

The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019

Council signs for projects

Council gives final approval for senior apartment work and Paris-Chrisman water line

BY NED JENISON
njenison@mac.com

Two major construction projects took steps forward this week at the Paris City Council session. The meeting at city hall was held Tuesday, Oct. 15, due to Monday's Columbus Day holiday.

City attorney Rich Kash announced agreement has been reached on arrangements to officially transfer the former Paris High School building to the Illinois Laborers' Home Development organization. This will allow the deed to be placed in the hands of the developers. Work to convert the

three-story historic structure on South Main Street into 42 units of senior housing is expected to quickly start.

Following the council meeting Tuesday night, Mayor Craig Smith was busy signing the documents for delivery to the developers. The project was announced more than a year ago, but delays in securing financing held up the actual start of work. The city acquired the property in hope of saving the building, when District 95 schools moved into the new high school at the north edge of Paris.

Construction costs are estimated at \$8.5 million. Total

project investment, including some street and parking improvements by the city, will approach \$13 million, the city estimates.

The second major project to advance is the new water transmission line from Paris north to the Equity plant, which is expanding operations at Horace, and then on north along state Route 1 to serve the Chrisman city water distribution system.

The council approved two agreements, one with Effingham Equity and the other with the City of Chrisman, spelling out rates that Paris will charge for delivery of water. The majority of the

project's cost is expected to come from federal loans and grants, with the water service rates financing the remainder.

Two additional documents relating to the water project were also approved by the council. One was a compliance agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency relating to the EPA construction loan. The other was application for a Pipeline Occupation license for water delivery to the Equity plant, with an application fee of \$1,250 charged to the city.

Construction is scheduled for next year, depending

upon how quickly the EPA financing is released.

The council also approved the final windup of a major sanitary sewer relocation project undertaken this year a short distance east of the end of Elliott Street and east of the 4-H grounds.

Although the sewer work was completed earlier this year, the council approved a bid by B & B Concrete for replacement of a concrete slab to access the sewer, at a cost of \$11,000. Also approved was a construction easement and a permanent access easement down a vacated alley at the east end of Elliott, to reach the new sewer.

LADY TIGERS SET FOR LIC SHOWDOWN

The Paris Lady Tiger volleyball team dispatched LIC foe Robinson this week, setting up a showdown with Newton Thursday for the LIC crown. **SPORTS, 9A**

Perfect pastry is perplexing

Few things evoke autumn like apple or pumpkin pie. A flaky crust is any good pastry's foundation. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

Schoolhouses remodeled

Roger Stanley recovers two repurposed old schoolhouses from the Brocton area. **HISTORY, 3B**



Schools upgrade their menus

There is a growing movement of school lunches eschewing over-processed cafeteria food. **HEALTH, 5B**

Paris preschool now universal

District 95 board meeting celebrates introduction of free preschool programs, accomplishments of students and teachers. **NEWS, 3A**

PERK has a new coordinator

Kelly McCrocklin steps into Jodi Sperry's shoes at area expanding mentorship program. **NEWS, 7B**

ROBOTICS CLUB BOOSTS ASPIRING ENGINEERS



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Gage Wright is a member of the Robotics 4-H Club and brought a robot his father helped him build to a recent meeting. He said the robot took about two days to build and it is the first time he put one together using screws, which he described as a real pain. Wright wants to be an engineer when he grows up.

Not your dad's 4-H club

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

There was a 4-H meeting Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Crestwood School, but nobody was working on projects dealing with livestock, plants or other elements of the organization most associated with rural life.

Instead, students ranging in age from third grade through high school and from Crestwood, Wenz, Shiloh and Paris High School were busy assembling and testing components to build robots.

Mariah Crandell, Edgar County 4-H coordinator, said SPIN, or special interest clubs, are a growing part of 4-H. While SPIN is not replacing the traditional 4-H Clubs where members can try a variety of projects, the special interest approach is attracting youth who want to concentrate on a single topic, that may not be ag focused.

"It's giving them a platform for their niche, and they don't have to do

multiple things," said Crandell.

According to Crandell, SPIN clubs are one of the fastest growing areas of 4-H and are especially popular in metropolitan areas. She added this comes at a time when there is a noticeable decline in 4-H livestock projects.

Crandell said 4-H recognizes the current push for Science, Technology, Engineering Math (STEM) education is appealing for many modern students and the organization wants to be a part of that effort. SPIN clubs do not have to be STEM focused, although the robotics club at Crestwood certainly falls into that category.

Edgar County 4-H currently has four SPIN clubs: robotics, livestock team judging, shooting sports and Head, Heart & Hooves, which is for youths interested in horses.

"I'd like to start more if I knew what people want," said Crandell.

Mary St. Clair teaches technology at Crestwood and sponsors the new robotics club, which had its third



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Addilee Gill shares a laugh with fellow teammates at the Robotics 4-H Club meeting as she disassembles one robot to reconfigure it for a different task.

meeting Wednesday night. She said the idea arose after she helped a student at Shiloh who wanted to enter a

See **ROBOTICS**, Page 8A

Pollinator plot proposed at high school

BY NANCY ZEMAN
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Native prairie acreage may soon be added to the Paris High School campus, if a proposal by the Edgar County Pheasants Forever chapter is accepted by the Paris Co-operative High School board of directors.

PHS alum and Pheasants Forever member Brad Tucker of Paris presented a plan to convert 5.5 acres of land located south of the school and west of the baseball field to native prairie which will aid in pollinator conserva-

tion. A total of 45 plant species would be included in the plot with flowers in the spring and blooms throughout the year.

At present, the area is mowed and the boys and girls cross-country teams run through it as part of the school's course. Tucker said the plan is for a path to be included in the acreage so runners will be running not only through the woods behind the school and down by Twin Lakes but native prairie as well.

The area would be created at absolutely no cost to the school, Tucker assured the board. Pheasant Forever members and hopefully some students would prepare the acreage for planting.

The Edgar County chapter has already received a grant from the state chapter — funded by the stamps purchased by pheasant hunters, Tucker said. The seed is quite expensive, he said, and would include native prairie plants which once grew on land now known as Edgar County.

Tucker emphasized while work on the acreage could begin next spring, it will be two or three years before the plants will be in full flower.

PHS assistant principal and former science teacher Mark Cox supported the proposal, noting when he was teaching at Shiloh, that school had a native prairie area, planted by longtime Shiloh science and biology teacher Jeff Hodge.

Cox said he regularly made use of the plot for his science classes. "It's more than making a leaf collection," he said. "It's an outdoor lab and hab-

itat right here on this campus."

"If I were in a science classroom, I'd be excited about this opportunity once it's established," Cox said.

The area near Twin Lakes is already being used by science classes, Cox noted, so the addition of a native prairie area will be welcome by faculty and students.

"Hopefully we'll be cultivating active environmentalists," Tucker said, noting the acreage will provide PHS students as well as Paris 95

See **PHS**, Page 8A

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 69 L 48
Sunny and cool fall day. **2A**



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LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 65 Low: 43 More weather: go to www.prairiepress.net and click on weather.

Weather forecast table with columns for TODAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Includes icons and precipitation percentages.



EVERETT LAU Weather Wizard @Prairiepress_wx on Twitter Forecaster Everett Lau on Facebook

TODAY - Mostly sunny with highs climbing into the upper 60s. A stray shower possible in the afternoon. SUNDAY - Another pleasant fall day with highs in the lower 70s under mostly sunny skies.

ALMANAC Paris through noon Tuesday. Temperature High/Low... 65°/43° Record High... 86° in 1953 Record Low... 24° in 1992

SUN AND MOON Sun Rise Set Moon Rise Set TODAY 7:05 a.m. 6:06 p.m. 10:16 p.m. 12:36 p.m.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

TODAY

EMERGENCY PREP FAIR An emergency preparedness fair is 2-4 p.m. Oct. 19 at the Paris Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints featuring a variety of vendors and presenters covering topics dealing with earthquake, tornado, fire, flood and ice disaster.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN The Edgar County Historical Society is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. today and the first and third Saturdays of every month for 2019

MONDAY COMMUNITY KITCHEN The community kitchen serves from 4:30-6 p.m. every Monday, weather permitting, and exclusive of holidays, at the Human Resources Center, 118 E. Court Street, Paris.

TUESDAY PCH CHOCOLATE SALE The Paris Community Hospital Volunteers is having a two-day chocolate sale 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Oct. 21 and Oct. 22 near the rotunda entrance of the Paris clinic.

DON'T MISS

SHILOH PUMPKIN PALOOZA, OCT. 20 Shiloh Elementary invites all families of students in Pre-K through 5th grade to the First Pumpkin Palooza 4:30-6:30 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 20, at Shiloh School.

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.

Chocolate sales support the efforts of the PCH Volunteers, who provide financial assistance to hospital projects and award scholarships to area students pursuing healthcare careers.

SENIOR BINGO Marshall Rehab & Nursing is sponsoring bingo for senior citizens 10:30 a.m. Oct. 22 at the Paris Public Library

EVENING TOPS MEETING TOPS Illinois #2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-in starts at 5:45 p.m. and the meeting is 7 p.m.

WEIGHT WATCHERS MEETING Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Edgar County Farm Bureau building, 210 W. Washington, Paris. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.

Watchers system is available at www.weightwatchers.com, or by attending a meeting.

WEDNESDAY HEARTY SOUPS AT LIBRARY Hearty Soups is the next session in the Paris Public Library's Nutrition & Wellness series. Mary Liz Wright, University of Illinois Extension Educator is doing a session on soup making 1:30 p.m. Oct. 23 at the library.

THURSDAY MORNING TOPS MEETINGS TOPS #IL 1563 meets every Thursday morning at the Highland Manor Community Room with weigh-ins beginning at 8 a.m. and

the meeting starting at 9 a.m. More information is available by attending a meeting or calling Jo Ellen Edmonds at 251-4722.

SENIOR BINGO Marshall Rehab & Nursing is sponsoring bingo for senior citizens 2 p.m. Oct. 24 at the Edgar County Housing Authority, Paris.

TRICK OR TREAT AT LIBRARY Trick or Treat for Books is 6:30-7:30 p.m., Oct. 24 at the Marshall Public Library. Children in costume visiting the library will receive a free book and can listen to a Halloween story.

FRIDAY LIBRARY BLOCK PARTY The Paris Public Library is hosting a Drop-In Block Party 10:30-11:30 a.m. Oct. 25, a day when school is not in session. The meeting room will be set up with Legos, Duplos and wooden blocks.

UPCOMING BROCTON HALLOWEEN The Brocton American Legion Post is sponsoring a community Halloween Party with a weiner roast from 5-7 p.m. and a costume contest at 7:30 p.m. Halloween night.

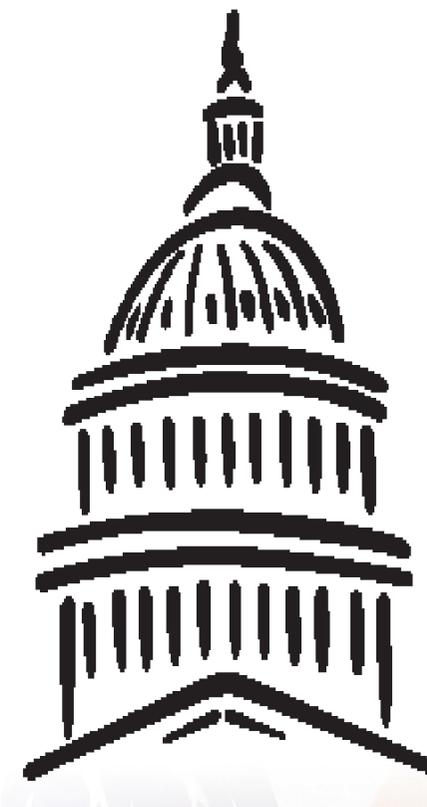
CARE TRIVIA NIGHT The Community Addiction Response Education (CARE) coalition is hosting a trivia night 6 p.m. Nov. 1 at the Tingley Reception Center, Paris. Door prizes and a 50/50 drawing are part of the evening as is pulled pork concessions.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OPEN The Edgar County Historical Society is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. the first and third Saturdays of every month for 2019

COGNITIVE HEALTH PROGRAM Mary Liz Wright University of Illinois Extension Educator on Nutrition and Wellness will present Eating for Cognitive Health 6:30 p.m. Nov. 7, at the Marshall Public Library. The program addresses how healthy eating can help to delay cognitive decline and give tips on how to make healthy cognitive eating an everyday part of personal routines.

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Preschool expands, arts thrive

BY NANCY ZEMAN
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Anyone who walked into the Tuesday, Oct. 15, meeting of the Paris Union School District 95 Board of Education meeting might have thought they were at a basketball game.

Instead of cheering for an athletic team, those who filled an entire side of bleachers in the Mayo gym and spilled over to part of another were present to celebrate the district's expanded preschool program as well as the accomplishments of the district's fine arts students.

Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson served as the primary cheerleader for the meeting, noting the evening was planned to offer opportunities for the district's preschool through junior high students to make presentations about the exciting things going on in Paris 95 classrooms.

And, to top off the presentation portion of the program, every man, woman and child attending the meeting was presented a ticket for free ice cream. The We-Lik-It ice cream trailer was parked outside the gym, serving chocolate or vanilla ice cream with optional sprinkles.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, led by two Memorial School second graders.

Paris 95 received an addi-

tional grant this past summer to further expand the preschool program, Larson reminded those present. Every preschooler in the Paris 95 district may attend its program free of charge — including lunch.

Larson noted the importance of a comprehensive preschool program for all students. In Illinois, public school preschool is available to school districts which are awarded competitive grants.

The superintendent has been vocal about his support for universal preschool, which would allow all preschool children in Illinois to attend a program. Some states — including Oklahoma — offer universal preschool.

Preschool students now enrolled in the Paris 95 program gathered on the gym floor with their teachers and classroom aides to sing a song about the days of the week — to the delight of those attending.

In recognition for the Paris 95 board's support for the expanded program, preschool students presented each of the seven Paris 95 board members with an award.

Also highlighted during the meeting was the Mayo Middle School instrumental music program. Directed by Kristina Farley, the band played pep band selections as those at-



The Paris 95 preschool program has added more classes this year, thanks to a grant written by principals Kyle Shay and Megan Carroll. Many of the students who attend the daily preschool were featured during the Tuesday, Oct. 15, meeting of the district's school board at Mayo Middle School's gym. The young students sang about the days of the week complete with actions.

tending the meeting arrived. Band member Carleigh Longest read a letter from fellow band member Emerson Barrett — who was playing in an away Mayo girls basketball game — about the importance of the music program and the opportunities it provides.

Mayo's fulltime art teacher Millie Arp also spoke briefly about her program which is now available Monday through Friday. Students who are enrolled in band, however, cannot sign up for the class because it conflicts with band. Many projects created by Arp's students in and outside of the

classroom were displayed. She is assisted in the classroom by Beth Cunningham.

The Paris 95 Children's Choir, directed by Jonathon Boren and Becky Forseca, was also featured with two selections. The choir is composed of Wenz Elementary School fourth and fifth grade students.

The presentations ended by honoring the Mayo Redbird baseball team and Coach Colton Dosch, which won the school's first boys regional in 29 years earlier this month. Sixth grader Case Colvin, who qualified for the IESA state cross-country finals, was also introduced and honored. Aubrey Wilson, who qualified for the IESA girls golf state match, was not present because she was playing basketball for the Lady Redbirds.

District volunteers were also honored as well as teachers who earned certification as technology innovators — Nick Sanders, Marie Wimsett, Karla Gorman and Marie Wimsett.

Once the festivities were concluded, the board members got down to their regular business meeting — and received a clean audit for the district from Larsson, Woodyard and Henson.

The district's bookkeeping

staff was complimented by staff accountant Daylea Ethridge of the Tuscola office of the accounting firm. She noted the district received \$1.5 million in revenue over expenditures and has been awarded a highest recognition by the Illinois State Board of Education of 3.8 on a 4.0 scale. That is an improvement of the last audit,

she noted.

The district also improved its cash on hand from 169 days last year to 202 days in the most recent audit.

In other business, board members also received copies of the district's school report cards. That information is embargoed until Oct. 31, Larson said.



Among those honored during the Paris Union School District 95 school board meeting Tuesday were several teachers who earned certification as technology innovators. Pictured, from left, are Alison Wirth, Karla Gorman, Marie Wimsett, Nick Sanders and Paris 95 board president Kevin Knoepfel.

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Auction Location: 410 N. Mill St. Martinsville, IL. 62442 – GPS 39.339458, -87.881257
Auction Date & Time: Saturday, October 26, 2019 at 10AM (CDT)
Sellers: Audrey Bell Estate- Andrea Cooper, Executor & Micky Cooper
Personal Property Preview: Friday, October 25, 2019 – 3pm - 6pm (CDT)
Real Estate Preview: Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 1-3pm or by appointment

For Terms, Photo's, Sale Flyer go to: www.ucmarshall.com

Auctioneers Note: This is a very nice estate filled with antiques collectibles that Mrs. Bell collected over several years. She was a scrapbooker, crafter, enjoyed birdwatching, sewing and collecting blue and white glassware and interior décor. There is a metal carport measuring 20'w x 20'l x 10'h and a portable building measuring 12' x 12' x 12' with upper storage area that will sell separate from the real estate and the buyer will be responsible to remove within 30 days. There will be a nice selection of consignment items also with seller names posted day of sale. **REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 10AM SHARP!** This will be approximately a 4 hr sale, so come on out and bring a friend and enjoy your auction experience. Food and restrooms will be available the day of the auction.

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Labauume gets another prison sentence

COURT

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

A Paris man will spend longer than five years in prison after he entered a negotiated guilty plea Oct. 10.

Chad T. Labaume, 42, Paris, appeared in custody of the Illinois Department of Corrections and entered a negotiated guilty plea agreement to a Class 4 felony criminal trespass charge. He was sentenced to five and one-half years in the IDOC with credit for 98 days previously served to run concurrently with his Coles County convictions, a \$75 fine, court costs and various state fees. He was also ordered to obtain drug treatment while incarcerated at IDOC.

Labauume is currently serving time in prison for these Coles County convictions: a Class X felony home invasion resulting in injury and a Class 3 felony improper communication with a witness. He is also in prison for these Edgar County convictions: a Class 1 felony possession of electronic contraband in a penal institution and a Class 4 felony aggravated assault.

In exchange for the guilty plea, the state dismissed a Class X felony home invasion charge. Labaume was remanded to custody of DOC.

Other cases appearing before the bench for the Oct. 10 criminal and traffic call in Edgar

County Circuit Court included:

IN CUSTODY

■ Jason R. Ball, 41, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class A misdemeanor violating an order of protection after being served. Bond was set at \$1,500. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. He was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victim or the victim's residence. Ball was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Troy J. Jeffries, 40, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class C misdemeanor use of an intoxicating compound. The public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Jeffries was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Joshua D. Means, 24, Metcalf, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. His unresolved charges of two counts of a Class 1 felony residential burglary, two counts of a Class 2 felony burglary, a Class 2 felony possession of a stolen firearm, a Class 3 felony possession of a weapon by a convicted felon, a Class 4 felony criminal damage to property, a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing and a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespass to vehicles were con-

tinued for a pretrial conference. Means was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Jonathan T. Murray, 23, Paris, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. He was charged with a Class A misdemeanor failure to notify damage to an unattended vehicle and a Class A misdemeanor leaving the scene of an accident. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Murray was granted a personal recognizance bond and remanded to custody pending release processing.

■ Charles J. Richey, 40, Marshall, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 2 felony burglary and a Class 3 felony theft. Bond was set at \$5,000. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Richey was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Lance Sawyer, 23, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 3 felony failure to register as a sex offender. The public defender was appointed. Bond was set at \$15,000, and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Sawyer was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Christopher L. Whalen, 27, Paris, was in custody and was charged with a Class 2 felony failure to register as a

sex offender. Bond was set at \$10,000, the public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Whalen was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■ Justin K. Erwin, 31, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Sabrina M. Pearson, 33, West Union, was presented with a petition to revoke her conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia conviction. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

OTHER MATTERS

■ Dara N. Rhoads, 40, Paris, learned the court imposed a six-day jail sentence with good conduct credit to apply attached to her Class A misdemeanor battery conviction. The jail sentence began Oct. 12.

WARRANTS

Warrants were prepared and issued when the following individuals failed to answer the court call: Sarah Lynn Hall, 31, Paris; Chad D. Hugg, 46, Westfield; Michael A. Swinford, 41, Hindsboro; and Ashley K. Whitley, 36, Paris.

ACCIDENT LEADS TO AIRLIFT FROM RURAL ROAD



An early morning accident Wednesday, Oct. 16, at 1000N and 1150E resulted in one person being airlifted from the scene. The vehicles involved were a semi-truck and an automobile. The Illinois State Police is investigating and had not supplied any reports by press time.

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SIREN REPORT

IMOGENE DELP

MARSHALL – Imogene Delp, 87, of Marshall, passed away at 8:12 a.m. EDT, Friday, Oct. 10, 2019, at the Gibson Family Center for Hospice Care, Terre Haute, Ind.

A service honoring her life was 10 a.m. Tuesday,

Oct. 15, at Pearce Funeral Home, with Larry Hollensbe officiating. Burial was in the Marshall Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Gibson Center for Hospice Care.

More information and online donations at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

PATTY MAJOR

Merle Marie "Patty" Major, 92, of London, Ohio, and formerly of Toledo, Columbus, and Grove City, Ohio, passed away at 1:15 p.m. EDT Friday, Oct. 11, 2019, at London Health & Rehab.

A graveside service is 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 19, at Embarrass Cemetery, near Redmon. Burial follows. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

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

More information and online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

LILLY REMLINGER

CASEY – Lilly Ann Remlinger, 74, of Casey, passed away at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at Casey Health Care Center.

A funeral service is 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 21, at Markwell

PHILLIP MCCONCHIE

Phillip Ray McConchie, 78, of Paris, passed away at 2:10 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, 2019,

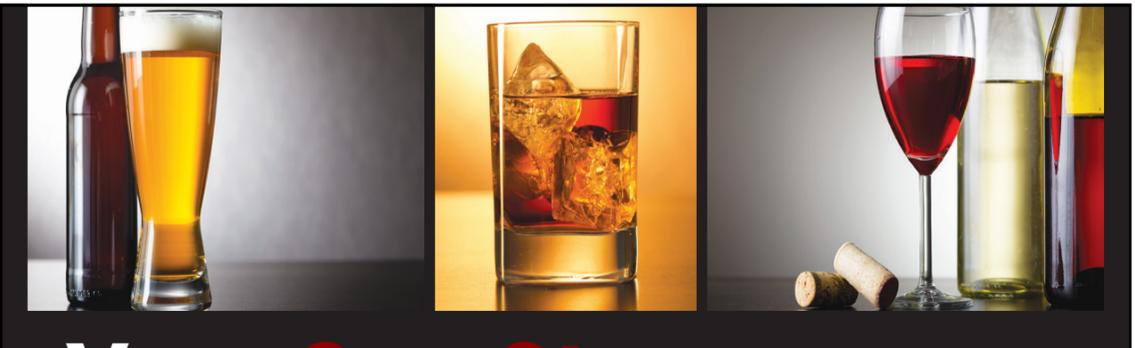
at Horizon Health Paris Community Hospital.

A service celebrating his life is 10 a.m. today,

Oct. 19, at Templeton Funeral Home. Private interment is at a later date. Visitation was from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the ECCF D.O. It Edgar County Cancer Support Group.

More information and online condolences at www.templetonfuneralhome.com.



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CAROL SVENDSEN
 Carol Ann Svendsen, 83, a long-time resident of Paris, passed away at 10:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, at Marquette Manor, Indianapolis, Ind., following a lengthy illness. She was a registered nurse and during her career worked at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, Paris Hospital and Union Hospital in Terre Haute, Ind.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. today, Oct. 19, at St. Aloysius Catholic Church, North Arm, with burial following immediately in the adjoining cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home with the rosary recited at 3:30 p.m. Mrs. Svendsen was born May 12, 1936, at Champaign, the daughter of the late Edward Mahoney and Caroline Tebben, and she grew up in Peoria. She met Robert Knud

Svendsen while she was a nursing student at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria, and they were married Oct. 26, 1957, at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Peoria Heights. He preceded her in death.

Survivors include her children, Karen (John) Werner of Waco, Texas, Inger Svendsen of Margate, Fla., Knud (Stacy) Svendsen of Lone Tree, Colo., Kirsten (Brian) Van Hoy of Trafalgar, Ind., Janna (Paul) Beattie of Edwinstown, Niels Svendsen of Urbana, Heidi (Dan) Somers of Indianapolis, Ind.; 14 grandchildren with Aubrey Gonzalez, Sierra Svendsen, Dane Svendsen, Sarah Van Hoy, Ethan Van Hoy, Elliott Van Hoy, Elise Svendsen, Beck Svendsen, Carrie Pirtle, Addie Bradford, Jackie Beattie, Fia Svendsen, Kelly Svendsen, and Elainah Somers surviving; and four great-grandchildren, Naomi Gonzalez, Laila Gonzalez, Matthew Paul Bradford, and Evelyn Pirtle.

Preceding her in death are her brother, Bob Mahoney; and her son, Kurt Svendsen.

After marriage, the couple lived near their families in Pekin, for several years. They later moved to Springfield, Alexandria, Va., and Park Forest. They eventually settled on a farm on Sulphur Springs Road in Paris, where they reared eight children.

Attending both St. Mary's and St. Aloysius, Mrs. Svendsen was a member of the St. Aloysius Choir and supporter of Right to Life. An avid seamstress, she collected fabric, patterns and sewing equipment throughout her life. She also enjoyed being a member of the Master Gardeners Club. Most of all, she was a dedicated wife and mother.

Mrs. Svendsen shared her husband's love of sailing on Muskegon Lake off Lake Michigan as well as dedication to praying for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to Right To Life or St. Mary's Catholic Church.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

ELINOR STRASMA
 Mary "Elinor" Strasma, 98, of Paris, and formerly of Rossville and Decatur, passed away at 8:25 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, at her residence, with her family by her side. She worked as a home health care provider for many years in Paris and the surrounding areas.

A graveside service is 10:30 a.m. today, Oct. 19, at Rossville Cemetery in Rossville. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Strasma was born May 4, 1921, at Urbana, the daughter of the late Martin Edward

CAROL HEISCHMIDT
 Carol Lynn Hurst Heischmidt, 67, of Paris, and formerly of Illiopolis, passed away at 4:37 a.m. Friday, Oct. 4, 2019, at Horizon Health Hospital. She was a merchandiser for Foster and Grant, a manager for Dollar General and worked 20 years at Kmart.

A memorial service was 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9, at Lake Ridge Christian Church. Visitation was from noon until the service time Oct. 9 at the church.

Mrs. Heischmidt was born July 5, 1952, at St. Louis, Mo., the daughter of the late James and Lela Garner Hurst.

She loved spending time with her family and friends. She volunteered for the Challengers League and loved the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Bears, Garth Brooks and Brett Eldredge. She also loved all animals and had lots of pets over the years.

Mrs. Heischmidt was also a member of Lake Ridge Christian Church. She was part of the organ donor program, which was able to donate her eyes.

Memorial donations may be made to the Challengers League.

PATRICIA BELLINGER
 Patricia J. Bellinger, 86, of Paris, and formerly of Casey, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 16, 2019, at Life's Journey, in Paris. She was a nurse and enjoyed a long career in the healthcare field. For 21 years, she was the administrator of Birchwood Long Term Care in Casey.

Following cremation, a graveside service is 1 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at Shields Cemetery, north of Kansas. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Bellinger was born Dec. 17, 1932, in rural Edgar County, the daughter of the late Lewis Eugene Metcalf and Ruby Mae Bennett Metcalf. She married Jack Bellinger, who preceded her in death in 2018.

She is survived by six children, Pam (Jim) Clendenning, Tim (Sherry) Hibschan, Jeff (Ellen) Hibschan, Mitch

(Sandy) Hibschan, Karla (Tom) Geisse and Shannon (Doug) Bradley; three stepchildren, Kathy (Tim) Troll, Sherry (Albert) Lyles and John Marc (Cheryl) Bellinger; 24 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren, three step-grandchildren; four step-great-grandchildren; and one brother, Harlan Metcalf.

She was preceded in death by siblings, Mary Moore, Homer Metcalf and Brian Carter Metcalf; one stepson, David Bellinger; one step-grandchild; and one step-great-grandchild.

Memorial donations may be made to American Parkinson's Disease Association at <https://www.apdaparkinson.org/1907d3l/>, the Lewy Body Dementia Association at <https://www.lbda.org/donate> or a charity of the donor's choice.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

BRIAN SMITH
 MARSHALL - Brian E. Smith, 50, of Indianapolis, Ind., and formerly of Marshall, passed away Thursday, Oct. 10, 2019, at his home.

A service honoring his life was 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 15, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial in St. Mary's Cemetery was accompanied by military graveside rites by Clark County Post #90 of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #5975. Visitation was from 4-7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Remember Me Clifford.

More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

JOAN WASHBURN
 MARSHALL - Joan M. Washburn, 86, of Kansas, and formerly of Vermilion, passed away at 12:45 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, 2019, at Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing.

A service honoring her life was 2 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial was in the Vermilion Cemetery. Visitation was from noon until the service time Wednesday at the

funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to the Success Christian Church.

More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

DEAN FINNEY
 WESTFIELD - Dean LeRoy Finney, 84, of Westfield, passed away at 6:20 p.m. Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, at Arbor Rose, Charleston.

A Celebration of Life service is 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26, at the Westfield United Methodist Church. Military rites by Westfield

American Legion and Kansas American Legion are part of the celebration of life service. Private burial at a later date is in Maple Hill Cemetery. Visitation is from 1 p.m. until the service time Oct. 26 at the church. Markwell Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to Lincolnland Hospice of Sarah Bush Lincoln, or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

More information and online condolences at www.markwellfuneralhome.com.

CECILE RAMSEY
 MARSHALL - Cecile L. Ramsey, 98, of Marshall, passed away at 12:45 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14, at Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing.

A service honoring her life was 1 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial was in Marshall Cemetery. Visitation was from noon until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

RUTH ANN WIELAND
 Ruth Ann Wieland, 77, of Paris, passed away at 11:47 p.m. EDT Sunday, Oct. 13, 2019, at the Gibson Family Center for Hospice Care, Terre Haute, Ind.

A service celebrating her life was 10 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at Templeton Funeral Home, with Pastor Troy Warner officiating. Burial followed in Harmony Cemetery near Kansas. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Edgar County Diabetic Association or to the ECCF D.O. It Cancer Support Group.

More information and online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

HAROLD HALL
 MARTINSVILLE - Harold Eugene Hall, 93, of Neoga, passed away at 10:10 p.m. Oct. 11, at St. Anthony Hospital, Effingham.

A funeral service was noon Thursday, Oct. 17, at Greenwell Funeral Home. Burial followed in Ridgeland Cemetery. Visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

More information and online condolences at www.markwellfuneralhome.com.

ALICE KENNEDY
 Alice Marie Leeman Kennedy, 76, of Evansville, Ind., and formerly of Paris, passed away at 7:07 a.m. Monday, Oct. 14, 2019, at Deaconess Midtown Hospital in Evansville.

A service celebrating her life was 10:30 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18, at Templeton Funeral Home. Burial followed in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 17, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Cornerstone Baptist Church.

More information and online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

and Nelle Hubbard Robbins. She married Eugene Jason "Jay" Strasma Sept. 6, 1952, at Champaign. He preceded her in death May 24, 1990.

Survivors include a daughter, Cindy (Sean) McBride, and a brother, Lewis Robbins, both of Paris; a granddaughter, Meagan (Andy) Brinkerhoff of Sauk City, Wis.; and three great-grandchildren, Ella, Vance and Briggs Brinkerhoff.

In addition to her loving husband, she was preceded in death by her beloved son, Thomas E. Strasma; and an infant daughter, Debora A. Strasma.

Mrs. Strasma was an amaz-

ing wife, mother, grandmother and sister. She had a love for gardening and was an avid reader. She enjoyed crocheting and gifted beautiful blankets to people during beautiful times in their lives. She volunteered at the Decatur Public Library and was an active member of the Home Extension, where she continued her joy of learning while making lifelong friendships. She was always proud of her family and leaves behind beautiful memories.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

FROM DONALD G. WISEMAN, EDGAR COUNTY COLLECTOR
 While processing our State required publication of Delinquent 2018 Real Estate Taxes, I authorized the printing of four delinquent payers when in fact the property and the listed tax liability were no longer theirs. I have apologized to all parties and am providing the following retraction (with their consent):
Brittany S. White & John M. White 09-14-31-101-003
Joseph W. Dagley & Lanny Wong 09-19-07-202-007
 Moving forward to next year, changes have already been implemented to help avoid similar errors. Thank you.

The Family of
Chester Higginbotham
 would like to thank the community of Paris for their love, kindness and sympathy shown at the passing of our father. We especially want to thank the staff at Life's Journey who treated our dad like he was their own; Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home for handling the funeral arrangements; Nels Kasey and Bro. Kurt Speece for their wonderful tributes to our dad; Randy Shafer and LeeAnn Higginbotham for their beautiful songs; the Bell Ridge Christian Church family for the delicious meal after the funeral. For the many cards, flowers and memorials we are forever grateful.

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On guns, tech and conflicts

I muse widely, yet my knowledge base is quite narrow. So, I could sure use help from thoughtful readers who know more than I about the topics below, which I am beginning to explore for possible essays. Those with informed thoughts and links to good sources, please email at jnowlan3@gmail.com.



JIM NOWLAN
ILLINOIS PERSPECTIVE

First: There will be war-like conflicts in the future, and the U.S. won't be spared, as we have been in the past. As drones and cyber conflict replace much of the boots-on-the-ground-warfare, the first thing to go down in any major future dust-up would likely be our electric power grid.

Would apocalyptic chaos ensue on the streets? Would a nation like ours be brought to its knees, just like big corporations that make huge ransomware payoffs to hackers, to get their systems back up and running?

Could Americans benefit from civil defense training, or would it be useless? How would you and your family fare if you were without electricity for several weeks? Should every family buy a small gas-powered generator to keep the lights on, and a supply of food and water?

Second: The evil of anonymity. In my early days as a weekly newspaper publisher, we required that letters to the editor be signed. After all, the writer should be willing to stand behind his thoughts.

In today's world of instantaneous, off-the-cuff, often profane, vicious comment via digital platforms, anonymity seems to be the order of the day. On the blogs I see, commenters use fictitious handles. Why?

Anonymity allows us to brush aside the mediating forces of our personality (the ego and superego, as Freud would have it) and unleash the id, our primitive, animal drives (the beast within us, as Hobbes would say). This builds anger and polarization.

If self-identification became the norm again, we would tend to be much more respectful, but could still make our arguments. And, in contrast, anonymous comment would therefore be discounted. Right?

Third: What are the consequences of our society having been transformed, in about one short century, from a nation of producers to that of consumers? In the early 1900s and before, most job holders made things, whether on the farm or in the factory. Today, few of us make things. Many of us do provide services, often critical ones like health care, but many services are nice but not necessary. Our primary job as humans has been transformed from producing to consuming. That is

See NOWLAN, Page 7A

NECAS moving again

Advisory question to be placed on March, 2020 ballot about ambulance

The Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service (NECAS) special meeting Tuesday, Oct. 15, finally got something moving.

Board members voted to place an advisory question on the March 17 ballot asking residents of Young America, Ross, Prairie, Brouillets Creek, Edgar and Shiloh townships if they support the idea of creating a special service area and collecting a tax to support having an ambulance based in Chrisman and serving northern Edgar County.

After many false starts during 2019 to find a solution for the ambulance service's financial problems, this is welcome action. Residents must understand a positive vote on the question does not establish the special service area. This is an advisory question to gauge public sentiment and to also placate the Ross Township Board members who insisted on such action.

Only the Edgar County Board can create a special service area through passing an ordinance. This action does not require a referendum since there is a protest period following the passage of the ordinance giving any opponents time to gather petitions in an effort to stop the service area and tax.

OUR VIEW

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

While March seems a long time away, the NECAS board must remain vigilant on this issue and be ready to submit the proposed special service area ordinance immediately after the primary so the county board can vote on the issue at the April 8 meeting. That vote sets the clock running for a public hearing on the issue after 60 days, and following the hearing there is another 60-day waiting period for opponents to file a petition stopping the action.

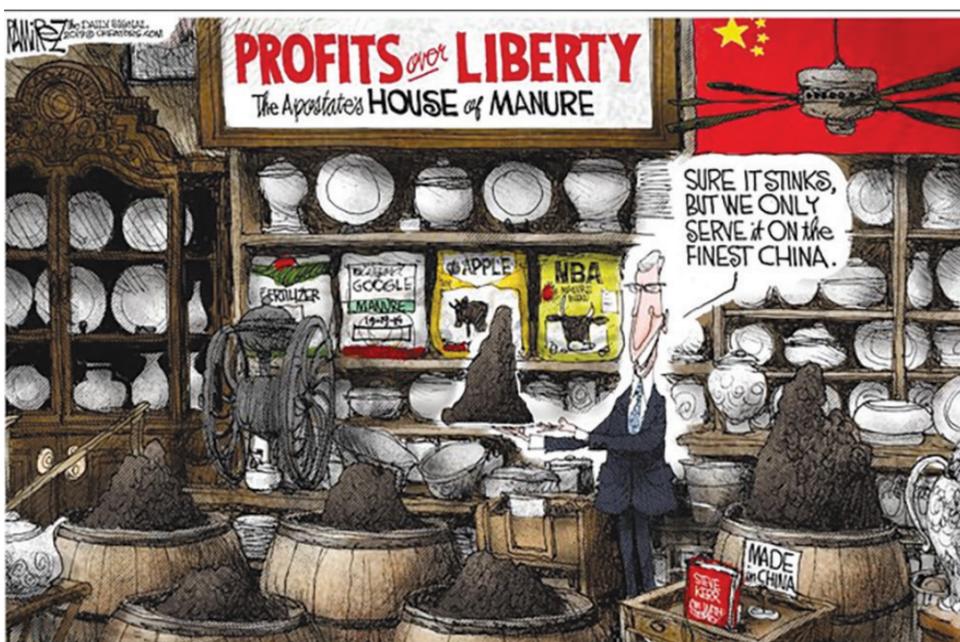
Any significant delay in getting the ordinance passed at the county board may push the project too late for getting tax money in 2021. It is for that reason we disagree with some of the alternative ideas proposed at the recent Ross Township Board meeting that will require a referendum on the November ballot. Waiting that long pushes the receipt of tax support out to 2022, which is far too long for replacing the financially struggling Northern Edgar County Ambulance

Service with something that has more stability.

We also understand some concern by northern Edgar County residents that local control over the ambulance ends if a special service area is created. The county board becomes the administering agent and will bid the contract for the service so NECAS will likely dissolve at that time.

The Edgar County Board is still local government and its members understand the importance of having a Chrisman-based ambulance service. Carefully writing the ordinance and the bid specifications will guarantee that whatever company gets the bid must keep an ambulance in the northern part of the county.

After years of watching the declining interest in serving on local government bodies, and elections going on without a candidate for every seat, we do not believe the best course is creating a new elected body for the sole purpose of dealing with an ambulance tax. The county board is experienced in handling this for the special service area in southern Edgar County and is more than capable of doing the same for our northern residents.



Making numbers work for responders

One of the provisions of the sweeping state pension reform law passed in 2010



RICH LAST
CAPITOL FAX

has always stuck in the craw of first responders.

Police and (especially) firefighter unions fought the local government lobby for decades to increase survivor benefits, and then they watched many of those hard-fought wins get wiped away when the General Assembly decided it had to lower pension benefits for new hires to avoid a fiscal catastrophe.

The reforms produced a system known as "Tier 2," as opposed to the more generous pre-existing system, which is known as "Tier 1."

One of the changes eliminated survivor benefits if the first responder was killed on duty during the first 10 years of service. Previously, survivors had been entitled to 54 percent of final average salary no matter how long they'd worked. But, with Tier Two, if that dead cop or firefighter wasn't yet entitled to a pension, the survivor received nothing.

So, one of the ways the governor's pension consolidation task force apparently helped convince the firefighters union to go along with the merger of the state's 600+ local first responder pension fund assets was to change the survivor benefit back to its original Tier 1 level. The cost to the funds is relatively minimal, but the peace of mind it gives first responders is probably priceless.

The police unions are not on board, but the

See MILLER, Page 7A

YOUR VIEW

Coat drive underway at church

Editor, The Prairie Press:

The First Christian Church will once again provide coats for school children at no cost during our Head, Hands and Heart project to be held Nov. 7 and 8.

Notes will be sent to each grade school as reminders of the opportunity and must be brought along with the child to receive a coat on Nov. 7.

If you would like to donate clean, gently used children's coats, you can drop off at First Christian Church.

Mary K. Bradford
Community Outreach Chairman
Paris

Trump has left us no choice: We must protect the Constitution

Editor, The Prairie Press:

"I'd like you to do us a favor, though." With these words, Trump's infamous Ukraine phone call is seared into history.

This is not about Hillary, Obama or the fictional deep state. This is about the President of the United States extorting a foreign leader to get dirt on his opponent, an impeachable offense. It is quid pro quo, simple and straightforward like Russian roulette.

Instead of going through proper channels and adhering to the law, the president's men went straight to the top and covered it up by removing the electronic transcript from the computer system. They then locked down the Ukraine call as well as Putin's, the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia and China's President Xi.

In so doing, Trump and his men understood the gravity of what they had done and displayed consciousness of guilt.

This is a somber time, for Trump has left no choice but to protect and defend the Constitution and proceed expeditiously with

See LETTERS, Page 7A

Democrat debate: Eat the billionaires

If you missed Tuesday night's Democratic presidential debate — and I hope for your sake you did — here are a few key details you must know:

There were 83 presidential hopefuls on the stage, the debate lasted for half of former Vice President Joe Biden's lifetime and each candidate got to speak for 13

seconds.

It was held on the campus of Otterbein University — home of the Frothy Otters — outside Columbus, Ohio, a city the Democrats had temporarily renamed "Indigenous Peoples, Ohio."

There was one billionaire onstage, Tom Steyer, but he was eaten by a noticeably energetic post-heart-attack Sen. Bernie Sanders during hour two.

At no point did Beto O'Rourke skateboard across the stage while flashing a hang-loose sign, but it was clear he was thinking about it.

With those things in mind, and in the interest of brevity, I'll distill all that was said during the debate into one debate-stage opening statement.

Imagine this is coming from an amalgam of all the candidates, from front-runners such as Sen. Elizabeth Warren, Biden and Sanders to back-runners such as Sen. Cory Booker, Andrew Yang and former housing secretary Julian Castro. You could call the

collective candidate Elizabeth Sandamala Bernuttigieg O'Bookyang. Or possibly Joelizabern Klobucastro Stabbard. Totally up to you.

Here goes:
The first thing I'd like to say tonight is that if I win the Democratic nomination, I will beat President Donald Trump like a drum. Like a drum, I tell you.

Maybe even something noisier than a drum, like an empty oil barrel filled with cats. I will beat Trump like an empty oil barrel filled with cats.

Of course, the cats will not be harmed. They will be rescue cats who are comfortable inside barrels that are being beaten by progressive-thinking candidates like myself who love all cats and all living creatures.

There will also be no oil remnants in that barrel, because when I'm president we will no longer need oil. (Also, it might harm the cats, and I would never harm cats. Or any animal. Or person. Did I mention I'm vegan?)

Yes, America will be powered by wind and sunshine. We will break the stranglehold of oil industry billionaires.

In fact, we will do away with billionaires altogether, first by taking their money so they are no longer technically billionaires, then by eating them because they were, previously, billionaires.

My eat-the-rich plan is simple and will bring about the economic justice so many Americans have longed for. It will also provide a wide array of recipes for billion-

aire meat that incorporate locally sourced ingredients. Of course, I won't be having any because I'm vegan. Did I mention I'm vegan?

Along with dining on the billionaires we've made into non-billionaires, my revolutionary but pragmatic but also definitely revolutionary plan will be to give each and every American \$1,000, along with Medicare-for-all, free child care, a guaranteed college education, a new Xbox, free prescription drugs, two hypoallergenic puppies, a basket of fresh kale and a vacuum-packed bag of Bill Gates jerky.

How am I going to accomplish all this, and pay for it? That's a very good question, and the thing is that you'll see when it all starts to happen just how much you save and how your taxes have definitely maybe not gone up or if they've gone up it's really nothing because now you have an Xbox and some Microsoft-founder jerky.

What you need to understand is that this issue is personal to me. In fact, all issues are personal to me. I grew up in a loving single-parent home surrounded by the sound of gunshots and every day my single parent, who is also a union member and a recovering alcoholic and an immigrant and a victim of predatory lenders, would walk on his or her hands to get to work at the thing factory making sure me and my brother(s) and/or sister(s) could have better lives.

So, when I talk about stuff, you

See HUPPKE, Page 7A

HAVE YOUR SAY

The Prairie Press welcomes letters to the editor and guest columns. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Columnists should demonstrate authority and knowledge of the topic (preferably of state and local interest) and make information-backed arguments. We reserve the right to edit letters or to not publish certain letters or guest columns.

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NOWLAN

FROM PAGE 6A

is why Wall Street pores over the data from the many surveys of consumer sentiment. If we stop gorging ourselves with food, doo-dads and services, beyond our needs, our economy collapses. Doesn't it worry readers that if consumers suddenly decided to stop shopping, for reasons of anxiety about our economic future or whatever, we would be in deep economic doo-doo? And shouldn't our government be saving for a rainy day, rather than piling on trillions in long-term debt simply to stimulate more current consumption? Fourth: Are humans becoming helpless in the age of digital helpmates? Have you ever asked a teen behind the counter at a gas station for directions? He or she looks at

you as if you're from another planet. I'm sure he wonders why I haven't already looked the directions up on my cell-phone (which I can do). Computers find everything for us. Farmers around me aren't even allowed to fix their own equipment. It's as if digital technology is somehow, surreptitiously, relegating humans to total dependency, helplessness. If so, what are the consequences? Five: Why don't officials act to ban assault-style weapons of war like AR 15s and AK 47s, each able to spew out scores of bullets per minute? I live in rural gun country. Many of my friends have several guns, for hunting, target practice as well as personal and home defense, which I think is fine. None of my friends, however, so far as I know, has the need for his own weapon of

war. Yet these rat-a-tat guns have to be absolute magnets for pathologically insecure men whose battered self-esteem is bolstered by ownership of big weapons. If the world of responsible gun owners, as most are, came out against weapons of war, their standing in the larger society would be enhanced, especially by parents who are now fearful of letting their kids go to the malls. What am I missing here, as there isn't even much talk of banning such weapons? Any thoughtful observations to guide me, or straighten me out, much appreciated. (For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.)

HUPPKE

FROM PAGE 6A

know it means something to me, because I've experienced all of the relatable things potential voters might have experienced. I understand the Midwest, and I also understand the Heartland, and the Rust Belt, and the places some people who are not me refer to as Flyover Country. I will never fly over you or your country. I will always stop and visit and share relatable tales of all we have in common, like a desire

for Medicare-for-all, free childcare, free college, a guaranteed federal job and a mouthful of peppery jerky. I will eliminate the scourge of gun violence by riding my skateboard across the country to collect everyone's AR-15s. I will ban President Trump from Twitter and have his fingers humanely fixed so he can never tweet again. I will reach across the aisle to my friends in the Republican Party because, while they have shown no willingness to ever work with a Democrat ever again, I am different, I have accomplished all the things and I am the only person equipped

to step into the job and, on day one, help our nation heal from the damage inflicted by Trump, who I will beat like a drum and/or an empty oil barrel filled with cats. Thank you, and may your preferred deity bless America. (Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. He is considered (by himself) to be America's most-beloved columnist, though there is no empirical evidence of that. Before becoming a columnist he spent a decade reporting on social justice issues, from poverty and gang violence to the gay civil rights movement.)

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6A

the impeachment inquiry. Although there is a cornucopia of various offenses, the intent in Ukraine is there in his own words. In Watergate's time and now, there's a cancer growing in the presidency. If there's nothing to hide, produce the transcript, not a summary as Trump did, and all private servers, texts and emails. Thankfully, the whis-

tleblowers, true patriots, will be protected as much as possible by the whistleblower act as Trump and his state department continue to obstruct and stonewall. Now the south lawn of the White House is the scene of Trump in front of the entire world, openly inviting Ukraine and China to investigate his rival. But the plot thickens, for now under arrest before their one-way ticket took effect, are two men helping a gullible Giuliani on Trump's

smear campaign against Biden. They were funneling foreign money to a Trump PAC to influence our elections. Now there's something to defend, just like Trump's nasty and vicious comments about Schiff, Biden and President Obama, too explicit to print. The scandal continues to grow. The mountains of evidence are piling up. Set him out. Anita L. Griffith Vermillion

MILLER

FROM PAGE 6A

Associated Firefighters of Illinois has infinitely more political strength than the coppers. They raise a lot of money and their members walk a ton of precincts. The police union members do neither, as a general rule. The pension consolidation report issued last week also recommended tweaking the annual Tier 2 pension benefit increase to bring it into line with federal laws on Social Security. Pension benefits are not allowed to be less than what a pensioner would receive in the Social Security program. The current Tier 2 system was deliberately constructed to subsidize the Tier 1 system – in other words, it's designed to bring in more than it will pay out. One of Springfield's biggest expensive secrets is that Tier 2 will eventually have to be revised to align it with federal law. And that could come in a little more than a year, when some employees will have put in 10 years of work and will therefore be vested and have standing to sue. The Tier 2 annual benefit increase is currently set at half the Consumer Price Index increase or 3 percent, whichever is lower. The task force recommended changing that to the full yearly Consumer Price Index increase or 3 percent, whichever is lower. The pension fund consolidation task force also recommended changing the pension calculation from the current average of the highest eight of the last 10 years of service to the average of four of the last five years because first responders' "years of service tend to be more abbreviated than other public-sector occupations," the report claims.

The task force estimated the costs of these changes at between \$14 million and \$19 million a year over five years. The estimated investment gains from consolidation are between \$164 million and \$500 million per year over five years. But this is Illinois, and if I've learned anything in this job it's that estimated costs are almost always too low and estimated returns are almost always too high. I'll believe those projections when I see them. If this succeeds, however,

it might set the template for dealing with the same sort of Tier Two federal law issues facing the state's three big pension funds (state workers, suburban and downstate teachers and university employees). Make some benefit tweaks to get them into line with federal law along with some other benefit changes and then consolidate assets. (Rich Miller is the editor of the Capitol Fax blog and newsletter, which he has been publishing for more than 20 years. His email is capitol-fax@gmail.com.)

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Solar energy, insurance tension dominate meeting

BY SAMANTHA TUCKER
samantha@prairiepress.net

The Chrisman Board of Education worked through a full schedule Tuesday, Oct. 15, hearing an information-packed presentation from Midwest Wind & Solar before turning to the tense health insurance situation.

Midwest Wind & Solar representatives Marc van Dongen and Debra Howe spoke about the advantages and feasibility of solar power for Chrisman's schools.

One of van Dongen's leading points was that solar power saves money. Illinois gave a particular advantage in 2016 by passing the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA), requiring large utility companies to expand their capacity for clean energy. Thus, entities who install panels are awarded Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs), which the state buys back to build up their solar portfolio for FEJA's 2030 deadline.

Solar panels at Chrisman would decrease the kilowatts per hour (kWh) Chrisman already buys from Homefield Energy. Another advantage is net metering, by which excess kWh go onto the power grid for credit, which the school can later use to take power from the grid at no charge.

A school's financial gain depends on whether they involve a third party in their financing plan or pay independently.

A third-party deal, or Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), is the one most often used by schools and municipalities.

Here, a tax equity investor pays for installation, maintenance and insurance, then collects the tax benefits from owning a solar array. The school buys the solar energy at a fixed, reduced rate from the investor, instead of from the utility.

A PPA optimizes budgeting. The electric savings for Chrisman High School is estimated at \$8,578 after one year and

\$330,112 after 25 years. After the warranty expires at that 25-year mark, the investor would offer three options: renew the agreement, buy out the array or cancel the contract. Canceling makes the investor pay to remove the array, which the school could use it as a bargaining chip to get a good price for buyout. Well-maintained panels can last up to 40 years.

The board faces more expenses if they pursue their own financing route, but also greater dividends. Total installation and equipment costs are in the range of \$450,000. However, the first year would see \$25,793 in energy cost reduction, and a rebate on the panels' inverter would return about \$64,000 to the school within six months. SRECs would provide about \$95,000 dollars after four years. "Certainly, your year one savings are higher if you deploy your own capital," said van Dongen.

Preliminary designs give the option of 468-480 panels either on the ground or atop the roof at Chrisman High School, and 213 on the roof of the elementary school. If installed on the ground, a Curriculum Development Educational Array could be included to allow teachers to safely do hands-on STEM demonstrations.

The board was urged to reach a decision as soon as possible since FEJA incentives are in what van Dongen called a sunset phase.

The board revisited the massive health insurance bobble that left the Illinois Educator's Risk Management Co-op (IERMP) dramatically underfunded. Schools were undercharged for coverage, so Loman-Ray and Health Alliance must now scramble to recoup their losses and realign cash flow. Fortunately, Acklin believes the situation is improving. Loman-Ray is taking the mistake seriously and is concerned about the effect it will

have on schools, reportedly spending \$2 million to control the damage and make payments on claims.

"I think we're probably on the right track for getting this turned around," he said.

Acklin also spoke to actuary Steve Bushue to discuss alternative plans to mitigate the incoming premium hike, which is expected to be a 14 to 38 percent increase from what schools are already paying. Alternative plans range from a 15.5 percent increase to a 5 percent decrease depending on the plan. District bookkeeper Sunny Hughes sent copies of the alternative plans to all the school staff currently insured under the IERMP.

The earliest the school can leave the co-op is September 2020. Acklin said that decision will be based on what other insurance is available.

Better news came with the 2019 auditor's report, which the school board quickly approved. Operating costs decreased, and the district was able to budget another \$513,267 into the education, building and transportation funds, while holding \$2.28 million in reserve. Next fiscal year the district conservatively expects the surplus in those funds will be around \$274,885.

Principle Cole Huber reported moving breakfast into the school day as opposed to before it has resulted in more students starting their day off with proper nutrition. Instances of behavioral problems and students feeling unwell have dropped.

Huber has also been told that all three Chrisman schools have received Commendable status on their State Report Cards.

Ecology team takes third place

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Crestwood's Ecology Team once again proved to be one of the best in the area, the Crestwood Unit 4 school board learned during its October meeting Wednesday, Oct. 9 at the school.

The ecology team, coached by Andrea Lau, earned third place out of 21 teams during the annual competition at Lake Shelbyville, according to Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Danette

Young. Junior High math teacher Michelle Duke has also been honored as the Paris Lions Club teacher of the month, Young announced.

In other business, the board:

■ Heard a presentation from Ron Richardson of FGM.

■ Approved an interagency agreement with the Illinois State Police.

■ Authorized bidding for the district's insurance for the

2020-2021 school year.

■ Heard parent-teacher conferences will be Oct. 23-24. The conferences will be from 3:30-7 p.m. on Oct. 23 and 2:35-6:30 p.m. on Oct. 24.

■ Accepted the resignation of Chelsea Cater effective Oct. 10, 2019.

■ Approved maternity leave for Mariah McConkey.

■ Hired Holly Winans as a paraprofessional.
■ Hired Tim Saiter as an assistant track coach.

PHS

FROM PAGE 1A

and Crestwood students, opportunities to have hands-on lessons about pollinators and their importance to Edgar County commercial agriculture, gardens and so much more.

Board member John Sanchez expressed a concern about committing future boards to the project, questioning "What if we need that land for something else?"

Tucker said the answer is simple. "You just start mowing the area again," he explained.

A controlled burn will likely be needed before the acreage is seeded, Tucker said. Pheasants Forever members are trained about doing a controlled burn and will work with the Paris Fire Department.

"I can't think of any downside to this," Tucker concluded.

In other business, the board received the school's audit report from Larsson, Woodyard and Henson. The high school's bookkeeping is through Paris District 95, said Daylea Ethridge who presented the audit.

Ethridge noted only one of the school's funds finished in the red for the fiscal year — IMRF at \$4,400. Last year, there were four funds, she said.

The board also:

■ Accepted the resignations of PHS track coaches Jordan Stallings and Mary Ann Stallings, effective immediately.

■ Accepted the resignation of Mark Johnson as the PHS bass fishing club sponsor, effective Sept. 7.

■ Extended the board's

thanks to the First Christian Church for once again sponsoring Lunch on the Lawn. Co-interim principal Lorraine Bailey said the congregation prepares lunch for all PHS students during Homecoming week and ahead of the class games.

■ Approved the use of the Paris Center of Fine Arts from 4-9 p.m. on Jan. 8 by the Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

■ Heard a report on the recent in-service day at PHS for teachers by co-interim principal Carol Jones.

■ Heard a couple of PHS teachers are considering offering an SAT review class for students. It will likely begin in January.

■ Recognized all of the paid and volunteer coaches who work with PHS athletes during National Coaches Week.

ROBOTICS

FROM PAGE 1A

robot as a project at the Edgar County 4-H Fair.

"She was the only person in that competition and said it would have been fun if more people were involved," said St. Clair and credited Crandell with following up by creating a robotics club.

Some of the club members were working with Legos MINDSTORM® kits. The kits are multifaceted so after building a robot and programming it to perform a task everything can be disassembled and reconfigured in a different manner with a new task.

St. Clair likes for the youths to work in teams. She said a team of two is best but three or four is also acceptable.

"Some kids are better at building and some are better at coding," she said.

4-H member Addilee Gill agreed. She was busy taking apart a robot.

"I don't really do technology, but I'm really good at Legos," Gill said.

St. Clair sees the robotics club as a reflection of what is waiting in the future for the club members.

"Programming robots is what they will do in the future," said St. Clair. "The robots at NAL have to be programmed. It is endless what they can do."

As a former art teacher, St. Clair also sees artistry in the science and technology the club members find so fascinating.

"You're building. You're creating. It's your imagination. It's everything," said St. Clair.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Gage Wright, standing, and Cash Kuglin, seated, consult the manual while attempting to program the robot they built in the Robotics 4-H Club. The goal was to have the robot follow a line and take directions via a built in microphone to pick up verbal commands.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Paris High School sophomore Cooper Kuglin works on a robot during the Robotics 4-H Club meeting. The goal for his robot is to sense when it reaches a barrier.

ENERSTAR DONATES TO NECAS



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

EnerStar Electric Cooperative made a \$7,500 donation to the Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service (NECAS) to help fix the ambulance bay's heating and cooling system. Left to right, Mike Taylor, Kevin Julian, Jeremy Neal, Daren Craig and Vic Wheeler. Julian serves on both the NECAS and EnerStar boards.

Kansas takes improvement survey

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
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KANSAS — The results of the 5Essentials Organizing Schools for Improvement Survey for the Kansas schools were distributed to Kansas Board of Education members at their regular meeting Wednesday, Oct. 16.

Principal Cindy Spencer discussed the results, noting local students, teachers and parents participate in the survey and this year the response rate was well over the state average. She added the results are organized for school improvement based on more than 80 student questions and 150 teacher questions compiled into 22 measures of school climate and practice that is formatted into five essentials.

Spencer said she will concentrate on the lowest measures which were collaborative practices, innovation and math instruction and include those points in her school improvement plan.

Teacher-principal trust was ranked the highest in the effective leaders category in both schools' report.

"I think this is fantastic," said Spencer.

The report in detail for Kansas Elementary School and Kansas High School can be

found at <https://www.5-essentials.org/illinois/Se/2019/>.

During the principle report, Spencer noted the school and students are benefiting from the state funded free breakfast and lunch grant program that was implemented at the beginning of the school year. She said the school cafeteria served 532 breakfasts and 678 lunches in August compared to one year ago in 2018 when the cafeteria served 195 breakfasts and 445 lunches. After comparing similar numbers in September 2018 and September 2019, Spencer said, "We are seeing a significant difference and we are thrilled about that."

The students recently completed two of the three fire drills for the year along with an active shooter drill. A second all-school active shooter drill will be held in the spring in which the recently installed second story emergency escape ladders will be used.

Spencer noted the end of the first quarter was Wednesday and grade cards will be sent home next week. She also added that Kansas High School is hosting the volleyball regionals at the end of the month.

Auditor Kent Kull of Mose, Yockey, Brown, Kull, LLC of Shelbyville presented the final school district audit report to

each school board member before reviewing the main points, including the financial statements.

"It is a positive year for the district in a cash flow perspective," said Kull adding the district again scored the highest points, which are four points, by the state board of education in assessing the district's financial profile.

"This is how the state board quantitatively measures the financial health of the school district...looking at five bullet points and giving your school a score of four, the highest, which is considered strong financially by the state board of education," said Kull. "You were a four the year before so congratulations."

The board unanimously approved the auditor report before going into closed session.

Following the closed session, the board voted to employ student Aydonne Sutton as a part-time custodian at \$8.25 per hour. Sutton will help clean following home ballgames. The next Kansas board of education meeting is one hour later than normal at 7 p.m. on Nov. 20.

NECAS

FROM PAGE 1A

vehicle purchase, insurance, maintenance, housing expenses, supplies and equipment would come in on top of that.

"If that's the only choice, the special service area is preferred, but we want it on the ballot," said Mike Taylor, the Ross Township representative to NECAS. "I don't know of anyone that doesn't want to keep the ambulance, but the public should vote on it."

Ross Township resident John Craig was in the audience and he had a different take on the issue.

"I think it would pass, so why not go ahead and do it anyway?" asked Craig.

NECAS board president Kevin Julian questioned attorney Robert Morris if a majority vote of the board is sufficient to ask the county board to create a special service area. Morris stated a belief that a unanimous vote is preferable, and Taylor indicated he would vote no for anything other than placing the question on the March primary ballot.

County board chairman Jeff Voigt was present at the meeting and said the board stands

ready to do anything possible to help. He also reminded everyone the referendum question is advisory only and even a majority of people voting support for the special service area does not make it happen. It still requires the county board to pass an ordinance and that triggers the 120-day waiting period to give any opponents time to circulate a protest petition before the ordinance becomes final.

The NECAS board approved an instruction for Morris to draft a referendum question and to file it with Edgar County Clerk and Recorder August Griffin before the Dec. 31 deadline.

"I don't have a problem with an advisory vote," said Julian.

Also discussed during the meeting was how to keep NECAS going until special service area tax money is available in July 2021.

"The local communities will have to dig into the taxes to provide the money," said NECAS board member Daren Craig.

Taylor agreed.

"The townships will have to give a little more to provide a cushion," said Taylor. "We have to set those township levies in December."

After it was revealed the creation of a special service area means the county board assumes responsibility and bids the ambulance, some concern was raised about how to guarantee the winning bidder will staff an ambulance in Chrisman, and not Paris.

Voigt replied it is all in how the ordinance is created and the bidding specification. If the ordinance and the contract require an ambulance in Chrisman staffed around the clock, that is what bidders must propose and honor.

The county board currently oversees the special service area that supplies ambulance service for Hunter, Stratton, Elbridge, Symmes, Grandview, Buck and Paris Townships. Voigt said county board members are agreeable to altering the ambulance oversight committee to include representation from northern Edgar County, if a special service area is created for that part of the county.

Audience members said earlier in the evening that waiting for an ambulance from Paris is not acceptable, especially if the emergency is in the far northwest or northeast corners of the county.

TCT VB
on a rollBY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

The Tri-County volleyball team has managed to string together several good wins with postseason play looming.

The Titans latest victory came at the expense of Decatur Lutheran, who fell to Tri-County 13-25, 25-21 and 30-28 at Decatur.

The Titans got off to a slow start as the Lions won the first set 25-13, but managed to bounce back to win set two 25-21. Tri-County managed to win a back-and-forth third set 30-28 to win the match two sets to one.

Kaylenn Hunt and Cailynne Phillips each had ten kills. Chelli Hall had 17 digs. Natalee Gough had nine digs. Brooke Baker added eight digs and two aces off the bench. Melia Eskew had 21 assists. Izzy Carroll had seven digs.

Before the victory over Decatur, the Titans celebrated senior night with a 25-20, 25-14 sweep of Argenta-Oreana Tuesday, Oct. 15.

Eight Tri-County seniors were honored for their contributions during their time with the program.

Tri-County came into the match having lost three of its last four matches but the Titans got their mojo going at the right time to sweep the Bombers in straight sets 25-20 and 25-14 to get back into the win column.

In the first set, the Bombers got off to a quick 5-1 lead as the Titans started six seniors in honor of their support to the team.

Tri-County then used a 5-0 run to take a 6-5 lead before Argenta-Oreana answered with a 7-3 run of their own to go back up 12-9.

That was when the Titans finally got into a rhythm using a 13-6 streak to go back up 22-18 and hold off the Bombers to win 25-20.

Tri-County used its momentum to go up 5-1 in the second set before the Bombers went on a 9-4 win to go up 10-9. The Titans then went on a 9-1 run to go up 18-11 before winning the set 25-14.

The match ended in fairy tale style with the Titans leading 24-15 and serving for the match when Klara Zajickova, a foreign exchange student from Slovakia that is going to Kansas, got her first ever kill on the final point finding a spot near the end line to give Tri-County the win.

Kaylenn Hunt finished with six kills and 10 blocks. Cailynne Phillips added six kills and three blocks. Madison Shirley had three digs and three aces. Melia Eskew chipped in 14 assists and two blocks.

Tri-County is hosting a regional for the second time in three years and was seeded third in Sub-Sectional A of the Windsor Sectional complex.

The Titans will get a bye and play in the semi-finals in Kansas on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 6:30 p.m. against the winner of the first round contest that will be played on Monday, Oct. 28 at 6:30 p.m. featuring sixth-seeded Christian and 11th-seeded Neoga.

Tigers outlast Maroons

Paris races out to a 21-0 lead then has to hold on as Robinson give PHS an LIC score

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
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ROBINSON — For 24 minutes of Friday's Little Illini Conference match-up against Robinson, the Paris Tigers looked every bit like the defending LIC champions, as well as the league leaders this season.

High school football games are not 24 minutes long and somewhere along the way the Tigers lost their momentum, eventually holding off the Maroons 28-26 to earn their seventh win of the season against just one loss. Robinson falls to 3-5 overall and 2-5 in the LIC.

Following last week's grueling win in the mud at Olney,

the Tigers wasted little time in lighting up the scoreboard Friday.

A bad snap on the first play of the game led to a second-and-28 for Paris. Senior tailback Coy Landrum took care of the yards lost and more as he streaked down the sideline and outran every defender on his way to an 84-yard touchdown. Ethan Graham tacked on the extra point and the Tigers led it 7-0, just 0:59 into the game.

The Tiger defense held Robinson to a three-and-out. Paris took over near mid-field on their second possession and embarked on a 10-play 54-yard drive featuring 10 straight runs.

Quarterback Danny Perry accounted for 14 yards of those yards, Sam Mays picked up 19, and Nathan Zorn picked up the remaining 21, including the final yard into the end zone. Graham's extra-point attempt sailed wide, but the Tigers led it 13-0 at the 4:39 mark of the first period.

Robinson ran just two plays on their next possession before Zorn jarred the ball loose, and Mays recovered it at the Maroon's 38-yard line.

Perry found Mason Hutchings all alone in the slot for a 26-yard gain down to the Robinson 10. After a Robinson timeout and facing a third-and-goal from the five, Perry found Hutchings in the

corner of the end zone for a touchdown. Perry called his own number on the two-point conversion and the Tigers led 21-0 at the 1:32 mark of the first quarter.

Robinson cut into the lead on the fourth play of the second quarter, as running back Tyler Beard scored on an 8-yard run. The extra point was no good making the score 21-6.

The teams traded possessions for the next 10 minutes of action, but the Tigers struck with what appeared to be the dagger right before halftime.

Facing a third-and-8 at the Tiger 40-yard line, freshman quarterback Wes Jackson was

intercepted by senior cornerback Chase Hays at the 30. Hays stepped in front of the intended receiver, then streaked down the Robinson sideline for a 70-yard touchdown. Hays was assisted on the return by a huge block from Zorn who took out two would-be tacklers with one block in front of the Maroon bench. Graham split the up-rights to make it 28-6 with 1:08 left in the half.

Robinson made an adjustment in the locker room at the half, and Robinson Coach Casey Pinnell made a concerted effort to run the ball right at the Tiger defense.

His plan worked to a tee. See **TIGERS**, Page 10A

LIC VB title is on the line

Paris, Newton face off for LIC crown at PHS Thursday

BY JEREMY PATTERSON
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The Paris Lady Tigers set up a showdown with Newton for the 2019 LIC volleyball title Thursday, dispatching Robinson in straight sets.

The Paris team continued its school record-setting 2019 season defeating Robinson in straight sets 25-13, 25-9 at Robinson Thursday evening.

Earlier this week, Paris took down the Tuscola Warriors in straight sets 25-15, 25-21 in the annual Paris Lady Tigers Pink Night.

Paris extended its winning streak to 11 straight with Thursday's win over Robinson. According to MaxPreps.com, Paris is ranked 7th in the state in the class 2A volleyball rankings.

"The LIC is tough and you never know who is going to be the biggest competition," Paris Coach Christy Pinkston said in assessing Thursday's important LIC win. "It is always good to go into a game and win, regardless of who (in the LIC) it is."

Paris, now 22-2 for the season, established another school record for wins with this week's victories.

Robinson could not hang with the Lady Tigers Thursday dropping the match 25-13, 25-9.

The win was important, Pinkston pointed out, because it sets up Thursday's game against Newton, who are also undefeated in the LIC. It will also be senior night for the Lady Tigers.

The Lady Tigers were sharp in the Robinson matchup as Emma Pinkston led the attack with 12 kills on 16 attempts with a .750 hitting percentage. Pinkston, who is ranked number 11 in Class 2A for kills, added two aces and four digs during the match. Sara Burger had five kills, six digs and a team-high three aces. Lizzie Rouse had four kills to pair with a team-high three blocks. Payton Block dished out 18 assists in the LIC win.

On Tuesday, Paris took on non-conference opponent Tuscola, beating the always tough Douglas county team 25-15, 25-21.

Offensively, Paris was paced by Pinkston and Rouse who each had nine kills. Pinkston added four aces, seven digs and a block in the contest. Rouse also added a block and an assist. Burger added five kills, one ace and a dig. Katrina Strow had a team-high eight digs. Block added 22 assists in the win.

Leadership has been one of the key focal points for this Paris team, with players stepping up across the roster to help build on the foundation that has been laid down by past Lady Tigers past, the Paris coach noted.

With a talent-packed roster and consistent communication already built into this group, the leadership that has developed from the captains and others has been a welcome sight for Pink-



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

Lady Tiger junior Emma Pinkston (3) makes a play during Tuesday annual Pink Out game against Tuscola while teammate Payton Block looks on.

ston.

"The captains on this team lift up and lead by example and the girls know how to learn from everything," Pinkston said. "The girls are supportive of each other and that has been amazing to watch through the year."

The Newton game isn't the only contest on the Paris schedule next week. Theomeup is once again packed for the Lady Tigers as they travel to Neoga at 6:15 p.m. Monday before traveling to Danville for a 6 p.m. game Wednesday.

Paris ends its regular season on at 7 p.m. Thursday on Senior Night against Newton in a contest that will decide the LIC championship.

"Newton is so tough and a strong team," Pinkston said. "The girls are moving well together though and I hope they will come out strong on Thursday against them."

Newton holds the same conference record as Paris, with both programs undefeated at 7-0 through 2019. A win over Newton would not only continue to extend the total wins in a season program record, but also secure the first-ever LIC title for the Lady Tigers.

"This team is excited about doing something that has never been done before," Pinkston said. "They appreciate what they are doing and they know what they want."

A big W
for TCT
footballBY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

OAKLAND — The Tri-County Titans moved one game closer to IHSA football playoff eligibility with a convincing 35-7 win over Sangamon Valley on Senior Night Friday at Titan Field.

With just two weeks left in the high school football regular season, the stakes were at high level for the Titans in a Lincoln Prairie Conference tilt.

With the Titans sitting at 3-4 overall with 32 playoff points to their credit, the goal was very simple — win their final two games to punch their ticket into the playoffs for the first time since 2014.

The night was filled with honoring the seven Titan senior players for all of the hard work they have put in the last four years with the hope of sending them off with a win on their home turf one last time and keep their playoff hopes alive.

Step one of that plan is complete.

The Titans jumped out to a quick 21-0 lead in the first quarter and held off several Storm drives to pull away for a 35-7 win and even their record heading into the final week of the season.

Tri-County got the scoring going early just 1:22 into the contest as Dameon Bolton took an end around to the far side and went 40 yards for the opening score with 10:38 left. Filippo Bosio added the extra point and the Titans were up 7-0.

After the two teams traded punts, Bolton went back to work on the third Titan drive on the same exact play finding the sideline to go 44 yards for a touchdown with 6:23 left in the quarter. Bosio's extra point made the score 14-0.

Late in the same quarter, the Titans struck pay dirt once again via the ground game as Lane Bisby scampered in from 26 yards out. Bosio drilled the extra point and Tri-County was up 21-0 after the first 12 minutes of play.

In the second quarter, See **TITANS**, Page 10A

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PHS tennis in sectionals today

BY JEREMY PATTERSON
pattersonjeremy267@gmail.com

The Paris girls tennis team had an up and down week but ended it on a high note on Tuesday with a 5-4 Little Illini conference victory over Newton.

Despite missing Kaitlyn and Kendall Mathews for the match-up for family matters, the Tigers looked strong as the team clawed its way to the win over the 2019 LIC tournament champions. Due to court shortages and

impending weather, the contest was played in 10-game pro sets and opened in doubles play as Chloe Waltz and Sarah Isaf won the No. 1 doubles spot 10-5. Emma Campbell and Dani Brooks were unable to recover from an early deficit at No. 2 doubles, falling 10-2. Jenna Gates and Chloe Noel wrapped things up at No. 3 doubles, winning 10-5.

In singles play, Waltz took over the No. 1 singles spot before falling 10-1. Isaf moved up to No. 2 singles and dropped the contest 10-5. The No. 3 singles position was won by Gates 10-3. Campbell won the No. 4 singles spot 10-4. Noel fell at No. 5 singles 10-2. Sara Mills closed out singles play at No. 6 singles, winning her matchup 10-4.

Before the victory on Tuesday, Paris entered the LIC tournament on Saturday with high hopes. Despite those hopes though, fierce competition took its toll on the Tigers, who finished sixth as a team with 10.5 points.

In singles play, Gates and Campbell competed for Paris. Gates got out to a strong start on the day, beating her Olney opponent 6-1, 4-6 and 7-5 to advance past the first round. In the second round, Gates fell against Flora 6-1, 6-4. Despite the setback to the back-draw bracket, Gates won her next matchup with Casey 6-2, 6-0. Gates finished her day after a loss to another opponent from Olney, finishing in a tie for seventh overall in the tournament.

Campbell had a similar path as Gates, winning her opening round match against Olney 7-5, 6-1. In the second round, Campbell lost to Newton 6-0, 6-0 to set her back to the back-draw bracket. There, Campbell won her third round match against Casey 6-2, 6-0 before losing her final contest of the day to Robinson 6-4, 6-2. Campbell finished tied for seventh in the tournament.

In doubles play, Kaitlyn Mathews and Isaf competed together with a first-round bye. In the second round, the duo lost to Casey 7-5, 6-7(2) and 6-3. In the back-draw bracket the pair found a lot of success, initially beating Flora 7-5, 6-1 in the third round before capping the day with a victory over Kendall Mathews and Waltz of Paris 6-2, 6-2 to finish in a tie for fifth place.

Kendall Mathews and Waltz took up the second doubles pairing for Paris, losing in the first round to Olney 1-6, 7-6(5) and 7-6(8). In the back-draw bracket the duo had a second-round bye before beating Flora 6-1, 6-2 in the third round. The pair lost to Kaitlyn Mathews and Isaf of Paris 6-2, 6-2.

Crestwood bests Mayo girls

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Crestwood Lady Eagles took down rival Mayo twice in their annual battle Thursday, Oct. 10, at Eveland Gym.

The Crestwood seventh grade team coasted to a 42-8 win while the eighth grade team edged the Lady Redbirds 41-38.

The Crestwood seventh grade team was unyielding to Mayo in the 42-8 win. Graci Watson leading the Lady Eagles with 16 points, two rebounds, two assists and seven steals. Taylor Clark had 10 points, two rebounds, two steals and one assist. Mazie Mae Hawkins scored seven points to go along with five steals and one rebound. Samantha Kindred had five points, three rebounds and

three assists. Sophie Henderson had three points, one assist and one steal. Myah Bartos had two points and one rebound. Reese Lehman scored two points. Kilee Edwards had one point, one assist and one steal. Kylee Kelptz had one rebound.

For the Lady Redbirds, Linda Selimoska had five rebounds in the contest. Paven Walker led the way with five points for the Lady Redbirds. Peighton Smith added two points and five rebounds. Bailey Plew netted one point and grabbed five rebounds.

The Crestwood eighth grade team picked up a strong victory over Mayo, winning the contest by just three points at 41-38.

The Lady Eagles were led by Vivian Moore with 16 points, six rebounds, four

steals and one assist. Gracie Dyer scored 10 points to go along with three steals and one rebound. Taylor Clark scored nine points and had two assists and one steal. Aubree Leader had one rebound and one steal. Jami Wallace had one point and three rebounds. Cate Kirby had one rebound. Graci Watson had three points, five rebounds and one steal. Mazie Mae Hawkins had two points and two rebounds.

The Lady Redbirds were paced by Peighton Smith with 19 points. Stephanie Johnson had eight points and five rebounds. Jaidyn Simpson had five points and five rebounds. Tori Moore had four points and six rebounds. Sami Milam had four points and five rebounds. Aubrey Wilson had five rebounds.

TIGERS

FROM PAGE 9A
on their second possession as the Maroons reeled off a 12-play, 66-yard scoring drive in which every play was a run. Beard capped off this scoring drive with his second score of the night to draw the Maroons within two scores at 28-14.

On the ensuing kickoff, Paris mishandled the ball and Robinson recovered at the Tiger 34-yard line. Using the same game plan as their previous two drives, the Maroons ran the ball four more times with Beard covering the final 13 to make it 28-20 with 1:33 left in the third quarter.

Paris embarked on 12-play drive of their own on their next possession, and actually had a first-and-goal at the Robinson 10-yard line. Perry was sacked on third down resulting on a fourth and goal from the 25-yard line. His desperation pass was batted down in the end zone giving the Maroons the ball with 8:34 left in the game.

Keeping with what got them back in the game in the second half, Robinson began a 12-play,

75-yard scoring drive in which every play except for the final one was a run. On third-and-8 from the Tiger 17, Ely Parker found Levi Dickerson wide open at the goal line for the score on only the second pass attempt of the second half.

With the score 28-26, Robinson needed to convert the two-point conversion to tie the score. The Maroons were whistled for a delay of game penalty, making the conversion attempt an 8-yard effort. Parker was tackled for a loss on the attempt by Zorn to preserve the two-point lead with 4:07 remaining. Robinson did not get the ball back in the remainder of the game at the Tigers ran the ball eight straight times to wrap up the contest.

Paris was out-gained for the first time all season as the Maroons amassed 328 total yards compared to the Tigers' 261. In fact, Robinson had more rushing yards (291) than the Tigers had in total. The biggest difference in the game was a pair of interceptions by Garrett King and Hays with the latter returned for a touchdown. Over the last two games, the Tigers

have scored just three points in the second half.

Leading the way offensively for the Tigers was Landrum with 130 yards on 11 carries and a touchdown. Zorn gained 30 yards on eight touches, Perry carried 10 times for 22 yards, Mays had 19 yards on his only tote and Hutchings did not gain a yard on a pair of carries.

Through the air, Perry completed six-of-11 for 78-yards and a score. Hutchings hauled in five of those passes for 60 yards and a touchdown. Mays caught the other pass for 18 yards. Paris turned the ball over just one time, while Robinson committed three turnovers.

The Tigers will host the Florida Wolves on Friday night at Tiger Stadium in a matchup of two playoff-bound teams. It will also be Senior Night as 12 members of the Tiger team will play their final regular-season game at home. Pairings for the IHSA State playoffs will be aired one week from tonight, with a viewing party to be held in The Den at Paris High School. That event will begin around 7 p.m. with more details to come.

TITANS

FROM PAGE 9A
the Storm finally got the ground game going using their quickness and speed through a rapid fire count to keep the Titans backpedaling driving all the way down to the Tri-County five yard line.

Sangamon Valley then capitalized at the 6:08 mark as Robbie Campbell scored on a five yard touchdown run. Caleb Rutherford hit the extra point to cut the deficit to 21-7.

Later on, the Storm forced a turnover as Kenzal Lloyd fumbled a reception in Titan territory and Sangamon Valley then drove once again into the Titan red zone getting down inside the Tri-County 10 yard line.

That quick fire offense kept the Titans guessing for most of the quarter.

TCT led at halftime 21-7. In the third quarter, the Ti-

tan ground game went back to work hitting the end zone once again as Daniel Drake found a seam and went 22 yards for a touchdown with 7:53 left. Bosio's extra point pushed the Tri-County lead back up to 28-7.

The Storm then fell victim to a swarming Titan defense getting good penetration into the backfield and forcing the Storm on their heels.

In the fourth quarter, the Storm was on another key drive after forcing another Titan turnover marching down to the Tri-County five yard line. The Titan defense was up to the challenge once again stopping the Storm on fourth down and two with a fumble recovery to get the ball back.

On the next Titan drive, TCT made one of the big plays of the game on third and 16 from their own 10-yard line as Mitch Pollock rolled to his left and on his second

read found a wide open Drew Bevell for a 40-yard gain to the midfield stripe to keep the drive alive.

After that, the Titans then put an exclamation mark on the contest with 4:36 left as Pollock called his own number on a bootleg finding the sideline for a 15 yard touchdown run. Bosio hit the extra point to make the eventual final score 35-7 to keep Tri-County's playoff hopes alive.

It was the kind of win that Tri-County Coach Brian Anderson hopes will continue to keep the fire going with the biggest game of the season coming up next week.

"We finally started talking about after the Arcola game," he said. "We started talking about playoffs. We got to win two to get in and now we got to win one. We jumped on them 21-0. It was about as good of a start as we could have. They started munching us a little bit. We were really on our heels more than anything. I was just really frustrated and disappointed with our fight and our aggressiveness. We really challenged them at halftime. I thought that we were much better in the second half defensively."

Unofficially, Dameon Bolton had four carries for 106 yards and two touchdowns while Daniel Drake had seven carries for 86 yards and a score. Lane Bisby had 15 carries for 97 yards and a score. Mitch Pollock was 4 of 7 passing for 87 yards and an interception while added four carries for 26 yards and a score.

The Titans (4-4 overall, 4-2 Lincoln Prairie) will travel to Cerro Gordo Friday night for the season finale against the Cerro Gordo/Bement Broncos in a Lincoln Prairie Conference contest.

With the Titans pretty secure playoff points wise, a win should qualify them for the Class 1A playoffs while the Broncos will look to play spoiler after losing to the Cumberland Pirates 55-8 in Toledo to be knocked out of playoff contention coming in at 3-5.

Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Cerro Gordo High School.

Ever hear of the circle fly?

Something as simple as a conversation can become a source of humor.



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

It might begin like, "Did you hear about the Catholic priest who went fishing with a Baptist preacher?" Or "two guys met at a bar." There's always a story about a town drunk or maybe an old maid. The possibilities are endless. This one concerns a farmer meeting a politician.

Rain was drizzling steadily one summer day. Sandy's Coffee Shop was located next to the grain elevator in a corn belt village where tractors were often seen driving along the main drag pulling farm implements.

Farmers were typically busy this time of year. If not spraying corn or soybeans, they were combining wheat. If not that, some were transporting beef cattle to an auction barn. Others were repairing malfunctioning equipment or worn fences. It was also time for baling the second cutting of hay and newly accumulated wheat straw.

We have loved pie longer than we have loved baseball. Even before we had a flag, we had pie. And though Americans like to take credit for this touchstone dessert, especially around Thanksgiving, the truth is that pie existed long before the first Pilgrim set a buckled shoe on Plymouth Rock.

Today, pie is as iconic as ever, and though there are plenty of shortcuts, baking a homemade pie is still a feat to be proud of. That's why so many virgin bakers dance around their first pie dough. Pie symbolizes everything we value: ingenuity, resilience and a mother's love. Who wants to fail at those?

Every culture has made its mark on pie. As far back as 1300 B.C., Egyptian bakers were experimenting with a primitive pie dough. The Greeks were the first to mix flour and water into a thick paste that could wrap — and preserve — meat. The first published Roman recipe came from the Roman Cato the Censor, for a goat cheese and honey pie.

According to the American Pie Council, fruit pies or tarts and pasties were probably first cooked in the 1500s, when English pastries brimmed with pears, quinces and apples. English lore credits Queen Elizabeth I with making the first cherry pie.

When the Pilgrims landed, they made use of the exotic ingredients they discovered around them. Since the sweet apples and other fruit found in

BELOVED PASTRY HAS A DEEP-DISH HISTORY



Special to the Prairie Press

Autumn is when pie really shines. This staple of Thanksgiving and beyond was first baked in Britain during the 16th century, but that did not stop the colonies from adopting them into a culinary tradition as American as apple pie.

Pie season has arrived

The aroma of freshly baked pie wafting from a cozy kitchen instantly warms the hearts of those basking in its glory. Fall is prime pie-baking season, and there is no better time to try your hand at a few new autumnal desserts than right now.

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NANCY ZEMAN
COOKING IN EDGAR COUNTY



Special to the Prairie Press

Many bakers will tell you that a good pie begins with the perfect crust, but how to achieve one is the subject of much debate.

England had not yet made it across the Atlantic, settlers turned to their Native American neighbors who recommended a few tasty berries.

Resourceful colonial women heeded their advice. They added cranberries, eggs and molasses to the belly-filling pies they served with every meal. When they ran out of fresh fruit, they substituted dried fruit.

By the turn of the 20th century, pie had become the undisputed symbol of American plenty and national pride. Women were judged by the quality of their pie crust. Every county fair had a pie contest. Every country store sold homemade pie.

It's unclear who coined the expression as American as apple pie. Some say it was growers trying to push apple consumption during Prohibition when hard cider was banned. One of the earliest recorded instances is attributed to an

opera singer in Chicago, Alice Gentle, who in 1921 solicited money from a millionaire to fund an American opera.

The San Antonio Light reported Gentle saying that an American opera would be, "as American as apple pie, wheat cakes, corn on the cob, one-night stands and mail-order houses."

The key to the perfect pie, in my humble opinion, begins with the crust. A good pie is all about the crust. A pie crust must be a flaky, buttery perfection.

What makes a great pie crust? One word: butter and the better the butter the better the crust. Those bakers who favor lard or shortening argue their chosen ingredient produces a tender, flaky crust and that may be true. But lard and shortening can't compete with the flavor of butter — especially creamy, rich European style butter which boasts a higher fat content and less water than

See ZEMAN, Page 2B

Do not worry

This past week, I preached a message titled "Do Not Worry."

The Bible verses referenced were Matthew 6:19-34, where Jesus spoke about how God takes care of the birds of the air and the flowers of the field, thus he takes care of us in even a greater way. It is so easy to worry.

Jesus said, "Why do you worry about what you shall eat, or what you shall wear?" and reminded his listeners that God already knows our needs in all these areas.

Worry is such a waste of valuable time. Now, it is great to plan ahead, or save for the future and to work hard, but we don't want to do it on our own. We want our Heavenly Father to lead the way. We should trust him in all that we do and all that we are.

Worry is so often a down payment on something that may not even happen. Jesus reminds his hearers that, "each day has enough troubles of its own." That is why we should not worry about tomorrow.

A great verse to remember in this context is Matthew 6:33, "seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added to you as well." So, again, there is no need to worry. Some close cousins to worrying are stewing, fretting, anxiousness and resultant physical harm (ulcers, for example).

For me, not worrying includes being faithful to church attendance and involvement, trusting the good Lord to help me get done what I need to accomplish in the remaining six days of the week. Sometimes, just a few deep breaths can help relieve stress and worry. But most of all, an abiding, trusting belief in God is the best prescription.

So, let us say it all together, "Do not worry." Instead, trust in the Lord.

(Gary A. Williamson is pastor of the First Church of the Nazarene. Email him at paris1nazarne@gmail.com. Pastor's Perspective is provided weekly by members of the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)



GARY WILLIAMSON
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Arachnophobes beware, fall is spider spotting time

Fall is one of the best times to enjoy the night sky. Looking north toward the Big Dipper an observer will see Corona Borealis just a little higher and further west. It is one of the original 48 constellations cataloged by Ptolemy, and western culture saw it as the points of a crown. Native Americans saw the spikes as the legs of Grandmother Spider.

The spider constellation is most noticeable in the early fall just like the real thing. During September and October it is easy to spot more arachnids out and about. They've been there all summer, but being cold blooded they come out to find warmth. The heavy dew on cool mornings makes their webs glisten, and the lower sun angle lights up their crusty bodies. They are out on a feeding frenzy to produce and hide eggs for new generations next spring.

There are over 40,000 species of spiders ranging in size from microscopic to monsters over six inches. In our area, the biggest are less than two inches. These are the black and yellow garden spider and the brown shaggy-haired wolf spider. They represent the two divisions of all spiders. The

garden spider is a web builder, and the wolf is classified as a hunter.

Spiders belong to the group called arachnids, which also includes scorpions, mites and ticks. They have only two body segments instead of three like insects. The head and thorax of a spider are fused into a single structure called the cephalothorax and they have the main body abdomen. Like insects, the spider family has no internal skeleton. Their body is built on an exoskeleton of hard material. The exoskeleton is made of chitin, a cellulose material similar to our fingernail.

Arachnids separated from other species about 400 million years ago and are distinct in having eight legs. From an evolutionary standpoint, it seems eight legs are mostly there for spares. In the wild, at least 10 percent are missing one or more legs. Those with seven legs are just as good at building webs, hunting and reproducing. Even those with six are able to live normal lives.

It's a wonder spiders don't have more joint problems having eight legs divided into eight segments with seven

knees each. Animals have two segments with a single flexing joint. Animals have internal skeletons with muscles attached in pairs on both sides of the bones. The pairs are classified as a set of flexors and extensors allowing the bone to be pulled in (flexor) or pulled open to extend (extensor). By working the pair of muscles animals flex leg bones back and forth allowing walking.

Spiders don't have a skeleton for attaching muscles. They have a single muscle attached to each leg segment, which is a flexor to pull the leg in. They have no muscle to pull the leg back open. Instead spiders use hydraulic fluid pressure to push the leg out. They have a primitive heart and circulating fluid to carry nutrients and oxygen. That fluid can be instantly pumped into any segment building pressure and inflating it like a balloon filling up to straighten out.

When the hydraulic pressure is relaxed the muscle pulls the leg segment in. By coordinating fluid pressure across the legs spiders can flex in and out thus walk, run and jump. When a spider dies and can no longer pump the pressure up in a leg they all are pulled in against the body.

Spider feet are adapted to their world. They have a type of paw at the end of their legs covered with hair. Hunting spiders have fuzzy feet with special hairy pads, which are slightly sticky to aid in traction and climbing. They have small pairs of claws used for gripping and holding.

Web building spiders have hairy feet but also have three tarsal claws instead of two. There are two claws above and a smooth hook in the middle, which is longer and hooks up. The third claw is used to grip onto the web and follow along. It is used to adjust the thread placement. The hairy feet, like a post-it pad, aid both in holding on and help with releasing so a spider can move across its own web.

Spider eyes seem alien with most having eight. Some have six but all have more than two. They do not have

antennae to sample the air for scents. Hunter spiders have keen eyesight to spot their prey. Hunters, like the wolf spider, have four eyes with an iridescent layer behind the retina. It reflects light the same as a cat's eye and creates a red-eye when the iris is wide open. A flashlight in the woods will spot those wolf spider eyes.

Web building spiders have poor eyesight. They depend on their sense of smell and the vibrations in the structural threads of their web when an insect prey gets caught. Using the third claw to hold the web they sense a vibration and start checking the main runs to isolate which part of the web has caught their next meal.

Spiders do not chew. They don't have a mouth that opens to bite. It is more of a straw to suck with and fangs on the sides. All spiders produce venom. Spider venom is normally not lethal to humans, but it is toxic enough to be irritating. If a spider gets into a person's bed at night and sticks the sleeper with its fangs, they will end up with red, irritated spots on the skin.

Spiders inject their prey with venom to kill them and

to start the digestion process. The spider venom contains digestive juices and begins breaking down the tissues of its victim. A spider gives the venom time to work and then sucks the blood, fluids and broken down tissues. They can only suck soft fluids.

All spiders produce silk, which is a protein extruded from spinneret glands on the abdomen. Like nylon, it hardens when it hits the air forming long chains. Only web builders create the intricate patterns, but all use silk. There are several classes of web builders but it is Orb Weavers who make the classic pattern. They lay down ampullate threads radiating out from the center to form the main structure and then silk threads are woven over the frame in a spiral pattern.

We don't truly appreciate the adaptations of the spider and their role in the environment. Most of us react like Little Miss Muffet, but Native Americans credited spiders as being cunning and important to creation. Cherokee folklore includes the story of Grandmother Spider who brought light to the world.

See SULLIVAN, Page 2B

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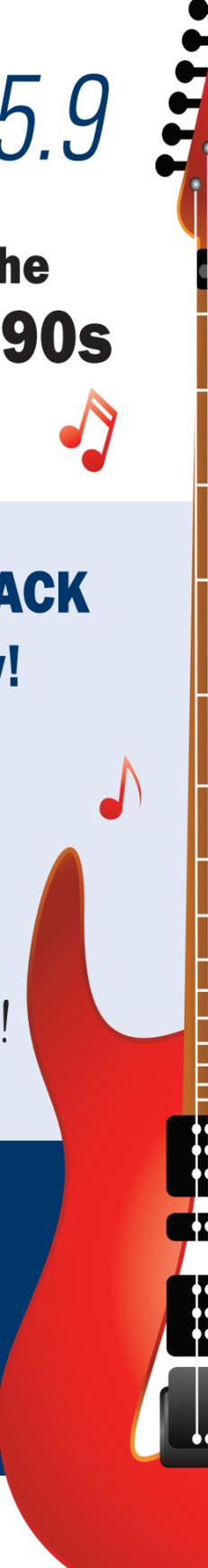
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Martin Luther King play at EIU

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHARLESTON – Eastern Illinois University's Theatre Department performs "The Mountaintop" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 17, 18, 19 and at 2 p.m. Oct. 20.

"The Mountaintop" explores the nuances, flaws and humanity of civil rights icon Martin Luther King Jr. In this fictional recounting of the night before King's assassination, playwright Katori Hall uses grit, mysticism and magic to give viewers a peek into the turmoil and cost of his life. Audiences view him wrestling with life and fate and see the price of being called for a purpose greater than self while dealing with the grief, pain and fear that results from the sacrifice and commitment.

All performances are in the black-box theater at Doudna Fine Art Center on EIU's campus. Tickets are available now but seating is limited.

More information is available at www.doudnatix.com.

SULLIVAN

FROM PAGE 1B

In the beginning there was only darkness because the light was on the other side of the world. After several failed attempts by others, it was Grandma Spider who snuck over leaving a silk trail for return. She spun a web to net and drag fire back to our side of the world giving us warmth and light.

(Terry Sullivan's fascination with science started as a child watching Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" and James Burke's "Connections" on PBS. He is the technology and curriculum director for the Shiloh School District. Email him at sullivan@shiloh1.us)

MILESTONES

Paris couple celebrates 65th anniversary

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

A Paris couple marks 65 years of marriage Wednesday, Oct. 23.

Paul and Dorothy Trine Colter were married Oct. 23, 1954, at Shawneetown. They worked side by side for many years at the local grain elevator.

He retired from the grain elevator in 1977, and she retired from the U.O. Colson Company in 1993 where she worked in the calendar department.

They have two children, the late Larry (Julia) Colter and Shirley (Robert) Stolz; five grandchildren, Brian (Lauren) Stolz, Linda (Joel) Sherer, Lisa (Steve) Winters, Dale (Polly) Colter and Katie (Cody) Vaughn; and nine great-grandchildren, Lindsay Colter, Emma Sherer, Austin Winters, J.T. Sherer, Logan Stolz, Colten Vaughn, Elena



Stolz, Elsie Vaughn and Will Colter.

The Colters still live on the same farm they purchased in 1971. They spent many years and were passionate about raising Black Angus cattle. Now they enjoy spending

support system • the people who know you best • those with whom you make the greatest memories of your life.

their days with Wayne Brady, Drew Carey, Vanna White and Alex Trebek.

There are no plans for a gathering, but cards are welcome and may be mailed to 17083 Sulphur Springs Rd, Paris, IL 61944.

CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

from bed every morning looking for work on the farm.

Elzo gazed inside the coffee shop. All tables were full except one. That table was occupied by a casually dressed 50, or so, year-old gentlemen wearing cowboy boots and a Stetson hat. The stranger was friendly, actually super friendly. He rose to his feet and extended a hearty handshake.

"You're welcome at my table, sir. Howdy." Elzo caught an unfamiliar name as the stranger introduced himself. Warmnoski, or something like that. Said he was a state representative in the legislature, happy to escape from office duties at the state capitol, eager to meet working folks who made our economy hum on a daily basis. The guy poured Elzo a steaming fresh coffee.

"Java's on me today with compliments," said the politician. "I'm here to serve everyone." His lips broadened in a grin that exposed beautiful teeth. "I'm so glad to meet

you."

Elzo shared his own name in return. They sat at the table sipping the coffee.

Their discussions flowed freely, jumping from the weather to baseball to the railroad, then to the value of songbirds and somehow back in time to the world wars. The politician had a pleasant gift of gab, seemingly an expert on any topic.

It amused Elzo that while they talked for 15 or so minutes, a fly continuously buzzed irritatingly around the politician's head, often attempting to land in his hair or on his face. Quick responding hand swats shooed the fly away every time.

Once the politician excused himself to carry the coffee pot around the room for refills, and another time to greet another guest entering the front door. Elzo noticed the same pesky fly following the man around the room, continuing to draw frustrating swats.

"What's with this fly?" the politician asked as he swatted yet again before rejoining Elzo at their table.

"Oh, that's a circle fly," replied Elzo.

"A circle fly? Never heard of a circle fly."

"Well," Elzo offered, "they like to circle around horses' rear ends. That's how they received their name. This fly probably came from the livestock auction barn nearby. Probably flew in here to escape the rain."

The politician sipped some coffee and quietly gave the matter serious thought.

"Sir, you're not implying that I'm a horse's rear end, are you? I sure hope not."

It was Elzo's turn to take a long sip from his cup before replying.

"No. No way. I'd never do that."

"Well, good," the politician said. "I guess I took your remark the wrong way. Sorry."

"I reckon you did," Elzo remarked, taking another long sip. "Can't fool a circle fly, though."

(Allen "Big Al" Englebright is a retired schoolteacher and storyteller. Contact him at The Prairie Press, 101 N. Main, Paris, Ill., 61944.)

ZEMAN

FROM PAGE 1B

its American counterpart.

The good news is that a butter crust can be just as flaky as one made with lard if you make it the old-fashioned way — by hand, rubbing cold chunks of butter between the fingertips and into the flour. No pastry blender, no mixer, no food processor. This technique allows one to monitor the size of the butter pieces in the flour and creates flakes, rather than lumps, that remain in the dough when rolled.

As the crust bakes, the butter melts, creating steam pockets that leave behind a flaky texture. It's a classic method and one well worth bringing back.

The two crust recipes I am including are the ones I have had the most success using in my baking. They are both from Emeril Lagasse. A sweet pastry crust, also known as pâte sucrée, is rich, sweet with a crisp cookie-like texture. It's great for both large and small tarts — especially those filled with fruit or cream.

The key to success for both of these pie crusts is cold butter and ice water. Using anything room temperature, butter or water from the tap, will mean disappointment with the crust.

For a baked pie crust, pre-heat the oven to 425 degrees and prick the bottom of the pie all over with a fork. Bake for 15-20 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool thoroughly and then fill as directed in the recipe.

BASIC PIE DOUGH

- Ingredients
- 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
 - 1 teaspoon salt
 - 2/3 cup (10 2/3 tablespoons) very cold unsalted butter, cut up, or solid vegetable shortening or lard
 - 4 1/2 tablespoons ice water

In a bowl combine the flour and salt. Add the butter or shortening and work it through with the hands until the mixture resembles coarse crumbs.

Using the tines of a fork, stir in the water 1 tablespoon at a time and work it in with the hands just until there is a smooth ball of dough. (Don't overhandle the dough.) Wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 20 minutes.

Remove the dough from

the refrigerator, and place on a floured surface. If making 2 crusts, cut the dough in half and put the second half back in the refrigerator.

For each crust, roll out the dough on a floured surface into a circle about 14 inches in diameter and 1/8 inch thick. Gently fold the circle of dough in half and then in half again so it can be lifted without tearing, and unfold it into a 9-inch pie pan.

Crimp the edges, or pinch in a decorative border. Fill and bake as directed in the recipe.

Note: For a baked pie crust, preheat the oven to 425°F. Prick the bottom of the pie all over with a fork, and bake for 18 to 20 minutes, or until lightly browned. Remove, cool thoroughly, and then fill as directed in the recipe.

SWEET PIE CRUST

- Ingredients
- 8 ounces flour (about 1 1/2 cups plus 2 tablespoons)
 - 1 tablespoon sugar
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 4 ounces (1 stick) cold butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces
 - 2 tablespoons solid vegetable shortening
 - 3 tablespoons ice water

Into a large bowl sift the flour

and salt. Add the butter pieces and shortening and work them into the flour by hand until the dough starts to come together and form small pea shapes.

Work the ice water into the dough 1 tablespoon at a time with the fingers until it just comes together, being careful not to over mix. Form the crust into a disk shape, wrap tightly in plastic wrap, and place in the refrigerator to rest for at least 30 minutes before rolling out.

Let me know how these recipes work out. Why not share a favorite pie recipe with me at nzeman@prairiepress.net and we'll share them

in the weeks to come.

(Nancy Zeman is the publisher and part owner of The Prairie Press. Email her at nzeman@prairiepress.net.)

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How FDR became the only president to serve four terms

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

On Nov. 5, 1940 Franklin D. Roosevelt broke a long-held precedent — one that started with George Washington — when he became the first president elected to a third term. Roosevelt went on to vie for, and win, yet a fourth term, taking office again on Jan. 20, 1945.

FDR was the first, and last, president to win more than two consecutive presidential elections and his exclusive four terms were in part a consequence of timing. His election for a third term took place as the United States remained in the throws of the Great Depression and World War II had just begun.

While multiple presidents had sought third terms before, the instability of the times allowed FDR to make a strong case for stability.

“You have economic-domestic issues and you have foreign policy with the outbreak of World War II in 1939,” says Barbara Perry, professor and director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia’s Miller Center. “And then you have his own political viability—he had won the 1936 election with more than two-thirds of the popular vote.”

Eventually U.S. lawmakers pushed back, arguing that term limits were necessary to keep abuse of power in check. Two years after FDR’s death, Congress passed the 22nd Amendment, limiting presidents to two terms. The amendment was ratified in 1951.

At the time of FDR’s third presidential run, however, “There was nothing but precedent standing in his way,” says Perry. “But, still, precedent, especially as it relates to the presidency, can be pretty powerful.”

According to the National Constitution Center, most of the framers of the Constitution were against term limits, and, although amendments seeking to enforce them were proposed some 200 times between 1796 and 1940 without being adopted, most two-term presidents followed Washington’s precedent in not seeking re-election for a third time.

Still, some had tried. Ulysses S. Grant lost a third campaign in 1880, when James Garfield clinched the Republican nomination. Theodore Roosevelt lost his bid at a third nonconsecutive term in 1912 to William Howard Taft. And Woodrow Wilson lost the Democratic nomination in 1920. Harry Truman, who was president when the 22nd Amendment passed, was exempt from the new rule, and campaigned for a third term in 1952, but withdrew after losing in the

See **FDR**, Page 4B

Director was Paris native

Famous, fast-moving Hollywood director Lee Sholem was nicknamed “Roll ‘Em Sholem”

BY TOM EMERY
ilcivilwar@yahoo.com

Hollywood productions are notorious for going overtime and over budget. A Paris native, however, always found a way to get it done.

Lee Sholem was known as one of the fastest-moving directors in Tinseltown, reportedly never going over schedule in a career that spanned 40 years. Sources credit him with 1,300 productions, including both movies and television, as he directed some of the industry’s top names. His speed and efficiency earned him the nickname “Roll ‘Em Sholem.”

Born on May 25, 1913, Sholem’s early credits included direction of two installments of the Tarzan series, “Tarzan’s Magic Fountain” (1949) and

“Tarzan and the Slave Girl” (1950, which also starred Robert Alda). The former was the first appearance for actor Lex Barker as Tarzan, though Sholem was personally unimpressed.

Sholem, who never shied from candor, later called Barker “an egomaniac, I mean really an egomaniac... He was a real egotist, and that’s about as much as I can say for Lex.”

For the female lead in one of the Tarzan installments, producer Sol Lesser was looking for a new Jane, and Sholem had a relatively unknown blonde actress in mind. Lesser disagreed, but the persistent Sholem had the actress read for Lesser eight times, only to be shot down every time. The actress was Marilyn Monroe.

In 1951, Sholem directed “Superman and the Mole-Men,” a low-budget flick that served as the pilot for the popular television series. George Reeves played Superman in the movie, a role he reprised in the series, in which Sholem directed 14 episodes.

Sholem later called Reeves, “a sweetheart. Everybody loved him, you couldn’t help it. He had no ego, none of this crap you get from most of these guys.”

During filming of a 1952 episode, Phyllis Coates, who played Lois Lane, was knocked unconscious in an accident with a fellow actor. Never one to wait, Sholem revived Coates himself, then speeded up production to film her scenes before her face swelled.

Indeed, Sholem was always resourceful. During a 1952 project, one newspaper reported that, “further economy was practiced... during the murky days this month on an outdoor set. Sholem had shadows painted on the ground to create the illusion of sunlight, so no shooting days would be lost.”

Sholem directed Maureen O’Hara in the lead in the 1953 film “The Redhead from Wyoming,” which critic Leonard Maltin called a saucy Western. That same year, Sholem was the director for “Ma and Pa Kettle at Waikiki,” one of nine films in that series. Maltin, however, was unenthusiastic, labeling the Waikiki installment as pretty weak.

However, Sholem’s next big-screen production, “The

Stand at Apache River,” was lauded in an Iowa newspaper in December 1953 as, “a magnificent piece of staging.” Maltin, though, had few kind words for “Tobor the Great” (1954), which he blasted for its, “terrible acting and dialogue... a botched attempt at a heart-warming sci-fi comedy thriller.”

Maltin had similar views on a pair of Sholem movies from 1957, “Pharaoh’s Curse” and “Sierra Stranger.” Maltin called the former pompous and slow-moving, while labelling the latter a tame dust-raiser.

Meanwhile, Sholem was breaking into the small screen, directing a string of episodes of various series. Among them were 20 episodes of

See **SOLEM**, Page 4B

SCHOOL BUILDING REPURPOSED INTO HOME



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

The home of Jennifer and Philip Creech is the remodeled old Larkin School on the Horace-Brocton Road.

A tale of two schoolhouses

BY ROGER STANLEY
rstanley1937@outlook.com

Many of the school buildings built in the late 1800s and early 1900s are now gone, but some of them still stand and are used for homes.

The old Payne School District #50 was originally located just north of Brocton across from the Payne Cemetery. The small frame school was built more than 120 years ago. It was used until 1948 with Emma Payne being the teacher at that time.

After its closing, it was hauled into Brocton and remodeled by several additions and makes a nice looking home. The north end of the house at 207 West Howard Street is the shape of an old schoolhouse. The Wienke family lived there for several years before recently selling it to Lillian Dahm, who moved from the Joliet area to be near her mother at Newman.

Dahm couldn’t find a place in Newman but she found a nice residence in Brocton, which is less than nine miles from Newman. She said she really finds Central Illinois a great place to live and enjoys the Brocton setting. This old building is now serving as a vital part of a home and Dahm was amazed it is still sturdy for its age.

The 1870 Atlas of Edgar County does not show Brocton as being laid out yet and no school. The 1894 Atlas has Payne Cemetery and a school one mile west of the Chicago and Ohio River Railroad where a post office was located at Payne Station. There is no information when the school was moved, probably in the 1950s.

Rae Payne Gher and Kay Payne



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

The foreground portion of this home is made from the former Payne School that was moved into Brocton, probably in the 1950s, from its rural location north of the village and remodeled as a residence. It is now the home of Lillian Dahm, who recently moved to Brocton from Joliet.

Haddix provided information about the home and the school’s original location.

Larkin School District #90 was erected after 1870 but before 1894 on the north side of the Horace-Brocton Road about one-quarter mile east of the present state Route 1 intersection. It was built on G. K. Larkin’s ground and was last used as a school in 1947. Students attended other schools following the Unit Four consolidation. Leona Davis was the last teacher in the building.

The building was sold to Bob and Corky Calvert, and the family remodeled it with the help of Corky Calvert’s father, Carl Pine. During the next several years, the front door was changed to the west side and eventually there

were five rooms and a bath downstairs. Later on Corky and Don Parks lowered the ceiling and made two bedrooms upstairs, including a stairwell. The living room was large, but the other rooms downstairs were small.

Randy Bishop lived there for a while and then Susan and Vick Bowyer made it their home until 1979. It is now owned by Jennifer and Phillip Creech and is a nice appearing home converted from the old school.

Down through the years, the old one-room schools are no more a setting for formal education, but some are still serving worthwhile purposes.

The handful of schools that are now a home for people of our county is a testament to using materials wisely

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 4B

A night to remember

Last Friday night, Oct. 11, in the Prospect Bank meeting room, a group of 35 people got to experience a bit of Lincoln lore.

The people who attended received a portrayal of a nostalgic time in history which took them back to the mid-19th century when Lincoln lived and the communication and transportation technologies were much different than today.

The theme of Lincoln as the great communicator was well played by George Buss portraying Lincoln and Chris Vallillo, an amazing folklorist, making important contributions to the program. The group heard an interesting discussion between the duo, one representing the music of the time by playing several old instruments and singing many of the tunes of the day. The other by Buss, who in the characterization of Lincoln, brought the speeches and actions of Lincoln to life.

Buss, as Lincoln, recalled his time in Edgar County as a young lawyer and a story about his debate with Douglas that included a joke about his protagonist. In one of his speeches, Douglas told about Lincoln serving drinks behind the bar and that set up a retort from Lincoln, “you were many times the one on the other side of the bar.”

Villillo stressed Lincoln used all the different forms of communication such as oratory, printed copy, music and just being present talking to common folks. Many times the orators of the day spoke for two or three hours at a time. Lincoln then made the comment that even after the speeches were over a continued discussion ensued when the interested parties retired to a hotel or inn and it continued on until they had to take their

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B



ROGER STANLEY

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STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

rest.

Villillo mentioned the Lincoln-Douglas debates that put Lincoln in touch with a lot of people and even though Douglas won the senate seat in Washington, Lincoln profited from the debates. The exposure of Lincoln's speaking ability to the common man and his gaining skill as an orator helped him win the presidency.

Another factor was some of the acquaintances Lincoln made in Edgar County gave him a connection to the state of Indiana and its politicians, which was critical in his nomination for the presidency.

Villillo played different instruments to accompany his singing and he was very proficient with two different guitar like instruments,

the bottleneck slide Dobro, the banjo and the jaw harp. He even involved Lincoln in leading the audience in the chorus for one of their presentations.

One of the songs that came about during the Civil War, "The Battle Cry of Freedom," was presented and Villillo expressed how important it was to rally the nation and the Northern Army to continue the war to victory and to reunite the country.

According to Lincoln, the song had a profound affect on the morale and was more effective in the winning of the war than the efforts of 100 generals and the political oratory of the time.

Near the end of the program Villillo and Lincoln invited the audience to sing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," with Villillo singing many verses and Lincoln and

the others joining in on the chorus. Over all, it was very informative learning about Lincoln's communicative skills and great foot-tapping and hand-clapping music getting the audience involved really topped it off.

As a member of the Edgar County Historical Society and Looking for Lincoln in Edgar County I believe this was only made possible by the hard works of Danny Briseno and Chuck Hand. Chuck is no longer with us, but he had a very important leadership role in Looking for Lincoln in Edgar County and started the ball rolling so this presentation came to our fair city.

Financial support was given by Pearman's Pharmacy, Templeton Funeral Home and the Edgar County Historical Society. This made the program free to the attendees. The facility of the Prospect

Bank was a great meeting place and George Griffin helped make that happen. We also must mention the Illinois Looking for Lincoln and is presenting it to several venues around our state. A special thanks goes to George Buss who portrayed Lincoln, Chris Villillo for his music and to Heather Wickens who coordinated the event for the Looking for Lincoln entity in Illinois.

As I was talking to Buss and Villillo after the event, we expressed our dissatisfaction about the things going on in Washington, D. C., and Buss closed our thoughts with, "We need Lincoln in Washington now." We all agreed.

(Roger Stanley is a lifelong resident of Edgar County, an author and retired farmer. Email him at rstanley1937@outlook.com.)

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SHOLEM

FROM PAGE 3B

"Official Detective" (1957-58), a dozen episodes of the Desilu action series "Whirlybirds" (1957), 10 episodes of the western "The Sheriff of Cochise" (1956-57), and eight episodes of "Colt .45" (1958-60).

From 1958-61, ABC aired a rotating trilogy of westerns, and Sholem directed multiple episodes of each, with eight episodes of "Sugarfoot," 15 shows of "Bronco," and 11 episodes of "Cheyenne." Sholem was also credited with seven episodes of "Death Valley Days" (1964-65).

With his creativity, Sholem was a natural fit in "How Movies Are Made," a 1963 documentary providing a behind-the-scenes look at the production of Hollywood movies. One reviewer called Sholem the major domo of the project.

Sholem died on Aug. 19, 2000, in Los Angeles. In an interview before his death, he said his work was "a fascinating business. It's fun. It has its ups and downs, but I'm grateful I've been in it."

MASTER NATURALISTS GRADUATE



Special to The Prairie Press

Joy Turner, Andrea Switzer, Jacklyn Hollensbe and Teri Dennis from the Clark, Crawford, and Edgar County Illinois Extension unit recently completed Master Naturalist training. This program educates and trains adult volunteers so they are better equipped to share natural resource information with others in their communities and to assist with environmental conservation and restoration activities. They are seen here with program graduates from other Illinois Extension units. Front row left to right: Sandy Baumgartner, Joy Turner, Kathryn Bulver, Andrea Switzer, Nancy Coutant, Ashley Ulrey, Jane Zerkel, and Rich Wandling. Back Row: Dave Shiley, Tim Galos, Terry Smith, Hannah Schwanke and Jacklyn Hollensbe. Not pictured is Teri Dennis. Questions for Master Naturalists can be directed to Illinois Extension at 217-465-8585.

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FDR

FROM PAGE 3B

New Hampshire primary.

Roosevelt's campaign for a third term took place as the United States had not yet entered World War II, and the president was still trying to hold the line in an isolationist pattern.

"He was trying to guide us along to try to keep Britain afloat with things like lend-lease," Perry says. "That obviously was preying on his mind and he didn't think that the U.S. should 'change horses in midstream' as this war was building towards what he knew would eventually be our full-fledged intervention in both the European and Pacific theaters."

Of course, not everyone was on Roosevelt's side. The National Constitution Center notes his decision to run for a third term resulted in key Democratic supporters and advisors leaving his cam-

paign.

Some political buttons from the time read "FDR Out at Third," and Perry notes that despite his popularity, one-third of Americans, particularly business people and those with means, still voted against him. They argued he was taking America down the road of socialism.

"Famously, there were people who would refuse to speak of him by name and would call him 'That Man,'" Perry says. "But he knew the popular vote and the electoral vote were on his side. He wanted to see us through the two greatest catastrophes of the 20th century and he succeeded."

In 1944, according to the National Constitution Center, term-limit talk again came into focus. Republicans were at the forefront of the movement, though many Democrats agreed with the eight-year precedent set by Washington to guard against

tyrannical rule.

"Four terms or 16 years is the most dangerous threat to our freedom ever proposed," Thomas Dewey, Roosevelt's Republican opponent, said in a 1944 speech.

Roosevelt won his fourth term when he defeated Dewey with 54 percent of the popular vote, taking the Electoral College 432 to 99. He died April 12, 1945, 11 weeks into his term, and the call for a constitutional term-limit amendment was answered two years later, with a two-thirds majority voting in favor of the 22nd Amendment.

The amendment reads: "No person shall be elected to the office of the President more than twice, and no person who has held the office of President, or acted as President, for more than two years of a term to which some other person was elected President shall be elected to the office of the President more than once."

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SCHOOLS

FROM PAGE 3B

and not just tearing them down. There are some used by farmers as a hay shed or cattle barn until they fall down. There are a few that sit empty except as the home for raccoons and

groundhogs. Even the old log schools were taken apart and moved for out buildings or even a short-term home while a new nicer home was being built.

Corky Davidson and Vick Bowyer helped with information for getting a better story about Larkin School.

The Prairie Press

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The flu shot cannot infect you

Facts about vaccines and the flu can prevent the spread of infections and misinformation this season

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

It's now the middle of October, and doctors are urging everyone to get the flu vaccine if they haven't already done so.

Given that up to 647,000 people were hospitalized in the United States over the course of the last flu season, getting vaccinated is crucial.

Despite the dangers associated with catching the flu, there are many myths surrounding the flu shot that may lead people to avoid vaccination.

Last year, a survey found that a majority of parents think the flu shot can even lead to the flu, which isn't true.

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just started

their weekly flu tracker, and flu activity is currently low but on the rise.

So, if one is not sure what's a flu myth, here are the important facts below.

FLU FACTS TO KNOW

Flu fact #1: Flu season starts just before Halloween and ends as spring arrives

The flu season runs from October to May. The CDC recommends getting a new dose of flu vaccine each year.

The reason is there are countless, ever-changing strains of the flu.

Flu fact #2: Vaccines can fight multiple flu strains

Every year a new vaccine has to be developed in order to protect against the three or four different viruses that will

emerge in a given year.

Criticism was directed in 2017 at the vaccine, which was said to not be strong enough to combat H3N2, the dominant viral strain of influenza that year, and one that causes more severe disease than others.

James Cherry, a professor of pediatrics and infectious diseases at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine and Mattel Children's Hospital, stresses that vaccination naysayers miss the point when critiquing the flu vaccine.

The vaccine can help lessen the symptoms of the flu if one gets sick.

"Even in flu vaccine failures, the illness is less severe, you will still provide yourself with some partial protection," he

said in an earlier interview.

Flu fact #3: A vaccine that's 40 percent effective can protect a lot of people

No vaccine is perfect. On average, the flu vaccine helps reduce the chance of infection by 40 to 60 percent.

Many people who say they never get sick don't realize they can contract the flu and shed flu virus without developing symptoms. These people may be passing on the virus to others who are immunocompromised, like young children, pregnant women or people with cancer.

By getting the shot, one can decrease the chances for contracting the flu and shedding the virus to those at increased risk.

Flu fact #4: Some age

groups need different dosages of the vaccine

Alan Taeye, an infectious disease specialist at Cleveland Clinic, told Healthline in a previous interview that children who are 6 months through 8 years old might need two doses of flu vaccine each season. Beyond that, everyone else needs the regular single dose.

Taeye did add that older adults — about 65 years old or older — and people with compromised immune systems might need a higher dosage vaccine. As always, he says one should consult a personal physician with questions about what dosage is appropriate.

One should also be aware the vaccine isn't immediately

effective. It takes around two weeks for the body to develop the antibody protection needed to fight off the virus.

DEBUNKING FLU MYTHS

Taeye says every year he hears some common misconceptions around the vaccine.

But these myths can be harmful if they lead people to unnecessarily avoid the vaccine.

Myth #1: You can get the flu from the flu shot

"The flu vaccine does not contain a live virus, so you can't get the flu from the shot. That's a common misconception," Taeye said.

However, people may feel feverish or achy in the days after getting the shot.

See **FLU**, Page 6B

Making Halloween healthier and safer

When we think of Halloween, what sort of things come to mind? Pumpkins?

Costumes? Scary movies? Candy? For those with children, candy is likely on the list of things associated with Halloween.

For those who have children with food allergies, candy is definitely at the top of the list.

Candy on its own is of concern due to high obesity rates in the U.S. and when it comes to food allergies, Halloween can get even scarier. Luckily, there are multiple ways to have a healthier and safer Halloween.

According to Food Allergy Research & Education (FARE), one in 13 children are allergic to at least one type of food. The top eight food allergens are milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish and shellfish. Allergic reactions to sesame are also becoming a concern.

Finding candies that do not contain any food allergens or were not processed in the same facility as major allergens can be hard and time-consuming, but here are a couple of ways to simplify everything. First, establish the ask first rule.

With this rule, children must ask their parent/guardian if the candy they want is a safe option before eating. Another option is to pass out non-candy treats so that everyone, food allergy or not, can enjoy trick-or-treating and be safe.

The idea for non-food Halloween treats was actually started by FARE in 2014; some may know it as the Teal Pumpkin Project. Want to participate in the TPP? Put a teal pumpkin on the porch letting trick-or-treaters and parents

See **WILCOXON**, Page 6B



Special to the Prairie Press

To make sure kids stay healthier, officials in the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, as well as others throughout California, are working hard to put better foods in their cafeterias. Strategies include buying local produce and meats and cutting out as many unhealthy processed foods as they can.

No more tater tots

California schools put healthier lunches, fresher ingredients to the test

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.khn.org

When Miguel Villarreal addresses a crowded education conference, a group of school district administrators or a room full of curious parents, he often holds aloft a foil-wrapped package of Pop-Tarts — the heavily processed, high-sugar snack routinely sold on school campuses.

Villarreal, who oversees nutrition for the San Ramon Valley Unified School District in Northern California, then speaks clearly and loudly as he unloads the news: "School food services are completely broken."

Can they be fixed?

Villarreal and other school nutrition crusaders are trying to do that for this generation of students not only by providing more nutritious lunches but also by taking advantage of some surprising cost savings that come with fresher food.

From a multipronged attempt to reshape student lunches in Oakland to the addition of vegan options in the sprawling Los Angeles Unified School District, K-12 schools across California are rethinking and reformulating student meals.

They are not alone.

Minneapolis schools long ago began



Special to the Prairie Press

Miguel Villarreal is familiar with the challenges of making school lunches both healthy and affordable. "It isn't enough to talk about healthy food, the food has to be healthy and affordable," he said.

phasing out processed foods, replacing them with locally sourced, fresh choices that have proved popular. Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the nation's fourth-largest school district, expanded its plant-based menu options and began offering free daily breakfast to every student — a clear recognition of the significant role schools play in the nutrition of many students.

"It is a movement," said Villarreal, an industry pioneer who ran the food program in Marin County's Novato Unified

School District for 17 years. "Slowly but surely, others are coming on board. But there are always challenges."

A new challenge is a federal directive from the Trump administration to roll back Obama-era standards that called for less sodium, more whole-grain foods and fewer sweetened milk drinks in school lunches. The U.S. Department of Agriculture said it was easing those standards in recognition of, "the persistent menu-planning challenges experienced

See **LUNCHES**, Page 6B

Lunch and learn with HRC

Free program looks at trauma-informed parenting methods

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Human Resources Lunch and Learn series about trauma resumes at noon Nov. 12 with a program about Trauma Informed Parenting.

Lunch and Learn offers a way for health care professionals and community members to learn what trauma is and how it impacts not only individuals and families but also communities. There is no cost to attend and free continuing education units (CEUs) are available for those who qualify.

Trauma Informed Parenting explores what trauma is; how trauma affects children's brains and bodies; the behaviors that manifest in children after trauma; the affects on family and other

See **HRC**, Page 6B

EZ Care announces staff change

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

A familiar face at Horizon Health's EZ Care—Marshall clinic is now seeing

patients in the Paris Clinic on a full-time basis.

Family nurse practitioner

Charlene Moore treats patients of all ages in her new role as a family medicine provider in Paris.

"Having a family practice in a small community is what I wanted to do," Moore said. "I want to know my patients and develop a relationship with them. I'm interested in following them through their

See **EZ CARE**, Page 6B



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FLU
 FROM PAGE 5B

"That doesn't mean you now have the flu. It means a person's body is reacting to the vaccine," Taeye said. "Your body says, 'Oh, there is something here,' and it then is going to build an antibody 'fort.' Typically, a reaction to the shot is mild, and most people can get through with nothing more than Tylenol, or something like that."

The nasal flu spray, however, is a live virus vaccine, but it's weakened so one can't get infected.

Myth #2: One doesn't need to get a new flu shot every year
 "The different types of the flu mutate every year, so you need to get the new vaccine each year to take account of these variations," Taeye added.

Myth #3: One can be so healthy that one does not need the vaccine
 Taeye says it's a myth that people who are normally healthy don't need to bother getting a vaccine.
 "You can believe you are too healthy to get the flu all you want, but then that changes once you end up getting the flu by not getting vaccinated," he said. "Even young people can get severe influenza."
 Taeye says it's true that a younger healthier person doesn't have as high a risk as seniors or young children, but that even a person in their prime health can get sick.
 "The more people who get the vaccine, the more chance that we can avoid an epidemic," Taeye said. "It's called herd immunity: The more vaccinated means less chance for widespread influenza."

SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE
 Going along with this point, Cherry says it's the socially responsible thing to get vaccinated.
 2018 was the, "100th anniversary of the 1918 flu, the greatest killer of all time. It's really sobering to see that there were 80,000 deaths," Cherry said. "Many of those deaths are due to secondary bacterial infections that can come once you get the flu."
 Taeye adds that, in addition to getting the vaccine, people should be mindful of cough etiquette by covering their mouth when coughing and avoid putting the hands to the face, since the nose and the mouth are typically how people can pick up the flu.
 He adds that frequently washing the hands is crucial as well.
 "Some people say, 'Oh, the flu is just a bad cold,'" Taeye said. "Well, you can call it a bad cold all you want, but it is more than that. Most people don't have any risk of dying from a cold unless you are immune compromised."
 Taeye points out the flu can be much more dangerous than a simple cold.
 "Influenza can kill anyone young or old or in between," he said. "The flu comes on much more rapidly and much more forcefully than the common cold. Yes, some people, and some who are particularly vulnerable, do die from the flu."

THE BOTTOM LINE
 Experts say now is the time to get the flu shot. Despite common misperceptions, the flu shot can't give a person the flu. One can't be too healthy to not need it, and one needs to get a new shot every year.

WILCOXON
 FROM PAGE 5B

know the home is offering safe, non-food options that everyone can enjoy. Printable signs are also available at www.foodallergy.org in the education and awareness section. Another option is to have both food and non-food prizes, in separate bowls, where trick-or-treaters can pick a food or a prize.

NON-FOOD IDEAS
 ■ Glow stick bracelets and necklaces, pencils/pens, bubbles, mini-slinkies, whistles, kazoo, noisemakers, spider rings, vampire fangs, playing cards, stickers, stencils.

HEALTHIER FOOD IDEAS
 ■ Clementines or oranges, 100 percent juice box/pouch,

HRC
 FROM PAGE 5B

caregiving systems; key factors in helping children heal such as safety, love and connection; and skills to help emotionally regulate children and help them learn to effectively express themselves.
 The next lunch and learn is noon-1 p.m. in the Café France at the Human Resources Center, 118 E. Court, Paris. There is no cost to attend but reservations for planning purposes are needed by Nov. 7.
 To make reservation or for more information contact Ellen Auten, 217-465-4118 ext.1266 or ellen.auten@hrcc.org.

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100 percent fruit leather, sugar-free gum, sugar-free pudding cups, whole grain goldfish crackers
 Now for the parents of trick-or-treaters: think of past Halloweens when a kid made out like a bandit and had so much candy, it was hard to know what to do with it all.
 A solution to that is having children pick out their favorite candies to put aside and donate the remaining candy to a local shelter or send them in care packages for those serving overseas.
 With the set aside favorites, spread them out over a period of time and keep to one or two treats per day. This way they can enjoy treats in moderation without being restrictive, which helps develop healthy eating behaviors.
 Check out the Bee Well board at the REC center for more tips on having a safe Halloween.
 (Kara Wilcoxon is a registered dietician and nutritionist and is employed as the nutritional services manager at Paris Community Hospital/Family Medical Center. Email her at kwilcoxon@pchfmc.com)

EZ CARE
 FROM PAGE 5B

transition from wellness and preventative care to any acute or chronic health issues they may experience.
 Moore earned her master's and bachelor's degrees in nursing from Indiana State University. She joined Horizon Health in September 2018 as a provider in the EZ Care-Marshall walk-in clinic. Prior to Horizon Health, she worked as a registered nurse in an intensive care unit and as a nurse practitioner in an emergency department in Terre Haute, Ind.
 Moore believes healthcare is most effective when patients are involved in their care, adopting a proactive approach toward staying healthy.
 "My philosophy is let's try the least invasive approach first before exploring other options," she said. "Patients should know that I'm a nurse first and will spend that extra time with them, which I believe is very important."
 Moore lives in Marshall with her daughter, Mia, age five. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, running and spending time with family.
 To schedule an appointment with Moore, call 217-463-1946.

LUNCHES
 FROM PAGE 5B

by some schools," both budgetary and cultural.
 California and five other states are suing to block the action.
 Inauspiciously, the USDA's analysis suggests that some 500,000 schoolchildren may lose their free or reduced-cost lunches altogether because of the agency's recently announced plan to tighten eligibility requirements for food stamps. Many students qualify for school nutrition programs as a result of their families' food stamp eligibility.
 The push for fresh ingredients, whole foods and fewer meat-based meals must pass a crucial litmus test: the students' palates.
 "I don't want fillers; I want winners," said Manish Singh, food services director for the Los Angeles Unified School District, with an enrollment of more than 730,000. "If the students don't like it and don't eat it, we have not succeeded. And we can't afford not to succeed."
 Success is important because about one in five children ages two to 19, or roughly 14 million kids, were obese in 2015-16, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In California, close to one-third of children ages 10 to 17 are considered overweight or obese. Unhealthy diets are a big reason.
 The benefit of nutritious food for students has been well documented. Numerous studies draw a direct link between higher-quality meals and better brain function, including improved academic performance.
 For those who survived the era in which fish sticks and tater tots passed as a good day in school cafeterias, a visit to a contemporary K-12 lunchroom in Oakland is illuminating.
 Tables abound with fresh fruit choices, heavily used salad bars and freshly made entrees such as chicken tikka masala with rice, lime-cilantro slaw and cucumber and tomato salsa.
 But Villarreal and others working to improve school food say progress remains halting and erratic. The factors hindering it in the past are still in play: cost, governmental regulation and the heavy involvement of the food industry.
 Villarreal has been addressing the challenge of providing healthy meals to students in



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California since he arrived in Novato in 2002 and discovered the district, though surrounded by more than 60 farms, was serving the same processed, heat-and-eat food that kids got at his previous district in Texas.
 In collaboration with local growers, parents and administrators, Villarreal crafted a new approach, incorporating more whole grains, eliminating processed sugar and saturated fats, using fresh ingredients and even offering cooking classes.
 It worked, Villarreal said, but it took time, determination and cooperation.
 "It isn't enough to talk about healthy food," Villarreal said. "The food has to be healthy and affordable."
 To make their finances work, many districts rely on the National School Lunch Program, which is funded by the USDA. That gives the agency considerable sway over the food those districts offer.
 In L.A., where about 80 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-cost lunch, "we get asked about having organic foods," Singh said. "Well, the USDA doesn't reimburse us for that. When that policy changes, we will be happy to go to organic foods."
 Districts have to balance the books, so offering foods that cost less to buy and have higher profit margins — say, Pop-Tarts or quickly reheated chicken nuggets — will always be tempting.
 These highly processed, low-nutrition items, Villarreal said, are often produced by food industry giants that can leverage their tremendous market clout and government subsidies to lower costs.
 So how do schools effect real change in menus on a no-frills budget?
 The answers, somewhat surprisingly, may lie close to home.
 In cash-strapped Oakland, administrators formed a farm-to-school cooperative, bringing in fresh produce from local growers. It was part of a complete overhaul intended to put more plant-based items on their lunchroom menus.
 They cut back on mass meat purchases, instead buying smaller quantities of higher-quality meat and pairing it with more legumes. They installed a central kitchen in the district to expedite cooking from scratch, enabling them to deliver freshly prepared entrees to their campuses.

PERK welcomes McCrocklin as new coordinator

BY SAMANTHA TUCKER
samantha@prairiepress.net

People Encouraging Remarkable Kids (PERK), a school mentoring program, has a change in leadership and plans to grow.

Kelly McCrocklin just stepped up as the new coordinator, taking over from Jodi Sperry after the latter's recent retirement.

McCrocklin, formerly an EnerStar employee, initially

balked at her own early retirement because she disliked the thought of sitting around. That is when members of PERK reached out to her about volunteering.

"I like being active in the community...there's lots of opportunities to do great work," McCrocklin said.

Working with EnerStar had connected McCrocklin with staff and administrators at several area schools and this

rapport, along with her dedication to serve, made her a great candidate for volunteering and later leadership.

"Kelly was a great fit," PERK board member Trisha Vitale said.

PERK is a mentorship program connecting adult mentors with students of all ages. Before PERK, The Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties operated a grant-funded mentorship

program but was frustrated that stipulations kept them from reaching more students. PERK had far fewer limitations, so HRC chose to let its grant expire and consolidate both programs' efforts. Initially serving third through fifth grade in Paris at Carolyn Wenz Elementary and Crestwood Elementary, PERK's network now spans the rest of the District 95 and the Kansas school district, helping students from



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Kelly McCrocklin, left, is the new coordinator for PERK, a mentorship program for students in Paris and Kansas. She and Trisha Vitale, at right, believe the organization will continue growing, and one day they hope to be able to reach every school in Edgar County.

Puzzles

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 7B

SUDOKU

		2				9		
	4		3	5				1
				4	1	7		
				9	7			
					4	8		
							7	3
1		7						8
3		4	6					
	8	6						

Level: Advanced

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

2	1	3	5	7	4	9	8	6
7	6	9	8	1	6	4	2	3
9	8	4	3	2	9	7	5	1
4	9	5	8	6	8	5	4	9
2	7	1	5	3	4	8	6	9
8	6	3	1	9	7	2	4	5
6	3	9	2	4	1	7	5	8
7	4	8	3	5	9	6	2	1
5	1	2	7	8	6	9	3	4

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

kindergarten to 10th grade.

The organization is non-profit and staffed by volunteers – the only compensated staff is McCrocklin, whose job is to glue everything and everyone together. This is a hefty job, between people across Paris and Kansas, as well as organizing and overseeing fundraising events and publicity. Fortunately, PERK has many supporters who donate their time, money and labor to help the program continue and grow. Vitale believes the program owes everything to this devoted and diverse core group rallying around Edgar county's kids.

"That fuel is what drives PERK," said Vitale.

McCrocklin's current plans are, first and foremost, to continue as a source of kindness in the communities PERK serves.

"I just am who I am, and love to treat people the way I want to be treated," she said.

She is also continuing the work that Sperry started – expanding the mentorship program to support as many students as possible. She envisions PERK eventually stretching countywide, but the timeframe for that is fluid since the program has a unique challenge: remaining personal and intuitive as it grows.

Vitale emphasized that at no point can they lose sight of the individual touch the kids need. The board is always conscious that some of the kids live in unstable situations, and thus a disruption within the organization could translate into an upheaval for a student who relies on time with their mentor.

"We are wanting to grow slowly, and grow right," Vitale said in summary.

McCrocklin and Vitale both praised how responsive the Paris community has been. Vitale related it to the adage, "It takes a village to raise a child."

"This village, or this city, does everything it can to support the next generation," she said.

PERK is always in the process of finding new recruits and mentors. Previous efforts were wildly successful, but there is always need.

The process begins with teachers, McCrocklin explained. "Teachers are the ones referring these kids, so they know best what will help."

After a referral, PERK matches students with prospective mentors based on common interests. Mentors and mentees meet at least twice a month over the school lunch period during the school year from October to April. The students find stability and friendship in this relationship – vital things for young peo-

ple entering a confusing time in life, and sometimes without the social support they need.

"We really need the help of the general public to get these kids a friend," Vitale explained.

All volunteers go through a background check run by Child Protection Services. The forms take three months to get back to PERK, which is why the program prefers to have a pool of potential mentors to draw on. Otherwise, kids are left waiting after their teacher refers them. If approved, McCrocklin provides mentors an orientation by sitting in on their first lunch. An end-of-the-year survey gives students, mentors, teachers and parents the chance to express any concerns. Sometimes students opt to switch mentors, which is fine with McCrocklin, who believes forcing the friendship would defeat the point.

The best volunteers, McCrocklin and Vitale say, are people who care.

"Anybody loving and caring and willing to have some patience sometimes," Vitale said. She elaborated that some kids take a while to open up while others are high-energy, and mentors need to accommodate that.

A PERK mentor's quota is two one-hour school lunch periods per month with their student, but they are free to exceed that. McCrocklin says PERK is flexible in changing the dates of lunches to accommodate the mentor's life. Mentors should be able to commit to the time and be certain they will not move out of the area that year.

Vitale and McCrocklin agree Sperry gave PERK the focus it needed to get where it is today, and even though she has retired, she is absolutely not forgotten.

"Jodi we will miss dearly," said Vitale.

As a non-profit, PERK relies on contributions from supporters and fundraisers. Their next event is the "Frozen 2 Princess Makeover" on Nov. 30 during Christmas in Paris. Families can reserve their children spots for \$20 each, and the makeover includes make-up, hair and nails, plus snacks and a craft. Kids also get their picture taken with 2019 Miss Edgar County, Teresa Twigg. Registration begins at the end of October.

Anyone curious about PERK, or interested in inviting McCrocklin to a speaking engagement can reach out to McCrocklin at 217-712-0091, or by email at perkprograms@gmail.com. PERK can also be contacted over their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/parisperk/>.

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- Political action committee
 - One point north of due east
 - Marital
 - Religious building
 - Intrinsic nature of something
 - Safe to drink
 - Letter of credit
 - Single Lens Reflex
 - Keeps you cool in summer
 - Monetary unit
 - The Eye Network
 - Moving with a bounding stride
 - Figures
 - Of the pia mater
 - Male offspring
 - Indicates near
 - Calvary sword
 - South American plant
 - Doctor of Education
 - Something to take
 - Remove the edges from
 - Inattentive
 - Pick up
 - Latch for a window
 - Region of the U.S.
 - Windy City ballplayer
 - The NFL's big game (abbr.)
 - Be permanently present in
 - Novice
 - Pirate novel
 - In a law-abiding way
 - Where one sleeps
 - Criticize

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			7			8	9	10		11	
12	13									14	
15							16			17	
18							19			20	
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		39		40		41			42		43
44	45				46		47		48		
49				50		51					52
53		54	55				56	57	58	59	60
	61					62					
		63									
			64					65			

- Egyptian Sun god
- Predatory semiaquatic reptile
- Register formally
- Eating houses
- Japanese port
- Genus of rodents
- Nigerian city
- Milliwatt
- Mistake!
- Women's __ movement
- Greeting
- Songbirds
- An arrangement scheme
- Heartbeat test
- Push back
- Intended for the audience only
- Cycles per second
- Impartiality
- Polio vaccine developer
- Bowel movements
- South American Indian
- Queen of Sparta
- Confederate soldier
- Emerged
- Death
- __ and flowed
- Folk singer DiFranco
- Email folder
- Throbbled rhythmically
- English rockers
- Disaster relief operation
- American model and TV personality Katherine
- Potable
- Tough outer layer
- __ Spumante (Italian wine)
- Troubles
- Negative
- Camper

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Sandoval under investigation

Full search warrant released after office raid, suggests broad corruption probe of Sen. Martin Sandoval

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

From Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — Senate Democrats on Friday, Oct. 11, released copies of the full, unredacted search warrant that was executed on state Sen. Martin Sandoval's office Sept. 24, and it reveals a wide-ranging probe into possible corruption involving a red-light camera company, construction businesses, a large utility company and other Chicago-area politicians.

Sandoval, D-Chicago, also resigned Friday from his post as chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, according to a spokesman for Senate President John Cullerton. But he still retains this leadership post as Senate Democratic whip, the person responsible for ensuring party discipline on key votes.

Federal agents raided Sandoval's Statehouse office, his district office in Cicero and his home in Chicago on Sept. 24. In response to records requests from news media, Cullerton's office released a heavily-redacted copy of the search warrant, along with a list of items that were seized.

It indicated investigators were looking for correspondence and documents related to several individuals and businesses, but most of those names were blacked out.

Sandoval has not been charged with any wrongdoing.

The unredacted material, however, adds significant detail, and indications of where the investigation might be headed.

The warrant indicates agents were looking for evidence of crimes under Article 18 of the United States Code, which deals with, "deprivation of rights under color of law," or crimes committed by public officials. It identifies specific statutes involving conspiracy, theft and bribery, fraud, wire

fraud, and a statute, 18 U.S.C. 1951, "interference with commerce by threats or violence."

The first set of materials listed in the search warrant identifies SafeSpeed LLC, a company that provides automated red-light cameras to several communities in the Chicago area. Along with SafeSpeed, the search warrant lists several individuals including Cook County Commissioner and McCook Mayor Jeff Tobolski; his chief of staff, Patrick Doherty; Berwyn Alderman Cesar Santoy, who was also on the Illinois Tollway Highway Authority Board until his temporary appointment was pulled Friday afternoon by Gov. J.B. Pritzker; a company named Technicraft Collision Repair; that company's president, Sebastian Jachymiak; and a company identified as Arq Design Build.

Chicago-area news outlets have reported that Sandoval personally intervened on SafeSpeed's behalf to get Illinois Department of Transportation approval for a red-light camera in Oakbrook Terrace that IDOT had previously denied, all while taking tens of thousands of dollars in campaign donations from the company and its owner.

That has prompted renewed calls to repeal state laws that allow municipalities to use red-light cameras to enforce traffic laws.

Another paragraph in the warrant identifies items related to Puentes Inc., an English-Spanish translation service company that Sandoval owns, and Monarca Inc., which, according to the Illinois secretary of state's website, is owned by Sandoval's wife, Marina.

In a separate paragraph, the warrant authorizes a search for items related to public officials in the village of Summit, including Village President

Sergio Rodriguez, Police Chief John Kosmowski, Department of Public Works Director Bill Mundy, road construction company owner Pedro Ramirez, and "Concrete Company A."

The warrant goes on to identify items related to the utility company ComEd and its parent company Exelon, Chicago-area real estate developer Vahooman "Shadow" Mirkhaef, businessman Michael Vondra and several of his associates, a number of real estate companies and other businesses.

Finally, the warrant calls for items related to a number of IDOT employees and "Items related to any official action taken in exchange for a benefit." Pritzker has said previously that no IDOT employees have been subpoenaed as part of the investigation.

EDUCATION SURVEY

A new report from an independent policy and advocacy organization is calling for increased state investment in public education in Illinois, particularly in early childhood and higher education.

"Overall, our outcomes are improving despite insufficient state investment in programs and schools. We must build on the progress of K-12 funding reform and ensure our early childhood and postsecondary programs are fully and equitably funded so students and families have access to the resources they need to thrive," Advance Illinois said in its 2019 "The State We're In" report.

Advance Illinois was founded in 2008 by leaders from several civic, philanthropic, business and education or-

ganizations across the state. The group's stated purpose is to work "toward a healthy public education system that prepares students to achieve success in college, career and civic life."

Their annual report tracks roughly 80 metrics pertaining to student performance in three categories: early education, K-12 and postsecondary.

The report found that evidence-based funding formula, which was passed in 2017, has helped increase per-pupil state spending at the K-12 level. Illinois spent, on average, \$7,503 per pupil in 2017, ranking it 29th in the nation. That's up from \$4,557 in 2007, when the state ranked 45th.

The evidence-based funding formula calls for an added \$350 million in K-12 education spending annually and directs that money to the schools furthest from adequate funding. This helped decrease the number of school districts funded at less than 60 percent of their adequacy targets from 168 in 2017 to roughly 34 in 2019, according to the report.

Still, nearly half of Illinois' 852 school districts are working with "less than 70 percent of the funds they need to adequately meet their students' needs," the report said.

While K-12 education spending increased from 2007 to 2017, over that same span, per-pupil state spending at four-year higher education institutions was decimated. In 2007, Illinois spent \$7,276 per student at public four-year institutions, but that number fell to \$3,636 in 2017. That was a steep enough fall to move the state from the 19th to 45th

highest in the nation.

FAMILY PLANNING FUNDS

Aunt Martha's Health & Wellness, the only Illinois organization currently participating in the federal family planning program, was awarded more than double its initial grant after several providers across the country declined their funding in response to a Trump administration rule change.

The group operates several clinics in Illinois, including one in Danville.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services oversees the Title X program. It announced on Sept. 30 the allocation of an additional \$33.6 million to 50 grantees in several states to buttress their family planning services.

The funding became available, the department said in press release, after 18 organizations, "left the Title X program rather than comply with statutory and regulatory requirements prohibiting federal funding where abortion is a method of family planning."

Raul Garza, Aunt Martha's president and CEO, said the provider's new grant amount is more than \$1.3 million. That is an increase of \$825,000.

Aunt Martha's will use the money to expand services — including wellness exams, testing for sexually transmitted diseases and birth control — to several of its facilities, Garza said, allowing its medical personnel to treat "more than double the number of patients we're able to serve now."

"No else else (in Illinois) applied, so family planning services would not be available to thousands of women," he said. "That's not an exaggeration. That's a fact."

Garza added that health care providers previously offering Title X services through contracts with the Illinois Department of Public Health have reached out to Aunt Martha's about working with them instead.

STATE ETHICS

A Republican state lawmaker said Wednesday, Oct. 16, she plans to introduce legislation to establish a State Ethics Task Force to tighten ethics rules within Illinois government.

"To have the public's trust, we must take action whenever confidence is broken," Rep. Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, said in a news release. "We've seen the headlines of the FBI's recent activity, including raiding the homes of legislators, lobbyists, and offices within the State Capitol. The cost of corruption is too high for Illinoisans to ignore."

McCombie — who is chair of the House Republican Organization, the political arm of the caucus which works and raises money to elect House Republicans — said several events in the past year raise concerns that the state's ethics rules are not strict enough. The first of which, she said, is the August indictment of state Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, on multiple counts of embezzlement from a labor union.

She also mentioned an ongoing and wide-ranging investigation centering on state Sen. Martin Sandoval, D-Chicago, whose Statehouse and district offices, as well as his home, were searched by federal agents in September.

She indicated that she hopes to have the legislation considered in the upcoming veto session, which begins Oct. 28.

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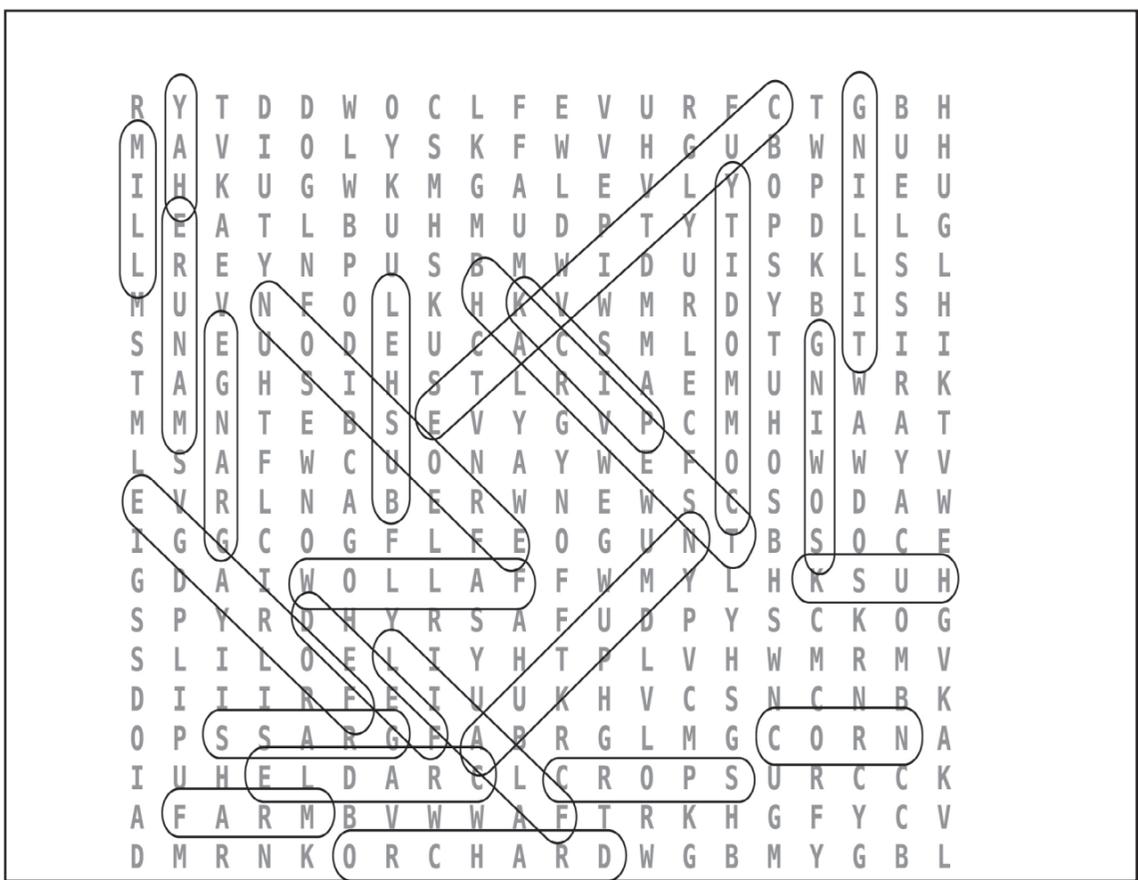
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L R E Y N P U S B M W I D U I S K L S L
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WORDS

- AUTUMN
- BUSHEL
- COMMODITY
- CORN
- CRADLE
- CROPS
- CULTIVATE
- EROSION
- FALLOW
- FARM
- FEED
- FLAIL
- FORAGE
- GRANGE
- GRASS
- HARVEST
- HAY
- HUSK
- MANURE
- MILL
- ORCHARD
- PICK
- SOWING
- TILLING

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

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conducting and transacting the business known as:

CROP365
Located at: 315 Illinois Street
Kansas, IL 61933
Owner(s): Caleb Hunter
Dated: September 18, 2019
August H. Griffin
EDGAR COUNTY CLERK

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT EDGAR COUNTY, PARIS, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF

EARL JACK SWARTHOUT, Deceased No. 2019 -P- 48

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of EARL JACK SWARTHOUT. Letters of Office were issued on September 24, 2019 to Prospect Bank, 177 W. Wood Street, Paris, IL 61944, as Executor whose attorney is FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.), 129 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, 61944, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 13, 2020 and any claim not filed within the applicable period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

PROSPECT BANK, Executor

FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.)
129 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944
Phone: 217/ 465-4196
FAX: 217/ 466-1213

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS EDGAR COUNTY PARIS, ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF CAROLYN M. CURL Deceased

No. 2019 P 45

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of CAROLYN M. CURL. Letters of Office were issued on September 20, 2019, to CATHERINE JENNINGS, 131 Cortland Circle, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453 as Independent Co-Executor, whose Attorney is S. Craig Smith, Asher & Smith, 1119 N. Main Street, P. O. Box 340, Paris, IL 61944.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, 61944, or with the representative, or both, on or before March 30, 2020 (at least six months from the date of the first publication), and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Dated this 7th day of October, 2019.

CATHERINE JENNINGS
Representative

Craig Smith
Asher & Smith
1119 N. Main Street
P. O. Box 340
Paris, IL 61944
Telephone: 217/465-6444
Fax: 217/463-2486

State Of Illinois In The Circuit Court Of The Fifth Judicial Circuit Edgar County - In Probate In The Matter Of The Estate Of Mickey C. St. Clair, Deceased.

No. 2019-P-49

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of MICKEY C. ST. CLAIR, of Brocton Illinois, who died on August 22, 2019. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on October 7, 2019 to AUTUMN ST. CLAIR, 204 East Third Street, Brocton, Illinois 61917; whose attorney is E. Robert Anderson of Anderson Law Offices, 1204 North Main Street, P.O. Box 10, Paris,

Illinois 61944.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Paris, Edgar County, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before April 13, 2019 and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Executor and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Autumn St. Clair, Independent Executor

By: E. Robert Anderson

Anderson Law Offices
1204 North Main Street
P.O. Box 10
Paris, Illinois 61944-0010
alo@robandersonlaw.com
(217) 465-3535

CITY OF CHRISMAN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 92 ABANDONED, WRECKED VEHICLES: STORING, PARKING OR LEAVING DISMANTLED OR OTHER SUCH VEHICLES; PROHIBITION; NUISANCE; EXCEPTIONS SECTION 92.03 ORDINANCE NO. 7 SERIES 2019

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Chrisman, Illinois, that:

Section 1

A. No person shall park, store, leave, or permit the parking, storing or leaving of any motor vehicle of any kind which is in an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, rusted, junked, or partially dismantled condition whether attended or not, upon any public or private property within the city for a period of time in excess of 72 hours. The presence of an abandoned, wrecked, dismantled, inoperative, rusted, junked or partially dismantled vehicle or parts thereof, on private or public property is hereby declared a public nuisance which may be abated as such in accordance with the provisions of this section.

B. Exceptions. This chapter shall not apply to:

1. Any vehicle enclosed within a building on private property;
2. Any vehicle held in connection with a business enterprise;
3. Any motor vehicle in operable condition specifically adapted or designed for operation on drag strips or raceways;
4. Any vehicle maintained for demolition derby purposes under the following circumstances:
 - a. This exception shall only apply from May 1 for the respective year through September 30 of that same year;
 - b. There may only be two vehicles visible to the general public on each property;
 - c. The vehicles must be maintained on the driveway and not extended over any sidewalk area and not to be maintained on the boulevard area of the property;
 - d. There are to be no parts or tires for the vehicles, or any other vehicles, accumulating in the yard where these vehicles are maintained;
 - e. The property where the vehicles are maintained must be kept in an orderly fashion without car parts, various car pieces, tools or equipment visible to the public other than during use in active repair or maintenance.
5. Any vehicles retained by the owner for antique collection purposes

Section 2

Any ordinance or clause or provision of any Ordinance in conflict with this Ordinance is hereby repealed.

Section 3

This Ordinance shall take full effect from and after its passage, signing, recording and publication pursuant to law.

I offer the foregoing Ordinance and move that it be adopted by Council.

Dated: October 7, 2019 Thad Cripsin, Councilman

I second the foregoing motion.
Dated: October 7, 2019 Bryan Haddix, Councilman

ROLL CALL:
AYES: 4
NAYES: 1

I declare the foregoing Ordinance adopted by the Council and approved by me this 7th day of October.
Dan Owens, Mayor

ATTEST: Dena Burns, City Clerk

Public Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Illinois Department of Agriculture

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

HUMAN RESOURCES CENTER
OF EDGAR AND CLARK COUNTIES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monday, October 28, 2019 @ 4:00 p.m.

118 EAST COURT STREET
PARIS, ILLINOIS
PUBLIC WELCOME

GARAGE SALE

Having a yard sale? You get up to 40 words that will reach homes and businesses in Edgar County, three heavy-duty, all-weather signs (like the one surrounding this ad), 140 fluorescent green pre-priced labels, tips for a no hassle sale, pre-sale checklist, sales record form. **All for \$10.00!!!!**

The Prairie Press

217-921-3216

101 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944

(Department), pursuant to 510 ILCS 77/12(a) of the Livestock Management Facilities Act and Subparts C and D of 8 Ill. Adm. Code 900, that on October 11, 2019 the Department determined that the notice of intent to construct application, originally received by the Department on October 9, 2019 for a 1,800 animal unit swine facility Parks E8 from Parks Livestock, Scotland, IL was complete. The facility Parks E8 is proposed to be located approximately 3.97 miles south of Scotland, IL. A copy of the notice of intent to construct form was forwarded to the Edgar County Board on October 16, 2019. Within 30 days after receipt of the notice, the county board may request that the Department conduct an informational meeting concerning the proposed construction. In addition, within 30 days after receipt of the notice by the county board, county residents may petition the county board to request that the Department conduct an informational meeting. If 75 or more of the county residents, who are registered voters in the county, petition the county board, the county board shall request that the Department conduct an informational meeting. For more information regarding this notice, informational meetings or requirements of new livestock management or livestock waste handling facilities, please consult the Livestock Management Facilities Act (510 ILCS 77/1 et seq.) or call the Department at (217) 785-2427.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO BORROW FUNDS AND RIGHT TO FILE PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to Ordinance Number 15, adopted on September 23, 2019, the City of Paris of Edgar County, Illinois, intends to enter into a Loan Agreement with the

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$1,750,000 and bearing annual interest in the amount not to exceed the maximum rate authorized by law at time of execution of the Loan Agreement, for the purpose of paying the cost of certain improvement to the public water supply system of the City of Paris. A complete copy of the Ordinance accompanies this notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that if the petition signed by 571 or more electors of the City of Paris (being equal to 10% of the registered voters in the City of Paris), requesting that the question of improving the public water supply system and entering into the Loan Agreement is submitted to the City of Paris Clerk within 30 days after the publication of this Notice, the question of improving the public water system of the City of Paris as provided in the Ordinance and Loan Agreement shall be submitted to the electors of the City of Paris at the next election to be held under general election law on April 4, 2023. A petition form is available for the office of the City of Paris, Clerk.

Bridget Anderson
City of Paris, Clerk
City of Paris, Edgar County Illinois

We are ...
Edgar County.

The Prairie Press

101 N. Central Ave., Paris
217-921-3216

HELP WANTED

FULLTIME CUSTODIAN

This is a 12 month position, 8 hours a day, 12:00 - 8:00 p.m., five days a week. Starting wage is \$10.97 an hour. Benefits. Start immediately. Complete an application available in the Unit Office or send letter of application & resume with references to **Dr. Allen Hall, Superintendent, Shiloh CUSD #1 21751 N. 575th Street Hume, IL 61932 or email - halla@shiloh1.org** Review of applications begins immediately and continues until position is filled.



2ND SHIFT - FEED DELIVERY

The Equity is a full-service cooperative offering a complete line of supplies and services for farm and residential customers. The Equity offers a great benefits package for full-time employees including: vacation time, sick time, 401K match, health insurance, vision & dental insurance, life insurance, long term disability, short term disability and bonus program.

The Equity is currently seeking someone to fill the full time 2nd Shift Feed Delivery position. Requirements include Class A CDL and High School Diploma or GED, ability to effectively communicate and interact with management and customers. Agriculture background is preferred, but not required.

To apply go to: www.TheEquity.com/Careers
Or apply in person at
13991 E 1700th Rd, Chrisman, IL

BUSINESS SERVICES

Alco Overhead Doors

Service on all types of garage doors. New door sales. Residential & commercial
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ROBERTS TREE SERVICE

Fall/Winter Sale. Insured. Free estimates.
Firewood for sale; \$55.00 truck load delivered
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HOMETOWN HOME REPAIR

Get ready for winter!
Fall/Winter Sale
Insured. Free estimates.
217-251-1800

HAULING

If you have any items you don't want laying around I will haul off about anything. Call me anytime at
217-218-8801

SPENCER SIDING-Soffit-Flat

Roofs and Construction
Call 264-1567

GARAGE SALES

THE ETC. SHOPPE

141 E Court Street, Downtown Paris
217-264-1921 or 217-463-2653
We buy estates or gently used furniture, appliances, electronics, baby furniture, antiques. One item to a complete household. Call Robin today.
open Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat. 9 am-5 pm.
We pay cash!

Multi-Family Rummage Sale, 4-H grounds 317 E Elliott Oct. 25 8am-6pm Oct. 26 8am-2pm

Cleaned out house of 57 years. Something for everyone. Too much to list. Priced to sell

HELP WANTED

Member Advocate

Decatur Earthmover Credit Union is seeking a motivated individual for their Paris Branch on a part-time basis with excellent sales, member service and cash handling skills to join our team. The ideal candidate will assist members with various needs, offer product information and provide exceptional member service while presenting a positive image of the credit union. Previous office and customer service experience preferred. Comprehensive computer, oral & written communication skills, and ability to work branch hours are required.
Starting hourly rate will be \$11 per hour. As a part time employee, you will receive four hours of holiday pay for each holiday we are closed and paid volunteer hours to help in the community. To apply online visit www.DECU.com/careers
Please send your application and resume to:
HR@decu.com
Or
Human Resources
Decatur Earthmover Credit Union
PO Box 2515
Decatur, IL 62525

Local company seeking a full time driver. Class A CDL required. All local driving; 100% company paid health insurance plus pension. \$1500 sign on bonus. Call
217-465-7621

HOUSEHOLD GOODS

15" Barrel Saddle For Sale
Call (217) 466-6891

PETS

HOOF & PAW
PET BOARDING
Phone (217)466-5488

HOUSES FOR RENT

2 Bedroom House for Rent

\$565/mo + deposit
Call 217-463-8800
Leave message

Nice 2 bdrm 2 bath with garage
Crestwood Dist. No pets
\$650 plus dep.
217-264-1379 leave message

3/4 Bdrm House
2 Bath
Furnished
1800 SF
Non Smokers
5 Magnolia Manor \$725/mo
217-251-7356

HOUSES FOR SALE

FOR SALE

311 Madison, 2 bdrm, big lot, some repairs with water heater, new tile in kitchen. \$12,000 or best offer call 264-1865

3 Bedroom 2 1/2 Bath home for sale Approx. 1700 square feet with working wood fireplace 2 car attached garage and deck on the back
Asking \$145,000 Call (217) 826-3100 to view this home
22298 N Hwy 1 Marshall, IL

LAND/ACREAGE

Land For Sale

35.6 Acres 10 tillable on Ernest Rd. Marshall, IL
Prime Deer Hunting
Call 219-588-4740

Land For Sale

85 irrigated tillable acres on River Road West Union, IL
Call 219-644-8713

HOUSING FOR RENT

2 & 3 Bdrm. Mobile Home

gas, electric, water, can be included in rent, dep. Washer & dryer and AC may be included also.
217-463-8800, leave msg.

House for Rent - 2BR, clean, \$500 per month plus \$500 deposit, 1 yr lease. Call 264-4048 or 806-0333

Affordable Senior Housing in Paris, IL. Rent based on income. One bedroom with washer/dryer, pet friendly. One month free rent. (309) 673-225

APARTMENTS

Freshly renovated 1 and 2 BR apts. Water & trash included. Great location! No pets.
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Nice 1 bedroom, water, heat, and trash included. No Pets. \$420 dep. \$420 mo.
Call 217-466-8280

AUTOS

For Sale

2012 Lincoln MKZ 4 Door
22,625 Actual Miles
Call 217-466-0309 or
217-251-9449
Can see at 520 W. Grant St. Paris

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Oracle

Presented by Rabi Johnathon Cahn at The Grace Fellowship Church
200 E Elliott St. at 6:30pm
Session ! will be held Sunday, Oct. 20th followed by the next 8 Sundays

LEGALS

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE Public Notice is hereby given that on September 18, 2019 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Edgar County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning,

ECCF DONATES TO COVER WELDING CLASS TUITION



Special to The Prairie Press

The Edgar County Community Foundation presents a check for the new welding class at Paris High School to cover the Lake Land College dual credit tuition for class members. A former PHS student, who sees the importance of industrial skills, sponsored the gift. Pictured left to right: Warren Sperry, ECCF; Tom Hebermehl, ECCF director; Gary Johnson, Mitchell Worrell, Gunner McCarty, Kolten Sexton, Blake Woolum, Drake Hopkins, Cole Delaunois, Riley Cooper, Karson Whitaker, Jim Humrichous, welding instructor; and Billy Hardas, ECCF director. Welding at PHS is a yearlong dual credit class designed to give students hands-on learning of the fundamentals of basic welding, including oxy-acetylene welding, arc welding and cutting and brazing.

FRIENDSHIP FUND DONATION WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Special to The Prairie Press

Jane Blair, left, representing Chapter KP of Paris, presents a check to Amanda McConkey Hood from the Lulu Corkhill Williams Friendship Fund of the Illinois P.E.O. Sisterhood. The fund, established by Williams in 1934, offers temporary assistance for women or men facing a variety of emergencies, including medical bills or difficulties due to a lifestyle or housing change.

TOPS groups meet

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

TOPS #IL 1563 met Thursday, Oct. 10, with 16 members weighing in and 15 members staying for the meeting.

Club members recognized were: Sara McCrocklin, TOPS weekly best loser; Wanda Luth, KOPS weekly best loser; Ruth Ann Knight, best walker; Marcella Coy won the walking drawing; and Penny Ring won the food chart drawing.

The group walked a combined 33 miles during the prior week.

Sandy Randall offered tips on positive dieting like eating slowly, eating only when hungry and stopping when full.

TOPS #IL 1563 meets every Thursday at the Highland Manor Community Room, with weigh-ins beginning at 8 a.m. and the meeting starting at 9 a.m. Visitors and new members are always welcome and more information is available by calling 251-5190.

TOPS #IL 2318 met Tuesday, Oct. 15, with 14 members weighing in and 13 members attending the meeting.

Club members recognized were: Jayne Peters, TOPS weekly best loser; Mary Ruth Clark, KOPS weekly best loser and KOPS drawing winner; Nancy Norman and Marcy Heminger, best three-week loser; Myndy Wooten, top walker; Patty Felgenhauer, top exerciser; and Marcy Heminger, top cyclist.

Heminger also delivered a program about the keto diet.

TOPS #IL. 2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-in is from 5:45-6:50 p.m. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. More information is available by calling 217-822-0953.

58 percent of evangelical teens discuss faith in school

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The U.S. Supreme Court long ago banned school-led prayer, but religion itself remains prevalent among the nation's public schools, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

The poll of 1,800 teenagers (ages 13 to 17) found that 53 percent of teens say they regularly see classmates wearing jewelry or clothing with religious messages, and another 39 percent say they regularly see fellow students praying before a sporting event.

Another 26 percent say it's common to see someone invited to a religious youth group or worship service, and 16 percent say it's common to see a classmate pray before a meal. Eight percent say it's common to see fellow students read religious texts outside of class.

Pew called it the first large-scale, nationally representative survey "asking teens a series of questions" about their own practices and perceptions or religious expression in public schools.

Two-thirds of teens (64 percent) say they rarely or never talk about religion with their friends. But that is not the case among evangelical Christian teens. Fifty-eight percent of evangelical teens regularly talk about their faith with classmates, compared with 39 percent of mainline teens and 35 percent of Catholic teens who do so.

Girls are more likely than boys to discuss religion with their peers, according to Pew.

Perhaps in a related category, one in 10 evangelical teens say they have been bullied because of their religion. That compares to 9 percent of Catholics and 1 percent of mainline teens who say they've been bullied because of their faith.

"Unaffiliated teens were asked a similar question about being teased for their lack of religion," the Pew report said. "Among students who identify religiously as atheist, agnostic or 'nothing in particular,' very few (4 percent) say they have personally experienced bullying in school because they are not religious."

The survey was conducted online, March 29 to April 14.

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 15 SERIES 2019

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY LOAN PROGRAM ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING LOAN AGREEMENT NON-HOME RULE ENTITY (e.g. Village, City, Town)

AN ORDINANCE authorizing the City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program

WHEREAS, The City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois operates its public water supply system ("the System") in accordance with the provisions of and the Local Government Debt Reform Act, 30ILCS 350/1 (collectively, "the Act") and

WHEREAS, the MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL of the CITY OF PARIS ("the Corporate Authorities") have determined that it is advisable, necessary and in the best interest of public health, safety and welfare to improve the System. Including following:

WATER LINE EXTENSION FOR SERVICE T EQUITY AND CITY OF CHRISMAN

Together with any land or rights in land and all electrical, mechanical or other services necessary, useful or advisable to the construction and installation ("the Project"), all in accordance with the plans and specifications prepared by consulting engineers of the City of Paris; which Project has a useful life of 50 years; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of construction and installation of the Project, including engineering legal, financial and other related expenses is \$1,750,000, and there are insufficient funds on hand and lawfully available to pay these costs; and

WHEREAS, the loan shall bear an interest rate as defined by 35 Ill. Adm. Code 662, which does not exceed the maximum rate authorized by the Bond authorization Act, as amended, 30 ILCS 305/1 et seq., at the time of the issuance of the loan; and

WHEREAS, the principal and interest payment shall be payable semi-annually and the loan shall mature in 20 years, which is within the period of useful life of the Project; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with the provisions of the Act, the City of Paris is authorized to borrow funds from the Public Water Supply Loan Program in the aggregate principal amount of \$1,750,000 to provide funds to pay the costs of the Project;

WHEREAS, the loan to the city of Paris shall be made pursuant to a Loan Agreement, including certain terms and conditions, between the City of Paris and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency;

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained by the corporate Authorities of the City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois, as follows:

SECTION 1. INCORPORATION OF PREAMBLES
The Corporate Authorities hereby find that the recitals contained in the preambles are true and correct, and incorporate them into this Ordinance by this reference.

SECTION 2. DETERMINATION TO BORROW FUNDS
It is necessary and in the best interests of the City of Paris to construct the Project for the public health, safety and welfare, in accordance with the plans and specifications, as described; that the System continues to be operated in accordance with the provision of the Act; and that for the purpose of constructing the Project, it is hereby authorized that funds be borrowed by the City of Paris in an aggregated principal amount (which can include construction period interest financed over the term of the loan) not to exceed \$1,750,000.

SECTION 3. PUBLICATION
This Ordinance, together with a Notice in the statutory form (attached hereto as Exhibit A), shall be published once within ten days after passage in The Prairie Press, a newspaper published and of general circulation in the City of Paris, and if no petition, signed by electors numbering 10% or more of the registered voters in the City of Paris, being 571, asking that the question of improving the System as provided in this Ordinance and entering into the Loan Agreement therefore be submitted to the electors of the City of Paris, is filed with the City of Paris Clerk within 30 days after the date of publication of this Ordinance and notice, then this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect. A petition form shall be provided by the City of Paris Clerk to any individual requesting one.

SECTION 4. ADDITIONAL ORDINANCES
If no petition meeting the requirements of the Act and other applicable laws is filed during the 30-day petition period, then the Corporate Authorities may adopt additional ordinances or proceedings supplementing or amending this Ordinance providing for entering into the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, prescribing all the details of the Loan Agreement, and providing for the collection, segregation and distribution of the Water System Revenues, so long as the

maximum amount of the Loan Agreement as set forth in this Ordinance is not exceeded and there is no material change in the Project or purposes described herein. Any additional ordinances or proceedings shall in all instances become effective in accordance with the Act or other applicable law. This Ordinance, together with such additional ordinances or proceedings, shall constitute complete authority for entering into the Loan Agreement under applicable law. However, notwithstanding the above, the City of Paris may not adopt additional ordinances or amendments which provide for any substantive or material change in the scope and intent of this Ordinance, including but not limited to interest rate, preference, or priority of any other ordinance with this Ordinance, or otherwise alter or impair the obligation of the City of Paris to pay the principal and interest due to the Public Water Supply Loan Program without the written consent of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

SECTION 5. LOAN NOT INDEBTEDNESS OF CITY OF PARIS
Repayment of the loan to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency by the City of Paris pursuant to this Ordinance is to be solely from the revenue derived from the Water System Revenues, and the loan does not constitute an indebtedness of the City of Paris within the meaning of any constitutional or statutory limitation.

SECTION 6. APPLICATION FOR LOAN
The Mayor is hereby authorized to make application to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency for a loan through the Public Water Supply Loan Program, in accordance with the loan requirements set out in 35 Ill. Adm. Code 662.

SECTION 7. ACCEPTANCE OF LOAN AGREEMENT
The Corporate Authorities hereby authorize acceptance of the offer of a loan through the Public Water Supply Loan Program, including all terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement as well as all special conditions contained therein and made a part thereof by reference. The Corporate Authorities further agree that the loan funds awarded shall be used solely for the purposes of the project as approved by the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Loan Agreement.

SECTION 8. OUTSTANDING BONDS
The City of Paris has outstanding bonds, payable from revenues of the system, that are senior to the loan authorized by this Ordinance, and the City of Paris establishes an account, cov-

erage, and reserves equivalent to the account(s), coverage(s) and reserve(s) as the senior lien holders in accordance with 35 ILCS 662.350(a)(9)(C)(PWS).

SECTION 9. AUTHORIZATION OF [PRESIDENT/MAYOR] TO EXECUTE LOAN AGREEMENT

The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute the Loan Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. The Corporate Authorities may authorize by resolution a person other than the Mayor for the sole purpose of authorizing or executing any documents associated with payment requests or reimbursements from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency in connection with this loan.

SECTION 10. SEVERABILITY
If any section, paragraph, clause or provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, the invalidity of such section, paragraph, clause or provision shall not affect any of the other provisions of this Ordinance.

SECTION 11. REPEALER
All ordinances, resolutions or orders, or parts thereof, which conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed.

I offer the foregoing Ordinance and move that it be adopted by Council.

Dated: September 23, 2019
I second the foregoing motion.
Dated: September 23, 2019
ROLL CALL:
AYES: [Signatures]
NAYS: none
I declare the foregoing Ordinance adopted by the Council and approved by me this 23rd day of September 2019.
[Signatures]

In print. Online. On-the-go.
The Prairie Press
www.prairiepress.net

Pictured: Jim McCulloch poses next to his Case IH combine.

OCTOBER 19, 2019

BIRKEY'S

The Prairie Press

Edgar County HARVEST

Sustenance For Us... Sustenance For The World



MORE YIELD (*LESS PAIN*)



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HEALTH

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Farmers don't get sick days. If you can't get it done, it might not get done at all. We understand. At Horizon Health, our orthopedics team will get you back to work fast. We offer a variety of solutions: from minimally invasive techniques to the latest in surgical options. Let the orthopedics team at Horizon Health get you back to work sooner and spend more time in the field—with less pain and greater yield.

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BIRKEY'S

29 E Main St.
Oakland, IL 61943
(217) 346-2312

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Crop insurance proves its value

Farmers grateful they can fall back on insurance after a wild year in the agriculture industry

BY JEREMY PATTERSON
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In a country that was founded behind the plows and pitchforks of farmers, the importance of crops in the United States has not diminished in recent years. A multi-billion dollar industry, farming supports thousands of farmers and their families across the country every day. So what happens when nature doesn't want to cooperate?

In a state where corn and soybeans rule all, Illinois farmers were heavily affected by the weather in 2019. An extremely wet spring left planters scrambling to get seed into the ground during planting season that dragged into late May and then June and early July in some places. The effects were set to financial-

ly ravage planters and markets.

Many farmers salvaged their crops through insurance companies such as Country Financial and others. Brad Clow, the Crop Operations manager for Country Financial, detailed why crop insurances in Illinois, and the country, is so important to have.

"It has been a very trying year for so many farmers out there," Clow said. "Without crop insurance, a lot of them wouldn't have an income coming in and that is tough for a farmer."

In just a six-week span, Country Financial made payments totaling over \$35 million to farmers. The payments allow those who are insured to have an income, despite quarreling with Mother Nature.

After a long drought struck the Corn Belt in 2012, more farmers turned to insurance policies as part their management plans. Nearly 20 million acres of Illinois was covered by various crop insurance policies a year

ago, with the cumulative value of liability protection pushing its way to more than \$10 billion in 2018.

"Farmers are a very hard-working group and insurance provides them with a sense of security when inclement weather or other instances occur," Clow said. "For them to use their own money to pay premiums in good faith, we (as insurers) have to make sure that we are there to take care of them."

After a troubling decade for farmers, crop insurance is growing to become nearly as vital to them as the crops are themselves. The risk for inclement weather, should that occur in the form of hail, excessive rain, drought or green snap from strong winds, are just a handful of the factors managed under insurance policies.

There are also a variety of protection policies provided by the federal government, with replant coverage, yield protection and price-drop protection being just a few.

With the proper insurance coverage for a farmer and their crops, there is no reason why one should suffer financially due to the unavoidable effects of nature or the market. This is as true as ever after the torrential rains that flooded fields across the Midwest in 2019.

"This is a year (2019) that just shows and dominates why these farmers need to have their crops protected," Clow said. "This is very important for farmers."

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The costs of a wet year become apparent

BY GORDON SPIERS

Greenleaf, Wis.

This is not meant to be a complaint, but a reflection of the reality facing our dairy sector. "We" means all of us.



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GUEST COLUMN

A recent rainfall felt like the final dagger in the heart during a very difficult year.

This all started 13 months ago when it began raining in early September and was wet throughout the fall. We did not finish our field work properly before freeze-up and did not get the manure pits emptied.

This carried into a wet spring. We first realized that much of the alfalfa hay crops did not survive the winter. Normally, we plant new alfalfa before May 1. But it was still too wet and we could not get into the fields.

There was a small window to plant corn around May 22, then the rains came again. Most of the corn was finally planted by June 12 into less than ideal conditions. Some of the poorer

fields had another chance around June 22. So, by May 23 we knew this was going to be a delayed harvest.

Normally we take four cuttings of hay. This year, the first three were challenged by wet fields that kept us from using equipment that would create ruts. We did not want to harm the acres that survived the winter. The fourth cut, which was due to be harvested on Sept. 10, is still in the field. We are waiting for a killing frost to allow us to harvest the crop, but we still aren't sure if the ground will be hard enough.

All of this comes with added costs.

- Finances: Normally we need a silage chopper with four trucks to make one chopping team. Because of the soaked fields, we now need to add three tractors and dump carts at \$130 per hour each. We also need a skid-steer to clean roads and we'll need the dump carts to come onto the town roads to dump into the semi-trailers.

- People: We recently added four people for a chopping team. Employees are hard to find because the hours are long and the job is frustrating.

- Productivity: Using dump carts, we can come close to normal production in harvest, until things start getting stuck in the mud. When the chopper gets stuck, our efficiency goes to zero.

- Days to freeze-up: In a normal year, silage harvest is complete around Oct. 1. This year we started Oct 10. As a dairy industry, we need to get the crop in, then return the manure to the fields. This window is now only half as long as last year, yet we have more challenging conditions.

- The fields: Compaction and damage that the harvest will cause to the soil structure will not be fixed in one year. We'll see decreased yields in the coming years, for sure.

- The community: Roads will be muddy and blocked at times as we work to accomplish the harvest.

- Emotions: Until this is done, it will be really hard to have a good day. Each day seems like a battle. This will be reflected in how we relate to our families, workers, service providers, equip-

ment dealers, fellow farmers and others. We will all try to have a good attitude, but the fun left this year a long time ago.

- Finances, again: After what has been a struggling agricultural economy for four years, we finally are seeing some price relief in the dairy sector, but it feels like we will be giving all of our profits back again this year due to the added costs and reduced yields.

As we look ahead, we have six weeks in which to complete eight weeks of work before freeze-up. I ask our neighbors and others to be patient and understanding when your vehicles get muddy or you get delayed in your travel.

Please also remember that this is where your food comes from. The next time you order a pizza, realize that this is the effort that was made so there could be cheese on it.

Like we in agriculture do every day, I am heading out this morning with an attitude to be victorious in the conditions that are presented.

Should you have time, say a little prayer for the ag community. It can't hurt.

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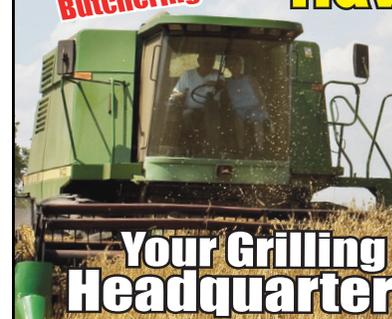
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Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Eli Wiley checks the drying progress of his first hemp harvest in Edgar County. Like grain farmers, Wiley faced a challenging weather year to get his first crop planted and yield was not what he wanted but good enough to do it again in 2020. "I never thought I would be a farmer," said Wiley. "I respect ag, but it was not where I saw my future. I'm super glad how it played out."

First-time farmer faces tough year

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Eli Wiley is not a typical Edgar County farmer.

He is small-scale, only five acres for 2019, and there wasn't a corn stalk or soybean pod in sight in his field. Wiley's ag venture south of Paris grew industrial hemp and like the big-scale grain producers, weather wreaked havoc on the operation.

"I had about a 50 to 60 percent loss on plants," said Wiley. "It wasn't the best year to jump into it."

He propagated thousands of plants from seeds in a greenhouse and had to replant his field three times because wet weather killed

the transplants. All of the planting was done by hand. The last plants went into the ground July 30 and July 31, which left an abbreviated growing season. A better growing season has the transplanting occurring around June 1.

Wiley harvested the hemp plants in early October and hung them on lines in a barn with fans moving air around the plants to hasten the drying process. Harvesting was also by hand.

"It's just clipping them down with loppers," he said.

The hand labor isn't over. Once the plants have sufficiently dried, Wiley will shuck them by hand, meaning he removes the leaves and flowers from each stem. The resulting pile of harvested material is cleaned for seeds to start

next year's crop and the dried leaves and flowers, which is now referred to as biomass, goes to a processor for extracting cannabidiol (CBD) for use in a variety of products.

The 2019 hemp harvest was not as good as Wiley wanted, but it wasn't a total bust either. Grain is measured in bushels per acre but hemp farmers gauge success by the pounds per acre, and Wiley said a good harvest is 1,000 pounds per acre. The dried biomass currently sells for \$10 per pound.

Hemp farming was not a give it a try thing and see if it works out for Wiley. He spent the last five years working in the hemp industry near Longmont, Colo. He started as a laborer on an 800-acre hemp field and later moved into

a foreman's position. He also worked in a processing plant and learned how to convert the biomass into CBD.

Wiley hopes to earn enough money from his first crop to buy a planter and get more ground into production next year.

Working on the hemp farm not only opened Wiley's eyes to the potential of this still developing market, but his parents were cautiously intrigued. His father and stepmother visited him in Colorado at the time of Northern Colorado Hemp Convention and attended the convention. Even though his father was laid off, the couple was still not as enthusiastic about hemp's future as young Wiley.

See **HEMP**, Page 11C



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Hemp plants drying under blowing fans in a barn represent new farmer Eli Wiley's first crop. Hemp is legal to grow because the 2018 farm bill removed hemp from the federal scheduled drug list, but it's cultivation does require a state permit. A cannabis sativa plant, like marijuana, hemp has no more than .3 percent THC and cannot produce a high like marijuana.

HEMP

FROM PAGE 10C

That reticence was mostly based on limited opportunity since hemp was still considered a scheduled drug like marijuana. Technically, both hemp and marijuana are the same cannabis sativa plant, but hemp only has .3 percent THC and marijuana can have a THC concentration of 5 to 20 percent. THC is a psychoactive substance with a mind altering capability. Hemp does not get one high.

When the 2018 Farm Bill removed hemp from the federal scheduled drug list Wiley's parents encouraged him to return to Paris and use some of their ground to farm hemp. It is a family effort. The \$300 annual permit to grow hemp is in his stepmother's name, and Wiley owns the processing permit for when they are ready to make their own CBD for use in commercial products.

A zealous promoter of hemp, Wiley believes this plant has so many untapped uses it can become a major agricultural crop to provide farmers a new cash stream beyond corn and soybeans. He also sees hemp use as a way of pushing society into a more sustainable and environmentally friendly way of living.

The first goal is to continue developing the market for using CBD products. Wiley said

people are amazed about how much better they feel when they use CBD. He claims all mammals need cannabinoids to maintain health, and the concerted effort starting in the last half of the 20th century to eradicate marijuana also included wild growing hemp in pastures. As a result, animals were no longer grazing on hemp and humans were not getting the benefit of consuming meat from animals that fed on hemp.

"Our endocannabinoid system hasn't been fed," said Wiley.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, a branch of the National Institutes of Health, recent research has confirmed endocannabinoid receptors exist throughout the human body, rather than just the brain. The presences of such receptors means CBD may be useful for treating a wide variety of medical conditions from Huntington's disease to glaucoma and many more including but not limited to neuropathy, stroke, hypertension and some cancers.

Hemp seeds are highly nutritious and Wiley said hemp based drinks and foods are being marketed in Europe.

Stalks left over from harvest yield fibers that can be woven into cloth and Wiley said this intrigues his stepmother.

"She has always worked in plastics and



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

The end product of Eli Wiley's first hemp harvest is a biomass of leaves and flowers pulled from the dried plant. The biomass is currently selling for approximately \$10 a pound to processors who extract cannabidiol (CBD) for use in a variety of products. As his hemp operation expands, Wiley plans to do his own CBD extraction and use the left over stems and stalks for making hempcrete, which is gaining traction with green builders for its insulation and fire proof qualities.

wants to see if she can make a hemp straw to replace plastic straws, which are not good for the environment," he said.

Another use for the stalks that Wiley believes has potential is hempcrete – a construction material made of hemp, lime and water. Some construction websites promoting hempcrete stress it is not a load bearing material like concrete but it does provide good insulating and fire protection when used as fill between internal framing systems.

An archaeology site in France uncovered evidence of hempcrete being used as part of a 14th century bridge abutment.

Wiley mentioned an individual involved with the hemp network is attempting to grow hemp on a million acres in Egypt.

"The whole idea is to get away from plastic and oil and try to create a renewable city of hempcrete," said Wiley.

Despite a disappointing first harvest, Wiley remains optimistic for next year.

"The biggest lesson I've learned is to be prepared and understand it won't be perfect," said Wiley "Hempin' ain't easy."



Special to The Prairie Press

Hemp seedlings grow in a temporary greenhouse on the hemp operation new farmer Eli Wiley is starting south of Paris. Just as the wet spring was a burden for grain farmers, Wiley had to replant his five-acre plot by hand three different times. He estimates inclement weather was responsible for a loss of between 50 and 60 percent of his plants this first year.

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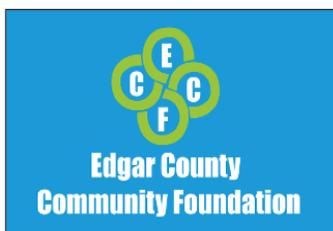


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Innovations change farming landscape

BY JEREMY PATTERSON

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As technology in the 21st century continues to make leaps and bounds in all areas of life, the equipment humans use to complete everyday tasks is consistently becoming more and more advanced. Machinery is getting bigger than ever or smaller than ever and items are being controlled remotely. The realm of farming equipment is no exception to this constantly growing field, and retailers from across the United States were on hand at the 2019 Farm Progress show in Decatur to showcase new developments.

Of those that made the trip to the Progress show, none were shaping the landscape of agriculture quite like SmartAg. Co-founded in 2016 by Colin Hurd and Mark Barglof, SmartAg uses remote control technology to operate grain bins and other farming equipment without a person physically present at the site or in the tractor cabin. The unmanned system was demonstrated in the field area of the show.

“Recently, there have been growing problems with labor scarcity and issues with large

equipment,” Hurd said. “We reached a point where we decided that we need to solve this problem and this technology is the best way to do that.”

Automated technology has increasingly crept into the automotive industry, but Hurd is hoping to revolutionize agriculture in a similar way in the near future. The technology that SmartAg will be providing is designed primarily for grain bins, effectively cutting the labor needed on equipment for harvest in half.

SmartAg is based out of Aimes, Iowa, and is doing final testing this fall. The company hopes to have products commercially available to the public as soon as 2020.

Another innovation pushing its way onto the agricultural scene is the development of track systems for farm equipment. Case IH has been a frontrunner in tractor technology over the past 35 years and has recently developed Quadtrac and Rowtrac to replace physical wheels on machinery. The development allows for less compaction in the fields with more power behind the tracks. Bill Weber, the marketing manager for Case IH, believes the advances in technolo-

gy will allow farmers to make the most of field time throughout the year.

“The window that we had this past spring was more narrow than normal so being able to go out and do the work effectively and optimally is important,” Weber said. “Our engine technology (at Case IH) allows larger planters to go out faster and the tires or tracks, which allow farmers to get into the fields earlier, could be the difference between getting the work done or not and that showed this past spring.”

Further advances in tires were on display

at the Progress show, with the world’s largest agricultural tire, the Titan-Goodyear 1400 30R46, being demonstrated in the fields. The tire allows a maximum load of 32,000 pounds and was a highlight of the field demonstrations.

With so many advances occurring in recent years, the field of agriculture and the way the world operates in farming is bound to continue to grow. The current pattern for farming will continue to bend and change, rendering a better world for farmers.



Jeremy Patterson/The Prairie Press

This Case-IH tractor displayed at the Farm Progress Show is equipped with the largest agricultural tires available, the Titan-Goodyear 1400 30R46. The tire is capable of bearing loads up to 32,000 pounds and the manufacturer claims produces less compaction than dual tire configurations used on large 4-wheel drive tractors.



Jeremy Patterson/ The Prairie Press

Several new tractor features were on display at the 2019 Farm Progress show. Here a Case IH combine, sporting a new track-system in lieu of wheels, sits next to a traditionally configured John Deere tractor.



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Chrisman Farm Center in new hands

BY GARY HENRY

ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN – Local agriculture is still a realm where a handshake means something.

That philosophy defines how the Chrisman Farm Center does business – whether it is selling a new Massey-Ferguson tractor to a farmer or a Gravely lawn mower to a town dweller.

“We want to be good stewards of what John built and keep it going,” said current manager/owner Josh Staley, who with his father and stepmother bought the Chrisman Farm Center from long-time owner John Craig.

Staley said Craig’s customer first attitude is what kept the Farm Center in business as the last farm implement dealer in Edgar County. It is something he seeks to emulate.

“The sale is not where it ends – it’s where it starts,” said Staley.

The business’ customer base is Edgar County, the surrounding Illinois counties and an equally sized area of Indiana, but there are also customers from other areas wanting to buy equipment.

“We may want to make a sale but if it is too far away for us to service it, that is a concern we have to talk to the customer about,” Staley said, adding that is not an issue for some customers but others appreciate the honesty.

Staley, of Paris, grew up on the family farm and worked on the farm for a time. He also served in the military and was working as an industrial carpenter when Craig, who was nearing retirement, approached Staley’s father about buying the business.

The Staleys were long-time customers of the Chrisman Farm Center, but that was not always the case. The switch came after the Staleys’ regular implement dealer was unable to help them with a repair in a timely manner and they called Craig to see if there was anything he could do.

“John had us going in a day,” said Staley, and the family became faithful customers after that.

It was not a snap decision to buy the business from Craig. Staley said his father saw the opportunity but had his hands full running a farm and a full-time business in Terre Haute. His father invited him into the deal and young Staley and his wife saw a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enter business before them.

There was of course a period of vetting by and meeting with AGCO executives, the parent company of Massey-Ferguson. Staley said AGCO wanted to make sure the proposed new owners were a good fit for one of the largest

See **STALEY**, Page 17C



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Massey-Ferguson tractors come in all size at the Chrisman Farm Center, and owner/manager Josh Staley considers all sales as equally important for the last farm implement dealership in Edgar County.

STALEY

FROM PAGE 16C

Massey-Ferguson dealerships in the country.

With everything approved, the transition started in August 2018 and was completed a year later.

Staley said getting into the farm implement business initially seemed a leap of faith but not so much after having time to reflect on it.

“Essentially, it was continuing an established business,” said Staley. “John stepped

down, and we stepped up.”

He quickly credited the long-term staff that stayed on with making the transition go as smoothly as it did. Everyone employed by Craig kept their jobs and the Staley’s have added a new mechanic and more sales people.

“There are customers in this area not being served,” said Staley. “We can try to attract that growth within the market share.”

He noted the Chrisman Farm Center has adapted and will continue to adapt as agricul-

ture changes.

“A guy farming 30 years ago might have needed two or three tractors, now he may need only one,” said Staley, adding the unmistakable change in agriculture is how much larger the equipment has become in recent years.

He doesn’t know if there is a limit to how big the equipment can get as that is an issue for the engineers designing the next generation of tractors, combines and tilling equipment. A constant is that customers want big-

ger equipment.

“Our job is to learn the ins and out and how to repair it,” Staley said.

Every customer is important to Staley – whether it is somebody buying a huge combine for a mega-farm operation or a small tractor for use on a few mixed acres of pasture and woods.

“It’s fun,” Staley said about the work. “I meet lots of really good people, and it feels good to get people what they need and to take care of them.”

GOOD CONDITIONS EXPEDITE HARVEST

Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

A column of flowing corn drops into a waiting semi-trailer. After a miserable planting season, Edgar County farmers have experienced nearly ideal harvesting weather.

MCCULLOCHS COMBINE FORCES IN FIELD

Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Jim and Kay McCulloch complete another round in the combine while picking corn in Buck Township.

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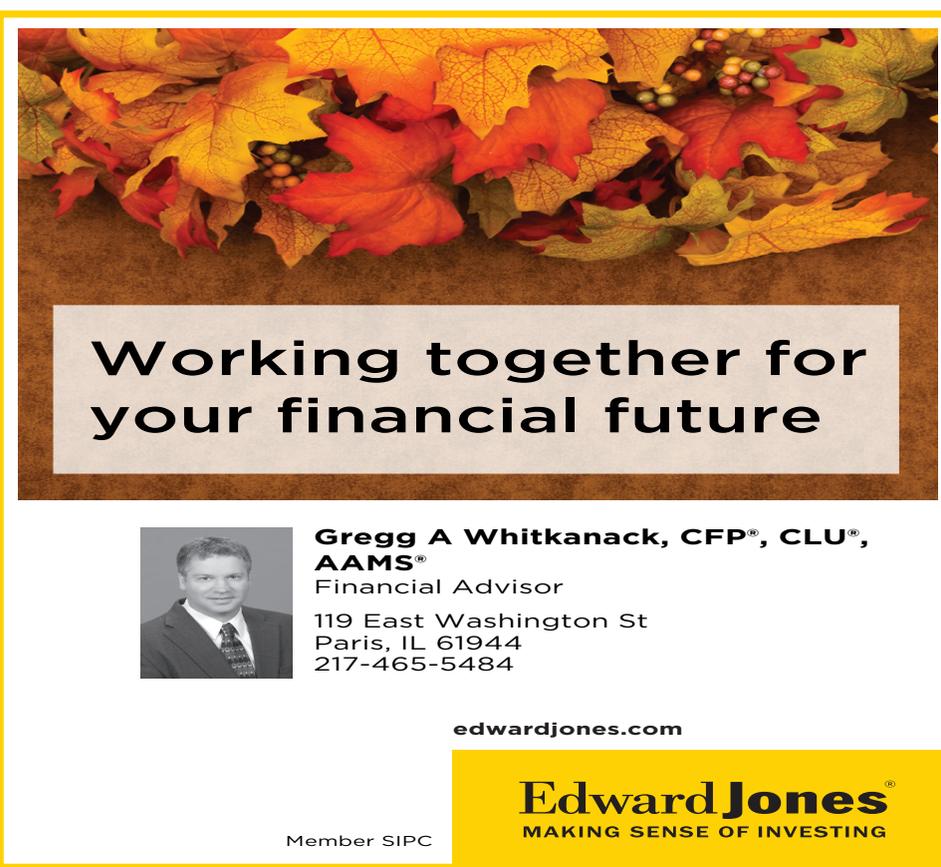
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