

In the know



LADY TIGERS RISE TO CHALLENGE

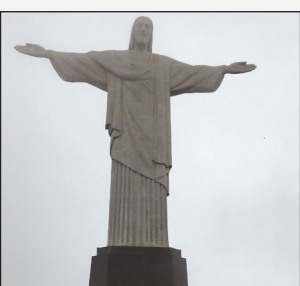
The number one state ranked Paris Lady Tigers rolled to wins this week against Class 3A opponents including a one-loss Mattoon team. **SPORTS, 9A**

Cracking open a frozen mystery

The true fate of a doomed Arctic expedition is slowly rising from beneath the icy North Atlantic. **HISTORY, 3B**

The future of persecution

Watchdog organization Open Doors releases its annual persecution report, discusses faith in surveillance states. **GRACE, 5B**



The Patchetts' travels continue

The Patchett family's travelogue continues as they embark from Spain and sail to Africa, South America. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

Aging, change coming in '20s

The new decade will see massive demographic, technological shifts while Baby Boomers age. **HEALTH, 7B**

Chrisman seeks another teacher

Chrisman board of education discusses how to find an additional special ed teacher in the current educator shortage. **NEWS, 8A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 46 L 10
Cold and wet. **2A**

LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Latest news, online extras

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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

Diplomas in reach for adults

New Paris 95 program provides 21+ adults a way to earn their high school diplomas

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

Adults who do not have a high school diploma have the opportunity to earn one, thanks to a new program now underway by Paris Union School District 95.

The adult education program, unveiled to the Paris 95 school board during its January meeting Monday, Jan. 13, allows adults over the age of 21 to enroll in the program and earn a Paris Union School District 95 high school diploma, according to Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson.

The program has been a

dream and goal of Larson's since the district began offering teens and young adults the opportunity to earn a Paris High School diploma through the Paris Alternative Learning Site (PALS) in January 2019. That program is part of the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) Alternative Learning Opportunities Programs. Paris 95 is one of a selective group of school districts that have been approved by ISBE for the program.

Larson reminded board members 41 students have earned diplomas in the year the PALS program has been in existence. There are currently

29 teenagers and students attending the classes in the PALS classroom on Eads Ave.

Larson said he has always been interested in adult education but two phone calls this past year motivated him to try to move forward with the project.

The first call came from a single mother whose daughter will be graduating from high school this year. Larson said the woman explained she never completed her high school education. A diploma would also allow her to advance in her job. Larson explained the mother said it would mean a lot if she could earn her high

school diploma at the same time as her daughter.

Another call came from local man who shared with Larson he is one credit shy of earning his high school diploma. He told Larson the personal importance he places on education and wants to complete his work.

In total, Larson said he has approximately six local adults — all over the age of 21 — who want to complete their high school diplomas. They are not eligible for participation in the PALS program due to the ISBE restrictions on that program.

The Paris 95 district has

received permission from the Illinois Community College Board to offer the adult education course for a high school diploma, Larson announced.

Those enrolled may earn their diploma by either completing missing coursework through APEX program in their homes or by taking TASC — the Test Assessing Secondary Education Completion — also known as the National High School Equivalency Exam. Larson explained TASC tests the areas of language arts-reading, language arts-writing, mathematics, social studies and science.

See **DIPLOMAS**, Page 8A

CLASS 2A NUMBER 1 LADY TIGERS REMAIN UNBEATEN



Adonna Bennett/Prairie Press Photos

Sophomore Lady Tiger Madison Rigdon looks to pass the ball as she is pursued by members of the Effingham Hearts girls basketball team Monday, Jan. 13, at Paris High School. The Lady Tigers — undefeated and ranked first in Class 2A girls basketball — rolled to an easy 65-32 victory. Paris enters the Little Illini Conference Tourney at Robinson with a perfect 23-0 record and seeded first.



Lady Tiger senior Sarah Isaf (14) brings down a rebound in Wednesday's big win for Paris against Mattoon. The Class 3A Lady Green Wave were no match for Paris as the Lady Tigers rolled to a 60-29 win. Isaf scored 22 in the win.



Madison Rigdon cuts toward the basket in girls basketball action Wednesday at Mattoon. The sophomore shut down the Lady Green Wave's leading scorer and also scored in double figures to help pace the Paris win.

Major expansion announced for GSI

BY NED JENISON
njenison@mac.com

A major Paris industry will experience a significant expansion this year.

AGCO GSI, located on state Route 133 in the city's west industrial park, will add 150,000 square feet of new production and warehousing space on 27 acres immediately west of the existing facility, according to an announcement at this week's Paris City Council meeting.

Details of the expansion were presented at a public hearing in advance of the council session. The hearing was required as part of the city's application for a \$904,200 Community Development Block Grant from the state to assist the expansion.

The AGCO GSI project represents a planned \$10 million added investment into the local plant and creation of about 50

See **AGCO GSI**, Page 8A

Costs rack up for housing inmates outside of the county

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Efforts to get the Edgar County Jail reopened are ongoing, if not always smoothly.

The one certainty is it is costing the county and that was a topic of conversation during the Monday, Jan. 13, Edgar County Board study session.

"Since the jail shut down, we have spent \$44,000 for housing prisoners in three jails during December," said board member Karl Farnham Jr.

That amount does not include the fuel and wear and tear on vehicles transporting those arrested to other jails for housing and subsequently bringing them back for court appearances.

"On one trip when they went to Coles County they needed three or four squad cars," Farnham stated.

See **SESSION**, Page 8A

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SERVING EDGAR COUNTY SINCE 1848

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TALK BACK







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

Edgar County community to join the discussion to make your newspaper better.
We'd love to hear what you think. Drop us an email or stop by the office.
Have you got a news tip? Call us at 217-921-3216, email us at **nzeman@prairiepress.net** or **ghenry@prairiepress.net** or message us on Facebook.
We always welcome family, club, church and community news for publication in The Prairie Press/Paris Beacon-News.

BE A PART OF OUR PAPER

We invite our readers and the

LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 34 Low: 18 More weather: go to www.prairiepress.net and click on weather.

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
 46 10 Prec: 90%	 18 7 Prec: 0%	 22 11 Prec: 0%	 29 20 Prec: 0%	 38 26 Prec: 0%	 44 35 Prec: 30%	 45 36 Prec: 30%

Values are afternoon highs ... overnight lows (next morning) ... chance for precipitation.



EVERETT LAU
Weather Wizard

FLOOD WATCH: in effect for Edgar County until noon Saturday
TODAY — Temperatures climb into the mid 40s before plummeting in the afternoon as wind gusts approach 40 mph. Rain showers likely in the morning.
SUNDAY — Mostly sunny, cold, and blustery with highs only in the upper teens.
MONDAY — Mostly sunny and cold with highs in the lower 20s.

ALMANAC
Paris through noon Tuesday.
Temperature
High/Low 34°/18°
Record High 63° in 1951
Record Low -23° in 1930
Precipitation
Month to date 3.67"
Normal month to date 1.45"
Year to date 3.67"
Normal year to date 1.45"

SUN AND MOON

	Sun	Moon
	Rise	Set
TODAY	7:09 a.m.	4:54 p.m.
FRIDAY	7:08 a.m.	4:55 p.m.
SATURDAY	7:07 a.m.	4:56 p.m.
SUNDAY	7:07 a.m.	4:57 p.m.
MONDAY	7:06 a.m.	4:59 p.m.
TUESDAY	7:06 a.m.	5:00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	7:05 a.m.	5:01 p.m.

@elau_weather on Twitter
@EdgarCoWx on Twitter
Paris Area Weather

PLAN YOUR WEEK

SUNDAY

SHILOH PLAY DAY
A Winter Big Muscle Play Day is 3-4:30 p.m. Jan. 19 in the Shiloh School multi-purpose room and gymnasium. The event is for district families with pre-kindergarten and kindergarten age children. Activities include a tricycle course, beanbag toss, parachutes games and more. A light snack will be provided. With inclement weather keeping youngsters inside, this provides a way to burn off extra energy.

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

KITCHEN SHOWER FOR 4-H
The Edgar County Home and Community Education (HCE) is hosting a kitchen shower 1:30 p.m. Jan. 21 in the 4-H multi-purpose building to supply the building. Games will be played, prizes given and refreshments served. Those attending are asked to supply items such as commercial kitchen suitable utensils, heavy duty oven mitts, potholders, dishtowels, dish cloths and other appropriate things to replace the worn out items in the well-used kitchen. The event is open to the public and everyone is welcome

DON'T MISS

MOTHER-SON NIGHT AT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, FEB. 1
An evil plot is afoot and it is up to the intrepid teams of mothers and sons (plus grandmas and grandsons or aunts and nephews) gathering at the Terre Haute Children's Museum to save the world. The second annual Mother-Son night is 6-9 p.m. Feb. 1. This event, suitable for boys up to age 13, includes sleuthing activities, time to play in the museum, light refreshments, a limo ride and photo op. Tickets are on sale now at \$40 per couple. Additional tickets are \$10 each. This popular activity is expected to sell out. More information is available at thchildrensmuseum/mothersonnight or by calling 812-235-5548

SHARE YOUR EVENT

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

Wars Auxiliary weekly dinner is 5-7 p.m., Jan. 23, at the post home. The \$5 meal is salmon patties, macaroni and cheese, greens, bread and butter and a beverage. Dessert is available for an extra \$1.

UPCOMING

FOOD HACK CHALLENGE
Edgar County 4-H is sponsoring a food challenge open to all Edgar County youths between the third and 12th grades. The event is 6 p.m. Jan. 28 but all teams are required to attend the Food Challenge Hacks meeting 5:30 p.m. Jan. 27. More information about the event and registering is available by calling the extension office 465-8585.

YOGA FOR STRESS

A seven-week series of Stress Management Yoga classes are 6-7:30 p.m. Mondays starting Jan. 27 in the Larry P. Fleschner Memorial Classroom, The Maple Center, 1801 N. Sixth Street, Terre Haute. The class uses different yoga postures, breathing and relaxation techniques to cope with life's stresses. The cost of this 7-week series is \$70, or \$10 per class. Register online at www.themaplecenter.org or call (812) 234-8733.

STARTING SEEDS IN WINTER

It is possible to get a jump on spring garden planting by starting seeds early, even without a greenhouse. The Edgar County Extension office is hosting a free webinar 1:30 p.m. Jan. 28 about starting some seeds outside during the winter. Horticulture educator Nicole Flowers-Kimmerle says this is a cost-effective way of growing seedlings for the garden. More information is available by calling 217-465-8585

CHINESE NEW YEAR EVENT

The Chrisman United Methodist Church is celebrating the Chinese New Year Feb. 1 with a 5 p.m. free will donation and meal of Chinese inspired dishes, and a 6 p.m. performance by the Chinese Dancing Group from Champaign. Proceeds from the event benefit the church's bell tower project.

BLOOD DRAW

The Chrisman FFA is sponsoring a blood draw 1-6 p.m. Feb. 5 at the school. Appointments may be made in the school office or by visiting www.bloodcenterimpact.org. Appointments are not required and walk-ins are welcome.

CORRECTION

The story about glass artist Todd Stokes that appeared in the Jan. 4 issue stated he will be creating new pieces for a solo show at McHenry County College. His solo show is at McKendree University in Lebanon, near St. Louis, Mo.

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EVENING TOPS MEETING
TOPS Illinois #2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-in is 5-5:45 p.m. and the meeting is 6 p.m. Contact Verna Smith at 217-822-0953 for more information.

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. Information about the Weight Watchers system is available at www.weightwatchers.com, or by attending a meeting.

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.

SOCIAL SECURITY/MEDICARE ENROLLMENT WORKSHOP
Amy Long, Social Security District Manager at Terre Haute, Ind., presents an overview of Social Security's retirement, spouse and survivor benefits, Medicare and disability 2 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Marshall Public Library. Long will be available for questions following the free program. No registration is required to attend.

FREEZER MEALS
Illinois Extension Food and Nutrition Educator Mary Liz Wright is hosting a free class on how to prepare several meals in advance and freeze them 6 p.m. Jan. 23 at the Paris Public Library. Advance registration is not required.

VFW AUXILIARY DINNER
The Paris Veterans of Foreign

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Students awarded at breakfast

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Students were selected for the honor for their kindness, citizenship, good work and involvement in their schools. Each student was presented a certificate in recognition of the honor from the Illinois Principal's Association.

Students from Kansas, Chrisman, Paris 95, Crestwood and Paris High School were honored at the annual Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Friday, Jan. 10, at Tuscany Restaurant in Paris.



Special to The Prairie Press
Two Crestwood students were honored at the Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Friday, Jan. 10, at Tuscany Restaurant in Paris. Pictured, from left, are Wayde Morgan, Crestwood Dean of Students Meghan Damler and Annie Li.



Special to The Prairie Press
Chrisman students were among those honored at the Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Friday, Jan. 10, at Tuscany Restaurant in Paris. Pictured, from left, are Peyton Gore, Triston Lehmkuhl, Chrisman Junior and Senior High School Principal Cole Huber, Phillip Warner and Alexis Lewsader.



Special to The Prairie Press
Kansas Principal Cindy Spencer introduced four students from the school district who were honored at the annual Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Jan. 10 at Tuscany Restaurant in Paris. Pictured, from left, are Katey Ehlers, Trevyn Cummins, Spencer, Natalee Gough and Camden Harmon.



Special to The Prairie Press
Interim Paris High School co-principals Lorraine Bailey and Carol Jones introduced two students from the school who were honored at the annual Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Jan. 10 at Tuscany Restaurant in Paris. Pictured, from left, are Katrina Strow, Bailey, Jones and Chase Hays.



Special to The Prairie Press
Two Mayo Middle School eighth graders were honored during the annual Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Friday, Jan. 10, at Tuscany Restaurant. Pictured, from left, are Kalvin Rigdon, Mayo principal Kyle Shay and Aubrey Wilson.



Special to The Prairie Press
Memorial and Wenz School students were honored during the annual Edgar County Principal's Breakfast Jan. 10. Pictured, from left, are Olivia Gale, Paris 95 Superintendent and Memorial School principal Jeremy Larson, Nathan Fonner, Isabella Duzan, Mayo and interim Wenz Principal Kyle Shay who is filling in during Megan Carroll's maternity leave, and Jordan Ewing.

Fourth Annual
Daddy Daughter DANCE

Saturday, February 8, 2020

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
St. Mary's Parish Hall
528 N. Main Street, Paris

Photos 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Finger Foods • DJ Music • Dancing
\$20/couple - \$5 each additional child

Tickets available at the door the night of the event

Get your Princess makeover (hair, makeup, nails) and other activities 8 a.m. to noon in the Paris High School Den by emailing for an appointment to: hseatonteach@gmail.com by January 31st.
Then come share a fun-filled evening with your Princess(es) at St Mary's!!!

If The Press didn't tell you ... who would?

EYES
On Eye Protection
By Aaron Rhoads, O.D.

Although I discuss eye protection quite often with my patients, usually when they come in with something stuck in there, I still manage to get something in my own eye on occasion. I should know better. Many patients that come in with foreign bodies in their eyes work in factories with lots of particles flying around in the air. Good protective eyewear will prevent straight on shots to the eye even if they still manage to get an occasional foreign body. It's also important to think of these things at home as well. The most common activities I see leading to eye abrasions and foreign bodies are woodworking, yard work/mowing and working on vehicles. Most of those are activities that you always should be wearing some type of protective eyewear for. Always be alert, though, I've also seen injuries with pencils, rubber bands, baby fingernails, curling irons and laser pointers. Remember to protect yourself and if you do have an injury make sure to seek out your favorite eye care provider as soon as possible!

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ISP accepting applications

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

illinoistrooper.com for application information, including the updated education requirement option for applicants, which has changed to requiring an Associate Degree or 60 credit hours from an accredited college or university, instead of the previously required Bachelor's Degree.

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois State Police (ISP) Merit Board is currently processing applications for Cadet Class 132, which is tentatively scheduled to begin Aug. 1.

In order to be considered for Cadet Class 132, the ISP Merit Board must receive the completed application and required documentation by Jan. 31. Anyone interested in joining the ranks of the ISP is encouraged to visit the ISP Merit Board website at www.

Troopers will work in one of the 21 patrol districts across the state; however, Troopers have the opportunity to transition to one of the many specialty functions within the ISP. These specialty functions include, but are not limited to Crime Scene Services, the Equal Employment Opportunity Office, Investigations, Internal Investigations, SWAT, Air Operations, K 9 Handler, Motorcycle Unit, Medicaid Fraud Control Bureau, Executive Protection and Academy Instructor.

TV rescan required for antenna TV viewers today

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Multiple TV stations in Champaign-Springfield-Decatur are changing frequencies, and antenna viewers who receive free, over-the-air local TV in the community must rescan their TVs to continue receiving local TV channels, including emergency and weather alerts.

The FCC is requiring nearly 1,000 TV stations to change frequencies in order to provide more channels for wireless broadband services.

Antenna TV viewers were recommended to do the rescanning Friday, Jan. 17, although it can be done anytime after the frequency change occurs.

TV rescans are free and relatively simple using the TV remote or converter box. More information is available at TVAnswers.org, including how to rescan and when additional stations are scheduled to move frequencies. There may be more than one TV rescan required in each city, and people can sign up at www.tvanswers.org/signup to receive email and text alerts when a TV rescan is required.

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Cases appearing in Edgar County Circuit Court

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliams@prairiepress.com

Individuals appearing before the bench for the Jan. 6 and Jan. 9 traffic and criminal court calls in Edgar County Circuit Court included:

IN CUSTODY

■ Logan J. Biddle, 18, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. The public defender was assigned and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Biddle was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Cynthia D. Christopher, 54, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance. The public defender was assigned and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Christopher was granted a bond reduction to \$2,000 and remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Joseph Wesley Christopher, 28, Chrisman, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. His motion for a personal recognizance bond was denied. The petitions to revoke his probation sentences for a Class 2 and a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A

misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon convictions were continued for a pretrial conference. Also continued for a pretrial conference were his unresolved charges of a Class 2 felony burglary, a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing and a Class A misdemeanor battery. Christopher was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Brendan Connors, 48, Marshall, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. He pleaded guilty to a Class 4 felony theft charge. In return, the state dismissed a second theft charge, a Class A misdemeanor or obstruction of justice and a Class A misdemeanor retail theft charges. A presentencing investigation was ordered and the matter was continued for the sentencing hearing. He was granted a personal recognizance bond and was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■ Dennis G. Fabian, 53, Brocton, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. He told the court he will hire an attorney. Bond was set at \$2,500 and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Fabian was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Thomas L. Felgenhauer, 56, Paris, appeared in custody

and was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine. The public defender got the case and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Bond was set at \$15,000. Felgenhauer was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Kevin M. Flight, 39, Danville, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. His unresolved Class 3 felony retail theft charge was continued for a pretrial conference. Flight was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Daisy M. Love, 18, Paris, appeared in custody. Love was charged with two counts of a Class 3 felony aggravated battery and two counts of a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery. The public defender got the case and bond was set at \$10,000. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Her bond conditions include she is to have no contact with the apparent elderly victims or the victims' residence. Love was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Colly W. Thomas, 39, Paris, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. His unresolved Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine, two counts of a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license is revoked, a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license, two counts of a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery and a Class A misdemeanor interfering with the reporting of domestic violence charges were continued for a pretrial conference. Thomas was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■ Lloyd A. Blaudow, 30, Charleston, was presented with a petition to revoke his court supervision sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs conviction. The case went to the public defender, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Robin M. Brooks, 44, Paris, was charged with two counts of a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Jacob B. Ford, 27, Paris, was presented with a petition to revoke his probation

sentence for a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery conviction. He told the court he will hire an attorney before he denied the petition. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Dustin P. Goddard, 39, Kansas, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. He told the court he will hire an attorney and the matter was continued for a first appearance with his attorney.

■ Keith A. Gosnell, 34, Paris, was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine. He told the court he will hire an attorney and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Cory W. Hampsten, 42, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony retail theft. He told the court he will hire an attorney and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Hunter A.L. Johnson, 18, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor battery. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Kerry Lynn Johnson, 24, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor endangering the life or health of a child. Johnson told the court she will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for a first appearance with her attorney.

■ Archie L. Kennedy, 40, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Kennedy was assigned to the public defender and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Jamie L. Kennedy, 43, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Dakota A. Maloney, 21, Vermilion, was presented with a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Justin M. May, 32, Paris, was charged with two counts of a Class 4 felony aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol. The case went to

the public defender and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Gerry A. Menet, 27, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor endangering the life or health of a child. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■ Catherine Patterson, no age provided, Oblong, was charged with a Class 4 felony unlawful acquisition of a controlled substance. The case was sent to the public defender and continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Travis W. Travioli, 49, West Terre Haute, Ind., was presented with a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for a first appearance with his attorney.

GUILTY PLEAS

■ David L. Livingston, 44, Terre Haute, Ind., pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. He was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■ Angela M. Milligan, 48, Ashmore, entered a negotiated guilty plea agreement to a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine charge and was sentenced to 120 days in jail with 90 days to be served as electronic home monitoring with credit for one day previously served and the remaining 30 days are subject to the court's discretion, two years of first offender probation, a \$500 fine, court costs and various state fees, ordered to forfeit items seized at the time of her arrest and an order to obtain counseling per an evaluation. In exchange for the plea, the state dismissed a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia charge.

■ Brian D. Nicholson, 35, Paris, pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor theft of utility services. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail subject to the court's discretion, 18 months of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■ Leslie M. Nicholson, 19, Paris, admitted a petition to revoke her conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. She was resented to 60 days in jail subject to the court's discretion and one year of conditional discharge. She was ordered to complete her prior sentence of 100 hours of community service work and pay all previous financial obligations.

■ Amber L. Furry Vice, 41, Paris, pleaded guilty to a Class B misdemeanor driving with no license charge. She was sentenced to a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees. In exchange for the guilty plea, the state dismissed a Class B misdemeanor speeding charge.

■ Joshua J. Walker, 31, Danville, admitted a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. He was resented to 30 days in jail subject to the court's discretion, one year of conditional discharge and ordered to pay all prior financial obligations.

NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■ Heather L. Board, 47, Clinton, Ind., pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license is revoked and a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license charges. The

matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■ Joseph W. Britton, 25, Dana, Ind., denied a petition to revoke his court supervision for a Class A misdemeanor or driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound conviction. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■ Brenda L. Elledge, 64, Paris, denied a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 2 felony unlawful use of property for methamphetamine manufacturing conviction. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■ Preston E. Ray, 30, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 2 felony failure to register as a sex offender charge. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■ Elizabeth J. Young, 50, Paris, denied a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

OTHER MATTERS

■ Patrick W. Beal, 21, Paris, was resented on a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction. He was resented to 180 days of electronic home confinement with education and work release, ordered to pay all previous financial obligations and also ordered to maintain employment, obtain a GED and complete any recommended counseling.

■ Johnny R. Collier, 36, Paris, learned the warrant for his arrest was withdrawn and his probation sentence for a Class 3 felony obstruction of justice and a Class 4 felony aggravated fleeing from police convictions was unsatisfactorily terminated.

■ Ashley N. Jordan, 23, Paris, failed to appear in court. The court imposed a 20-day jail sentence attached to her Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. A no-bond arrest warrant was issued.

■ Billy A.W. Miller, 33, Paris, was given a five-day jail sentence attached to his Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol conviction. The sentence begins at noon Jan. 28.

■ Jason W. Reeves, 42, Bridgeport, failed to appear in court and the court imposed a 20-day jail sentence attached to his Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license conviction. A no-bond arrest warrant was issued.

■ Jessica F. Shelton, 30, Paris, was ordered to serve 50 days in jail with good conduct credit to apply attached to the petition to revoke her conditional discharge sentence for a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license is suspended conviction. She was found to be in default of the payment and was remanded to custody of the Edgar County Sheriff's Department to begin her sentence. The case was referred to collections.

■ Eric R. Thomas, 43, Paris, made a motion to delay the 90-day jail sentence attached to his Class A misdemeanor or theft conviction. He was ordered to pay or appear at the county jail at 9 a.m. Jan. 16 to begin his sentence. The warrant for his arrest was quashed. Subsequently, on Jan. 15 he paid the balance in full, and the case was closed.

WARRANTS

Warrants were prepared and issued when the following individuals failed to appear in court: Jacob M. Fiscus, 28, Paris; Shane W. Floyd, 29, Paris; Joseph Wayne Graham, 37, Brocton; Christopher Lee Kennedy, 29, Clinton, Ind.; and Dalton J. Seafar, 26, Paris.

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WILBUR ELLEDGE SR.

Wilbur Ray Elledge Sr., 83, of Paris, passed away at 6:05 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17, 2020, at his residence. He retired in 2009 after 21 years in the maintenance department of Paris School District #95.

A graveside memorial service will be announced at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Elledge was born July 21, 1936, at Paris, the son of the late Hobart Daniel and Alliene Rardin Elledge. He married Ingeburg R. Rockel April 11, 1959, at Landstuhl, Germany. She preceded him in death May 9, 2003. He later married Clara Jean Griffin Phillips July 8, 2008, at Paris, and she survives.

Other survivors include four children, Barbara Hogan of Paris, Dorene Sullivan of Champaign, Mary Ann (Bob)

Guiney of Paris and Wilbur (Wendy) Elledge Jr., of Paris; two stepchildren, Kathy Edmondson of Eatonville, Wash., and Timothy (Christy) Phillips of Palm Beach, Fla., and their families; eight grandchildren, Brian Hogan, John (Jennifer) Hogan, Rachel (Enzo) DeAngelo, Kate Sullivan, Richard (Zosia) Guiney, Tim Shannon, Rob Shannon and Eric Shannon; four great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by three sisters, Juanita Swinford, Joan Miller and Weymouth Eslinger.

Mr. Elledge served six years in the United States Army prior to serving an additional six years in the Army National Guard 1544th Transportation Company. He was a Harley-Davidson enthusiast and an avid fisherman. He was also a talented gardener and landscaper and was happiest when working outdoors.

Memorial donations may be made to Faith in Action of Edgar County.

Online Condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

CLARENCE ETHINGTON

OAKLAND - Clarence Lester "Happy" Ethington, 80, of Oakland, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2020.

A funeral service is noon Monday, Jan. 20, at Graceland Fairlawn Funeral Home, Decatur. Entombment follows at Star of Hope Mausoleum in Fairlawn Cemetery, Decatur. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at Krabel Funeral Home, Oakland. Another visitation is from 11 a.m. until the service time Monday at the Decatur funeral home.

Mr. Ethington was born June 26, 1939, at Green Bay, Wis., the son of the late James Vernon and Evalyn Gibson Ethington. He married Mary Mae Creekmur July 30, 1960, at Forsyth, and they enjoyed 59 years together before she preceded him in death Sept. 2, 2019.

He is survived by four children, Timothy Ethington of Toledo, Tonya (Richard) Fowler of Oakland, Todd (Kimberly) Ethington of Oakland and Toby Ethington of Normal; three brothers, James (Sandy) Ethington of New Iberia, La., Ferrand (Gladys) Ethington of Iron Mountain, Mich., and Robert (Anne) Ethington of Rhinelander, Wis.; two sisters, Teri Haley of Amarillo, Tex-

as, and Grace Mahlmeister of Mattoon; 10 grandchildren, Aiden, Dustin, Matthew, Lawrence, Ryan, Danielle, Eleni, Seth, Jayden and Brittany; 14 great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Terri Paige of Wausau, Wis.

He was preceded in death by an infant daughter; one brother, Richard Ethington; one granddaughter, Amberlyn Humes; and two brothers-in-law, James Mahlmeister and Art Haley.

Mr. Ethington worked at VanZetti Bakery for 24 years and went on to purchase the Oakland Bakery in 1979, and later renamed it the Oakland Bakery and Noodle Company, which he owned and operated with his wife, Mary, from 1979-2015.

He was a member of Oakland United Methodist Church, the Oakland City Council and the Lions Club. He was one of the organizers of the Oakland Cornbread and Bean Festival and was an active member of the Oakland community in many ways. He was an avid fan of the Green Bay Packers and enjoyed caring for wild birds. Most of all, he loved his family, especially playing with and cooking for his grandkids.

Memorial donations may be made to the Douglas Hart Nature Preserve, Mattoon.

Online condolences at www.krabelfuneralhome.com or www.gracelandfairlawn.com.

DENNIS KEEFER

MARSHALL - Dennis K. Keefe, 71, of Marshall, passed away at 7:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind., with his wife of 51 years by his side.

He was a retired business manager for the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.

A service honoring his life is 10 a.m. Monday, Jan. 20, at Pearce Funeral Home, with Pastors David Laborde and Bill

Duke officiating. Burial is in the Forsythe Cemetery. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at the funeral home.

Mr. Keefe was born Dec. 31, 1948, at Mapleton, Ore., the son of Wendell and Earline Shonk Keefe. He married Faye Douglas Nov. 29, 1968, at Marshall, and she survives.

Also surviving are two sons, Ross Keefe of Paris and Jason Keefe of Marshall; a brother, Jerry Keefe of Marshall; and a very special friend, Bill Duke of Paris, who gave one of his kidneys in 2000 to Mr. Keefe.

He was preceded in death by three brothers, Don Keefe, Phil Keefe and Gary Keefe; and two half brothers, Ben

COMER GANN JR.

Comer Gann Jr., 72, of Paris, passed away at 12:57 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, 2020, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was a welder and truck driver and worked for Procter and Gamble, Trailmobile and Great Dane.

Services were 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with Pastor Jim Blue officiating. Burial was in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation was from noon until the service time Wednesday at the funeral home.

Mr. Gann was born April 19, 1947, at Woodbury, Tenn., the son of the late Comer and Lula Scott. He married Clara Salesbury Gann Oct. 8, 1965, at Paris, and she survives.

Other survivors include his children: Bobbie Jo (Brian) Switzer of Paris, Mary Lynn (Jeff) Switzer of Paris and Angela Annette Gann of Paris; his siblings, Jean Tomes of Vermilion, J.W. (Roberta) Gann of Paris, Diane McGee of McMinnville, Tenn., and Sharon Taylor of Vermilion; his grandchildren, Eric (Sarah) Switzer, of Paris, Brittany (Cody) Lewis of Evansville, Brice Switzer, Jill Switzer, Sierra, Gann all from Paris; and his great-grandchildren, Bentley, Wesley, Reese, Lydia, Cameron and Sophia.

He was preceded in death by his siblings C.D. Gann and Pam Franks; and his granddaughter, Chelsie Gann.

Memorial Donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or the Shriners Hospitals for Children.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

VERNICE TINGLEY MARSHALL

VERNICE Tingley, 93, of Marshall, passed away 2:55 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, at Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing.

A service honoring her life is 2 p.m. today, Jan. 18, at the First United Methodist Church. Burial is in the Marshall Cemetery. Visitation is from noon until the service time today at the church. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Marshall Cemetery Association.

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

ROBERT WASHBURN

MARSHALL - Robert Washburn, 57, of Marshall, passed away 5:53 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2020, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.

A service honoring his life is 1 p.m. today, Jan. 18, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial is in the Marshall Cemetery. Visitation is from 11 a.m. until the service time today at the funeral home.

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

LOUISE MILES

CASEY - Evelyn Louise Miles, 74, of Casey, passed away at 7:20 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13, 2020, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon.

A funeral service was 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 16, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Rick Emrich officiating. Burial followed in Washington Street Cemetery. Visitation was from 1 p.m. until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

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

MARJORIE HALL

MARTINSVILLE - Marjorie Hall, 93, of Neoga, passed away at noon Saturday, Jan. 11, 2020, at her home.

A funeral service was 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Greenwell

Funeral Home, with James Maroon officiating. Burial followed in the Ridgelawn Cemetery. Visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Wednesday at the funeral home.

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

DAVID JACKSON

David Harper Jackson, 80, of St. Louis, Mo., and formerly of Paris, passed away Saturday morning, Dec. 28, 2019, after a long battle with cancer.

A memorial service is 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23, at First Christian Church in Paris.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

LARRY ROLLINGS

Larry D. Rollings, 71, of Hume, passed away Saturday, Jan. 11, 2019, at his home. He was a grain operator at Andersons Inc. in Toledo, Ohio, for 41 years.

A service was 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 17, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home. Private burial is at a later date in Embarrass Cemetery. Visitation was from noon until the service time Friday at the funeral home.

Mr. Rollings was born July 27, 1948, at Paris, the son of the late Walter and Blanche Ellen Wright Rollings.

He is survived by his siblings, Nancy Weger of Bloomington, Wanda Porter of Paris, Donna Shewey of Paris, Susie Kurek of Brocton and Ruthie Rollings of Monticello.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, Tom Rollings, Richard Rollings, Robert Rollings, Charles Rollings, Betty Eggers and Margaret Whittemore.

Mr. Rollings served in the U.S. Marine Corps for two years.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com

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If Madigan were a Republican, he'd be gone

If only Illinois House Speaker Michael J. Madigan, the Democratic boss of Illinois, were a Republican.



JOHN KASS
GUEST COLUMN

He'd already be gone, perhaps wandering in a castle in Ireland, laughing mirthlessly and sitting on piles of his gold. The gold is real. Madigan made a fortune leveraging his political power against his other career, as a property tax reduction attorney representing most of the wealthy real estate interests in downtown Chicago. Many got tax breaks. And Illinois homeowners?

They see their property taxes rise, and their property assessments increase, as the value of their homes keeps falling. Illinois drowns in debt, causing businesses and taxpayers to flee in the Illinois Exodus.

If Madigan were a Republican, his opponents may have likely invoked House Rule 91, to form a legislative commission to examine charges of obstruction of the legislature.

Why? Because Madigan just squashed a legislative investigation of Michael McClain, his closest confidant and a retired lobbyist who's under a federal criminal investigation. That legislative inquiry would have examined McClain's email defending a politically connected worker who "kept his mouth shut" about "that rape in Champaign."

Legislators, both Democrats and Republicans, wanted to know more about McClain's email. House Minority Leader Jim Durkin asked Madigan to assign a House committee to investigate. But Madigan said no, and the boss is the boss.

In a 2012 email, with Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn in office, McClain pressured Quinn's political servants to protect Forrest Ashby, a loyal Democrat facing disciplinary procedures, who according to that email had kept quiet about a rape.

Over the weekend, the Chicago Tribune's Ray Long and David Heinzmann reported the rape victim may have been a girl assaulted by a convict who benefited from an early prison release program.

See **KASS**, Page 7A

Confronting the manly challenge of fried catfish

Every now and then, my wife encourages me — really encourages me — to put on pants, get out of the house and go hang out with friends for some boy time.

After all, I serve as the sole representative of semi-masculinity in a family that includes my wife, three teen daughters and various female pets who still haven't forgiven me for having them fixed — the pets, I mean.

Recently, I took my wife's advice when three of my buddies invited me to accompany them on a road

trip to a legendary catfish joint called Big Pines Lodge, just outside Uncertain, Texas. Yes, that's a real town in deep East Texas on the shores of Caddo Lake — an ancient body of water known for cypress trees swathed in Spanish moss, a healthy population of alligators and curious city folks anxious to test the capacity of their innards with all-you-can-eat fried catfish.

I visited Big Pines Lodge numerous times in the past, even before a devastating fire destroyed the original building and its contents, including the vintage frying grease that was rumored to have been used since the Mesozoic era. In its earlier incarnation, Big Pines was part catfish joint and part tackle, gun and ammo shop, so just walking in the door helped an alpha nerd like me earn some Chuck Norris man points. In fact, on one visit, I was feeling so machofied that I wolfed down 14 whole fried catfish. (After my first seven, my wife made me sit at a different table.)

This time, though, I knew I wouldn't be able to top my all-time endurance record. That was the inspired achievement of a young man in his prime, and no amount of Pepto-Bismol could rescue my middle-aged digestive system from that magnitude of delicious industrial trans-fats.

Despite the nipple-chafing afternoon breeze, we couldn't resist opting for the open-air seating on the patio overlooking the bayou. Our server was friendly and attentive, and I'm pretty sure she could've taken all four of us in the UFC Octagon. She got us in the mood by

See **GRAVES**, Page 7A

Adult education is key

Paris 95 school district offering opportunity to earn a high school diploma

Paris Union School District 95 took another step to help adults earn their high school diplomas this past week.

Paris Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson announced plans to offer adult education for local residents who are 21 years or older and do not have their high school diploma.

The decision to offer the program came after Larson was contacted by several adults — including single parents — who wanted to not only earn their diplomas but improve their lives by being able to get a better job.

Larson shared privately that one such adult was currently employed in a local industry but because the young adult did not have his diploma, he would have to be terminated at the end of his probationary period. Larson said the young man

OUR VIEW

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

was a good an employee but needed a diploma.

The new adult program offered by the Paris 95 school district comes exactly one year since the same school district began its Paris Alternative Learning Site (PALS) in cooperation with the Illinois State Board of Education. Since that program was established, 41 students have earned their Paris High School diplomas. Another 29 students — including some from other school districts — are currently attending the class.

The adults who are motivated to earn their diploma may do so by either completing the APEX online courses to earn their final credits or

take a high school equivalency test. As the new program got underway this week, the six adults enrolled are opting for the online course.

Each adult who came forward and sought to complete their high school work is providing an important witness to every child, preteen and teenager in our community. Each of those six adults are emphasizing with their commitment the importance of an education.

With a high school diploma, or even better — a college degree — you're more likely to land a job that provides a higher salary in addition to health insurance and retirement benefits. A high school diploma can help you land a job that you can call a career well into adulthood.

Thank you to the Paris 95 school district for opening the door for our adult population to earn a diploma.



Email threatens to bring down Madigan

"He has kept his mouth shut on Jones' ghost workers, the rape in Champaign and other items. He is loyal to the Administration."



That's from an email sent by House Speaker Michael Madigan's consigliere and ultimate Statehouse insider Mike McClain to Gov. Pat Quinn's chief legislative liaison Gary Hannig and Quinn's former chief of staff Jerry Stermer at 2:04 p.m. on July 31, 2012. The message came to light after WBEZ reporters Tony Arnold and Dave McKinney filed Freedom of Information Act requests for all emails between McClain and email addresses for all gubernatorial chiefs of staff during the last 10 years.

McClain was trying to save the job of fellow Quincy resident and state employee Forrest Ashby, who was facing disciplinary action the following day by the state's Department of Corrections. To my eyes, it sure looks like McClain was weaponizing the cover-up of alleged multiple felonies involving ghost-payrolling and rape to protect his guy. Keep in mind, McClain had to believe that Hannig and/or Stermer knew about those allegedly covered-up crimes and understood the exposure of those crimes would severely damage Quinn's administration.

Neither Hannig nor Stermer replied to McClain's email, but Ashby's disciplinary meeting was postponed and McClain sent a follow-up email on Aug. 1. "I do not know what happened but I know nothing happens accidentally." He then thanked both men.

I have so many

See **MILLER**, Page 7A

Will Democrats choose safety or risk?

When the economy shows signs of weakness, Wall Street analysts expect to see what they call a "flight to safety." Investors sell stocks and buy bonds or gold. The same phenomenon can sometimes be found in politics. Understanding that George W. Bush was riding high in 2004, after what was perceived as a successful response to the 9/11 attacks, Democrats wagered that Vietnam veteran Sen. John Kerry would stand a better chance of victory than the candidate who most excited them, Vermont's Howard Dean. A popular lapel pin at the time captured the mood, "Dated Dean. Married Kerry."

The strategy — to neutralize Bush's war advantage with Kerry's war record — ran into difficulties. There was partisan wrangling over whether Kerry deserved his Purple Hearts and other citations, but most damaging was Kerry's dubious makeover — transforming himself from prominent Vietnam War critic into Vietnam War hero. The threads didn't mesh, and Kerry found himself tangled in contradictions.

Arguably, one story of the Democratic primary race so far has been the competition between two impulses — the flight to safety versus the urge to splurge.

The first impulse holds Joe Biden aloft. Despite his age, some gobbledygook in debates and on the trail, and his past heresies (from the Democratic primary voters' perspective) about criminal justice and the Iraq War, Joe Biden has maintained a steady lead. His authorship of the 1994

crime bill, which some believe led to the overincarceration of African Americans, seems not to have dented the enthusiasm of the key constituency in Democratic primaries. He claims a steady 40 percent of African American support nationally, and a whopping 51 percent in South Carolina, according to the Monmouth University poll.

Amy Klobuchar is a moderate who tells hard truths to the party's progressives. In the Jan. 14 debate, she reminded Bernie Sanders that two-thirds of Senate Democrats don't support Medicare for All, let alone Republicans. Perhaps that's one reason she is among the final six. Klobuchar has struggled to make it into double digits in the polls, though she fulfills many of the desiderata for 2020. She's from the Midwest, which is likely to be key to the Electoral College again. She's neither too young nor too old. She is experienced. She is a solid, realistic, gradualist who wouldn't scare away independents or disaffected Republicans in November. Some might say, well, actually some have said, that she's boring. But in an era when politics has become a juvenile insult-fest, dull sounds soothing. Or it might, if safety is your primary goal.

For at least 30 percent of the Democratic electorate, those who currently support Warren or Sanders, swinging for the fences is the mood. They seem to have taken Trump's 2016 win as a challenge: If Republicans went wild in 2016, choosing the least reasonable candidate, Democrats deserve their turn in 2020.

Sanders and Warren are fundamental transformation Democrats. Consult Bernie's website and you'll find plans, or should I say ambitions, to transform everything. It isn't just Medicare for All; it's housing for all and college for all and fair banking for all and

justice and safety for all.

Elizabeth Warren has backed away only slightly from her endorsement of Medicare for All. None of the candidates acknowledges that the medical system they decry, when they cite high deductibles and costly prescription drugs, is the one a Democratic president, Barack Obama, passed to solve those very problems. Their approach reminds me of my husband's solution to any household problem: Apply force. If that doesn't work, apply more force.

A tiny dose of modesty about vast government solutions to complex problems would go a long way. Perhaps single-payer is, as Sanders and Warren claim, the fairest, cheapest and most efficient way to deliver health care (though policy analysts across the political spectrum spit out their coffee at Sanders' claims about how much the whole scheme would really cost). But let's say he and Warren are right. Apparently, a majority of voters in Oregon agree. Here's a crazy idea: Before adopting such a sweeping overhaul of 18 percent of our economy, let Oregon experiment with it and let's see in five years how it worked out.

One more safety candidate is waiting in the wings. Mike Bloomberg is skipping the early contests, but hiring and advertising now. Has this been tried before? Yes, another former New York mayor, Rudy Giuliani, skipped Iowa and New Hampshire in 2008. Of course, Giuliani (to his great regret) didn't sit atop a \$58 billion fortune.

All eyes are on Biden, Sanders, Warren, and Buttigieg now, but primaries bring surprises.

(Mona Charen is a columnist and a political analyst. She is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.)

HAVE YOUR SAY

We welcome letters to the editor and guest columns. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification purposes and limit it to 500 words. 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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KASS
FROM PAGE 6A

"For God's sake do not let this disciplinary meeting get out of hand. This man is a good compliance person, as I told you. The (attorney general's) office and the Sheriff's love working with him," McClain wrote to Quinn's top aides in an email obtained by WBEZ. "He has kept his mouth shut on Jones' ghost workers, the rape in Champaign and other items. He is loyal to the Administration." And who was the Illinois Attorney General in 2012, at the time of McClain's email? Madigan's daughter, Lisa Madigan. If Mike Madigan were a Republican, #MeToo advocates would demand his head, especially after he squashed the legislative inquiry on McClain and that email about rape. The #MeToo crowd would use all the national political leverage at their command. Democrats running for the presidency, such as Sens. Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar, would condemn Madigan. Pundits who supported #MeToo tactics against Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh would denounce

Madigan. The pressure would build and build. And Madigan would be gone. If he were a Republican, those few of us who've been advocating for years (perhaps more like decades now) for Boss Madigan to be pushed out of office wouldn't have felt like lonely voices in the wilderness. Even now, with the water warm, with many jumping in late to announce that the best thing would be to push Madigan's political head under water, Madigan remains. Why? Because Madigan isn't a Republican. He's a Democrat, the longest serving state house speaker in the history of the United States and the boss of the Illinois Democratic Party. Illinois is a blue state and Boss Madigan pulls the strings. And even with Madigan's hold on things weakening and taxpayers primed for revolt, hapless Republicans are unable to offer a legitimate counterargument. Their leaders are inept. In a few days, the Illinois Senate, once run by Madigan's mini-me, the retiring state Senate President Johnny Culbertson, D-DeLeo, is scheduled to select new leadership.

The Democratic majority will choose a president. And the Republican minority will choose a minority leader. Republican state Sen. Bill Brady, of Bloomington, who has run for governor several times and lost, wants to keep his post as minority leader. But Brady has seriously compromised himself ethically. In another story reported by WBEZ, Brady is personally cashing in on the electronic gaming business, an industry that is regulated by the state. State gaming makes profits by betting on the people of Illinois to lose. With his fingers sticky from that gaming pie, Brady isn't the least bit credible. The Democrats have long made Republicans look like fools. If the GOP maintains Brady as their leader, they'd be adding the trappings of a clown. Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker, the billionaire who bought the governor's office, has his billions in offshore accounts and lusts for the power to heap income taxes on the rich. But believe this, the middle class will not be spared. Pritzker's problem? He wants to be liked. Eventually, he'll get over it and assume control of the Democratic Par-

ty he's already bought, when Madigan finally goes. At 77, Madigan can't live forever. The politics line up against him now. Illinois politicians, like Springfield influencers who help keep them in line, are craven invertebrates, jellyfish in suits. But those who survive have an excellent sense of smell. They know Pritzker has a pocket of treats waiting when Madigan goes. And they can smell Madigan's weakness. Eventually, Pritzker will release his hounds, but not yet. Not yet. What makes Madigan weak is that federal investigation into statewide Democratic corruption. Madigan hasn't been charged with a thing, but the foundational argument of the investigation is this: Illinois politics is a criminal enterprise. And RICO — the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act — drives that big federal bus. And Madigan? If he were Republican, you wouldn't remember his name. But as a Democrat, he's the boss. For now. (John Kass is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune. Email him at jskass@chicagotribune.com.)

GRAVES
FROM PAGE 6A

bringing out Big Pines' famous coleslaw, relish tray and scrumptious homemade hushpuppies that appear to have been squeezed into the fryer from an icing bag — and look like they were left behind by a well-fed German shepherd. For our second course of deep fried delights, we chose an appetizer of crispy alligator filets. Some people say alligator tastes like chicken, and I agree — if the chicken was recently devoured by a large swamp-dwelling reptile. I only had to eat five or six to decide whether I really liked them. The main course was a plate of fried whole catfish — the only way to eat them, in my carnivorous opinion. Holding the whole fish and gnawing the flesh directly from the bone takes a man back to his primitive predatory past. (If only they had ketchup and Diet Dr. Pepper back then.)

As we wedged ourselves back into our seatbelts amid a medley of bodily noises and drove down the narrow tar roads away from the bayou and Big Pines Lodge, I couldn't help reflecting on my childhood. When I was a boy, my dad took me to Caddo Lake in the spring to rescue hatchling red-eared slider turtles trying to cross the treacherous lake roads to get to the water. I always kept a few as pets and released the rest to torment fishermen and feed the great blue herons tiptoeing among the water lilies. I don't think I could bring myself to eat a turtle — unless I was starving or on a diet — but I do wonder what they would taste like deep-fried with a side of hushpuppies. If readers are ever in East Texas, I encourage them to take a road trip to Caddo Lake. It's like entering another world — a world of beautiful wetlands, friendly people, and amazing wildlife — some of which is pretty tasty with ketchup. (Jase Graves is an award-winning humor columnist from East Texas.)

MILLER
FROM PAGE 6A

questions: 1) Who is the rapist and how would his exposure, um, encourage the Quinn administration to help McClain's guy?; 2) What's this Jones' ghost workers thing about?; 3) What kind of a person weaponizes a rape cover-up for patronage?; 4) What kind of a person puts that sort of thing into a FOIA-able email?; 5) Did the Quinn administration put its finger on the scale after McClain's implied threats? and 6) If McClain would go that far over the top with the governor's chief of staff and chief legislative liaison, what did he write in his internal ComEd emails that have all been subpoenaed by the feds? This blockbuster WBEZ story has rocked the House

Democratic world like nothing else that has come before, and for good reason. McClain's obvious penchant for saying things he shouldn't via email (the magic lobbyist list, the magic spreadsheet of contribution bundlers, funneling money to the brother of Speaker Madigan's alderman after he was accused of sexual harassment and fired, etc.) might potentially bring down the entire empire. House Majority Leader Greg Harris told me, "The reference to a rape coverup is shocking. It is good that the Governor's office has referred this to the appropriate authorities for further action." Gov. Pritzker, whose campaign hired Ashby to do faith-based outreach at McClain's request, forwarded the case to the Office of Executive Inspector General.

"This email is horrific and troubling," said Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago). "Since when should someone be rewarded for covering up a rape? Women deserve respect, not cover-ups. The Champaign County state's attorney and people with the proper authority should open up an investigation and start handing out subpoenas to get to the bottom of this." After some initial hesitation, the state's attorney (a Democrat) has agreed to investigate and claimed Friday that she was working with the state attorney general, the state police and the US Attorney in her area. I would add, we also need to know if those Jones' ghost workers are still on the state payroll and who put them there and who this Jones is. I have my suspicions, but that's

all. McClain was Speaker Madigan's top guy for decades. He acted in Madigan's name the entire time. Madigan has denied knowledge of anything in that 2012 McClain email. But it just seems unlikely to me that his top advisor apparently had significant dirt on the Quinn administration and he was kept totally in the dark. When George Ryan was elected governor, I said his friends would damage him much more than his enemies. That eventually happened to Ryan and it's clear to anyone with eyes that the same thing is happening to Madigan. (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 capitolfax@gmail.com.)

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Chrisman school district to seek another special ed teacher

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN – Chrisman Community Unit School District #6 is looking to add a special education teacher.

The board of education authorized the search during the board meeting Monday, Jan. 13. Given the increasing Illinois teacher shortage and the demand for special education teachers, that may not be as easy as it sounds.

“This doesn’t come without expense with teacher minimum pay requirements and benefits,” interim superintendent Jim Acklin told board members. “But this could all be moot if we can’t find a teacher.”

Acklin’s recommendation to start the search now followed a report by principal Cole Huber during the December meeting outlining how the district’s population of special education students has increased but the faculty has not grown to accommodate more students.

“While there is not a hard and fast number for a student

to teacher ratio, there is a recommended number, and we are past that,” said Acklin.

Huber plans to make an aggressive search for another special education teacher by attending some college job fairs and actively recruiting likely prospects.

“I’m in favor of starting the search to see who is available even though it is going to cost lots of money,” said board member Karen Webster.

Information Huber provided in December showed the district had two special education teachers for the junior high/high school building during the 2011-2012 school year serving 30 students. The number of teachers is the same for the current 2019-2020 school year but students requiring special education services have increased to 44. Huber anticipates the number of junior high and high school students requiring special education will remain close to 44 over the course of the next four years.

The board also approved a request for \$2,800 to repair a public address system at the grade school, which principal Kelly Schluter described as barely hanging on.

“Sometimes it works and sometimes it doesn’t, and we have to shout down the hall,” said Schluter.

She added the old system has lost the ability for the office to communicate with individual rooms so any use of the PA system means the message is heard in every room, when the system works.

Schluter acknowledged each classroom has a phone but there are times when a PA is more efficient. She said if a teacher is dealing with a classroom medical emergency it is easier to activate a button in the classroom and communicate the need for help while still tending the child instead of stopping to dial an extension number.

School security is another issue.

“If we had an intruder, we

could not push the information out on the phones,” Schluter said. “The teachers are concerned.”

According to Acklin, one vendor is still capable of getting the hard to find parts for the old system and has kept it operational to this point. The \$2,800 proposal makes repairs and upgrades the room-to-office communication option. His question to the board was the wisdom of spending nearly \$3,000 on an old system that still may require replacement in the near future.

Acklin had a \$12,000 proposal to install a new PA system that will also control the school clocks, fire alarms and add outside speakers to the building. Schluter expressed concern about tying everything to one system, noting if one component goes bad that could mess up everything else.

The board OK’d rebuilding the current PA system.

No decision was made regarding information from a December report about using

the Illinois Virtual Classroom to increase elective offerings for all Chrisman High School students. Cost per class is \$150 to \$300 and the district might spend around \$2,400 annually by picking up some of that expense.

Huber said a poll of students ranking the offerings had American Sign Language come in as the most desired but also topping the list were technology and computing classes the school does not offer.

Some concern was raised if the students will take the on-line classes seriously enough to make the administration’s effort and the expense worthwhile, but some board members appeared willing to support the idea.

“We could try it for a year and if it doesn’t work, we don’t have to do it again,” said Mark Wyatt. “Yes, it is extra expense, but the kids are showing interest in topics they will need in the future.”

Huber was asked to talk with schools already using virtual

classroom and report back on those experiences.

Acklin discussed replacing the roof on the junior high building. He said an architect’s estimate puts the cost at \$400,000, plus the architect’s 10 percent fee. He added if the goal is to use the 1 percent school facility tax to pay for a new roof, the district will need to save those monthly payments for at least two years to have enough money. The roof, he said, does not require immediate replacement but it does have leaks that must be addressed.

“It’s important that we start looking at it,” said Acklin. “The roof won’t last forever.”

In positive financial news, Acklin reported Unit 6 achieved Financial Recognition Status for the third consecutive year from the Illinois State Board of Education. That is the ISBE’s highest commendation possible for financial management. The district also received a perfect 4.0 financial score for the second straight year.

Paris High School Board meets

BY NANCY ZEMAN
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The second semester of the 2019-2020 school year is just underway at Paris High School but the school’s board of directors have already approved bids for the 2020-2021 school year.

The cooperative board awarded bids for fuel, milk, groceries and bread for the next school year. Approved were Prairie Farms, milk; FS Fuel, fuel; Cole Wholesale and B & B Foods, groceries; and Aunt Millie’s, bread.

Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson said the contracts are with the

same providers as this school year.

In other business, the board filled several coaching positions and leadership positions as recommended by the administration. Those included:

- Dan Dundas, high school boys track coach.
- Taylor Birchfield, high school girls track coach.
- Vince Porter, assistant boys baseball coach.
- Hannah Dudley, assistant girls golf coach.
- Andy Goodwin, physical education and health department chair.
- Renee Powers, special

education department chair.

The board also approved a 2021 trip for the PHS band to Orlando, Fla.

Following the short public session, the board moved into executive session to discuss personnel.

Larson declined to discuss the school’s ongoing search for a fulltime principal. The position is currently held by intertium co-principals Lorraine Bailey and Carol Jones.

Larson said the two administrators are under contract until June 30, 2020, for that position.

Democrat candidate forum Jan. 26

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHARLESTON – The Charleston Huddle and Coles Progressives are hosting a Democratic primary candidate forum 2:30-4 p.m. Jan. 26 at the Charleston Carnegie Public Library.

Kevin Gaither of Charleston, John Hursey Jr. of Collinsville, Craig Morton of

Salem and Erika Weaver of Mattoon have agreed to participate. The candidates are seeking nomination in the March 17 primary to run as the party’s candidate for the Congressional seat being vacated by Rep. John Shimkus (R-15th District).

The free event is set for 2:30-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, in the Charleston Carnegie Pub-

lic Library Rotary Rooms.

Jeannie Ludlow, Professor of English and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Eastern Illinois University, will moderate the 90-minute forum.

The candidates will give opening and closing statements in addition to fielding questions from community members.

Candidate visits Kansas school board

Rep. Bailey talks rural schools and local organization

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliams@prairiepress.com

KANSAS - Republican member of the Illinois House of Representatives for the 109th district Darren Bailey, who is running for the senate, addressed the Kansas School Board members at their regular meeting Wednesday, Jan. 16.

Bailey was at the Kansas school earlier in the day to talk to the FFA students and a history class. He empathized with the board members, noting that small schools struggle daily with rules and regulations.

“One of my goals is to work with schools and try to restore local control for our schools,” said Bailey.

Bailey added that another personal goal is to get taxes reduced.

“I believe Illinois can work within our means,” he stated, adding an open invitation to meet with the board members and the public to hear ideas or concerns since he sits on three education committees. He noted politicians in northern Illinois, specifically Chicago, aren’t aware of the education

issues in rural areas of downstate Illinois.

“I am a spokesperson for rural communities,” he said.

In the principal’s report, Cindy Spencer said the school received a wall-mount fume extractor that eliminates dangerous welding fumes from welding booths. The school has more welding booths than ever and the program anticipates growing since Lake Land College is considering moving its welding center to the Kansas school.

The Eastern Illinois Education for Employment System, a group of 25 school districts collaborating to update and upgrade career and technical education programs, purchased the \$8,395 device. The school currently has a portable model fume extractor.

“More kids will get to weld and use different welders because we have two fume extractors,” said Spencer.

She noted the three principals that constitute the Tri-County Titans Athletic Co-op met and adjusted the agreement. Recommended changes include: transportation adjustments must now be brought to the attention of everyone involved in all three schools which are Shiloh, Oakland and Kansas schools. Another change deals with

fan conduct and establishing discipline actions to address unsportsmanlike conduct.

Spencer noted this is only the first reading of the proposed changes and she will clarify questions board members raised when the principals’ committee meets again.

At the December Kansas BOE meeting, board members voted to approve the renewal of the co-op agreement for extracurricular activities.

The board authorized Lunsford Architects and Engineers to let bids to replace the roof on the district’s 1956 building.

Following closed session, the board voted to employ Rebecca Heltsley as the family consumer science teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

Interim superintendent John Hasten commented on the tax levy approved during the December board meeting. He said the levy request represented a 4.81 percent increase from the previous levy and did not reach the 5 percent threshold required for a truth in taxation hearing.

“The tax rate should decrease,” said Hasten.

DIPLOMAS

FROM PAGE 1A

Larson said Friday the students enrolled in the adult education course have opted to earn their diplomas through the APEX online system.

“They can work at home at their own pace,” he said.

Any adult who wants to enroll in the program but does not have access to a computer or tablet should not be discouraged, Larson emphasized. “We will make arrangements for them to be able to use a computer in the evening,” he said.

The Paris 95 district, he emphasized, has as its motto “Strong Schools Build Strong

Communities.”

“This is what we are doing by providing adults over the age of 21 an opportunity to earn their diploma and move forward in their lives,” he said.

Paris 95 board president Kevin Knoepfel praised the plan to offer adult education to those who want to complete their requirements. “We’re helping to break the cycle and make education important,” he said.

Board members Amy Isaf and Beetle Bailey agreed.

“Reaching out to those who want to better themselves is what we should be doing,” she said.

Bailey, who has strongly

supported the PALS program since its founding, noted the district is willing to help anybody.

Larson said anyone who is interested in participating in the adult education opportunity should call his cell phone at 217-264-0835.

In emphasizing the need to make education a priority, Larson said when he and Mayo principal Kyle Shay make in home calls about students, one of the reasons children give for attending school is that their parents didn’t attend.

“Showing the importance of education is important to our children,” he concluded.

AGCO GSI

FROM PAGE 1A

new permanent jobs. Plant manager Phil Brown said the expansion reflects the confidence GSI management has in the productivity of the Paris plant. The company operates factories worldwide, including in China, but the Paris expansion is the largest this year for any facility in North America.

Brown said GSI has already purchased or ordered some \$3 million in new equipment for the addition.

The CDAP grant to Paris would pay for major street and utility relocations to serve the expansion. At the present time Stratton Drive is located between the existing plant and the expansion site to the west. This street will be relocated 700 feet to the west edge of the combined properties.

In addition, a 12-inch water line will be extended 2,000 feet,

and an additional 1,300 feet of a sanitary sewer force main will be constructed. During the council meeting, the city voted to work with Francis Associates, civil engineers, for design of these projects.

If all processes move on schedule, Brown said they hope to be occupying the new expansion by late fall of this year.

During the regular council business session that followed, the council also adopted a Municipal Cannabis Retailers’ Occupation Tax ordinance. This allows the city to collect a portion of the sales tax on the purchase of marijuana-based products, should any such business now allowed by the state open in Paris. Mayor Craig Smith pointed out that no applications have been made for a cannabis sales store, nor are any anticipated at this time for Paris.

Improvements for the city

police and fire departments approved by the council included purchase of two car video recording camera systems from Supreme Radio Communications for \$1,350; repairs by Faulk’s Garage of Paris to the Attack One truck for \$1,052, and the starter on Engine Seven for \$1,013; and adoption of the latest edition of the NFPA Life Safety Code.

The water-sewer department received approval for purchase of the top section of a fire hydrant for \$1,689; repair to a return sludge pump for \$4,882; service to a lift station wireless reporting system for \$2,208; and \$1,220 to Central State Construction for a service call and installation at Pump No. 2 in the city’s water well field.

The next city council meeting is 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27, with an agenda session at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 22, both open to the public at City Hall.

SESSION

FROM PAGE 1A

Jail supervisor Jay Willaman confirmed the amount of travel required. He said the sheriff’s department recently had 14 people to bring back for court appearances and then returned to the neighboring jails.

“We were doing a lot of running back and forth,” said Willaman.

He noted some of that may ease a bit since the department recently acquired a used 10-passenger van for transport duty. Willaman said as of Monday a security cage for inside the van had not been installed. As a result, two officers are required for each trip – one person to drive and the other to provide prisoner surveillance.

The local jail closed Dec. 1 after Illinois County Risk Management, the insurer, refused to continue insurance coverage citing problems

with lack of management and improper oversight of policy issues. The Illinois Department of Correction (DOC) also threatened legal action because the jail frequently had only one corrections officer on duty when two are required.

Willaman, a retired DOC official, was hired by the county in November to serve as the jail administrator. His stated goal is to get the 1970s era cellblock back up to standards and operating within three months to the satisfaction of the insurance company and DOC inspectors.

County board members and Willaman discussed progress during the study session. Willaman said without prisoners it has been easier for contractors to work in the building and a welder has fabricated new showers that are ready for installation. His problem is the contractors hired to complete the SmartWATT energy efficien-

cy upgrades on all county buildings are under the impression they are only supposed to work on the newer part of the building and not touch the 19th century portion of the structure.

“I thought the jail came first on the list,” said Willaman. “If we don’t open the new and old part, we will still be paying for 10 to 15 inmates in other facilities.”

He added the plumbing repairs at the jail will likely involve more than just replacing parts as much of the old plumbing is worn out and needs removed before substantive improvements can be made.

“The jail was part of the original scope, and it needs to be done although it has been a mess making decisions,” said board member Derrick Lorenzen. “We have a priority in getting our jail open.”

Board member Andy Patrick cleared up some of the

issues during the Wednesday, Jan. 15 county board meeting. During the interim between the two meetings he talked with subcontractors and representatives of SmartWATT, who are overseeing the changes.

“They are waiting on plumbing parts for the jail,” said Patrick. “That’s why the revised schedule moved the jail back a bit.”

He added SmartWATT asked for clarification about what the county board wants done at the jail where much of the work was removed from the scope of the project after the decision was made to close the building. With Willaman on board and determined to get as much of the building reopened as possible, some of the shelved work needs to get back on the work order.

Patrick added some confusion about the Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning work at the courthouse was also re-

solved. Apparently, the drawing provided by SmartWATT lacked the building detail the contractor believed necessary. That issue was fixed when Edgar County Clerk and Recorder August Griffin located detailed drawings of the building created in 1968 for a previous remodeling.

“They (the contractor) said it is a difficult building because of the round design,” said Patrick, acknowledging some confusion has occurred while expressing confidence in the end product. “It’s going to be an efficient, quiet system when it’s done.”

Griffin announced he is moving the polling place from Carolyn Wenz Elementary School to the nearby First United Methodist Church. He noted this action leaves Memorial School in Paris as the last school in Edgar County serving as a polling place and administrators in Paris Union School District 95 want relieved of that

responsibility.

Griffin said it is not a matter of just taking the polling place out of the school.

“The law still says it is possible to keep polling places in schools because they are public buildings supported by taxpayers,” said Griffin.

Taking the polling place from Memorial School requires finding another building of sufficient size to accommodate multi-precinct voting that is both handicapped accessible and has sufficient parking.

“I’m trying to find something for Memorial,” Griffin said, but added there is not time to make the move prior to the March primary.

He emphasized the county incurs a cost of between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each time a polling center moves because new voter registration cards must be printed and notice of the change must be mailed to every affected voter.

Tigers
fall to
ALAHBY DAN DUNDAS
dandundas82@gmail.com

ARTHUR — After defeating them in the Kansas Holiday Tournament, the Paris Tigers struggled to put away Arthur-Lovington/Atwood-Hammond in a non-conference game Monday, falling 61-54.

The Tigers got off a strong first half start against ALAH, only to see it slip away in a tough third quarter, where the Knights pressured the Tigers into turnovers to permanently take the lead.

Paris Head Coach Chase Brinkley knows it's a familiar story.

"By this point, any team that watches us knows that we can be pressured and we have to be ready," Brinkley said. "We'll have guys not want to come get the ball on pressure because they don't want to be the next one to deal with it when it's their turn. We didn't handle it well and they took advantage of it."

The Tigers and Knights exchanged punches to start the game, with Paris coming out aggressive on defense. Paris secured three-pointers from Sullivan to open the game, and Hutchings later in the quarter.

"We had some good shots even in the first quarter that rolled out of the rim, and we held them to only two points in the second quarter. However, we knew they good shooters that hadn't connected in the first half, and our good defense was part of it," the Paris coach said.

That second quarter of play was filled with highlights for Paris, as the Tigers followed their game plan.

Hutchings scored 9 of the Tigers first 11 points on drives to the paint and a three-pointer. ALAH finally got a bucket on a put-back and entered the half down 25-12.

Paris continued to stretch its lead in the third quarter, as King opened the half with a three, and Sullivan got two more baskets to make it 32-16.

But then the wheels fell off for the Tigers.

ALAH slowly started converting points in the paint, which allowed them to set up their press after the made baskets.

Even with a Sullivan three, the Knights cut it to 35-27 with 1:30 remaining in the third. The Knights took advantage of two more turnovers from Paris, cutting the lead to 35-34 on a three-pointer with two seconds left.

"If a team has good shooters, you keep them on one side of the floor and out of the paint so they can't suck in your strong side defense. That wasn't the case for us in the second half," Brinkley said.

The fourth quarter had some strong offense for both teams as the Tigers received baskets from Hutchings, Sullivan and Zack Farnham. With the game tied at 48 with 2:45 left, ALAH proceeded to take a significant lead,

See PARIS, Page 10A

THE SCOREBOARD TELLS THE STORY FOR THE LADY TIGERS



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

The Paris Lady Tigers left no doubt for those who thought Wednesday's matchup against the Mattoon Lady Green Wave might be their toughest test yet. The Class 2A top-rated team in Illinois never let the hosts into the game, shut down Mattoon's leading scorer and hit eight three-pointers blow out the Class 3A team 60-29.

Lady Tigers are now 23-0

Top-ranked Class 2A Paris girls leave no doubt as they take down 1-loss Mattoon 60-29

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

MATTOON — If there was any doubt in anyone's mind the Paris Lady Tigers could handle the Mattoon Lady Green Wave, those were dispelled in the first eight minutes of Wednesday's contest.

In one of the more highly-anticipated matchups of the new year, the Paris Lady Tigers blew out the 18-1 class 3A Apollo Conference team 60-29.

Paris — ranked first in the Associated Press Class 2A poll for the second week in a row — put their 22-game winning streak on the line against 14th-ranked Class 3A Lady Green Wave in a game featuring two teams with similar styles.

The big difference in this game is one team dominated on the defensive end of the court. Paris held Mattoon to just 11 points in the second half en route to a 60-29 victory in a game that had plenty of press heading in.

The Mattoon gym was pretty evenly split between fans of the Lady Tigers and fans of the home team in spite of the fact that the junior varsity contest tipped off at 5 p.m.

The Lady Tigers never trailed in the contest and led by 34 at one point in the second half.

While their offensive performance was considered subpar based on their scoring outputs earlier in the season, their defensive performance is what had fans talking on their way out of the Mattoon gym.

At the end of the first quarter, the Lady Tigers held a 19-8 lead. Mattoon was forced to use one of their timeouts during an 8-0 Paris run.

The second quarter was much the same as the visitors forced another timeout on their way 38-18 halftime lead buy outscoring the hosts 19-10 period.

Even for those fans who have been watching the Lady Tigers all season, what took place in the third quarter was nothing short of miraculous.

Paris held Mattoon to just one made basket and one made free throw while scor-



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

Lady Tiger Sarah Isaf (14) clears a rebound during Wednesday's victory over the Mattoon Lady Green Wave 60-20. Isaf led all scorers in the contest with 22 points — including three, three-pointers.

ing 13 points.

With the IHSA mandated running clock in the fourth quarter, Paris Coach Dave Tingley emptied his bench at the six minute mark.

When asked after the game what the feeling was in the locker room following their 23rd win, Tingley answered, "Pure bliss."

"We really felt like we let one get away last year (a three-point loss for the Tigers). I know that it is two different teams, but the fact that these teams have combined for just one loss adds to that. We did not underestimate this team by any means and to the girls it is just validation of the fact that they just beat a really good team by 30 points."

Senior Sarah Isaf once again led the way with 22 points in the contest — including hitting three three-pointers. Karrington Krabel recorded a double-double with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Madysen Rigdon knocked down a

pair of threes on her way to 10 points in the game. Jenna Gates had nine points and five assists in the game, and Kaitlyn Littleton added five points off of the bench.

Rigdon was also tasked with guarding Mattoon's leading scorer Mallory Ramage and held her to just 13 points. The Lady Tigers will begin action today in the Little Illini Conference tournament as they face Robinson at 3 p.m. Should they win that game, they will play again on Tuesday evening at 6 p.m. against the winner of the Marshall/Newton.

The championship game is scheduled for Thursday at 8 p.m. and if the seedings hold, may feature a rematch between the Lady Tigers and the Iney Lady Tigers.

All games will be played at Robinson High School.

PARIS 65, EFFINGHAM 32

The Paris Lady Tigers returned to their home floor for



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

Lady Tiger senior Karrington Krabel goes after a loose ball during Wednesday's 60-29 win over Mattoon. Krabel finished the game with a double-double and 14 points, and 15 rebounds.

“
TO THE GIRLS IT IS JUST
VALIDATION OF THE FACT THEY
JUST BEAT A REALLY GOOD
TEAM BY 30 POINTS.”

PARIS COACH DAVE TINGLEY

just the second time in 2020 on Monday as they hosted the Effingham Hearts.

Effingham hardly knew what hit them as the Tigers grabbed a 25-point lead at the half, then cruised to a 65-32 victory. With the win, the Lady Tigers improved to 22-0 ahead of their showdown at Mattoon on Wednesday night. Effingham fell to 7-11 on the season.

Paris came out on fire in this game scoring the first eight points of the contest. In fact, the Tigers set their season-high in three-point baskets with 13 and could have had many more.

Coach Dave Tingley is always looking for areas for his top-ranked squad to improve, and offensive rebounding was

one of those areas. However, it is difficult to improve in that area when the team shoots over 60 percent for the game.

Sarah Isaf led all scorers in the game with 22 points — including four 3-pointers — and six rebounds. Kaitlyn Littleton came off the bench and knocked down a pair of threes on her way to 11 points. Trinity Tingley also made a couple of shots beyond the arc to finish as the only other Tiger in double-figures with 10. Jenna Gates scored eight points and handed out six assists, Madysen Rigdon had seven points and three steals, Kendra Young added three, and Karrington Krabel and Deming Hawkins finished with two points each.

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Titan boys fall 64-47

BY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

HUME — The Tri-County boys' basketball team fell behind early in its matchup with Villa Grove/Heritage, never managing to rally in a 64-47 loss.

The Titans fell behind 20-6 after an explosive first quarter from Villa Grove/Heritage. Blake Smith paced the Hawks with eight points in the period. Despite several open looks at the basket through the opening quarter, Tri-County managed to sink just two baskets as Cole McClain scored five of the Titans six points.

Tri-County continued to struggle in the second quarter, scoring just nine points in the period. VGH failed to show any mercy in the second quarter as the team extended its lead to 36-15 as Anthony Arbuckle and Matt Gulick combined for 10 of those points.

CJ Eackle and McClain attempted to push the pace for the Titans in the fourth quarter, combining for 13 of the teams 19 points in the frame. Despite that though, the Hawks scored 28 second-half points to take a commanding 64-47 victory.

Tri-County was 18-59 from the field and 7-11 from the charity stripe. The Titans committed 25 turnovers. Cole McClain led the way with 19 points. Jack Armstrong and Mitch Pollock added eight points each.

VGH was 23-65 from the field and 16-33 from the free throw line. The Hawks committed just 12 turnovers.

TCT girls pick up wins

Villa Grove-Heritage push Titans as TCT takes 67-61 victory

BY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

HUME — The Tri-County girls basketball team used a strong week of play to secure two victories including a 67-61 thriller over Villa Grove-Heritage at Shiloh High School Thursday.

In the opening eight minutes, VGH came out of the gate fast with 16 first quarter points. Tri-County went to Tayler Barry to try and shrink the deficit as she scored seven of the Titans 11 points in the frame putting the score at 16-11 after the first quarter.

The Titans finally got into a rhythm in the second stanza as Bella Dudley drove to the basket to score eight points while Barry continued to look inside as well, scoring five points as part of Tri-County's 19 point frame.

VGH continued to look to Holloman as she found looks in the paint to score seven more points while Kyleigh Block got some looks off of great passing inside to add five points as the Blue Devils scored 14.

The quarter ended on a high note for the Titans as Dudley drove up the right side to the basket to make a lay-up as time expired to tie

up the contest at 30-30 going into halftime.

The third quarter was all about the free throw line for the Titans, going 9-12 from the line in the period. The free throws were much needed for the Tri-County as they made just three shots from the field for their 16 points.

The Blue Devils kept up their defensive pressure, forcing several Titan turnovers and turning them into points as Holloman scored nine to help take a 48-46 lead heading into the final eight minutes.

Both teams went shot-for-shot in the fourth quarter, but the Titans managed key shots down the stretch as Dudley and Lille Cox both went 4-4 at the line with Cox getting a key block on a shot from Holloman in the closing minutes of regulation.

Haylee Barry, who came into the game late in the third quarter, scored five points as part of the 18-point frame.

The Blue Devils ended up having two key players foul out during the fourth quarter as Campbell fouled out early in the quarter, then Holloman fouled out with around a minute to go.

VGH made just two field goals in the quarter and went only 7-12 from the line as Tri-County held on for the six-point win.

TCT was 18-58 shooting

from the field and 26-36 from the charity stripe.

Bella Dudley finished with 23 points and four assists. Tayler Barry had 19 points and five steals. Lillie Cox added 12 points and five rebounds in the win.

VGH was 23-46 shooting from the field and 14-24 from the free throw line.

TCT 52, ARCOLA 39

arcola — On Monday, the Titan girls basketball team managed a strong road victory defeating Arcola 52-39.

The Lady Titans entered the contest on a four-game win streak, tacking on a fifth victory in rematch of last year's regional title game.

The Titans, who were without the services of Tayler Barry due to illness, received a strong fight from Arcola throughout the contest.

Tri-County never quite managed to pull out of striking distance of the Purple Riders, but also never ceded the lead to Arcola. Tri-County used its versatility across its lineup to capture its fifth-consecutive victory 52-39.

Bella Dudley led all scorers in the contest for the Titans with 19 points and five rebounds. Melia Eskew scored nine points while grabbing five steals and five assists. Kaylenn Hunt added eight points. Kaylin Williams and Lillie Cox had six points each.

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PARIS
FROM PAGE 9A

making free throws as Paris tried to foul and get the ball back. Even two more Farnham three-pointers in the final minute were not enough to regain the lead, as Paris ended the contest with a loss.

Three Tigers finished in double figures for Paris. Hutchings led the scoring with 18 points while Sullivan added 14. Farnham rounded out the double-digit scoring for the Tigers with 11 points.

Brinkley was disappointed in the Paris play.

"It is somewhat upsetting that we played well on Friday and Saturday in back-to-back games, but lost focus here," he said. "I've said before, we're looking for guys to step up their mental game and an example of that would be ALAH making 15 of 19 free throws in the fourth quarter, and that's a credit to them. That's where we have to be."

CASEY 52, PARIS 49
The Casey-Westfield War-

riors came into Paris as one of the top teams in the LIC, and barely left town as the winner, narrowly edging out the Tigers in second half comeback, 52-49, Friday, Jan. 10.

Throughout the game, The Tigers were able to keep their composure while dealing with an aggressive man to man defense, as well as a thorough amount of pressing, from Casey. Helping them out along the way was a raucous home environment from the Paris crowd, which helped keep momentum going the home team's way.

Mason Hutchings opened the game with a three, and along with Garrett King, sank another one a few possessions later to help vault the Tigers to an eventual 18-10 lead. Along the way, Paris got tough scoring drives from King and Jude Sullivan, while the Warriors worked efficiently inside with some back cut layups and post moves. Casey climbed to within 18-15 in the waning minutes before King put them up 20-17 with a tough drive.

The hot scoring quarter for both teams would slow down a bit the rest of the game as the intensity and physicality began to crank up. Casey began to pressure Paris further from the hoop, but the Tigers were able to find baskets, and kept the Warriors off the offensive glass with tough rebounding of their own.

Casey's top defender honed in on Hutchings, but picked up two fouls with his efforts. Paris ended the quarter on a 6-0 run, thanks to yet another sprawling effort for a loose ball from Coy Landrum, much to the delight of the fans, to go up 30-26.

After making a three to open the half, Casey would not score another field goal until near the two-minute mark. Talented Casey-Westfield guard Noah Livingston was the focal point for their offense in the third quarter, creating open looks for himself but not able to knock them down, leading to a quiet quarter for the Warriors offensively. Paris continued their yeoman like work on the backboards, creating extra possessions.

Paris got a tough three-point foul play from Logan

Rhoads and a big three from Sullivan to make a 7-0 run and force a Casey timeout with two minutes left in the third. Hutchings' defender picked up another pair of fouls with his tough and solid defense, swinging more momentum the Tigers way. Paris capped off the quarter with a Zack Farnham three pointer from the edge of the logo at center court, as a botched pick and roll ended up giving the Tigers a 43-33 lead into the fourth.

That lead would slowly evaporate in the fourth quarter, as Livingston slowly tilted the game in Casey's favor, picking up his scoring through free throws, a three pointer, and floaters in the paint, while walking a tight-rope of picking up three fouls. "Noah Livingston is a really good player that can get the shots he wants and make clutch plays when needed." Said Paris Head Coach Chase Brinkley. "He was cold early on, and I think our guys like King and Landrum had a lot to do with that, zoning him off and sending him where he didn't want to go. He made his points count at the line, as players like that do, and ultimately that beat us at the end."

Paris offense was somewhat stymied, and the lack of converting bonus free throw opportunities put them in a tight spot. The Tigers used longer possessions to work down the clock throughout the quarter, and it looked like the Tigers would prevail. Sullivan leaked out for a fast break to go up 49-46 with just under two minutes left, and Casey followed with two poorly shot three pointers, but after a coin flip of a call from the refs, they were awarded another possession and tied it at 49 with a three.

Livingston's floater made it 51-49 Warriors at the minute mark, and after a loose ball, Paris regained possession, but turned the ball over on the inbound. Livingston split a pair of free throws, and with the clock winding down under ten seconds, Hutchings found himself wide open on an apparent botched defensive switch, and saw his three pointer go down then come right back out of the cylinder.

An impassioned yet frustrated Hutchings slapped the floor after the buzzer, symbolizing the great effort and composure of the Tigers. "We're starting to trust ourselves, and we saw it in individual players in all of their roles, and realizing how good they can be. I still can't get over the effort we had and how hard we played, with guys diving on the floor on multiple possessions. I know this town, and things like that will draw more people into the seats."

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1 of these things not like the other

Chiefs' Andy Reid is the outlier in the Final 4

BY BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

Of the coaches in the NFL's Final Four, Andy Reid is the outlier.

Only Kansas City's coach has been the head man in a Super Bowl. Only Reid is close to having a Hall of Fame-worthy resume. Only Reid has been around for a couple of decades.

So, while Tennessee's Mike Vrabel, Green Bay's Matt LaFleur and San Francisco's Kyle Shanahan might look up to Reid and his career achievements, they also recognize that whichever of them wins the NFL title will be doing so for the first time as a coach.

No, despite his longevity as Eagles and then Chiefs coach, and his 15 trips to the post-season, Reid has never lifted the Lombardi Trophy.

"Listen, you've known me a long time, I'm thinking more about the players than I'm thinking about myself," Reid says. "That's now where I go — I'm trying to get the guys ready, I'm going to make sure I'm ready, then I'm going to go play. I don't really look at it that way. It's more a disappointment for the other teams, they worked their tails

off and fell short."

What Shanahan and LaFleur certainly can admire about Reid is his forward-thinking approach on offense. Both of them are bred in offense, and they rarely back off. While Reid has been a bit more conservative — at least until Patrick Mahomes showed up — Shanahan and LaFleur rarely get shy with the ball.

Vrabel has a defensive background, having won three Super Bowls as a linebacker in New England. Though nobody who saw him catch passes, including for a touchdown in the 2005 game against Reid and the Eagles, can forget his hand in the Patriots offense.

That's hardly the only connection among this quartet.

The ties between the Niners and Packers coaching staffs run deep. LaFleur worked under Shanahan on staffs in Houston, Washington and Atlanta before heading in his own direction. LaFleur's brother, Mike, is the passing game coordinator in San Francisco and was blocked by Shanahan this past offseason when Matt wanted to hire him as offensive coordinator in Green Bay.

"It's always a little bit different just because of how close you are with the other person," Shanahan says. "I know Matt and Mike are as close as any brothers could be just like most people are with siblings, but it really doesn't matter. There's a lot of talk to it and stuff, but I mean, there's no feeling when that game goes on, there's no feelings when you're studying and preparing."

"Everyone cares about the other person. I know if we weren't in it, I know he'd be pulling for his brother just like when I wasn't going against my dad (long-time coach Mike Shanahan), I was always pulling for him. But, I know when you go against each other, that stuff doesn't matter. Everyone's got a job to do and everyone is pretty competitive and wants to win, also."

Matt LaFleur also has a very tight relationship with 49ers defensive coordinator Robert Saleh. They were roommates as graduate assistants at Central Michigan and have been close friends since. Saleh recommended LaFleur for his first NFL job as a quality control offensive assistant with the Texans in 2008-09, when Shanahan was offensive

coordinator.

"I was messing with him the other day," LaFleur says. "I asked him to call me. I shot him a text message. I said, 'Hey, would you give me a call? I have a couple questions about your defense.'"

"That was the last of the communication."

Shanahan also spent a year as offensive coordinator in Cleveland when Packers defensive coordinator Mike Pettine was head coach in 2014. Shanahan resigned from that job after one season and left to take the same position in Atlanta.

Vrabel doesn't have any connections in that way. He is the only one of the four who has won a Super Bowl.

"I think there's always experiences that you try to draw from as a player," Vrabel says. "I mean, that's what I have (done). I spent 14 years in the National Football League, and I don't even know how many playoff games, but those were good experiences about preparation and really focusing on what got us to this point from where we were at different points in the season. And then, there's also things that I have to do as a coach to make sure that we're ready."

7 LSU players entering the NFL draft

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Dynamic running back Clyde Edwards-Helaire, receiver Justin Jefferson and safety Grant Delpit are among seven players from LSU's national championship team who've stated their intention to enter the NFL draft.

Offensive linemen Saahdiq Charles and Lloyd Cushenberry, and linebackers Patrick Queen and Jacob Phillips also announced their intention to turn pro Wednesday.

Edwards-Helaire rushed for 1,414 yards and 16 touchdowns this season to go with 453 yards and one TD receiv-

ing. The Baton Rouge native concluded his career with 110 yards rushing and 54 yards receiving in No. 1 LSU's 42-25 triumph over Clemson in Monday night's national title game in New Orleans.

Jefferson led LSU in catches with 111 and ranked second on the team with 1,540 yards receiving, finishing with nine catches for 106 yards against Clemson.

Delpit was a first-team All-American in 2018 whose production also picked up in the closing weeks of the season. He had five solo tackles, a sack and forced fumble in the

national title game. He also intercepted two passes this season.

Cushenberry and Charles started up front for the most prolific offense in the 126-year history of LSU's football program, helping the Tigers total 6,024 yards through the air and 3,806 on the ground.

Phillips was LSU's leader in total tackles with 113. He had 7 1/2 tackles for loss including one sack and a forced fumble.

Queen was LSU's third-leading tackler. His 85 total tackles included 12 for losses and three sacks. He

also had an interception and fumble recovery this season. He made six tackles in the national title game, including 2 1/2 tackles for loss and a half-sack.

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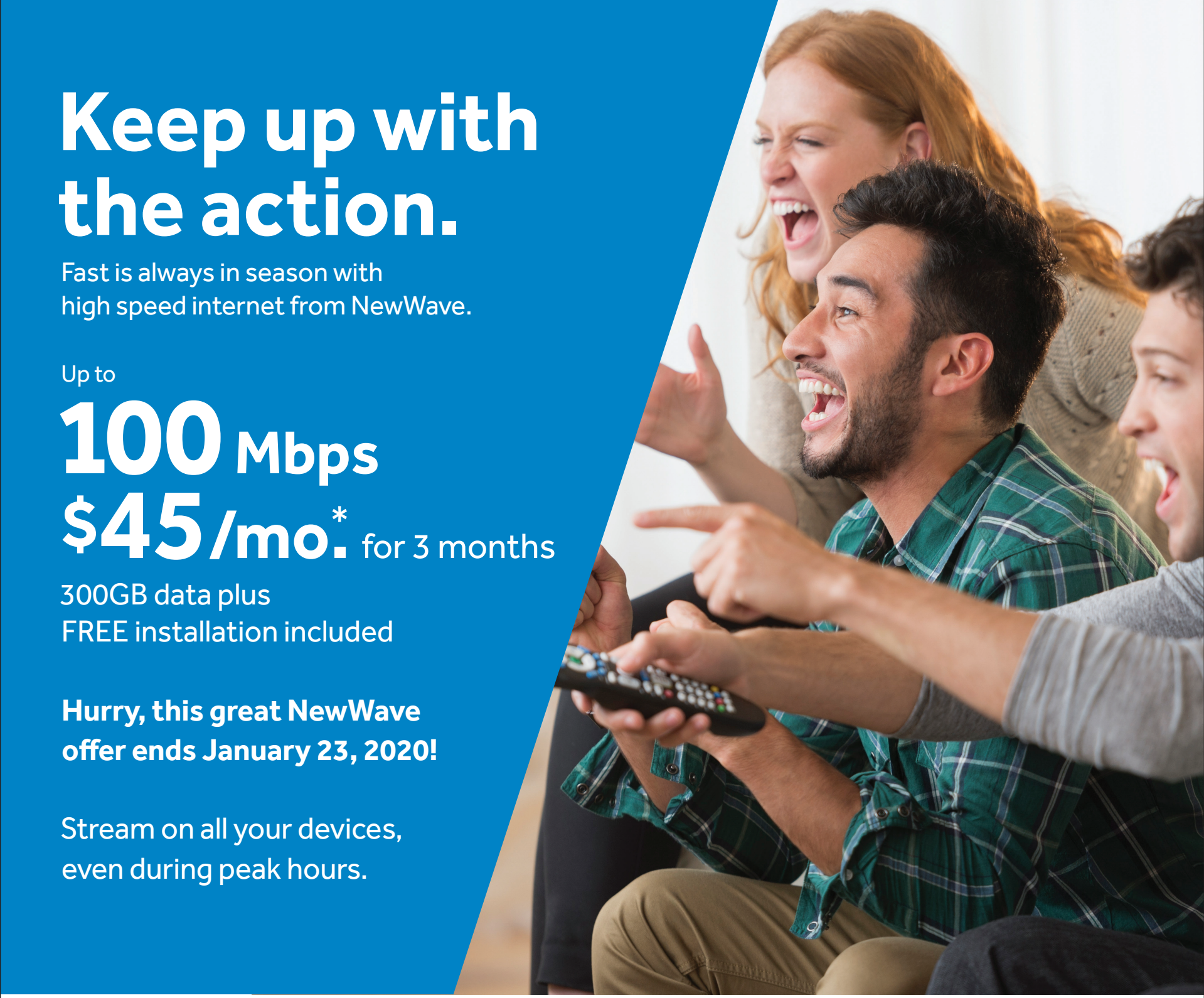
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Junior League heating up

BY CINDY WILSON
cwf8057126@gmail.com

The competition in the Paris Junior League is heating up as the teams are now into the second half of the season.

Games are played on Sunday beginning at 12:30 p.m. at Eveland Gym. There is a small admission charge to attend.

BEARS 34, TIGERS 16

Both teams got off to an extremely slow start as at the end of first quarter the Bears had made the only bucket. Both teams were more successful in their scoring efforts during the second quarter as the Bears took a 17-12 lead at half.

The Bears turned up their scoring efforts and held the Tigers to a single bucket during the third quarter to take a 24-14 lead. They never looked back and kept busy with the scoring and the Bears took a win over the Tigers.

Leading the Bears in scoring was Breeding with eight

points. Little and Sanders each had six points. Gann and Roush were credited with five points. Fonner and Lawson finished it up with two points each.

Bartlett led the Tigers with 12 points. Rogers and Rollings each had a bucket.

HAWKS 27, COLTS 24

The Colts jumped out to a 6-1 lead over the Hawks but the Hawks battled back during the second quarter and took a one-point lead at halftime.

The teams returned to the court and at the end of the third quarter the Colts had regained a 20-18 lead. The final quarter was a battle to the finish but the Hawks outscored the Colts 9-4 to take the win.

Hutchings was the leading scorer for the Hawks with nine points. Kraemer added six points and Wilson and Dalbey each had four points. Reed and Lewsader finished the game with two points

each.

Colts' player, Mills, had 10 points for the afternoon. Wright had a couple of buckets and Jones had three points. Eden, Camp, and Sweet had two points each and Yantis added a single free throw.

EAGLES 22, LIONS 11

The Eagles took a 4-2 lead over the Lions in the first quarter before increasing its lead to 14-4 at halftime. The Eagles took an 18-9 lead before capping the contest with a 22-11 victory.

Barrett led the Eagles with six points. Logan Gerberding and Sallee each had four points. Throneburg, Henderson, Landon Gerberding, and Sivertson each had two points.

Quinn was the hot scorer for the Lions with nine points and Hallorn added a bucket

PANTHERS 24, CARDS 15

After the first quarter the Cards held a 4-2 lead. The Cards were unsuccessful with scoring attempts during the second quarter while the Panthers scored nine points to take an 11-4 lead at halftime.

The third quarter was a hot one for the Panthers as they added 11 points to the books and the Cards were only able to answer back with four points. The Cards scored seven points in the fourth quarter while limiting the Panthers to two points, still falling short in a 24-15 final score.

Rogers led the Panthers with six points. C. Delashmit and Dunn each contributed five points to the game. Miller, Brown, Melton, Stuck, and Mason all had two points.

Crippes was on fire with his 10 points for the Cards. Eastham helped out with three points and Wilson with two points.

MAYO BOYS TAKE THIRD IN LEIC TOURNEYS



Special to The Prairie Press

The Mayo Redbird seventh grade boys basketball team took third place in the recently complete Little Eastern Illinois Conference (LEIC) Tourney at Martinsville High School, defeating Lawrenceville 40-21. Team members are kneeling, from left, Carson Kollman, Garret Rigdon, Drake Thompson, Jackson Rigdon, Parker Sanders and Eli Brinkerhoff. Second row, from left, Coach Rod Rodrick, Karic Mason, Ty King, Drew Rogers, Landen Nugent, Gabe Roush, Coach Jeff Moody, Rickie White, Coach Josh Rogdon and Brayden Rogers.



Special to The Prairie Press

The Mayo Redbird eighth grade boys basketball team also took third in the LEIC Tourney at Martinsville this week, defeating Lawrenceville 43-39. The eighth graders fell in the semi-final in overtime to Robinson 42-36 after defeating Marshall in the opening round of the tourney. First row, from left, are Jackson Rigdon, Parker Underwood, Will Moody, Ty King and Landen Nugent. Second row, from left, are Coach Rod Roderick, Payton Lankster, Coach Jef Moody, Brody Sanders, Calvin Rigon, Drew Rogers, Christian Miller, Ethan Curl, Ethan Hess, Coach Gary Rogers and Coach Josh Rigdon.

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Some foods are ugly

Louis Pasteur deserves, in my opinion, the title of the greatest Frenchman in history.



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

Forget France's royalty, explorers, generals or religious leaders. Pasteur was a microbiologist. His work and discoveries contributed to lifesaving vaccines and the process called pasteurization that makes milk and certain foods safer to drink. Millions and millions of people owe thanks to this researcher who dedicated his life to killing harmful germs.

Few people pay detailed attention to milk cartons in the supermarket. The printed labels not only identify brand names like Meadow Gold (formerly bottled here in Paris) or Prairie Farms, but they also denote the contents as not just milk, but pasteurized milk.

Some people prefer unpasteurized - known as raw milk, meaning directly from cow to kitchen. They claim it has better flavor. That's a matter of opinion, I guess. That's what my dad always said, anyway.

He even drank raw milk with garlic flavor caused when cows munched wild onions with grass. The other family members flatly refused.

Pasteurized milk lasts longer before turning sour. It has a lower bacteria count, which means a lesser likelihood of carrying disease-causing germs.

I learned about the benefits of drinking pasteurized milk in the second grade health textbook. My parents milked Holstein cows. A Prairie Farms truck picked up the milk every morning about 4 a.m., taking it to the creamery in Olney. Of course, my parents held some back to place in our kitchen. Thus we drank raw milk.

Applying my school learning, I raised objections to raw milk, instead advising my parents to purchase it in store-bought cartons. They didn't buy my argument, but my mother, in

See CODGER, Page 9B

FINAL DESTINATION IS ALSO A TOURISM DESTINATION



Tom Patchett/The Prairie Press

The ornate La Recoleta Cemetery at Buenos Aires, Argentina, is the final resting place of many prominent citizens of the nation.

More cruising adventures

A 60 percent Christmas is much easier to put away than a 100 percent Christmas. The decorations are put away, and it did not take nearly as long this year.

My son was thrilled when I said we were having a 60 percent Christmas as he thinks Christmas should be simple. In fact, the only thing he wanted for Christmas was for me to get voicemail on my phone. I did that, and he was happy.

My 60 percent Christmas was a result of the wonderful 25-day trip we took beforehand, which included our 22-day Viking cruise. Because we returned home so late I had no time to put up all the decorations I would normally do, shop and do some special baking so I just put up a few very special ones.

In late December, I wrote about the La Sagrada Familia church in Barcelona, which had such an impact on me. Though not nearly as important as the spiritual experience of the church, the rest of the trip also impacted me and I hope to share a few more thoughts. Travel, especially to a new place, always opens one's mind to new knowledge.

When we reached Casablanca, Mo-

rocco, on the fifth day of our cruise we went into port for an important mission. Our daughter-in-law requested a lamp and even sent pictures of what she desired. Shopping at the huge bazaar in Casablanca turned out to be an interesting experience.

Tom had a picture on his iPad and showed it to the owner of the first lamp shop we went to, but the lamp we wanted was not available. We wandered on looking for other lamp shops and after a minute or two noticed a man following us.

He said, "I will find you a lamp." We tried to say no, but could not get him to leave.

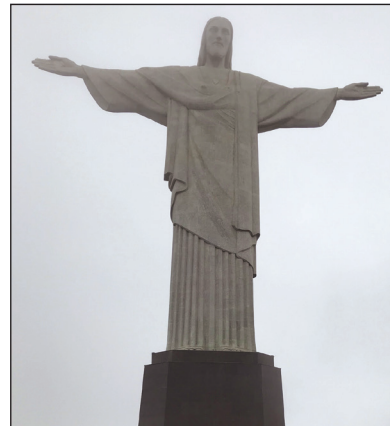
Perhaps it was a good thing as this bazaar was like going through a corn maze. Twists and turns everywhere, it would have been easy to get lost. Eventually, he led us out of the bazaar, and we went to a shop in the plaza close to our bus pickup. The man still did not leave.

We knew he expected a gratuity for his help and as we only had a credit card with us, we made a deal with the lamp shop owner to give the man a gratuity, when we finally found the lamp we wanted. The lesson learned is to always have American dollars for tips, even if that is not the currency of the country. Everyone takes American dollars.

After leaving Casablanca, we spent three days at sea before another stop in



RUTH PATCHETT
LIVING IN EDGAR COUNTY



Ruth Patchett/The Prairie Press

The 98-foot tall Christ the Redeemer statue atop Mount Corcovado dominates the sky at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Travelers cannot control the weather and a foggy, misty day takes away from how impressive the statue is.

Africa. I only heard one person say the cruise had too many days at sea. There were 12 sea days, and I loved each one. The main reason was each day at sea, we took lessons on playing mahjong. I played a computer game of mahjong years ago and bought the actual tile game but had never taken it out of the box and could not remember if we gave the game away to a garage sale.

Two ladies from Florida, Karen and

See PATCHETT, Page 9B

Don't play politics with your portfolio

You're probably aware this is an election year. During the next several months, the candidates will discuss issues that should greatly interest you as a citizen.

But as an investor, how concerned should you be with the results of the presidential and congressional elections?

Maybe not as much as you might think. At different times, the financial markets have performed well and poorly under different administrations and when different parties have controlled Congress. And after all the votes are counted, outcomes in the investment markets can be unpredictable. Consequently, you'll be helping yourself greatly by not making big moves in your portfolio in anticipation of new legislation or political moves down the line.

Of course, that's not to say that nothing emerging from Washington could ever have an impact on your investment decisions. For example, if a future president and Congress decide to change the capital gains tax rate, it could affect some of your choices, such as which stocks and stock-based mutual funds you should buy, and how long you should hold them.

Overall, though, your investment results will ultimately depend on actions you can take, including these:

■ Making changes for the right reasons - While the results of an election may not be a good reason to make changes in your investment portfolio, other factors can certainly lead you to take steps in this direction. For one thing, as you get closer to retirement, you may want to shift some - though certainly not all - of your investment dollars from more growth-oriented vehicles to more conservative ones. Conversely, if you decide, well in advance, that you might want to retire earlier

See LORENZEN, Page 2B

Groundbreaking scientific discoveries came in threes

Since early fall there have been three discoveries clarifying the formation of the universe.

The oldest rocks ever found on Earth were dated to 7 billion years ago although the Earth itself is only 4.5 billion years old, the dominant winter star Betelgeuse may be getting ready to explode and finally, a pair of galaxies were found which date to just a few hundred thousand years after the Big Bang.

In September 1969, a large meteorite struck Murchison, Australia. The huge fireball exploded and scattered rock fragments across the town that were collected and continue to be studied. The main rock was 4.6 billion years old, which dates to the formation of the sun, Earth and planets.

The shock just published was what was also embedded in the rock. Continued analysis of the grains revealed some of the dust in the rock is pre-solar. It's not from the formation of our solar system but from a system before ours. This is 7 billion-year-old stardust, which is half as old as the universe itself. The date was calculated by chemical composition that changes over eons.

Jennika Greer, a graduate

student at the Field Museum and University of Chicago, explained cosmic rays interact with matter and form new elements. By measuring the changes science can determine how long the dust was floating through space.

Stellar matter exists in generations and as one generation of stars dies they scatter their materials, which are then left floating as great gas clouds. Gravity eventually collects up the matter to form new stars when the gas and dust collapse. The new star burns until the fuel is expended then it flares up, scattering some of their ingredients into space.

Over time, the stardust particles condense to form new stars and planets. These particular grains in the Murchison rock are from stellar explosions even before the one leading to our system. It was from multiple explosions because the composition shows they're not all from the same source.

Our sun is a third-generation star. We know that because of the presence of the element barium. First-generation stars are blue giants consisting of only hydrogen and helium gas. During their lifetime the nuclear fusion

reaction creates heavier carbon and in their final death throes as a super nova the elements iron and nickel are formed. There is no barium.

The scattered material from a first-generation star next collects into a red giant. They

are huge and consist of some heavier elements. Barium is only made via the s-process, which involves the slow capture of neutrons onto the nuclei of iron-peak elements. Our own sun will not reach the s-process stage for another 5 billion years. All the barium in our solar system came from a second-generation star that eventually exploded scattering the elements to later become our third-generation G2-yellow dwarf star.

Speaking of red giant stars, the great Betelgeuse has been making headlines since October. Orion is the pre-eminent winter constellation and its brightest star group is the brilliant red Betelgeuse at Orion's top left corner. Betelgeuse is a second-generation red giant

with 25 times the mass of our sun. The size of Betelgeuse staggers human comprehension. The red giant's diameter of 600 million miles is larger than the orbit of Mars. This massive size is due to the powerful nuclear reaction swelling it out. The larger size causes a cooler surface with a red color. As a super massive giant it is putting out 100,000 times more light than our sun.

As a yellow dwarf, our sun will smolder for another 5 billion years, but Betelgeuse is roaring through its fuel. It is only 10 million years old but already near the end of its life. Betelgeuse did not exist when the dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago. Our early Homo erectus ancestors were already walking the Earth when Betelgeuse formed.

In 10 million years, it has consumed its fuel and the core is about to collapse leading to a super nova explosion expected in the next 100,000 years, maybe sooner.

Since October Betelgeuse has dimmed from being the 10th brightest star in the sky down all the way to 21st. Even the casual night observer will notice how much dimmer it has become.

Betelgeuse varies up and down in brightness but in

recorded history has never changed this much or this rapidly. It may still be a few thousand years until the explosion but astronomers are scrambling to collect data in case there is a chance it will explode in the next hundred.

The last supernova seen by humans was on July 4, 1054. For a month, the light was so brilliant it was seen during the day, and it left the Crab Nebula cloud. That explosion was 6,500 light years away. Betelgeuse is only 640 light years away so when it goes supernova it will be brighter than a full moon for several weeks.

The third discovery from the fall is Mambo-9. Light from the galaxy known as MAMBO-9 traveled for 13 billion years to reach us, making it the most distant star-forming galaxy ever discovered. It is a pair of newly discovered galaxies named after the Cuban Mambo No. 5 as a nod to the observatory that made the discovery. It was the new super telescope in Chili and the first time light from that distance was collected. This light originated only 970 million years after the big bang.

For hundreds of millions of years after the Big Bang,

the entire universe was a thick soup of hydrogen atoms swimming in total blackness. So dense was this cosmic goulash, light from the first stars couldn't penetrate it. The universe was in a cosmic dark age as stars, galaxies and black holes slowly smoldered to life but their light emissions were cloaked.

That all changed at 500 million years, when the epoch of reionization began. As ancient galaxies grew ever larger and radiated more powerful energy, they began to burn away the cosmic fog. Suddenly, light could travel across the cosmos like flipping a light switch. Mambo-9 is one of the first star collections to cut through the fog and light up the universe.

The formation and evolution of the universe will continue to be debated but this fall three new discoveries have helped illuminate where we came from and where we're headed.

(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)

TOPS #IL 2318 meets

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Verna Smith delivered a program about helpful tips. TOPS #IL 2318 met Tuesday, Jan. 14, with 16 members weighing in and 15 members attending the meeting. Club members recognized were: Pam Waller, TOPS weekly loser; Sharon Phillips, top walker; and Janice Stevens, top exerciser.

Verna Smith delivered a program about helpful tips. TOPS #IL 2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-in is 5:45-6:50 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. More information is available by calling 217-808-0078 or 217-822-0953.

MILESTONES

Gerkowicz and Bauermesiter celebrate marriage

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Stephen and Deborah Bauermeister, of Paris, announce the recent marriage of the son Adam Bauermeister to Sabrina Gerkowicz at Lake Como, Italy.

The bride is a native Floridian and the daughter of Jack Gerkowicz and Carmen Muniz-Figueroa. She is a board certified OB/GYN with fellowship training in reproductive endocrinology and infertility.

The groom was raised in Paris and is a 2003 Paris High School graduate. He pursued

his interests in science at the University of Illinois with a triple major in molecular and cellular biology, chemistry and psychology, followed by a doctorate of medicine. He went on to complete residency in surgery at the Cleveland Clinic and fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery at the University of Tennessee. He is board certified and will be starting a practice in south Florida this summer.

The couple met nearly 12 years ago in medical school. They have volunteered internationally in healthcare missions and have a passion for



travel. This passion led to their recent engagement in Phuket, Thailand, and marriage in Lake Como, Italy. They look forward

to many more experiences abroad both volunteering in medical clinics and traveling with family and friends.

SHARE YOUR MILESTONE: Submit news of your anniversary, engagement, wedding or birth for free: email nzeman@prairiepress.net or mail The Prairie Press, 101 N. Central, Paris, Ill., 61944.

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Kansas schools announce second quarter honor roll

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

KANSAS – The Kansas Community Unit School District #3 has released the second quarter honor roll.

Kindergarten: Gwynn Boedecker, Shooting Star award; Konnor Bruce, Shooting Star Award; Brantley Buckler, perfect attendance, Bug Award; Ivory Fairchild, Shooting Star Award, citizenship; Tyler Hall, citizenship; Oliver Hammond, Shooting Star Award; Erica Inman, perfect attendance; Jett Miller, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award, Bug Award; and Sera Standish, Shooting Star Award, Bug Award.

First grade: Danica Abernathy, Awesome A Award; Rylan Brant, Awesome A Award; Allyson Clore, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award; Corbin Hilderbrant, Awesome A Award, Lexia; Lacey McIntyre, citizenship, Awesome A Award; Curtis Shannon, Awesome A Award; Corbin Slaymaker, Awesome A Award; Deacon Sutton, Awesome A Award; and Cooper Wright, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award, Lexia.

Second grade: Ryder Adams, Awesome A Award; Xavier Batson, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award; Harper

Boedecker, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award; Jaxson Creech, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award; Jason Gano, citizenship, Shooting Star Award; Jenna Gough, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award; Nathan Gough, Shooting Star Award; Kennedee Guyer, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award; Kruz Lee, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award; Kyson McClarey, Awesome A Award; Katelynn Norton, Shooting Star Award; Ella Satley, Awesome A Award; Henry Tate, Awesome A Award; Dylan Vice, Shooting Star Award; and Denim Wheeler, perfect attendance, citizenship.

Third grade: Maddox Adams, Shooting Star Award; Chennel Campbell, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award; Abdisa Eskew, Awesome A Award; Axel Hammond, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award; Ariel Huang, Awesome A Award; Maci Hutchcraft, perfect attendance, Bug Award; Brian Inman, perfect attendance; Jaxson Jones, perfect attendance; Edith Judd, Shooting Star Award; Carter Rhoads, citizenship, Awesome A Award; Aubree Shannon, perfect attendance, Shooting Star Award; and Gavin Standish, Shooting Star Award.

Fourth grade: Izaiah Batson, honor roll, citizenship; Alexis Conley, Awesome A Award, honor roll; Marie Ehlers, perfect attendance, Awesome A Award, honor roll; Aubrey Hannah, Awesome A Award, honor roll; Hugar Morrissey, Awesome A Award, honor roll; Maloree Morris, honor roll; Kaden Price, perfect attendance, honor roll; Anthony Smith, Awesome A Award, honor roll; Jlynn Westfall, perfect attendance, honor roll; Grace Wright, perfect attendance, honor roll.

Fifth grade: Wes Baker, perfect attendance, honor roll, Awesome A Award, Principal's Award; Karter Brown, honor roll; Brookelyn Gough, perfect attendance, honor roll, Awesome A Award, Principal's Award; Addison Heltsley, honor roll; Lincoln Judd, honor roll, Awesome A Award, Principal's Award; Shelby Johnson, perfect attendance; Natalie Knoll, perfect attendance, honor roll, Principal's Award; Landen Paugh, perfect attendance, honor roll, Awesome A Award; Ben Schrock, honor roll, Awesome A Award; and Alissa Vice, Principal's Award.

Sixth grade: Gage Hammond, perfect attendance; Lainey Ehlers, perfect atten-

dance, Awesome A Award, honor roll, Principal's Award; Gage Hammond, honor roll; Cooper Johnson Kingery, honor roll; Dustin Lowry, honor roll; Laila Rankin, citizenship, Awesome A Award, honor roll; and Noah Sill, honor roll.

Seventh grade: high honors, none; honor roll, Rick Brandenburg, Nate Eskew, Conner Johnson, Madilynn Rideout and Taylor Salvato.

Eighth grade: high honors, Katey Ehlers and Ella Noel; honors, Kaitlyn Brandenburg, Emily Drummond, Wyatt Gilbert and Ryellie Roberts.

Ninth grade: high honors, Brooke Baker and Jackson Ehlers; honors, Damon Cline, J T Clore, Carter Phillips, Collin Rhoads and McKinsey Tate.

Tenth grade: high honors, none; honors, Bryce Farr, Dalton Ludington, Aaron McMichael, Meredith Morrissey and Caydance Sill.

Eleventh grade: high honors, Caleb Davidson, Melia Eskew and Aydonne Sutton; honors, Grace Bartels, Dameon Bolton and Zoie Parker.

Twelfth grade: high honors, Ann Brown, Natalee Gough, Grace Harmon, Nick Mitchell and Cailynne Phillips; honors, Dalton Eslinger, Camden Harmon, Filippo Bosio and Klara Zajickova.

Thank You

The Edgar County Salvation Army Board of Directors would like to thank all of the churches, businesses, schools, organizations and family volunteers who made 2019's Red Kettle season a success! We are so grateful for everyone's time and generosity. Last year's donations were a huge success due to all the efforts of the volunteers.

Thanks you and God Bless Edgar County Salvation Army



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LORENZEN

FROM PAGE 1B

than you originally thought, you may need to invest more aggressively, being aware of the increased risk involved.

■Following a long-term strategy – In pretty much all walks of life, there are no shortcuts to success – and the

same is true with investing. You need to follow a long-term strategy based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon, and you need the patience and perseverance to keep investing in all markets – up, down and sideways.

■Avoiding mistakes – Many people think of an investment mistake as failing to

get in on the ground floor of some company that ultimately grew to huge proportions. But it's pretty hard to become an early investor in companies like these, many of which start out as privately held businesses without any stockholders. Furthermore, companies with shorter track records can be much more unpredictable investments. However, you do want to avoid some real mistakes, such as chasing hot stocks. By the time you hear about them, they may already be cooling off, and they might not even be appropriate for your needs. Another mistake: failing to diversify

your portfolio. If you only own one type of asset, such as growth stocks, you could take a big hit during a market downturn. Spreading your dollars over a wide range of investments can help lower your risk exposure. (However, diversification by itself can't guarantee a profit or protect against all losses.)

After Election Day, regardless of the outcome, you can help keep your portfolio on track by not playing politics with it.

(Derrick Lorenzen is an Edward Jones financial advisor in Paris. Contact him at 217-463-4774.)

Blood drive at Chrisman

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHRISMAN – The Chrisman High School FFA is sponsoring a blood drive 1-6 p.m. Feb. 5 in the junior high school gym at the high school.

The FFA has set a goal of collecting 45 units and needs community participation to make that happen.

Donors must weigh at least 110 pounds. Donors as young as 16 will be accepted, but 16

year olds must have a signed parent consent form. Identification is also required.

It is recommended all donors eat a meal within four hours of the donation and drink extra water the day before and the day of the donation.

Appointments may be made in the school office, at www.bloodcenterimpact.org but walk-ins are also welcome.

Chittick makes Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

EVANSVILLE, Ind. — Braden Chittick of Paris earned dean's list honors at the University of Evansville Fall 2019 Dean's List. Chittick is a junior majoring in creative writing.

Chittick was among more than 750 students named to the Fall 2019 Dean's List.

To merit the honor of being placed on the Dean's List each semester, a student must have

carried a full academic load of 12 hours or more, excluding pass/fail courses, and have earned a grade point average of 3.5 or above.

UE is the first in Indiana to be designated as an Ashoka U Changemaker Campus, and its changemaking culture empowers students to improve the world around them as UE Changemakers. With more than 80 majors in the arts and sciences and pre-professional programs, UE's diverse student body represents 44 states and 52 countries. U.S. News & World Report recognizes UE as the number six Best College in the Midwest among private schools. For more information, please visit www.evansville.edu.



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Presidents, Congress have long clashed over war powers

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

The United States Constitution is clear about which branch of government has the power to declare war. In Article I, Section 8, the Constitution states, "Congress shall have the power... To declare war..." But that simple statement has left room for interpretation, and centuries of American presidents have claimed the right to launch military attacks without congressional approval.

"The history of war powers has been a history of disputes between branches about what the meaning of war is, what the meaning of Congress's authority over war is and what kinds of actions do and don't count as war," says Mariah Zeisberg, associate professor of law and politics at the University of Michigan, and author of "War Powers: The Politics of Constitutional Authority."

When the Constitution was being written and debated, the framers clearly wanted to break from the British political tradition of investing all war powers in the executive (the king), but they also knew that legislatures could be dangerously slow to respond to immediate military threats. So instead of granting Congress the power to make war, as was first proposed, founders like James Madison changed the language to declare war.

Madison was no fan of executive overreach — "the Executive is the branch of power most interested in war and most prone to it," he wrote to Thomas Jefferson — but that change of wording in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution implied the president, as commander in chief (Article II, Section 2), retained certain powers to make war, if not declare it himself.

In the early days of the United States, the understanding was the president could order the military to defend the country against an attack, but any sustained military action required congressional approval.

That constitutional compact didn't take long to break down.

In 1846, President James Polk ordered the U.S. army to occupy territory in the newly annexed state of Texas. Congress recognized Polk's move as a de facto declaration of war with Mexico, which claimed the territory as its own and vowed to defend it against an American invasion.

Congress ultimately granted Polk an official declaration of war, but the House of Representatives later censured the president for a conflict it declared was, "unnecessarily and unconstitutionally begun by the President of the United States."

Even President Abraham Lincoln, a passionate defender of congressional war powers when he served in the House of Representatives, took liberties

See **POWERS**, Page 4B

Illinois passed the 19th first

State ratified 19th amendment in 1919, but had given women the right to vote in 1913

BY TOM EMERY
ilcivilwar@yahoo.com

While the Declaration of Independence stated, "all men are created equal," women were excluded from many privileges, including the right to vote. Illinois was one of the most active states in the fight to change that.

The Land of Lincoln was the first to ratify the 19th Amendment, becoming the first state to vote on the measure June 10, 1919. The ratification was actually an extension of state law, for in 1913, Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi River to allow women the right to vote for president.

That was reflective of Illinois' progressive stance on so-

cial issues of the era. In 1865, the state was the first to ratify the 13th Amendment, banning the institution of slavery.

As elsewhere, voting rights for women had been a long, hard fight in Illinois. The first female suffrage organization in the state was created in 1855 in the tiny town of Earlville, 75 miles west of Chicago, by Susan Hoxie Richardson, a cousin of Susan B. Anthony. A larger group, the Illinois Woman Suffrage Association, was founded in 1869 with Mary Livermore, who had been a foremost advocate for aid for Civil War soldiers, as president.

Various women's rights were fought for, and some were won, through the end of the 19th

century. At the forefront, both statewide and nationally, was the Women's Christian Temperance Union and its indomitable leader, Frances Willard of Evanston, who believed a woman's right to vote was, "a means of protection of their homes from the devastation caused by legalized traffic in strong drink." She also stressed that, "politics is the place for woman."

Willard, a prolific writer and public speaker with unstoppable energy, devoted her life to temperance and women's rights. On June 19, 1891, the women of Illinois were given limited voting privileges — the right to participate in local school elections.

Though Willard died in 1898, others were taking up the fight, including groups like the Chicago Political Equality League, whose leaders included Grace Wilbur Trout and the incomparable Jane Addams, the force behind Hull House.

Still, there was plenty of opposition, including some women themselves. In 1897, the Illinois Association Opposed to the Extension of Suffrage to Women was founded by a Chicago housewife who argued voting would cause bickering and rivalry between men and women, whose place, they said, was in the home.

Their literature included a booklet in 1909, "Why the Home Makers Do Not Want

the Vote." Tensions also existed even within the pro-suffrage organizations, which were often at odds over leadership style.

Not surprisingly, a number of men also voiced their concerns. One wrote his state senator that every socialist, anarchist and Bolshevik supported women's right to vote. Any push for women's rights was an uphill battle in the male-dominated legislature, as Illinois did not elect a woman to the General Assembly until 1922.

Though women had made a few strides, there was still plenty of work to do. By 1912, Trout realized the old methods of lobbying the legislature

See **WOMEN**, Page 4B

FATE OF EXPLORERS, SHIPS A GRIPPING MYSTERY



Special to The Prairie Press

One of the best-known paintings of the doomed Franklin expedition. Full title: "They forged the last link with their lives: HMS 'Erebus' and 'Terror', 1849-1850."

Seeking a doomed expedition

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

On May 19, 1845, the HMS Erebus with its sister ship HMS Terror sailed out of the River Thames, carrying 128 officers and men under the command of Sir John Franklin. Their mission: to locate and transit the fabled Northwest Passage, the long-sought pathway from Atlantic to Pacific through Canada's ice-strewn Arctic inlets.

It was a quest that had consumed some of Europe's most accomplished mariners for almost four centuries, a generations-spanning obsession that chipped away at European understanding of North America's high latitudes, sometimes at great cost to both vessels and lives.

With ice-strengthened vessels that had already proven their worth in the Antarctic, the Franklin Expedition was the best-equipped assault on the Passage ever launched. A little over two months after setting sail, the Erebus and Terror were spotted in Baffin Bay, just east of the Passage's entrance; and then, they disappeared. None of the crew was ever seen by Europeans again.

What happened? Rescue expeditions turned up tantalizing clues: A trio of graves at one site. A note at another site, dated April 1848 indicating Franklin and 23 others were dead, the ships had been trapped in the ice for 18 months, and the survivors were abandoning ship and striking out across land.

Other clues trickled in: An abandoned sled, with two skeletons and numerous personal effects. Letters from one of the men, some written phonetically and some backward and few fully deciphered. Stories from local Inuit of white men who had slowly perished; of ships that had been caught in, and then



Special to The Prairie Press

Although the original markers at the Beechey Island graves of the Franklin expedition were replaced by replicas with bronze plaques a few years ago, they still sit atop the original grave mounds, which were reconstructed precisely, stone by stone, following the exhumation and re-burial of the sailors' bodies in the 1980s.

disappeared beneath, the ice.

For 170 years, such snippets were all that existed until September 2014 when a search team found the wreck of Erebus, sitting in just 11 meters (36 feet) of water. Two years later, another team found the almost-pristine wreck of Terror, in deeper water to its companion's northwest. And three years after that, the wreck sites' first-ever visitors, passengers from the Adventure Canada-chartered ship Ocean Endeavour, watched as archeologists probed the Erebus for secrets.

The immediate and ongoing hope

was the discovery of the wrecks would fill in the missing pieces and shine a light on what happened to the Franklin Expedition. But at first, it only deepened the mystery — the wrecks were in the wrong place.

While it may seem surprising the ships should be found so far from where they were deserted, the Erebus wreck site is exactly where Inuit oral traditions have long said one of the ships sank. Initially, British officials gave short shrift to Inuit testimonies, repulsed by since-confirmed assertions

See **EXPEDITION**, Page 4B

Those good old days of 4-H

I first got a whiff of 4-H when I was almost 10 years old and lived in a farmhouse near Pine Grove School. In the winter of that year, a bunch of farmers got together because Edgar County was starting to learn the significance of farm youth getting together on an organized basis.



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

It was mostly directed at boys learning about improved ways of raising livestock and grain farming. Another division was for girls learning about making clothes, cooking and raising a family. At the beginning, there were girls in ag clubs too because they helped with livestock, putting up hay and gardening and some of them could drive a tractor or herd a truck down the road as good as boys. I don't know that any boys were invited to the home economic meetings, however.

The next thing I knew I was a member of the Pine Grove Ag Club, and I was learning how to make the best, better. My family was involved in almost all the activities in 4-H because my dad was the leader along with, Don Barkley, Vern English and Walter Kimble.

It was so important to the farming community that there were activities for each month of the year centered around 4-H. Our club had at least one meeting a month and special meetings for a 4-H club tour where each member showed on their own farm what their project was.

On one occasion, we got to witness how to break a steer to lead. I believe a tractor was involved, a stout rope lead and a few extra words.

We had hayrides in the fall, and we went to a 4-H rally that was held in the Girls Gym at PHS. We did dancing and singing for recreation with that big

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B



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WOMEN
FROM PAGE 3B

were not effective, and began to stress local organization and a grassroots approach. Now with women's groups in most senatorial districts, Trout attempted to line up legislators for support, one at a time.

In the 1913 General Assembly, a bill for women's suffrage was introduced once again, and the Speaker of the House, Chicago Democrat William McKinley, sent the bill to a favorable committee. McKinley, however, informed Trout he would bring the bill for a final vote only if he was convinced there was statewide support.

Trout seized the opportunity and lined up her followers for the challenge. When McKinley returned to Chicago for the weekend, he received a phone call from a supporter

every 15 minutes, round the clock. Back in Springfield, he was greeted with a mountain of telegrams and letters, supporting women's suffrage.

The bill passed the Senate and was up for vote in the House on June 11, 1913. Among other actions, Trout personally guarded the door to the House chambers, urging supportive members not to leave before a vote was taken, while preventing dissenting lobbyists from appearing on the floor. The bill passed 83-58, six votes more than needed, and was signed into law by Gov. Edward Dunne on June 26.

Under the bill, women could vote for president and for all local offices not mentioned in the state constitution. But they still were banned from voting for state legislators, congressmen, or governors and had to

use separate ballots and ballot boxes. Still, Illinois was the first state east of the Mississippi to grant women's voting rights for president, which proved a watershed moment in the national suffrage movement.

Based on the precedent of the previous few years, it came as no surprise that Illinois so quickly ratified the 19th Amendment. In a sweeping vote on June 10, 1919, the measure passed 46-0 in the Senate and 135-3 in the House.

Days later, the state legislature realized they had approved the incorrect language, rendering its June 10 ratification invalid. As a result, another vote was required on June 17.

Due to the mistake, Illinois officially became the seventh state to ratify the amendment. Wisconsin and Michigan both voted in favor later on June 10,

and as a result, the Badger State claims to be the first to actually pass the measure. But clearly, Illinois was the first to hold a vote.

One direct effect of the 19th Amendment was an immediate increase in women running for office. The first female lawmaker in the Land of Lincoln was Republican Lotie Holman O'Neil, who was elected to the Illinois House in 1922, beginning a nearly uninterrupted 40-year career in Springfield. Two years later, another Republican, Florence Fifer Bohrer, became the first woman to win election to the Illinois senate.

Also in 1922, Winifred Mission Huck became the first woman from Illinois to serve in Congress, filling an unexpired term. Nationwide, she was the third female member in Congressional history.

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STANLEY
FROM PAGE 3B

group, which was kind of like a magnet for new members to join and old ones to renew acquaintances. We had a lot of fun, and we actually learned something in the process.

Summer times were special to me because of two things: softball and the livestock show at the fair. There were a lot of competitive boys teams out there with names like Grandview Pioneers, Ft. Sumpter Ag, North Arm Huslers, Scott's Victory, Dudley Ag, Oliver Ag, Success Ag, Bell Ridge Ag and almost all little communities or schools had official teams.

As time went on we even had a tournament at the end of the year. That involved a lot of people including the parents who got us to the games and many of the men acted as umpires or coaches. Nothing fancy, not many real playing fields because we played

several times in the corners of pastures.

It was a little tricky staying out of the cow piles and picking out which dry cow pile was second base. Many of the ball players didn't have a lot of talent, but we got enough kids together from 10 to 17 to have a game, and we tried real hard.

I believe we did improve our skills, and we learned not to argue with the umpires because they were our dads. We also learned how to follow basic rules of ball and how to play together as a team without getting hurt or getting in a fight.

One of the things we learned was to congratulate the other team while realizing how hard they were to beat or how inept they were. We did get to know a lot of other boys and dads.

The 4-H Fair was usually held about the middle of July when it was hotter than heck and we always got a rain-

storm during that time. We had to learn to keep animals cool while still getting them spruced up good enough to show. There were few incidents of runaways or people trampled by an animal, because they were fairly well trained and Dad or big brother was right there.

My adventure with a large cow that weighed 10 times more than I did came after a show in which I led old Strawberry Delight out of the ring while I was carrying a grand champion ribbon. Something spooked her. She took off and I could not get her under control, but I didn't let go and she dragged me right through a nice juicy cow pile.

I was a-slippin' and a-sliddin' and I put the hand down I was holding the ribbon with and guess what, I got a nice smear right across that ribbon. I finally got her stopped, and then we calmly walked back to her stall. My brother was not too happy when he

saw me with manure all over my pant leg and the ribbon. He had had showed Snowflake, a small heifer, against the cow I was leading.

He wasn't too impressed the cow won the ribbon that now had a nice greenish streak across it. They were both his animals, and I was just helping him show them.

I finally had to say, "Next time I will just let her go and protect the stupid ribbon." He still took exception to that comment, but he had that two-colored ribbon tied to the trophy for many years.

These are just a few of the adventures of my experience in 4-H, and I am proud that I got that time of growth I needed even though I sure stunk like cow manure a time or two. Maybe that was an enrichment of sorts.

(Roger Stanley is a lifelong resident of Edgar County, an author and retired farmer. Email him at rogerstanley769@yahoo.com)

EXPEDITION
FROM PAGE 3B

that at least some of the desperate Franklin survivors resorted to cannibalism.

In more recent times, how-

ever, the import and accuracy of these testimonies has been increasingly acknowledged. Parks Canada started a Franklin Expedition Inuit Oral History Project in 2018 to gather existing oral histories related to the 1845 Franklin Expedition and the Inuit lands where the wrecks were found.

We may never know exactly

what happened to the crews of Erebus and Terror. The working theory remains they died, one by one, succumbing to scurvy and exposure as they slogged vainly over land in search of safety.

In August 2019, remarkable video of HMS Terror showed a wreck that appeared to be frozen in time: intact cabins,

an array of neatly stowed artifacts, and closed drawers and cabinets.

Perhaps behind those doors or in those drawers lies a crucial clue: a map, a letter, a journal.

For almost 200 years, the fate of the Erebus and Terror has been a mystery; now, finally, maybe the ships themselves will help solve it.



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POWERS
FROM PAGE 3B

when taking his first military actions of the Civil War. While Congress was in recess in 1861, Lincoln issued proclamations to assemble Northern state militias and initiate a blockade of the South.

Lincoln admitted he took these military actions without Congressional approval, later writing, "whether strictly legal or not, [the actions] were ventured upon under what appeared to be a popular demand and a public necessity, trusting then, as now, that Congress would readily ratify them."

While Congress declared war six times (against six different countries) in World War II,

President Harry Truman never asked for congressional authorization to send U.S. troops to Korea. Truman instead authorized the action under a United Nations resolution, claiming the conflict was akin to a police action not a war.

The war powers debate really came to a head during America's involvement in Vietnam. In 1964, Congress authorized President Lyndon Johnson to use force in Southeast Asia in response to a North Vietnamese attack on American ships in the Gulf of Tonkin. The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution wasn't a declaration of war, but that's what was raging in Vietnam by 1973.

By that point, President Richard Nixon was in office, and the leaked Pentagon Pa-

pers revealed Congress had been misled about America's involvement in Southeast Asia. With public sentiment against the War in Vietnam, Congress passed the War Powers Resolution of 1973 to rein in presidential misuses of military power.

But if the War Powers Resolution was intended to, as it states, "fulfill the intent of the framers of the Constitution," and restore the war authority of Congress, it wasn't terribly effective. The main provision of the law is that presidents can only take military action for 60 days before they need to get statutory approval from Congress, but it doesn't stop presidents from acting unilaterally to put U.S. troops on the ground in the first place.



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Teaching your children well

Viral tweet by progressive Christian author sparks debate over passing on a faith and how best to do so

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

It's the sort of advice about parenting and progressive faith Cindy Wang Brandt has been sharing for years through her "Parenting Forward" book, podcast and conferences and popular "Raising Children Unfundamentalist" Facebook group.

What was unusual about the tweet for Brandt was the response it generated: more than 760 retweets, 4,000 likes and a seemingly endless string of comments.

"Do not evangelize a child," Brandt tweeted Wednesday, Jan. 8.

"Do not colonize a child's spirituality. Do not threaten a child with religious control. Your religion does not have a right to stake claim to a child's allegiance."

In response, some Twitter users shared their childhood experiences of having night-

mares about the Second Coming they felt threatened with or being told they were going to burn forever unless saying a prayer.

Others challenged Brandt, pointing to Scriptures encouraging parents to, "train up a child in the way he should go."

Evangelical radio host and author Eric Metaxas quoted the tweet, adding, "Would it be all right w/you if I taught my kid that stealing, murdering, lying, racism and slavery were wrong?"

It's clear Brandt's tweet struck a nerve. Amid the nasty personal attacks Twitter has become known for, it also sparked a conversation among Christians about how parents pass on their faith to their children.

"At first it's like, 'Whoa, this really escalated.' And then it's also, 'Oh, I'm glad that people are engaging with this,'" Brandt told Religion News Service. "I do talk about it all the time, so

I appreciate the opportunity to get conversation going on this very important topic and very nuanced — like how we parent and faith and values. What does that process concretely look like?"

That's the main dilemma modern parents have, according to Christian Smith, a sociology professor at the University of Notre Dame who co-authored the book "Religious Parenting: Transmitting Faith and Values in Contemporary America" with Bridget Ritz and Michael Rotolo.

Parents of all faiths struggle with how much authority they have and how much to direct their children's faith versus letting them choose and figure it out for themselves, Smith said.

Historically, religion has been part of being socialized into a tribe or people or nation, he said. That has changed in the modern era, as religion has become much more individ-

ualized and affirming a set of beliefs, more important.

But even 50 years ago, Smith said, it was presumed a child would adopt the same religion as his or her parents. It's a change in attitude the religion scholar, who is nearing 60, has seen over his own lifetime, he said.

"There isn't like a settled view. What there is are parents wrestling really hard with the tension between two beliefs," he said.

Most parents still want their children to adopt beliefs similar to their own — for family solidarity reasons as much as out of religious conviction, Smith said.

Some believers, such as mainline Protestants, tend to be more open-minded about it than others, like evangelicals and Jews. Some worry if they're too didactic, they'll push their children away from faith, he said.

The most important variable in how they present religion to their children is how they were raised, according to his research.

"Even though parents want to model and teach stuff, they're really afraid of overdoing it — like they don't want to shove it down their throat, so to speak. It's a phrase we continually heard," Smith said. "So in some ways parents treat their kids with kid gloves, like 'I'm not pushing it too hard,' which is interesting because they will push their kids very hard when it comes to homework, school behavior, having the right friends, going to music lessons, going to sports practice."

That resonates with Heather Thompson Day, an associate professor of communication and rhetoric at Colorado Christian University.

If she shares her love of Taylor Swift and Chick-fil-A with her children, she said, why

wouldn't she also share her love of Jesus?

Day responded to Brandt's tweet, saying she agreed with her about not colonizing and threatening children. But she disagreed with the idea one shouldn't evangelize a child.

"Evangelism is simply sharing your personal witness. Why in the world would we not do that with our own children? It's like the assumption is religion is bad. It's not. But there is bad religion," Day tweeted.

Day knows firsthand about bad religion, she continued, remembering how she was kicked out of a Christian school when she was in eighth grade.

"I absolutely know what it's like to feel totally abandoned and rejected by the church," she said. "But the thing is — and I really truly believe this — that often what will heal your church hurt is good church people."

See BRANDT, Page 6B

Mood and attitude convey a message to others

As I sit in my office this morning and look out the window all I see is fog.

It has been a weird winter. Not cold like many Januaries, but wet and nasty. I believe I am experiencing the dreaded

Winter Blahs. It happens to all of us sometimes, especially if you like the outdoors as much as I do.

The problem is when we are walking around all sad or depressed, we don't realize how our mood can affect others. They might even believe that this is the way we always are.

As most things do, this reminds me of a story.

This story was a part of a sermon I heard some years ago when I was attending South Park United Methodist Church in Canton.

The pastor there was a man named Jim Jenkins and he could tell a story.

This one was about two young children, a four-year-old and a six-year-old.

It was Mother's Day and they wanted to give their mother a special present, something that she would really like. They shopped and shopped, and finally the day came to give Mom the first present they had ever gotten her that was paid for with their own money. With smiles on their faces, they presented their mom with a houseplant, and of course she was thrilled.

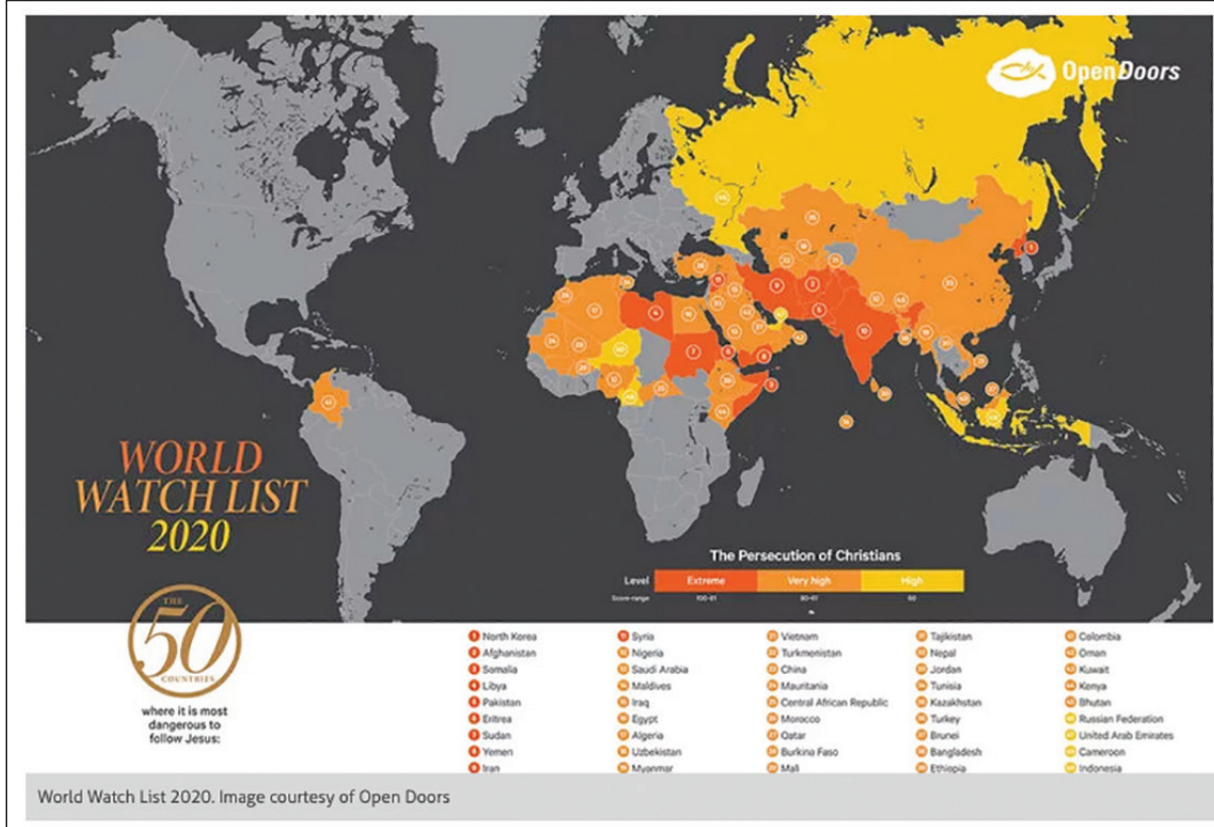
The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet at the flower shop that we wanted to give you. It was real pretty but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect, since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest."

What we say and how we act can make a big difference on others.

When we as Christians walk around with frowns on our faces we give others the impression that we don't have anything to be happy about when nothing could be further from the truth. Oh, the weather outside may be frightful but inside the heart of all who

See PASTOR, Page 6B

As I sit in my office this morning and look out the window all I see is fog. It has been a weird winter. Not cold like many Januaries, but wet and nasty. I believe I am experiencing the dreaded Winter Blahs. It happens to all of us sometimes, especially if you like the outdoors as much as I do. The problem is when we are walking around all sad or depressed, we don't realize how our mood can affect others. They might even believe that this is the way we always are. As most things do, this reminds me of a story. This story was a part of a sermon I heard some years ago when I was attending South Park United Methodist Church in Canton. The pastor there was a man named Jim Jenkins and he could tell a story. This one was about two young children, a four-year-old and a six-year-old. It was Mother's Day and they wanted to give their mother a special present, something that she would really like. They shopped and shopped, and finally the day came to give Mom the first present they had ever gotten her that was paid for with their own money. With smiles on their faces, they presented their mom with a houseplant, and of course she was thrilled. The older of them said with a sad face, "There was a bouquet at the flower shop that we wanted to give you. It was real pretty but it was too expensive. It had a ribbon on it that said, 'Rest In Peace,' and we thought it would be just perfect, since you are always asking for a little peace so that you can rest." What we say and how we act can make a big difference on others. When we as Christians walk around with frowns on our faces we give others the impression that we don't have anything to be happy about when nothing could be further from the truth. Oh, the weather outside may be frightful but inside the heart of all who



Suveillance states a threat to faiths

Open Doors issues warning as North Korea tops persecution watch list again

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Imagine facial recognition technology to get into a house of worship and surveillance cameras inside.

Or a social score system that awards points for good citizenship — and deducts them for sharing one's faith, leading to penalties such as limiting where parents can send their children to school.

It's not the plot of a blockbuster dystopian film or a left behind novel.

It's the dawning reality for people of faith in China as described by David Curry, president and CEO of Open Doors USA.

This year, the Christian watchdog organization is highlighting the rise of the surveillance state and its impact on Christians and Muslims in China along with its 2019 World Watch List, released Wednesday, Jan. 15.

That's because it could have wide implications for the future, Curry said.

"What they're doing is creating a roadmap of persecution. This is a blueprint that they will sell and use in other countries," he said.

The organization's report notes that an estimated 1 million Uighur Muslims have been detained in China.

And while it seems impossible for the country to detain its 90 million Christians, the report said, it could monitor them using developing technology, going digital with religious persecution. Already, there are areas in China installing cameras and facial-recognition technology in state-controlled Three Self Patriotic Movement churches and testing a Social Credit System.

Still, China is not among the top 10 in Open Doors' ranking of the countries where Christians faced the most persecution for their faith in 2019. It's ranked No. 23.

North Korea leads the organization's annual World Watch List for the 18th straight year, "because they, of course, control every element of life and church, and Christians are the number one enemy of the state," Curry said.



Open Doors USA, which monitors religious persecution around the world, has released its 2019 World Watch List and spoken about the intersection of persecution and the surveillance state.

unchanged from last year, with Eritrea and Sudan flip-flopping spots.

Those 10 countries where Open Doors reports Christians are most persecuted include: North Korea, Afghanistan, Somalia, Libya, Pakistan, Eritrea, Sudan, Yemen, Iran and India.

The spread of Islamic extremism, one of the main trends Open Doors noted in the report accompanying its watch list, has held many of those countries in place, according to Curry.

"But that's not to say it's remained static. These are very fluid situations," he said.

Almost all of the 50 countries on the World Watch List are in Asia and Africa except for the Russian Federation, ranked No. 46, and Colombia, ranked No. 41.

Most of the countries in the top 10 have been there since 2015, which, at the time, Open Doors proclaimed to be the, "worst year in modern history for Christian persecution."

The persecution has gotten much worse since then, Curry said.

"It's just wider, more ingrained," he said. "There's not as many people who were killed this year that we can document, so in some ways the ultimate violence is down, but attacks on churches and rapes of Christian women still remain very high."

In the 50 countries on the World Watch List, 260 million Christians were affected by extreme levels of persecution last year, up from 245 million the year before, according to Open Doors.

And time will tell what impact the actions taken by President Trump in Iran and Syria, ranked No. 11, will have on Christians in those countries.

The organization has been hearing from Syrian Christians since October, when Trump withdrew U.S. troops from an area along the Turkish border where many Christians had fled ISIS. At least 40,000 Christians were directly affected when Turkish forces moved into the former safe zone in northeastern Syria, according to the report.

"Turkey has an agenda. They would like to get rid of the Christians in that region," Curry said.

Since a ceasefire was declared in the region, he said, those Christians are more optimistic that maybe there will be some peace.

"They're really torn as to whether they should stay or go, so we'll see how this plays out and if they can truly settle into their home," said Curry.

Curry said he hopes policy makers will take note of the watch list. Human rights violations in countries like China and Saudi Arabia (No. 13) need to be addressed if the United States is going to sign trade deals and have normalized relationships with them, he noted.

He hopes American Christians will pray for the persecuted church around the world.

And he hopes people will wake up to the importance of religious freedom.

St. Mary's Daddy-Daughter Dance

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Altar Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Paris is planning the fourth daddy-daughter dance for the entire community.

Daddy and his daughter(s) can enjoy a fun-filled evening of dancing from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at the parish hall, 528 North Main.

This lively event features dancing to DJ music, finger foods, drinks and a free photo for the girl(s) to treasure. Tickets are available at the door the night of the event and sell for \$20 per couple, plus \$5 for each additional child.

The Paris High School After Prom Committee is sponsoring a Princess for a Day makeover and activities 8 a.m.-noon the day of the dance in the PHS Den. Email hseateonteach@gmail.com for an appointment no later than Jan. 31.

The daddy-daughter dance is a great way for fathers, or the males in young girls' lives, to have some special time together and create treasured memories.

Questions about the event may be directed to St. Mary's Church at 217-466-3355.

United Methodist leaders explain proposal to split up

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The 16 United Methodist bishops and advocacy group leaders who negotiated a recent proposal to split the denomination explained their reasoning at an event held Monday, Jan. 13, that was streamed live by United Methodist News Service.

They also forecast dire consequences if the proposal, officially called "A Protocol of Reconciliation and Grace Through Separation," isn't approved this May by the denomination's global decision-making body.

United Methodist Bishop John Yamasu of Sierra Leone, who first convened

See SPLIT, Page 6B

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BRANDT

FROM PAGE 5B

The professor pointed to her father, a pastor, who answered her questions about the Bible by telling her to read it for herself before having a conversation with her about it. He brought her along to speaking engagements at churches and other religious activities.

That protected her from the negativity she experienced from religion at her school, she said.

"So, for me, my parents were the most fundamentally important part of that process for me, and to take that away, I can't even fathom what my life would've been without,"

Day said.

For the record, Brandt said, she doesn't believe in a moral vacuum, as some on Twitter have accused.

"Obviously, I think we do, no matter what, pass on our faith and our values," she said. "And so I think the question isn't whether or not we do, but how we do it. And I think what's problematic is that a lot of the way that a lot of people of faith do it is using shame and intimidation and fear."

That was her experience.

Brandt grew up attending a school run by Western missionaries in Taiwan, where she lives. There, she said, she was taught the Buddhist and Taoist practices in her culture

were evil and she was going to hell. So were her parents, who were irreligious.

Terrified and feeling responsible for the salvation of her family, she said, she converted at age 12.

She since has deconstructed her faith, she said.

"I often think about why is it that I grew up evangelical, like so many other people, but I have so much angst and so much pain and trauma that I feel like I have to work through when someone else did not have to? I have pinpointed that the reason was because I was not given a choice, that I was converted as a child, and that remains a painful thing for me," she said.

Choosing a religion is a

human right for children, Brandt said. She pointed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, which includes the, "right of the child to freedom of thought, conscience and religion."

That said, children should be included in communities of faith, she added.

Parents can share their values with their children and introduce them to other stories and beliefs and perspectives, giving them space to explore and to see the world is so big, she said. They also can learn from their children when it comes to spirituality.

"I think all I'm asking is for us to be thoughtful about that process," Brandt said.

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MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

SPLIT

FROM PAGE 5B

the group that led to the negotiations last summer, said a failure of the proposal would be catastrophic for the church.

"It would be total disaster," Yambasu said. "It would mean more pain and more harm to the entire church."

The unofficial group, which was joined by veteran mediator Kenneth Feinberg, offered a behind-the-scenes look at how they arrived at the proposal, which was announced earlier this month and is now being written into legislation for delegates to approve at the General Conference in Minneapolis in May.

"We're asking them to do something historic, not just for the United Methodist Church, but frankly something needed in America and in the world right now, which is to watch a group of people in a large, 12 million-person institution cooperate in such a way that we help each other do the things that we desire to do and answer the callings we feel God has laid on our hearts," said the Rev. Tom Berlin, who represented centrists in the group.

United Methodists' conflicts, which have expressed themselves mostly in ques-

tions of the inclusion of its LGBTQ members, go back to 1972, recalled Patricia Miller, executive director of the conservative United Methodist Confessing Movement.

That year the General Conference voted to add language to the denomination's Book of Discipline declaring the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with Christian teaching.

That language was revisited every four years at subsequent General Conferences until 2016, when delegates voted to hold a special session to finally settle the debate. That meeting, held in St. Louis, Mo., in February of last year, voted to strengthen the enforcement of that language banning the ordination and marriage of LGBTQ United Methodists, but many LGBTQ United Methodists and their allies immediately vowed to resist and remain in the denomination.

Now, after nearly five decades of controversy, Miller said, "It's time for us to move to amicable separation."

Despite their victory at the special session, it is the conservative congregations and conferences that would split from the denomination to form a new body under the new proposal. If approved, they would retain ownership of their

church buildings and other properties and receive \$25 million to form a new traditionalist Methodist denomination.

At Monday's event, Yambasu described the special session as a catastrophe and a, "poor witness of who we are as United Methodists."

The bishop returned to Sierra Leone devastated, he said. American United Methodists had presented a galaxy of plans, he said, "but none of these plans to us seem to provide the answer to the situation."

Last summer, still hoping for a solution, he called a meeting of several bishops from outside the United States and leaders from advocacy groups identified as having traditionalist, centrist and progressive views.

To be successful in yet another round of meetings, Reconciling Ministries Network Executive Director Jan Lawrence said, "we felt like we needed something different."

"Our answer to that was to discuss having a professional mediator join us," she said.

With Feinberg on board, they settled on a group of 16 participants who would represent a variety of viewpoints in the denomination. The mediator had acted as Special Master of the U.S. government's

September 11th Victim Compensation Fund and later as the Special Master for TARP Executive Compensation.

"Two of the things that he offered during this process were that our job was to get to yes, and he kept reminding us of that. He also reminded us that we had the opportunity to write the narrative, and that if we didn't write it, someone else would," said Lawrence, who represented progressives.

The group met for negotiations over six two-day sessions, sometimes breaking a deadlock with prayer, according to participants.

Like others within the church, LGBTQ United Methodists and their allies still are processing the proposal, Lawrence said.

Some are hopeful, she said. Some are skeptical. Some view the denomination as beyond reform.

And while the proposal isn't perfect, she said, it does call for a moratorium on church trials against clergy who are LGBTQ or who perform same-sex weddings.

"It changes the landscape for people who have been deeply harmed," said the Rev. David Meredith, who has faced complaints of violating church law since marrying his husband in 2016.


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and lonely. Open the eyes to the heart and see what God has put there. When that happens, the sadness and depression will go away by experiencing the joy God gives to all his children. It might just improve the mood

of all those around.

God Bless.

(The Rev. Joe Tomich is pastor at Paris First United Methodist Church. Email him at pjtomich@yahoo.com. Pastor's Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

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PASTOR

FROM PAGE 5B

believe that Jesus Christ is their personal Savior there is joy and love and peace.

Don't let outside influences cause one to go around sad

and lonely. Open the eyes to the heart and see what God has put there. When that happens, the sadness and depression will go away by experiencing the joy God gives to all his children. It might just improve the mood

of all those around.

God Bless.

(The Rev. Joe Tomich is pastor at Paris First United Methodist Church. Email him at pjtomich@yahoo.com. Pastor's Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

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FEB. 17 USED BOOK SALE
Book lovers of all kinds are invited to check out the Winter Used Book Sale, hosted by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. Times are 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily Feb. 14-17, in Providence Spirituality & Conference Center. Categories include hardbacks, paperbacks, books on spirituality, Bibles, novels, gardening, history, children's books, health and wellness books, crafting and more. Items are not pre-priced, but freewill donations will be accepted. Local author Joni Wolf will be present 1:30-4 p.m. Feb. 16 to sell and sign copies of her book, "The Immanuel Quilt." Linden Leaf Gifts will conduct a clearance sale during the used book sale.

FEB. 22 BAKING SOURDOUGH
Learn various bread-baking basics, tips and tricks for creating and maintaining sourdough bread starters 1-5 p.m. Feb. 22, at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., during the White Violet Center for Eco-Justice (WVC) Baking Sourdough Breads workshop. Samples, instructions and starters to take home are included as part of the workshop. The cost is \$45, and the registration deadline is Feb. 15. Register online at Events.SistersofProvidence.org or by calling 812-535-2932 or emailing wvc@spsmw.org.

FEB. 20 MEMORY CAFE
A Memory Café is 2-4 p.m. Feb. 20 in the Havlik Center of Providence Hall at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. The event is designed to address the isolation and stigma a dementia diagnosis can bring for both the person living with dementia and their care partners. Gathering with others provides support, connectedness and community at a time when it is most needed. There is no cost to attend. Learn more at Events.SistersofProvidence.org or by calling 812-535-2870 or email ecollins@spsmw.org.



Fairness of no-nicotine hiring questioned

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.khn.org

When U-Haul recently announced it will no longer hire people who use nicotine in any form in the 21 states where such hiring policies are legal, the Phoenix-based moving company joined a cadre of companies with nicotine-free hiring policies.

U-Haul's announcement is receiving outside attention because nicotine-free hiring policies are more common at high-profile hospitals such as Cleveland Clinic that are especially protective of their healthy image.

Alaska Airlines has one of the oldest nicotine-free hiring policies, going back to 1985. But at the time, a big part of the stated reasoning was that the industry isn't conducive to taking smoke breaks.

Now, some employers are making the policy change simply citing health concerns or health care costs — even the city of Dayton, Ohio, has joined the movement.

But the policies are rais-

ing concern around labor and medical ethics. Harald Schmidt, a medical ethicist at the University of Pennsylvania, said targeting smokers disproportionately harms poor people.

"To me, this is more about fair equality of opportunity," he said.

Smoking is a behavior, so Schmidt doesn't equate it with discriminating on the basis of race, gender or sexual orientation. But he notes that roughly half of unemployed people smoke. And quitting is hard, because nicotine is highly addictive.

"You're basically posing a double whammy on them," Schmidt said. "It's very hard for them to get work, and it's even harder for people who are already in a vulnerable situation."

Karen Buesing of the law firm Akerman represents employers and works with them on smoking policies. She said employers are looking out for the health of their employees.

Employers do have some

concern about productivity and absenteeism, she said. But it's more about the risks of cancer and heart and lung disease.

"Obviously, there are higher health care costs associated with smokers. And so many companies would much prefer to have a nonsmoking workforce," she said.

The corporate cost per smoker is estimated to be in the thousands of dollars per year, though some experts have questioned the accuracy of the figures.

Buesing said discrimination of any kind is so taboo that employers in many states don't realize they can reject applicants for being smokers. And it's not allowed everywhere: 29 states and the District of Columbia have various laws that safeguard off-duty activity. Many of these laws were passed in recent decades specifically to shield smokers.

"In that context, you now have protections for smokers," Buesing said of the 29 states. "Certainly under federal law,

smokers are not a protected class."

A 2017 Gallup Poll found that more than half of American smokers feel they're discriminated against for their nicotine habit.

"Even when I was doing temporary work, people would be like, 'You're going on break? Are you going to smoke?'" said Carl Carter of Nashville, Tennessee, who is currently on disability benefits and not working. "I should have the right to do what I want to do."

It's not that he doesn't want to quit. He has tried eight times, most recently on New Year's Day. But the habit is hard to beat.

Labor groups have not fought nicotine-free hiring policies, but Edgar Ndjatou, executive director of the advocacy nonprofit Workplace Fairness, calls smoker hiring bans problematic.

"Someone who uses tobacco could potentially have some form of disability," he said, adding that addiction could be protected under the

Americans with Disabilities Act. "I would argue that these types of bans have to be reasoned."

Ndjatou and other critics ask, what's next? Will nicotine-free hiring lead to more policing of worker health?

IT administrator and vaper Scott Bales thinks so.

"I think that it's interesting that they are demonizing one over the other, and I'll specifically use alcohol," he said on a vaping break outside his office in Nashville. "How can you ban one substance without banning the other one?"

The American Civil Liberties Union has come out against nicotine-free hiring, calling it discrimination. The organization is critical of other forms of what it calls lifestyle discrimination.

"Should an employer be able to forbid an employee from going skiing? or riding a bicycle? or sunbathing on a Saturday afternoon?" an ACLU legislative briefing asks. "All of these activities entail a health risk."

But companies rejecting

smokers point out that tobacco is the most preventable cause of cancer and lung disease. And the employers are the ones who will likely have to pay much of the health bills.

Still, attorney Buesing doesn't expect the U-Haul announcement to unleash a flood of similar policies. She said rewarding healthy behavior is still seen as the most palatable approach by many employers.

U-Haul said its policy will not apply to existing workers. The company employs 30,000 people around the country, with 4,000 at its headquarters. U-Haul will screen new hires and require them to consent to future drug testing for nicotine, though it's unclear how that would affect workers who use nicotine gum or patches.

"This policy is a responsible step in fostering a culture of wellness at U-Haul, with the goal of helping our team members on their health journey," chief of staff Jessica Lopez said in a press release.

U-Haul declined an interview request.

CARE wants to make a difference

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Community Addiction Response Education (CARE) coalition wants to continue making inroads against opioid use, and other addictions, in Edgar County but faces the challenge of capturing public attention.

"It's community members trying to make a difference," said Angie Hamilton, noting that while Horizon Health is supportive by providing meeting space at Paris Community Hospital and giving other professional assistance, CARE is not part of the hospital and receives no funding through Horizon Health.

CARE organized in response to overdose deaths and near deaths in the community.

Hamilton said an early success was fundraising to place NARCAN® in every first responder vehicle in the county, which includes fire trucks and police cars. NARCAN® is a nasal spray that can temporarily halt the dangerous conditions of an opioid overdose.

The medicine does not stop an overdose but its use may buy precious time to get the person experiencing an overdose into the emergency room for professional care.

Samantha McCarty, critical care manager at Horizon Health, said lives have been saved since NARCAN® was placed in the emergency vehicles, and the hospital continues to support the program by supplying new vials when one is used and also by exchanging out expired supplies.

"One of the biggest things we've done is bring Al-Anon to the area," said Hamilton. "That's huge"

See **CARE**, Page 8B



Special to The Prairie Press

What lies ahead in the 2020s, as society copes with this unprecedented demographic shift as Baby Boomers reach the age of 65.

What Boomers will see in 2020s

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.khn.org

Within 10 years, all of the nation's 74 million baby boomers will be 65 or older. The most senior among them will be on the cusp of 85.

Even sooner, by 2025, the number of seniors (65 million) is expected to surpass that of children age 13 and under (58 million) for the first time, according to Census Bureau projections.

"In the history of the human species, there's never been a time like [this]," said Richard Hodes, director of the National Institute on Aging, referring to the changing balance between young people and old.

What lies ahead in the 2020s, as society copes with this unprecedented demographic shift?

A dozen experts were asked to identify important trends. Some responses were aspirational, reflecting what they'd like to see happen. Some were sobering, reflecting a harsh reality: Our nation isn't prepared for this vast demographic shift and its far-reaching consequences.

Here's what the experts said:

A CRISIS OF CARE

Never have so many people lived so long, entering the furthest reaches of old age and becoming at risk of illness, frailty, disability, cognitive decline and the need for personal assistance.



Special to The Prairie Press

Changes that Baby Boomers can expect to encounter include an increase in health span and a shifts in social infrastructure.

Even if scientific advances prove extraordinary, "We are going to have to deal with the costs, workforce and service delivery arrangements for large numbers of elders living for at least a year or two with serious disabilities," said Joanne Lynn, a legislative aide on health and aging policy for Rep. Thomas Suozzi (D-N.Y.).

Experts caution we're not ready. "The cost of long-term care [help in the home or care in assisted-living facilities or nursing homes] is unaffordable

for most families," said Jean Accius, senior vice president of thought leadership at AARP. He cited data from the Genworth Cost of Care Study: While the median household income for older adults was just \$43,696 in 2019, the annual median cost for a private room in a nursing home was \$102,204; \$48,612 for assisted living; and \$35,880 for 30 hours of home care a week.

Workforce issues are a pressing concern. The need for health aides at home

See **BOOMERS**, Page 8B

Oaks Manor in operation for senior care in 2020

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

OAKLAND — The Oaks Manor is now licensed by the State of Illinois as an assisted living facility.

As a result, a higher level of care is possible and residents will have access to cooperative services with hospitals, home health care, rehabilitation and, if necessary, hospice.

Living arrangements at The Oaks Manor are flexible with stays ranging from day care of an elderly relative to long-term residence.

The senior care facility was purchased in September 2019 by Stone Oak Holdings LLC and the state inspection occurred in December, with the state issuing the license Jan. 13.

Wear Red events highlight women's heart health

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Horizon Health is offering two events in observance of American Heart Month.

In addition to the annual Wear Red Luncheon, an evening program will be offered. Both events are Feb. 7, at the Tingley Reception Center, 504 East Edgar Street, Paris.

The lunch event begins at noon and offers a catered meal, with the program "Hear Your Heart: Put You First" by national speaker Mellanie Hills

The evening event featuring wine, cheese and

See **WEAR RED**, Page 8B



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WEAR RED

FROM PAGE 7B

chocolate begins at 5:30 p.m. For this event, Hills' second program is "How to Treat Yourself Well."

Hills is a heart disease survivor, heart health expert and award-winning author. She is founder and CEO of the American Foundation for Women's Health and StopAfib.org the world's foremost atrial fibrillation patient advocacy organization.

All community women are invited to bring their sisters, daughters, coworkers and friends to the event. Attendees are encouraged to wear red and join Horizon Health as it supports the fight against heart disease.

Cost for either event is \$20 per person, and includes and copy of Hills' book "A Women's Guide to Saving Her Own Life." Tickets can be purchased at www.MyHorizonHealth.org/WearRed. For more information, call Christina Hoffman at 217-466-4294.



Visitor restrictions at Horizon Health

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

In response to increasing influenza activity in Illinois and across the country, Horizon Health has enacted temporary visitor restrictions for inpatient areas.

As recommended by the Illinois Department of Public Health, the following restrictions will remain in effect until further notice:

- Limit the number of visitors to two at a time.
- No visitors under age 18.

CARE

FROM PAGE 7B

because we didn't have that in the area."

Al-Anon is a 12-step program that is for both addicts and their families. The group meets 6 p.m. Monday at New Beginnings Church and privacy is paramount to the group's mission.

Celebrate Recovery is another program for people wanting to break addiction and it meets at First Assembly of God. The hospital also provides room for a local Narcotics Anonymous-Alcoholics Anonymous group to meet.

Another CARE success was purchasing a drug incinerator kept at the Edgar County Sheriff's Department. It is used by local law enforcement to destroy illegal drugs recovered during arrests. The incinerator is also used during the annual CARE drug take back day providing people with unused or expired medication a safe way to dispose of the pills.

Those involved with CARE have also helped three people not only find treatment

Visitors to pediatric patients should be parents and grandparents only.

Do not visit if one has a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher), sore throat or cough.

Visitors who have any of these symptoms, but still need to enter the facility, should obtain a mask and disinfect their hands at one of respiratory hygiene stations located within Horizon Health.

"Our facilities have had some positive influenza tests,"

said Amy Arnett, infection control manager at Horizon Health. "However, the quantity of individuals who have had the respiratory flu is unknown. The guideline is not to test all patients who present with flu-like symptoms, rather to treat those patients symptomatically."

Arnett emphasized the importance of early treatment and receiving an annual flu vaccine. Influenza is a viral condition, which is not treated with antibiotics.

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BOOMERS

FROM PAGE 7B

and in medical settings is soaring, even as low wages and poor working conditions discourage workers from applying for or staying in these jobs. By 2026, 7.8 million workers of this kind will be required and hundreds of thousands of jobs may go unfilled.

"Boomers have smaller families and are more likely to enter old age single, so families cannot be expected to pick up the slack," said Karl Pillemer, a professor of human development at Cornell University. "We have only a few years to plan different ways of providing care for frail older people to avoid disastrous consequences."

LIVING BETTER, LONGER

Could extending healthspan, the time during which older adults are healthy and able to function independently, ease some of these pressures?

The World Health Organization calls this healthy life expectancy and publishes this information by country.

Japan was the world's leader, with a healthy life expectancy at birth of 74.8 years in 2016, the most recent year for which data is available. In the U.S., healthy life expectancy was 68.5 years out of a total average life expectancy of 78.7 years.

Laura Carstensen, director of Stanford University's Center on Longevity, sees some cause for optimism. Americans are beginning to exercise more and eat more healthful diets, she said. And scientific studies published in recent years have shown that behavior and living environments can alter the trajectory of aging.

"With this recognition, conversations about aging societies and longer lives are shifting to the potential to improve quality of life throughout," Carstensen said.

Other trends are concerning. Notably, more than one-third of older adults are obese, while 28 percent are physically inactive, putting them at higher risk of physical impairments and chronic medical conditions.

Rather than concentrate on treating disease, "...our focus should shift to health promotion and prevention, beginning in early life," said Sharon Inouye, a professor at Harvard Medical School and a member of the planning committee for the National Academy of Sciences' Healthy Longevity Global Grand Challenge.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Recognizing the role that social and physical environments play in healthy aging, experts are calling for significant investments in this area over the next decade.

Their wish list: make transportation more readily available, build more affordable housing, modify homes and apartments to help seniors age in place, and create programs to bring young and old people together.

Helping older adults remain connected to other people is a common theme.

"There is a growing understanding of the need to design our environments and social infrastructure in a way that designs out loneliness" and social isolation, said Linda Fried, dean of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health.

On a positive note, a worldwide movement to create age-friendly communities is taking hold in America, with 430 communities and six states joining an effort to identify and better respond to the needs of older adults. A companion effort to create age-friendly health systems is likely to gain momentum.

Technology will be increasingly important as well, with aging-in-place likely made easier by virtual assistants like Alexa, video chat platforms like Skype or FaceTime, telemedicine, robotic caregivers and wearable devices that monitor indicators such as falls, according to Deborah Carr, chair of the sociology department at Boston University.

CHANGING ATTITUDES

Altering negative attitudes about aging — such as a widespread view that this stage of life is all about decline, loss and irrelevance — needs to be a high priority as these efforts proceed, experts say.

"I believe ageism is perhaps the biggest threat to improving quality of life for [older] people in America today," Harvard's Inouye said. She called for a national conversation about, "how to make the last act of life productive, meaningful and fulfilling."

Although the "OK Boomer" barbs that gained steam last year testify to persistent intergenerational tension, there are signs of progress. The World Health Organization has launched a global campaign to combat ageism. Last year, San Francisco became one of the first U.S. cities to tackle this issue via a public awareness campaign. And a reframing aging toolkit developed by the FrameWorks Institute is in use in communities across the country.

"On the bright side, as the younger Baby Boom cohort finally enters old age during this decade, the sheer numbers of older adults may help to shift public attitudes," said Robyn Stone, co-director of LeadingAge's LTSS (long-term services and supports) Center @UMass Boston.

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CODGER FROM PAGE 1B

order to please me, bought a large carton and brought it home for my exclusive use. From that day forward, there was always a carton for me to drink or pour on cereal. They had raw milk. Mine was store-bought. Unknown to me, I was duped. The carton was used many times repeatedly. Raw milk was added frequently to keep it full. This deceiving scheme continued for a couple of years.

Somehow I either caught my mother pouring raw milk or someone carelessly talked. The secret was blown. My parents simply laughed. On the other hand, I was upset. I was probably nine years old, as I recall. I've never drank a glass of milk since. I do pour it on cereal, but that's about all, and it's pasteurized. Another farm-related thing was eating chickens. My mother raised a lot of chickens every year. Fried chicken was served often. So was chicken and noodles. She also sent me to a

one-room school, quite often carrying a sack lunch with deviled-egg sandwiches. I detested those, usually trading them for baloney or tossing them in the bushes for raccoons or possums to enjoy. At some point I quit eating fried chicken. I watched her butcher so many in the kitchen sink with intestines and lungs floating in bloody water. Every time I ate chicken I envisioned that bloody mess. So I quit. Some people consider me a picky eater. Unlike my dad or older brother. I won't eat pickled pigs' feet,

brain sandwiches, liver, blood sausage, ocean oysters, mountain oysters, any kind of poultry or tongue, to name a few. On a cruise liner last year, I did break down and eat snails, but I've never tried ants or grasshoppers, nor rattlesnake. I don't like rhubarb pie, and despite its delightful aroma, I can't stand to drink coffee. To each, his or her own. (Allen "Big Al" Englebright is a retired schoolteacher and storyteller. Contact him at The Prairie Press, 101 N. Main, Paris, Ill., 61944.)

PATCHETT FROM PAGE 1B

Maureen, were our instructors and we enjoyed it very much. Several people joined us each day, and we learned mahjong is the game to play in Florida. Bridge lessons were going on at this time and bridge was also played in the afternoon, but we loved mahjong. We played the American version, and learned there is also a Chinese version. My only problem is I need to find other people who play or want to learn, as it takes four to play. I mentioned this to Barb, a newly retired person from Chicago, and she said there is an excellent app that connects with clubs and activities. Apparently, she lost her social network after she moved into the city and ceased working. I told her I needed an app for an extra day in my week. Sea days were not just mahjong. We had plenty of time for professional lectures, trips to the spa, getting our exercise walking around the deck and enjoying music played by talented musicians. Maureen and Karen our mahjong instructors also became good friends along with their husbands Rick and Steve. Rick and Steve had no interest whatsoever in the game but had remarkable stories to tell. We had Thanksgiving dinner with them and shared a couple of Tours by Locals when we reached land. We taught them something also, as one of ladies was asking about windmills and was under the impression a windmill needed an electric motor to turn it. Neither couple was familiar with Illinois farm operations. We explained to them the cornfields they see are not sweet corn. Their backgrounds were large cities, one couple was New York City and the other had spent most of their life in large cities as well. We were not impressed with Dakar, Senegal, in Africa, and think we made the wise decision to just step off the ship and come back on. Both of us decided we did not need any strange germs as was mentioned in the shore talk before arrival. We stayed aboard and basically had the ship to ourselves. Food was still served and anything one wanted was still available. It was just like having a private 900-foot yacht. Brazil had two stops with one in Recife, a northern Brazilian city of about 3 million, and the other was Rio de Janeiro. While in Rio, we did the Christ the Redeemer tour and Sugar Loaf Mountain. It was scenic but due to heavy fog not as picturesque as one wants. Traffic was heavy but as we were on a bus tour from the ship it was OK that we were running late to get back. I did not want to miss the last stop, which was a luncheon at a traditional Brazilian barbecue restaurant. The meat was excellent and served at the table with a waiter slicing cuts from long skewers. Diners wanting more of a special cut held up a green-sided coaster. The red side of the coaster signaled one did not wish that cut of meat or was sated. Meat can easily get stuck in one's teeth and they even had dental floss devices in the restrooms. I'd never seen that before. Starting in Barcelona was perfect and ending the trip in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Buenos Aires, Argentina, turned out to be an ideal way to end a super cruise. Many people spend time in Florida

to get away from the winter cold but I think I would prefer traveling several hundred miles more to Montevideo and be quite content. It was a beautiful day to enjoy a beautiful city and the weather could not have been more perfect. Eight of us did our own private tour and Gabriela, our guide was well informed about the city. He talked about politics and a recent election where the country had now gone conservative. This was a change he welcomed because he thought the country was going too socialist and feared it might go the route of Venezuela. We enjoyed the opportunity to ask many questions as we drove along a beautiful shoreline. He also intimated that real estate was cheap and a beach view was not too pricey. At the delicious bistro where we ate lunch he pointed out the saltshaker on the table and said that was illegal. Apparently in Uruguay, because they eat so much red meat it has caused heart issues, and they have outlawed saltshakers on the table unless one requests it. Our last stop was in Buenos Aires, a place I have been interested in since grade school when I read about the Argentinean Independence Day being on my birthday. The Gauchos always fascinated me riding on their horses in the Pampas, but we did not have time to spend in the countryside. The city of Buenos Aires was a beautiful place to tour. Unlike Rio where the roadways were cramped and close together, Buenos Aires had wide boulevards with ample space. Our first tour stop was the La Recoleta Cemetery where the tomb of Eva Peron is. It is also the cemetery of many prominent Argentinians and the mausoleums were quite ornate. The tour featured Plaza de Mayo where the major public buildings of the city are located, including the rose-colored Presidential Palace and the cathedral where Pope Francis served as a cardinal in that city. Buenos Aires is home to the tango and the last night on board, passengers were feted to not only an excellent cookout of Argentinean grass fed beef but also a tango performance that was unbelievable. The tango performers were in exact harmony with one another and the costuming can only be described as exotic, though some might say erotic. Don't let anyone ever claim that grass fed beef is not good. In the past, I was told that grain fed is much better, but whatever the grass is in Argentina the beef that is raised there is superb. At the airport before starting our 10-hour flight home, we tried a McDonald's quarter-pounder just to see if it was different, and it was. We thought the flavor was better than those served in American McDonald's. My Christmas may have been 60 percent (not really) but my trip was 110 percent. My motto now is: Travel while you can and sit and enjoy the memories when you are no longer able. By the way, I found my mahjong game when I got home so if anyone wants to play, email me please and I will try to teach those interested. Some may like it as much as I do. (Ruth Patchett is a resident of rural Brocton, a retired teacher and is famous for her pies. Email her at rpweib1@gmail.com.)

Puzzles

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 9B

SUDOKU

9x9 Sudoku grid with some numbers pre-filled.

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!

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!

A solved 9x9 Sudoku puzzle.

ANSWER:

CROSSWORD

- Across
1. Recurring TV show
7. Throws out
13. Iberian Peninsula microstate
14. Gossip
16. Atomic #20
17. Ivy League institution
19. Of I
20. "He Is _!": Scripture excerpt
22. Musical genre
23. Heavy cavalry sword
25. Ancient Olympic Site
26. Satisfies
38. Popular flower
29. Shared services center
30. Drain
31. A way to attack
33. Urban Transit Authority
34. Spiritual leader
36. Postponed
38. N. American plant with edible purple-black berries
40. Gazes unpleasantly
41. Gets up
43. Capital of Ukraine
44. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
45. Golf score
47. Superhigh frequency
48. Swiss river
51. Felons
53. Succulent plants
55. Soluble ribonucleic acid
56. Deliberately setting fire to
58. Infamous singer Zadora
59. Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
60. Influential sports mag
61. Aromatic Mediterranean plant
64. Sixth note of a major scale
65. Unit of explosive power
67. Large watertight chamber
69. Popular street
70. A way of watering

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating start positions.

- Clues down
1. Mollusks
2. - __, denotes past
3. Anchor ropes
4. Large Middle Eastern country
5. To make a mistake
6. Ancient governor
7. Extents
8. Chinese surname
9. NYC subway "residents" perfume
11. A way to treat injuries (abbr.)
12. Session
13. Units of land areas
15. Goes over once more
18. Where wrestlers work
21. Italian islanders
24. Avenue
26. __ Adams, U.S. founding father
27. Rest with legs bent
30. Type of flour
32. The Golden State (abbr.)
35. More (Spanish)
37. Stinging, winged insect
38. The use of irony to mock
39. Arsenal
42. Pouch
43. 22nd letter of the Greek alphabet
46. Violent seizure of property
47. Restrict
49. Something comparable to another
50. Punishment device made from stems
52. Soul and calypso songs
54. Formerly OSS
55. Athabaskan language
57. __ bene: observe carefully
59. Six (Spanish)
62. Read-only memory
63. Chinese philosophical principle
66. American conglomerate
68. Tin

A word search grid with words hidden in letters.

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St. Mary's Parish Hall
DJ Music, Finger Foods
Mementos & Photos

LEGALS

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from:

JUDY KAY VERE'

To the new name of:

JUDY KAY STARK

The court date will be held:
on March 11, 2020 at 9:00am at 115 West court Paris, IL Edgar County in Courtroom # 1

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

IN THE INTEREST OF
H. K., a minor 2017-JA-2
A. J., a minor 2017-JA-4
J. K., a minor 2017-JA-5

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

To: Kacie Krabel, Respondent
Mother, believed to be deceased:
Stephen Jones, Respondent
Father, 204 Mack Street
Georgetown, IL 61846
Any or All Unknown Fathers

Take notice that on the 1st day of May, 2017 Petitions for Neglect were filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the Edgar County State's Attorney, in the Circuit Court of Edgar County, Paris, Illinois entitled: In the Interest of H. K., 17- JA-2, In the interest of A. J., 17-JA-4, and in The Interest of J. K., 17-JA-5. Further, Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights were filed in the same matters on the 24th day of September, 2019 and that in the courtroom of Judge Matthew Sullivan, Courtroom #1, Edgar County Courthouse, 115 W. Court Street Paris, Illinois, on the 28th day of January, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 pm, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing on the Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights will be held. NOW, THEREFORE, unless you and All Whom I t May Concern file your answer to the Petition in this action or otherwise file your appearance herein in the hearing on said date and at said hour and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted against you and an Order or Judgment by Default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the Petition. You must also know that upon service of this Notice by Publication, you will not be entitled to further written or publication notice of proceedings in this case, except as required by Supreme Court Rule 11, which provides that notice is to be sent through regular mail to the attorney of record of a party or to a party's address of record with the court, when he is not represented by an attorney.

Dated this 3rd day of January,

2020
Angela R. Barrett
Clerk of the Circuit Court

EARLY NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROJECT TO BE LOCATED IN A WETLANDS

Publication Date: January 18, 2020

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS:

As required by Executive Order 11990, this is an early public notice to promote public understanding and provide opportunities for public involvement.

The City of Paris, Illinois proposes to use funds available through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for the following proposed project:

Project Title: The AGCO GSI Warehouse Expansion Economic Development Project

Description: The City of Paris will construct infrastructure improvements in support of the AGCO GSI project. The Company will construct a 150,000 Warehouse Expansion on a 27-acre site to be acquired that is to the immediate west of Stratton Drive and its existing manufacturing facility. The roadway construction, water main extension; sanitary sewer force main and storm sewer improvements are necessary for the Warehouse Expansion to take place.

Location: Roadway construction will be approximately 700 feet west of Stratton Drive, then approximately 900 feet north from a new entrance on IL 133 and then east to meet the existing roadway at the northern boundary of the current AGCO GSI property. The current manufacturing facility is located at 13217 IL 133. In addition to the roadway public infrastructure improvements, the City of Paris will extend water main, construct sanitary sewer force main and storm sewer improvements to support the AGCO GSI Economic Development Project.

The City of Paris has determined that this proposed project would occur in a wetlands and the City of Paris must therefore conduct an eight-step review. This public notice is Step 2.

The City of Paris has additional information on this proposed project that be reviewed weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the office of the City's Consulting Engineering Firm, Francis Associates, 330 North Central, Paris, Illinois 61944. Interested persons may also call Bob Colvin at 217-465-5306 for additional information about the proposed project. The City of Paris is now evaluating potential alternatives, the potential impact of the proposed project and potential mitigation to minimize wetlands impact.

Written comments on this proposed project are invited and must be received by Bridget Anderson, City Clerk, at the Paris City Hall, 206 South Central, Paris, Illinois 61944 by February 2, 2020. All such comments will be taken into consideration by the City of

Paris prior to its decision on the proposed project.
Craig Smith
Mayor, City of Paris

Paris 95 is seeking bids on resurfacing the track at John P Allen field. Specifications can be picked up by contacting Jeremy Larson at 217-264-0835
Bid Opening February 3 at Noon

Paris 95 is seeking bids on the front entryway at Mayo Middle School. Specifications can be picked up by contacting Jeremy Larson at 217-264-0835
Bid Opening February 3 at Noon

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS EDGAR COUNTY PARIS, ILLINOIS CITY OF PARIS, Plaintiff, VS. DANIEL WARREN BROWN, CAROLYN KAY) BROWN, REALTAX DEVELOPERS, LTD, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD) CLAIMANTS Defendants.

2019-MR-70 LIS PENDENS NOTICE COMPLAINT FOR ABATEMENT OF NUISANCE AND DEMOLITION OF UNSAFE BUILDINGS

Notice is hereby given to DANIEL WARREN BROWN, CAROLYN KAY BROWN, REALTAX DEVELOPERS, LTD, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS that a complaint has been filed in the above entitled cause on December 23, 2019, requesting abatement of nuisance, demolition of unsafe buildings, and other relief.
(O) The name of the plaintiff and the case number are identified above.
(ii) The Court in which said action was brought is identified above.
(iii) The names of the title holders of record are DANIEL WARREN BROWN and CAROLYN KAY BROWN
(iv) The legal description of the subject real estate is:
A part of Out Lot No. 264 to the City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois, described as beginning at a point 65 feet East of the intersection of the North Line of Wood Street with the East Line of Young Street; thence North parallel with the East Line of Young Street to a point 272.9 feet South of the South Line of Milton Street (formerly Dill Street); thence West 65 feet to the East Line of Young Street 274.6 feet South of the South Line of Milton Street; thence South along the East Line of Young Street to the North Line of Wood Street; thence East 65 feet to the place of beginning.
PREIN: 09-18-01-280-005
(v) Common address of subject real estate is:
501 E. Wood St., Paris, IL 61944
DANIEL WARREN BROWN, CAROLYN KAY BROWN, REALTAX DEVELOPERS, LTD, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS are served by Publication of this Notice.
Unless DANIEL WARREN BROWN, CAROLYN KAY BROWN, REALTAX DEVELOPERS, LTD, UNKNOWN OWNERS, and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS file an answer to the Complaint in this case or otherwise make an appearance in this case on or before February 18, 2020, a default judgment may be entered against DANIEL WARREN

BROWN, CAROLYN KAY BROWN, REALTAX DEVELOPERS, LTD, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NONRECORD CLAIMANTS at any time after that day in accordance with the remedies requested in the Complaint.

Angela R. Barrett
CIRCUIT CLERK

FRUIN & KASH Richard M. Kash, Jr. 129 North Central Avenue Paris, IL 61944 Telephone: (217) 465-4196 Fax: (217) 466-1213

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Agronomy Operations – requirements: obtain a class A CDL; blending, mixing, delivering, loading and unloading of ag products; repair & maintain fleet; other duties as assigned
Agronomy Sales – requirements: Bachelor's degree in Ag or related field preferred; obtain CCA certification; obtain class A CDL; consulting with growers & making recommendations; develop sales programs; other duties as assigned.
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Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC
928 Clinton Road, PO Box 1090
Paris, IL 61944
steph.shobe@dimondbros.com

Sullivan 'shocked' he had email, 'disappointed' in governor's statement

BY JERRY NOWICKI
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com
ALAN ICENOGLE
The Rushville Times

SPRINGFIELD — The state's agriculture director resigned last weekend at the request of Gov. J.B. Pritzker for failing to disclose contents of a 2012 email that pointed to the possible cover-up of a rape in Champaign and government ghost workers, the governor's office said Monday.

John Sullivan, a Democratic state senator from 2003 to 2017 who became agriculture director last year, knew about the July 2012 email but did not disclose its contents to state investigators, Pritzker's office said. In an interview with The Rushville Times Tuesday morning at his home, Sullivan, of Rushville, said he was shocked when he discovered in a review of old emails over the weekend that he had received the forwarded email in 2012. While he said he never fully read it at the time, he said he took full responsibility, but was disappointed in the governor's statement on the matter.

The email in question was uncovered in an open records request by WBEZ-FM radio station in Chicago last week. It was sent by Michael McClain — a former lobbyist for the public utility ComEd and a close confidant of Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan — to two high-ranking members of then-Gov. Pat Quinn's staff seeking leniency for a state employee facing disciplinary action.

"He has kept his mouth shut on Jones' ghost workers, the rape in Champaign and other items. He is loyal to the administration," McClain said of the employee in the email obtained by WBEZ.

There were no other details regarding the possible cover-ups, and it is unclear who "Jones" is pertaining to the ghost workers. Pritzker's office has forwarded the matter to the Office of the Executive Inspector General. The Illinois State Police and Office of the

Attorney General are working with the Champaign County state's attorney on the matter as well.

Pritzker's office said he sought and accepted the resignation from Sullivan over the weekend when new information came to light.

"Director Sullivan had a long and productive public service career as a state senator, and the governor is grateful for his willingness to serve in the administration. Director Sullivan put together an outstanding team at the Department of Agriculture, and as a result, the department's work thrived," Pritzker Communications Director Emily Bittner wrote in the statement.

"However, the governor holds all state employees to the highest ethical standards, and the governor requested the director's resignation because he is disturbed that then-Senator Sullivan became aware of the existence of the July 31, 2012, email contemporaneously, and did not handle it appropriately, including not alerting the inspector general or other authorities."

Sullivan told The Rushville Times the governor's office reached out to him Friday and asked if he had received the email. He said that prompted him to search his email account, and that is when he discovered the forwarded email that had originated with McClain.

"I was stunned," Sullivan said. "I immediately knew the optics and what it looked like."

Sullivan said he received the email during a very stressful time when he was in the middle of a tough re-election campaign and had just returned from Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, where he learned his cancer had returned.

Sullivan said he believed he never read the full seven-paragraph email, which included the damaging information in the final paragraph.

"I take full responsibility, and I'm not making excuses,

but Mike McClain sends lots of emails, most of which I don't even pay attention to," Sullivan said. "I know in my mind and my heart that I did not read all of that email. If I had seen an email that talked about a rape in Champaign, I would have turned it over."

Sullivan said when he gave the information to the governor's office on Saturday, he was told the governor would have to ask for his resignation.

"I understand it looks horrible," Sullivan said. "...I'm stunned and I'm disappointed...I can't believe someone would put that kind of information in an email. How would you expect that to help someone get a job or get through a disciplinary hearing?"

"I just want people to understand the context we were working in," Sullivan added. "I understand it looks really bad. I got the email, and I didn't do anything about it. I understand. However, I am disappointed in the statement the governor put out that makes it look like I did something criminal."

Sullivan served as majority caucus whip under former Senate President Emil Jones Jr. and as assistant majority leader during the presidency of John Cullerton, whose successor is scheduled to be chosen this Sunday.

He did not seek re-election in 2016, instead returning to farming and his family's auction business before being picked by Pritzker to lead the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

From January through April, he served in that position in an acting capacity. On April 12, he was unanimously and officially approved for the post by the Senate Executive Appointments Committee.

"This is not the way I expected to end my public service career," Sullivan said. "I've always tried to be honest and open with people, but this is kind of a black mark. However, I have had a lot of friends and supporters step up and show a lot of support and say some really nice things. Life goes on."

Pritzker puts criminal justice reforms atop 2020 agenda

Action list includes ending cash bail, reducing minimum sentences

BY JERRY NOWICKI
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — In year two, Gov. J.B. Pritzker will focus on ending cash bail, reforming low-level drug crime sentencing and reducing mandatory minimum sentences, he announced in Chicago Thursday, Jan. 9.

Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, both Democrats, laid out their plan at a news conference at Kennedy-King College. Stratton said real justice reform in Illinois will require more than just policing prisons.

"Justice reform is about striving to make equity and economic opportunity a reality for every community and every Illinoisan, because we simply cannot have justice without equity and opportunity," Stratton said.

Stratton spearheads the Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative, established by a Pritzker executive order last February to study the subject. She submitted a report to the governor this month outlining goals of the Initiative.

Those include addressing social determinants of crime and incarceration; improving equitable deflection and diversion opportunities from the justice system; improving conditions and addressing the needs of vulnerable populations in correctional facilities; and supporting positive re-entry outcomes to reduce recidivism.

The announcement comes as state's attorneys are initiating the process of expunging thousands of

low-level stand-alone marijuana offenses in compliance with the state's adult-use legalization law.

"Criminal justice reform is one of the major planks of our administration, something that we talked about for two years on the campaign trail and we've already made strides in our first year," Pritzker said. "Going forward, we have a lot to do with criminal justice reform."

He said top priorities include eliminating cash bail and reducing mandatory minimum sentences, "giving judges more discretion to take into account circumstances in each case."

"Those two things will have, I think, a significant impact on incarceration, on reducing incarceration in jails and in prison," he said. "We have a prison population of 40,000 in this state, we can reduce that and we can do it prudently."

Pritzker didn't give specifics on the mandatory minimum reforms or which minimums would be changed, but said "we're looking at all the mandatory minimums."

"It has to do with what kinds of crimes," he said. "The more violent the crime, obviously, the more reticent we are to look at anything like that, but that's all going to be examined by us and we're going to move forward with the mission of reducing our prison population."

Pritzker said pieces of the legislative effort will be introduced this session, which begins in late January and is scheduled to conclude in May.

Stratton said, "It's going to take some time, (to reform the criminal justice system) but we do believe that over the next three years we can make some significant movement to getting us to the end point where we want to go."

She said in 2019, members of the Justice, Equity and Opportunity Initiative participated in listening sessions with more than 500 stakeholders representing community organizations, advocacy groups,

law enforcement, state agencies and legislators.

Members of the initiative heard from several people that remained incarcerated for low-level crimes because they were unable to come up with bail, Stratton said.

In April last year, members of a House committee discussed the idea of ending cash bail, which is supported by Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx.

But law enforcement officials and other prosecutors at the hearing warned such a move could have far-reaching consequences, including putting victims of domestic violence at risk and taking away the ability of local courts to fund services for crime victims.

"In our county, we take in roughly about a half million dollars in bond a year, and that money fuels our criminal justice system," McDonough County Sheriff Nick Petitgout said at the April committee hearing. "Things like victims services, court appointed special advocates, teen court, diversion programs, the treasurer's office, the circuit clerk's office, the sheriff's office. There are many, many different parts of this system that rely on that money."

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Illinois economy grew slowly in 3rd quarter last year

BY PETER HANCOCK
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SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois economy grew at a slower pace than most neighboring states and the nation as a whole during the third quarter of 2019, according to new figures released Friday, Jan. 10.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, which tracks state-by-state economic trends, said overall, the state's economy grew at a modest annualized rate of 1.4 percent, well below the national rate of 2.1 percent.

Illinois ranked 41st in the nation for GDP growth during the quarter, according to the data. Texas showed the fastest-growing economy, at nearly 4 percent, while Delaware came in last with no measurable growth.

The bureau measures the gross domestic product, or GDP, for each state. That's the total value of goods produced and services provided during a given period.

The biggest area of growth during the third quarter came from the professional, scientific and technical services category, which accounted for nearly 9 percent of Illinois' GDP during the quarter. That sector grew at an annualized rate of 5.8 percent, which translates to nearly \$1 billion in economic activity compared to the previous quarter.

That sector was closely followed by nondurable goods manufacturing, which accounted for 6.3 percent of the Illinois economy during the quarter. That sector grew at a rate of 7.7 percent, or \$961 million.

That was not the case with the manufacturing of durable goods, which are generally products that do not wear out quickly and can be used over an extended period of time, such as household appliances, vehicles and furniture. That sector, which makes up about 6.3 percent of Illinois' GDP, shrank by a little less than 1 percent.

The retail industry posted a good quarter, growing at an annual rate of 7.3 percent, or about \$750 million. Retail accounts for a little more than 5 percent of Illinois' GDP.

But the growth in those areas was offset by steep declines in the finance and insurance sector, which shrank by more than 6.5 percent. That sector makes up nearly 9 percent of the state's economy, so the decline there translated to more than \$1.1 billion in economic activity.

The utilities sector also saw a sharp decline — more than 15 percent. But that sector accounts for less than 2 percent of the state's GDP so the decline translated to only about \$518 million in economic output.

Those trends were fairly consistent with national averages, BEA said. Declines in the finance and insurance industries were reported in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, while leading contributors to the nation's GDP growth included nondurable goods manufacturing; retail trade; and professional, scientific, and technical services.

Comptroller prorates pay

Mendoza, Castro promote bill that would end paying of lawmakers for time not worked

BY REBECCA ANZEL
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SPRINGFIELD — Illinois' chief fiscal officer announced a plan this week to remedy the law that allows legislators to be paid for days they did not hold office.

Representatives and senators are paid in 12 equal disbursements on the last working day of each month. Current law allows lawmakers to receive a full salary as long as they hold office at least one day in each pay period.

Comptroller Susana Mendoza proposed prorating legislators' pay, ensuring they are only paid for the days they hold office. She also wants to shift their salary schedule to be the same as it is for other state officials and employees — twice monthly.

Her legislative partner on the initiative, Elgin Democrat

ic Sen. Cristina Castro, said the change would bring the legislative branch in line with the private sector.

"This is a glaring loophole that has been exploited far too many times at the taxpayers' expense, and I'm sick of it. It needs to be closed," Castro said in a news release.

The bill appears to have bipartisan support. Republican Rep. Mike Murphy, of Springfield, proposed a near-identical measure 12 months ago. The initiatives differ in one respect — when they take effect. Murphy's bill would become enforceable immediately; the Democrats' plan would begin at the start of the 102nd General Assembly in January 2021.

Altering lawmakers' pay during terms for which they are elected is unconstitutional, a spokesperson for Mendoza

said, which is why the measure's effective date is later.

Murphy said he sent a letter to Mendoza and Castro asking for their support on his bill and offering to help ensure the initiative, in whatever form, is successful this legislative session.

The bottom line, Murphy said, is making the change no matter whose name is on the final version.

"We have got to do whatever we can to get the trust back of the people, and we have to earn it," he added. "Bills like this show that we're serious about doing the right thing."

A spokesperson for Mendoza said the resignations of former Chicago Democrats Sen. Martin Sandoval and Rep. Luis Arroyo indicate the need for a statutory change.

Sandoval, whose Capitol office and home were raided by federal agents, announced

on Nov. 27 he would resign his position to avoid, "distraction to the important work that needs to be accomplished." His last day as a state lawmaker was Jan. 1.

Arroyo was arrested on federal bribery charges in late October but waited until Nov. 1 — the same day a special investigative panel was to consider whether to expel him from the chamber — to officially resign.

Because both former legislators held office for one day, they were paid the full month's salary in accordance with state law, according to the comptroller's office.

In some instances, a legislator's replacement would get paid for the same full month's work as the retired or resigned official.

"That's ridiculous. I can think of no other enterprise that pays for an ex-employ-

ee for work they never performed," Mendoza said in a news release. "Each of these lawmakers left under a cloud but stayed just long enough — the first of the month — to collect an exit bonus from state taxpayers for a month's pay for no work."

The initiative is one Castro said the newly-formed ethics reform commission will consider as part of its recommended ethics overhaul legislative package.

In an interview in November, Murphy said his bill was one of about 30 proposed by Republicans and not addressed by the General Assembly during the fall veto session.

His measure is House Bill 818 — it has eight co-sponsors, all Republicans. Castro's measure will be Senate Bill 2456 when it is formally read into the record.



Jerry Nowicki/Capitol News Illinois

Gov. J.B. Pritzker faces reporters April 9 after releasing language for a graduated income tax constitutional amendment during a news conference in his office in Springfield. Pritzker said of the tax proposal, "It's time to let the people of Illinois — our taxpayers — decide." The amendment passed both chambers of the General Assembly in 2019 and goes before voters in November.

Pritzker reflects on first year

BY PETER HANCOCK
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SPRINGFIELD — One year ago, on Jan. 14, 2019, Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker was sworn into office.

A billionaire businessman from Chicago with no prior experience as an elected official, he took the reins of a state government on the brink of insolvency. A massive pension debt and a mountain of unpaid bills seemed to make the idea of any new initiatives impossible.

Yet in one year, with the help of Democratic supermajorities in both chambers of the General Assembly, Pritzker oversaw a historic legislative session that included legalization of adult-use recreational marijuana, expansion of casino gambling, a multi-year \$45 billion capital improvements program, passage of a proposed constitutional amendment to overhaul the state's income tax system and a nominally balanced state budget.

In an interview with Capitol News Illinois, Pritzker reflected on his first year as governor and talked about what his priorities are for the coming year. Below is a transcript of that interview, edited for length and clarity.

Capitol News Illinois: What do you think you learned about state government in your first year? Is there anything you know now that you didn't know coming into the job?

Pritzker: Certainly from outside of government, I had seen that government had been hollowed out and that there were agencies that just weren't fulfilling their functions properly. But it isn't until you get inside of the agencies that you see just how bad it really is, that they hadn't been fulfilling their mission — in part because of morale, in part because of a failure to fill positions that are authorized to be filled, and in part because there's a failure of mission and direction. When I came into office, it was frankly worse than I thought. And so I have worked very hard over the course of my first year to change that and to set us in the right

direction.

And we have made real progress. I'll give you one example, if I may. We walked into office and found that there was a backlog of people who had applied for Medicaid, many of whom are eligible for Medicaid, and those who have applied for what's called redetermination. Year-in year-out, Medicaid recipients have to reapply. That backlog had grown to 140,000 people. That's basically because under my predecessor, they had stopped processing those applications. And so when we walked into office (seeing a) 140,000 backlog, we had to work very hard to address that. We basically cut that in half in just a year, which is a very hard thing to do, because we were already understaffed.

CNI: So looking ahead to 2020, aside from everything coming up in the General Assembly, you have a lot riding on the proposed constitutional amendment. Do you have a Plan B, if that should fail at the ballot box?

Pritzker: Well, let me just say that I think the state has a lot riding on making sure that it can balance its budget for the next decade or more. And so as you know, my number one focus has been bringing stability and fiscal responsibility to state government. And you've seen a variety of ways in which I've done that. We balanced the budget for the first time in a very long time for fiscal year 2020. But there is a structural deficit that exists of more than \$2 billion. And there are only a few ways to address that. And one of them is to make the tax system fairer. One of them, of course, is to bring efficiency to state government. And another is of course to make sure we're growing the economy of the state, because ultimately ... the best way to bring in revenue for the state is simply for the economy to grow, more people to be working, more businesses to be operating and doing better in our state.

CNI: One alternative then is the possibility of budget cuts if this initiative

doesn't pass. The state has escalating obligations for K through 12 education and for public pensions. Do you foresee the possibility of any cuts in the coming year for other agencies?

Pritzker: Oh, sure. I mean, let's pay attention to the fact that if we don't make the tax system fairer, we would have to. If you just relied upon cuts in state government, you'd have to cut the basic functions, the discretionary functions of state government. When I say discretion, I mean education and public safety, police and human services. You'd have to cut all of that by between 10 and 15 percent. Now, this is after years of hollowing out those agencies and those functions, so that is certainly something that could be done.

I want to reiterate something that (former) Gov. (Jim) Edgar said to me. Before I became governor, I went to talk to him to get his advice about things that he thought we ought to be doing and observations that he had from his own time as governor. And he said something to me that will always stay with me. And that is that the most important thing that a governor does is to propose and get passed a balanced budget for the state, and a truly balanced budget. And I've taken that very seriously. And so I will address that in a budget speech that will come up in February. But we have to balance the budget, however that gets done. And like I said, there are three components of that. It's revenues, it's efficiencies and expenses, and it's growing the economy in the state.

CNI: Can we expect to see any new initiatives in the coming year?

Pritzker: Well, yes, of course. There are lots of things that we need to address in our state. When you say new proposals, some of them are about growing the economy of the state. We have big challenges that I'm well equipped to address in attempting to stoke the fires of entrepreneurship in our state, bringing new businesses to the state of Illinois and incentivizing that.

State senators to choose new president Sunday

BY PETER HANCOCK
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SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Senate will hold a special meeting Sunday to elect a new chamber president.

Senate President John Cullerton, a Chicago Democrat, surprised his colleagues at the end of the fall veto session Nov. 14 by announcing his plan to retire from the Senate in January, once a new president is chosen.

There are two announced candidates for the job that have received the most media attention — Sen. Don Harmon, of Oak Park, an assistant majority leader; and Sen. Kimberly Lightford, of Maywood, the majority leader. Sen. Elgie Sims, of Chicago, had sought support for a run at the presidency as well, but media reports as to whether or not he is still seeking the seat have been conflicting. A Chicago Sun-Times reporter tweeted Wednesday that Sims would not comment on the race for president.

There is also the possibility that someone else could enter the race if none of those candidates secure enough votes within the Democratic caucus to guarantee their election.

The president will be chosen in a vote of the full 59-member Senate. It takes at least 30 votes to win. Democrats hold 40 seats and Republicans hold 19.

According to Senate staff, the tentative plan is for the Democratic caucus to meet behind closed doors at 11 a.m. to select a nominee. That meeting is not open to the public or news media. Cullerton has said he will not vote in that meeting.

Following that meeting, the full Senate will convene, at which point Cullerton will resign his leadership post. Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker will then preside over the election. One or more names will be placed in nomination. Senators will announce their votes aloud, in alphabetical order.

Once someone receives the necessary 30 votes, Cullerton is expected to submit his resignation from the Senate. That will trigger a process in which party officials in the 6th District will elect someone to serve out the remainder of his term, which expires in 2023.