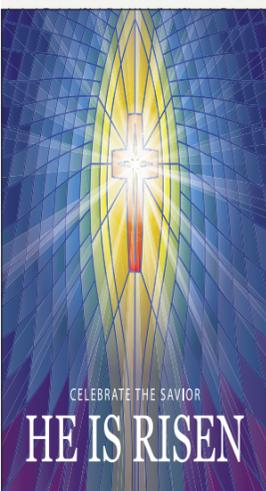


In the know



Social distance and Easter

Easter Sunday spent at home can still be a special, worshipful and delicious time for all. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

Farmers face decisions

Eager to avoid a repeat of 2019's late planting, farmers must still evaluate workforce health and economic circumstances. **AGRIBUSINESS, 5B**



Yearbook shows a different PHS

Class of 1920 graduate left behind a yearbook legacy of clubs, classes and friends. **HISTORY, 3B**

Weston is new chief deputy

Chief deputy Derek Weston returns to the Edgar County Sheriff's Department after career with Illinois State Police. **NEWS, 3A**

State museum wants your story

The Illinois State Museum launches digital archive to preserve citizens' pandemic experiences. **NEWS, 8B**

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 59 L 49
Partly sunny and breezy. **2A**



LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Latest news, online extras

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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2020

County to seek USDA grant

Partnering with Coles County for \$150,000 grant to use for study of jail's future needs

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Edgar County board voted Wednesday, April 8, to partner with the Coles County Regional Planning Commission to seek a \$150,000 United States Department of Agriculture Grant for a study regarding future needs at the Edgar County Jail.

The jail closed in December after an inspection by the Illinois Department of Corrections threatened legal action because often cited staffing level infractions were not addressed, and the county's insurance provider refused to cover the building's operation as a penal facility. Efforts commenced almost immediately to make the physical and staffing corrections needed. It was hoped to have the jail operational by April 1 but supply

delays prevented meeting that deadline.

County board members cast the unanimous vote Wednesday without comment, although the idea was discussed during the April 6 study session. At that time, it was noted the Coles County Regional Planning Commission, which serves an 11-county area that includes Edgar County, will apply for and administer the federal grant on behalf of Edgar County.

Edgar County Highway Engineer Aaron Lawson said the planning commission has a long history of getting and administering grants, which means it will score well on the point system used for awarding a Community Facilities Technical Training Grant. By contrast, Edgar County's

score would be so low as to guarantee not getting any money.

It was also noted there is no charge to the county unless the planning commission gets the grant.

Board chairman Jeff Voigt said if the grant comes through Edgar County will pay \$15,000 to the planning commission, but the money is not due until the next fiscal year. Another attractive feature is \$75,000 of the grant is available for hiring an architect to look at the condition of the current jail, study future needs and make knowledgeable recommendations about more repairs and remodeling or if a new building is more cost effective.

Voigt did not know if \$75,000 is sufficient for an architect's study, but he said

this seems a prudent way to continue moving forward with keeping the local jail operational.

As part of the process, police departments, other emergency responders, the health department, the hospital, mental health providers, the emergency telephone system board and others will offer insight about what is needed at the jail.

"I think it is a great idea to bring all of the entities involved together and say, 'What do you want?' The USDA builds a lot of jails," said board member Andy Patrick.

Board member Derrick Lorenzen also voiced support for working with the planning commission to get a grant.

"It lets us cover some cost of an architect and also posi-

tions the county for seeking more facilities grants," said Lorenzen.

In another matter, board members voted to temporarily suspend accepting applications for building wind turbines for generating electricity until such time as the 2009 ordinance dealing with that topic is updated. The suspension was done to prevent developers from filing an application under the old ordinance in order to avoid any new regulations that may come with the revised ordinance. Voigt emphasized this is not an effort to prevent the development of a wind farm but to give the county an opportunity to create a workable ordinance reflecting the many changes that have occurred since 2009.

County clerk and recorder See **COUNTY, Page 4A**

PARIS BUSINESSES DRAW ON COMMUNITY IN CRISIS



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Bob Miller of Edgar County Locker smiles while making cube steak. Since the first week of the shelter-in-place order, Edgar County Locker has seen a boom in customers seeking meats that are out of stock at big grocery chains like Wal-Mart. Miller says sourcing his products is complicated by slowdowns and rising prices, but so far he is manag-

Not business as usual

BY SAMANTHA TUCKER
samantha@prairiepress.net

Restrictions, shelter-in-place orders and a see-sawing balance of supply and demand are all hitting small businesses as the COVID-19 pandemic continues. In Paris, small business owners are feeling this keenly, yet also tell stories of generosity and support during an uncertain time. With the community behind them, many have hope of seeing the crisis through to the other side.

MAIN STREET CAFÉ

Main Street Café has switched entirely to deliveries and curbside pickup. People opting to stay in has meant a marked decrease in business, and owner Lynn Holloway said everyone has tightened their belts.

"I don't think there is a profit," she said. The restaurant is down to ordering only one or two cases of food per week from vendors, when they used to require up to four. "We used to be able to order fresh veggies in bulk, and now we're pretty much down to



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Stacey and Richard Wilken are the owners and operators of 120 Coffee Co. on West Court Street. Their sales have been hard hit, but the Wilkens have also witnessed extreme generosity.

getting what we need locally — Wal-Mart, Save A Lot, whoever might have it. Otherwise we'd be throwing cases of food away."

Things are not all bleak. Holloway has stories of generosity as well as scarcity.

"We've been very fortunate, some of our customers have been very generous with tips," she said. Several have even handed over extra cash outside of tipping to be distributed among whoever is on duty.

See **BUSINESSES, Page 4A**

Highway department expecting slow summer for maintenance

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The shelter at home order is having an impact on fuel sales. Without people commuting to work, gasoline purchases have plummeted.

That was a topic of discussion during the Monday, April 6, Edgar County Board study session.

Board member John Chittick questioned county highway engineer Aaron Lawson regarding how long it will take for the depressed gasoline sales of almost two months to show up in the county's Mo-

tor Fuel Tax payments.

Jeff Voigt, board chairman, said there is typically a two-month lag from when sales are reported to the state and when MFT payments are made.

Lawson said the erratic nature of MFT payments are already a problem in scheduling work, and the county receives less money from the state now than it did when he started at the highway department. He added the department's staff is already talking about the general maintenance work that can be done as the summer construction season ap-

proaches.

"I expect it will be a slow summer for GM (general maintenance)," said Lawson.

It was noted Ameren has started the Edgar County phase of the Illinois Rivers High-Voltage Transmission line. This project was delayed for several years by a group of local landowners mounting a legal challenge claiming they were not given adequate notice their properties were included in an alternate route approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission. Ameren got final clearance to move

ahead after the U.S. Supreme Court refused to accept the case.

Lawson said Ameren did sign a road use agreement with the county and the southern tier of townships but that does not prevent damage to the roads by the heavy construction equipment.

"We can't just go out there and fix a road until they (Ameren) approve it," said Lawson.

He added it normally takes two weeks, or more, from the time a complaint is received until repairs are made.

According to Lawson, the delay is the result of Ameren sending a consultant to review the complaint and damage. The consultant's report is required before Ameren authorizes the repair.

He encouraged residents with questions or complaints about the condition of the roads Ameren's contractors are using to call the highway department. Callers, however, must also understand the delay in responding rests with Ameren's bureaucracy and not any laxness on the part of the highway department.

Stimulus payments are coming

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The \$2.2 trillion rescue act recently passed by the federal government contains an unusual feature of direct payments of \$1,200 to every adult American under a certain income level.

"This particular stimulus payment is tax free," said Dennis Thiel, owner of Thiel Accounting and Financial in Paris.

He added the intent of Congress and the president is for people to spend the money to help stimulate the economy, while acknowledging many people are likely to save the payment against an uncertain future.

"We don't know how long this is going to last," he said.

Thiel said IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig is calling on accountants and others in the financial industry to help spread the word about what is being called the Economic Impact Payments. Any American making less than \$75,000 will receive a \$1,200 payment, and married couples earning less than \$150,000 will get \$2,400. Parents will receive an additional \$500 for each eligible child under the age of 17.

These are automatic payments and most people are not required to do anything to claim the money.

Thiel explained Social Security recipients or others who receive regular government payments via direct deposits will have the stimulus money placed into their bank accounts of record. The same is true of people who use direct deposit for tax refunds.

Based on information the IRS has provided accountants, the direct deposit payments are to start the week of April 13.

Americans without direct deposit capability will wait longer, perhaps up to four months.

"The treasury department can only print and mail so many checks each day, so it's going to be a long time," Thiel said.

He echoed a concern expressed

See **PAYMENTS, Page 8A**

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Paris Beacon-News

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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.

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|--|--|---|--|--|--|---|
|  59 49 Prec: 30% |  62 38 Prec: 90% |  45 31 Prec: 0% |  48 33 Prec: 0% |  49 30 Prec: 30% |  52 35 Prec: 40% |  53 37 Prec: 0% |



EVERETT LAU
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Paris Area Weather

FROST ADVISORY for Edgar and surrounding counties until 8 a.m.
TODAY — Partly sunny and breezy with highs in the upper 50s. Chances for rain increase through the evening.
SUNDAY — Cloudy with showers and an isolated thunderstorm in the afternoon. Highs top out in the lower 60s.
MONDAY — Highs only reach the mid 45s under mostly cloudy skies. Wind gusts could reach as high as 35 mph.

ALMANAC
Paris through noon Tuesday.
Temperature
High/Low 62°/41°
Record High 92° in 1930
Record Low 22° in 1918
Precipitation
Month to date 0.38"
Normal month to date 1.40"
Year to date 11.87"
Normal year to date 9.03"

SUN AND MOON

| | Sun | Moon |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | Rise | Set |
| TODAY | 6:19 a.m. | 7:25 p.m. |
| SUNDAY | 6:17 a.m. | 7:26 p.m. |
| MONDAY | 6:16 a.m. | 7:27 p.m. |
| TUESDAY | 6:14 a.m. | 7:28 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY | 6:13 a.m. | 7:29 p.m. |
| THURSDAY | 6:11 a.m. | 7:30 p.m. |
| FRIDAY | 6:10 a.m. | 7:31 p.m. |

Storms, gustnados gallop across central Illinois

BY EVERETT LAU
Elau99@rocketmail.com

A line of severe thunderstorms tore across central Illinois Wednesday, April 8, producing widespread reports of wind damage in several communities.

The thunderstorm development was triggered by a strong cold front that moved through the Midwest. With abundant sunshine, temperatures topped out at 83 degrees at the Edgar County Airport Wednesday afternoon, but by 6:30 a.m. Thursday, the mercury had dropped to 41 degrees with a wind chill of 34.

Initially, supercell thunderstorms developed ahead of the front near the Mississippi River and were warned of having the potential to produce baseball to softball-size hail. Once across the Illinois River, the individual cells began to merge, which lessened the threat for hail, but increased the threat for widespread damaging wind gusts.

Just after 6:30 p.m., the National Weather Service (NWS) issued a large severe thunderstorm warning for numerous counties, including Clark, Coles, Douglas and Edgar that warned of a line of thunderstorms capable of producing 70 mph wind gusts and half dollar-size hail.

The automatic weather observation station at the Edgar County Airport measured a 64 mph wind gust as the storms blew through, and a 69 mph gust was recorded at the Coles

County Airport between Mattoon and Charleston.

Once the storms exited to the southeast, reports of damage quickly started coming into the NWS.

Numerous semis were blown over on Interstate 57 south of Arcola, prompting officials to shut down the interstate until the scene was cleared.

There were dozens of reports of snapped, uprooted and damaged trees across the area, shingles were blown off a roof in Oakland, and a house was damaged in Chrisman due to the fierce winds.

In addition to trees, power lines were knocked down and there were widespread reports of broken power poles.

EnerStar Electric Cooperative reported more than 2,000 power outages Wednesday evening.

EnerStar said a transmission-related outage on Ameren Illinois' lines caused many of the co-op's outages as it knocked out electricity to all members on EnerStar's Ferrell, Marshall and West Union substations.

The rural electric co-op said the wind snapped approximately 15-20 of their poles with the southern part of their service area being hit the hardest.

Those parts of Clark County took a direct hit from the storms. In addition to downed trees and power lines, a grain elevator east of West Union suffered extensive damage from the thunderstorm wind gusts.

In Martinsville, several residents captured video of what many are calling a tornado.

After watching the videos and reviewing data from Doppler Radar, meteorologists from the NWS office in Lincoln said it was a gustnado in

the video — not a tornado — and the damage in the area was caused by wind gusts estimated in the 60-70 mph range.

A gustnado is a short-lived swirling wind that can form on the leading edge of a thunderstorm.

Strong thunderstorms release powerful surges of cool air (also known as gust fronts) to the ground, and once the air hits the surface, it can sometimes cause rotation as it interacts with features of the landscape. However, while the air can spin up to a couple hundred feet above the ground, the rotation is not connected to the base of the thunderstorm, and therefore is not considered a tornado.

Think of a gustnado like a strong dust devil. There are better chances to see them this time of year since dust and dirt can easily be picked up in empty fields by the swirling wind.

Just because they're not considered tornadoes doesn't mean they can't cause damage. Wind gusts in the 60-80 mph range can cause just as much damage as weak tornadoes — as is evident after Wednesday's storms across central Illinois — and that's why the National Weather Service urges residents to take severe thunderstorm warnings seriously.

In addition to storms, Wednesday's cold front also ushered in a surge of unseasonably cold air that resulted in temperatures at the freezing mark Friday morning. Temperatures are expected to stay below average for much of the week.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REMAIN AVAILABLE

In this time of high anxieties and serious life-stressors we may find ourselves in need of mental health or substance use disorder services. There are some resources actively available to our community members. Here is a list of such resources:

- Human Resources Center remains open at the Paris and Marshall locations for mental health and substance use disorder treatment. In-person appointments are limited, but phone and video sessions are encouraged for the safety of the community and our staff. HRC is here to help in this difficult time.

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W: 8:00am – 5:00pm
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F: 8:00am – 1:00pm

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217-826-6212
M: 8:00am – 5:00pm
T: 8:00am – 7:00pm
W: 8:00am – 7:00pm
TH: 8:00am – 7:00pm

- Regional Behavioral Health Crisis Line: 1-866-567-2400

24/7 access for people feeling suicidal or homicidal.

- Illinois Warm Line: 1-866-359-7593 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free phone support for anyone living in Illinois. From the main menu, select option #2, then #5. Interpreters available for hundreds of languages. Staff are also adept at conversing through Video Relay TTY: 1 (866) 880-4459

- National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255

- Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741.

CANCELLED EVENTS

Concern about the spread of the COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of numerous events.

Given the rate at which activities are being cancelled people should call ahead to confirm with sponsoring organizations if a scheduled event is continuing.

The University of Illinois Extension offices in Edgar, Clark and Crawford counties have suspended regular hours until further notice. Extension staff will continue to work remotely and will not interact with the public in the office.

All Dine with a Doc programs at area senior centers are cancelled through May 31. This includes the May 8 session at the Marshall Senior Center, and the May 13 program at the Chester P. Sutton Senior Center.

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Weston returns as chief deputy

Derek Weston served sheriff's department before career with Illinois State Police

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

It is a homecoming of sorts for Derek Weston as the new chief deputy at the Edgar County Sheriff's Department.

The Paris native got his first job at the sheriff's department after graduating from Indiana State University in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in criminology.

"I approached Jack Hood, who was the sheriff here," said Weston.

Hood did not have an open position but let Weston work part-time doing odd jobs like washing cars, answering the phone and learning to be a corrections officer within the jail. Weston did accept a fulltime police officer position with the Paris Police Department and 11 months later was contacted by both the Illinois State Police and the Indiana State Police with offers.

He joined the Illinois State Police and worked for 23 years as a road trooper and spent four years as a special agent doing investigations. Other ISP assignments included SWAT, crowd control and range officer.

"I enjoyed investigations," Weston said. "I got to see a different side of law enforcement."

As retirement age approached, Weston reflected on his career and left investigations for a road assignment.

"I knew how I wanted to end my career — on midnight shift, hanging out with the guys, having fun and going to the bar fights," he said.

Weston retired from the ISP in 2017 and worked parttime for the Oakwood and Catlin police department for a year. When the chief at Oakwood



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Derek Weston is the new chief deputy at the Edgar County Sheriff's Department. He started part-time at the sheriff's department in 1989 after graduating from Indiana State University and later went on to a career with the Illinois State Police that included serving as a road trooper and a special agent. He retired from the ISP in 2017.

resigned to take a new job, the village board asked Weston to take over as chief. He served in that position for 14 months before deciding it was too time demanding for a person who is retired.

He then reached out to Sheriff Jeff Wood about parttime work as a road deputy with the Edgar County Sheriff's Department.

"I always admired the deputies and the department," said Weston. "We have great people here."

Shortly after filling in as an Edgar County road deputy, talks began about Weston serving in the chief deputy's position. He is now back to fulltime work.

He occasionally takes a road patrol when the department is short handed but described the job as mostly administrative with the deputies reporting directly to him.

"We need a couple of deputies, but the first thing is getting the jail up and running," said Weston. "I'm here to facilitate what the deputies need, what

Jay (jail administrator Jay Wilaman) needs and to take some of the busy work off the sheriff's desk."

One task on Weston's agenda is modernizing the department with technology. He said some procedures remained in place from when he was there in 1989.

"They still worked, but there are better ways to do things," he said.

In addition, Wood has asked Weston to use his background as a special agent to help with investigations.

He said despite some negative setbacks the department is sound and has good staff.

"The people are just looking for some direction," Weston said, noting his ISP experience will help with that, and his contacts with state personnel and resources may also serve as a valuable resource for the department.

He added a good working relationship is developing between him, Willaman and Wood that will lead to an even better department.

Weston explained three rules have always guided him during his law enforcement career and these are rules he wants the deputies to also adopt: communication, positive attitude and the golden rule.

"This job is 98 percent communication," said Weston. "You've got to be able to communicate with people. If you can't, the job is tough."

A positive attitude is critical. Weston said law enforcement, like any other job, is what a person makes it. A person with a negative attitude will not last.

"You get out of it what you put into it," Weston said.

The final rule is to treat all people with respect, whether responding to an accident or making an arrest.

"It is important to treat people the way you want to be treated," he said. "My mom and dad instilled that into me."

He added it can be especially difficult to maintain a respectful attitude given how some people react to the police, and it seems that more people lack respect for police now than in 1989.

There was a defining moment when Weston knew he wanted to work in law enforcement. He was seven years old with his father at Dick Henson's filling station when a state trooper stopped to fill up his squad car. He said the high polished shoes, crisp uniform, Montana peaked hat and respect everyone present showed for the uniform convinced him this was something special.

While the accoutrements and other ancillary parts of the job are important for defining the role, Weston said everything comes down to a desire and willingness to help people.

"I still love this job," said Weston. "I'm a lawman."

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NewWave Communications donates \$300,000; food pantry receives \$2,500

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

In an effort to assist with COVID-19 relief efforts across their 21-state footprint, NewWave Communications and the other Cable One family of brands have donated \$150,000 to the Meals on Wheels America COVID-19 Response Fund and \$150,000 to local food banks in the markets they serve.

Among those receiving the donation was Compassionate Food Ministry located in Paris. The food pantry received \$2,500.

"NewWave has set an example for others by helping us to ensure America's vulnerable seniors will continue to receive the meals they desperately need amid this national crisis," said Kristine Templin, Chief Development Officer, Meals on Wheels

America. "This generous donation will go a long way in providing certainty during these uncertain times, and I speak on behalf of the nationwide Meals on Wheels network in expressing our deep appreciation."

Customers are encouraged to visit newwavecom.com/events-news to learn more about NewWave's efforts and responses in the face of COVID-19.

4-H cancels overnight summer camps

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHAMPAIGN — University of Illinois Extension has canceled all overnight summer camps sponsored or hosted by the University of Illinois. This includes overnight residential 4-H camps conducted by Illinois 4-H. The cancellation extends through July 31.

"The safety and well-being of our campers is always our top priority—it always has been, it always will be," said Lisa Diaz, Illinois Extension assistant dean and director of Illinois 4-H. "Health is the fundamental 'H' in 4-H, and the decision to cancel camps this summer is a living lesson of putting the health of our families, friends, neighbors, communities and nation into practice in real-time."

While it is uncertain how long the public gathering restrictions will be imposed, Diaz

said hosting overnight camping opportunities requires extensive time for planning and logistics and a decision was needed now so staff and families can move forward.

"With public health and safety as a pressing concern around the world right now, we have had to make some tough decisions in order to prioritize community health," she said.

No decisions have been made about 4-H shows, exhibits and competitions for summer 2020, and the extension staff is currently operating as if these events will take place. Staff, with input from local 4-H organizations, is also developing alternative formats for 4-H shows that may be impacted by COVID-19 social distancing guidelines.

"Much like camps, 4-H exhibitions require a great deal of preparation, both by host organizations and 4-H mem-

bers preparing their projects," said Shelly Nickols-Richardson, Illinois associate dean and Extension director. "We are exploring all options to find a viable means of offering safe venues for celebrating the accomplishments of our local youth. This includes actively gathering feedback from our participants and stakeholders and balancing that against the needs of our staff and volunteers."

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Crestwood holds virtual meeting

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

The Crestwood Unit 4 school board became one of the first — if not the first — Edgar County governing body to conduct a virtual meeting for district business Wednesday, April 8.

The virtual meeting was held at the regularly scheduled time — 5:30 p.m. — but the difference was the seven board members, Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Danette Young, dean of students Megan Damler and the representative of the press attended the meeting by WebEx. Only Young was physically present at the school while board members could join by phone or via the Internet. All were in attendance, including Jared Dyer and Johnathon McCarty, who were both on planters in different fields.

Board president Jim Blue praised the work of Young, the teachers and everyone who has worked to continue learning for students since Illinois schools have been closed during the COVID-19 virus.

“I want to speak on behalf of the Crestwood board and publicly thank Danette for the leadership she has provided during this unprecedented time of crisis,” Blue said in the prepared statement. He also praised the cooperation between Young and Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson.

“I also want to commend the joint efforts of Danette and Jeremy for collaborating on various projects to benefit all the children in both District 95 and Unit 4,” Blue said. “I know you have worked together on things from food, to personal hygiene products, to Chromebooks and I’m sure the list will continue in the weeks to come. What a blessing for our community to have such great leaders.”

Blue also commended the teachers and staff of the school. “I bet there was not a class in college you took which includ-

ed the best practices on how to teach online from home during a pandemic and still take care of yourself and your students,” he said, noting they have, “been thrown into a lion’s den...and are coming through with flying colors.”

Blue described the teachers and staff as shining stars. The maintenance staff of the school was also praised by Blue for, “their diligent work in making sure Crestwood is spotlessly cleaned and as germ-free as possible. We appreciate all you do for us and our kids.”

Blue noted the school secretaries continue to take care of Crestwood every day.

“Lastly, we will get through this, and we will come out stronger, somehow. Thanks again for all you have done for our school, our kids, and our community,” Blue concluded.

The board also:
■ Selected Jarrod Dyer as the EIASE governing board delegate. Mike Reed is the alternate.

■ Approved a memorandum of understanding between the district and the Edgar County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency for use of the school gym to house people in case of emergency.

■ Thanked Larson and Paris 95 for providing meals for 35 Crestwood students.

■ Thanked Lois Moore for her donation toward laptops and Mike and Julie Garver for the donation of three laptops to students in need.

■ Hired Lynsey Gosnell as the Title I math and reading teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

Young said Gosnell’s new assignment creates an elementary school teaching position — probably for first grade.

MOTHER EAGLE FEEDING HER CHICK CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Christian Colvin/The Prairie Press

Talented Paris photographer Christian Colvin caught this Bald Eagle female feeding one of her two of her eaglets Wednesday at one of the Edgar County nests. The male eagle was keeping an eye on Colvin from a nearby tree while he was shooting the pictures.

BUSINESSES

FROM PAGE 1A

Holloway has already applied for a couple of federal grants and loans, including the Small Business Administration’s Payroll Protection Program, a loan which is forgiven if 75 percent of it is spent on employee salaries and the rest goes to operating costs. She wants to wait before asking for more. In the meantime, everyone is doing what they can to operate efficiently and stay safe, from reducing staff hours to sanitizing and wearing gloves when interacting with cash and deliveries.

Holloway knows as time goes on, many will opt to cook at home. She encouraged people to support Main Street Café by doing what they can.

“Order, order, order. That’s the key to our survival”

BETTY JANE’S KITCHEN

The attitude of Betty Jane’s Kitchen is industrious optimism: times are hard, but the best way to see them through is with prayer, positivity and effort.

“We just roll with the punches and try our best to be joyful,” said owner Robin Trapp.

Betty Jane’s Kitchen, one of Paris’s newer restaurants, is now operating exclusively via drive-through and curbside pickup. Their profits have dipped, but Trapp said she and her staff still feel support from the community.

“Their gifts of encouragement, well-wishes and prayer are endless,” Trapp said.

For all the changes COVID-19 has wrought, the staff’s cleaning schedule has stayed virtually the same.

“We typically go above and beyond when it comes to germs,” Trapp said. “Really, the only change we have made is between each customer we Clorox-wipe everything in the drive-through window and [use] Germ-X.”

Trapp has not applied for financial help yet, but she is closely watching the budget. She welcomes the community to support Betty Jane’s Kitchen however it can.

“The best way to support our business is to come and see us if you are able, words of encouragement are greatly appreciated and prayers are always needed,” she said.

ELLIE + OLIVE CHILDREN’S BOUTIQUE

Pia Krieger, who runs Ellie + Olive Children’s Boutique with her sisters Franceska and Teresa Twigg, said they are relying fully on their online presence with Facebook Live shows, website sales and customer relationships. Thanks to their customer base, the situation is not yet dire.

“The community is still supporting us,” she said.

Krieger misses seeing people visit the store but said she and her sisters regularly interact with customers by messaging and sending them pictures of items they want, then delivering.

“My sisters and I are actually delivering in town and available for curbside pickup,” Krieger said.

According to Krieger, the best way to support them is to shop online and keep in touch over Facebook. She added that summer apparel has begun arriving.

Krieger does think they will need to look into federal help as the pandemic progresses.

“I think we’re going to (look into financial help) just so that when all this is over we can keep moving along,” she said.

LOT 50 BREWERY

Currently Lot 50, a trendy brewery and social spot, is open twice a week for growler sales. These are refills of the 64-ounce containers universally sold by breweries. Customers are filling up, but sales are rough and only one employee is needed to keep up with demand. Wine, cider and soda sales are discontinued.

“It’s beating us up, no question,” said Lot 50 Brewery co-owner Bruce Young.

The only thing unchanged by nationwide germaphobia is Lot 50’s conscientious cleaning schedule. Brewing a malt beverage onsite means the environment and equipment need to be spotless.

“Everything about sanitation is engrained in what we do,” he said.

According to Young, he and fellow owners Steve Coombes and Doug Smittkamp are reluctant to pursue loans. They applied for the Hospitality Emergency Grant Program, which supports working capital and technology changes in eligible restaurants and bars, but notification for the recipients was delayed by the volume of applicants.

Despite the uncertainty, Young said the situation is not desperate. Bookkeeper Jill Coombes, who is married to Steve Coombes, does a great job keeping them in the black.

“It’d be nice to get a little kick to support us, but we’re pretty conservative with our finances, so we can go like this for a while,” he said.

He and his co-owners are hopeful that by the end of May, they will be able to celebrate their second anniversary with their patrons.

“We’ve got a couple special batches we’ve worked up,” Young said.

EDGAR COUNTY LOCKER

Unlike many small businesses, Edgar County Locker’s retail sales boomed in the face of shutdowns and shortages.

“When Wal-Mart ran out of meat, we were swamped. Business out a week and a half ago, two weeks ago, was overwhelming. I guess I feel we’ve been here to support the community as best we can,” said owner Bob Miller.

The tradeoff has been higher prices from suppliers and 10-hour workdays. The first week of shutdowns saw all of Miller’s distributors raising their prices by 50 cents per pound as processing plants cut their workforce and demand spiked. Miller has made special trips to Indianapolis for bone-in pork loin and chicken while they are in stock.

“Even our major suppliers are having trouble getting product,” he said.

Compared to the past, the locker is now over-ordering to keep meat on the shelves. This week, business increased again, which Miller believes is because more shops are closing and more coronavirus cases were confirmed in southern Illinois.

For safety, everyone is keeping surfaces wiped down. Miller encourages patrons not to crowd the store and employees are now carrying some orders to customers’ cars.

Things are going well overall. But as the landscape keeps shifting, Miller says he plans to apply for payroll protection for his employees, including five new hires since the crisis started.

Miller’s hope is that he gets to keep serving the community and building new customer relationships. Edgar County Locker prides itself on its selection custom meats, rubs,



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Robin Trapp of Betty Jane’s Kitchen greets customers from the drive-through window. Like many restaurants, Trapp’s business is now exclusively operating through to-go orders to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

spices and marinades, and Miller loves seeing people realize exactly how much variety is there.

“Keep coming back. We’ll keep offering the same products we always have...when grilling season comes, don’t forget Edgar County Locker tried to take care of everybody.”

LORI’S PINS ‘N NEEDLES

Lori’s Pins ‘n Needles has been a landmark in Paris for four decades. Owner Lori Bridwell says being an established business is an advantage right now, since the disruption is hitting new small businesses hardest.

“We can kind of shift a little bit with the times and it tends to work out,” she said.

Naturally, Lori’s has canceled many of the moneymaking events and demonstrations this spring, but the store’s local customer base is creative, loyal and generous. Many are combatting the shortage of Personal Protective Equipment by sewing face masks for hospitals and senior centers.

For Bridwell, keeping everyone safe is a top priority. Employees are taking fabric orders over the phone and carrying them out to the parking lot, as well as shipping them through the mail. Keeping counters wiped down is another way they fight the virus.

“We’ve always been one to keep things clean,” she said, but now everyone is going the extra mile.

Bridwell would rather not pursue financial help yet, saying she is positive things will come back around. In the meantime, Lori’s Pins ‘n Needles will do what it has always done and feed the creativity of seamstresses across the community. Bridwell urged her customers to keep communicating with her.

“They can continue to keep in touch with us, we’re happy to provide them with what they need to continue their projects,” she said.

120 COFFEE CO.

As hard as 120 Coffee Co. has been hit — their coffeeshop was created as a space to sit, sip and chat — they also tell stories of inspiring generosity. Customers, some halfway across the country, have paid forward to give away. Someone in North Dakota bought \$100 worth, while another in Washington, D.C. sent a message along with the sweets: someone cares.

These acts make all the difference to owner Richard Wilken.

“We are down, depends on the day, up to two-thirds down on sales,” said Wilken, who owns 120 Coffee Co. with his wife, Stacey. People working from home do not swing by for

coffee, and mothers with kids sometimes find it difficult to get the family out the door.

“I totally understand, I’d rather people stay safe,” he said.

Currently, the Wilkens take phone orders of coffees and sweets for pickup and curbside delivery, as well as shipping bags of coffee through the mail. They are also using the lull to do a little refurbishing.

“We’re using this time to do some changes, remodeling, just things we were too busy for,” he explained.

Cleanliness remains a high priority. It is also surprisingly easy, Wilken said.

“One thing that’s positive, all of our countertops are copper, which is one of the hardest surfaces for germs to breed on,” said Wilken.

Since 120 Coffee Co. is a cash business run by its owners, and therefore has no employees to protect, Wilken said they would rather not take any government money. They may reconsider as time goes on, though.

“I would think about it,” he admitted.

Wilken’s biggest fear is after the pandemic subsides, people will forget about the small businesses and restaurants they enjoyed before.

“Shop, do what you can,” he urged. “Buy coffee to take home... Support us on the backside when things get back to normal.”

R&J STORES

Unsurprisingly to many, alcohol sales across the nation have increased in this time of stress and confinement.

“The liquor store business is one of the few businesses that has actually seen growth in sales,” said owner Ben Lueken. R&J Stores has still taken a hit, however.

“We’ve lost our gaming and so our net profits are down,” he explained, adding they have also hired five new employees who were laid off when their previous jobs shut down. Lueken is looking into the Payroll Protection Program for that reason.

Employees are welcome to wear masks and have the added safety of plexiglass dividers in the store. Signs inside encourage customers to mind social distancing. The best way to shop currently is from inside one’s own car.

“We’re encouraging customers to use our drive-up window,” he said.

Lueken has always encouraged people to shop locally, whether at R&J Stores or elsewhere. Now, he says, it is vital.

“The impact on the small business owner is going to be felt more the longer this virus goes on,” said Lueken.

Brocton awards water main project

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

BROCTON — The Brocton Village Board moved quickly through all business matters during a meeting lasting about 10 minutes Wednesday, April 8.

A couple of factors helped accelerate the meeting. Following COVID-19 requirements for social distancing and Governor J.B. Pritzker’s executive order suspending parts of the open meetings act to allow locally elected officials to participate by phone, there was sparse attendance at the meeting. The other issue pushing for a quick meeting was a big approaching storm with wind, lightning and rain.

Mayor Dennis Cary, trustees Christie Richardson and Richard Grice and village clerk Dana Bogle were present in the village hall. Trustees Debbie Porter and Rodney Wood participated by phone.

After moving through the routine matters of paying bills and approving the minutes and treasurer’s report, the meeting was turned over to Lee Beckman of Milano & Grunloh Engineers, Effingham.

Milano & Grunloh is ad-

ministering a \$500,000 USDA Rural Development Grant for installing new water mains in part of Brocton. Beckman said three bids were opened at the Effingham office and the lowest bidder was B&T Drainage of Marshall at \$493,853. He also read the amounts sought by the other two bidders, including a Missouri company.

The village board voted to award the contract to B&T Drainage. According to Beckman, the next phase of the work is a three- to four-week period for the contractor to get bonding and insurance guarantees in place.

“I anticipate a pre-construction meeting in early May and the start of construction is possible in mid-May,” said Beckman.

He also reminded the village board it is time to start preparing another rural development grant application for replacing water mains in the area of the village that is not part of this project.

That was the totality of the meeting.

COUNTY

FROM PAGE 4A

August Griffin reported the March 17 primary election is officially over.

“The election results are canvassed and submitted to the state board of elections,” said Griffin, adding 25 percent of eligible voters participated in the primary.

He also thanked the election judges, the places that provided polling centers and his staff for making the election go smoothly.

“It takes a lot of people to make an election work,” said Griffin.

He added only one school is left as a polling center, and while he hopes to find a new site, that will not happen in time for the November election.

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POLLY BARKLEY
CASEY — Alta Pauline "Polly" Barkley, 103, of Anderson, S.C., and formerly of Casey, passed away at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, April 2, 2020, at Condor Health, Anderson, S.C. A graveside service and burial for family was Wednesday, April 8, at Hazel Dell South Cemetery, with Pastor Richard Emrich officiating. Markwell Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. More information and online condolences at www.markwellfuneralhome.com.

VICKIE GRIFFIN
 Vickie Sue Carnahan Griffin, 60, of Paris, passed away at 3:31 a.m., Saturday April 4, 2020, in her home. She was a wife and a mother. In keeping with the federal mandates, the service is limited to immediate family only and a celebration of life may be held at a later date after COVID-19. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mrs. Griffin was born Sept. 28, 1959, at Paris, the daughter of the late Wayne and Susan

JOHN HITTLE
 An April 18 funeral service scheduled for John Lawrence Hittle has been postponed and will be scheduled at a later date. Mr. Hittle of Paris, passed away March 13, 2020. An obituary appeared in the March 21 issue of The Prairie Press. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. More information is available at www.templetonfuneralhome.com.

RITA HAMMOND
MARSHALL — Loredia J. "Rita" Hammond, 64, of Marshall, passed away at 3:23 p.m. Monday, April 6, 2020, in Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind. All services are private with burial in Auburn Cemetery. A public memorial service will be conducted at a later date. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

McCoy Carnahan. She grew up in Dana, Ind. She married Wayne Griffin Nov. 17, 1979, at Bell Ridge Christian Church, Paris, and he survives. Survivors include her daughter, Alycia (Chris) Elliott of Danville, Ind.; sisters, Kathy Shepard of Terre Haute, Ind., Gayle Southard of Dana, Ind., Linda Jones of Clinton, Ind., and Lori Webster of Terre Haute. She was Nana to her grandchildren, Hayden Elizabeth and Emerson Nicole. Memorial donations may be made to the Edgar County Animal Shelter. Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

WILLIAM HAYS
MARSHALL — William Everett Hays, 60, of Marshall, passed away Saturday, April 4, 2020, at his home. Arrangements are pending at Pearce Funeral Home. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

JAMES ELAM
 James S. Elam, 100, of Paris, passed away at 12:30 a.m., Friday April 10, 2020, at Twin Lakes Rehab. He was the owner/operator of Elam's Fresh-Made Ice Cream Store in Paris. In keeping with the federal mandates, the service is limited to immediate family only. The Rev. Debbie McClarey will officiate and military honors will be conducted by the American Legion Post 211. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting with the arrangements. Mr. Elam was born Oct. 3, 1919, in Paris, the son of the late Charles and Etta Elam.

BETTY HUNT
OAKLAND — Betty Jean Wilcoxon Hunt, 89, of Charleston, and formerly of Oakland, died Saturday, April 4, 2020, at St. Anthony's Memorial Hospital, Effingham. The family will hold a private burial service in Fairview Cemetery, south of Oakland, with her beloved and devoted neighbor, "Coach" John McNerney, officiating. Krabel Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the Oakland High School FFA or the OHS National Honor Society, and checks may be mailed to Krabel Funeral Home, P.O. Box 1007, Oakland, IL 61943. More information and online condolences at www.krabelfuneralhome.com.

He married Martha Etta Griffith Elam Aug. 2, 1941, in Paris, and she preceded him in death March 26, 2015. He is survived by his children, Mary Ann McClarey of Paris, James S. (Jeanette) Elam of Las Vegas, Nev., and Mike (Sharon) Elam of Las Vegas, Nev.; several grandchildren, several great-grandchildren and several great-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his granddaughter, Pam Cassidy; siblings, Donk, Jack, Grover, Hattie, Mary and Pearlie; grandson, Jimmy Ray McClarey; grandson-in-law, Andy Shotts; and a son-in-law, Roscoe McClarey. Mr. Elam served in the United States Army in World War II and was a member of the American Legion Post 211. Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

DUDLEY CROW
MARSHALL — Dudley R. Crow of Marshall, and formerly of Lawrence, Kan., passed away April 3, 2020. A celebration of life will be held at a later date in Marshall. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

PEGGY ASHER
MARSHALL — Peggy Ann Asher, 65, of Casey, and formerly of Marshall, passed away Friday, April 3, 2020, in the Casey Health Care Center. Services will be announced at a later date. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

LLOYD WEIR
MARSHALL — Lloyd D. Weir, 81, of Marshall, and formerly of Martinsville and Greenup, passed away Sunday, April 5, 2020, in Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing. Public military graveside rites will be held later in St. Paul's Cemetery. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital or to any animal shelter. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

MARY LOU PATCHETT
CASEY — Mary Lou Booth Patchett, 65, of Casey, passed away at 11:13 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2020, at her home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Markwell Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to Casey First Christian Church. More information and online condolences at www.markwellfuneralhome.com.

MARY LOU PATCHETT
 Casey — Mary Lou Booth Patchett, 65, of Casey, passed away at 11:13 p.m. Friday, April 3, 2020, at her home. A memorial service will be held at a later date. Markwell Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to Casey First Christian Church. More information and online condolences at www.markwellfuneralhome.com.

CARES Act offers help to business, investors

As we go through the coronavirus crisis, we are all, first and foremost, concerned about the health of our loved ones and communities. But the economic implications of the virus have also weighed heavily on our minds. However, if you're an investor or a business owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future. Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following: Expanded unemployment benefits – The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent

contractors and gig economy workers. Obviously, if your employment has been affected, these benefits can be a lifeline. Furthermore, the benefits could help you avoid liquidating some long-term investments you've earmarked for retirement just to meet your daily cash flow needs. Direct payments – Individuals will receive a one-time payment of up to \$1,200; this amount is reduced for incomes over \$75,000 and eliminated altogether at \$99,000. Joint filers will receive up to \$2,400, which will be reduced for incomes over \$150,000 and eliminated at \$198,000 for joint filers with no children. Plus, taxpayers with children will receive an extra \$500 for each dependent child under the age of 17. If you don't need this money immediately, you might consider putting it into a low-risk, liquid account as part of an emergency fund. No penalty on early withdrawals – Typically, you'd have to pay a 10% penalty on early withdrawals from IRAs, 401(k)s and similar retirement accounts. Under the CARES Act, this penalty will be waived for individuals who qualify for

COVID-19 relief and/or in plans that allow COVID-19 distributions. Withdrawals will still be taxable, but the taxes can be spread out over three years. Still, you might want to avoid taking early withdrawals, as you'll want to keep your retirement accounts intact as long as possible. Suspension of required withdrawals – Once you turn 72, you'll be required to take withdrawals from your traditional IRA and 401(k). The CARES Act waives these required minimum distributions for 2020. If you're in this age group, but you don't need the money, you can let your retirement accounts continue growing on a tax-deferred basis. Increase of retirement plan loan limit – Retirement plan investors who qualify for COVID-19 relief can now borrow up to \$100,000 from their accounts, up from \$50,000, provided their plan allows loans. We recommend that you explore other options, such as the direct payments, to bridge the gap on current expenses and if you choose to take a plan loan, work with your financial adviser to develop strategies to pay back these funds over time

to reduce any long-term impact to your retirement goals. Small-business loans – The CARES Act provides \$349 billion to help small businesses – those with fewer than 500 employees – retain workers and avoid closing up shop. A significant part of this small business relief is the Paycheck Protection Program. This initiative provides federally guaranteed loans to small businesses who maintain payroll during this emergency. Significantly, these loans may be forgiven if borrowers use the loans for payroll and other essential business expenses (such as mortgage interest, rent and utilities) and maintain their payroll during the crisis. We'll be in a challenging economic environment for some time, but the CARES Act should give us a positive jolt – and brighten our outlook. (Derrick Lorenzen is a financial advisor with Edward Jones in Paris. Email him at derrick.lorenzen@edwardjones.com.)

DERRICK LORENZEN
 FINANCIAL FOCUS
 owner, you just got some help from Washington – and it could make a big difference, at least in the short term, for your financial future. Specifically, the passage of the \$2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act offers, among other provisions, the following: Expanded unemployment benefits – The CARES Act provides \$250 billion for extended unemployment insurance, expands eligibility and provides workers with an additional \$600 per week for four months, in addition to what state programs pay. The package will also cover the self-employed, independent

The family of
Charles Schaich
 Would like to thank everyone for the kind words, prayers, food, and beautiful flowers. Thank you for the donations to the First Christian Church and the Do It Program. Everything was truly appreciated. The Family of Charles Schaich

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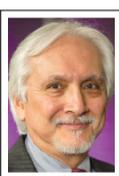
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Time to put Trump in time out

Coronavirus media coverage is resurrecting debates among journalists, politicians and regular folks over the definition of news. At the center of these discussions are the daily White House/Trump coronavirus news events.



JOHN POWELL

GUEST COLUMN

These are news events and not news conferences or pressers or whatever one might call them. They do not provide useful information that could not be disseminated in another way; they only strengthen the beliefs of the opposing bases of the Always Trumpers and Never Trumpers. I will bet your salary that a majority of likely voters do not watch these events, and of those likely voters, only a portion read detailed accounts of them. The rest receive headline feeds and posts on social media or watch their local newscasts package.

Local and national media executives apparently did not learn the lesson of four years ago when Trump played them and pushed their buttons with outrageous and self-serving comments, resulting in the media trying to show Trump's fitness to be president by giving him millions of dollars in free political air time and column inches.

How did that work out?

I hear the arguments from newsrooms that viewers want to watch the live events and then call up to complain when a local station cuts away from a competing news conference from city and county officials who have information the community needs to know. This is not really a case of damned-if-they-do or damned-if-they-don't. If that is the argument, then the media are chasing ratings and not chasing stories. I can tell you for a fact that news organizations will not cover news conferences they deem lacking in news content. Yes, they will make such editorial decisions before the fact every day.

Unless the White House has breaking information that will change the course of mighty rivers, any outrageous quotes or important new information will hold until the next scheduled newscast or until the next posts by attending reporters. Oh, and those creepy quotes from Trump have moved beyond anyone's definition of news. The man uses the toilet every day, but the media do not report that POTUS used the toilet today.

No, any organization, local or national, that carries these events live and uninterrupted does so with the purpose of unseating Trump. Recent history supports this idea. Remember when members of Congress and the national media did not have time in January and February to report on the virus outbreak in China, and spent their time and resources instead on impeaching the president?

One could compare media members with petulant children, clenching their little fists and stomping their little feet because they did not get their way four years ago. Not carrying the White House coronavirus events live is one way to put Trump in timeout, but that would be the adult thing to do.

Mundus vult decipi.

(John David Powell is a Paris native and an award-winning journalist who lives in Texas. His email is johndavidpowell@yahoo.com.)

YOUR VIEW

Isolationism, racism make things worse

Editor, The Prairie Press:

In the April 4 issue of The Prairie Press, Jack Hoffman wrote a piece called "Comfort food and toilet paper," which used the coronavirus pandemic to fearmonger about Asians and universal healthcare, as well as push an isolationism which has already made this pandemic worse for the United States.

He spends the first third of the article writing about how Americans have gotten used to using toilet paper, calling Americans, "the most hygiene conscious people on the planet." He contrasts that with, "nations in the Far East or socialist regimes," which he compares to, "our immature developing country while in its infancy," during the Revolutionary War. Calling an entire continent of people unadvanced or unclean is incredibly racist, and comes at a time when Asian Americans are facing discrimination over the coronavirus pandemic. Stoking this kind of discrimination isn't just wrong, it's irresponsible during a crisis that calls for unity.

The column ends by blaming the pandemic on, "inferior healthcare internationally, regressive cultural practices and the domination of socialism/communism," further insulting the nations seen as unadvanced. All of this is brought together to stoke fear about universal healthcare, which is claimed will bring, "corn cobs, leaves, and Sears catalogues," for toilet paper and, "health care reduced to arbitrary decisions by government officials as to who is allowed the most extensive efforts and who is allowed critical care," likely in reference to Italy, where the hospital system has been so overrun that doctors have been forced to only take the cases of COVID-19 most likely to survive.

I don't want to, nor do I get to, tell anybody else what they should think. My problem

See **LETTERS**, Page 7A

Easter dawns anyway

Tomorrow, Christians will celebrate the resurrection and hope for tomorrow

We enter this Easter weekend much differently than any of us have ever experienced.

And while we are concerned about loved ones throughout the U.S. and across the world who are ill with the COVID-19 virus, Easter and its meaning hasn't changed a bit. Christians will celebrate the miracle of the resurrection on the third day whether they are sitting in their church Sunday or at home. Easter and the resurrection comes to us no matter what is going on in the world. There will always be an empty tomb.

While 2020 will be different, we have the full meaning of Easter — something this terrible virus cannot take away. Because of the resurrection, we are confident of brighter days ahead — not just sunshine and warmer temperatures, but the promise of a healthy tomorrow.

Take a few minutes Sunday morning, turn off Netflix and sit down as a family and read the story of the resurrection we are sharing with from the Gospel of Matthew. May it give us hope and

OUR VIEW

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

encouragement in the days ahead.

"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb.

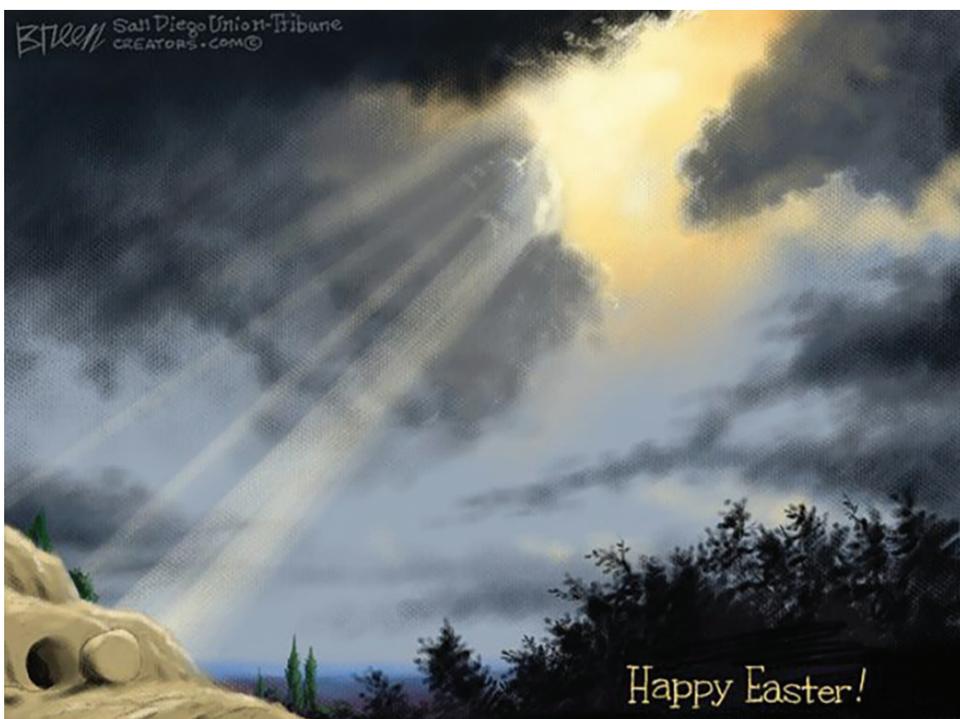
"There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

"The angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you."

"So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. "Greetings," he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."

"While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan, they gave the soldiers a large sum of money, telling them, "You are to say, 'His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day."

—Matthew 28:1-15 Bible New International Version



Blaming making it harder to know what to believe

Recently, I heard myself say something rarely thought, much less expressed, as I was talking to a friend on the phone: "You know, from now on, I think everything we say and do has to be prefaced by the question: Is it helpful?"

This is an echo of the physician's creed: "Above all, do no harm." But it isn't typically the first thought of most columnists, including this one. Oh, don't get me wrong, we want to save the world with small gestures of biting wit and well-sung sarcasm. But, generally speaking, writing a column isn't far afield from H.L. Mencken's observation that, "every normal man must be tempted, at times, to spit upon his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin slitting throats."

Pandemics necessarily change one's tune. The normal man or woman today just wants to survive. Me, too.

An honest answer to my question, of course, would end many a critic's career. But some criticism is valuable and necessary, if based in fact and lucid observation. Which brings me to a short detour to address an unintentional mistake I made in a recent column, citing President Trump's calling the novel coronavirus a hoax. I wasn't aware this wasn't so until several readers wrote to inform me. With apolo-

gies to the president, Trump said Democrats were using the pandemic as a hoax to take him down.

Let the record reflect: The president never said the pandemic was a hoax. He did suggest the narrative about his mishandling of the pandemic was a hoax. I regret the error. But allow me to post an asterisk, as well: Trump has told so many untruths, called so many challenges hoaxes and tried to discredit so many people who displayed what he views as disloyalty by disagreeing with him, that it's easy to understand how the incorrect hoax attribution gained traction.

This shouldn't be construed as justification but merely a larger context in which to appraise the president. Criticism is not, in every case, a function of bias, as his supporters often charge, but is sometimes a necessary balance to Trump's shifting definitions of reality.

While I'm in a generous mood, it may not be entirely true the president ignored early warnings and the advice of his science advisers concerning the virus. To be sure, Trump can be maddening in his elocutions, such as the virus will just disappear, "like a miracle," pronounced with a wand-like flourish of his hand. Trump did say that.

But it was difficult to know how seriously to take the reports of the virus sweeping through Wuhan, China, earlier this year. At first, most reports were sketchy; Chinese officials were not exactly candid about what they knew, or whether they were trying to get to

the bottom of things.

In the early days, even Anthony S. Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, spoke cautiously about the likelihood that COVID-19 was a threat to the United States, if only to avoid sparking a panic.

A campaign from the right to discredit Fauci is now in full swing, apparently because the media seems to admire him. In the past 24 hours, I've seen a 2013 email circulating on social media, allegedly from WikiLeaks, that Fauci wrote to Hillary Clinton praising her stamina and capability during her testimony as secretary of state before the congressional committee investigating the attacks in Benghazi, Libya. Pairing Fauci and Clinton is all that's needed to revive the lock-her-up chorus and toss Fauci into the bargain.

An article recently posted on RealClearPolitics includes a timeline of comments made by Fauci that appear in retrospect to suggest he (and others) understated the significance of the virus. But a closer examination of the quotes often reveals that many are taken out of their full, and usually careful, context. It all prompts me to ask: Is that helpful?

As a result of all the blaming and shaming, it's even more difficult than usual to know whom or what to believe. Weeks ago, we were told masks weren't necessary. Now, apparently, we need them any time we leave the house. Could this have been foreseen? Common

See **PARKER**, Page 7A

Limiting liability for healthcare workers

Without fanfare last week, Gov. J.B. Pritzker issued a sweeping executive order (2020-19) granting many healthcare providers immunity from civil liability during the COVID-19 crisis.



RICH MILLER
 CAPITOL FAX

If medical facilities, community-integrated living facilities, community mental health centers and others are providing COVID-19 health care services, they cannot be sued, "for any injury or death alleged to have been caused by any act or omission by the Health Care Facility, which injury or death occurred at a time when a Health Care Facility was engaged in the course of rendering assistance to the State by providing health care services in response to the COVID-19 outbreak," until after the governor's disaster declaration finally expires.

And the same goes for doctors, nurses, emergency medical service workers and even health care volunteers. They're all immune to civil liability if they are providing services to any of the facilities dealing with the pandemic.

To be clear, this EO covers not just the treatment of pandemic cases, but every service offered during the pandemic, as long as the institutions are involved in the response. If one has a botched heart surgery, they'd still be theoretically immune to lawsuits, as long as it didn't involve gross negligence or willful misconduct.

The Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, which represents plaintiffs' lawyers and has pushed for strong civil suit protections, is one of the most powerful

See **MILLER**, Page 7A

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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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6A

with this article isn't that it's opposed to one policy or another. My problem is that it encourages isolationism, even while America is recovering from its slowness of testing, a slowness which could've been aided by accepting proven tests made in foreign countries. My problem is that it sows discrimination in a time where every American needs to work together. My problem is that it uses racism and lies to push an unrelated political opinion while America is in crisis.

When we as a species get through this pandemic, it won't be through mistrust or isolation, it'll be through putting the world's heads together and staying calm.

Drew Chittick,
Paris

No COVID-19 in Edgar County

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Folks, there is something wonderful that is not happening in Edgar County. Correct, not happening. We are surrounded by seven counties that touch Edgar County, five in Illinois and two in Indiana. All of them have a number of Covid19 illnesses except us — all of them. There are 132 active cases in these seven counties including 3 deaths.

Are we just lucky? No, but fortunate. Fortunately that we have Horizon Health, our public health department and a huge number of dedicated volunteers leading the way in prevention and education — we have you.

Stay home is not what we want to hear, but it is the best way we can do our part to keep this disease away.

I don't know if we can keep COVID-19 out of the county,

but with everyone's continued effort, we just might succeed.

Tom Hebermehl, R.Ph.
Paris

Weak government is failing in crisis

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Four decades ago, President Ron informed us that government is not the solution to our problems, but its cause. Grover "No-tax" Norquist wanted to shrink government to a size he could drown in a bathtub. Less "gubment," the better.

That's the path we've been on since the 1980s. We christened neoliberalism, globalization, Darwinian survival of the fittest, unfettered invisible hand, trickle-down free enterprise economic policies. We've allowed an ever-shrinking role of government in our lives. And, not incidentally, an ever-shrinking democracy.

The COVID-19 virus has drawn back the curtain on the shortcomings of a shrunken government. At its very least, the purpose of government is to keep us safe. Caught totally unprepared, it's failed us.

I see thousands of Americans sheltered in a superdome without food, water, sanitation, health care, diapers and an undertaker. How did small government serve us then? Ya, Ya, "Great job, Brownie."

Did we learn nothing? In recent years, the CDC's budget has shrunken. A group of scientists tasked with recognizing and preparing for a pandemic was disbanded, presumably because Obama created it.

Unfortunately, our current president is ill-equipped to lead us through this. His big sticks — tariffs, sanctions, withholding aid and a really tall wall — are no help.

COVID-19 cannot be bullied or mocked by a cute tweeted slur like Little Marco and Lying Ted. Divisiveness is the opposite of what's called for — empathy and cohesion.

Pushing responsibility off on governors and mayors is not leadership.

We're practicing social distancing. For the past 40 years, American corporations and the government they've bought have colluded to push economic, political and social policies, intentionally distancing the financial fortunes of the wealthy from the well-being of the work-a-day majority.

The plutocrats have blocked Medicare for All, paid sick leave, family medical leave, home health care and affordable childcare, all of which could mitigate suffering now and when COVID-19 really hits the fan.

We need strong central government, not just to protect us from crises, but because that's where democracy resides. This unfettered corporatization of America unleashed by President Ron has shrunken our democracy to bathtub size.

Why is it for decades policies favored by a majority, sometimes vast, of us haven't been legislated into law? Such as a living wage, sensible gun laws, affordable higher education and childcare, health care as a right — not a privilege, measures to save our planet, protecting Social Security by raising the income level at which it's taxed, getting big money out of elections (money is not speech) and encouraging people to use their blinker.

We need to fetter corporate power, rebuild a democracy our founders would recognize and as FDR put it, "restore America to its own people."

Michael Bennett
Vermilion

MILLER

FROM PAGE 6A

Statehouse lobbies, but it has been utterly silent on the governor's new EO and hasn't responded to requests for comment.

So, how can the governor legally sweep away almost all civil liability for those providers? Well, it's in state law.

The Illinois Emergency Management Agency Act gives the governor a ton of powers and exempts health care workers and others from certain civil liability during a pending or actual disaster while under contract or direction from the government.

Pritzker's EO specifically directs medical facilities, personnel and volunteers to render assistance in support of the State's response to the disaster. That gubernatorial order triggers the law's provisions.

Everyone from the federal government on down say it's about to get very real here (it already is in New York), and several hospitals will be overloaded.

A Pritzker administration official explained what's about to happen: "You tell your hospital, 'I know your standards of care are, say, 15 nurses on your ICU floor and now we're telling you to only have 10 nurses because you have nurses calling in sick, and you have 20 more patients, but you're just gonna have to tough it out and do that because you cannot turn anybody away who you can fit in a bed.'"

Understandably, we don't want facilities and staff constantly worrying about being sued while treating people in those conditions. They have enough to worry

about right now.

The hospitals also reportedly asked for the EO partly to make sure that nursing homes and other residential facilities don't freak out about legal liability when their residents begin to show symptoms and then hurriedly decide to immediately transfer them to already overburdened hospitals.

Flattening the curve, remember, is all about preventing the overloading of hospitals. Staying at home lessens a person's chance of catching or spreading the virus, and it also means keeping nursing home, CILA residents and others in place as long as possible.

Most hospitals weren't doing well financially even before the pandemic. Closures were becoming the norm throughout the state as revenues dried up.

Elective procedures were essentially keeping most facilities afloat, but those are now banned by the most recent executive order. As Crain's Chicago Business reported last week, even Cook County's public health system relies on

elective procedures to bring in revenues, but eliminating them per CDC guidelines cut the number of surgeries it performs in half.

A massive health systems bailout will likely be required after this is all over, if not before. Until then, I'm told the Pritzker administration wanted to provide whatever help it could and this EO will do that.

As to whether that theoretical botched heart surgery mentioned above will fall under the civil liability exemption, I've heard differing opinions on whether it will or won't. Judges and juries are certain to cut hospitals and caregivers some slack if they are working in an over-burdened facility. A heart surgeon, however, who is not doing any pandemic work wouldn't have much of a defense for botching a surgery. So maybe the trial lawyers won't be completely shut out.

(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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PARKER

FROM PAGE 6A

sense suggests as much. Would people have worn them? I don't know. But the change in policy is unnerving, suggestive that lives could have

been saved had we been more careful sooner. Anger about this back-and-forth is understandable, but it isn't helpful.

There will be plenty of time when this is over to affix blame. In the meantime, as Queen Elizabeth II advised

her nation and the world, we should remain calm. For the frustrated pirates among you, I'm told black flags make excellent masks.

(Kathleen Parker is a politically conservative-leaning columnist for The Washington

Post. Email her at kparker@washpost.com.)



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Wal-Mart employee sings in commercial

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Erin Sellers, a pharmacy technician at the Paris Wal-Mart, is one of five people featured singing in a new Wal-Mart commercial that debuted during the April 4-5 weekend.



SELLERS

The singers are performing a capella versions of Bill Withers' "Lean on Me."

According to Wal-Mart representatives, the effort originally started with a group of employees sending out the singing messages as a way of encouraging fellow associates. Company executives were inspired by the effort

and turned it into a commercial encouraging everybody to support each other during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This is the third time Sellers has appeared in Wal-Mart productions. She was among a group of vocally talented Wal-Mart employees brought to Bentonville, Arkansas, during June 2019 to record two music videos that were subsequently turned into commercials.

The first commercial was "America, the Beautiful" which was released over the July 4 weekend. The second commercial, "The Wal-Mart Shuffle," was released later in the year.

Sellers was featured in a July 6, 2019, story in The Prairie Press relating her experiences recording the music videos for Wal-Mart.

Bulkmatic acquires Paris Transport, Inc.

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Bulkmatic LLC acquired the assets of Paris Transport Inc. and began operations at the former Paris terminal and warehouse locations in Paris on March 16.

The acquisition will create additional capacity and improved service for Bulkmatic customers in the Central Illinois and Indianapolis markets.

Customers of Paris Transport, Inc will have continuity in management as the Paris management team is staying on and will continue to run the new Bulkmatic operations. Shippers in the region will have access to additional capacity through the larger Bulkmatic terminal network.

"The two organizations have a similar customer focus and our networks match-up very well. We believe this combination will improve service to PTI's long-standing customers by tapping into Bulkmatic's regional capacity," said Doug Smittkamp, vice-president of Paris Transport Inc.

Founded in 1976, Paris Transport started with two trucks and four trailers. Over the years the company has grown and diversified by adding dry van and pneumatic tanks. Straight trucks were added in the late 1980s to supply expedited freight services. A warehouse facility was added in 1993.

In 1998, the warehouse

expanded to 20,000 square feet and in 2005 a new 50,000 square feet facility was built with expansion capabilities up to 100,000 square feet.

Paris Transport has a long history of operating in the Central Illinois and Indiana markets allowing Bulkmatic to efficiently expand operations in the region. The purchased business includes dry bulk tank and dry van trucking, a tank wash and a 50,000 square foot, food-grade warehouse.

"Bulkmatic has always thought very highly of Paris Transport Inc. This is a great opportunity for us to leverage the benefits of market density to improve service to new and existing regional customers," said Jeff Bingham, Vice President of Sales, Bulkmatic.

Founded in 1965, Bulkmatic is one of the largest and most trusted dry bulk transportation companies in the nation, providing bulk trucking and rail logistics solutions for food companies, plastic manufacturers and shippers of other bulk commodities. A family-owned, privately held company based in Griffith, Ind., Bulkmatic is an industry leader, setting the standard for safety, sanitization and driver satisfaction. With approximately 800 employees, Bulkmatic operates a fleet of more than 500 tractors and 1,300 pneumatic dry bulk trailers located at terminals around the country. For more information, visit bulkmatic.com.

PAYMENTS

FROM PAGE 1A

by IRS officials about finding ways to reach people who do not make enough to require filing a return, some military veterans who are not required to file and the homeless.

"People who may not have to file may be at risk of claiming the money in a timely fashion," Thiel said. "It's the non-filers we are trying to get the information out to."

He was uncertain how people lacking a bank account will access the payments.

Friday morning the IRS

opened a portal on its website, irs.gov, for non-filers to report an address to the IRS and receive a payment

He encouraged anyone that knows a person who qualifies for the money but may not have the resources or wherewithal to receive the payment to help them make a claim. For more information about the process, please see the ad on page 8A.

"I am passing along information on the payments and asking everyone to reach out to help make sure that all eligible Americans can take advantage of these stimulus payments," said Thiel.

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Granny: Keeping up with progress

Whenever Paperhaas relatives gather for visits, they love to chat about old times.



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

Recalling memories of their grandma is a favorite topic. Long a resident of Indiana, her tombstone now marks a seldom visited gravesite in a scenic setting in Vermillion County. One of her grandkids, now an aging grandparent himself, recently shared some stories about Granny, laughing openly in the process.

Granny became a widow in the 1930s. Times were tough back then, especially if one lost a spouse. Many residents had no car. That included her.

Lack of transportation was a problem. Folks walked everywhere, thinking nothing about it. However, some trips were too far for walking. Creative thinking was required. Granny had bummed a ride to Clinton one time to visit a relative.

The day came when she needed to return home. Her keen observance noted a procession of cars lining up at a funeral home. She asked for a ride. Not in the hearse, nor in the flower car, but in the third vehicle, the family car. There was room for one extra passenger.

The occupants were too nice to say no, so she gladly occupied the vacant spot. The burial site was in Terre Haute. The motorcade proceeded slowly, eventually passing through New Goshen, which was near her

See **CODGER**, Page 8B

SHELTERING IN PLACE DOES NOT CANCEL EASTER



File photo/The Prairie Press

One of the Paris community traditions is the Beta Sigma Phi Easter Egg Hunt, which fell victim to the COVID-19 virus restrictions this year. That doesn't mean immediate families can't enjoy Easter by planning small special events and a meal this year.

Celebrating Easter at home

This Sunday is Easter, and it will be the first holiday that Americans will be sheltering in place. Many families enjoy family gatherings after attending church services on Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection and the new life it brings to each of us who accept it.

While I've been out in the community since March 17 covering the news, I am more than a bit sad that my family won't be able to enjoy the annual Easter Egg Hunt and family luncheon we had for so many years.

I know many families will miss that togetherness tomorrow, even though some may be together on Skype, FaceTime, Zoom or other electronic means. It certainly isn't the same as hugging Grandma or Papa or racing around the yard looking for the Easter Eggs that bunny has so cleverly hidden.

As I've said before, I'm a glass half full kind of a gal, so let's put our heads together and make the best of this Easter — perhaps by doing something for someone else. The festivities may look a little different this year, but the reason for the season stays the same.

Here are my suggestions:

TUNE INTO A CHURCH SERVICE

Many churches have now made their services available online, either



NANCY ZEMAN
LIVING IN EDGAR COUNTY

CREAMY HERBED EASTER HAM AND PEA PASTA SALAD

- Ingredients
- | Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - | 1/3 cup mayonnaise
 - | 1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
 - | 3 tablespoons sour cream
 - | 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh chives
 - | 2 tablespoons chopped fresh mint
 - | 1 1/2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
 - | 8 ounces dried penne pasta
 - | 1 1/2 cups frozen peas, thawed
 - | 1 cup diced ham

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil.

Whisk together the mayonnaise, parsley, sour cream, chives, mint, lemon juice, 1/2 teaspoon salt and a few grinds

of pepper in a large bowl.

Add the pasta to the boiling water and cook according to the package directions. Three minutes before the pasta is done, add the peas to the pot. Drain and rinse under cold water to cool; add to the bowl with the dressing.

Add the ham to the bowl and toss to combine. Season with salt and pepper. The pasta salad is best if served right away.



through a live stream or through a recorded podcast. If a person's place of worship doesn't have streaming capabilities, visit another church instead. For me, I've been visiting my friends at First Presbyterian Church of Pooler, Ga. Locally, I know Pastor Chris White of the Paris Church of God has been offering worship as well as the Community Bible Church and St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marshall. Visit their websites or Facebook pages for more information.

Ever wanted to spend Easter

Sunday at the Washington National Cathedral? Here's a chance.

WEAR THAT EASTER DRESS

For those rocking a daily social-distancing look of yoga pants and bed-head — no judgement here — Easter is a good opportunity to shake up the quarantine routine.

Growing up, one of the annual rituals for many of us — other than the trip to buy school clothes each fall — was visiting local stores with our

See **ZEMAN**, Page 2B

Easter is a promise of better things

"And God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power." Acts 2:24 NASB



JACK HOFFMAN
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

In the first sermon by an apostle on the day of Pentecost, Peter set the precedent for all evangelistic presentations by making its central focus the death of Christ, his burial and the greatest miracle of the ages: the resurrection. With the raising of Christ and his walking in newness of life, something else ended, the fear and turmoil over death.

Another place in the New Testament says we mortals lived our lives under the fear of death. This concept isn't usually a subject for conversation, that is, until a mysterious virus rapidly spreads into a terrible pandemic, and suddenly we see how afraid we are to die. The fear of death permeates our existence, as we realize that none of us are immune to it, we just don't know when it will happen.

We face the sobering realization that every detailed plan or aspiration, every pursuit and every expectation comes to a grinding halt when death comes knocking at our door.

But on resurrection Sunday (some call it Easter) a little over 2,000 years ago, death's chilling grip was broken and we finite humans were given assurance that because Christ lives, we shall also live forever.

We need more than a vaccination to protect us from a possibly destructive viral threat, because there will always be another virus, disease or a thousand ways in which the fragile breath of life we enjoy may be ended. What we really need is an inoculation that insures we

See **PASTOR**, Page 2B

Soap is the magic elixir to kill viruses, including COVID-19

Through this pandemic, we are all becoming experts in micro-organism biology.

Most of our illnesses are caused by foreign organisms invading our body. It is typically either bacteria or a virus. Bacteria are among the simplest possible living organisms while a virus is not a living organism.

A living organism must be able to digest food for energy and most importantly have an ability to reproduce copies of itself. Complex organisms like mammals reproduce sexually and create offspring with genetics from both parents. Bacteria self-replicate. They grow then split in half and each daughter cell gets a copy of the genetic material to continue on.

By contrast, a virus cannot make copies of itself. It exists at the border between animate living and inanimate objects.

Bacteria were some of the earliest forms of life on the Earth, appearing shortly after the planet cooled as some of the first single-cell living organisms. Through mutations and natural selection, a rich

variety of living organisms evolved over time. Somewhere in those early mutated life forms a virus was created.

Compared to the small bacteria cells a virus is more microscopic yet. A virus is thousands of times smaller than bacterium. The bacteria cell contains all the chemistry of life for ingesting food, using it for energy and replicating. It contains a cell nucleus with the coil of DNA surrounded by a fluid of enzymes. It grows and when ready to reproduce makes a new nucleus copy. The cell membrane stretches out and the materials inside move to opposite ends. When each side has a full set of materials, the membrane pinches off and it divides in two.

A virus is far too simple and cannot make a copy of itself since it is really just an incomplete nucleus. It lacks full DNA and has none of the energy-producing and replicating enzymes. There is nothing in it other than a blob of genetic material. To continue on, a virus has to invade a living cell and use its resources to make new copies of itself.

The process a virus uses is analogous to a hostile takeover of an industry. If the military moved to overtake a big automobile factory, officers could repurpose and deplete the facility of all its resources. Under new control, the factory retools and



TERRY SULLIVAN
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

starts assembling respirators instead of cars. The inventory of steel, plastic, screws and glues are there for the taking for a new purpose.

The assembly line could quickly be converted into making respirators. Instead of a few hundred cars per day, it could fabricate thousands of respirators in a day. With no long-term plan, the factory works at maximum capacity with no delay for maintenance. The respirators are shipped and the factory, with depleted inventory and in disrepair, is just abandoned. That is analogous to what a virus does.

A virus consists of a ball of genetic material bound in a protein-lipid wrapper, not even a real cell wall. The virus can only last hours in the open environment and depends on randomly making contact with a suitable host. The outer layer of the virus is sticky and clings onto the host. The virus wrapper is similar to a cell membrane and after merging with a host cell, opens a hole allowing it to spill its own genetic material inside the living cell.

Once inside, it executes the hostile takeover, repurposing the cell machinery to start making copies of the virus. It puts the cell into overdrive and rapidly consumes all the available resources. Instead of making one copy, it forces a thousand copies. Eventually, it causes the host cell to burst open releasing all those copies to be spread into the environment looking for new hosts. Some viruses kill the host cell in the process, while others leave it severely weakened.

COVID-19 is a corona virus, which uses respiratory cells of the nose and lungs

as host cells. It spreads the new offspring by coughing, sneezing and the spattering of saliva droplets. Each mucus droplet contains thousands of virus balls to hang in the air, or sit on a surface in wait for a new victim to breathe in the air or touch the surface and then touch their face, giving it access to eyes, nose or mouth. Fortunately, virus balls only last a matter of hours in the air or on surfaces.

Corona viruses like influenza are given a designation like H3N2 or H7N9. H is short for hemagglutinin and N represents neuraminidase. These are little hooks on the outside of the virus. In illustrations, they are represented as red mushroom looking prongs sticking up.

There are 16 possible versions of H and nine versions of N. The difference is how many hooks, how they are arranged and the shape of the hook end. They look like a Velcro tab and grab onto a host's cell wall like a grappling hook.

The hook ends keep the virus anchored in place as it begins to dissolve a tunnel

through the wall allowing it to dump its genetic core inside.

In order to stop a virus from attacking a new host, it needs to be destroyed before it can deliver its payload. The easiest method is distance, which denies virus balls access to new hosts and stops the spread. In a short time, infective viruses exposed to the open environment break down and expire.

The virus can be destroyed by bleach, alcohol and sanitizing cleaners, but the chemicals must come in contact with the virus and sit on the outer covering long enough to break it down. It is much easier to destroy a viable virus with soap. Soap is a magic molecule.

Molecules are classified as polar or non-polar. Polar molecules have an uneven electron distribution and thus have little charged ends. Water molecules are polar. They bead up and won't mix with oil.

Oil is non-polar, and those molecules have balanced electrons with no charged ends. Polar and non-polar have no way to pull together, except through the magic of

See **SULLIVAN**, Page 2B

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MILESTONES

Paris family welcomes their new granddaughter

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS are Blake and Tabitha Myers of Seymour. Grandparents are Jim and Nicole York of Paris and Dennis and Patricia Myers of Seymour. Great-grandparents are Julie Gosnell of Paris and Jean Myers of Terre Haute, Ind.

SEYMOUR, Ind. - Blakely Jade Myers was born at 7:27 p.m. EST March 18 at the Schneck Medical Center, Seymour. The baby weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces and was 20 inches at birth. The parents

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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Retired teachers to mentor students virtually

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Members of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association, a statewide association of retired educators, their families and supporters, are volunteering during this COVID-19 pandemic to assist students tackling the unprecedented challenge of finishing the school year at home.

"We want to help students learn," said John Flaherty, a former high school and special education teacher and current president of the Illinois Retired Teachers Association. "Our members are ready to help students build their learning skills and tutor in highly advanced subject areas like chemistry and mathemat-

ics. For elementary students, self-paced and self-directed learning is a foreign concept. A teacher-mentor will help students take their own initiative and focus their learning at their own pace."

Parents desiring to match their student with a retired teacher may sign up on the Association's website, www.irtaonline.org. Mentors are on a first come, first serve basis. Mentors will meet with students in virtual environments. Mentorships will last from now until the end of the school year or June 1. Mentorships are at the sole discretion of the teacher-mentors.

"A retired Illinois public school teacher's depth of knowledge is so great, it may

be just what parents need to energize their children into at-home students," Association Executive Director Jim Bachman said. "Retiree-mentors can specifically target aspects of learning that need the most attention, whether it's mathematics, science, history, writing or reading."

"Younger students may simply need help reading a story. Other students will need advanced tutoring. If we retirees can find a way to help, we will," Flaherty concluded.

IRTA encourages former teachers, spouses and supporters of teachers to join the Association. Learn more, join or renew your IRTA membership today at <https://www.irtaonline.org>.

SULLIVAN
FROM PAGE 1B

soap molecules that look like a tadpole, with a polar head and a long non-polar tail.

Put soapy water on grease-covered clothes and the soap's tail sticks in and surrounds the grease molecules by latching on. The soap's head stays anchored into the water solution, and it is able to lift the grease, molecule by molecule, out of the cloth. The grime is in suspension and can be flushed out.

The action of soap is perfect for destroying a virus. Soap spreads out across the skin to cover almost the entire surface, unlike alcohol which stays in spots unless rubbed all over. The soap tail penetrate the virus protein lipid covering, breaks it open and spills the genetic material out. It is lifted away before it can do damage. Soap is a magic elixir for destroying viruses before they can be transferred to the respiratory system.

To flatten the curve we all have to maintain distancing, cover up to minimize blasting viruses out into the environment, and keep using soap to wash our hands. Sanitizing surfaces is important but the last line of defense is getting the virus off our skin and keeping it away from the face.

(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 sullivant@shiloh1.us)

PASTOR
FROM PAGE 1B

will never cease to live.

I am a believer in Jesus Christ. Though I know the reality of, "it is appointed unto man once to die," and then face judgment, I am also comforted by a theology that teaches me God has numbered my days. The grave isn't the end, it is the beginning of really living.

There is a life to come that we haven't yet experienced that is promised to us, an eternal reality in the presence of God and our Savior Jesus Christ. None of us should be thrilled about having to pass through that portal that is the cessation of our days on Earth; but since we all probably will

(save those who are breathing air when the Savior returns — perhaps today), it behooves us to be ready.

Jesus died and took away the power of death and the grave over us. He asks us to turn from our rebellion against God and trust with all our heart, and forever be in the Father's house. We may have to miss a few Sundays of church on this Earth because of circumstances beyond our control, but we will never miss one second of eternal bliss thanks to the resurrection.

(Pastor Jack D. Hoffman is the senior pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Paris. Email him at jillandjack1971@gmail.com. Pastor's Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

GLAZED PINEAPPLE HAM

- Ingredients
- 2 1/2 pounds boneless cooked ham, sliced into 18 slices
 - Two 20-ounce cans pineapple slices
 - 18 maraschino cherries
 - 3/4 cup packed brown sugar
 - 2 tablespoons apple juice
 - 2 teaspoons Dijon mustard

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
- Shingle the ham slices in 2 rows on a ceramic baking dish. Top each with a pineapple slice, then place a cherry in the middle of each pineapple ring.
- Cover with foil and bake for 15

minutes.

Whisk together the brown sugar, apple juice and mustard. Remove the ham from the oven, uncover and drizzle with the glaze. Continue to bake, glazing in 5-minute intervals, for an additional 20 to 25 minutes. Serve in the baking dish.



ZEMAN
FROM PAGE 1B

parents to purchase Easter clothes.

For those who ordered their dresses the second spring collections hit stores — don't waste them. Wear them to the living room. For those who still don't have special Easter clothes, buy some online from a Southern brand or local boutique that can use our support now more than ever. A win-win, if we've ever heard of one.

LISTEN TO A WORSHIP PLAYLIST

While there's certainly no replacement for a home church choir, a well-curated Spotify or Pandora play list of Easter hymns or traditional music can help the family make a joyful noise — even those who are the most tone-deaf crew on the block.

For YouTube regulars, check out Northland Church in Lakeland, Fla. The music is unbelievable and features Tony DeRosa, who oversees much of the music at Walt Disney World and is a fabulous singer in his own right as a former member of the Voices of Liberty.

I asked on The Prairie Press Facebook page a couple of days ago for our friends to share their favorite Easter music. Here are some of the suggestions I received:

- Christ the Lord is Risen Today
- Because He Lives
- Up from the Grave He Arose
- In the Garden
- Easter Morning
- How Great Thou Art
- He Lives
- I'll Rise Again
- Beyond the Moon and Stars

I don't know how many years it's been since the choir of the First Presbyterian Church in Paris hasn't performed "The Hallelujah Chorus," but it won't this year

because of the virus.

GIVE AN OFFERING

We may not be passing around the offering plate at church but consider making an Easter-inspired donation to an organization that is personally meaningful. It doesn't matter if it's the church, a local food pantry, or one's own hairstylist, who's currently out of work. A little generosity goes a long way.

SEND EASTER CARDS

For those who aren't typically big snail-mail fans, all this extra time indoors is an excellent opportunity to practice penmanship and flex those letter-writing muscles to loved ones near and far.

For the younger set, pull out the craft supplies and have them make cards for their grandparents, elderly neighbors and residents at local nursing homes who can't receive visitors.

HAVE AN EGG HUNT IN THE BACKYARD

Children and grandchildren will likely be disappointed by the fact there won't be a church/school/neighborhood Easter egg hunt this year.

Why not surprise someone in the neighborhood by hiding Easter Eggs in their yard? I did this last year, and it is always a big hit with kids.

Just make sure to let the parents know about the surprise ahead of time.

MAKE A CLASSIC EASTER RECIPE

I'm not sure these recipes I'm sharing will be something everyone will want to have on Easter, but it worked for Don and I — and now me. Make the entire recipe and share it with a neighbor.

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

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Explaining pandemics throughout history

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

Throughout millennia, people have fostered some pretty irrational ideas about how infectious diseases such as plague and cholera were spread. Some of those notions—like the idea the ancient Cyprian plague could be caught simply by staring into the face of someone afflicted — seem laughable, like something the Monty Python troupe might have sprinkled into one of their medieval parody scripts for television.

Yet even as waves of disease washed again and again over population centers, it took centuries for science to fully understand the invisible world of microbes. Until that happened, people under pandemic siege tried to explain the overwhelming amount of death they saw in different ways.

ANGRY GODS

When masses of people started inexplicably dying, many early cultures looked first to a vengeful or unforgiving God—or gods. In ancient Greek mythology, which often served as allegory for actual events, Homer wrote in “The Iliad” of the god Apollo raining plague down on the Greek army with his arrows during the Trojan War, killing animals first, then soldiers. Apollo’s arrows came to symbolize disease and death.

ASTROLOGICAL MOVEMENTS AND...BAD AIR

Throughout the centuries, plague arrived in wave after devastating wave, taking numerous forms—from bubonic (which affects the lymphatic system) to pneumonic (which attacks the lungs) to septicemic (which infiltrates the bloodstream).

Perhaps the most virulent occurrence came in the mid-1300s with the Black Death, which felled more than 20 million people across Europe alone. While it’s largely believed that bacteria-carrying fleas were the main culprit, the experts of the time found other explanations—especially in astrology and broadly formed ideas of noxious vapors as a breeding ground for pestilence.

In 1348, for example, King Philip VI of France asked the greatest medical minds at the University of Paris to report back to him on the causes of the bubonic plague. In a detailed document submitted to the crown, they blamed the configuration of the heavens. Citing ancient philosophers such as Albertus Magnus and Aristotle, the Parisian medical scholars went on to say: “For Jupiter, being wet and hot, draws up evil vapors from the earth and Mars, because it is immoderately hot and dry, then ignites the vapors, and as a result there were vapors and fires throughout the air.”

Terrestrial winds, they went on, spread the noxious airs widely, smiting down the life force of anyone who ingested it into their lungs:

See **PLAGUES**, Page 4B

A household presence

How Franklin D. Roosevelt’s ‘Fireside Chats’ helped to calm America in a time of crisis

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

When Franklin D. Roosevelt was inaugurated March 4, 1933, the United States was entering the fourth year of the Great Depression, the worst economic downturn in the nation’s history.

The stock market had fallen a staggering 75 percent from 1929 levels, and one in every four workers was unemployed. In the weeks before Roosevelt took office, things had gotten even worse. Some 4,000 banks were forced out of business, costing millions of people their life savings. As depositors panicked and rushed to withdraw their money from the remaining banks, the crisis threatened to bring down the nation’s entire financial system.

“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself,” Roosevelt famously declared on that cold

and cloudy Inauguration Day. But stirring words were not enough, and Roosevelt knew it: “This nation asks for action, and action now.”

Two days later, he declared a nationwide bank holiday, temporarily shutting down the nation’s entire banking system. Called into a special session, Congress passed the Emergency Banking Act on March 9. The bill gave the federal government the power to investigate each bank’s finances. Those that were judged to be healthy and stable enough reopened March 13.

THE FIRST ‘FIRESIDE CHAT’

But on March 12, the day before banks were set to reopen, it wasn’t clear these emergency measures had done enough to calm the public’s fears. That evening, at 10 p.m. Eastern time, Roosevelt addressed

the nation via radio broadcast directly from the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House. (Yes, he was actually sitting next to a fireplace.)

“My friends, I want to talk for a few minutes with the people of the United States about banking,” he began. For roughly 13 minutes, more than 60 million Americans listened as Roosevelt explained — in straightforward language designed for the benefit of the average citizen — what the federal government had done in the past few days to address the banking crisis, why they had done it and what the next steps were going to be.

After explaining how banking worked, Roosevelt laid out what had happened to cause the current crisis. He argued that the government’s emergency measures enabled a survey of the nation’s banks

and allowed stable ones to reopen. After that, he said, people could feel completely safe returning their money to the banks rather than hoarding it at home out of fear.

“I can assure you,” he said, “that it is safer to keep your money in a reopened bank than under the mattress.”

Finally, Roosevelt called on the American people to renew their, “confidence and courage,” and to have faith, rather than be, “stampeded by rumors or guesses.”

“Let us unite in banishing fear,” he concluded. “Together we cannot fail.”

EFFECT OF FDR’S WORDS

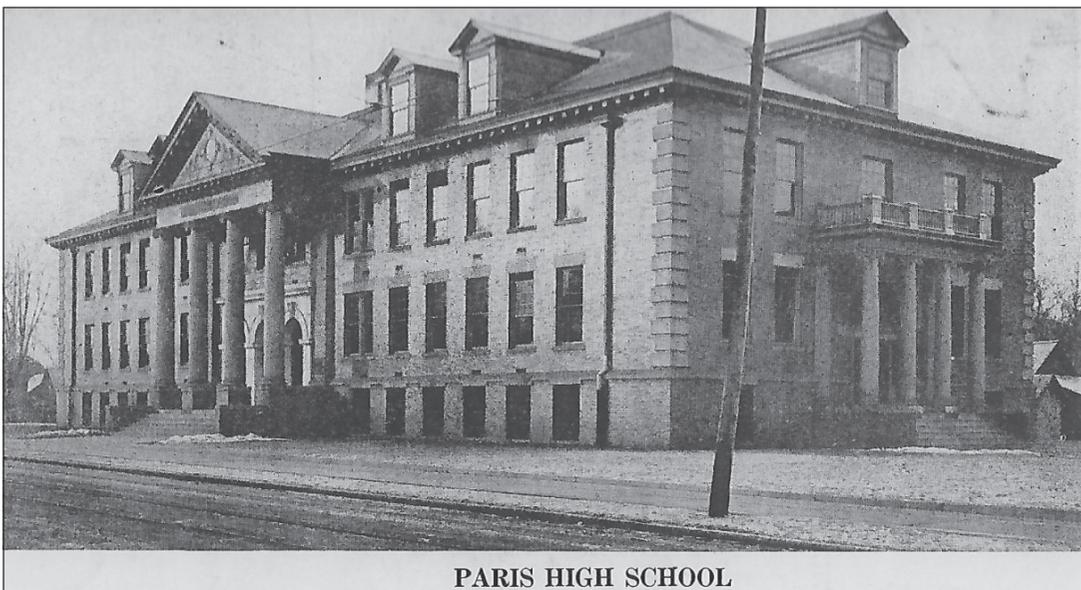
Roosevelt wasn’t the first president to use the medium of radio, but he was the first to use it so effectively to speak directly to the American people, without the filter of the press.

Using a slow, calm and steady voice that rose and fell naturally, he seemed to be engaging in a conversation with his listeners. In reality, his words had been carefully written, revised and fact-checked by a team of advisers, but Roosevelt had a way of making them feel informal and fresh.

The effect was powerful. On March 13, when healthy banks reopened, people lined up in droves to return their cash. More than half of the funds Americans had withdrawn during the crisis were back in the bank within two weeks. March 15, the first day stocks were traded after the banking holiday, saw the market’s largest ever one-day percentage price increase, reflecting a new surge of confidence among American investors.

See **CHATS**, Page 4B

ARENA YEARBOOK SHOWS ORIGINAL HIGH SCHOOL



PARIS HIGH SCHOOL

Special to The Prairie Press

Paris High School as shown in the 1920 Arena book was a much different structure than that known by more recent graduates.

Paris High School 100 years ago

BY ROGER STANLEY
Rogerstanley769@yahoo.com

In 1920, the high school in Paris was much different than when it closed 95 years later.

The building did not have a gymnasium built on the north end of the school and there was an entry way on the north side. This was also before Eveland Gym was erected, and the newer buildings on the southwest corner were not there.

It was a time when the boys wore suits to many of the events and the girls were attired with long dresses. There were 500 students that year coming from Paris and the surrounding area one-room country schools. There were no buses, and many of the students from the city walked or rode their bicycles.

Much of the information for this article was from the 1920 Arena of Fenton English who went to Paris High at that time. The Arena itself was also much different than modern editions. When one opens this paperback copy a picture of the school building without the later additions can be seen. Next was a picture of the Arena staff and the Superintendent of Paris Schools T. J. Beecher, with principal Carolyn L. Wenz, who was also an English teacher.

The yearbook has pictures of 18 other teachers and the high school seniors grouped with five on a page. There were 91 graduates pictured, with a short biography with the pictures. They weren’t in alphabetical order, and the first page of the list featured class president Elmer Findley at the top, and second was Marcella Beebe, the associate editor of the Arena.

The next section was the 1920 class history, which was the biggest class to enter the high school with 143 members. Scattered through the next few pages are several small pictures on one page of events involving the seniors along with a long list of class prophecies and senior class wills.

Next was the junior class members, who were not pictured individually, but in groups of 30. The rest of the classes are listed, but not identified in pictures. The freshman and sophomore classes have a picture of the whole class in the entrance of the school with only class officers having individual pictures. There was a class of special mid-year freshmen who started during the second semester. Evidently, this lasted during a 10-year period of Paris High School until 1929.

The literary activities of the school came next consisting of the Alethenai Club that was involved in historical presentations, musical numbers and debates. The club started in 1915 and involved members from all classes with 80 members in the group.

There were two debate clubs, one, the Wranglers, representing the young ladies and the Phisticuphs, made up of the young men. The main debate that year concerned the labor problems of the day, which the women won while projecting the idea they knew what they were talking about.

In the music arena, there was a girls glee club and a boys glee club. There were more girls involved with 50 participating, while the boys only had only 16. There was no mention of an orchestra or a band.



Special to The Prairie Press

A typical page in the 1920 Paris High School Arena.

There were fewer sports teams than we see at present time. Football was played again after the devastating Spanish Flu canceled much of the 1918 season. Paris had one win for the season and lost to much smaller schools, and there were only 17 players on the varsity team.

Basketball was a similar story, because the team won three of 13 games, which was disheartening. The coaches encouraged the players by telling them although they won few games, it was not

See **PHS**, Page 4B

Do not fence me in

“Oh, give me land lots of land under starry skies above: Don’t fence me in.”

“Let me ride through the wide-open country that I love Don’t fence me in.”



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

The last week or two, I have been taking out the old pasture fences that surround our homestead.

We are going to raise hay instead of using the pastures for hogs, cattle, sheep and goats, which were pastured on this farm for many, many years.

We even had a fence around our yard for several years to protect our dogs and Junior when he was little. When my dad started farming the Old Black Farm, we built a lot of fence and took out a lot of fence.

Eventually, what used to be 20-acre fields and 40-acre fields are now four 60-acre fields with no fences between them. We did keep one cow pasture that was partly an orchard and with small lots for keeping hogs. I remember a lot of those fences when we took them out because of all the crooked hedge posts. Some of them were only about two inches thick with knees and elbows, and I don’t see how they ever lined up the fence and the post.

Back when my great-uncle was farming this farm in about 1920, he had an altercation with a neighbor about where the fence ought to be involving a shotgun and quite a bit of cussing. That argument was finally settled when the property was surveyed. I wonder if that matter started because of all the crooked fence posts since nobody could tell where the line really was.

I have always heard that good fences led to good

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B

ATTENTION ATTENTION ATTENTION



Beginning **Thursday, March 19**, Pearmans Pharmacy will be offering drive-thru, curbside delivery, or home delivery. The staff will be on hand during the same business hours, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. by telephone or at the drive-thru. **Call 465-8455** to place orders or for questions.

For those who may need fittings for C-Pap, braces, etc., please call the store for a screening.

Walk-ins at the Paris Clinic Pharmacy will not be available beginning **Thursday, March 19**. The pharmacy will offer delivery and curbside pick-up. **Call 465-4114** for orders or questions. Curbside pickup will be on the west side of the hospital. The doors will be locked but the pharmacy has received permission to bring orders to customers.

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Stay safe, Jim and Mandy Handlin ♥

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PHS
FROM PAGE 3B

not about winning or losing, but how they played the game. An interesting point in basketball was there were back guards as well as regular guards to go along with the center and the forwards. There were 10 players on the team that year.

The track team was also re-instated in 1920, but only two meets were recorded in the Arena. Many of the same young men that participated in other sports were also on the track team. Some of those participating in sports were: Elmer Findley, Lannon Simons, Arthur Howard, Walter Stewart, Charles Boyer, Weston Tolliver, Ray Foley, John Doak, Dale Sexon and Ralph Pearman. A girls basketball team was mentioned, but nothing was recorded about the games.

The oldest organization in the school was the Cadet Core, which started as the first in Illinois in 1896. The

numbers were dramatically down because of a shortage of equipment and rifles, but they still had enough for a company of 40 men. There was also an Agriculture Club of 25 young men with Bernard Eugene See as president and the adviser was Paul Becker.

There were two plays mentioned. "Green Stockings" was presented by the junior class starring Leone Bussart and Frank Moyer, with a supporting cast of 10 and directed by La Ru Dayton. The Senior Class presented "Miss Somebody Else" with some of the characters being played by Elizabeth Mullins, Rochelle Kincaid, Ralph Pearman and Antone Link. The directors were Carolyn Wenz and Mrs. Coady.

Performances were at the Shoaff Opera House.

At that time prize-winning stories were put in the Arena. The senior prize story went to Amy Greenfield and the junior class prize story went to Owen Albert.

There are always some wise



Special to The Prairie Press

The 1920 Paris High School basketball team had a dismal season with only three wins. This photo of the team in the 1920 Arena did not identify all of the people pictured; however, team manager Ewing Kester is on the left end of the back row, and the other manager assistant principal W.W. Keith is on the right end of the back row. Team captain Charles Boyer is third from left in the back row, and Weston Tolliver is on the end of the left row.

CHATS
FROM PAGE 3B

Before Roosevelt's second radio address, broadcast on May 7, 1933, the CBS station manager Harold Butcher dubbed the speeches fireside chats. Thousands of letters had begun pouring into the Roosevelt White House every day, many of them expressing gratitude for the president's words. A single fireside chat could generate more than 450,000 cards, letters and telegrams.

It was a long, hard slog, however, before the country began to regain its economic foothold. After a period of gradual recovery, a sharp recession hit in 1937. Then a second severe contraction in

1938 reversed many gains in production and employment and prolonged the effects of the Great Depression through the end of the decade. Through it all, FDR continued to speak to the American people directly through his radio addresses.

Roosevelt went on to deliver around 30 fireside chats over the course of his long presidency, as the nation took on economic recovery, only to be thrust headlong into World War II. The fireside chats enabled Roosevelt to connect with Americans in an unprecedented way — an ability that likely contributed to his historic four presidential victories.

PLAGUES
FROM PAGE 3B

"This corrupted air, when breathed in, necessarily penetrates to the heart and corrupts the substance of the spirit there and rots the sur-

rounding moisture, and the heat thus caused destroys the life force, and this is the immediate cause of the present epidemic."

A few centuries later, those noxious vapors were given another label: miasma. If it smelled bad, people reasoned, it must carry disease. That explains why, during the plague of 1665, some doctors donned beak-shaped masks filled with sweet-smelling flowers—to protect themselves from infection.

STANLEY
FROM PAGE 3B

neighbors. In this case, it may have been a good enough fence, but it was so crooked nobody could really tell exactly where it was. It did keep the livestock on the right side of the fence, but maybe one or the other farmer could not find his right side.

When I started farming this acreage, I was heavily into raising hogs and rebuilt several old lot fences by reinforcing them with hog panels, because some of the old ones did not keep the rooters and jumpers from getting out.

We basically had 50 sows and their offspring out in the pastures as much as we could. I also started sub-dividing lots with hog panels only. The first panels were put up using cedar posts per every three panels and steel posts in between with about four posts per panel. We did a good job of keeping the animals fenced in whether they liked it or not. That is contrary to the song at the beginning of this story, because I am sure those animals would have loved to go down to the creek, visit with our neighbor's livestock and make a mess of the crops that were planted.

We had a neighbor whose hogs got out on our farm in the summertime, and we didn't get them all rounded up until the

corn and beans were harvested. My hogs would have enjoyed that life of making nests along the creek and knocking down corn to eat.

As we slowly got out of the hog business, we used one pasture for goats, and I'll be darned if we didn't have one billy goat who looked at a fence and then found himself on the other side. Those goats did do a pretty good job of eating all our raspberries and strawberries along with the gooseberries, and not just the fruit but the whole thing. Those goats very much knew the words to the chorus of "Don't fence me in."

The last few years we kept about 20 or 30 sheep in our pastures. When I fixed fence and built new lots, I didn't build them with as many posts and as much wire. I didn't mind helping with those animals, but it was all right to not have to feed them every morning. I did enjoy when lambing season started because lambs are just wonderful to watch.

After the sheep left, I learned sheep loved eating the weeds and mulberry sprouts growing in the fence line because I had a lot of that stuff in the fences without the sheep. I finally decided I didn't like to weed-eat all the time and spray the fence lines.

Out the fences are coming, and some are easy, and some are down-right disgusting to get out. The later ones I had put only two or three wires per post, while those first ones I put in had heavier wire, and I had nailed the fence to the wooden posts as well as wire them in place. For some reason, my back and knees don't like all the bending and finding the bottom wires in the tall grass. I definitely am not wanting to be fenced in anymore. It sure is a job getting the old stuff out.

I am looking forward to "Riding to the wide-open country that I love" without being fenced in.

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

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Implications of 97 million corn acres

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

URBANA — The USDA's Prospective Plantings report, released March 31, indicated producer intentions to plant almost 97 million acres of corn in 2020. Under current planting intentions and consumption trends, a massive corn supply appears feasible during the 2020-21 marketing year, according to University of Illinois agricultural economist Todd Hubbs.

Producer intentions to plant principal crop acreage show a 16.5 million acre increase from 2019. The USDA estimates that acreage planted to principal crops will total 319.1 million acres, on par with acreage levels in 2018. The planned increase in total planted acreage from that of a year ago is particularly acute in feed grain crops, Hubbs notes.

intentions to plant 97 million acres of corn this year, 7.1 million more than planted last year. Sorghum acreage came in 555,000 acres higher than a year ago at 5.82 million acres. Barley and oats increased by 200,000 and 202,000 acres, respectively.

"The growth in feed grain acres holds implications for corn prices," Hubbs says. "Soybean planting intentions indicated farmers plan to plant 83.5 million acres of soybeans. The soybean acreage came in at the low end of market expectations. A shift in the perceived profitability of spring crops appears necessary for producers to plant fewer corn acres."

Since 1997, final corn-planted acreage dropped over a million acres from March planting intentions five times (1997, 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2019), Hubbs explained. Corn acreage decreases greater than 2

million acres occurred only in 2019 (3.1 million acres) and related to the difficult planting season. In 2007, corn-planted acreage increased by 3.5 million acres over March intentions.

"A dramatic shift in acreage is not out of the question," Hubbs said. "The current harvest futures price ratio between corn and soybeans sits at 2.46. At present, the price ratio is higher than the 2.38 level around the time of the planting intentions survey."

While the prospect of lower corn acreage on changing price relationships exists, a drop in corn acreage over 2 million acres requires a substantial reallocation of spring crop acres or significant planting issues.

"A large corn crop looks in the offing. If USDA's yield projection of 178.5 comes to fruition, corn production comes in near 15.9 billion bushels with

the present acreage intentions," Hubbs said.

"A corn crop at that level means demand becomes critical. The potential for the current marketing-year ending stocks eclipsing 2 billion bushels, while not certain, looks high," he added.

Ethanol production for the week ending March 27 gave an initial glimpse of potential corn demand destruction. At 840,000 barrels per day, ethanol production fell by 16.4% from the previous week.

"A drop in production of that magnitude suggests approximately 17 million bushels of lost corn use. The continuing spread of COVID-19 and subsequent stay-in-place orders enacted around the country implies these totals will grow. A considerable level of uncertainty surrounds the duration of the lockdown. Corn consumption losses over 300

million bushels look probable under an extended period of lockdown," Hubbs said.

He adds the drop in ethanol production signals lower distiller's grain production, which may support stronger feed use for corn. The March 1 grains stocks report indicated robust feed use during the second quarter of the marketing year.

"Feed and residual use for the marketing year increasing to 5.68 billion bushels or above in the next WASDE report is not out of the question," said Hubbs. "It remains an open question of how meat demand evolves under reduced economic growth and significant levels of unemployment. Expectations of reduced meat demand, a lower livestock supply, and lower feed demand, in general, for the latter half of 2020 seem reasonable."

Export sales of corn continue to show some improvement

from the weak start in the first half of the marketing year. Exports in the first half of the marketing year totaled 622 million bushels. Exports through April 2 total near 819 million bushels. Outstanding sales as of March 26 sit at 525 million bushels. USDA's projection for corn exports sits at 1.725 billion bushels for the current marketing year.

"A poor second crop in Brazil or additional Chinese buying appears required to reach current predictions. Lower corn prices and a resumption of economic activity would benefit exports in the next marketing year," Hubbs said. "The potential for a sharp global contraction in growth or significant supply chain disruptions remains feasible and may hinder strong exports over the near term."

Under the current planting See **CORN**, Page 6B

"Behold the fowls of the air"

My father wasn't stoic. Instead, his temperament was one of acceptance. He simply accepted the fact that he wasn't in complete control of most things on the southern Illinois dairy farm of my youth.



ALAN GUEBERT
FARM AND FOOD FILE

Sure, he was boss over everything in sight: hundreds of acres, 100 dairy cows, five farmhand sons, three hired men and his unpredictable, iron-bending Uncle Honey.

But control? Never. And yet, little ever moved him to anger or anxiety.

For example, when Jackie, the farm's principal hired hand, destroyed an Oliver 77 by driving it off the corn silage pile, Dad's only question to the still-shaking man — who was never known for speed — was how he managed to jump to safety so quickly.

Years later while sharing one of our thousand evenings in the milking parlor, I asked him why he hadn't even cussed when he saw the mangled 77.

"Ah," he said with a wave of a wet hand, once he saw Jackie was OK, the tractor didn't matter. "It was old and insured. Jackie was neither."

Acceptance. Somehow, he just knew that there was little he could do to prevent bent cultivator bars (Uncle Honey), overturned silage wagons (Uncle Honey) and two, plowed-out telephone poles. (Uncle Honey and Uncle Honey.)

In fact, I once thought that if our family had a coat of arms, its motto would have read, "I can't prevent it, but I can fix it."

Decades later, in one of our weekly telephone conversations, I asked my father how his best friend was dealing with a recent cancer

See **GUEBERT**, Page 6B

FARMERS WANT TO AVOID A REPEAT OF 2019



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Area farmers are anxious to get started and hope to avoid a repeat from 2019 when weather resulted in some fields not getting planted.

Planting choices and COVID-19

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

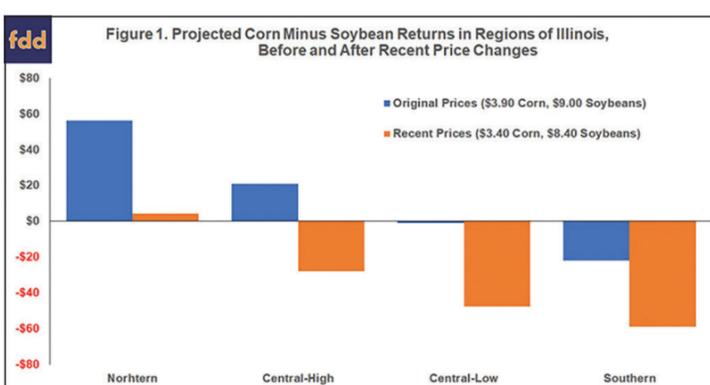
Trade conflicts, prevented and late planting and policy innovations have presented a difficult decision-making environment to farmers over the past several years. The decisions for this spring are now drastically complicated given the rapidly changing situation with the spread of COVID-19 and its attendant health threats and control measures. Currently, a paramount concern is continuing farming and livestock activities in the face of COVID-19 health threats and control measures.

Farmers and input suppliers are coming up on a very busy planting season. To the extent possible, assuring a workplace free of COVID-19 is important. A U.S. recession is expected to result because of COVID-19 control measures, the extent of which remains unknown. At this point, the economic implications are uncertain, but some sort of acreage and public policy response seems likely.

HEALTH OF WORKFORCE

The planting season in the Midwest is approaching. Crop farmers and input suppliers will soon be facing high workloads and need to perform tasks timely so as to avoid economic losses from delays. Obviously, planting is dependent on optimal season considerations and weather and cannot be postponed because of COVID-19.

The introduction of COVID-19 into the personnel of a farm or input supply firm will present difficulties, particularly given no other trained personnel are likely to be available. Many farmers are in the at-risk group being older and perhaps having other factors increasing risk. Working through a COVID-19 infection during planting likely is not wise, particularly given the reported death rates



Special to The Prairie Press

This shows calculations, with yields and non-land coast coming from Illinois Crop Budgets released in January.

from COVID-19 in other countries.

If possible, a COVID-19 free labor force needs to be maintained. Farmers may wish to emphasize measures suggested by health officials: washing hands, limiting travel and social distancing.

Perhaps most critical will be those individuals providing input supply to other farmers. Seeds, fertilizer, and herbicides soon will need delivered to many farmers. Moreover, grains and livestock need transported to markets and processing destinations. The need to limit COVID-19 spread among workers across these supply chains must be taken seriously.

Of course, the introduction of COVID-19 on farms with livestock or dairy would present extreme challenges. Again, practicing COVID-19 prevention seems prudent for livestock and dairy farms, and presents managers with challenges.

POTENTIAL FOR RECESSION

Measures implemented to slow COVID-19 spread are expected to cause

a recession, which could have large economic consequences. For example, a mild recession causing a 1 percent decline in GDP would have a cost of \$214 billion. Based on recent estimates, the cost of a COVID-19 recession could exceed a trillion dollars in the U.S. under the most severe scenarios considered. The magnitude will depend on how long COVID-19 social distancing measures are in place, the severity of the COVID-19 outbreak and other general economic factors.

It is safe to say this recession would also negatively impact agriculture. Corn and soybean prices have fallen since COVID-19 measures have been put in place, roughly 6% for corn and 8% for soybeans. These percentage declines are based on a comparison of current future contract levels to projected prices for crop insurance.

The projected price for corn in Midwest states is based on the February average of December 2020 corn futures contract prices on the Chicago Mercantile

See **PLANTING**, Page 6B

NRCS offering special funding

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHAMPAIGN — State Conservationist Ivan Dozier announces the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Illinois Corn Growers Association are offering special funding for precision conservation management through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).

Precision conservation management is an innovative service program designed to apply financial farm business planning with precision conservation technology to help make intelligent conservation decisions and address resource concerns such as water quality

See **NRCS**, Page 6B

Scholarship recipients announced

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

A couple of area youths are the recipients of Farm Credit Illinois \$2,000 scholarships to help further their education.

Nick Miller of Kansas is a member of the 2020 Kansas High School Class and will attend Lake Land College as an agriculture transfer student.

Logan Hendrix of Dennison is a member of the 2020 Marshall High School Class, and she will study environmental science at Indiana State University.

In addition to providing individual scholarships, Farm Credit Illinois also awarded \$160,000 in grants to numerous 4-H clubs and FFA chapters to complete community improvement projects.

No grants came to Edgar County, but in Clark County: the Boosters 4-H Club

See **GRANTS**, Page 6B

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PLANTING
FROM PAGE 5B

Exchange (CME). The projected corn price for 2020 is \$3.88 per bushel. The price on March 16 was \$3.66, a decline of 6% from the \$3.88 projected price. The projected price for soybeans — the average of February settlement prices of the November 2019 CME soybean contract — is \$9.17 per bushel. The settlement price on March 16 was \$8.45, a decline of 8% from the February average.

Whether COVID-19 has larger impacts on corn and soybean prices in the future is an open question. Reduced travel will decrease fuel use, leading to less ethanol use, and potentially lower corn prices. Lower crude oil prices from Saudi — Russian exchanges also will play a role in corn prices.

Chinese demand for soybeans is uncertain, particularly given that China could be harder hit by COVID-19 than the U.S. A Chinese recession would lower U.S. soybean exports to China. Moreover, a major recession will impact livestock demand, which will have impacts on both corn and soybean prices. Farmdoc daily articles by Hubbs on March 9 and March 16 begin to address these issues, and further analyses in the future are likely.

CORN-SOYBEAN ACREAGE SHIFTS

USDA projected 2020 plantings in the U.S. at 94 million acres of corn, 85 million acres of soybeans, and 45 million acres of wheat. Both corn and soybean acres in 2020 are

GRANTS
FROM PAGE 5B

will clean up cemeteries in Marshal and Westfield, Casey Achievers 4-H Club is installing a new flag pole at the Casey welcome sign, Casey Westfield FFA plans to build swings for Casey Main Street,

and the Clarksville Co-Eds 4-H Club is planting daffodils along Interstate 70 exit ramps in Clark County.

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projected to increase over 2019 levels, with projected 2020 corn acres the fourth highest since 1990. As in all years, actual planting will vary from projections.

To gauge potential impact of price changes, projected profitability of corn and soybeans in Illinois were re-evaluated with recent price changes. Corn-minus-soybean returns are projected for two scenarios in northern, central Illinois with high-productivity farmland (Central-High), central Illinois with low-productivity farmland (Central-Low) and southern Illinois.

Original planning prices were \$3.90 per bushel for corn and \$9 per bushel for soybean. Blue bars in the graph on page 5B show corn-minus-soybean returns with original prices. Positive values indicate corn is more profitable than soybeans, and vice versa.

For a \$3.90 corn price and a \$9 soybean price, corn is projected more profitable than soybeans by \$56 per acre in northern Illinois and \$21 per acre in central Illinois on farms with high productivity farmland.

Soybeans were projected more profitable than corn by \$1 per acre on low-productivity farmland in central Illinois, and \$22 per acre in southern Illinois. Profitability differences across Illinois are as expected. The original yields and prices were more favorable to corn production in northern and central-high regions and more favorable to soybean projection in southern Illinois.

Current fall bids in Illinois have been near \$3.40 per

bushel for corn and \$8.10 per bushel for soybeans. Over all regions, these prices lower corn profitability more than soybean profitability. Corn still is projected more profitable than soybean in northern Illinois, but the difference is only \$4 per acre. Soybeans are projected more profitable than corn by \$28 per acre on high-productivity farmland in central Illinois, \$48 per acre on low-productivity farmland in central Illinois and \$59 in southern Illinois.

Whether these price changes induce an acreage response is an open question. It was already difficult to predict acreage decisions for 2020 given the large number of prevent plant acres in 2019. A large number of 2019 unharvested acres remain in North and South Dakota, which have a chance of becoming prevent plant acres this year.

PRICING CONSIDERATIONS

Markets have reacted erratically since the COVID-19 concerns arose, with equity markets having large percentage changes. Commodity prices are weak, at least by way of comparison to prices before COVID-19 concerns. A stage of panic exists in markets, but prices could respond positively if the economic slowdown is relatively short-lived. Softness in prices could continue if a severe economic recession results. The former is more likely than the latter in the long run. The question is in the timing of when markets will return to more normal behavior.

While markets are largely efficient, this situation is unique,

CORN
FROM PAGE 5B

intentions and consumption trends, corn supply near 18 billion bushels appears feasible during the 2020-21 marketing year, said Hubbs.

"An assumption of corn consumption during the 2020-21 marketing year near 14.8 bil-

lion bushels, the highest use total on record, still places carryout above 3 billion bushels," he said. "Corn prices already reflect lost demand and the potentially huge crop this year. If corn acreage stays at 97 million acres, cash corn prices under \$3 for large areas of the Corn Belt seem probable over an extended period."

NRCS
FROM PAGE 5B

and soil health.

Producers can apply for assistance through the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which will build on their existing conservation efforts while strengthening their operation through special enhancements that are offered.

The NRCS Precision Conservation Management RCPP project will be available to producers with land in: Ed-

gar, Champaign, Christian, Douglas, Ford, Livingston, Macoupin, McLean, Sangamon, Tazewell, Vermillion and Woodford counties.

GUEBERT
FROM PAGE 5B

diagnosis. "Not good," Dad said. "He doesn't want to see me." Why?

"Well," he said, "I think it's because he hasn't accepted the idea that dying is the cost of living." Wow, what insight.

I asked him what he could do. Oh, he said, he'd find a reason to go to the friend's house to talk about the weather or the Cardinals or the peach crop. Just chat, you know, about things that, when rolled together, make up today and tomorrow.

"I just want him to know that each day is a gift from God regardless if it brings a baptism or a funeral," he announced.

That really was the essence of my father.

Life ebbed and flowed, and he rode it back and forth without fear or favor. He never asked for love or loyalty, he didn't lighten his load by adding to anyone else's, and he was religious but never preachy.

Two, almost opposite, traits might explain him better: he was a very good fisherman and he loved to play cards.

Fishing, he would say, is mostly preparation — the right bait, local knowledge, good tackle — and patience. Neither, however, ensures

catching fish. That's why "It's called 'fishing' and not 'catching,'" he'd say on the days we spent more time fishing than catching.

Card playing, however, is mostly luck. Literally playing the cards one is dealt. Skill in playing them also matters, but skill rarely trumps the luck of the draw.

My father embodied those near-opposites. He was prepared for whatever luck — fishing or catching — brought.

One last memory: I once asked him, a diligent Bible reader (King James Version, please) what his favorite passage was. After reciting his baptism, confirmation and wedding verses, he settled on one that made perfect sense to him, Matthew 6, verse 26:

"Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?"

Ye — we — are, my father might say, today and tomorrow and every day. That said, I'm pretty sure he'd still keep one eye fixed on Uncle Honey.

(Alan Guebert is an award-winning agricultural journalist and expert who was raised on an 720-acre, 100-cow southern Illinois dairy farm. Email him at agcomm@farmandfoodfile.com.)

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Take Notice Certificate No: 160037

TO: Norman W Eveland; Robert Prigge; David Prigge; Edgar County Clerk; Occupants And unknown owners or parties interested and nonrecord claimants. A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of EDGAR County, Illinois as Case No. 2017TX1(16).
The real estate is described as: The South 1/2 of Out Lot No. 41 to the City of Paris and more particularly described as: Beginning at a point 4 rods East of the Southeast corner of Lot No. 3 in Lawson Kimble's Addition to the City of Paris in the East line of Main Street in said City; thence East 10 rods 16 feet to the West line of the alley; thence North with the West line to the alley 58 1/2 feet; thence West 10 rods 16 feet to the East line of Main Street; thence South along the East line of Main Street 58 1/2 feet to the place of beginning. Situated in the County of Edgar and the State of Illinois

Parcel #: 09-13-36-380-010

Said property was sold on October 26, 2017 for the General Taxes for the year 2016. The period of redemption will expire on July 20, 2020. On August 12, 2020, the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.

P & N Properties, Inc. Petitioner
Legal # 3/28, 4/4, 4/11

Take Notice Certificate No: 160048

TO: Basilio Fontana; Herbert Rodney Johnson; Ethel Jean Johnson; First Bank & Trust, SB;

Paris First, Branch of State Bank of Chrisman; Edgar County Clerk; Occupants And unknown owners or parties interested and non-record claimants. A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of EDGAR County, Illinois as Case No. 2017TX1(19).
The real estate is described as: Lot 3 in "LaGrange and Bell's Addition to the City of Paris." Situated in the County of Edgar and the State of Illinois

Parcel #: 09-18-01-201-006

Said property was sold on October 26, 2017 for the General Taxes for the year 2016. The period of redemption will expire on July 20, 2020. On August 12, 2020, the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.

P & N Properties, Inc. Petitioner
Legal # 3/28, 4/4, 4/11

Take Notice Certificate No: 160068

TO: Sarah J Sturgeon; Michael W Sturgeon; Edgar County Bank and Trust Co; Paris Healthcare Center; Edgar County Clerk; Occupants And unknown owners or parties interested and nonrecord claimants. A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of EDGAR County, Illinois as Case No. 2017TX1(18).
The real estate is described as: Lot 8 in "John R. Asher's Subdivision of Lots 6, 7 and 8 in C.E. Shaw's First Addition and part of Out Lots 175 & 177, all in the City of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois"; as shown by Plat recorded in Volume 3, Page 54 of the Plat Books of said Edgar County, Illinois. Situated in the County of Edgar and the State of Illinois

Parcel #: 09-18-01-452-008

Said property was sold on October 26, 2017 for the General Taxes for the year 2016. The period of redemption will expire on July 20, 2020. On August 12, 2020, the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.

P & N Properties, Inc. Petitioner
Legal # 3/28, 4/4, 4/11

Take Notice Certificate No: 160104

TO: Linda A Darr; Bruce Darr; Edgar County Clerk And unknown owners or parties interested and nonrecord claimants. A Petition for Tax Deed on premises described below has been filed in the Circuit Court of EDGAR County, Illinois as Case No. 2017TX1(17).
The real estate is described as: The South 25 acres of even width of the West 1/2 of the Northeast 1/4 of Section 6 Township 16 North Range 12 West of the 2nd Principal Meridian. Situated in the County of Edgar and the State of Illinois

Parcel #: 11-03-06-200-002

Said property was sold on October 26, 2017 for the General Taxes for the year 2016. The period of redemption will expire on July 20, 2020. On August 12, 2020, the petitioner will make application to such court in said County for an order for Tax Deed should the real estate not be redeemed.

P & N Properties, Inc. Petitioner
Legal # 3/28, 4/4, 4/11

ADOPTION NOTICE - STATE OF ILLINOIS

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

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF GAJE LEE MAURER, a minor.

TO: TRAVIS L. MAURER and RENEE SPARA
No. 2020 -AD- 4

Take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Circuit Court of Edgar County, Illinois, for the adoption of a child named **GAJE LEE MAURER**. Now, therefore, unless you, **TRAVIS L. MAURER** and **RENEE SPARA**, and all to whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in this cause of action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in said Circuit Court of Edgar County, in the **Office of the Circuit Clerk, in the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois**, on or before the **15th day of May, 2020**, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment

entered in accordance with the prayer in said Petition.

DATED this 1st day of April, 2020.

ANGELA R. BARRETT, Circuit Clerk

FRUIN & KASH
(Richard M. Kash, Jr.)
129 North Central Avenue
Paris, IL 61944-1704
Telephone: 217-465-4196
Fax: 217-463-1213
Email: service@fgklaw.net

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

In the matter of the Estate of VIRGIL O. FOX, JR., deceased
No. 2020-P-5

NOTICE TO CAROLYN PETTET - WILL ADMITTED/INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN TO CAROLYN PETTET, whose name was incorrectly spelled "PETITT" in the documents filed in the above-referenced matter, who is the niece of the decedent, and whose address is unknown, that a Petition for Probate of Will and For Letters of Office, filed herein on February 5, 2020, that shows CAROLYN PETTET as an heir and legatee of the decedent; however, the statutory notices required to be sent to her, which were mailed to her last known address, were returned as undeliverable. An Order Admitting Will to Probate was entered by the Court on February 10, 2020, admitting the decedent's Will, dated July 7, 2006, to probate and appointing GERALD L. FOX as Independent Executor of his Estate. As an heir and legatee of the decedent whose address is unknown, you are entitled to receive notice of the filing of said Petition and the entry of said Order. You are named in the Petition as an heir, devisee, or legatee of the decedent.

Within 42 days after the date of the Order of Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the Will either by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21). E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If

GERALD L. FOX, Independent Executor of the Estate of VIRGIL O. FOX, JR., deceased

Jones & Griffin Law Offices, P.C.

Drew P. Griffin, Attorney for

you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

You also have the right under Section 8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after the date of the Order Admitting Will to Probate.

You also have the right under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-4) to require Supervised Administration of this Estate. The enclosed Notice of Rights of Interested Persons During Independent Administration explains this right. The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the Clerk of the Court. If the Petitioner is a creditor, or non-residuary legatee, independent administration will be terminated only if the Court finds that termination is necessary to protect the Petitioner's interest. You may obtain a copy of the form of the Petition to Terminate Independent Administration from the Circuit Clerk at the address appearing below or by contacting the attorney for the Independent Executor at the address listed below.

In addition to the right to terminate independent administration, any interested person may petition the court to hold a hearing and resolve any particular question that may arise during independent administration, even though supervised administration has not been requested (755 ILCS 5/28-5). The independent representative must mail a copy of the estate inventory and final account to each interested person and must send notice to or obtain the approval of each interested person before the estate can be closed (755 ILCS 5/28-6 and 5/28-11). Any interested person has the right to question or object to any item included in or admitted from an inventory or account or to insist on a full court accounting of all receipts and disbursements with prior notice as required in supervised administration (755 ILCS 5/28-11).

GERALD L. FOX, Independent Executor of the Estate of VIRGIL O. FOX, JR., deceased

Jones & Griffin Law Offices, P.C.

Drew P. Griffin, Attorney for

Independent Executor
110 E. Washington Street
P. O. Box 8
Paris, Illinois 61944
E-mail: drew@jonesgriffinlaw.com
Phone: (217) 465-7525
Fax: (217) 466-2230

Edgar County Circuit Clerk
115 W. Court Street #M
Paris, Illinois 61944
Phone: (217) 466-7447

Invitation to Bid Letter
Village of Vermilion
PO Box 82
Vermilion, IL 61955
04/07/2020

Illinois Licensed, Bonded & Insured Tree Removal Individuals or Companies

Re: Bid Proposal for Spring 2020 Tree Removal #1 & #2

To Whom It May Concern:
We will be accepting bid proposals for the above referenced projects. Bids must be received no later than 04/24/20. Bids received after this date will not be considered.
Project #1 is tree & stump removal (marked with X) at 207 Church St. Property owner will keep the wood. Project #2 is tree, stump & cleanup of debris (tree marked with X) at 507 Railroad St.

Please send bids to the following address:

Village of Vermilion
PO Box 82
Vermilion, IL 61955
Bid Submission Attn- Mayor Bailey

Bids must be typed or printed & signed in ink. All bids submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by Mayor Bailey. Village Board will review all acceptable bids and winner will be notified within 5 days after bids are reviewed. Once bidder is notified you must provide copy of insurance & license. Village has the right to reject any and all bids at the sole discretion. Any questions or concerns about either of the projects contact Mayor Dean Bailey 217-251-9616 for clarification.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mayor Dean Bailey
Village of Vermilion



Send a *Heartfelt Greeting*

Those 60 and over are especially at risk to the COVID-19 virus, and many are isolated in their homes, healthcare facilities and retirement centers at this time.

The Prairie Press would like to invite family and friends to send a personalized message to your **Mom, Dad, Grandma, Grandpa, Aunt, Uncle or Friend in The Prairie Press.**

A highly affordable and fun way to reach out to your loved ones!

Email Picture and/or short message of encouragement to cliff@prairiepress.net or call **The Prairie Press (217) 921-3216** (during regular business hours)

\$36.00 for a 2x3 Color ad and would include a personal copy to the paper that would be delivered to your loved one.

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Was \$23,995 Now **\$21,749**

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FUSON AUTOMOTIVE
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Was \$25,995 Now **\$23,551**

2019 Dodge Charger
FUSON AUTOMOTIVE
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Was \$29,995 Now **\$27,597**

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EIU fall 2019 Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHARLESTON — Eastern Illinois University proudly recognizes more than 700 undergraduates who have met the criteria for the Fall 2019 Deans' List honor.

EIU's Fall 2019 Deans' List recognizes undergraduates who excelled academically during the university's 2019 fall semester. Students who achieved a GPA of 3.80 to 4.00 (on a 4.00 scale) while completing a minimum of 12 graded semester hours, excluding credit/no credit grades are named on the university Deans' List.

Earning honors were:

Brocton — Bush, Abigail S., Sociology/Anthro/Criminology; Richards, Brandon L., Mathematics/Computer Sciences.

Casey — Brown Tanner R., School of Technology; Carr, William S., School of Technology; Cox, Victoria K., Teaching Learning Foundations; Tutewiler, Ellie N., Communication Disorders; Wilkins, Chelsey N., Sociology/Anthro/Criminology; Williams, Nathaniel A., Biological Sciences.

Chrisman — Witmer, Chelsea N., Teaching Learning Foundations.

Hume — Orwick, Jessica M., Kinesiology/Sport/Recreation.

Kansas — Flesner Maddie D., School of Business.

Marshall — Cramer, Angela J., School of Extended Learning; Floyd, Jacinda J., Communication Disorders; McCarty, Dylan E., Kinesiology/Sport/Recreation; Wernz, Ashley P., Teaching Learning Foundations; Woods, Gracie L., Art & Design.

Martinsville — Norton, Jordan M., Communication Disorders.

Metcalfe — Morris, Faith D., Communication Studies.

Oakland — McBurney, Benjamin R., School of Extended Learning.

Paris — Burris, Andrea D., School of Business; Dosch, Colton S., Kinesiology/Sport/Recreation; Land, Trevan C., Kinesiology/Sport/Recreation; Lau, Everett C., Geology/Geography; Lawson, Elizabeth J., Teaching Learning Foundations; Slaven, Emily C., Teaching Learning Foundations; Smith, Katherine M., Music; Tegeler, Amber D., Sociology/Anthro/Criminology.

Ridge Farm — Spires, Shelton D., School of Business.

Westfield — English, Kyle A., School of Business; Evans, Jurnee J., English; Myers, Megan S., Teaching Learning Foundations; Wright, Noah W., Biological Sciences.

Museum collects pandemic stories

Launches online tool to collect COVID-19 stories for future generations

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Museum (ISM) has launched a new collecting initiative allowing Illinois residents to share stories of their experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic for the benefit of future generations.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a vital moment in history, and ISM wants to document how it is affecting Illinois residents through its "Share your Story: Illinois in the COVID-19 Pandemic" collecting initiative.

ISM is requesting personal stories, written works, artwork, photos, or photos of objects from the life of Illinois to document life during the pandemic. The museum is collecting residents' submissions for preservation in its digital archive via its new online tool at <https://bit.ly/347wTle>. Additionally, ISM will share some of the stories and photos on its social media platforms and through an online exhibit.

"As history is unfolding before our eyes, the museum is committed to documenting the experiences of the people of this state," said Illinois State Museum Curator of History, Erika Holst. "We want to hear from everyone. We're all in this together, and everyone's story is important. Whether you're homeschooling your kids, a doctor on the front lines or having to cancel your graduation party, we want to hear how your life has been affected by the COVID-19."

Illinois residents can learn more about the initiative at <https://bit.ly/2xLuUqE>.

To learn more, visit www.illinoisstatemuseum.org and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.



NEWLIN SIGNS FOR ILLINOIS COLLEGE

Special to The Prairie Press

Paris High School senior Hunter Newlin recently signed to play football at Illinois College. Newlin seated in the center is flanked by his parents, Lori Newlin and Jeremy Newlin Sr. Standing are other family members with left to right, brother Jeremy Newlin Jr., niece Wynter Newlin, Kylee Marietta and grandparents Shirley and Charles McDaniel.

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CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

destination. The driver politely stopped at her request. She expressed thanks and exited the car, which had fallen farther behind the lead vehicles, holding up some 20 or more cars in the rear. Everyone was puzzled why they were pausing as the hearse and flower car disappeared from sight.

Like many old people, including untold numbers among us in current times, Granny couldn't keep pace with technology advancement. A really big fad that struck society after World War Two was the drive-in-theater.

These new inventions appeared seemingly everywhere. They were popular with young dating couples. Weekend nights attracted big crowds. Married couples like

them, too. Dads drove the car, moms packed along plenty of popcorn, and the kids filled the back seat. All sat comfortably in their cars and enjoyed the movies.

In the early '50s, Granny became good friends with a nice elderly person named John Kane, who had lost his wife, thus becoming a lonely widower. For about a year, he often asked her for a weekend date. They enjoyed each other's company, often playing cards or dominoes with other couples, attending the county fair or other community events.

He surprised her once by asking her to accompany him to a drive-in double movie night. She cheerfully accepted, though neither had ever been to a drive-in theater. Thus neither quite knew what to expect.

Next day and forever onward, Granny had no kind words for drive-ins. She and her date had a miserable time. The biggest complaint was the so-called loudspeaker, which was attached to a post beside the driver's door. No one told them to remove it and hook it onto the car's window, nor did they notice others doing it.

Being advanced in age, they had difficulty hearing. To make matters worse, it rained that night. They could barely hear with the window open, but that invited rain inside the car. Shutting the window kept them dry but closed off all sound.

They opted to go home early, griping about wasting their admission fee. Granny just couldn't understand why anyone would want to attend a drive-in movie.

Granny had never driven a car, but when a neighbor became disabled and offered to sell his for an affordable price, she bought a Chevrolet sedan. A couple of the man's grown children courteously drove it to Granny's house and parked in her shed. A day later she showed up at Simon's Garage in New Goshen, having walked two miles to get there.

"Simon, there's something wrong with my car," she said. "It'll start. The motor purrs like a kitten. But it won't move. Not an inch."

So Simon drove her home and probed into the mystery. Problem was, Granny was stepping on the brake instead of the gas pedal.

In a matter of days Granny received some driving lessons. She drove clumsily at first, but soon became a decent driver.

Today, I'm like Granny when it comes to people, including my grandkids, who operate hand-held telephones and computers. I become all mixed up and frustrated. They laugh at me for being a Neanderthal. I know how Granny felt.

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

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¹DETAILS OF OFFER: Offer expires 4/30/2020. Offer valid on initial visit only. Not valid with other offers or prior purchases. Buy one (1) window, get the next one (1) at 40% off and 12 months so money down, \$0 monthly payments, \$0 interest when you purchase four (4) or more windows or patio doors between 6/15/2019 and 4/30/2020. 40% off windows and patio doors are less than or equal to lowest cost window or patio door in the project. Subject to credit approval. Interest is billed during the promotional period but all interest is waived if the purchase amount is paid before the expiration of the promotional period. Financing for GreenSky® consumer loan programs is provided by federally insured, federal and state chartered financial institutions without regard to age, race, color, religion, national origin, gender or familial status. Available only at participating locations. See your local Renewal by Andersen location for details. Los Angeles License #992285, Orange County License #990416, MHIC #121441, VA License #2705155684, DC License #420215000125, License MN: BC130983/WI:266951. Excludes MN insurance work per MSA 325F.66. Other license numbers available on request. Some Renewal by Andersen locations are independently owned and operated. For J.D. Power 2018 award information, visit jdpower.com/awards. "ENERGY STAR" is a registered trademark of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. "Renewal by Andersen" and all other marks where denoted are trademarks of Andersen Corporation. © 2019 Andersen Corporation. All rights reserved. RBA12091

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