gifted to the organization by a couple who resided in California. Carriere went on to explain the donation was given with the intent of the humane association

See **EYESORE, Page 8A**



A public meeting Wednesday night discussed what options exist to compel a clean-up of this property at the corner of Wood and Eads. It is a headache for all concerned. The location is outside city limits so Paris ordinances do not apply.

File Photo/The Prairie Press

## Influenza plagues Edgar County

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

To no one's surprise, influenza is on the rise in Edgar County, according to Kumar Sodvadiya, a family practice physician at Paris Community Hospital/Family Medical Center.

Sodvadiya's assessment jives with the Illinois Department of Public Health's most recent information describing influenza in the state as localized. The Paris physician said the severity and length of the respiratory or stomach virus depends on a person's immunity and overall health.

"Some people may be able to recover more quickly while others

have struggled to get well," he said.

In addition to the upper respiratory virus, there is also norovirus circulating in the county, Sodvadiya noted. Sometimes dubbed the winter vomiting bug, it is the most common cause of viral gastroenteritis in people of all ages.

Norovirus causes inflammation of the stomach or intestines or both, he said.

The most common symptoms are diarrhea, vomiting, nausea and stomach pain, Sodvadiya said. Other symptoms may — but not necessarily — include fever, headache and body aches.

A person usually develops symptoms 12 to 48 hours after being ex-

posed to norovirus, he said. Most people will feel better or recover within one to three days.

Those suffering from norovirus may feel extremely ill, throwing up or suffering from diarrhea many times a day. "This can lead to dehydration, especially in young children, older adults and people with other illnesses," he said. He urged those suffering from norovirus to continue to push fluids.

Sodvadiya said symptoms of dehydration include a decrease in urination, dry mouth and throat and feeling dizzy when standing up. Children who are dehydrated may cry with few or no tears and

See **INFLUENZA, Page 8A**

## Unit 6 updating bus fleet

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — Students in the Chrisman Community Unit School District #6 are getting new rides starting with the 2017-2018 school year.

The board of education approved a plan Thursday evening to lease two 2018 model school buses and purchase a used 2013 model to replace three older and higher mileage buses in the fleet.

In addition to the standard buses, there was some discussion about the age and mileage of the activity and special purpose vans and smaller buses.

"The committee's thinking was this is the time to update the yellow bus fleet, and we can address vans and other vehicles at another time," said interim superintendent Steve Poznic.

Transportation committee member Jim Ingram advised his fellow board members the committee recommended a lease price that includes an extra \$300 a year for an optional camera mounted on the stop arm to record motorists illegally passing a stopped bus when it is loading or unloading children. The camera not only captures the make, model, color and license plate of the vehicle but it also time and date stamps the video to assist in prosecution.

The exterior security camera is part of an onboard video system that records all activity inside the bus.

Board members present unanimously approved the five-year lease agreement with an annual payment of \$11,576 per bus. The purchase of the 2013 bus is also financed with annual payments of \$10,305 for five years. Board members Steve Lorenzen and Steve Rogers were absent.

Poznic acknowledged there is a bit of financial risk involved given the uncertainty of state funding for schools. He said schools were only promised full funding for general state aid in the last budget deal. That money is coming in but schools have not received any payments for transportation, special education or other categories.

"We are depending on our local tax dollars to fund our transportation," said Poznic.

Elementary principal Kelly Schluter reported the Chromebooks purchased for the school by the parent teacher association were put into service when classes resumed after Christmas break.

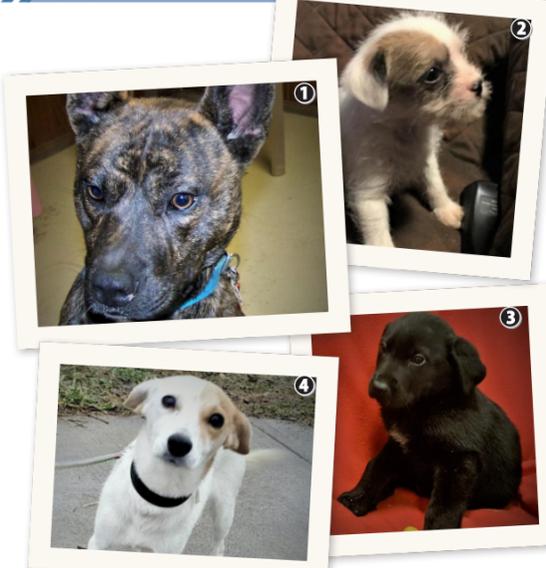
She described them as a big help in speeding up the Ames testing because some students took the test on Chromebooks in the classroom as others tested in the computer lab. The same approach will be used in the spring for the PARCC testing.

Schluter also discussed efforts to find new math material to replace old textbooks that no longer align with learning standards. Board member Cory Chaney asked if the elementary school needs other subject material beyond mathematics.

"Math is really pressing for us," Schluter said, adding science is also becoming a concern.

See **UPDATE, Page 8A**

**PETS OF THE WEEK**



**RESCUE ME CLIFFORD**

Rescue Me Clifford recently rescued its 2,100th dog. To inquire about adopting one of these pets or another animal, call **217-808-2543** or email **info@rescuemeclifford.org**.

- 1 Hogan, shepherd mix, male
- 2 Cinna, terrier mix, male
- 3 Faria, pyrenees mix, female
- 4 Angel, terrier mix, female

**TALK BACK**

**ACCURACY CHECKS**

Everyone makes mistakes. We strive to make fewer of them. It is our policy to check every story for its accuracy. If you were contacted for an article and the information wasn't verified, please contact **Publisher Tay Smith at 217-921-3216 or tsmith@prairiepress.net**. If you spot a factual error,

let us know that, too.

**BE A PART OF OUR MEETINGS**

Join the discussion to make your newspaper better. **Editorial planning meetings are at 4:30 p.m. Tuesdays.** Please remember these are staff meetings, and while you will be offered the opportunity to share your thoughts, most of the time you'll be listening.

**ABOUT US**

**Business office:** 101 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944  
**Office hours:** 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.  
**Phone:** 217-921-3216  
**Publisher:** Tay Smith  
**Editor:** Nancy Roberts Zeman  
**Staff writer:** Gary Henry  
**Bookkeeper:** Michelle Jacobs  
**Advertising:** Maria Crandell and Cara Kraemer  
**Ad Design:** Jennifer Macke  
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**LOCAL FORECAST** NORMAL: High: 34 Low: 18

More weather: go to [www.prairiepress.net](http://www.prairiepress.net) and click on weather.

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
34 26 Prec: 60%	36 32 Prec: 60%	53 49 Prec: 50%	51 47 Prec: 50%	46 35 Prec: 0%	51 44 Prec: 20%	58 48 Prec: 10%



**EVERETT LAU**  
Weather Wizard  
@elau\_weather on Twitter  
@Prairiepresswx on Twitter  
Paris Area Weather

**TODAY** — Cloudy with freezing rain changing to rain in the afternoon as highs reach the mid 30s. Freezing rain returns in the evening as temperatures drop.  
**SUNDAY** — Cloudy with freezing rain once again possible before changing to rain as highs climb into the mid 30s.  
**MONDAY** — Cloudy and mild with highs in the low 50s and scattered rain showers.

**ALMANAC**  
Paris through noon Tuesday.  
**Temperature**  
 High/Low ..... 34°/18°  
 Record High ..... 64° in 1932  
 Record Low ..... -13° in 1957  
**Precipitation**  
 Month to date ..... .60"  
 Normal month to date ..... 1.14"  
 Year to date ..... .60"  
 Normal year to date ..... 1.14"

**SUN AND MOON**

	Sun Rise	Set	Moon Rise	Set
<b>TODAY</b>	7:10 a.m.	4:50 p.m.	7:37 p.m.	8:35 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	7:10 a.m.	4:51 p.m.	8:40 p.m.	9:13 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:09 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	9:42 p.m.	10:19 a.m.
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:09 a.m.	4:54 p.m.	10:41 p.m.	10:49 a.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:08 a.m.	4:55 p.m.	11:38 p.m.	11:19 a.m.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:08 a.m.	4:56 p.m.	-	11:50 a.m.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:07 a.m.	4:57 p.m.	12:35 a.m.	12:23 p.m.

**PLAN YOUR WEEK**

**ONGOING**

**GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALES**  
 The pre-order phase of Girl Scout Cookie sales started Jan. 7 and continues through Jan. 31. Anyone who has not been contacted by a member of Paris Girl Scout Troop 2080 may place an order by contacting troop leaders Ruby Floyd, 217-251-2748, or Tammy Hess, 217-463-2703, before the Jan. 31 order deadline.

**LAW SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP**  
 The Coles-Cumberland Bar Association is offering a \$1,000 law school scholarship to law students who have a close connection to communities in either Coles or Cumberland counties. Scholarships are awarded annually, based upon academic and extracurricular achievements, background and financial need. Those applying must be enrolled at an accredited United States law school during the 2016-2017 academic year. Applicants are evaluated for their academic and extracurricular achievements, for their background and financial need. An application form is available via Facebook on the "Coles County Bar Association Scholarship Committee" page or by calling the Bar Association's Secretary at 217-639-7800. Applications are due by Feb. 1.

**TODAY**

**VFW STEAK SUPPER**  
 The monthly steak supper is served from 5-7 p.m. at the post home on West Court Street.

**DON'T MISS**

**OPEN AUDITION SET AT LITTLE THEATRE ON THE SQUARE**  
**SULLIVAN** — Local auditions will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 11 at The Little Theatre On The Square for their 2017 summer season. Appointments are required.

These auditions are for actors/actresses age 18 and over. Those who audition are required to prepare 16 bars of music and provide a head shot and updated resume. An accompanist will be provided and tracks will not be allowed. Material from the upcoming season is acceptable for auditions, but not required. Dance call will begin at 3:30 p.m., and dancers should be prepared for musical theater dance auditions. Callbacks will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Auditions are for the following productions "Beauty and the Beast" (rehearsals and shows run from May 22 through June 18; "Thoroughly Modern Millie" (rehearsals and shows run from June 8 through July 2), "Smokey Joe's Café" (rehearsals and shows run from June 22 through July 16), "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (rehearsals and shows run from July 6 through July 30), "Mamma Mia!" (rehearsals and shows run from July 20 through August 20) and "Steel Magnolias" (rehearsals and shows run from August 3 through September 3). For an appointment or for more information, please call 217-728-7375, Monday -Friday between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.

**SHARE YOUR EVENT**

Community events are published for free as space allows. For inclusion in the community calendar, submit the name of the event, a brief description of it, location, cost to attend (if any), a contact name and phone number/email for the public. To submit: **Email:** nzeman@prairiepress.net **Mail:** Community Calendar, 101 N. Central, Paris, Ill., 61944 **Questions?** call 217-921-3216.

**MONDAY**

**SENIOR CENTER CLOSED**  
 The Sutton Senior Center is closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**TUESDAY**

**SUTTON CENTER EXERCISE**  
 The exercise class at the Sutton Senior Center, 256 W. Court, is 10-10:45 a.m.

**LINE DANCING CLASS**

The weekly line dancing class at the Sutton Senior Center, 256 W. Court, will be from 1:30-3 p.m.

**WEIGHT LOSS MEETING**

A free informational session about the weight loss clinic at Paris Community Hospital/Family Medical Center is 5:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Paris Family Medical Center. Bring a friend and get entered into a drawing to receive 50 percent off the program's initial consultation fee (normally \$150). In addition, you will hear from actual people who have completed the program and experienced significant weight loss. RSVP is not needed.

**WEDNESDAY**

**PARIS GARDEN STUDY CLUB**  
 The Paris Garden Study Club

*In Observance of*  
**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**  
*The following banks will be closed on*  
**Monday, January 16, 2017**

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 Edgar County Bank & Trust  
 First Farmers Banks & Trust  
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jacksoncars.com

\*must be a legitimate deal in writing on official dealership paperwork.

will meet at 10 a.m. at the First United Methodist Church. Gay Tegeler is in charge of the program, and guest speaker is Brad Cash from Brad's Florist.

**THURSDAY**

**SENIOR CENTER CLASS**  
 The Sutton Senior Center will host a Qi-Gong exercise class from 10-11 a.m. at the center.

**SOUP AND SALAD BAR**  
 The Sutton Senior Center will host a soup and salad bar from 11 a.m. to noon.

**VFW AUXILIARY DINNER**  
 The weekly VFW Auxiliary dinner is from 5-7 p.m. at the post home on West Court Street. The menu is fried chicken (one breast or thigh or two legs or 2 wings or one leg and one wing, mashed potatoes and white gravy, green beans or corn. The cost is \$4. Drinks are 50 cents and dessert is \$1. Proceeds support the work of the VFW throughout the community.

**FRIDAY**

**ART EXHIBIT RECEPTION**  
 Points of View – Along the Way is an exhibit of images by Ed Gillum from Jan. 13 to Feb. 10 at the Bicentennial Art Center and Museum, 132 S. Central Avenue, Paris. A reception in honor of the artist is planned beginning at 5 p.m. at the center. The art center is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

**UPCOMING**

**SHILOH POST PROM FUNDRAISER**  
 A chili supper is planned for 5-7:30 p.m. Jan. 26 in the Shiloh School multipurpose room to raise funds for a post prom event later in the spring. The \$5 charge includes a beverage and dessert.

**BAKED POTATO BAR FUNDRAISER**  
 The Shiloh High School Class of 2019 is hosting a baked potato bar 5-7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the school's multi-purpose room. The \$6 meal includes baked potato, toppings, dessert and drink. More information is available by contacting Miss Eich or Mrs. Long at 887-2364.

**CRESTWOOD PRESCHOOL**  
 Crestwood Community Unit School District #4 and H.E.L.P. (Helping Educate Little People) is offering a free, preschool screening Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 at Crestwood Elementary School. The screening is for children between the ages of birth and five years and checks development in concepts, motor skills, speech, language, vision and hearing. Approximately one hour is required to complete the screening. Call Jamie Schneider, 465-5391, to make an appointment.

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Member FDIC

# Undercover work results in drug arrests

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Deputies with the Edgar County Sheriff's Department had a busy start for the new year.

Undercover drug buys resulted in five arrests in a short span of days closing out the first week of the year.

Information released by the sheriff regarding the controlled buys states:

■ Jan. 5, at approximately 7:17 p.m., Jesse Shepherd was arrested on 2300 N at 900 E, near the village of Metcalf, and charged with delivery of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine.

■ Jan. 7, at approximately 7:40 p.m., Dennis Pruiett



ATKINS



PRUIETT



SHEPHERD



DEVERS



MALONE JR.

was arrested at the corner of Vance and Edgar in Paris and charged with delivery of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine. Additional arrests are expected as a result of this incident.

■ Jan. 7, at approximately 10 p.m., William E. Malone Jr. was arrested at the corner of Main and Jasper in Paris and charged with the delivery of controlled substance (cocaine) and possession of metham-

phetamine.

■ Jan. 8, at approximately 10:30 a.m., Thomas M. Devers was arrested at 332 Union Street in Paris and charged with delivery of methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine.

In another investigation, not part of the controlled buy operation, a search warrant was executed Jan. 10 at 508 Union Street, Paris. Deputies discovered Brian Atkins was the occu-

part of the residence and recovered both methamphetamine manufacturing material and used meth labs. Atkins was transported to the jail and the Illinois State Police Meth Response Team was summoned to process the hazardous lab materials.

Reports were forwarded to the Edgar County State's Attorney for the filing of formal charges.

Sheriff Jeff Wood reiterated public support of law enforcement's effort to combat illegal drugs is an important and appreciated tool.

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## SIREN REPORT

### PARIS POLICE DEPARTMENT

■ Jan. 10, at 10:15 a.m., Kenny W. Greer, 34, 805 E. Wood, was cited for these city ordinance violations: no waste outlet connected to an established sewer system, no skirting around a mobile home, mobile home not securely attached to the mobile home tie down, illegal electrical hookup and no water hookup to the city water system. Greer was issued a city court date.

■ Jan. 10, at 11:32 a.m., Kandi L. Fellers, 46, 801 S. Central, was arrested at her address on a Vermillion County failure to appear warrant. Fellers was transported to the Edgar County Jail pending posting of bond.

■ Jan. 10, at 4:58 p.m., a single-vehicle, non-injury accident occurred at 15305 U.S. Highway 150. The vehicle involved was a 2007 Saturn driven by a female juvenile. The vehicle sustained damage to the right front. Also damaged in the accident was a handrail owned by Wendy's Restaurant. No citations were issued at the time of the accident.

■ Jan. 10, at 5:45 p.m., Kenneth E. Noble, 18, 110 W. Elizabeth, was arrested in the 300 block of West Madison and charged with driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound. Noble was transported to the Edgar County Jail pending posting of bond.

■ Jan. 11, at 1:37 a.m., a female juvenile was stopped at Austin and Court and charged with graduated driver violation-unlawful number of passengers, no valid drivers license on person and failure to signal. The juvenile was transported to the Paris Police Department and later released to a parent.

■ Jan. 11, at 1:37 a.m., a male juvenile was arrested at 602 W. Arthur and charged with aggravated assault and disorderly conduct. The juvenile was transported to the Paris Po-

lice Department and later released to a parent.

■ Jan. 11, at 7:57 a.m., a two-vehicle, non-injury accident occurred at Main and Andrew. The first vehicle involved was a 2007 Saturn Aura owned by Jeremy M. Whitaker and driven by Angelica R. Whitaker, 18, 420 N. Central. The second vehicle was a 2010 Chevrolet HHR driven by Howard S. Daniels, 48, 16631 Donna Drive. Both vehicles were damaged. No citations were issued at the time of the accident.

■ Jan. 11, at 7:38 p.m., Dawson S. Myers, 18, 10790 N 1350th St., was stopped at Central and Monroe and cited for speeding (45 in a 35 mph zone). Myers was released on a notice to appear in court.

■ Jan. 12, at 4:05 p.m., a two-vehicle, non-injury accident occurred at Illinois Highway 133 and the Illinois Department of Transportation. The vehicle involved was a 2014 Ford van driven by Ryan L. Tipword, 33, Toledo, and owned by the State of Illinois. The second vehicle was a 1999 Dodge Dakota driven by Darrell E. Lowry, 43, Paris. Both vehicles

sustained damage in the accident. Lowry was cited at the scene for operating an uninsured vehicle and released on a notice to appear in court.

■ Jan. 12, at 9:26 p.m., Lois A. Smith, 77, 821 W. Crawford, was stopped at Central and Blackburn and cited for expired registration. Smith was released on a notice to appear in court.

■ Jan. 12, at 11:25 p.m., Zachary W. Rogers, 31, 411 S. Central, Apt. C, was arrested at Jasper and Bayard on two Edgar County warrants and additionally charged with driving while license suspended and operating an uninsured motor vehicle. Rogers was transported to the Edgar County Jail pending posting of bond.

### PARIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

■ Jan. 10, at 2:26 p.m., the department was dispatched to 19 Helen and assisted the police department in forcing a garage door for an odor investigation.

■ Jan. 10, at 8:03 p.m., the department was dispatched to 229 W. Wood to assist the Paris Police De-

partment.

■ Jan. 11, at 4:37 p.m., the police department requested the fire department's assistance for investigating a smoke complaint in the vicinity of 1403 Alexander. Firefighters traced the source to a wood-burning stove heating a garage. No problems existed at the location.

■ Jan. 12, at 9:30 a.m., the department was dispatched to 1403 Alexander for a smoke investigation. Firefighters determined the source was a wood-burning stove heating a garage and no problems existed.

■ Jan. 12, at 11:14 a.m., the department was dispatched to 8824 E 450th Road for a garage fire. The structure was fully involved when firefighters arrived. The fire remains under investigation. The Grandview Station of the Paris Community Fire Protection District also responded to the call.

■ Jan. 12, at 5:09 p.m., the Grandview Station of the Paris Community Fire Protection District was dispatched to provide medical assistance.

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# Flesner competes at Springfield

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

Maddie Flesner, 2016 Miss Edgar County Fair, represents the local fair during the Miss Illinois County Fair Pageant Jan. 19-Jan. 22 as part of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs Convention.

She is competing against 72 other young women for the title during a fully-packed weekend of activities.

Pageant events start at 1 p.m. Jan. 19 when the queens begin practice, pose for official photos in swimsuits and evening gowns and start rehearsal for a production number. The young ladies are treated to a pizza party that evening as an icebreaker. Pageant practice continues until 9:30 p.m.

An 8 a.m. start is planned

for Jan. 20. Flesner is part of a group scheduled for morning interviews with the judges. She has a four-minute interview with a five-member panel. While the morning group is going through the interviews, those scheduled for afternoon interviews are practicing. The groups switch after lunch with Flesner's group rehearsing in the afternoon. The day is expected to conclude around 5:30 p.m.

It is another 8 a.m. start Jan. 21 for the preliminary rounds. All of the fair queens participate in a grand march. The evening preliminary begins at 1 p.m. and during this time Flesner competes in the evening gown event to assess stage presence, the beauty physique round in a swimsuit and she will deliv-



Special to The Prairie Press

**Maddie Flesner, 2016 Miss Edgar County Fair, competes in the Illinois County Fair Pageant Jan. 19 - Jan. 22.**

er a one-minute speech.

Contestants are back at it

2016 queen. The evening banquet opens with a production number featuring all of the queens. An announcement of the 15 finalists follows the production number. This is also the time non-finalist individual prizes are awarded for stage presence, beauty and physique, speech and interview.

Competition heats up at this point. The 15 finalists return for judging in a new round of evening gown, swimsuit and speech. After each finalist completes her speech, she is asked a series of three pop-up style questions.

The competition ends with the judges announcing the 2017 Miss Illinois County Fair as well as first, second, third and fourth runner-ups.

A reception for the

queens concludes the pageant. All activities take place at the Crown Plaza.

Flesner is the daughter of Tracy and Dave Dye of Kansas and Fred Flesner. She is a 2015 graduate of Oakland High School and attends Eastern Illinois University, where she is majoring in finance and minoring in communication.

The official delegation accompanying her to Springfield for the competition includes: Tracy Quinn-Porter, Edgar County Fair pageant director; Brianne Hodgson, Miss Edgar County Fair 2015; plus fair board members Mary Lou Wright, Mary Liz Wright, Terri Quinn, Randy Allen Peterson and Rick Dodd. Also attending are Sondi Mattingly along with Flesner's parents, sister, other family and friends.

## Obama's EPA moves to preserve gas mileage requirements

**BY TOM KRISHER AND MICHAEL BIESECKER**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Environmental Protection Agency moved Friday to cement strict fuel economy requirements that force the auto industry to make new cars and trucks significantly more efficient, a decision that will be difficult for the incoming Trump administration to undo.

The EPA said in late November it had completed a required midterm review of Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards put in place in 2012 and decided they should not be relaxed as requested by the auto industry. The move in the waning days of the Obama administration brought protests from the industry, which accused the agency of playing politics with a rushed determination.

Friday's action keeps in

place pollution reduction targets for the years 2022-2025. That means the fleet of new cars will have to average 51.4 miles per gallon by 2025, up more than 18 mpg from the 33.2 mpg requirement in 2015, the most recent year available.

Acting EPA Assistant Administrator Janet McCabe said the agency determined the technology is available to meet the standards. The requirements are flexible and will automatically be reduced if consumers keep buying trucks and SUVs, she said. For example, when the standards were conceived in 2012, the fleet-wide mileage target for 2025 was 54.5 mpg. But because more trucks and SUVs are now being sold, that number was reduced to 51.4, the EPA said.

In 2012, gasoline was \$3.60 per gallon, compared with around \$2.35 currently.

During several months last year, the SUVs and trucks captured a record share of the market. At year's end nearly six of every 10 new vehicles sold were trucks or SUVs.

"You have to accommodate consumer choice," McCabe said. "The automakers need to have the standards represent what people are buying."

But the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers, an industry lobbying group, said the standards rise quickly during the next eight years and will be difficult for companies to meet as America's shift toward trucks and SUVs continues. "We have the technology, but if sales aren't there, we can't meet the standards," said Gloria Bergquist, spokeswoman for the alliance. "That's a regulatory-marketplace collision."

The industry has appealed

to Trump for help. His transition team didn't respond to questions about the EPA's decision.

The public comment period on the standards ended Dec. 30. A decision 14 days later is unusually swift for a government agency. Normally it takes months or years for regulatory decisions to be made, and an EPA decision wasn't required until April of 2018.

Bergquist said the alliance believes the decision was moved forward after Trump was elected. The group hopes to work out a compromise with Trump, who has railed against regulations he calls unnecessary.

McCabe denied the requirements were rushed and said the standards give the auto industry certainty so it can make product plans. The EPA, she said, based its decision on robust data that

shows the industry has many affordable ways to comply including direct-injection gas engines, hybrids and electric vehicles. The EPA estimates the standards will reduce emissions by 6 billion tons by 2025.

And in the byzantine world of fuel economy standards, the 51.4 mpg target for 2025 is based on 1970s EPA tests and is nowhere near real-world mileage. In eight years, the fleet of new vehicles would have to get about 36 mpg on tests now used to determine mileage that's posted on car window stickers. That's about 10 mpg higher than the current standard, the EPA said.

Both sides disagree about the cost of the standards. The industry contends prices will drive up new car prices and force more people to buy used. The EPA says gasoline cost savings will offset nomi-

nally higher prices.

Daniel Becker, director of the Safe Climate Campaign, an environmental group, said it could take years for the Trump administration to change the standards, if it decides to. The new administration would have to have data showing the change was justified, he said. Environmental groups likely would sue to block any changes, he added.

"Despite dire automaker warnings that the rules would be unachievable, the car companies are now complying, making huge profits and selling record numbers of vehicles for a second consecutive year," Becker said.

Even without the standards, industry analysts say automakers will have to make the efficient cars anyway to comply with strict mileage and pollution requirements in California, Europe and China.

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# Wallet found in piano after 70 years; returned to Hutchinson

BY KATHY HANKS  
The Hutchinson News

HUTCHINSON, Kan. (AP) — A Hutchinson woman's wallet turned up 70 years later in a dilapidated honky-tonk piano in Mexico.

But the real story is what was inside the black leather wallet — a gift to Florence Holt in 1942 from her son Guy Holt Jr., who was serving in the Army Air Corps in Northern Africa that Christmas.

Perhaps because the wallet has been lost for about 70 years, grandson Tim Holt is holding tight to this family treasure.

In 1979, Henry Martens, a German Mennonite from Chihuahua, Mexico, was in the Arlington area with a friend who was buying machinery. He noticed an upright piano in a building where they were buying equipment. His friend told him he could have the piano and Martens took it back to Mexico where he and his mother began stripping the wood.

Eventually, they discovered the wallet inside.

"It was hidden: nobody had seen it for years," Martens told the Hutchinson News. "The piano had water damage and the wallet was worn, but everything in it was very good. There was no money. At the time I never thought I would go back to the states."

Martens still wanted to someday return the wallet. He could tell by the documents the wallet had been inside the piano for decades.

Tossing the wallet in a box, he ended up moving to Alberta, Canada, where he met a woman named Joanne. They fell in love and married. They made Canada home and six years passed before he discovered the wallet again in the bottom of the box.

"I was embarrassed; I had waited too long," Martens said, sounding disappointed in himself. "I made all these stories up in my head."

Several more years passed before Martens thought about the wallet again. The guilt returned. He really struggled with having Florence Holt's wallet. After all,



Special to The Prairie Press

Florence Holt's wallet had her name, "Mrs. Guy E. Holt" on the inside.

he had her driver's license from 1942. He knew something about her — she was 5 feet, 4 inches, with gray eyes.

"All of a sudden I was going to burn it. End of story. I figured if I brought it back now the people would think I was stupid," he said.

Then something told him not to burn the wallet. His wife offered to help him find the owner.

While Martens spent part of his time driving trucks between Canada and Texas, his wife worked on the computer and found Florence and Guy Holt and their three children in the 1940 Reno County Census.

"Then I prayed," said Joanne Martens. "God showed me the next direction to take to find the family, and I called the Hutchinson Public Library."

That's where Natasha Russell-Iverson, reference assistant, became involved. Sorting through the information the Martens shared, Russell-Iverson was able to search the obituaries at the Hutchinson News for Guy and Florence Holt and their descendants. She also checked with Ancestry.com.

"Luckily, I found the grandson, Tim Holt, and he was the right one," Russell-Iverson said. She had Googled Holt and found he had a real estate business in Wichita and provided the Martens with the number within a day. It's what Russell-Iverson and the five people on library's reference desk do for people on a daily basis, though she admits this was an unusual research request.

As far as the Martens are

concerned, Russell-Iverson cracked the case which had been plaguing Henry with feelings of guilt for decades.

The next day, Oct. 26, Tim Holt received a call at his office in Wichita. The women on the other end asked:

Was he related to Guy and Florence Holt of Hutchinson?

"I told them yes, they were my grandparents," Tim Holt said. "She said she had something to give back to me, my grandmother's wallet. Her husband had found it in a piano."

That was shocking news. His grandmother had been dead since 1967.

The Martens spent \$32.58 to mail the wallet to Tim.

Cautiously, as if opening a buried time capsule, he slowly removed one item at a time. There was a handwritten note from Holt's father to his grandmother in Dec. 1942 - "Mother now you won't have to tear your purse up when I ask you for \$5."

Items in the wallet were relevant to the time period, especially for a woman who had two sons serving in World War II.

There was her membership to the National Red Cross Volunteer Campaign, a \$5 War Fund donation and her Mothers of World War II membership card.

Florence had saved a receipt from the post office for sending her son Lt. Bill Holt candy and a fruit cake, as well as another receipt for his subscription to the Hutchinson News-Herald.

There were even rare, wallet-sized family photos that surviving relatives had

never seen, including one of Tim Holt as an infant in 1945.

"I left it just the way I found it," Tim Holt said, stacking the photos in the very same order his grandmother had them. "It's a treasure. A history of our family."

"We never knew how short Mama Holt was," he said. But they discovered that fact by studying her driver's license preserved inside the genuine leather "Princess Gardner" wallet.

How it ended up in a piano in Arlington will remain a mystery.

"We think it was stolen, or lost," Tim Holt said. "But I guess it was stolen because Mama Holt didn't lose anything."

They believe whoever stole the wallet did it between 1946 and 1947. They would have taken whatever money was in it and then tossed it in the piano, believed to have come from a bar in Hutchinson. There was a metal plate with the name of a bar on the side of the piano, according to Martens. But Mama Holt would never have gone to a bar — more evidence the wallet was stolen.

Since sending the wallet to Holt, the Martens have stopped twice at a truck stop restaurant in Park City, along the Interstate between Canada and Texas, to visit.

"I've made a friend with Tim," Martens said.

Meanwhile, Tim feels the Martens have given his entire family a gift.

"We had lost contact with Uncle Bill's family," Tim Holt said. "Somebody was telling me something. We needed to reconnect."

His grandmother was the connector of their family, carrying around all the photos and receipts that linked her to her beloved children in her wallet.

"I use to tell my kids we can have best friends and best buddies, but in the end all we really have is family," Holt said.

This was the message Mama Holt carried in her wallet.

It's also perhaps why Martens told himself for years, "That wallet needed to go to family."

## ARTHUR CAMP

Arthur Lee Camp, 92, of Paris, passed away at 8:55 a.m. Monday, Jan. 10, 2017, at Paris Healthcare Center. A lifelong Edgar County resident, he was a retired farmer.



At his request, no public services are planned and private interment in Grandview Cemetery is at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Camp was born Sept. 30, 1924, in Grandview Township, the son of the late Edwin Frank and Pearl Demougain Camp Sr. He married Bea Mae Gosnell April 30, 1946, in Grandview, and she survives.

Other survivors include a son, Wendell Eric Camp of Charleston; a brother, Frank Camp Jr. of Paris; a sister, Kathleen Cash of Paris; a daughter-in-law, Nina Sue Camp of Kansas; four grandchildren, Mark Allen Camp of Paris, Matthew Alden Camp of Shreveport, La., Jamie Christine Goetten of Charleston and Whitney Blair Camp of Charleston; five great-grandchildren, Alyssa Camp, Dakota Camp, Charleigh Gantz and Margaret Goetten; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by two sons, Larry Alan Camp and Michael David

Camp; a sister, Mary Jane Meeks; and three half-brothers, Russell, Albert and Richard Camp.

Mr. Camp was a U.S. Army veteran of the World War II Pacific Theater. He was an active and devoted member of Bell Ridge Christian Church for 62 years, serving as an elder, deacon, Sunday school teacher and superintendent, board secretary and song leader, as well as helping in cleaning and repairing the church building throughout the years. He was instrumental in additions to the church and parsonage during his membership.

In June 2000, he transferred his membership to First Christian Church of Paris, where he remained a member for more than 16 years. In addition, he served on the former Clarksville Telephone Board for several years and had served on the boards of Grandview Township, Grandview Cemetery Association and the ASC Board.

Mr. Camp was a member of Kansas American Legion Coral Hall Post #539, the former Horseshoe Club of Paris and the Edgar County Farm Bureau.

Memorial donations may be made to the Grandview Cemetery Association, in care of the funeral home.

Online condolences may be left at [www.TempletonFuneralHome.com](http://www.TempletonFuneralHome.com).

## JUDY HENSON

Judy Kay Henson, 67, of Paris, Illinois, passed away at 11:18 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2017, at her residence.



HENSON

She was retired after more than 20 years with the former Northrup King Company of Paris.

Graveside services are 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Edgar Cemetery, and burial follows. Visitation is from 5 to 7 p.m. Monday at Templeton Funeral Home in Paris.

Mrs. Henson was born March 31, 1949, at Paris, the daughter of the late John and Mildred Franklin Devers. She married Lewis F. Henson in 1964 at Urbana, and he survives.

Other survivors include two sons, Timmy (Della) Henson and Jamey (Lindsay)

Henson; a brother, Danny Devers; a sister, Pat Winkler; two stepsisters, Dormilee Dunlap and Terri Rios; and 11 grandchildren, Daniel Robinson, Ashley Henson, Johnny Henson, Devin Henson, Kristie (Alexis Mattox) Henson, Kylee Henson, Madison Henson, Macey Henson, Kenli Hayes, Kaylen Henson and Brody Henson, all of Paris; as well as several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Johnny Devers.

Mrs. Henson was an avid bingo player, and enjoyed playing softball and bowling in her younger years. She especially loved watching her sons' stock car racing and spending time with her family and grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences may be left at [www.TempletonFuneralHome.com](http://www.TempletonFuneralHome.com).

## JULIANNE EVELAND

Julianne G. Eveland, 73, of Paris, passed away at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 13, 2017, at Paris Community Hospital. She was the children's librarian at the Paris Public Library.

Following cremation, a private memorial service will be held at a later date. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Mrs. Eveland was born April 19, 1943, at Rockford, the first of three children born to the late Fredric and Helen Webb Grotenrath of Milwaukee, Wis. She married Larry W. Eveland Aug.



EVELAND

17, 1963, at Milwaukee, Wis., and she survives.

Other survivors include their children,

Jonathan (Amy) Eveland of Greenville, Wis., Elizabeth Eveland of Paris and Aaron Eveland of Paris; two grandchildren, Jerimiah and Rebecca Eveland, both of Greenville, Wis.; and two sisters, Peggy Loomis of Germantown, Wis., and Gretchen Grotenrath of Racine, Wis.

Mrs. Eveland attended the University of Wisconsin in

Milwaukee and also Eastern Illinois University. She had a lifelong interest in music and the arts pottery, painting and doll-making.

An avid reader, she loved books and libraries. She conducted preschool and elementary story hour activities at the Paris Public Library.

Mrs. Eveland enjoyed introducing children and young adults to the enjoyment of reading. She particularly enjoyed selecting books that were enjoyed by elderly readers or reluctant young readers who had not yet discovered the joy of reading a good book. Because she knew her clients and a wide selection

of books, she turned a number of people on to reading for pleasure.

She delivered books to the homebound and also was a volunteer librarian for a number of years at St. Mary's School.

Memorial contributions may be made to E.C.C.F., Inc. DO IT Fund or the Paris Public Library.

Online condolences may be left at [www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com).

*Dottie Martin*  
9/9/25 - 1/16/15



Two years have gone by and I miss you lots. Nobody to give me the hugs & love you once did. You would be proud of your little redhead. Your grandkids and great-grandkids are doing good. Peace is yours and emptiness is mine.

Love you lots, KJ

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## Obama's last words hit home

*"No, one last time  
The people will hear from me  
One last time  
And if we get this right  
We're gonna teach 'em how to say  
Goodbye  
You and I"*  
—George Washington "One Last Time"  
from "Hamilton" by Lin Manuel-Miranda

Probably the two worst secrets about me are that I love Broadway music and I am often moved to tears.

I've been listening to the music from the Broadway sensation "Hamilton" almost non-stop because Angie Griffin and I will be traveling to Chicago Sunday to see the Tony Award winning production.

As I've been listening to the music this week — thanks to Amazon Prime — I probably have listened to one song over and over.

It's called "One Last Time," sung by George Washington — played by Christopher Jackson — and Alexander Hamilton — played by Lin Manuel-Miranda. In the song, Washington tells Hamilton that Thomas Jefferson has resigned as secretary of state so he could run for president. Then Washington breaks the news to his right hand man that he will not seek re-election.

The song is inspiring. Washington begins listing the things he wants to say about the country and advice for the future. He emphasizes the need to emphasize the continuity of new government with a new president.

That brings us to 2017. This past Tuesday, President Barack Obama traveled to Chicago and delivered his farewell address. I was working that night to finish the Wednesday edition of this newspaper so I did not see the speech in its entirety. Since that time, I've seen snippets of the speech on the Internet, including the 44th president's shout out to his wife, daughters and Vice President Joe Biden for how each handled the tremendous pressure of being associated with the office of the president. He was moved to tears and so was I.

See **ZEMAN**, Page 7A

## Battle of ideas will shape foreign policy

It's becoming clear that for the next few years American foreign policy will be shaped by the struggle among Republican regulars, populist ethno-nationalists and the forces of perpetual chaos unleashed by Donald Trump's attention span.

The Republican regulars build their grand strategies upon the post-World War II international order — the American-led alliances, norms and organizations that bind democracies and preserve global peace. The regulars seek to preserve and extend this order, and see Vladimir Putin as a wolf who tears away at it.

The populist ethno-nationalists in the Trump White House do not believe in this order. Their critique — which is simultaneously moral, religious, economic, political and racial — is nicely summarized in the remarks Steve Bannon made to a Vatican conference in 2014.

Once there was a collection of Judeo-Christian nation-states, Bannon argued, that practiced a humane form of biblical capitalism and fostered culturally coherent communities. But in the past few decades, the party of Davos — with its globalism, relativism, pluralism and diversity — has sapped away the moral

See **BROOKS**, Page 7A

### WHO WE ARE

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# State takes radical step

### Illinois Senate's decision to adopt term limits allows new ideas to come forth

The Illinois Senate took a radical step Wednesday showing bipartisan agreement is possible even on an issue that holds potential for deep partisanship.

Majority Democratic senators and minority Republican senators agreed to impose 10-year limits on the offices of Senate President and Senate Minority Leader. This action flaunts all conventional political wisdom, which holds that power accrues with seniority, and once a leadership position is secured it must be maintained to better advance the party's agenda.

The change does not mean after 10 years the parties switch leadership roles — that can only happen as a result of election. What it does accomplish is at least every 10 years two new people step into the leadership roles, and hopefully bring new ideas, new priorities and possibly new alliances for getting things done.

Senator Chapin Rose (R-Ma-

### OUR VIEW

This editorial reflects the views of The Prairie Press' editorial board. Other opinions on this page may not reflect this view.

homet) and Senator Dale Righter (R-Mattoon) issued statements congratulating the Senate chamber for taking this unusual step. Rose represents most of Edgar County, but Righter's 55th Senate District includes part of southwest Edgar County.

"I was proud to sponsor this historic change to Senate rules to term limit leadership," said Rose.

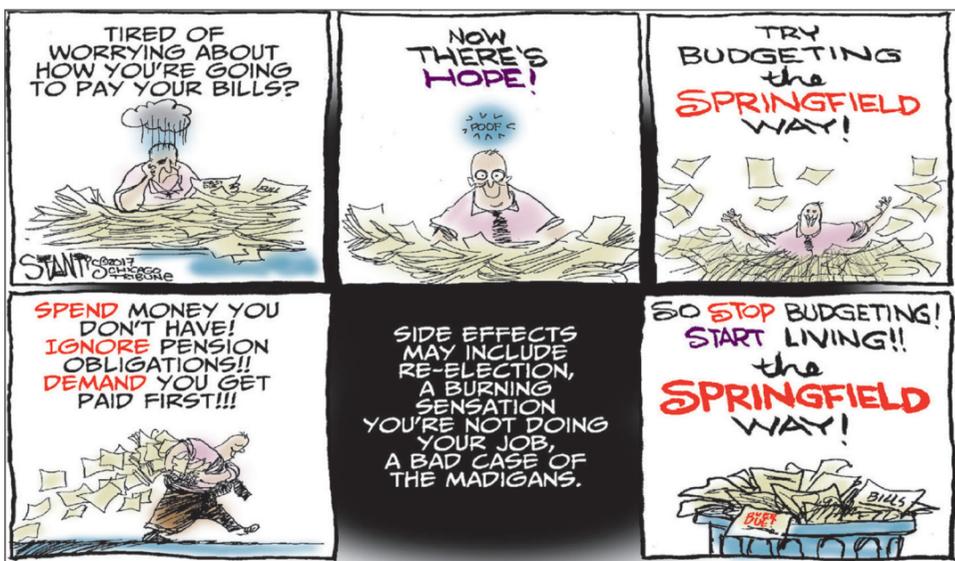
"This is a good step and another show of bipartisan compromise in the Senate that will help move Illinois forward," said Righter.

Both men used the opportunity to take a swipe at Democratic Speaker of the House Mike Madigan, who was elected to a record 17th term as speaker. They urged members of the

House of Representatives to follow the senate and impose leadership limits.

From a Downstate perspective, Madigan has served too long, accrued too much authority and seems to enjoy the perks of power more than the responsibility of governing. This is not unique to the Democrats. Long-time statehouse watchers remember Republican James "Pate" Phillips ruled the Illinois Senate with the same Madigan-like tenacity and partisan ideology.

We applaud the Illinois Senate for making this change. Experience shows, at least in Illinois, it is detrimental to concentrate the legislature's leadership power for too long in one person. It is much too early to foresee what long-term benefits this change will bring, but at least it is a change, and coming from the Illinois Statehouse, that is worth something.



## Inauguration Day welcomes solidarity

You'd be forgiven if, by early Wednesday afternoon, you believed you awoke in an alternate universe of Illinois politics where politeness, cooperation and compromise were the coin of the realm.

First came House Speaker Michael Madigan writing in an op-ed in the (Springfield) State Journal-Register, "Rather than placing blame and looking to find the worst in each other, we should focus on working together and finding common ground to address the issues facing our state."

Gov. Bruce Rauner's office followed with a press release at 10 a.m. that extolled "both Democratic leaders finally agree (ing) that we must have a balanced budget with economic changes to increase our competitiveness to grow jobs."

In an apparent reference to Madigan's op-ed and a bipartisan budget deal announced Monday by Senate President John Cullerton and Senate Republican Leader Christine Radogno, Rauner lauded the Democrats for taking "an important positive step."

"Now let's come together on a bipartisan basis to ensure all proposals truly take the state in a better direction," the governor said.

Then came inauguration ceremonies to open the 100th Illinois General Assembly, and spirit of common cause and cooperation that had trickled out in the morning became a roaring geyser.

Rauner to the Senate: "We all need to battle for what we firmly believe is right, but I hope the good Lord grants us the wisdom to find common ground to listen in respect to the other ideas to come to the solution for a better future."

Cullerton after being sworn in to a fifth term as Senate president: "I think we can



**MATTHEW DIETRICH**

REBOOT ILLINOIS

agree that things have got to get better. The state needs a budget, period. This has become nearly as ridiculous as it is frustrating... I am prepared to do something about this and

so is Leader Radogno. We have made it clear that the Senate will offer solutions and leadership... It is my hope that the Illinois House and you, Mr. Governor, will join us."

Radogno after being sworn into a fifth term as Senate Republican leader: "Collectively we have the power of a solution... It's my hope that today is not just the beginning of a new General Assembly. My sincere hope is this is a new day for a better Illinois."

Madigan, after being sworn in to his 17th term as Speaker: "Let me suggest that as we move forward, let us work to end the acrimony and find the best in each other."

That's quite a groundswell of goodwill. And the Senate followed up on its leaders' statements with action. Barely an hour after the Senate inauguration concluded, senators passed a resolution to enact term limits on its leaders. As promised, they also revived the dozen bills in their budget package and reintroduced them for action in the new session.

But will the promise of cooperation and compromise survive beyond the pomp and circumstance of Inauguration Day?

While professing a desire to end the budget impasse and improve the state economy, Madigan enumerated a vision of a solution that remains sharply at odds with what Rauner has in mind.

"Some of us believe that we can grow the economy by changes in workers' compensation, collective bargaining and the prevailing wage. These people would argue that changes in these areas would lower the cost for Illinois business, which would then act as an incentive for businesses to locate in Illinois or to stay in Illinois," Madigan said in his first address to his chamber in the 100th General Assembly. "Obviously, this approach focuses almost exclusively on cost. In my opinion, this would be a race to the bottom that would unjustifiably hurt Illinois workers."

Those words encapsulate the fundamental divide between Madigan and Rauner on the economy and the role of government in addressing it. Madigan followed with a suggestion that Illinois enact laws aimed not at cutting costs for business, but at encouraging growth in business. Chief among them should be major reform of the Illinois corporate income tax code, which Madigan said would both encourage growth and reduce costs for business.

"Rather than lowering the standard of living by changes in areas like workers' compensation, collective bargaining, prevailing wage, let's lower the rate... on the Illinois corporate income tax by at least 50 percent," Madigan said. "Regrettably, many Illinois corporations do not pay the corporate income tax. Therefore, if we lower the rate by 50 percent, and I think we should do it, there must be one caveat. Every corporation has to pay at least something."

In his newspaper op-ed, Madigan said the current business tax structure puts "the real economic drivers — small and

See **DIETRICH**, Page 7A

## Obama's foreign policy a failure

When Barack Obama moves two miles from 1600 Pennsylvania



**GEORGE WILL**

GUEST COLUMN

Avenue to 2446 Belmont Road in Washington's Kalorama neighborhood, he will live half a mile from 2340 S

Street, where Woodrow Wilson spent his three post-presidential years. Wilson's embittering foreign policy failure was the Senate's rejection of U.S. participation in the embodiment of Wilsonian aspirations, the League of Nations. Obama leaves office serene because, as he put it, "almost every country on Earth sees America as stronger and more respected today than they did eight years ago."

Two seemingly unimpressed nations are Russia, which is dismembering a European nation (Ukraine), and China, which is shredding international law by turning the world's most important waterway, the South China Sea, into militarized Chinese territory.

Obama's policies that brought America to a pinnacle of admiration, as he sees it, were an amalgam of Wilsonian and anti-Wilsonian elements. Wilson's grand ambition for the United States was to reorder the world in a way that would make it unnecessary for America to have grand ambitions. He thought America could lead a restful life after strenuous diplomacy had written rules for the game of nations.

Many progressives believe — they take this favor the Founders' favorite philosopher, John Locke, while rejecting his natural-rights teaching — in humanity's natural sociability. This disposes them to believe that peace among nations is natural and spontaneous, or it would be if other

See **WILL**, Page 7A

### HAVE YOUR SAY

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Paris, IL 61944

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# DIETRICH

FROM PAGE 6A  
medium-sized employers who do pay — at a tremendous disadvantage.”  
This is a striking contrast with the tax plan presented this week by the Senate, which raises both the personal and corpo-

rate tax rates by about one-third.  
One other striking contrast was in play Wednesday, and it served as a reminder that despite all the talk of resolve to turn the state around, the hostility from Republicans toward Madigan has not abated.

As Madigan was sworn in inside Sangamon Auditorium on the University of Illinois-Springfield campus, pro- and anti-Madigan demonstrators gathered outside.  
Even as Rauner presided over the Senate ceremony and praised Cullerton and Radogno for their

cross-aisle cooperation, the Illinois Republican Party — of which Rauner is the nominal leader — was busy blasting out emails deriding every Democrat who voted for Madigan as Speaker for betraying voters.  
The roster of targeted House Democrats on

the GOP’s BossMadigan.com website continues to grow, and the party’s effort to vilify Madigan took no rest on Inauguration Day.  
As the Senate begins committee hearings on the bills that contain its reform and revenue budget package, we’ll find

out whether the spirit of solidarity voiced in some corners of Springfield on Wednesday can endure beyond the inaugural festivities.  
(Matthew Dietrich is the executive editor of Reboot Illinois. Email him at editor@rebootillinois.com.)

# ZEMAN

FROM PAGE 6A  
Whether you love him or despise him, I challenge anyone to say Obama’s speech Tuesday may have been one of the greatest of his administration. He showed his humanity with tears when speaking to his wife and daughters.  
He spoke of his vision of the future. There were no slings or arrows toward President-elect Donald Trump or Republicans, who were at odds with him during the eight years he served in office.  
Obama offered challenges and a vision of the future. He talked about the good things and the bad things. Most of all, he encouraged each of us to

stay involved.  
“It falls to each of us to be those anxious, jealous guardians of our democracy. Embrace the joyous task we have been given to continually try to improve this great nation of ours because, for all our outward differences, we in fact all share the same proud type, the most important office in a democracy, citizen.”  
I haven’t always been in lockstep with President Obama during his terms in office. I’m not sure the Affordable Care Act is the way to go, particularly looking at my coverage (or lack thereof) and the cost. But agree or not, Obama gave an inspirational speech Tuesday and encouraged all of us to soldier on to make this country better.

I can’t remember being so inspired with the exception of hearing President George W. Bush’s speech to a joint session of the U.S. Congress following the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks. It was a different platform, to be sure, but an inspiration nonetheless.  
If there is one thing I am missing right now in this country it is civility — whether at a meeting of the Edgar County Board, the so-called talking heads on CNN, Fox News or MSNBC or on social media.  
Thank you, President Obama for the class you showed Tuesday in Chicago — one last time.  
(Nancy Zeman is the editor and part-owner of The Prairie Press. Email her at nzeman@prairiepress.net.)

# BROOKS

FROM PAGE 6A  
foundations of this Judeo-Christian way of life.  
One is American Christian and the other orthodox Russian, but both have grandiose, sweeping theories of world history, both believe we’re in an apocalyptic clash of civilizations, both seamlessly combine economic, moral and political analysis. Both self-consciously see themselves as part of a loosely affiliated international populist movement, including the National Front in France, Nigel Farage in Britain and many others. Dugin wrote positively about Trump last winter, and Bannon referred to Dugin in his Vatican remarks.  
“We must create strategic alliances to overthrow the present order of things,” Dugin has written, “of which the core could be described as human rights, anti-hierarchy and political correctness — everything that is the face of the Beast, the Antichrist.”  
“We, the Judeo-Christian West, really have to look at what [Putin] is talking about as far as traditionalism goes,” Bannon said, “particularly the sense of where it supports the underpinnings of nationalism.”  
Last week’s intelligence report on Russian hacking brought the Republican regulars, like John McCain and Lindsey Graham, into direct conflict with the ethno-nationalist populists. Trump planted himself firmly in the latter camp, and dragged Fox News and a surprising number of congressional Republicans with him.  
If Trump were as effective as Putin, we’d probably see a radical shift in American grand strategy, a shift away from the postwar global consensus and toward an alliance with various right-wing populist movements simmering around the globe.  
But Trump is no

Putin. Putin is theological and cynical, disciplined and calculating, experienced and knowledgeable. When Bannon, Michael Flynn and others try to make Trump into a revolutionary foreign policy president, they will be taking on the entire foreign policy establishment under a leader who may sympathize with them, but is inattentive, unpredictable and basically uninterested in anything but his own status at the moment.  
I’m personally betting the foreign policy apparatus, including the secretaries of state and defense, will grind down the populists around Trump. Frictions will explode within the insanely confusing lines of authority in the White House. Trump will find he likes hanging around the global establishment the way he liked having the Clintons at his wedding. In office he won’t be able to fixate on ISIS but will face a blizzard of problems, and thus be dependent on the established institutions.  
The result may be a million astounding

tweets, but substantively no fundamental strategic shift — not terrible policy-making, but not good policy-making, either.  
The larger battle is over ideas, whether the Republican Party as a whole will become an ethno-populist party like the National Front or the U.K. Independence Party. In this fight the populists might do better. There’s something malevolently forceful about their ideology, which does remind you of Marxism in its early days. There’s something flaccid about globalism, which is de-spiritualized and which doesn’t really have an answer for our economic and cultural problems.  
In short, I suspect Steve Bannon is going to fail to corral the peripatetic brain of Donald Trump. But he may have more influence on the next generation.  
(David Brooks became a columnist for The New York Times in 2003. He is currently a commentator on “PBS NewsHour,” NPR’s “All Things Considered” and NBC’s “Meet the Press.”)

# WILL

FROM PAGE 6A  
nations would cleanse their minds of the superstitions that prevent them from recognizing the universal validity and demonstrable utility of American principles.  
These, said Wilson, are shared by “forward looking men and women everywhere” and “every modern nation.” He also said, inconsistently, that “every nation of the world needs to be drawn into the tutelage of America.”  
Obama seemed to doubt that America has much to teach the world, beyond post-Iraq modesty — herewith his Wilsonian dimension — and the power of diplomacy’s soft power to tame the world.  
Although neither the English nor the American nor the Russian nor the Spanish nor the Chinese civil war was ended by negotiations, Obama thought the especially vicious and complex civil war in Syrian’s sectarian and tribal society could be ended diplomatically.  
Russian President Vladimir Putin picked a side and helped it win.  
The fact the world is more disorderly and less lawful than when Obama became president is less his fault than the fault of something about which progressives are skeptical — powerful, unchanging

human nature. Humans are, as Job knew, born unto trouble as the sparks fly upward. They are desirous and competitive, and hence are prone to conflict.  
And to causing progressives to furrow their brows in puzzlement. In 2014, when Russia annexed Crimea, Secretary of State John F. Kerry was disappointed with Putin, saying, more in sorrow than in anger: “You just don’t in the 21st century behave in 19th-century fashion.” If you do, you place yourself on (in one of Obama’s favorite phrases) “the wrong side of history.”  
Make that History, which, in progressives’ lexicon, is a proper noun, an autonomous thing with a mind, or at least a logic, of its own. Kerry’s reprimand of Putin expressed a progressive’s certitude about progress: The passage of time should ineluctably improve the comportment of nations. Which is why in 1911, the renowned 11th edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica, in its entry on torture, said “the whole subject is one of only historical interest as far as Europe is concerned.” The Dachau concentration camp was opened in March 1933.  
Obama’s foreign policy presumed the existence of “the community of nations.” But that phrase is worse than hackneyed and

sentimental, it is oxymoronic: Different nations affirm different notions of justice; a community consists of people made cohesive by a consensus about the nature of justice.  
Obama’s second-worst unforced error, second to declaring and then abandoning a “red line” about Syrian chemical weapons, was involving the U.S. military in regime change in Libya. Perhaps this venture appealed to him because it was untainted by any discernible connection with American national interest. He conducted it by “leading from behind,” which he described as U.S. forces “being volunteered by others to carry out missions” in Libya. As George Orwell said, “The great enemy of clear language is insincerity.”  
Soon, foreign policy will be conducted by a man who, although in 2010 he said WikiLeaks’ Julian Assange deserves the death penalty, now seems to trust Assange on the subject of Russian hacking more than he trusts the consensus of the nation’s \$53 billion civilian intelligence institutions. Time passes and, we are told, brings progress.  
(George F. Will is a Pulitzer-Prize winning columnist and a contributor to Fox News’ daytime and primetime programming. Email him at georgewill@washpost.com.)

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**EYESORE**

FROM PAGE 1A

selling the property and keeping the proceeds.

“Buried in past records and paperwork materials, I found out the society sold the house on contract and the payments were intended to be a small monthly income for our charity,” she said. The home was sold to Julia Martin and her husband on contract in 2003. The adjacent properties, including the former grocery store/garage lot, are also owned by the humane association.

Carriere reached out to the widowed occupant of the brick home, who has been financially struggling since the death of her husband. Carriere asked for regular payments but that didn't happen, and Carriere said she was subsequently told by the elderly woman not to return to the private property.

Since the confrontation, the widow moved out of the brick home, and the humane society boarded up the windows and changed the door locks. The society is attempting to obtain the title and deed to the brick home property through breach of purchase contract.

However, to complicate matters even more, Martin allowed a family of three to park and reside in a RV on the property. A mother, father and young child are living in the motor home with electricity supplied by an extension cord and water by a garden hose from the brick house.

Technically, the brick home is still owned by Martin and the RV is located on her property meaning little action can be taken to improve the real estate explained county board member Dan Bruner.

Several of those in attendance suggested giving away the portion of the property that is owned by the humane association.

“Get someone to buy it and get out from under it. What she (Martin) has paid and hasn't paid is irrelevant. Get rid of it,” said citizen Mike Morris. Martin has failed to pay property taxes for numerous years explained Carriere.

Martin's property is not eligible for the tax sale until 2018.

Noting the buildings on the property are dangerous because of their condition and vermin are inhabiting the former grocery store building prompted the question of what action can the health department take.

Isaf explained determining the RV and buildings are a health hazard is subjective to the opinions of the public and imposing fines or legal action is probably futile.

“If the indigent widow can't pay the taxes, then she can't pay a fine,” Isaf added.

“There are many layers of complication. The brown house is one problem and is private property owned by Martin. The other property is owned by the humane society,” Isaf explained, adding Martin's ownership creates private property rights for the ground. Carriere added she has contacted the humane association's insurance company to see about removing the trees that have fallen on the buildings the society owns. The cost of tree removal, she said, is significant for the not-for-profit organization.

“This has been a derelict property for years. It seems like a long time ago the ball was dropped, and it is still continuing. This fell through the cracks,” concerned citizen Christie Austin said, noting she daily drives by the property.

Pfeiffer claimed an entrepreneur approached her about erecting apartments on the property. She said the investor wants all four lots and is unwilling to wait until the 2018 tax auction.

Humane suggested that the humane society volunteers pursue the investor option, negotiate with the insurance company to remove the fallen trees and attempt to locate Martin and ask for a quitclaim deed to the property.

It is Carriere's understanding Martin now resides in another state but she will pursue the idea of obtaining a quitclaim.

# Anonymous donation helps Brocton

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

**BROCTON** – The derelict shell that was once the Brocton High School is in the sites of the village board for demolition.

Village trustees discussed the matter Wednesday night during the regular monthly meeting.

The former high school building has fallen into ruins since it was vacated following the Shiloh School consolidation in the late 1960s and previous plans to raze the structure have run into serious obstacles — mostly demolition costs. Mayor Dennis Cary is confident of success this time.

“We have an anonymous donor that wants to help,” said Cary.

For several years, Brocton saved the monthly state video gaming tax payments with the idea of using the money to start removing abandoned and derelict structures in the town. The village trustees appropriated \$50,000 in 2016 to begin the process.

Cary said after paying to demolish and level the site of two brick commercial buildings on the village's main street, \$12,000 remained for dealing with the high school.



File Photo/The Prairie Press

**Empty for almost 50 years, the former Brocton High School is closer to demolition thanks to an anonymous donation.**

“We can knock it down for \$12,000,” Cary said about the old school building. The money, he said, is sufficient to demolish, sort some of the more salvageable material and pile the rest of the debris.

It is not enough money to also truck away the rubble and level the lot, and that is where the anonymous donation comes into play. Cary does not know who the donor is.

“We were contacted by

an attorney about the donation,” said Cary. “We've known about it for a couple of month, but we didn't want to say anything until we knew it was firm.”

Cary was unable to provide a timetable for razing the building. He said the demolition contractor has another project to do and weather also plays a part in the work.

“He doesn't want to be here in the mud, tearing things up,” Cary said.

During the business portion of the meeting, the trustees approved providing former village treasurer Ginny Geiling with up to three months of additional pay for training her replacement.

Village resident Bella Dudley, a Shiloh Junior High School student, was given a \$500 donation from the village farm fund to assist with her expenses as a member of a traveling basketball team. Dudley told board members play-

ing on the traveling team is a path for her to secure a college scholarship after high school graduation. The money provided to the young girl comes from cash rent on farm ground the village owns and does not involve tax funds.

Cary provided a heads up to the community that Clear Vision Cable informed him the company is discontinuing service to the village.

“We no longer have cable in Brocton,” said Cary.

# Crestwood awaits categorical payments

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

**Crestwood** Community Unit District 4 is still waiting on the fiscal year 2017 categorical payments, the district's school board learned Wednesday.

Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Lorraine Bailey reported some good news, however. The district received the final fiscal year 2016 categorical payment shortly after the first of the year. The district should receive four payments a year.

No categorical fund payments have been made for the present fiscal year. Categoricals include transportation, special education and school breakfast and lunch reimbursements.

Bailey said she prepared the district's budget using the best information available at the time, planning for only three total payments — including the one already received. “We're OK for right now,” she said. “But we will have to see as the budget year progresses.”

The Illinois budget stale-

mate continues, she said, but the school district is still receiving its general state aid payments.

“It's a frustrating process,” Bailey said. “We still have bills to pay and we're paying them. We are very much on target with our budget.”

In other business in one of the shortest district meetings in recent years, the board also:

Approved the 2017-2018 calendar with a half-day starting date for students of Aug. 17 and the first full day of attendance Aug. 22.

Heard the district's transportation committee met and is considering out of town transportation alternatives. The committee will also be meeting with the Paris District 95 committee to consider sharing transportation services.

Bailey said sharing services “must be economically beneficial to both districts.” The two committees are looking for meeting dates, she said.

The district's search for a new school principal has been extended, Bailey said. The

original plan was to accept applications until the end of January, but that has been extended to the end of February.

Once the applications are screened, Bailey said interviews will be in March with the hiring to be in April. In answer to a question, Bailey said the salary for the new principal, “will be regionally competitive.”

Present principal Danette Young is the district's new superintendent, succeeding Bailey, who is retiring June 30, 2017.

# County board meeting addresses routine matters

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Edgar County Board went through a short agenda in quick fashion Wednesday morning.

Board members unanimously approved two highway department resolutions authorizing continued preliminary work for a significant improvement to Prairie's Edge, which connects the Cherry Point Road and the Springfield Road. Work is expected to start in 2018.

“The county received an economic development grant to assist Herrington Trucking,” said county engineer Aaron Lawson, explaining part of the project.

Another routine matter was the authorization of \$7,500 to the State's Attorneys Appellate Prosecutor Program from Dec. 1, 2016, through Nov. 30, 2017. The office assists local state's attorneys with continuing legal education, assuming responsibility for representing counties in criminal case appeals and also the prosecution of local cases where special expertise may be required.

A resolution was passed acknowledging newly elected circuit clerk Angie Barrett and coroner Scott Barrett qualify as elected officials to participate in the Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund (IMRF).

In the report segment of the meeting, county board mem-

ber Andy Patrick announced an agreement is in place with Paris Community Hospital to house the coroner's office. The county is renting space in the former ambulance bay at the hospital for this purpose.

Part of the bay is to park a van for transporting remains and office space in the building provides a place to keep the coroner's records in a secure location. Prior to this, the previous coroners kept the official records in their homes or places of business.

County treasurer Don Wiseman thanked board members for eliminating the county's underfunded obligation to IMRF with one large payment, rather than continu-

ing to pay it down with set monthly installments and an annual balloon payment.

He said the payment of more than \$300,000 in December instantly saved the county \$26,000 in additional interest to IMRF.

Wiseman reported Edgar County Bank & Trust has provided the county a \$500,000 line of credit at a 2.65 interest rate. He said using the whole line of credit, which the county has never done, would cost between \$5,000 and \$6,000.

“I'm confident we will have to draw on that line of credit,” said Wiseman, explaining the large payment to IMRF has depleted the IMRF fund in the county's budget. He plans

to cover the normal IMRF payments associated with payroll for as long as possible using money in the general fund. Borrowing will occur when the general fund is no longer robust enough to meet all of the county's expenses.

Creating a line of credit with a local bank is an annual step the county takes as a precaution against money running out prior to the local tax distribution. It is borrowing in anticipation of tax receipts, but it is not needed every year.

Supervisor of assessments Deena Hasler reported the reassessment of property in Paris Township is underway and will take several months to complete.

**UPDATE**

FROM PAGE 1A

High school teacher Jen Lorton reported on her efforts to revamp the high school science curriculum.

“I've really been think-

ing about what we can do to be the best we can be as a small school based on what we provide and what a college student needs,” said Lorton. “We do a pretty good job, but we have some gaps.”

To better help students

know what science classes to take, she devised a flow chart of life science and related classes for students interested in medicine for example. A different chart helps guide student more inclined to engineering.

In order to make these

changes, she dropped an infrequently taken chemistry II but added a physics and engineering course that looks at solving real world tasks.

Lorton said for a long time the education emphasis has been on keeping

some students from falling behind and while that is important, she doesn't want to penalize students who need a harder challenge to thrive.

“We have a lot of science kids that come out of this school,” said Lorton.

**INFLUENZA**

FROM PAGE 1A

be unusually sleepy or fussy, he explained.

Norovirus is highly contagious, Sodvadiya said. “Anyone can get infected with norovirus and can get norovirus illness many times.”

There is no specific medicine to treat people with norovirus illness, Sodvadiya emphasized. “It cannot be treated with antibiotics because it is a viral —not a bacterial —infection,” he said.

If you have norovirus illness, you should drink plenty of liquids to replace fluid lost from throwing up and diarrhea. This will help prevent dehydration.

Dehydration can lead to serious problems, he said. Severe dehydration may require hospitalization for treatment with intravenous fluids. If you think you or someone you are

caring for is severely dehydrated, call the doctor.

The most important thing for those who wish to avoid the illness is to wash hands often.

Sodvadiya said the other influenza involves the upper respiratory tract. “Not all this type of illness is the flu,” he explained, noting many times patients who see a doctor have bronchitis, bronchiolitis, sinus infection. Children often suffer from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) or croup.

“Some of the symptoms of influenza are the same as the upper respiratory tract infections,” he said, including cough, runny or stuffy nose, fever, scratchy throat and headache.

Most people with the flu have mild illness and do not need medical care or antiviral drugs, he said. If someone becomes ill with flu symptoms, in most cases, Sodvadiya recom-

mended they, “should stay home and avoid contact with other people except to get medical care.”

There are medicines to treat the flu called antivirals, he said. They are most effective early in the illness, he noted.

The influenza virus usually runs its course in seven to 10 days, he said, although sometimes it is as long as two weeks.

The peak season for influenza is usually late January through February.

Over the counter medicines frequently can help with upper respiratory illnesses and the common cold. “If symptoms get worse, please see your doctor,” he said.

Erin Frank, the director of public relations, marketing and grant writing at the hospital said the EZ Care walk-in clinic has been very busy in recent weeks taking care of local residents.

**LAWSUIT**

FROM PAGE 1A

since then.

“At this point, there's no way to make an appropriation,” said Brokaw.

His argument contained two other points, namely the county lacks authority to make such a transfer and Rides filed suit past the legal deadline, making the mass transit district ineligible for relief.

Hunn argued back there is statutory authority for the county to make the transfer and the lawsuit was filed in a timely manner because more than a year was required to wind down and finalize the ECIMTD affairs. He claimed from 2014 until 2016 Rides was in regular communication with Edgar County regarding the release of the funds.

“It became clear Edgar County was no longer going to hold up its end of the bargain and provide these funds,” said Hunn, noting that is when

Rides filed suit.

Glenn's decision to dismiss was narrow. He said Wiseman is the wrong defendant because he cannot be held accountable for releasing the money when control of the funds rests with the county board.

Comments Glenn made indicated a disagreement with other points Brokaw raised defending the county. The judge said the county does have the authority to direct the transfer of money from one mass transit district to another.

“That can happen,” said Glenn.

He also rejected the notion it is too late for the county to appropriate the money.

The court gave Hunn 21 days to refile the suit and Brokaw 30 days after that to respond. No future hearing dates were set.

Following the hearing, the attorneys said they don't have to do a complete start over in the case and both agreed Glenn's decision does not resolve the dispute.

# Obama bids farewell to nation

BY JOSH LEDERMAN AND DARLENE SUPERVILLE  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — President Barack Obama bid farewell to the nation Tuesday in an emotional speech that sought to comfort a country on edge over rapid economic changes, persistent security threats and the election of Donald Trump.

Forceful at times and tearful at others, Obama's valedictory speech in his hometown of Chicago was a public meditation on the many trials the U.S. faces as Obama takes his exit. For the challenges that are new, Obama offered his vision for how to surmount them, and for the persistent problems he was unable to overcome, he offered optimism that others, eventually, will.

"Yes, our progress has been uneven," Obama told a crowd of some 18,000. "The work of democracy has always been hard, contentious and sometimes bloody. For every two steps forward, it often feels we take one step back."

Yet Obama argued his faith in America had only been strengthened by what he's witnessed the past eight years, and he declared: "The future should be ours."

Brushing away tears with a handkerchief, Obama paid tribute to the sacrifices made by his wife — and by his daughters, who were young girls when they entered the big white home on Pennsylvania Avenue and leave as young women. He praised first lady Michelle Obama for taking on her role, "with grace and grit and style and good humor" and for making the White House, "a place that belongs to everybody."

Soon Obama and his family will exit the national stage, to be replaced by Trump, a man Obama had stridently argued poses a dire threat to the nation's future. His



Special to The Prairie Press  
President Barack Obama presented his emotional farwell address to a crowd of more than 18,000 on Tuesday.

near-apocalyptic warnings throughout the campaign have cast a continuing shadow over his post-election efforts to reassure Americans anxious about the future.

Indeed, much of what Obama accomplished during his two terms — from health care overhaul and environmental regulations to his nuclear deal with Iran — could potentially be upended by Trump. So even as Obama seeks to define what his presidency meant for America, his legacy remains in question.

Even as Obama said farewell — in a televised speech of just under an hour — the anxiety felt by many Americans about the future was palpable, and not only in the Chicago convention center where he stood in front of a giant presidential seal. The political world was reeling from new revelations about an unsubstantiated report that Russia had compromising personal and financial information about Trump.

Obama made only passing

reference to the next president. When he noted he would soon be replaced by the Republican, his crowd began to boo.

"No, no, no, no, no," Obama said. One of the nation's great strengths, he said, "is the peaceful transfer of power from one president to the next."

Earlier, as the crowd of thousands chanted, "Four more years," he simply smiled and said, "I can't do that."

Still, Obama offered what seemed like a point-by-point rebuttal of Trump's vision for America.

He pushed back on the isolationist sentiments inherent in Trump's trade policies. He decried discrimination against Muslim Americans and lamented politicians who question climate change. And he warned about the pernicious threat to U.S. democracy posed by purposely deceptive fake news and a growing tendency of Americans to listen only to information that

confirms what they already believe.

Get out of your bubbles, said the politician who rose to a prominence with a message of unity, challenging divisions of red states and blue states. Obama also revived a call to activism that marked his first presidential campaign, telling Americans to stay engaged in politics.

"If you're tired of arguing with strangers on the internet," Obama said pointedly, "try to talk with one in real life."

With Democrats still straining to make sense of their devastating election losses, Obama tried to offer a path forward. He called for empathy for the struggles of all Americans — from minorities, refugees and transgender people to middle-aged white men whose sense of economic security has been upended in recent years.

Paying tribute to his place as America's first black president, Obama acknowledged there were hopes after his

2008 election for a post-racial America.

"Such a vision, however well-intended, was never realistic," Obama said, though he insisted race relations are better now than a few decades ago.

The former community organizer closed out his speech by reviving his campaign chant, "Yes we can." To that, he added for the first time, "Yes we did."

He staunchly defended the power of activists to make a difference — the driving factor behind Obama's optimism in the face of so much anxiety, he said. Though the coalition of young Americans and minorities who twice got Obama elected wasn't enough to elect Democrat Hillary Clinton to replace him, Obama suggested their day was still ahead.

"You'll soon outnumber any of us, and I believe as a result that the future is in good hands," he said.

Steeped in nostalgia, Obama's return to Chicago was less a triumphant home-

coming than a bittersweet reunion bringing together loyalists and staffers, many of whom have long since left Obama's service, moved on to new careers and started families. They came from across the country — some on Air Force One, others on their own — to be present for the last major moment of Obama's presidency.

Unexpectedly absent was Obama's younger daughter, Sasha, who had been expected to join sister Malia at the speech. The White House said Sasha stayed in Washington due to a school exam Wednesday morning.

After returning to Washington, he will have less than two weeks before he accompanies Trump in the presidential limousine to the Capitol for the new president's swearing-in. After nearly a decade in the spotlight, Obama will become a private citizen, an elder statesman at 55. He plans to take some time off, write a book — and immerse himself in a Democratic redistricting campaign.

## Obama speech marks unofficial countdown for black Americans

BY ERRIN HAINES WHACK  
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — LaKeitha Carlos was at home in Atlanta on Tuesday afternoon and decided to check the flights to Chicago, just in case.

A last-minute ticket was only \$194.

Carlos took a moment to reflect on how, eight years earlier, she had worked as an organizer in Atlanta to get Barack Obama elected president, marking her start in politics. The wife and mother only briefly considered her choice: Should she drop everything to see the president one last time?

Two hours later, she was on a plane, wearing an Obama T-shirt and overcome with emotion.

As Obama said goodbye and thanked supporters on Tuesday night in his adopted hometown of Chicago, the occasion marked the unofficial countdown to the end of his historic presidency. The first black president's words resonated across the country for many African-Americans finally able to bask in seeing a family that looked like them in the White House.

After eight years, the era comes to a close in 10 days.

The scene Tuesday was reminiscent of election night in 2008. Then, Obama and his wife, Michelle Obama, greeted a cheering crowd in Grant Park in Chicago to claim victory at the end of a campaign run on hope and change. The Obamas were not yet in their 50s; their children, Malia and Sasha, were 10 and 7.

Tonight, he walked out alone. At times during the address, which lasted about an hour, there were shouts of "We love you!" from the crowd, who pleaded for four more years.

"I can't do that," Obama answered.

Tickets for Tuesday's once-in-a-lifetime speech

were hard to come by. People waited for hours in the freezing cold Saturday to score seats to see Obama in person.

For Carlos, the nostalgia was powerful and her concern over an uncertain future strong.

"There were a few of us that believed that he could do it," she recalled ahead of the speech. "To see that come to fruition has been amazing. It's sad to be here tonight. In a way, it feels anticlimactic."

Others, like Peggy Montes, chose to stay home and watch.

Montes, founder of the Bronzeville Children's Museum, said the Democratic president's mark on her life was personal and professional. She recalled that as an Illinois state legislator Obama helped secure the state funding to start the museum, believed to be the first of its kind for blacks nationwide. Montes was invited to both of Obama's presidential inaugurations and attended.

The Obamas are now a focal point of an exhibit at the museum greeting visitors as they walk in the door.

Like many in Chicago, Montes said Tuesday's speech was bittersweet.

"I'm sad because he will be leaving, but I'm also grateful for the fact that he did touch our lives for such a short period of time," she said. "He came in when the people were in distress. He was able to lift them up."

Horace Small, executive director of the Boston-based anti-poverty group Union of Minority Neighborhoods, said Obama's election was a tremendous source of pride for everyone, especially poor and middle-class blacks. But Small said the middle-class blacks benefited more than those battling poverty because Obama didn't talk more about race and class.

"But poor blacks did benefit from the fact that there was a black man in the

White House less than 100 years after we were hanging from trees," Small said.

Small said Obama failed to mobilize citizens to pursue policies that could have impacted poverty in black communities.

Amy Maldonado, an immigration lawyer based in East Lansing, Michigan, who voted for Obama twice, said she was extremely disappointed in Obama because of his deportation policies and his detention of Central American children. She said that Obama reacted too late to protect some immigrant college students and that activists were forced to sue his administration over a lack of legal representation of detained immigrants.

"I will not be sorry to see this president go," Maldonado said. "I have no love for this administration."

In Albuquerque, New Mexico, around three-dozen emotional Democratic activists gathered to eat green chile stew and Native American Pueblo bread and watch Obama's farewell address. Next to the New Mexican food was a box of tissues.

"We're going to need them," New Mexico Democratic chair Debra Haaland said.

Minutes into his speech, some activists could be heard sniffing and seen wiping tears. They clapped when Obama mentioned the need to protect immigrants and fighting for economic equality.

New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez, a Republican and the nation's only Latina governor, said it was not her role to assess the presidency of Obama, who rarely visited the state with the country's largest percentage of Hispanic residents.

"I think that it's up to the American people and for history to decide on what impact his presidency has had on our country and the world," Martinez said.

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# US ethics chief blasts Trump

Donald Trump's decision to turn his business over to his sons breaks 40 years of precedent by presidents

**BY STEPHEN BRAUN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The director of the federal government's ethics agency Wednesday blasted President-elect Donald Trump's plan to maintain his business empire by turning it over to his sons instead of selling off all his corporate assets and placing remaining profits in a government-approved blind trust.

U.S. Office of Government Ethics Director Walter Shaub took the rare step of commenting publicly about a presidential ethics decision, warning that Trump's solution to a potential cascade of conflicts spurred by his global business holdings breaks 40 years of precedent by presidents from both parties.

Shaub, a 2013 Obama appointee who also worked at the agency during the George W. Bush administration, openly pleaded with Trump to reconsider his plan before his inauguration. Shaub said Trump should commit to divestiture, a process under which he would sell his corporate assets and place the profit in a blind trust administered by a neutral trustee approved by the OGE.

Emails between the OGE and the Trump transition team obtained by the Associated Press show that Shaub repeatedly tried to engage with Trump's aides late last year to persuade the president-elect and his Cabinet choices to agree to divestiture as the cleanest way to clear away potential ethics conflicts posed by their investments and businesses.

But while lawyers for several Trump picks, including prospective Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and senior adviser Jared Kushner, have worked closely with the OGE in shaping divestiture plans, Trump's own lawyers and aides gave the federal agency no official advance notice of his plan to turn over his global empire to his sons, according to an official familiar with interactions between the two sides.

The official, who requested anonymity to detail the sensitive contacts between the two sides, said that Shaub met once with Trump's prospective White House counsel, Don McGahn, in recent weeks, but only to discuss ethics plans for several of Trump's picks, not for Trump's own plan to deal with his holdings.

An outside attorney for Trump, Sheri Dillon of Morgan Lewis & Bockius, said Trump plans to have his companies' operations directed by his two sons, but they would pursue new deals only in the U.S., not abroad. Additionally, Dillon said, Trump would put his business assets in a trust but would hand over management of his international real estate firms to a management company based in New York.

Shaub said during a rare appearance at the Brookings Institution that he was especially troubled by Dillon's comment that Trump's liquid assets from stock and investment sales he made in recent months before the presidential election would be placed in a "diversified portfolio of assets" approved by the OGE.

"No one has ever talked to us about the idea, and there's no legal mechanism to do that," Shaub said. He added the only OGE-approved method is the government-qualified blind trust set by the Ethics in Government Act.

Shaub said his agency's unusual Twitter comments last year complimenting Trump for considering divesting his assets was his decision, made to, "use the vernacular of the president-elect's favorite social media platform to encourage him to divest."

Shaub said he now worries that Trump has no intention to go through government-approved divestiture, a move that risks, "creating the perception that government leaders would use their official positions for profit." Shaub said he had been initially encouraged by a Trump tweet last year that "no way" would he allow any conflicts of interest.

"Unfortunately," Shaub said, "his current plan cannot achieve that goal."

# Trump meets with AT&T executives

**BY JULIE PACE AND JILL COLVIN**  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — It's back to business for President-elect Donald Trump after a circus-like news conference in which he sparred mightily with reporters.

Trump met Thursday morning with Randall Stephenson and other executives from the telecommunications giant AT&T to discuss job creation in America.

Trump said in October that if elected, his administration would not approve the \$85 billion merger of AT&T and Time Warner because it would lead to, "too much concentration of power in the hands of too few." The deal requires sign-off from regulators in Washington, but Stephenson has said he's confident the merger will be approved despite the president-elect's objection.

Trump also took to Twitter to urge people to buy L.L. Bean products as the company faces calls for a boycott because of a family member's donations to his candidacy.

The comments came a day after Trump's first news conference since winning the election. The event was a combative and freewheeling affair, and the famously unconventional politician demonstrated he had not been changed by the weight of his victory.

Trump said for the first time Wednesday he accepts that Russia was behind the election-year hacking of Democrats that roiled the White House race. Looking ahead, he urged Congress to move quickly to replace President Barack Obama's signature health care law and insisted anew that Mexico will pay the cost of a border wall.

He defiantly denied reports that Russia had collected compromising personal and financial information about him, lambasting the media for peddling fake news and shouting down a journalist from CNN, which reported on the matter. His family and advisers clapped and cheered him on throughout.

Trump's transition has been overshadowed by U.S. intelligence assessments that Russia not only meddled in the election, but did so to help him defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton. After spending weeks challenging that idea, Trump finally accepted at least part of the intelligence conclusions.

"As far as hacking, I think it was Russia," Trump said, quickly adding, "other countries and other people," also hack U.S. interests. Still, he kept needling the intelligence agencies, saying it would be a, "tremendous blot," on their record if officials were leaking information from his classified briefings.

Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said in a statement later that he had spoken with Trump Wednesday evening and told him he does not believe any leaks came from the intelligence community.

Trump has not said whether he believes Clapper's claim about the source of the leaks. He tweeted Thursday: "James Clapper called me yesterday to denounce the false and fictitious report that was illegal circulated. Made up, phony facts. Too bad!"

Some media outlets reported on the document, which contains unproven information alleging close coordination between Trump's inner circle and Russians, as well as unverified claims about unusual sexual activities by Trump. The AP has not authenticated any of the claims.

Clapper said Wednesday he had told Trump the intelligence community, "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable."

Wednesday's news conference was initially billed as a chance for Trump to answer questions about his plans for distancing himself from his sprawling, family-owned real estate and licensing business. Lawyer Sheri Dillon stepped to the lectern midway through the event to announce the president-elect was relinquishing control of the Trump Organization to his adult sons and an executive, as well as putting his business assets in a trust. While new international business deals will be banned, the company will be allowed to start new projects in the U.S.

The move appears to contradict a previous pledge by the president-elect. In a tweet last month, Trump said that "no new deals" would be done while he was in office.

The president-elect set some concrete policy markers Wednesday, though specifics continued to be in short supply on some of his major campaign promises.

He promised that a replacement for Obama's sweeping health care overhaul would be offered, "essentially simultaneously," with a congressional vote to repeal the measure. He said his team would send a plan to Congress after Rep. Tom Price, his pick to lead the Department of Health and Human Services, is confirmed.

Turning to his plans to build a wall along the nation's southern border, Trump vowed that Mexico would reimburse the cost of the project through an unspecified tax or payment. He said that while his administration would begin negotiating with Mexico after his Jan. 20 inauguration, he did not want to delay the work until an agreement was reached, raising the prospect that U.S. taxpayers could ultimately bear the costs.



# Trump picks Veterans Affairs insider to lead troubled agency

**BY HOPE YEN**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President-elect Donald Trump on Wednesday tapped the Department of Veterans Affairs' top health official to lead a beleaguered agency struggling to meet the health needs of millions of veterans.

David Shulkin's nomination signals a more modest approach to change at the VA after Trump repeatedly pledged an overhaul. During the presidential campaign, Trump described the VA as, "the most corrupt agency," and, "probably the most incompetently run agency."

If confirmed, Shulkin would have the rare distinction of being an ex-Obama administration official serving in the Trump administration.

Trump announced Shulkin's selection at a news conference in New York and said he had interviewed at least 100 people for the job.

"Sadly our great veterans have not gotten the level of care they deserve, but Dr. Shulkin has the experience and the vision to ensure we will meet the health care needs of every veteran," Trump said.

The choice is likely to soothe some of the largest veterans organizations and pave an easy path to confirmation in the Senate, where Shulkin was approved unanimously to be undersecretary of health in 2015. Veterans groups and Democrats have praised steps taken by VA Secretary Bob McDonald's team and feared that other possible picks might push for greater privatization. Shulkin has supported closer ties with the private sector, but opposed full privatization.

As undersecretary, Shulkin manages a system responsible for 9 million military veterans in more than 1,700 facilities. He was charged with improving wait times for medical care following the 2014 scandal involving long waits at the Phoenix VA medical center.

"We are both eager to begin reforming the areas in our Veterans Affairs system that need critical attention, and do it in a swift, thoughtful and responsible way," Shulkin said in a statement released by Trump's transition team.

Shulkin would lead the gov-

“  
**WE ARE BOTH EAGER TO BEGIN REFORMING THE AREAS IN OUR VETERANS AFFAIRS SYSTEM THAT NEED CRITICAL ATTENTION.”**

**DAVID SHULKIN**  
VETERANS AFFAIRS NOMINEE

ernment's second-largest agency with nearly 370,000 employees and an annual budget of nearly \$167 billion.

"We're pleased with this decision," said Joe Chenelly, national executive director of AMVETS. "We've been saying all along continuity is important at the VA, and Dr. Shulkin definitely understands the problems at the VA."

Paul Rieckhoff, founder and CEO of Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, said his group will have tough questions for Shulkin. It is concerned about the department being led by a non-veteran.

"He's going to have to explain why he is best-suited for this job," Rieckhoff said.

Shulkin spent more than two decades in hospital management. The son of an Army psychiatrist, he is a former president of the Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey. He also served as president and CEO of the Beth Israel Medical Center in New York and chief medical officer at the University of Pennsylvania Health System and Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia.

The nomination comes as the government struggles to find answers to some of the worst problems afflicting wounded warriors.

In a forthcoming report, the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office will place the VA health system once again on its high risk list, finding the VA has made only limited progress since the scandal over lengthy wait-times. Issued every two years, the list identifies troubled federal programs that could cause significant problems due to waste, fraud, mismanagement or structural flaws.

During the campaign, Trump promised to, "ensure every veteran has the choice to seek care at the VA, or at a private service provider of their own choice." But he has yet to offer specifics, including how he plans to pay for a ballooning price tag for VA care.

"There is a tremendous amount of work to be done — by the VA and by Congress — to change the paradigm at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs," said Sen. Johnny Isakson, R-Ga., who chairs the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee.

**The Prairie Press**

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# Energy choice Perry steps away from access pipeline

BY MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Texas Gov. Rick Perry says he has stepped down from the boards of two energy companies that are developing the controversial Dakota Access Pipeline project.

Perry, who is President-elect Donald Trump's choice for energy secretary, said in a letter to ethics officials he resigned Dec. 31 from Energy Transfer Partners LP and Sunoco Logistics Partners LP. The two companies are developing the proposed 1,200-mile crude oil pipeline that has stoked mass protests in North Dakota.

Perry said he still owns stock in the two companies but will divest the stock within three months of his confirmation as energy secretary. He will not take part in any decisions involving the two companies for at least two years, Perry said.

Perry also said he has resigned positions with Celltex Therapeutics and MCNA Insurance, as well as Grey Rock Energy Partners, which his son co-founded. He said he will not take part in decisions involving Grey Rock for at least a year and for as long as his son works there.

Perry's involvement with

the pipeline companies has drawn criticism from project opponents, who also have criticized Trump's stock ownership in companies developing the pipeline.

Trump's transition team said in December Trump sold all of his stocks last summer as he plunged into the costly general election campaign. Advisers provided no proof of the transactions and would not explain the apparent sell-off.

A financial disclosure form filed last year showed Trump held a small amount of stock in Energy Transfer Partners and at least \$100,000 in the energy company Phillips 66, which also is involved in the Dakota Access project. Last month, the Army declined to issue a permit for the pipeline to cross a Missouri River reservoir in North Dakota. Trump supports construction of the pipeline, and aides say he will review the project after taking office.

Perry would not have authority to intervene directly with the pipeline, which is opposed by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe and many environmental groups.

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee is expected to hold a hearing on Perry's nomination next week.

# Carson defends his qualifications to be housing chief

BY JENNIFER C. KERR  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Former Republican presidential candidate Ben Carson defended his experience and credentials to serve as the nation's new housing secretary Thursday, turning to his life story to show he understands the needs of the country's most vulnerable.

President-elect Donald Trump wants Carson, a former rival for the GOP nomination, to lead the Department of Housing and Urban Development, a sprawling agency with 8,300 employees and a budget of about \$48 billion.

At his confirmation hearing before the Senate Banking, House and Urban Affairs Committee, the famed neurosurgeon talked about growing up in inner-city Detroit with a single mother who had a third-grade education and worked numerous jobs to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table.

"I have actually in my life understood what housing insecurity was," he told lawmakers. He credited his mother with showing him the importance of perseverance, hard work and independence.

Democrats in the GOP-run Senate questioned his experience. Carson said one of the things he's learned in private life is how to select a good CEO. He says a good CEO doesn't necessarily know everything about running a particular business, but he knows how to select people and use their talents.

Carson said HUD's rental assistance program is essential to millions of Americans. Taking away social safety net programs without providing alternatives would be cruel and unusual he said.

At the same time, he added: "We don't want it to be way of life ... we want it to be a Band-Aid and a springboard to move forward."

Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., grilled Carson about whether he can guarantee in her words "not one dollar" of HUD money will go to the Trumps. The family made its fortune in real estate and Trump has declined to put his investments into a blind trust.

"I will not play favorites for anyone ... I will manage things in a way that benefits

the American people," Carson told her.

Carson displayed a softer approach toward the role of the federal government than he sometimes did on the presidential campaign trail. When reminded he had called for across-the-board agency spending cuts of 10 percent during the campaign, Carson noted he later modified that amount to 1 percent. When reminded of sweeping changes he called for in Medicare and Medicaid, he said, "safety nets programs are important."

Carson also talked about taking a more holistic approach to helping people and developing the whole person. For example, he said, HUD should work with the Education Department to develop apprenticeship and mentoring programs.

Several former HUD secretaries, Democrats and Republicans, wrote the committee in support of Carson, saying they believe he will listen to staff to help fulfill HUD's mission of affordable homes and inclusive communities. The letter was signed by Henry Cisneros, secretary under President Bill Clinton, and Mel Martinez, Alphonso Jackson and Steven Preston, who worked for President George W. Bush.

The soft-spoken Carson, the only black major-party candidate in the 2016 presidential race, grew up poor. He attended Yale University and the University of Michigan Medical School, and was the first African-American named as head of pediatric neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins Children's Center in Baltimore.

In 1987, at age 35, Carson pioneered surgery to separate twins joined at the back of the head. In 2013, he entered the national political spotlight when, during the National Prayer Breakfast, he railed against the modern welfare state. President Barack Obama was sitting just feet away.

Before Thursday's hearing, Carson said little publicly about affordable housing, homelessness and other HUD-related issues. In a 2015 opinion piece, he criticized an Obama administration fair housing rule as government overreach. At his hearing, he told lawmakers he would work with local HUD officials to, "make sure that fairness is carried out."



Special to The Prairie Press

CIA Director-designate Rep. Michael Pompeo, R-Kan., flanked by former Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, right, and Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., prepares to testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

# CIA nominee agrees on Russia interference

BY EILEEN SULLIVAN AND DEB  
RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump's pick to run the CIA told Congress on Thursday he accepts the findings in an intelligence assessment that Russia interfered in the U.S. election with the goal of helping Trump win, even though the president-elect has been skeptical of some of the report's conclusions.

"Everything I've seen suggests to me that the report has an analytical product that is sound," said Mike Pompeo, a Kansas Republican congressman. His comments struck a different tone than those of his future boss, who called the focus on Russia and the election a political witch hunt before he was even briefed on the findings.

Trump, for the first time on Wednesday, acknowledged Russia was behind the computer hacking that targeted Democrats during the 2016 campaign.

As head of the CIA,

Pompeo would be responsible for bringing to Trump intelligence assessments the president may find politically unappealing, including additional information on Russia's interference with the American democratic process. Pompeo promised senators on the intelligence committee that he would do so.

"My obligation as director of CIA is to tell every policy maker the facts as best the intelligence agency has developed them," Pompeo said. He is currently a member of the House intelligence committee.

Trump has been critical of the intelligence assessment that Russia was behind the hacking of the Democratic National Committee and other political sites and that Moscow's aim was to get Trump elected. This week he said intelligence officials might be to blame for the leak of an addendum to the Russia assessment that was a summary of unverified claims Russia had obtained compromising sexual and

financial allegations about Trump.

The top U.S. intelligence official, James Clapper, said he did not think the disclosures came from intelligence agencies, and Clapper said late Wednesday he told Trump the U.S. intelligence community, "has not made any judgment that the information in this document is reliable, and we did not rely upon it in any way."

Sen. Angus King, a Maine independent, asked Pompeo to comment on what King said were very serious allegations about Trump's ties with Russia.

"I share your view that these are unsubstantiated media reports," Pompeo said, adding he thought the leaks themselves were, "intensely serious."

Pompeo's was one of seven confirmation hearings held this week for senior posts in the upcoming Trump administration. Senators separately questioned Pompeo about classified issues after the public

hearing.

On other issues, Pompeo said he will uphold the law and not direct the CIA to revert to using torture tactics to interrogate suspected terrorists. He also said while he has been critical of the Obama administration's deal with Iran on nuclear weapons, he would carry out the policy as it stands.

Pompeo was a vocal member of the partisan House committee set up to investigate the deadly attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, in 2012, which occurred while Hillary Clinton was secretary of state. He told the committee he understands as CIA director he will have to make the transition from a partisan, policymaking lawmaker to an objective intelligence collector.

Adding a little drama to the hearing, the lights went out when the top Democrat on the committee mentioned Russia. The hearing was moved to a different building.

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## BRIEFLY

### Chicago veterans museum acquires Kurt Vonnegut prints

CHICAGO — The National Veterans Art Museum in Chicago has acquired 31 screen prints by the American writer Kurt Vonnegut Jr. The museum announced the acquisition Tuesday. An exhibit of Vonnegut artwork is on display at the museum through May 6. The late Indianapolis-born author is best known for his 1969 novel "Slaughterhouse-Five," which is drawn from his World War II experiences. He later created a series of fine art prints. Vonnegut enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and was deployed to fight overseas in Europe. He was captured at the Battle of the Bulge and served as a prisoner of war until 1945, when he returned to the United States and was awarded the Purple Heart. The National Veterans Art Museum includes more than 2,500 works created by military veterans.

### Illinois teen rescued after locking self in shuttered prison

JOLIET, Ill. — A teenage girl who slipped into an abandoned Illinois prison for an urban adventure ended up serving a short sentence when she accidentally locked herself inside a cell. Illinois State Police say two teenage girls entered the Joliet Correctional Center through a hole in its fence Monday. Joliet Fire Department Battalion Chief Mike Stromberg says the teens were exploring the suburban Chicago prison that's been closed since 2002 when one of them locked herself inside a cell. The other girl got firefighters to the site, and they used a sledgehammer to break through a brick wall and free her companion. Stromberg tells The Joliet Herald-News that she spent 45 minutes in the cell. State Police say the teens will face trespassing charges.

### Library receives \$268K to preserve circus history

NORMAL, Ill. — Milner Library at Illinois State University has received a \$268,000 award to digitize a collection of circus route books dating back to the 19th century. The library in Normal, Illinois, announced the award Wednesday. The nonprofit Council on Library and Information Resources in Washington, D.C., is providing the funding for the project to preserve circus history. Circus route books contain information about people, positions and events during a circus show's season. Milner Library will work with Circus World in Baraboo, Wisconsin, and the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Sarasota, Florida, to digitize 315 circus books from their collections and create a single portal to access the information.

### Illinois, Indiana fine hunters who falsify residency

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Conservation officers in Illinois and Indiana say they've issued more than \$85,000 in fines to hunters who falsely claimed residency in either state to get a hunting permit at a cheaper rate. Illinois Conservation Police Sgt. David Hyatt says the joint "Operation Double Dip" started in early 2015 and ran through 2016. He says the investigation "protects the privileges of our legitimate resident hunters." Both states have laws that say a person may only claim residency in one state at a time when buying a resident hunting or fishing license. In Illinois 211 people were cited for falsification. All of them were ordered to pay restitution and fines. In Indiana there were about 57 cases filed, though the majority are still pending. Hunting privileges also were revoked in many cases.

— Associated Press

# Chicago report upcoming

Justice Dep. prepares to release civil rights violations report; questions rise about Trump's approach

BY MICHAEL TARM  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The Department of Justice is poised to release its report detailing the extent of civil rights violations committed by the Chicago Police Department, triggering negotiations that will provide an early sign of how much pressure President-elect Donald Trump's administration will be willing to exert on cities to reform their police.

The DOJ under President Barack Obama investigated and then negotiated such settlements enforceable by courts, called consent decrees, with roughly 20 cities, announcing the latest one Thursday with Baltimore. While Obama's DOJ nearly always brought the reform deals to federal courts

to guarantee compliance, Trump's nominee to lead the department, Jeff Sessions, has expressed concerns about using such an aggressive approach. Here are things to know about the Chicago report:

#### THE INVESTIGATION

Although the 2014 shooting of a black teenager, Laquan McDonald, sparked the federal government's civil rights investigation, the Chicago Police Department has long had a reputation for brutality. Most notorious was the use of torture by officers under police commander Jon Burge to force black men to confess to crimes they didn't commit. That started in the early 1970s and went on for years.

The DOJ launched its

investigation of Chicago's 12,000-member police force in December 2015 after the release of squad car video showing a white officer shooting McDonald 16 times as he walked away holding a small, folded-up knife. The shooting happened more than a year earlier, and city lawyers fought the release of the video. It only happened after a court ordered it, and the officer who killed McDonald wasn't charged until hours before the video's release.

During their investigation, members of the DOJ's civil rights division combed through Chicago police records, rode along with beat cops and held public meetings in largely black neighborhoods.

Unlike the deal announced in Baltimore, there's no bind-

ing deal with Chicago. All that work will be done after Trump's inauguration. The next critical stage is closed-door, bilateral negotiations between the DOJ and city officials to reach a detailed settlement. They haven't typically included deadlines by which to comply, though some consent decrees have set a goal of sustained compliance within two to four years.

#### UNDER TRUMP

While Trump's position on such DOJ investigations isn't clear, he portrayed himself as staunchly pro-law enforcement while campaigning and was endorsed by many police unions, including Chicago's.

During confirmation hearings in Washington this week, Trump's attorney gen-

eral nominee, Sessions, spoke about consent decrees. He stopped short of flatly rejecting the Obama administration's approach of making a federal court the main tool for getting a police department to change, but he made his reservations clear.

"The consent decree itself is not necessarily a bad thing," he said. But they can potentially, "undermine the respect for police officers and create an impression that the entire department is not doing their work consistent with fidelity to law and fairness. And we need to be careful before we do that."

Political appointees at the DOJ could argue for altering many of the procedures favored by Obama appointees, but career staffers could also push for continuity.



Meg McLaughlin/The Dispatch

David Powell poses with a gas lantern at his home in Cambridge. The lantern was originally inside the former Jumer's Castle Lodge in Bettendorf. Powell is decorating his home in the style of a castle lodge with features from Jumer's Castle Lodge.

## Cambridge man's home transformed into a castle

BY LISA HAMMER  
Rock Island Argus

CAMBRIDGE, Ill. — A small Cambridge house built in 1907 is being re-created with all kinds of elements from the former Jumer's Castle Lodge in Bettendorf.

Even before he owned the house, David Powell started buying large pieces — massive door frames, stained glass windows and imposing gas lanterns from the sides of the buildings.

"I didn't know when I was collecting that this (house) would be available," he said. "I was just collecting and putting in storage."

He said he tried to find a partner and save the hotel, attending a Bettendorf city council meeting to discuss his

wish. It was announced last December demolition would happen in 90 days; it wasn't until August when it was finally taken down.

The very first pieces Powell picked up from the lodge were two hallway sconces. He said he believed people were storming the collection, and items weren't selling cheap.

"I wanted everything, but I didn't get anything, hardly," he said.

He acquired 10 or 12 paintings from the old hotel, recalling a conversation he had while a student at Western Illinois University about creepy old paintings in hotels.

"I say the eyes follow you," he said with a grin.

He said he wants to redo the

house's exterior in stucco and would like to put in second-floor dormer windows. He's even toying with the idea of a tower — although he said he would want to take care about how it connected to the house so it would not look like "something just stuck in the yard."

Powell plans to convert large gas lanterns from the lodge into electric ones for outdoor use.

"I've got just enough for what I want to do," he said.

Powell has a construction background, having worked for Double S Construction of Geneseo. And he has a lot of plans.

"It's going to take a lot of years," he said.

## High Court hears arguments over hospital tax exemptions

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — Lawyers for a central Illinois hospital and the city of Urbana on Thursday went before the state Supreme Court to argue whether a law allowing not-for-profit hospitals to avoid paying property taxes is constitutional.

An attorney for Carle Foundation Hospital told the court the General Assembly had a right to create a path for not-for-profit hospitals to keep exemptions that allows them to not pay property taxes. Steven Pflaum told the high court the 4th District

Appellate Court erred a year ago when it ruled the law unconstitutional.

"What the Appellate Court did is inconsistent with more than 90 years of precedent," Pflaum said.

Frederic Grosser, representing Urbana and Cunningham Township, contends the law that hospitals deserve exemptions if the value of charitable services exceeds the value of their potential tax exemptions went beyond what was allowed by the constitution.

"It can't create a special kind of exemption for hospi-

tals," Grosser added.

The court's decision in the case goes beyond the eight years of property taxes Carle has paid into an escrow account and potentially could be forced to pay Champaign County taxing bodies.

Some municipalities contend many not-for-profit hospitals are profitable and should be required to contribute their fair share of taxes to their communities.

After the arguments ended, Urbana Mayor Laurel Prussing said Thursday that regardless how the court acts, the issue is one the legislature

should weigh.

"Why should the most profitable companies in the state be shifting their burden onto every other business and homeowner?" Prussing said.

According to Prussing, Urbana lost 11 percent of its assessed property value for tax purposes when Carle and another Urbana hospital, now called Presence Covenant Medical Center, were relieved of paying more than \$6 million a year in property taxes.

About 156 of Illinois' more than 200 hospitals are not-for-profit.

## Man files lawsuit; arrested for flag-burning

BY SOPHIA TAREEN  
Associated Press

CHICAGO — A 22-year-old central Illinois man who was arrested and detained after posting online pictures of himself burning an American flag has filed a federal lawsuit seeking to have the state's flag desecration law declared unconstitutional.

Such state laws are already invalid after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled separately, in 1989 and 1990, that flag burning and other forms of damage are constitutionally protected free speech. However, dozens of states still have the laws.

Police in Urbana used Illinois' flag desecration law to arrest local resident Bryton Mellott on July 4 of last year. He said he carefully planned his demonstration to protest racial discrimination, poverty and other injustices, and then posted six photographs of his actions on Facebook. The posts, which generated hundreds of comments, led police officers to arrest Mellott while he worked at Wal-Mart and detain him for several hours. He was released without being charged.

Mellott, who is being represented by the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois, was expected to discuss the lawsuit at a news conference in Champaign. The suit was filed late Wednesday.

"Open dissent is the highest form of American patriotism," Mellott said in a statement. "And it was a frightening display of irony that on the Fourth of July, I should be taken from my workplace to sit in a county jail for exercising this liberty."

Arrests for flag desecration are rare.

Still, experts say states have been reluctant to repeal such laws either because it's politically unpalatable or it hasn't been a priority. About 40 states have flag desecration laws and only a handful have changed them. Wisconsin's flag desecration law was knocked down by the state Supreme Court in the 1990s and removed. Missouri's was repealed effective this month, after a long court battle prompted by a similar lawsuit.

President-elect Donald Trump recently said anyone who burns an American flag should face consequences such as jail or a loss of citizenship, despite the Supreme Court determinations.

The lawsuit, filed late Wednesday, names several police officers. Urbana police have said they arrested Mellott to protect him from possible backlash from the online posts. An Urbana Police Department spokesman did not return a message seeking comment Wednesday.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

**CONTACT US:** NANCY ZEMAN, 217-921-3216  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

**CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR**

SEN. CHAPIN ROSE (R) 217-607-1853  
www.senchapinrose.com

SEN. DALE A. RIGHTER (R) 217-235-6033  
www.dalerighter.com

REP. BRAD HALBROOK (R) 217-717-2780  
bradhalbbrook102@gmail.com

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## National title game one for the ages

Deep in the southern plains where the Georgia and South Carolina border



DAN DUNDAS  
ABOUT SPORTS

meet, a small ACC school captured a return to glory some 35 years in the making. A rare title game rematch in the college football national championship Monday evening captivated the football nation as the Clemson Tigers defeated the Alabama Crimson Tide on a last second — literally — touchdown.

Both this and last year's championship game can easily claim a place in the pantheon of best title games in the past few decades. The game evoked images of the 1984 Orange Bowl between your grandpa's Nebraska Cornhuskers and the upstart Miami Hurricanes.

Nearly two decades later, the 2002 season was decided after the Ohio State Buckeyes and Hurricanes tangled in a double overtime win for OSU, sending a team packed to the gills with future NFL players on an eventual downturn for the rest of the decade. No matter what team you supported in 2016, given all of the playoff rhetoric over the past month about what teams should be in the playoff, the best two teams in the nation matched up, and frankly, that's what matters.

The actual game itself did not disappoint. Both defensive lines were stars of the show for much of the evening, forcing one Heisman contender quarterback back from Clemson to outduel a possible future finalist in Alabama's Jalen Hurts. Leading up to the game, much was made of the decision of the Tide to switch offensive coordinators, subbing one former college head coach in Steve Sarkisian for another in the brash Lane Kiffin. It may not have mattered who was calling the shots for Crimson Tide coach Nick Saban because Alabama's defense was one for the ages.

As far as the actual matchup was concerned, two things fell Clemson's way. One was the fortuitous injury to cyborg running back Bo Scarborough as well as the fact that by game end, Alabama's defense had played 99 snaps, easily 20 more than an average game. It might explain the 21 points allowed during Clemson's fourth quarter comeback. It truly may not matter if a player is a future NFL millionaire, when a player is tired, they are tired, especially after playing one game since Dec 10.

The fact that Alabama possessed another roster chock full of future NFL millionaire's has not been lost on the country. Nick Saban has built an unbridled recruiting monster. Based on Rivals.com, Alabama has had the top ranked recruiting class six years in a row, which is absolutely unbelievable. Yes, powerhouse teams like them will generally finish in the top recruiting rankings every year, but Alabama takes it to another level.

Even though recruiting classes aren't always a guarantee, when a team compiles enough of the top end talent, eventually they will have the high hand at the card table

See DUNDAS, Page 2B

# Ice threat cancels games

All Friday night action canceled as many schools dismiss early; LIC tourney still a go

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

The threat of an approaching ice storm created havoc with the Friday night varsity boys basketball games as school officials didn't want their athletes and fans traveling in questionable weather.

Paris athletic director Creighton Tarr found out early Friday morning the Red Hill boys team would not be traveling to Paris for its LIC game.

"A lot of the schools south of here canceled school for the entire day," Tarr said. He noted Newton, Flora and Sa-

lem schools canceled classes and activities because of the ice storm warnings in their area.

In Edgar County, Paris 95, Crestwood and Kansas schools had only a half-day of attendance.

Shiloh, Oakland and Marshall schools all dismissed early as predictions of the storm arriving during the afternoon flashed across the forecasts.

Only Chrisman remained in school the entire day.

Chrisman boys and girls were scheduled to make the long trip to Milford Saturday but that game was canceled

due to the continuing weather threat.

Tri-County varsity and junior varsity boys teams were scheduled to travel to Arthur-Lovington/Atwood-Hammond Friday evening but that game was canceled.

The LOVC Southeast Division girls tourney was scheduled to get underway Saturday but was pushed back until Monday, according to information provided by Shiloh athletic director Vince Gallo. The tourney is being played in Villa Grove.

The first round games will now be played Monday with

the top-seeded Tri-County girls playing at 6 p.m. Tuesday against the winner of the Martinsville-Cumberland game.

The Paris Cheer Challenge, scheduled for 11 a.m. today was also canceled, Tarr said.

"We had southern schools calling us Friday morning saying they couldn't make the trip," he said.

Because of upcoming sectional and state competitions, the Paris event will not be rescheduled.

The challenge had 25 cheer teams scheduled to perform.

Only two events set for today were still a go as of press-

time Friday evening.

Today's Mayo-Crestwood boys game at Crestwood, scheduled for 10 a.m. was still planned.

Crestwood principal Dnette Young said officials would review conditions this morning.

The Little Illini Conference girls tourney is scheduled to get underway at 3 p.m. at Marshall High School when top-seeded Paris Lady Tigers face Casey-Westfield.

Tarr said a final determination of whether the games will be played is expected to be made this morning by school officials.

## CRESTWOOD SWEEPS CHRISMAN TOURNEY



Special to The Prairie Press

The Crestwood eighth grade basketball team brought home the championship of the Chrisman Hardwood Eighth Grade Classic with an exciting 33-31 win over Judah Christian. Pictured front row, from left, Marissa Lawson, Lily Graham, Lucas Rhoads, Bryce Graber, Preston Porter, Jude Sullivan, Mason Hutchings, Reese Wagoner, Conner Gore, Jayden Bishop and Shelby Clark. Second row, from left, are Hallee Rhoads, Olivia Staley, Kenzie Hutchings, Coach Ben Lueken, Kohlton Mills, Josh Warner, Logan Rhoads, JR Brinkerhoff, Colby Kindred, Jeff Bennett, assistant coach Nick Hutchings, Emma Cox, Sara Burger, Emily Wells and Peyton Rogers-Trapp.



Special to The Prairie Press

The Crestwood Eagle seventh grade team brought home a championship of its own from the Chrisman Hardwood Seventh Grade Classic at Chrisman, defeating Judah Christian 40-37. First row, from left, are Peyton Rodgers-Trapp, Marissa Lawson, Lily Graham, Brady Crippes, Owen Porter, Cooper Soberg, Hunter Dunlap, Bryan Kohlmeier, Logan Pine, Eian Bartley, Shelby Clark and Hallee Rhoads. Second row, from left, are Olivia Staley, Sara Burger, Jayden Bishop, Coach Ben Lueken, Chance Lehman, Landen Englum, Tim Augustus, Zach Farnham, Drew Pinkston, Braylon Nugent, assistant coach Nick Hutchings, Emma Cox, Kenzie Hutchings and Emily Wells.

## Crestwood rolls to titles

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — The Crestwood Eagles swept to two titles in the annual Chrisman Hardwood Classic Tournament this past week.

The Eagle eighth graders took the title with a last minute basket by Jeff Bennett to give Crestwood a 33-31 win over Judah Christian and the championship.

The eighth graders advanced to the

championship by downing Champaign Next Generation 54-27 and then rolling to a 62-17 win over the host Christman-Scotland Eagles.

The seventh graders had a bit tougher time of it but won playing some of their best basketball of the season.

Crestwood seventh graders defeated Champaign Next Generation 42-38 in the opening round. In the Chrisman-Scotland Eagles versus the Crestwood Eagles showdown,

the Paris team won by 20 points, 39-19.

In the championship game, Crestwood edged Judah Christian playing their strongest game of the season, 40-37 to bring home the championship.

Crestwood is scheduled to host Mayo at 10 a.m. today — weather permitting — before closing out its season with eighth grader night at 6 p.m. Tuesday at home.

## Cubs to visit White House Monday

CHICAGO (AP) — President Barack Obama will welcome the World Series champion Chicago Cubs at the White House on Monday, just five days before he leaves office.

White House press secretary Josh Earnest said Wednesday that Obama is, "really looking forward to it," as were a number of West Wing colleagues who are Cubs fans.

"I think anybody who's a sport fan, even if you're not a baseball fan and not a Cubs fan, appreciated the historic run that the Chicago Cubs had through the playoffs and to a World Series title this year," Earnest said.

The president invited the Cubs shortly after they beat the Cleveland Indians in an extra-inning, Game 7 thriller to end a title drought that



Special to The Prairie Press

The Chicago Cubs, shown here celebrating their World Series championship, will visit the White House Monday.

dated to 1908. Obama has a home in Chicago and is a fan of the White Sox, but he rooted for the North Siders since his favorite team didn't make the playoffs.

Obama, a prominent sports fan, also hosted the Chicago Blackhawks after their three Stanley Cup champion-

ships since 2010, along with other championship teams from college and the U.S. pro leagues.

"We're excited about it," Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts said. "It certainly is a plus that President Obama is a Chicagoan, although I hear he's a Sox fan."

Earnest said he was not aware of any unexpected challenges scheduling the visit so soon after the Cubs won the Series. He noted the visit comes earlier than normal. The Kansas City Royals won the World Series in November 2015, but didn't come to the White House until last July.

The Cubs' visit will come five days before Donald Trump is sworn in as president.

"Really looking forward to it," said Cubs manager Joe Maddon, who will be making his third White House visit.

Most members of the Cubs-owning Ricketts family are Republicans who support Trump, though during the primary, parents Joe and Marlene spent millions to stop the New York businessman. That led to Trump lashing out

See CUBS, Page 2B

## Arrieta, Cubs reach 1 year deal

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Cubs and ace right-hander Jake Arrieta have agreed to a \$15,637,500 one-year deal.

The Cubs also announced one-year contracts with right-handed relievers Hector Rondon and Justin Grimm on Friday.

They exchanged arbitration numbers with Pedro Strop, with the team offering \$4.6 million and the reliever countering at \$6 million. But there is optimism about a deal being reached soon.

Arrieta went 18-8 with a 3.10 ERA last season, helping Chicago to its first World Series title since 1908. He won the NL Cy Young Award in 2015 and is 54-21 with a 2.52 ERA in three-plus seasons with the Cubs.

The 30-year-old Arrieta is eligible for free agency after this season. While each side is leaving open the possibility of an extension, Arrieta said he will be ready for whatever happens.

## Chiefs, Steelers game is delayed

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The AFC divisional playoff game between the Steelers and Chiefs on Sunday has been moved from an early afternoon kickoff to primetime because of an ice storm due to hit the Kansas City area this weekend.

The game was originally scheduled to kick off at 12:05 p.m. Central time. It will now start at 7:20 p.m. to give road crews and public safety officials more time to treat roads and parking lots.

"If people are going to the game, slow down, leave early and be cautious," said Troy Schulte, the city manager for Kansas City, Missouri, where Arrowhead Stadium sits just off Interstate 70.

The forecast calls for ice to move into the area Friday, and persistent cold temperatures throughout Saturday and Sunday. More precipitation is expected Sunday, though mostly in the form of cold rain.

"We talked about all the options. We talked about the factors that went into making the decision," Chiefs president Mark Donovan said, but "it's the Commissioner's decision."

See NFL, Page 2B

**SPORTS CALENDAR**

**TODAY**  
 10 a.m. Mayo boys at Crestwood  
 10 a.m. Martinsville junior high boys at Tri-County Oakland  
 Noon Milford girls at Chrisman **POSTPONED**  
 3 p.m. Milford boys at Chrisman **POSTPONED**  
 LIC Girls Tourney at Marshall  
 3 p.m. Game 2 #1 Paris vs. Casey Westfield  
 4:30 p.m. Game 3 #4 Flora vs. #5 Olney  
 6 p.m. Game 4 #2 Marshall vs. #7 Robinson  
 7:30 p.m. Game 5 #3 Newton vs. Lawrenceville

**SUNDAY**  
**Paris Junior League games played at Eveland Gym**  
 12:45 p.m. Bears vs. Tigers  
 2 p.m. Colts vs. Hawks  
 3:15 p.m. Eagles vs. Lions  
 4:30 p.m. Cards vs. Panthers

**MONDAY**  
 4:30 p.m. Crestwood volleyball at Martinsville  
 4:30 p.m. Mayo volleyball at Hutsonville  
 6 p.m. Danville frosh-soph boys at Paris  
 LIC Girls Tourney at Marshall  
 6 p.m. Game 6 Loser Game 1 vs. loser game 5  
 7:30 p.m. Game 10 Loser game 3 vs. loser game 4

**TUESDAY**  
 6 p.m. Paris boys at Tolono Unity  
 6 p.m. Chrisman boys at Heritage  
 6 p.m. Hutsonville boys at Crestwood  
 6 p.m. Jasper County boys at Mayo  
 LIC Girls Tourney at Marshall  
 6 p.m. Game 7 Winner game 2 vs. winner game 3  
 7:30 p.m. Game 8 Winner 4 vs. winner game 5

**WEDNESDAY**  
 5:30 p.m. Paris freshmen girls at West Vigo  
 6 p.m. Tri-County boys at Mayo  
 7 p.m. Paris freshman boys at West Vigo

LOVC Southeast Division Tourney at Villa Grove  
 6 p.m. Tri-County girls vs. winner of the Martinsville/Cumberland game.  
 6 p.m. Atwood-Hammond junior high boys at Tri-County Oakland (8th grade night)  
 LIC Girls Tourney at Marshall Consolation Round  
 6 p.m. Game 9 winner game 6 vs. loser game 4  
 7:30 p.m. Game 10 loser game 3 vs. loser game 2

**THURSDAY**  
 6 p.m. Teutopolis frosh-soph boys at Paris  
 LIC Girls Tourney at Marshall Championship Night  
 5 p.m. Game 11 winner game 9 vs. winner game 10 Consolation Championship  
 6:30 p.m. Game 12 loser game 7 vs. loser game 8 Third Place  
 8 p.m. Game 13 winner game 7 vs. winner game 8 Championship

**FRIDAY**  
 LIC Boys Tourney at Robinson  
 7 p.m. Game 1 #8 Paris vs. #9 Flora

**SATURDAY, JAN. 21**  
 10 a.m. Teutopolis frosh-soph girls at Paris  
 LIC Boys Tourney at Robinson  
 3 p.m. Game 2 #1 Marshall vs. winner game 1  
 4:30 p.m. Game 3 #4 Olney vs. #5 Red Hill  
 6 p.m. Game 4 #2 Robinson vs. #7 Casey-Westfield  
 7:30 p.m. Game 5 #3 Lawrenceville vs. #6 Newton  
 LOVC Southeast Boys Tourney at Oblong

**SUNDAY, JAN. 22**  
**Paris Junior League games played at Eveland Gym**  
 12:45 p.m. Colts vs. Tigers  
 2 p.m. Lions vs. Hawks  
 3:15 p.m. Panthers vs. Bears  
 4:30 p.m. Cards vs. Eagles

**MONDAY, JAN. 23**  
 6:15 p.m. Paris girls at Robinson  
 6:15 p.m. Robinson frosh-soph boys at Paris

**NFL**

FROM PAGE 1B

Donovan said he began having conversations with the league office on Wednesday, when the forecast began to look dire. Those discussions continued Thursday, and he spoke with commissioner Roger Goodell on Friday morning, at which point the league decided to move the kickoff time.



Special to The Prairie Press

**Grounds keepers at Arrowhead Stadium move the tarp on the field of the stadium. A big time ice storm forced the NFL to move the Steelers-Chiefs game to primetime Saturday.**

"This storm has the potential to be pretty damaging," Donovan said. "We talked a lot about the weather, what the experts are telling us. It's changed so much the last few days, we wanted to make sure we had the most up-to-date information. But we also talked about the importance of making a decision quickly so we can prepare."

The time change means the Packers-Cowboys game scheduled to kick off at 3:40 p.m. Central time on Fox on Sunday will serve as the lead-in for the Steelers-Chiefs game, which will remain on NBC.

The Chiefs have already played a couple of home games in inclement weather this season, including a frigid matchup with Tennessee in

early December. The official temperature at kickoff that day was 1 degree, which tied the 1983 season finale against Denver for coldest game in Arrowhead Stadium history.

As if the cold, wet weather expected Sunday night wasn't bad enough, the Chiefs decided to re-sod the field between the hash marks earlier this week, which could leave a quagmire for the game.

Chiefs president Mark Donovan said Monday the grounds crew monitored the forecast to determine the best time to do the work, but that forecast has changed considerably since the decision was

made. "Based on milder temperatures coming in, felt like we could do it this weekend," Donovan said. "It's always something that our grounds crew is a little nervous on just because you want to see everything come off the truck the right way, you want it to go down the right way."

The Steelers are planning to leave for Kansas City earlier than normal on Saturday to account for the weather, though team officials did not specify when they planned to arrive.

"The Steelers have been monitoring the potential

storm near Kansas City and fully support the NFL's decision to move the game to Sunday night," team spokesman Burt Lauten said.

This isn't the first time they've dealt with time changes, either.

In 2004, Ben Roethlisberger's first NFL start against the Miami Dolphins was delayed from an early afternoon kickoff to a night game because of Hurricane Jeanne. The hurricane moved out by game time, but a tropical depression brought rain, wind and muddy conditions for the game.

The Steelers also had to adapt travel plans because of Superstorm Sandy in 2012 for their game against the New York Giants. They wound up arriving the same day as the game, rather than traveling the day before like normal, and proceeded to win 24-20.

Not surprisingly, the hazardous weather has sent ticket prices plummeting.

The game is expected to be sold out, but tickets on the secondary market were available for about \$50 in the upper levels of Arrowhead Stadium on Friday afternoon, and lower-level seats were about \$100.

**CUBS**

FROM PAGE 1B

the family and Tom Ricketts saying last February that he found it "surreal" to see Trump "threaten" his mother on social media over her reported political contributions to an anti-Trump PAC during the Republican primary.

That rift didn't stop Trump from announcing in Novem-

ber that Todd Ricketts was his pick as deputy commerce secretary. Pete Ricketts is the conservative governor of Nebraska, while Laura Ricketts is a top Democratic donor.

Asked if any family members had concerns or second thoughts about backing Trump in the general election, Tom Ricketts said: "We're excited to go on Monday. The whole team's gonna be there.

It's gonna be a great day for all the players, for all the coaches, for everyone that can make it."

He said a couple of players might be unable to attend. Family spokesman Dennis Culloton also said Pete Ricketts won't be able to go, though Tom, Todd and Laura are scheduled to be there.

The team will be in Chicago this weekend for its annual fan convention.

Tom Ricketts said there was no thought given to waiting until a later date, even with his brother tabbed to be a part of the incoming administration.

"Once you get invited, you go," he said. "That's it. There's really no other way around it. I don't care where you live or who you vote for — whatever. It's an honor to just be involved."

**DUNDAS**

FROM PAGE 1B

every time, which is the where Alabama finds themselves. The Crimson Tide's success has snowballed so much that elite players are willing to sit and wait their turn until maybe their junior year. Let's face it, when a title is guaranteed, players want that scenario.

Due to Alabama's apparent monopoly on the college football world, there might have been a mild exhale of approval with Clemson's victory — outside of Tuscaloosa. In the Tide's defense, lest

we forget about Florida State running roughshod over the 1990's, finishing in the AP top four every year and playing in games deciding the title four times, Alabama's historical dominance does have some precursors.

Every school would like to emulate Alabama. Clemson has somehow come the closest to doing so. Playing in the South and their fertile recruiting ground has definitely helped, as has their history of at least being a reputable football program.

It's not like Clemson Coach Dabo Swinney hasn't been there before. Swinney

was a wide receiver on the Crimson Tide's 1992 national championship team. After graduating from Bama, Swinney stayed at his alma mater and coached with Stallings. Even with the litany of draft picks headed towards the NFL — many of which will be called in the first round — both squads have enough left over to pencil themselves as favorites the 2018 playoff. Of course that doesn't mean a third straight title match up is guaranteed. Ohio State, Florida State, LSU and a several other teams have plenty of talent waiting in the wings. Those teams believe they will

have definitely have something to save about about a rematch.

Frankly it would be surprising if Clemson made it back to the mountain top Coach Dabo Swinney spoke of — at least for the 2017 season — with half his offense off to play on Sunday afternoons. On paper they look like a top 10 team still, but plenty of surprises wait.

Monday night's game is why the narrative of college football never gets old.

(Dan Dundas is a teacher and coach at Paris High School. Email him at dandundas82@gmail.com.)

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**KNOWLEDGE IS FREE & DELIVERED SATURDAYS.**

**Chargers hire new coach after leaving San Diego**

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Chargers have hired Anthony Lynn as head coach one day after announcing they're relocating to Los Angeles.

Lynn becomes the first black coach in franchise history.

He replaces Mike McCoy, who was fired on Jan. 1 after going 27-37 in four seasons.

Lynn inherits a team that won only nine games in two seasons and missed the playoffs for the sixth time in seven seasons.

Lynn comes from the Buffalo Bills. He was promoted to offensive coordinator in mid-September after coach Rex Ryan fired Greg Roman. After Ryan was fired, Lynn was promoted to interim head coach for the final game, a loss to the New York Jets.

Lynn was a running back in the NFL and was with the Denver Broncos when they won consecutive Super Bowls in 1998 and 1999.

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# NFL divisional round has a familiar feel this time

BY SIMMI BUTTAR  
AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The divisional round of the NFL playoffs has a familiar feel.

All four of the matchups this weekend are rematches of regular-season games from this season. And Saturday's games feature coaches going against their former teams.

Atlanta coach Dan Quinn spent four seasons with Seattle, including the 2013 and '14 seasons as the team's defensive coordinator.

The Seahawks advanced to the Super Bowl in both seasons, including winning it to cap the 2013 season. Quinn got the better of Pete Carroll and the Seahawks with a 26-24 win at CenturyLink Field in Week 6.

And, Houston's Bill O'Brien was on Bill Belichick's staff in Foxborough from 2007-11. O'Brien is looking for a better result on Saturday night after his Texans were dominated 27-0 in September.

The Steelers and Packers both enter Sunday's games as two of the hottest teams in the NFL. Pittsburgh will enter its matchup at Kansas City on an eight-game winning streak. The Steelers routed the Chiefs 43-14 in Week 4.

And Green Bay will travel to Dallas on a seven-game surge as it tries to knock off the top-seeded Cowboys and get even for a 30-16 loss at Lambeau Field in Week 6.

**SEATTLE (11-5-1)  
AT ATLANTA (11-5)**

This will be the second postseason meeting between the teams. Both were in the divisional playoffs, and both at the Georgia Dome.

Four years ago, Seattle fell behind 20-0 before Russell Wilson led his team on three fourth-quarter touchdown drives to take a 28-27 lead with 31 seconds left. However, the Falcons completed two long pass plays and Matt Bryant kicked a 49-yard field goal in a 30-28 win.

"It's one of those games," Carroll said Tuesday of the loss in January 2013. "It's one of those games you store away, but it doesn't have anything to do with what's going on now."

That game was a rare postseason loss for Wilson, who is 8-3 in his career in the playoffs.

Atlanta has lost five of its past six playoff games. An Atlanta loss would end the Falcons' 25-year stay in the Georgia Dome. Mercedes-Benz Stadium is scheduled to open next season.

**HOUSTON (10-7)  
AT NEW ENGLAND (14-2)**

The Patriots are more than a two-touchdown favorite. And with good reason.

New England has won seven of the eight meetings overall. The Patriots are 4-0

at Foxborough against Houston, outscoring the Texans a combined 150-49. And that includes a 27-0 rout in Week 3 with Jacoby Brissett was at quarterback because Tom Brady was serving his four-game suspension.

Brady has 22 playoff wins, the most in NFL history. Brady is also the NFL postseason leader in completions (738), attempts (1,183), passing yards (7,957) and touchdown passes (56).

And Belichick has 23 postseason wins, most all time.

Houston's best hope is for defensive end Jadeveon Clowney to get consistent pressure on Brady. The No. 1 pick in the 2014 draft was a big reason why the Texans dominated the Raiders in the wild-card round. He had an acrobatic interception to set up a touchdown in the 27-14 win.

"That kind of boosts us up a little (like), OK we gonna show them," Clowney said earlier this week of being a big underdog.

"One of the mentalities this week going into this game is we're the underdogs, always been underdogs all season — let's go out there and prove to them why we're here in this second round now."

**GREEN BAY (11-6)  
AT DALLAS (13-3)**

This is the eighth postseason meeting between the



Special to The Prairie Press

New England Patriots offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, center, talks on the sidelines with quarterbacks Brian Hoyer (8) and Tom Brady (12) as head coach Bill Belichick, left, looks on during the second quarter of an NFL preseason football game against the Jacksonville Jaguars in Foxborough, Mass. This weekend, Bill Belichick will work against his former offensive assistant, Bill O'Brien, when the Patriots host the Texans in the divisional round.

teams, which includes such memorable matchups as the "Ice Bowl" in 1967.

And the Packers and Cowboys are tied with the Giants for the most playoff appearances at 32.

Packers coach Mike McCarthy has nine playoff wins, tied with Vince Lombardi and Mike Holmgren for the most in club history.

The Cowboys, who have four straight losses in the divisional round, are looking for their first NFC championship

game appearance since the 1995 season.

Dak Prescott will be the first rookie QB to start a playoff game for Cowboys.

Since winning the Super Bowl after the 2010 season, Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers has not won back-to-back playoff games.

Packers receiver Jordy Nelson, who had an NFL-high 14 touchdown catches in the regular season, will miss the game because of injured ribs.

"We're a different offense,

though," Rodgers said earlier in the week about his team's offensive options.

"We're doing a lot of different things than we were last year, a lot of things better. I think our offensive line is playing better. Our scheme has advanced, and we're getting more contributions from the tight end at this point.

"Davante (Adams) is a legit receiver in this league, and obviously Randall Cobb, who is established as well," he said.

# Staubach recalls when Landry installed shotgun for Cowboys

BY HOWARD FENDRICH  
AP Pro Football Writer

All these years later, Roger Staubach remembers quite clearly what his initial reaction was when Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry approached him about making the shotgun formation a recurring feature of their offense.

"I thought he was crazy or something," the former quarterback said with a snicker during a telephone interview

this week. "I mean, we're talking about 1975. Nobody used the shotgun."

The Pro Football Hall of Fame — which counts both Staubach and Landry among its members — says San Francisco 49ers coach Red Hickey introduced a form of the shotgun offense to the sport in 1960, before abandoning it during the following season. But Landry's Cowboys get credit for bringing it back and popularizing it by positioning

Staubach 5 yards behind the center.

That set the stage for what today is the most popular way for NFL offenses to line up: 60 percent of plays this season began in the shotgun, up from 19 percent in 2006, according to data provided by TruMedia Networks.

So how did it originate?

According to Staubach, Landry — who passed away in 2000 — figured he needed to try something to jump-

start the Cowboys, who were coming off an 8-6 record, a third-place finish in the NFC East and had missed the playoffs for the first time in nine years.

Landry and assistant Mike Ditka — who previously had played tight end for Dallas and would later lead the Chicago Bears to a Super Bowl title as a head coach — decided to use the shotgun formation on third downs and in 2-minute drills, because Dallas usu-

ally threw in those situations, anyway.

"We had a rough year in '74. We weren't supposed to do anything in '75," Staubach recalled. "At first, we heard some criticism. The shotgun was really unique at the time."

It also worked.

"That's when it really came into vogue," said Herm Edwards, who played against Landry's Cowboys as a defensive back for the division rival Philadelphia Eagles in

the 1970s and 1980s, then coached in the NFL. "It was a different look and, for a while, it messed up your way of looking at the quarterback's drop and defining that drop."

Staubach went from a 52.8 completion percentage and 11 touchdown passes in 1974, to 56.9 percent and 17 TDs the next season while in the shotgun part of the time.

He grew to like the formation, but not necessarily for how it helped his throwing.

# Nobody covers Edgar County sports better than The Prairie Press. Nobody.



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SCOREBOARD

SPORTS ON TV

Saturday, Jan. 14

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table of men's college basketball games including #9 Florida State vs #20 Notre Dame, #11 North Carolina vs Virginia Tech, etc.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table of women's college basketball games including Michigan St. at Rutgers, etc.

NFL FOOTBALL

Table of NFL games including FOX - NFC Divisional, Seattle at Atlanta, etc.

Sunday, Jan. 15

MEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table of men's college basketball games including BTN - Rutgers at Indiana, etc.

NBA BASKETBALL

Table of NBA games including Chicago at Memphis, etc.

NFL FOOTBALL

Table of NFL games including NBC - AFC Divisional, Pittsburgh at Kansas City, etc.

WOMEN'S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Table of women's college basketball games including CBSN - Duquesne at UMass, etc.

NBA BASKETBALL

Table of NBA games including SEC - Texas A&M at Florida, etc.

NFL FOOTBALL

Table of NFL games including FOX - NFC Divisional, Green Bay at Dallas, etc.

NCAA BASKETBALL STANDINGS

Table of ACC conference standings including Florida State, Notre Dame, North Carolina, etc.

Table of Big Ten conference standings including Michigan State, Nebraska, Maryland, etc.

Table of SEC conference standings including Kentucky, Florida, South Carolina, etc.

Table of Missouri Valley conference standings including Wichita St., Illinois State, Southern Illinois, etc.

Table of Ohio Valley conference standings including Murray State, Southeast Missouri St., Eastern Illinois, etc.

NBA

Table of Eastern Conference Atlantic division standings including Toronto Raptors, Boston Celtics, etc.

Table of Eastern Conference Central division standings including Cleveland Cavaliers, Milwaukee Bucks, etc.

Table of Eastern Conference Southeast division standings including Atlanta Hawks, Charlotte Hornets, etc.

Table of Western Conference Northwest division standings including Utah Jazz, Oklahoma City Thunder, etc.

Table of Western Conference Pacific division standings including Golden State Warriors, LA Clippers, etc.

Table of Western Conference Southwest division standings including San Antonio Spurs, Houston Rockets, etc.

NFL AT A GLANCE

WILD-CARD PLAYOFFS

Table of Wild-Card playoff games including Houston 27, Oakland 14, etc.

Table of Divisional playoff games including Pittsburgh 30, Miami 12, etc.

DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS

Table of Divisional playoff games including Seattle at Atlanta, etc.

Table of Conference Championship games including Pittsburgh at Kansas City, etc.

CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Table of Conference Championship games including National Football Conference, etc.

PRO BOWL

Table of Pro Bowl games including Sunday, Jan. 29 at Orlando, Fla.

SUPER BOWL

Table of Super Bowl games including Sunday, Feb. 5 at Houston.

NFL CALENDAR

Table of NFL calendar events including January 14-15 Divisional playoff games, etc.

SUPER BOWL HISTORY

Table of Super Bowl history from 1967 to 2016 including Green Bay 35, Kansas City 10, etc.

Broncos begin staff overhaul

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Not even a year ago they were riding firetrucks through downtown Denver with the players to celebrate their Super Bowl 50 victory. Now, the Broncos' coaching staff is undergoing a major overhaul.

New coach Vance Joseph hired Mike McCoy as his offensive coordinator on Friday, and the defending champs are also getting new defensive and special teams coordinators.

McCoy, the former Chargers head coach, is everything Joseph said he wanted in his offensive play-caller: creative, energetic, seasoned.

"Mike is an experienced play-caller who can build a system around our players," Joseph said. "It was our goal to find an offensive coordinator who has flexibility with his scheme and Mike has done that as both a head coach and coordinator. He's had a lot of success in this league with many different styles of offense, including here with the Broncos."

McCoy, who was Denver's offensive coordinator from 2009-12, replaces Rick Dennison, whose offense struggled over the last two years under four different quarterbacks.

During his first stint in Denver, McCoy molded an offense around Tim Tebow in 2011 that led to an improbable victory over Pittsburgh in the playoffs. The following season he helped Peyton Manning earn Comeback Player of the Year, an award he then helped Philip Rivers win in 2013 as Chargers head coach.

Now he'll get the chance to mold young quarterbacks Trevor Siemian and Paxton Lynch.

Elway hired Joseph after Gary Kubiak's abrupt resignation last week over health concerns.

Defensive coordinator Wade Phillips is finalizing a deal to join the Los Angeles Rams and special teams coordinator Joe DeCamillis was hired by the Jacksonville Jaguars on Friday.

Phillips tweeted goodbye to Denver on Friday, saying: "Thanks to John for bringing me, the greatest staff, to Gary our leader, to the best players ever and to the greatest fans. I will miss you."

With Phillips leaving, the focus shifts to Joe Woods, who spent the last two seasons coaching Denver's No. 1 Fly Zone secondary that produced the No. 1 pass defense each year.

Unlike Elway's first two hires, John Fox and Kubiak, who had head coaching experience when they arrived, the 44-year-old Joseph is a first-time head coach. He has just one year of experience as defensive coordinator, last year in Miami, and Elway said he will have to, "grow on the run."

So, Elway is giving more advice this time around as his head coach hires his staff, and will likely stay more involved going forward.

"I hope I can help him," Elway said. "With the experience that I've had, not only as a player but now in this role I've been in as GM, I'm hoping to help him tremendously. Vance knows what he wants on offense on his staff and as well as offensively. I can give input. Ultimately it is Vance's staff."

Joseph inherits a defense that features All Pros Von Miller, Aqib Talib and Chris Harris Jr. but struggled against the run after losing Malik Jackson to free agency and Vance Walker to a knee injury.

The Broncos finished 27th in the NFL on offense in 2016 when an inability to solve slow starts, leaky line play and poor production in the receiving game outside of Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders combined to neutralize the team's defense.

Orioles sign Machado, Britton to big contracts

BALTIMORE (AP) — Orioles star infielder Manny Machado and ace closer Zach Britton have gotten hefty raises and will make more than \$11 million each after reaching agreements on one-year deals.

Starter Chris Tillman also settled with Baltimore on Friday at \$10.05 million, with all three players avoiding arbitration.

with 37 home runs, 96 RBIs and a .294 batting average. He had 114 starts at third base and 43 at shortstop.

The 29-year-old Britton will get \$11.4 million. He made \$6.9 million last season when he went 47 for 47 in save opportunities, had a 0.54 ERA and finished fourth in Cy Young voting.

Machado and Britton are eligible for free agency after the 2018 season.

Tillman started on opening day and the right-hander was ace of the Orioles' staff, going 16-6.

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## TODAY IN HISTORY

COMPILED BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Jan. 14, the 14th day of 2017. There are 351 days left in the year.

### TODAY'S HIGHLIGHT IN HISTORY:

On Jan. 14, 1967, the Sixties' "Summer of Love" unofficially began with a "Human Be-In," a gathering of tens of thousands of young people for a counterculture event at Golden Gate Park in San Francisco.

### ON THIS DATE:

In 1784, the United States ratified the Treaty of Paris ending the Revolutionary War; Britain followed suit in April 1784.

In 1814, the Treaty of Kiel ended hostilities between Denmark and Sweden, with Denmark agreeing to cede Norway to Sweden, something Norway refused to accept.

In 1900, Puccini's opera "Tosca" had its world premiere in Rome.

In 1927, the Paramount silent romantic comedy "It," starring Clara Bow (who became known as "The 'It' Girl"), had its world premiere in Los Angeles.

In 1943, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and French General Charles de Gaulle opened a wartime conference in Casablanca.

In 1952, NBC's "Today" show premiered, with Dave Garroway as the host, or communicator.

In 1954, Marilyn Monroe and Joe DiMaggio were married at San Francisco City Hall. (The marriage lasted about nine months.)

In 1963, George C. Wallace was sworn in as governor of Alabama with the pledge, "Segregation forever!" — a view Wallace later repudiated. Sylvia Plath's novel "The Bell Jar" was published in London under a pseudonym less than a month before Plath committed suicide.

In 1969, 27 people aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, off Hawaii, were killed when a rocket warhead exploded, setting off a fire and additional explosions.

In 1975, the House Internal Security Committee (formerly the House Un-American Activities Committee) was disbanded.

In 1989, President Ronald Reagan delivered his 331st and final weekly White House radio address, telling listeners, "Believe me, Saturdays will never seem the same. I'll miss you."

In 1994, President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin signed an accord to stop aiming missiles at any nation; the leaders joined Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in signing an accord to dismantle the nuclear arsenal of Ukraine.

### TEN YEARS AGO

President George W. Bush, facing opposition from both parties over his plan to send more troops to Iraq, said on CBS' "60 Minutes" he had the authority to act no matter what Congress wanted. On "Fox News Sunday," Vice President Dick Cheney asserted lawmakers' criticism would not influence Bush's plans, and he dismissed any effort to "run a war by committee." Actress Darlene Conley, feisty fashion mogul Sally Spectra on "The Bold and the Beautiful," died in Los Angeles at age 72.

### ONE YEAR AGO

During a Republican presidential debate in North Charleston, South Carolina, Donald Trump and Ted Cruz clashed over the Texas senator's eligibility to serve as commander in chief and the businessman's "New York values." Chicago city attorneys released a grainy 2013 surveillance video showing the fatal shooting of a 17-year-old black carjacking suspect by a white police officer. Attackers set off suicide bombs and exchanged gunfire outside a Starbucks cafe in Indonesia's capital Jakarta in a brazen assault that left seven people dead. Actor Alan Rickman, 69, died in London. Rene Angelil, 73, Celine Dion's husband and manager, died at his suburban Las Vegas home.

# Obama follows tradition

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

President Obama delivered a farewell address to the American people in Chicago, exactly one month shy of a decade after he announced his candidacy for president as a freshman senator from Illinois.

By taking the opportunity to deliver a valedictory address to the nation as he leaves office, Obama is following a tradition that goes all the way back to George Washington, whose written message announcing his intention to step down from the presidency in 1796 still stands as the most famous presidential farewell in the nation's history.

Undoubtedly the most famous of all presidential farewells was also the first: George Washington's address to the American people announcing his intention to step down from the presidency after two terms in office. The 32-page address, originally published in the American Daily Advertiser on September 19, 1796, opened by explaining his rationale for leaving the presidency, despite pressure from the public and others in government to seek a third term in office. Washington went on to express some principles he believed should guide the growing nation in the future, including unity, patriotism and

neutrality.

James Madison had drafted an earlier version of the address four years earlier, when Washington considered stepping down after his first term. It was Alexander Hamilton who wrote the majority of the final version, however, Washington adjusted it making sure to express his own ideas. He warned against the influence of foreign powers, cautioning the United States "to steer clear of permanent Alliances" that might not serve its interests. In effect, this strict neutrality stance amounted to an anti-French position, as it contradicted an earlier treaty of mutual support between the United

States and France. Washington also memorably warned of the dangers of sectionalism and factionalism, the divisions based on party politics that even then were growing more and more bitter within the new nation's government and among its people.

His fears of increasing partisan divisions came to pass (and then some) in the centuries to come, ensuring that his parting words to the nation continue to resonate today.

Washington's shadow loomed so large that no succeeding chief executive dared to follow his example and deliver a formal farewell address to the nation

— until Andrew Jackson. At some 8,247 words, Jackson's message stands as the longest presidential farewell in history. Despite the fact, "our country has improved and is flourishing beyond any former example in the history of nations," Jackson warned of the growing dangers of sectionalism and of a shadowy, "money power," represented by banks and corporations, that threatened the liberties of ordinary citizens.

In the modern era, as radio and television made it possible for the president to address the nation more directly and immediately, the frequency of the farewell address to the nation

See **OBAMA**, Page 6B

# Long forgotten towns of Edgar County

BY ROGER STANLEY  
Rstanley1937@hotmail.com

It is a given most of the land of Edgar County was first settled in the areas with ample forests and water supplies. The many travelers headed west out of Paris in Embarrass Township found those features in this area.

The name for the area was given to the one waterway draining that part of the country. There is some discussion if Embarrass is the correct annunciation or if Ambrah was. Many of the locals preferred Ambrah, but the writer of the 1879 History of Edgar County preferred the English version which is just like it looks, Embarrass.

Along Catfish Creek, John Crist — a backwoodsman from Kentucky — built a cabin and found himself in the midst of great hunting grounds and even fish in the stream nearby. This was before the township law was passed. The area was known as Fairfield Precinct and included the areas that later became Symmes, Paris, Grandview, Kansas, Buck and much of Embarrass townships.

Crist was not interested in having neighbors close by, so in a couple of years as people came to live within a few miles he decided to move on to Texas.

In the next few years, there were several families that moved into the area. In 1836, the remote area settlement had a store, blacksmith shop and the first school and church. Mail was delivered from Kansas by horseback. It was called Catfish Mill after a mill was built on a nearby stream.

When the railroad bypassed Cat-



Special to The Prairie Press

Laborers clear farm land in Embarrass Township in western Edgar County.

fish Mill, the businesses closed and the settlement did not grow into a real village. The people remaining sent their kids to Isabel or Brocton and the church members did the same.

Down the improved road heading toward Springfield, another site for a settlement appeared. Dubbed Athens or Midland, it was started in 1840. A stagecoach brought

many travelers to the area as they passed through Fairfield Precinct en route west. Soon there were several houses and businesses in a village laid out by John Potter. Nathaniel Wayne built a tavern or wayside inn and the town was called New Athens. When the railroad bypassed the town, it sank into oblivion. By 1878, there were only a half dozen buildings still in

existence.

Further south and on the edge of what was to become Embarrass Township, a grand location for a town was discovered. Warrington was laid out in 1851 by John Sanders. This small settlement needed a means of trade and communication, like a stop on the railroad. The tracks did not make it there in that time frame, but the town was reinvigorated when the Old Doty railroad came through in 1879. From 1881 and for the next 60 years, a livestock yard, grain elevator and depot kept active. The Doty was deactivated and in 1950 the elevator burned along with the other surviving buildings. All that remains is a rebuilt elevator along the curve on state Route 49.

The railroad made its way through the new township in 1856

See **TOWNS**, Page 6B

# The evolution of the presidential cabinet

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The presidential Cabinet has come a long way since Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson used to duke it out during the Washington administration.

As they painstakingly hammered out a U.S. Constitution in the spring and summer of 1787, constitutional delegates toyed with the idea of a presidential advisory body, which came to be known as the Cabinet. One proposal called for a privy council composed of, among others, the president of the Senate, the speaker of the House and the chief justice of the Supreme Court. In the end, however, the delegates couldn't agree on, "who should be on this council—or who should pick them," according to Richard J. Ellis, a politics professor



Special to The Prairie Press

President Dwight D. Eisenhower prepares to discuss his cabinet in a speech to the nation in the 1950s.

at Willamette University in Oregon who has authored several books on the American presidency. As a result, the Consti-

tution makes no mention of anything like a Cabinet, instead saying only that the president shall have the power to appoint

executive department heads, with the Senate's approval, and the president, "may require the opinion, in writing," of these

officials. "The framers were of many minds on the question of how to establish an advisory apparatus," Ellis said, "and so took the path of least resistance and left it to be hashed out later."

But although no mandate required him to form a Cabinet, President George Washington found the concept useful for soliciting advice on, "interesting questions of national importance."

On September 11, 1789, just a few months after taking office, he sent his first nomination — Alexander Hamilton for Secretary of the Treasury — to the Senate, which within minutes unanimously approved the choice. Three more confirmations quickly followed: Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of War Henry Knox

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## OBAMA

FROM PAGE 5B

address increased greatly. Harry Truman, who revived the tradition, was the first president whose remarks were broadcast from the Oval Office. On January 15, 1953, Truman spoke about some of the controversial decisions he made while in office — particularly dropping the atomic bomb on Japan — and asked the nation to imagine themselves in the president's shoes when faced with such a momentous decision. Truman also invoked the horrors of a potential third world war, this time with nuclear weapons: "Starting an atomic war is totally unthinkable for rational men."

Among the post-World War II presidential farewells, arguably the most famous has been that of Dwight D. Eisenhower, who delivered his remarks from the Oval Office on January 17, 1961. At the time, Eisenhower's farewell was overshadowed by the subsequent inauguration of the youthful, dynamic John F. Kennedy, with his call for a new era of American leadership on the world stage. ("Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can

do for your country.") But over the years, it is the former general's famous warning to look inward, at the rise of the "military-industrial complex" designed to gird the nation against the Soviet Union, that may offer the more meaningful lessons today.

Despite stressing the importance of the military establishment to keep the peace at home and abroad, Eisenhower urged caution: "This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience... Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications." The outgoing president also argued for the central importance of balance in government, and the resistance of the idea that "some spectacular and costly action could become the miraculous solution to all current difficulties."

Since Eisenhower, it's tough to say that any president has made as much of an impact with his farewell remarks, but there have certainly been some memorable moments. Richard Nixon, who resigned in disgrace in 1974 after the Watergate scandal, didn't neglect to make a farewell speech—two of them, in fact. His resignation announcement on August 8, 1974, is often considered to be his farewell to the nation, but he also delivered farewell remarks to his White House staff the following day, which were broadcast to the nation.

Ronald Reagan, speaking to the nation from the Oval Office on January 11, 1989, voiced his pride in the nation's economic recovery during his presidency and stressed the importance of patriotism. "People ask how I feel about leaving. And the fact is, 'parting is such sweet sorrow,'" Reagan said. "The sweet part is California and the ranch and freedom. The sorrow — the goodbyes, of course, and leaving this beautiful place."

In his farewell from the Oval Office in January 2001, Bill Clinton stressed the accomplishments of his presidency (chief among them a booming U.S. economy) and urged the nation to treat its diverse population with "fairness and dignity, regardless of their race, religion, gender or sexual orientation and regardless of when they arrived in our country, always moving toward the more perfect union of our founders' dreams."

George W. Bush opened his farewell address on January 15, 2009, by calling the election of his successor, Barack Obama, "a moment of hope and pride for our whole nation." He referred back to the first time he addressed the nation from the White House, after the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. In the years since, Bush said, he had always acted with the best interests of the country in mind, and had followed his conscience. "You may not agree with some of the tough decisions I have made. But I hope you can agree that I was willing to make the tough decisions."

## TOWNS

FROM PAGE 5B

about 14 years after. Things changed and yet another town sprung up named Isabel. It was named after John Corzine's wife, who owned the ground where the community was built. Aided by Timmons and Housel, Corzine laid out the village.

In 1872, the first store was established by J.W. and C.D. Pearce moving their store from Catfish. Soon there were more stores built by John Stokes and Lewis Kees who also built a grain house. A grain elevator was constructed and a Dr. J. G. Mulvane established his practice there and set up a drugstore. There were several other

businesses and homes moving into Isabel from the now defunct town of New Athens.

As the railroad grew and improved, a passenger car was located at the end of a train and the citizens of the area to catch a ride to Paris to do their shopping. In 1915, Dr. G. English, A. B. Austin and J. W. Powers created a bank. Within a couple of years, the bank closed and was rebuilt serving until 1930. Between 1920 and 1944 there were many businesses in Isabel such as an implement store and livery by Fred Parker, a restaurant by B. L. Campbell, a general store and barber shop and a blacksmith. Those all burned before the early 1940s, but by 1944 a post office and

store operated by Dorothy Dunne emerged. Other businesses were J. B. Ogden's hardware and store, Bill Davidson's blacksmith shop and a cob crushing service owned by Albert Rogers.

In the early 1950s, the Isabel post office and store were closed and the only business left in town was a fertilizer company. There was a lady in the town making rag rugs from old clothing and scraps that people brought her. The Brooks and Stanley families remember watching her operate her loom to weave rugs back in the 1940s and 1950s.

Isabel was the birthplace of Lester C. Hunt, 19th Governor of Wyoming.

## LOOKING FOR LINCOLN EXHIBITS REVIEWED



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Efforts to make Edgar County a Looking for Lincoln community were reviewed Thursday by an outside panel. The group looked at exhibits the local committee created for Paris Public Library, the Bicentennial Art Center, the Edgar County Historical Society and a storefront window on the Paris Square. Discussion also included future plans. Left to right, Matthew Mittelstaedt, site superintendent at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site; Sue Richter, Vermillion County Museum; Barb Garvey, Museum of the Grand Prairie; Chuck Hand, local Looking for Lincoln committee; and Heather Wickens, Looking for Lincoln Program Manager.

## CABINET

FROM PAGE 5B

Attorney General Edmund Randolph (the latter of whom, since he worked only part-time for the government, retained his private law practice). At first, Washington consulted with his four Cabinet members individually. By fall 1791, however, he began convening the whole group, and these meetings became commonplace in 1793 as tensions with revolutionary France heated up. Jefferson later wrote he and Hamilton were, "daily pitted in the Cabinet like two cocks," arguing feverishly over such things as the constitutionality of a national bank.

Since then, the number of executive departments—and hence the Cabinet—has slowly but steadily increased. The Department of the Navy (now part of the Department of Defense) was the first new one added in 1798 during the so-called XYZ Affair, Interior and Agriculture came in 1849 and 1889, respectively, as the United States expanded West, and Labor and Commerce (soon to be split into two) arose in 1903 as the nation underwent rapid industrialization. Four new departments were created in the 1960s and 1970s alone, followed by the Department of Veterans Affairs in 1989 and, most recently, the Department of Homeland Security, which formed in the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Initially, the vice president was not a Cabinet member, one reason that John Adams famously referred to it as, "the most insignificant office that ever the invention of man contrived or his

imagination conceived." But in 1921, President Warren Harding invited VP Calvin Coolidge to regularly attend Cabinet meetings and to preside in his absence, and President Dwight D. Eisenhower solidified that practice three decades later. The postmaster general, meanwhile, was a Cabinet position for over 140 years prior to losing that status in 1971 when Congress re-designated the Post Office as an independent establishment of the executive branch.

Today, the Cabinet consists of the vice president, plus the heads of the 15 executive departments. Seven additional positions are currently considered cabinet-rank, including the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the White House chief of staff. Andrew Rudalevige, a professor of government at Bowdoin College in Maine, explained the four original Cabinet posts—Defense, State, Treasury and Attorney General—remain the most important and are sometimes referred to as the inner Cabinet.

"They get the best seats at the Cabinet table, and the people who are appointed tend to be high stature," he said, adding they deal with the, "core functions of government: defense, diplomacy, money and protection of the law." Most of the other executive departments, Rudalevige said, "grew out of interest groups that needed to be managed in some way."

In theory, Cabinet meetings serve as a forum for exchanging ideas, resolving interdepartmental disputes and maintaining administrative coherence. In actuality, however, the days

of Hamilton and Jefferson's verbal bouts are long gone, largely because it's difficult to have a meaningful conversation with so many people in the room.

"The Cabinet as a collective advisory body is a nonfactor in the modern presidency," Ellis said. "Cabinet meetings are infrequent, perfunctory and essentially meaningless."

Presidents often take office promising to hold regular Cabinet meetings, Rudalevige added, but, "then they realize they hate them." President John F. Kennedy, for example, once asked why the postmaster general should, "sit there and listen to a discussion of the problems of Laos" whereas President Richard Nixon was even more blunt, telling his national security advisor, "Screw the Cabinet ... I'm sick of the whole bunch."

That's not to say, though, that Cabinet picks aren't important. All are responsible for running their massive executive departments, which together employ more than 4 million people, and many provide key advice to the president on an individual basis. Cabinet members moreover play a key political role, providing public support for White House policies and technical expertise in implementing them. And while a competent Cabinet can enhance a presidency, the opposite is likewise true. The administrations of Ulysses S. Grant and Warren Harding, for example, were both marred by scandals in the Cabinet, whereas in 1979 Jimmy Carter purged five Cabinet members all at once over questions of loyalty. "There's often a love-hate relationship between the president and the Cabinet," Rudalevige said.

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# Soil health a constant challenge

Cochran Agronomics holds meeting on improving soil fertility, presents alternative approach to limestone application

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Farming begins with the soil and keeping soil healthy and fertile is one of the challenges facing farmers.

Cochran Agronomics sponsored an information meeting Tuesday for its clients regarding issues of fertility and the quest for higher yields. Phil Cochran discussed his company's unique approach for maintaining fertility, and University of Illinois professor Fred Below and graduate student Tryston Beyrer reviewed research and what the future may hold.

"Our whole premise is to maintain your pH in a flat

plane year after year," said Cochran. "We do this by short, but frequent limestone applications."

Soil pH is a measure of how acid or alkaline a soil is. A reading of seven indicates neutral soil. Anything below seven is considered acidic and soils above seven are regarded as alkaline.

"You need a pH in the low sixes for soil bacteria to create soil mineralization," Cochran said.

His approach calls for frequent soil tests, beyond the normal three to four-year cycle and applying smaller amounts of limestone to keep pH consistent. He said long intervals between test-

ing results in pH yo-yoing and requiring large applications of other fertilizers.

Cochran Agronomics has 35 years worth of records, which creates a long trend line of data showing what is happening in the soil. He pointed to 2009 when the cost of fertilizer skyrocketed and producers responded by cutting back on chemical purchases. The result of not replenishing the soil showed up in subsequent soil tests.

"Phosphorous dived," said Cochran, noting phosphorous levels in his clients' fields are starting to return to normal with the company's liming methods.

It is a constant balancing act. Cochran explained the high performing hybrids take a lot from the soil, which requires farmers to put back more for the next crop.

Cochran's soil tests measure for more than pH level and the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium essential for corn production. He is also concerned about what he referred to as the minor elements — like boron — in the soil.

"The minor elements are low and have been low for years," Cochran said.

Below busted what he called an urban farming legend that holds it is ben-

eficial to plant soybeans and follow with corn because nodules on the root system of soybeans produce nitrogen that remains in the soil to help the following corn crop.

He said the nitrogen produced by the nodules all goes into helping the plant produce stems and leaves and are exhausted before pods set and beans form. At that point, the plant cannibalizes nitrogen stored in the leaves for grain production.

"If you are going to grow high yield you have to supplement the crop (with nitrogen)," Below said.

He acknowledged corn

does get a boost in production by following a soybean rotation because the bean plants form taproots that break the soil in a way beneficial to the corn root system. Also, corn does not perform well growing stover from a previous corn crop.

Below also called for re-considering how soil tests are read. He said current soil fertility formulas were devised in the 1960s and 1970s when plant density was not as great as current farming techniques.

Soil testing, he said, still adheres to a feed the soil mentality when the goal

See SOIL, Page 8B

## USDA has resources to help conservation

Landowners in Clark and Edgar County may be eligible to receive financial help for making conservation and environmental improvements to their property.



IVAN DOZIER

HELP THE LAND

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has a variety of programs promoting good environmental stewardship.

Special funding for precision conservation management is available through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) for farmers in Edgar and Douglas counties.

Precision conservation management is an innovative service program designed to apply financial farm business planning information with precision conservation technology to help farmers make intelligent conservation decisions. NRCS has partnered with the Illinois Corn Growers Association to help producers address resource concerns, such as water quality and soil health.

There are several different federal programs producers can apply for and use with this RCPP project. Producers can pick the one that best fits their needs.

- The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) offers assistance to help implement practices like cover crops, nutrient management or saturated buffers.

- The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) allows producers to build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation by adding new conservation enhancements on their land.

- The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) can provide long-term financial and technical assistance that helps producers conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits using land conservation easements.

- Using the Wetlands Reserve Easements component, producers can restore, protect and enhance enrolled wetlands for future generations.

Clark County is one of 37 Illinois counties selected to participate in an effort to improve oak/history forests.

We're offering this through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) as part of a new project in the Regional Conservation Partnership Program, or RCPP. This effort is a partnership with the Illinois Forestry Development Council and several other organizations to help landowners and farmers address resource concerns that impact forested lands, such as water quality and soil health.

Special EQIP funds are available through the new project to improve Illinois' oak-hickory tree populations. Eligible forestry practices landowners can install include: forest stand improvement, brush management, herbaceous weed control, tree/shrub site preparation, tree/shrub establishment and prescribed burning.

Updated Geographic Area Rate Caps, or "GARCs" for the Wetland Reserve Easement Program are now in place. New payment rates vary regionally across the state and are based on a more recent market analysis data that reflects land value changes on cropland and non-cropland. Edgar, Clark, Douglas, Coles and Vermilion counties are in the zone where payments range between \$3,400 and \$5,400.

By selling an easement under the Wetland Reserve Program, landowners receive a lump sum cash payment in exchange for restoring or converting marginal agricultural land to wetland areas. The program goals are science and conservation-based -- to restore the greatest wetland value possible, while also offering optimum wildlife habitat on every acre enrolled.

Because the program intent is to restore current cropland to its former wetland condition, all WRE applications must include areas with at least 50 percent cropland.

More information on all of these programs is available by contacting local NRCS offices or visiting [www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/](http://www.il.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/). A Jan. 20 application deadline applies to several of these programs.

(Ivan Dozier is the Illinois Natural Resources Conservation Service state conservationist. Email him at [paige.buck@il.usda.gov](mailto:paige.buck@il.usda.gov).)



Special to The Prairie Press

Heirloom seeds are available for a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, carrots, potatoes and onions.

## Heirloom veggies a growing trend

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

As gardeners are considering what they will plant in their vegetable and flower gardens this spring, many are considering whether the choices should consider heirloom vegetables.

Raising heirloom vegetables has become something of a cause among rural and urban gardeners — perhaps even something of a movement.

According to the Plant Natural Research Center, which provides advice to those who are attempting to be organic gardeners, the reasons for the rising popularity of heirlooms are as diverse as the heirlooms themselves. Not only does the growing of heirloom vegetables and the saving of its seed preserve and enhance biodiversity, it makes available flavorful, condition-specific, disease-resistant vegetables that might otherwise be lost to the harsh economics of seed marketing and the even harsher practices of industrial agriculture. Growing heirlooms is a direct link to our heritage, making a connection to generations of gardeners who worked the earth before us. It also allows us to extend the connection to our children, grandchildren and beyond.

The most famous story connected to an heirloom vegetable's name has to be that of



Special to The Prairie Press

Heirloom tomatoes come in all colors.

the Mortgage Lifter Tomato. The Mortgage Lifter was developed during the Great Depression by a guy named "Radiator Charlie." When his West Virginia radiator business suffered because of the economic calamity, Charlie took to his garden and in a few years, through careful cross-pollination, had

developed a huge, meaty tomato that bred true. He sold starts of these tomatoes for \$1. In a few years, he sold enough tomato plants to pay off his largest debt — a \$6,000 mortgage.

Stories of heirloom vegetables' origins are a large part of their charm. But heirlooms, because of their hardiness and disease and pest resistance, are more than just charming. They play a valuable role in organic gardens. As the number of varieties offered by commercial seed companies shrinks, it's encouraging to know that heirlooms are becoming as popular as they were in Radiator Charlie's day.

According to Eric Vinje of Plant Natural, the reasons to grow heirloom vegetables, herbs and flowers are practical, aesthetic and patrimonial.

The practical reasons are easy to list — local hardiness, disease and pest resistance developed over a number of years, the ability to grow and harvest seed of our own, he said.

Another practical heirloom advantage is their adaptability to both climate and soil conditions. Unlike hybrids, which are genetically engineered to produce a specific product over a wide-range of growing conditions — often favoring such qualities

See HEIRLOOM, Page 8B

## Ethanol industry breaks new record

BY DARREL GOOD  
d-good@illinois.edu

The U.S. ethanol industry ended 2016 on a high note. Ethanol production for the week ending December 30 set a new ethanol production record with an average of 1.043 million barrels per day. The March futures price for corn moved higher last week to close at \$3.58 in large part due to strength in the ethanol sector. Ethanol production and exports returned strong numbers over the first quarter of the marketing year. Currently, the WASDE forecast for corn consumption for ethanol production is 5.3 billion bushels. When taking into account an increase in projected gasoline consumption in 2017 and robust ethanol export levels, the ability to surpass this projec-

tion is a strong possibility.

Domestic ethanol consumption in 2017 will be influenced by domestic gasoline consumption due to the ethanol blending requirement, and the biofuels volume requirement associated with the Renewable Fuels Standard. The EPA final rulemaking for the Renewable Fuels Standard for 2017 was released on November 23 and is discussed in greater detail in the Nov. 30, 2016, farmdoc daily article. In brief, the renewable fuels volume requirement is set at 19.28 billion gallons for 2017, which is up from the 18.11 billion gallons required in 2016. The conventional ethanol requirement is set at 15 billion gallons for 2017, 500 million gallons larger than 2016 and equal to the statutory require-

ment level. If the gasoline consumption forecast used by the EPA is correct, the E-10 blend wall will be 14.36 billion gallons in 2017. The EPA believes an ethanol supply of 14.56 billion gallons is reasonably attainable in 2017. Within the 14.56 billion gallons, E15 and E85 blends are expected to be 107 and 204 million gallons respectively. The ability to attain the E15 and E85 blend levels remains to be seen, but the increase in ethanol requirements provides support for greater corn usage in 2017.

U.S. retail gasoline prices averaged \$2.14 per gallon in 2016, which is 12 percent less than the price experienced in 2015 and the lowest since 2004. The December Energy Information Agency (EIA) Short Term Ener-

gy Outlook projected an increase in gasoline prices for 2017 to \$2.30 per gallon. Despite the projection of higher gasoline prices, gasoline consumption is forecast at 143.60 billion gallons in 2017, which is up from the 142.72 billion gallons consumed in 2016. Ethanol production is forecast to be 1 million barrels per day. If the EIA projection is correct, approximately 15.3 billion gallons of ethanol will be produced in 2017. When considering the robust ethanol export trade currently in process, the U.S. ethanol industry is expected to produce a record level of ethanol in 2017.

Ethanol export numbers are available from U.S. Census trade data for 2016 through November. U.S. exports of ethanol thus

See ETHANOL, Page 8B

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# Agriculture blogger starts up again

**KEITH GOOD AG BLOGSITE**  
Special to The Prairie Press

URBANA — Fans of Keith Good's Farmpolicy.com website who were sad to see it discontinued in 2015 will be happy to hear about his new University of Illinois blogsite. The site, farmpolicynews.illinois.edu, features topics of interest to Corn Belt farmers such as: land values, farm income variables, agricultural production estimates, Farm Bill developments, trade issues, biofuels news, regulatory proposals and other topics that are impacting the agri-

cultural economy. Good draws from many different resources when reviewing a topic to post on the site. "I use current newspaper articles, government reports, extensions updates, Federal Reserve Bank reports, Congressional hearings and news releases to disseminate easy-to-digest, informative posts," said Good. The content of the new "Farm Policy News" blog is of interest to a diverse audience. The site was created to expand the reach of the popular "farmdoc" and "farmdoc

daily" efforts and supplement that information with timely and relevant policy news and economic information. Both "farmdoc" and "farmdoc daily" are managed by the Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at U of I. Good emphasizes the new site is different from the former Farmpolicy.com. "Rather than a comprehensive update containing most of the developments in the latest news cycle, the updates at the new site will

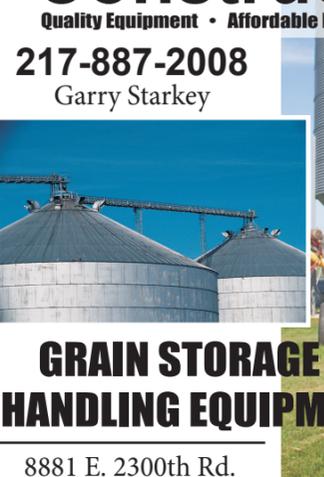
be more narrowly tailored to one particular topic that is currently in the news," he said. "In addition, unlike the old site, where updates were posted on a strict early-morning deadline each weekday, posts at the new site will be made about four times a week and will likely be posted at various times during the day." Anyone interested in receiving regular updates can subscribe to "Farm Policy News" via an RSS feed or through social media including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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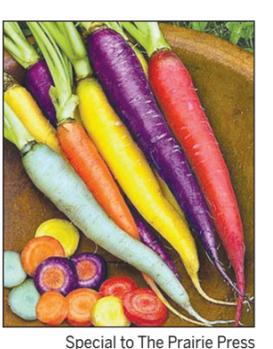
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## HEIRLOOM

FROM PAGE 7B

as size, ship-ability, shelf-life and appearance over flavor — heirlooms have adapted to growing conditions and developed disease resistance over a long period of time. These are traits organic gardeners may rely on. And while disease resistance may be engineered into a hybrid crop, it's often at the expense of general quality. Vinje said the superior taste of heirloom vegetables compared to commercial mono-cultural vegetables grown by industrial agricultural methods, makes them hugely attractive. Grow Brandywine, Stupice, the classic Rutgers or any of the dozens of unique tomatoes, from Green Zebra to Thessaloniki and have your palette — and your thinking — changed forever. Often overlooked is the fact homegrown heirlooms almost always have more nutritional value than their hybrid, commercially-grown counterparts.



Special to The Prairie Press  
**Heirloom carrots aren't just orange.**

Heirlooms make a direct link to history and the gardening practices of preceding generations, he said. Having the ability to grow and collect your own seed — seed that you will then plant come the next growing season — is as satisfying as harvesting the vegetables for the table. And even if you buy heirloom seed from a reputable source, as the majority of gardeners do, the satisfaction you gain from growing traditional vegetables our forebears grew gives you a direct connection to gardening heritage.

"The most important reason to grow heirloom vegetables is to preserve biodiversity," Vinje emphasized. "Just as the world's animal populations decline and go extinct, so have many of the food crops that were grown for decades, even centuries, become lost." As commercial practices concentrate their crops into fewer and fewer, mostly engineered and hybrid varieties, our ability to produce food in the face of drought, widespread disease and pestilence declines. The number of non-hybrid seed types sold by seed companies decreased from 5,000 in 1981 to 600 in less than 20 years. The Millennium Seed Bank Partnership estimates 60,000-100,000 plant species are threatened with extinction, he said. Those who grow and collect the seed of heirlooms could well save the planet. "Heirloom plants are definitely not Genetically Modified Organisms or GMOs — those corporate-owned food crops engineered with an

eye to the bottom line," Vinje explained. "They are not F1 hybrids, seed resulting from artificial or otherwise controlled pollination of two or more specific plants to achieve certain qualities, such as resistance to a particular disease or the kind of thick skins that make tomatoes easier to ship." Vinje urged those considering heirloom seeds should check out Lynn Coulter's book "Gardening with Heirloom Seeds," from the University of North Carolina Press. He said Coulter notes, "Heirloom seeds aren't just about gardening. Throughout the centuries they have been intricately linked with medicine, love, romance, exploration, discovery and poisons. They have been part of history, science, cooking, literature, fairy tales, genetics and wildlife. They are wrapped up in farming, travel, state fairs, archeology, philosophy and so much more. When you plant heirloom seeds remember where they've been. Keep them going."

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## ETHANOL

FROM PAGE 7B

far are at 948 million gallons — up almost 27 percent from the similar period in 2015. For 2016, the pros-

pect of ethanol exports exceeding 1 billion gallons is not unreasonable. Canada, China, and Brazil imported approximately 67 percent of the ethanol shipped from the U.S. through November. The increase in ethanol exports is driven largely by increased volumes sent to China and Brazil. China imported 179 million gallons through November, which far exceeds the 73.8 million gallons imported during the entirety of 2015. Brazil imported 224 million gallons through November, almost double its imports from 2015. As we progress into 2017, the increases are expected to persist in Brazil since high sugar prices are expected to decrease ethanol production as mills allocate cane for sugar production in 2017. There is concern China could raise ethanol tariffs and reduce ethanol

imports in 2017 due to a possible trade dispute with the new administration. The implications for corn consumption during the 2016-17 marketing year can be seen in the USDA Grain Crushing and Co-Product Production report released January 3. Grain crushing for fuel alcohol is available through November. For the first three months of the marketing year, 1.34 billion bushels of corn has been processed for ethanol. This is up 3.2 percent from 2015 processing numbers. If corn used for ethanol production maintains this pace, 5.37 billion bushels will be processed in the marketing year. Using EIA weekly ethanol production numbers, December ethanol production averaged over 1 million barrels per day. These production levels place corn use for eth-

anol production in a range of 455 to 460 million bushels for the month if corn use maintains the pace of the three previous months. With a conservative estimate of corn crush in December, total corn consumption for ethanol production through the first third of the marketing year would be above the current WASDE projection. Lower corn prices, strong ethanol exports, and greater blending requirements combine to make 2017 appear to be a strong year for corn consumption in ethanol production. If the U.S. ethanol industry produced over 1 million barrels per day for the entire year, the ability to blend at requirement levels under an expanded gasoline consumption scenario and meet potential export market demand bodes well for corn use in the sector for 2017.

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## SOIL

FROM PAGE 7B

should be to fertilize to feed the plant using a variety of technologies to get the fertilizer placed for easy access by root systems. Beyrer echoed Below's comments noting U of I test plots are experimenting with a tool bar implement

that bands fertilizer directly into the row under the seed. "It is important for the plant to be close enough to the fertilizer for the plant to sense it," said Beyrer. "The closer we are to the fertilizer the better the yield." Both researchers said the future of corn and soybean production requires going from a 30-inch row spacing

to perhaps 22 or 20 inches and leaving less space between plants. Such a practice inhibits root growth so it will be necessary to apply more fertilizer in an effort to get even bigger yields. "I am confident that more yield will be possible with more corn plants in narrow rows, but it will require better fertilization," said Below.

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**SONG & BOOK**

## The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store

- Top Songs**
1. 24K Magic, Bruno Mars
  2. Bad and Boujee (feat. Lil Uzi Vert), Migos
  3. Mercy, Shawn Mendes
  4. I Don't Wanna Live Forever (Fifty Shades Darker), ZAYN & Taylor Swift
  5. Black Beatles (feat. Gucci Mane), Rae Sremmurd
  6. All Time Low, Jon Bellion
  7. Closer (feat. Halsey), The Chainsmokers
  8. This Town, Niall Horan
  9. Fake Love, Drake
  10. Starboy (feat. Daft Punk), The Weeknd
- Top Albums**
1. La La Land (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
  2. Sing (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack), Various Artists
  3. Views, Drake
  4. 24K Magic, Bruno Mars
  5. Blurryface, twenty one pilots
  6. Blue & Lonesome, The Rolling Stones
  7. Hamilton, Original Broadway Cast of Hamilton
  8. Death of A Bachelor, Panic! At the Disco
  9. 4 Your Eyez Only, J. Cole
  10. Starboy, The Weeknd

## The top 10 movies on the iTunes Store

1. Sully
2. The Girl On the Train (2016)
3. The Infiltrator
4. Snowden
5. The Magnificent Seven (2016)
6. The Accountant (2016)
7. The Secret Life of Pets
8. Suicide Squad (2016)
9. Storks
10. Jason Bourne

iTunes Movies US Charts - Independent:

1. The Infiltrator
2. The Dressmaker
3. The Autopsy of Jane Doe
4. American Honey
5. The Hollars
6. Solace
7. A Man Called Ove
8. Don't Think Twice
9. The Fits
10. Arsenal

## The top 10 books on Apple's iBooks

1. The Whistler by John Grisham - 9780385541206 - (Knopf Doubleday Publishing Group)
2. Distant Shores by Kristin Hannah - 9780345459503 - (Random House Publishing Group)
3. Silver Bay by Jojo Moyes - 9780698156357 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
4. Just Friends by Billy Taylor - 9781530511518 - (Billy Taylor)
5. Wishful Drinking by Carrie Fisher - 9781439153802 - (Simon & Schuster)
6. Dirty Pleasures by Meghan March - 9781943796991 - (Meghan March LLC)
7. Below the Belt by Stuart Woods - 9780399574184 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
8. Dirty Together by Meghan March - 9781943796908 - (Meghan March LLC)
9. The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins - 9780698185395 - (Penguin Publishing Group)
10. Real Good Man by Meghan March - 9781943796700 - (Meghan March LLC)

— Associated Press

# CNN at war with Trump

BY DAVID BAUDER

Associated Press Television Writer

PASADENA, Calif. — A week before the inauguration, CNN is at war with an incoming president, not necessarily for what it reported but for what its reporting unleashed.

For all the noise — accusations of fake news, the confrontation between Donald Trump and CNN's Jim Acosta at a news conference, false claims about what CNN had reported or linked to — that realization emerged toward the end of a remarkable 25-minute televised confrontation between Anderson Cooper and Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway.

When it reported on Tuesday that national intelligence



Special to The Prairie Press/CNN

**This screen image from CNN shows anchor Anderson Cooper, left, and Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway during their 25-minute televised confrontation on CNN Thursday, after the network reported on Tuesday national intelligence officials had informed the president-elect the Russians had collected a dossier on his behavior.**

officials had informed the president-elect the Russians had collected a dossier on his behavior, CNN did not specifically detail what that behavior was because it

couldn't vouch for its veracity. But it was CNN that gave BuzzFeed the cover to do so, Conway said.

"You got the party started," she said.

The question is raised: if one person unlocks a box and walks away, is that person responsible when someone else opens the box and removes its unsavory contents?

The dossier was reportedly prepared by a former Western spy as part of a political opposition research effort, and detailed supposed efforts by Russian intelligence to compromise Trump during visits to Moscow. Its existence and contents became known by some Washington leaders last fall, while the presidential campaign was still going on.

Even though CNN did not reveal the specific details, the uncertainties surrounding the report and its origination

as ammunition for political opponents should have sent up red flags, said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, a communications professor and the director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania.

"Had I been asked to make the call at CNN, I would not have aired it," she said.

Trump's anger toward CNN was apparent at his news conference Wednesday even before his tense confrontation with Acosta. He praised The New York Times for not reporting on the details included in the dossier, even though CNN had done the same thing. He tweeted Thursday that CNN "is in a total meltdown with their FAKE NEWS."

## In 'Patriots Day,' a community disarms terrorism

BY JAKE COYLE

Associated Press Film Writer

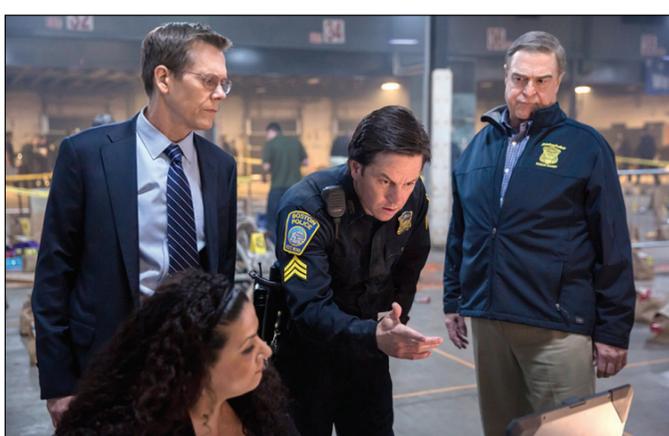
Bombs detonated in the center of Boston are disarmed by bonds of family and community in Peter Berg's "Patriots Day," a stirring ode to civic life in the age of terrorism.

"Patriots Day," which recreates the 2013 Boston Marathon and the subsequent four-day manhunt, is the third in a string of docudramas for Berg, following the Navy SEAL drama "Lone Survivor" and the recent oil rig disaster film "Deepwater Horizon."

In tales of real-life American heroes, Berg has found a potent balance of fact and fiction, mixing expert big-budget filmmaking with realism. Following the all-around disappointment of "Battleship," he has made his muscular, masculine tales leaner and truer. In each, a skillfully visceral chronology culminates cathartically in moving codas of the real people from the movie.

"Patriots Day," coming just over three years after the bombing that killed three and maimed many, could easily seem like typical Hollywood exploitation of a tragedy, or, on the other side of the coin, simple-minded rah-rah patriotism.

That it's neither is due in part to the detail of Berg's many-peopled portrait of American life. Everyone here is an individual, a family member, someone doing their job. The film, from a



Special to The Prairie Press

**"Patriots Day" is a film that recreates the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and the manhunt that followed.**

screenplay by Berg, Matt Cook and Joshua Zetumer, weaves together a spectrum of characters from across the city — police detectives to victims to the bombers.

While Berg gravitates toward tough-guy realms like the battlefield and the gridiron, he's most at home in the home. His films are grounded in quotidian family life, of husbands kissing wives goodbye and parents making breakfast for their kids. (The tremendous home life of Berg's TV series, "Friday Night Lights," is the best example of this.) He has surely made a close study of John Ford Westerns and their tender lingering on the

hearth.

Beginning in the hours before the pressure-cooker bombs explode, Berg visits the home or workplace of the characters he'll stitch together throughout the film: newlyweds planning to watch the race (Rachel Brosnahan and Christopher O'Shea), an MIT officer (Jake Picking) flirting with a student (Lana Condor), and others. The final stop is the Tsarnaev brothers home, which, aside from the jihadist video playing, isn't so different from the others.

The characters are all based on real people except for one: Boston police Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Mark

Wahlberg, who starred in Berg's last two). He's a composite invented to connect the movie's many parts, a movie-star MacGuffin who happens to be there for every plot turn.

His presence isn't jarring, though, in the superlative ensemble that includes Kevin Bacon (as the FBI team leader), John Goodman (as the Boston police commissioner), J.K. Simmons (as a Watertown sergeant) and, in one blistering scene, Khandi Alexander as a government interrogator. The Tsarnaev brothers are played by Themo Melikidze (as Tamerlan) and the especially good Alex Wolff (as Dzhokhar) who's presented here as a frivolous, foolhardy teenager most concerned with an iPod jack to play tunes in the carjacking of Chinese student Dun Meng (Jimmy O. Yang).

"Patriots Day" has too little curiosity for the motives of the bombers; its street-level perspective doesn't go beyond Boston. Berg's film isn't seeking answers; it's seeking solace. "Patriots Day" puts forth a vision of a multicultural society that rises up to reject the fear of terrorism. Its heroes are of all colors, immigrants and Southies, alike.

("Patriots Day," a CBS Films/Lionsgate release, is rated R by the Motion Picture Association of America for "violence, realistically graphic injury images, language throughout and some drug use." Running time: 133 minutes. Three stars out of four.)

### CROSSWORD

- Across**
1. Call at first
  5. Clothing
  9. Kind of drive
  14. Economical
  15. Sandler of "Big Daddy"
  16. Slow, musically
  17. Egyptian fertility goddess
  18. Tumors containing dark pigment
  20. Add
  22. A Muse
  23. They're game
  26. Clip
  30. Clobber
  31. Rub
  33. Parenthesis, essentially
  36. Kind of concerto
  39. Like Cheerios
  40. Constant motion without an energy source
  43. "Encore!"
  44. Author Mark
  45. "\_\_\_ moment"
  46. College grounds
  48. History Muse
  50. "... or \_\_\_!"
  51. A proprietor of an inn
  56. Hawaiian island
  58. Prepare, as tea
  60. Deadly disease where brain swells
  65. Western blue flag, e.g.
  66. About
  67. Kill, in a way
  68. Butts
  69. North American flycatcher
  70. At one time, at one time
  71. Cast
- Down**
1. Buttonhole, e.g.
  2. "Belling the Cat" author
  3. Strong belief
  4. Followed
  5. Cap
  6. "\_\_\_ to Billie Joe"
  7. Greek physician and writer
  8. Brainy
  9. Coagulate
  10. Member of Obama's party
  11. Biochemistry abbr.
  12. Baseball's Master Melvin
  13. Bygone bird
  19. Astronaut's insignia
  21. Rags to riches person
  24. Exec
  25. Circa
  27. 4:1, e.g.
  28. Ancient Greek theater
  29. Pasta choice
  32. Sticks
  33. Abreast (of)
  34. Fit for a king
  35. Stuffs
  37. Police, with "the"
  38. "Wellaway!"
  41. The Banzai \_\_\_\_\_
  42. 1/500 of the Indianapolis 500
  47. Blab
  49. Field of vision?
  52. Green
  53. Fertilizer ingredient
  54. Like "The X-Files"
  55. Despot's duration
  57. A chip, maybe
  59. "Check this out!"
  60. Blueprint
  61. Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
  62. "What's \_\_\_?"
  63. "\_\_\_ alive!" (contraction)
  64. Boozehound

### Sudoku

ANSWERS ON PAGE 11B

		8	6		5		3		
4			7		9				
5	2			8	7				
		5			8				
7	1				4			6	5
					2			1	
					1	8		4	3
					6			1	9
		5			3			8	7

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# Horse riding improves life for disabled Haiti boy

BY DIEU NALIO CHERY  
Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Judeley Hans Debel runs as fast as his prosthetic leg can take him when he arrives at a Haitian equestrian center. A riding session with his favorite horse is the highlight of his week.

"You're the best horse, you're the best horse," the 9-year-old boy says soothingly to a tan polo pony named Tic Tac when he arrives at her stable.

Pretty soon, he's sitting high and proud on Tic Tac's back at the Port-au-Prince equestrian center that offers therapeutic riding to disabled youngsters. Advocates say it improves their balance, coordination and confidence, with the movements of the horse mimicking pelvic motions involved in human walking. The riding also provides muscle and nerve stimulation.

Judeley's unemployed single mother, Nerlande Jean Philippe, says the free weekly sessions offer her son a welcome respite from a life of urban poverty. She struggles to support him and has to do her best maintaining his battered prosthetic leg as he grows because she can't afford a new one.

"He's a very determined, strong boy. But the horses give him even more strength and he just loves to come here," she said at the Centre Equestre Chateaublond hidden behind a concrete wall along Port-au-Prince's winding Route de Freres.

Judeley was one of an estimated 4,000 to 6,000 people to undergo amputations after the powerful earthquake that devastated Haiti's capital seven years ago.

Just 2½ years old at the time, his tiny body was



Judeley Hans Debel squats down to remove a boot from Tic Tac, holding out his prosthetic leg after his therapeutic riding lesson at the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Petion-Ville, Haiti. Anne-Rose Schoen, who founded the equestrian center, said perhaps the most important thing about therapeutic riding is it makes youngsters happy in a country where disabled people face enormous challenges.



Judeley Hans Debel, who walks on a prosthetic right leg, carries his saddle away after riding Tic Tac at the Chateaublond Equestrian Center in Petion-Ville, Haiti. After riding, Judeley gives Tic Tac a bath, and is also learning how to help hoist saddles onto the animals and prepare them for rides.

pinned under jagged rubble at his shattered concrete home and he was scarred by burning oil from the crushed stove. His mother spent hours frantically digging him out and then rushed him to a hospital where doctors amputated his right leg just below his crotch.

Seven years later, the boy with bright, shining eyes refuses to let his disability hold him back. He enthusiastically plays soccer and other games with schoolmates and hopes to study medicine when he's older.

But his favorite activity is unquestionably riding Tic

Tac, a roughly 32-year-old mare with a sweet disposition. His rapport with the animal was nearly immediate.

After his ride on a recent morning, he methodically washed Tic Tac with a soapy sponge and water from a hose. He's even learning how to help hoist saddles onto the animals and prepare them for rides.

He's one of a few dozen disabled people receiving riding lessons at the center, said his instructor, Louis Guerdes.

Anne-Rose Schoen, who founded the equestrian center, said perhaps the most important thing about therapeutic riding is it makes youngsters happy in a country where disabled people face enormous challenges.

"It brings such joy to the lives of these kids," she said, watching students ride around the center's dressage and jumping arena.

# Lawmakers: Utility-scale wind farm poses security threat

BY EMERY P. DALESIO  
Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina legislators want the incoming Trump administration to shut down a nearly complete, \$400 million wind farm they believe poses a national security threat because it's too close to a long-distance surveillance radar installation.

Ten legislators including the leaders of the state House and Senate signed a letter sent to President-elect Donald Trump's transition team, House Speaker Tim Moore's spokesman Joseph Kyzer said Thursday.

The legislators said they worry the 300-foot-tall wind turbine towers with blades nearly 200 feet long will interfere with a long-distance Navy radar installation in nearby Chesapeake, Virginia. The radar system scans hundreds of miles into the Atlantic and Caribbean for ships and planes.

The wind farm is on about 20,000 acres in rural northeastern North Carolina near Elizabeth City, an area with some of the best on-land wind potential

on the East Coast.

The legislative opposition comes after all 104 towers have been constructed, about \$400 million has been invested and full commercial electricity production is weeks away, said Paul Copleman, a spokesman for Avangrid Renewables, a U.S. subsidiary of Spanish clean-energy giant Iberdrola S.A.

Amazon will buy the electricity output, comparable to the power 60,000 U.S. homes use in a year, to run its Virginia data centers.

A 2014 agreement between Avangrid and the Navy said although there is potential for conflict between the wind farm and the radar array, the Pentagon also sought to enhance the country's renewable energy resources. The agreement specified placement of the project's wind turbines and an understanding the company would curtail operations for a national security or defense purpose.

"If the wind farm threatened any military readiness or capabilities, they wouldn't have cleared us to build," Copleman

said in an email. "Specifically at this site, we reduced the size of the project, arranged specific turbines differently, ran extensive modeling in conjunction with their scientists, and will continue to share operating data once we reach full commercial operation."

But the lawmakers' letter said the Pentagon dropped opposition to the wind farm because of the political correctness of outgoing President Barack Obama's administration.

State lawmakers previously have proposed legislation restricting wind farms that would disrupt rural quality of life or interfere with routes used by low-flying military jets and helicopters. Placing tall turbines within those flight paths could give military commanders reasons for shifting key air units away from North Carolina, which has the fourth largest military population in the country and hundreds of thousands of private-sector support jobs.

Sen. Louis Pate said he signed the letter less out of concern with radar interference than with the towers creating a new obstacle to Marine Corps and Air Force jets based in eastern North Carolina and Navy aircraft based in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Those aircraft train at an Outer Banks bombing range, and their routes should be unfettered, said Pate, R-Wayne.

Pate said he wants the Trump administration to stop short of scrapping the wind farm and force changes in the Navy's agreement so Avangrid's operations are shut down any time there is more than marginal radar interference.

"We know that we've got to have electricity and perhaps the renewable type; the day is coming that we're going to have rely more and more upon that. However, we do need to be aware of what impact it might have upon military operations," Pate said. "We've spoken out over the course of the past three years or so, and we don't seem to be getting a lot of attention."

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**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT EDGAR COUNTY, PARIS, ILLINOIS**

PREFERRED BANK, Plaintiff,  
vs  
JOHNNY LEONARD and TERESA WELLS, Unknown Owners, and Non-record Claimants, Defendants.

No. 2016-CH-19

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4. Time, Place, and Terms of Sale: Sale shall be by public auction to be held on Wednesday, the 22nd day of February, 2017 at 11:30a.m., by the Plaintiff, said sale to be held at the main entrance to the Edgar County Courthouse, 115 W. Court Street, Paris, Illinois 61944.  
Successful bidder shall be required to present certified check or money order in the amount of 10% of the successful bid amount, balance being due and payable in cash or cash equivalent at closing within 30 days of sale at Edgar County Title Company, Paris, Illinois. Successful bidder will receive Receipt Of Sale and will receive title to property by judicial deed at closing. Successful bidder shall pay all of the closing fee charged by Edgar County Title Company. All real estate taxes and assessments shall be paid by the buyer based on the latest available information, and shall not be subject to reparation. Subject property shall be transferred to the successful bidder subject to rights of way for drainage ditches, drain tiles, feeders, laterals, and underground pipes, if any; rights of way of the public and public utility easements; taxes for the current year and all preceding years; easements, rights of way, conditions and restrictions of record, and conveyed mineral interest of record.  
Submitted this 9th day of January, 2017.  
By Tracy A. Willenborg of Taylor Law Offices, P.C.  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
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43	A	G	A	I	N		44	T	W	A	I	N		45	O	N	E	
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66	A	N	E	N	T		67	V	E	T	O		68	C	I	G	S	
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9	8	6	4	5	1	3	2	7
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2	7	9	5	1	8	6	4	3
8	4	3	7	6	2	1	5	9
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# In tearful farewell, Obama awards Biden the Medal of Freedom

BY JOSH LEDERMAN AND VIVIAN SALAMA  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — At the dusk of both of their political careers, surrounded by teary friends and family, President Barack Obama on Thursday bestowed the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Joe Biden, the man he called, “the finest vice president we have ever seen.”

The vice president winced in shock as Obama announced he was conferring the nation’s highest civil honor on his right-hand-man for eight years. Biden turned away from the cameras, wiped away some tears, then stood stoically as Obama draped the blue-and-white ribbon around his neck.

“I just hope that the asterisk in history that is attached to my name when they talk about this presidency is that I can say I was part of the journey of a remarkable man who did remarkable things for this country,” Biden said.

There were standing ovations — several of them — at what had been billed as a modest farewell ceremony for Biden but evolved into a surprise bestowal of the Medal of Freedom, the last time Obama will present the honor.

“I had no idea,” Biden said of the award, insisting he didn’t deserve it.

It was the only time Obama has presented the medal with distinction, also awarded only once by each of the previous three presidents.

One week out from the Obama administration’s end, a deep sense of nostalgia set in at the White House as longtime staffers pack up their offices, send out their



President Barack Obama, right, presents the Medal of Freedom to Vice-President Joe Biden during an event in the State Dining room of the White House, Thursday in Washington, D.C.



Vice-President Joe Biden wipes away his tears as he is presented the Medal of Freedom. The honor caught Biden by surprise.

last emails and bid farewell to the president they’ve served. On Tuesday, Obama returned home to Chicago to deliver his valedictory address, and next week he’ll depart as ex-president just after President-elect Don-

ald Trump is sworn in.

Obama, joined Thursday by his wife and daughters, was effusive in his praise for the man who ran against him in 2008, then agreed to be his running mate. He said Biden had made him a bet-

ter president, calling him, “a lion of American history.”

“To know Joe Biden is to know love without pretense, service without self-regard and to live life fully,” Obama said.

The famously plainspoken Biden has long said he only agreed to the job after Obama agreed he would be the last person in the room before major decisions were made. Over two terms, they developed a bond that both men said transcended the office, with their wives, children and Biden’s grandchildren becoming close friends.

They disagreed, too, on occasion, including when Biden advocated against the high-stakes raid that killed Osama bin Laden. Biden’s tendency to veer off-script

caused occasional headaches for the White House, such as when he unexpectedly announced support for gay marriage in advance of the 2012 re-election, forcing Obama to do the same soon after.

Yet as they gathered for a final goodbye, none of that seemed on either man’s mind.

Obama said there had been, “no turf wars between our staffs,” a departure from other recent administrations. And Biden told the story of how after his son Beau Biden died in 2015, leaving behind a wife and children, Obama was distraught when Biden said he might sell his house to help support them, and offered to give them money instead.

It was a reunion for the many staffers and colleagues who worked with Biden over the years. Joining Biden’s wife, sister and children in the State Dining Room were former Sens. Chris Dodd and Ted Kaufman, former chief of staff Bruce Reed, and even Biden’s White House physician.

Obama traced the history of Biden’s nearly half-century-long political career, from chairing the Senate Judiciary and Foreign Relations committees to the cancer moonshot effort he started recently and plans to continue. Obama praised his vice president for his work on the economic stimulus, middle-class issues and curbing violence against women.

“I’ve not mentioned Amtrak yet, or aviators. ‘Literally,’” Obama said, invoking a few of the more famous “Bidenisms.”

Biden’s career in Washington started in 1972 steeped in tragedy when his wife and infant daughter died in a car crash just before he was to be sworn in as U.S. senator. After exiting the national stage next week, he plans to stay active in Democratic politics and work on policy issues at a pair of institutes he’s developing at the University of Delaware and the University of Pennsylvania.

His folksy demeanor lent itself to plenty of jokes and caricatures, like the series of photos of Biden eating ice cream that exploded on social media. But Obama seemed fonder of the internet meme based on photos of him and Biden buddies it up.

“This also gives the internet one last chance to talk about our bromance,” the president said.



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