

In the know

FAILED PAPER DELIVERY

The Prairie Press is aware that some subscribers are not getting the paper on a regular basis. We contract the printing of the paper with the Terre Haute Tribune-Star printing plant and have been told by the Tribune-Star's management the plant is experiencing technical problems with its mailing label printer. While it is not clear how those problems result in consistently failing to print labels for the same people, we are assured the problem will be fixed with the June 27 issue of The Prairie Press. We apologize to our subscribers for this inconvenience and assure them we are as displeased with the situation as they are.

Gourmet burger fixings at home

Restuarant-quality burger toppings like shrimp, candied bacon and quick pickles can be served up in the backyard. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**



Church gathered from 1819-1954

North Arm Methodist Church was a cornerstone of community during its lifetime. **HISTORY, 3B**

Health officials under pressure

Public health officials are bearing the brunt of public angst over COVID-19 restrictions. **HEALTH, 5B**

Pollinator patch at Ameren site

Ameren, Pheasants Forever test new strategies for blocking invasive species and feeding pollinators. **NEWS, 3A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

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Weather forecast here. **2A**



LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Latest news, online extras

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

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CONTACT US

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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, JUNE 20, 2020

Jail reopening greenlit

Renovations and better staffing policies approved by insurance company, state DOC

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The final step has been met in getting the Edgar County Jail cleared to resume operations as a penal facility.

Todd Greer, senior vice president of Insurance Program Managers Group (IMPG), informed county officials Wednesday, June 17, that Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust (ICRMT) may once again provide property and liability coverage for the jail premises and its operation.

Insurance was canceled in late 2019 because the provider was dissatisfied with physical conditions inside the jail along with a lack of clear policy and inadequate training of

corrections officers. The jail closed Dec. 1 as a result and inmates and new arrests were placed in other jails.

Between Dec. 1, 2019, and May 31, 2020, Edgar County paid \$149,336 to house local inmates in out of county jails. That amount does not include fuel expenses or time for personnel to move prisoners to another facility or making additional trips getting them back and forth for local court appearances.

An additional factor in the jail closing was yet another in a long line of critical inspection reports by the Illinois Department of Corrections (DOC). A major DOC concern was the ongoing failure to properly staff the jail with

a minimum of two jailers per shift. The jail frequently operated with one correction officer on duty at a time.

The DOC inspections also criticized the lack of a dedicated jail administrator, and the last inspection report threatened to turn the matter over to the Illinois Attorney General for legal action unless corrective steps were taken immediately.

Since the jail closed Dec. 1, the county board and the sheriff's department have embarked on a plan to make the needed physical improvements within the cell blocks. Some of this work was accomplished through the Smart-Watt energy saving project.

See **JAIL**, Page **6A**



File Photo/The Prairie Press

After being closed for six months, the Edgar County Jail has the greenlight from the Illinois Department of Corrections and Illinois Counties Risk Management Trust insurance to start housing inmates after a full compliment of corrections officers is in place. With parts of the building dating back to the 19th century, a renovation of both the facility and management practices was needed to satisfy the oversight

CHRISMAN WOODTURNER SPECIALIZES IN PENS



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Mike Henry is drawn to making specialty pens, like the train-, firefighter- and Marine Corps-themed ones among this collection. Other favorite challenges are ornaments for his grandkids and bottle stoppers. The bowl in the top left corner is wood and epoxy combined, something he wants to experiment with more in the future.

Woodturning is family hobby

BY SAMANTHA TUCKER
samantha@prairiepress.net

Wood feels like an unyielding material, but it takes on a life of its own when spun at several hundred revolutions per minute. That is what keeps woodturners Mike and Travis Henry coming back to their studio.

"You have an idea of what it's going to look like," said Mike Henry, but that mental image is usually as far as his planning takes him. "Every one you turn looks different. It's crazy. You think this one's going to look like the last one, but the wood drives the process."

Mike Henry recently retired after 45 years at Eli Lilly. He knew a relative who turned wood, and it seemed like a good way to occupy his time. Learning woodturning quickly evolved into a passion that he shared with his son, Travis.

"He started taking classes and then he dragged me to one, then I started getting into it, too," said Travis Henry.

It was a small leap to building a shop behind Travis Henry's house.

"I spend a lot of time down here. For me, I like to make specialty pens," said Mike Henry.



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Mike Henry, left, and his son Travis stand in front of their lathe after finishing the head of a colorful, padauk wood bottle stopper. Mike Henry began taking woodworking classes after retirement and fell in love with the craft, with Travis Henry following suit.

Examples include Marine Corps and firefighter pens with tiny axes and bolt action mechanisms. The metal components are purchased in kits, leaving the design of the shaft entire-

ly up to him. The senior Henry also makes bottle stoppers, which his wife often opts to keep, plus ornaments for his grandkids.

See **HENRY**, Page **6A**

Summer meals reaching more kids this year

BY DREW CHITTICK
bradenandrewc@gmail.com

Across the country, more families are relying on summer meals programs as kids are spending more time at home and parents are unable to work. But locally, several organizations are meeting the growing need.

Amanda Minor is the Douglas County Public Health Department Administrator and that agency works with the Illinois State Board of Education's (ISBE) Summer Meals Program for feeding kids in Douglas and Edgar counties. The summer meals program recognizes that children who depend on the free and reduced lunch programs during the school year for nutrition are at risk for not having enough to eat during the summer break.

"Our five-year average has been

See **MEALS**, Page **7A**

City of Chrisman moves to full-time police chief

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — Mayor Dan Owen wants to reorganize the Chrisman Police Department.

He discussed the idea of having a full-time police chief during the city council meeting Monday, June 15.

"We have been part-time for a long time," said Owen. "I think we need somebody full-time to be around more."

He emphasized the change is not a negative reflection on current Chief Jordan Hale, who works another job full-time and serves Chrisman as a second job.

"The current chief has not done anything wrong, but this is what we need to do to move Chrisman forward," said Owen.

A discussion about the financial

See **CHRISMAN**, Page **7A**

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The Prairie Press Paris Beacon-News

SERVING EDGAR COUNTY SINCE 1848

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TALK BACK

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

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.

BE A PART OF OUR PAPER

We invite our readers and the

LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 84 Low: 64

More weather: go to www.prairiepress.net and click on weather.

Weather forecast table with columns for Today, Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and weather icons.



EVERETT LAU Weather Wizard @elau_weather on Twitter @EdgarCoWx on Twitter Paris Area Weather

TODAY - Mostly sunny and hot with highs in the lower 90s. Showers and storms possible in the afternoon and evening. SUNDAY - Partly sunny with scattered showers and thunderstorms possible.

ALMANAC Paris through noon Tuesday. Temperature High/Low... 84°/64° Record High... 102° in 1913 Record Low... 43° in 1980

SUN AND MOON Sun Rise Set Moon Rise Set TODAY 5:23 a.m. 8:22 p.m. 4:50 a.m. 8:03 p.m.

2020 Edgar County Fair canceled

BY NANCY ZEMAN nzeman@prairiepress.net

The 159th Edgar County Fair is the latest victim of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Edgar County Fair Board announced this week via their Facebook page and web site there will be no fair, Edgar County Fair Secretary Terri Quinn confirmed Friday.

said. The fair board had come up with a plan to space the vendors out throughout the fairgrounds with an aggressive cleaning plan.

The Edgar County 4-H Fair, the Illinois State Fair and the DuQuoin State Fair have already been canceled. Quinn said there probably will not be any county fairs in Illinois this year.

which has been providing the carnival rides and attractions for the last several years, would not be present.

Quinn said the fair board has been criticized since the decision as being weak but "people just don't understand. It wasn't going to be possible" without the blessing of the health department.

ly scheduled the first weekend in October for the demolition derby and tractor and truck pulls. The rodeo is tentatively set for the Edgar County Shrine Weekend during the annual Paris Honeybee Festival in September, Quinn said.

The October events sponsored by the fair board will help cover the payments which still must be made for contracts for the fair. Quinn explained even with the decision to not have the annual event, the fair association must pay cancellation fees.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

CHRISTMAS FOR KIDS CAR SHOW

A fund-raising car show for Christmas for Kids is 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, June 27, in the Oakland High School parking lot.

certificate of completion following the class. An official CPR/AED certification card from the American Heart Association is an optional choice for \$25.

Farmers Market is returning to the community every Friday 4-6 p.m. from June 26 through Sept. 11.

118 EAST COURT STREET, PARIS

217-465-4118 M: 8:00am - 5:00pm T: 8:00am - 7:00pm W: 8:00am - 5:00pm TH: 8:00am - 7:00pm F: 8:00am - 1:00pm

FREE CPR/AED CLASS

Horizon Health is offering a free Adult/Child/Infant CPR/AED course 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesday, July 1, in Conference Room A at Paris Community Hospital.

BOAT PARADE

The annual boat parade on East Lake as part of the July 4 celebration is on. Organizers say the event is open to any kind of watercraft.

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.

406 N 2ND STREET, MARSHALL

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

FFA FARMERS MARKET

The Chrisman FFA Chapter's

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ILLINOIS WARM LINE

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NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE

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CANCELED EVENTS

As a result of the Extension Service canceling in person programming, the Edgar County 4-H Barbecue originally scheduled for June 27 is canceled.

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Ameren, Pheasants Forever team up for pollinators

BY SAMANTHA TUCKER
samantha@prairiepress.net

Ameren and Edgar County Pheasants Forever took a step forward in conservation on Wednesday, June 17, by planting an experimental pollinator patch outside the Kansas substation.

The seeding was a mix of competitive native grasses and wildflowers, with the grassier, brushier plants on the outside to protect the patch from encroachment by invasive species.

"If we can keep them out and have a sort of central pollinator thing, that's the ideal," said Scott Meiners, a plant ecologist with the Department of Biological Sciences at Eastern Illinois University.

The experiment has even



Samantha Tucker/The Prairie Press

Volunteer Russell Lewsader plants a new pollinator patch using specialized planting equipment at the Route 16 Ameren substation outside of Kansas. The project is the result of a partnership between Ameren and Pheasants Forever to keep invasive woody shrubs out of power line corridors using competitive native plants.

more potential if it goes well. The strategy of how the plot is laid out is intended for power line corridors cutting through forests. If hardy native plants

can out-muscle invasive shrubs like honeysuckle, autumn olive and lespedeza, then power companies will spend far less on vegetation

control without the need to bushwhack to keep their lines accessible. This is known as integrated vegetation management. The native plants will also support the wildlife right of ways these corridors have become.

Meiners is hopeful the grasses and flowers will be thoroughly entrenched in a couple of years. When that happens, he says, they can begin counting how many solitary bees, butterflies and other species are using the area as well as the blooms available to them at a given time. However, these plans hinge on variables beyond human control.

"It kind of depends on... if we get rain here and if stuff gets well established," he said.

The partnership between

Ameren and Pheasants Forever is overseen by the Electrical Producers Research Institute (EPRI). According to Pheasants Forever conservation specialist Jason Bleich, this allows the groups to exchange conservation project funding for access to biologists. Case in point, the Ameren land was planted with a special native grass seed drill clearly labeled with a Pheasants Forever banner, and ecologists were on site. The collaboration has

abundant potential.

"This is kind of the pilot project for getting all the energy companies to go to native seeding," explained Bleich.

Meiners believes the native grass plot will be a win-win for both utility companies and conservation - a rare combination.

"Ultimately, if we can keep invasives down and provide consistent pollinator habitat, where the downside?" he said.

Fuel spill requires hazardous material cleanup

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

A freak accident Monday, June 15, left an undetermined amount of diesel fuel on state Route 1 from a point below Five-Mile Hill to the Herrington Transportation facility on Prairie's Edge, west of Paris.

Emergency responders at the scene said it appeared a piece of farm equipment lost a disc-plate after exiting a nearby

field. A semi-truck later drove over the disc and ruptured a fuel tank. The site of impact was evident by a large dark area on the road, the smell of fuel and diesel standing in the hollowed areas of the rumble strips on the edge of the road.

Edgar County Sheriff Jeff Wood said authorities used the trail of spilled fuel to locate the truck at the Herrington facility. He added the truck belonged

to Herrington Transportation and the driver was unaware the tank was ruptured and leaking.

"We think we know who the implement belongs to," said Wood, although the investigation is continuing.

He does not anticipate any criminal charges arising from the incident, but did not rule out civil action between insurance companies as a possibility to determine who is financially responsible for the cost of cleaning up the fuel.

Wood confirmed a company that specializes in hazardous material cleanup was summoned to the scene for putting down absorbent and possibly another chemical that helps break down the fuel for easier handling,



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Paris Fire Chief Brian Gates walks beside a long diesel fuel spill on state Route 1, south of Five-Mile Hill, and Deputy Matt Smith, background, radios information about the situation to dispatch. Authorities at the scene Monday afternoon, June 15, said it appears a farm implement lost a disc blade, which ripped open the vehicles fuel tank. The semi left an intermittent trail of fuel that allowed law enforcement to trail it to Herrington Trucking.



SCHOLARSHIPS

The V.F.W. Post 3601 is offering scholarships to qualifying 2nd, 3rd or 4th year college students or advanced 1 year graduate. Students must be the child, grandchild, great grandchild, step grandchild, or step great grandchild of a past or present member of Post 3601 or its auxiliary.

Applications may be picked up after June 3 at the **V.F.W. Post 3601**
601 West Court, Paris
They must be returned to the Post by July 13, 2020 at Noon

Applications can be picked-up on the wall in the entryway at the V.F.W. When application is completed drop them off in the mailbox provided at the V.F.W.

Honoring outstanding Paris High School seniors who participate in instrumental or vocal music or drama.

MUSICIAN OF THE MONTH

December (2019) - Levi Happ

Parents - Doug and Anne Happ
Music Activities - Beacon Brigade, Marching Tigers, Paris City Band, Tri-M National Music Honor Society
Extracurricular Activities - Key Club, French Club, Scholastic Bowl
Community Service - Perform at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, Tri-M Food Drive for Compassionate Food Ministry, Tri-M Mentor, server at St. Mary's Catholic Church

January - Dustin Creech

Parents - Mary Ann and Scott Creech
Music Activities - Beacon Brigade, Marching Tigers
Extracurricular Activities - Varsity Basketball, Scholastic Bowl, Track, Spanish Club, NHS, Key Club
Community Service - Key Club Golf Outing, Key Club Community Cleanup, Perform at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies

February - Alexis Milner

Parents - Brandy Switzer & William Milner
Music Activities - Beacon Brigade, Marching Tigers
Extracurricular Activities - Interact Club, Key Club, Bionic, Drama and National Honor Society
Community Service - Lake Ridge Christian Church Kindergarten Class Helper, Perform at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, Key Club Community Clean Up

March - Kendra Cartright

Parents - Robin and Stephen Cartright
Music Activities - Beacon Brigade, Marching Tigers
Extra-Curricular Activities - Basketball, Track, Key Club, Interact Club, NHS, Sub Debs, Spanish Club, French Club
Community Service - Perform at Memorial Day and Veteran's Day ceremonies, Key Club Community Clean Up

April - Kadi Henry

Parents - Chet and Amanda Henry
Music Activities - Choir
Extracurricular Activities - Drama, Community Theater, Tennis, and Spanish Club
Community Service - Girl Scouts, Planting trees with Trees for Tomorrow

May - Nathan York

Parents - Nicole and Jim York
Music Activities - Choir, Elite Harmony
Extracurricular Activities - Drama
Community Service - Helped with After Prom, Mayo Volunteer, Helped First Christian Church Choir

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Cases appearing in Edgar County Circuit Court

COURT

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliams@prairiepress@gmail.com

The following cases appeared for the June 8 and June 11 criminal and traffic calls in Edgar County Circuit Court:

IN CUSTODY

■ Roger D. Baugh Jr., 36, Paris, appeared in custody. His two counts of a Class 3 felony failure to report to a penal institution charges were continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody.

■ Artura D. Chavira, 23, Chrisman, appeared in custody and made a motion for a bond reduction. Bond was reduced to \$75,000 from the original bond of \$100,000. His unresolved charges of a Class X felony armed robbery and two counts of aggravated discharge of a gun were continued for a pretrial conference. Chavira was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Joseph W. Christopher, 29, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery. The public defender was appointed. Bond was set at \$6,000 and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. He was ordered to have no contact with the victim or the victim's residence.

Christopher was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■ Thomas W. Colly, 39, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 4 felony aggravated assault, a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer, a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct and a Class C misdemeanor or assault. The public defender was assigned to the case, and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Bond was set at \$20,000 and bond conditions include he is to have no contact with the apparent victim or the victim's residence. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■ Jacob T. Andrews, 20, Clinton, Ind., was charged with a Class A misdemeanor unlawful display of an automobile registration. The case went to the public defender, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with an attorney.

■ Allison M. Baldwin, 24, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor criminal defacement of property and a Class B misdemeanor criminal trespassing to real property. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

with counsel.

■ Jacob A. Comstock, 36, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. He told the court he will hire an attorney and a first appearance with counsel was scheduled.

■ Jessica Jo Daily, 30, Paris, was charged and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor retail theft. A pretrial conference was set.

■ Marcie A. Galiher, 52, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony sex offender residing within 500 feet of a daycare. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Thomas A. Hale, 21, Paris, was presented with and denied a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class 2 felony burglary conviction. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■ James D. Hoge, 74, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony aggravated assault, a Class A misdemeanor battery and a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer. The public defender was appointed, and the preliminary hearing was set.

■ Lynsey M. Jurumbo, 21, Georgetown, was charged with a Class B misdemeanor speeding. The public defender was appointed and a first appearance with counsel was scheduled.

■ Dena M. Roberts, 23, Casey, was charged with two counts of a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and two counts of a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■ Aaron A. Walker, 38, Paris, was charged with a Class 2 felony aggravated domestic battery. He told the court he will hire an attorney and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

Brocton, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony charge of a felon in possession of a firearm and a Class A misdemeanor obstruction of justice charge. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■ Kimberly S. Flynn, 53, Chrisman, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor speeding. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■ Sarah L. Hall, 32, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 2 felony burglary, a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing to a residence and a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespassing to a vehicle charges. A pretrial conference was set.

■ Tran R. Kleiner, 34, Danville, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class A misdemeanor battery and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

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

■ Richard H. Wilken II, 21, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor battery charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

Legal Advocate/Case Manager Survivor Resource Center

The Survivor Resource Center is seeking a dedicated individual to provide Legal Advocacy and Case Management to survivors of sexual violence in Edgar and Clark counties. This position will provide services out of the Paris, Illinois office. Qualified candidates will have a minimum of an Associate degree in Psychology, Criminal Justice or Human Services Field. Relevant work experience considered in place of degree. Requires excellent communication skills, ability to work with a diverse population and a team-focused approach. A strong knowledge of local resources is a must. On call rotation required. Must have a valid driver's license and reliable transportation as travel is required. Salary commensurate with experience. Company paid health insurance and generous amount of paid time off.

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Advocacy Director
923 N. Vermilion Street,
Danville, IL 61832 or by
e-mail to: casemanager@survivorresourcecenter.org

NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■ Kenneth M. Atkins, 22, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license and a Class A misdemeanor reckless driving charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■ Kylee K. Bowman, 20, Paris, denied a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 2 felony burglary conviction. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■ Dakota W. Delaney, 27, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license and a Class A misdemeanor reckless driving charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

WARRANTS

Warrants were ordered when the following individuals failed to answer the court call: Robert James Cunningham III, 30, Danville; Travis W. Johnson, 39, Pimento; Jamacia Nicole Kennedy, 32, Danville; Thomas D. Martin, 56, Paris; Zachary J. Mulkins, 26, Paris; Clayton S. Rhoads, 20, Paris; and Jacqueline R. Russell, 30, Paris.

OTHER MATTERS

■ Mandy L. Blackwell, 46, Vandalia, learned the state withdrew the petition to revoke her conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction.

■ Anthony R. Marchant, 37, Paris, failed to appear in court. The court imposed a 10-day jail sentence without good conduct credit and ordered a no-bond arrest warrant.

■ Damian M. Thompson, 29, Paris, was ordered to pay his fine in full or serve six days in jail for a Class A misdemeanor or driving on a revoked license conviction. The sentence was stayed until 1:30 p.m. June 22 to give him time to pay.

OBITUARIES

JOHN DAILY

CHRISMAN — John Richard Daily, 77, of Chrisman, passed away Thursday, June 11, 2020, at his home.

A graveside service was 11 a.m. Wednesday, June 17, at Houl Cemetery. Krabel Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Daily was born Jan. 8, 1943, at Chrisman, the son of Fred and Pauline Ayers Daily. He married Beverly J. Kindred Aug. 5, 1967, and they enjoyed 42 years together before her passing in 2010.

He is survived by two children: Chad Erick Daily of Chrisman and Scot Allen Daily of Chrisman; one sister, Beth Daily of Chrisman; and three grandchildren, Grant Daily, Eleanor Daily and Blaine Daily.

Mr. Daily was a veteran of the U.S. Army National Guard. He enjoyed farming, raising hogs, camping and fishing.

Memorial donations may be made to Chrisman Peace Meals.

Online condolences at www.krabelfuneralhome.com.

JOYCE BENNETT

MARSHALL — Joyce E. Bennett, 74, of Martinsville, passed away at 3:22 p.m. Sunday, June 14, 2020, at her home.

A service honoring her life is at a later date. Burial is in Kickapoo Cemetery, in rural Clark County. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to the Friendship Community Fellowship Church.

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

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DIANE HALL
 Mary Diane Egan Hall, 73, of Paris, passed away Thursday, June 18, 2020, at her residence. She retired from Danville Area Community College in 2016. In keeping with federal mandates, a private Mass of Christian Burial for immediate family only will be celebrated at St. Aloysius Church. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Ms. Hall was born July 25, 1946, at Paris, the daughter of the late Leo A. Egan and Pauline Marie Sunkel Egan. She is survived by her cats,



whom she considered her children; her siblings, John Egan of Riley, Ind., Sharon (Bob) Bailey of Paris, Robert (Sharon) Egan of Eagle, Colo., Jerry (Lori Bouslog) Egan of Paris and David Egan of Paris; several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews, whom she held dear to her heart.

Ms. Hall received her degree from Eastern Illinois University. She taught business at Schlarman High School before becoming the Manager and Lead Sales for Inacom Computer System and Engineering. She also worked at IBM Cooperate with K-12 Educational Sales. She was employed at DACC as the Director of Corporation Education and Customer Training for Business and In-

dustry until her retirement.

She was a member of Rotary, St. Mary's Catholic Church, St. Mary's Altar Society, American Legion Post 211 Auxiliary, SUAA, Vermilion County Educational Committee for Vocational Enhancement, DACC Technology and Community Planning. She received several awards including: Six-year Inacom Corporation Circle of Excellence and IBM Most Improved Sales.

Ms. Hall was a tender-hearted animal lover and she really enjoyed her cat rescue work.

Memorial donations may be made to Animal Family Vet Care Center of Paris for those who need financial assistance.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

JESSE FOOR
 Jesse Lawrence Foor, 92, of Chrisman, passed away at 12:48 a.m. Sunday, June 14, 2020, at his residence. He was retired after more than 35 years as owner of Massey-Ferguson Farm Implement of Chrisman.

At his request, no public services are planned. Private interment is at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Mr. Foor was born Dec. 5, 1927, at Tower Hill, the son of the late Lawrence and Edith Crook Foor. He married Karen Beth Cunningham Sept. 8, 1990, and she survives.

Other survivors include three children, Terri (Dean) Young and Ernie (Kim) Hires both of Chrisman and Janna Gusmano Masters of Muscatine, Iowa; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; several nieces and nephews; his business partner and friend of many years, John Craig of Chrisman; and his beloved dogs, Suki and Pepe.



He was preceded in death by two brothers and four sisters.

Mr. Foor was a U.S. Air Force Veteran, serving as an aerial photographer during the Korean War. He was a member of Chrisman United Methodist Church and an associate member of Sun Village Non-Denominational Church in Arizona. He was also a member of Chrisman American Legion Post #477, Prairie Lodge #77 Ancient Free & Accepted Masons, AASR Valley of Danville, Ansar Shrine Temple and Edgar County Shrine Club.

He enjoyed music and singing, whether in the church choir or in karaoke, and was also a talented pianist and organist. Mr. and Mrs. Foor enjoyed their second home in Surprise, Ariz., for more than 30 years, where they made countless memories and friendships.

Mr. Foor enjoyed his work and supporting his clients in their farming operations. Above all else, he relished the challenge of making a sale, a skill which he refined until his dying day.

Memorial donations may be made to Paul Warner Animal Rescue of Paris.

Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

JACKIE RANKIN
 MARTINSVILLE — A memorial service for Jackie Ray Rankin of Martinsville, who passed away Dec. 31, 2019, at his home, is 3 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at the Martinsville Bible Church, with Pastor David Wilson officiating. Military rites outside of the church immediately follow the service. Visitation is from 2 p.m. until the service time, and COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. Pearce Funeral Home of Marshall is assisting the family with arrangements.



HILDA WYATT
 CHRISMAN — Hilda Ann Wyatt, 92, of Chrisman, went home to be with the Lord Friday, June 12, 2020, while surrounded by her family at home.

A graveside service is 11 a.m. Friday, June 19, at Friends Chapel Cemetery. Krabel Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Wyatt was born Sept. 6, 1927, in Prairie Township, the daughter of the late Frank



and Sylvia Fouts Dixon. She married Harold Jay Wyatt June 6, 1948, and they recently celebrated their 72nd wedding anniversary.

She is survived by her husband; their four children, Sharon (Tony) Lorenzen of Chrisman, Pam (Rick) Taylor of Chrisman, Nancy (Bobby) Morris of Chrisman and Mark (Susan) Wyatt of Chrisman; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by two brothers and a sister.

Mrs. Wyatt was a faithful member of the Chrisman United Methodist Church.

She was also a member of the United Methodist Women, Priscilla Club, Shakespeare Club, the Household Science Club and the Birthday Club. She loved playing music at the nursing home, and enjoyed cooking, sewing, reading and gardening. Above all else, she loved Jesus and her family. Her kind and sweet demeanor will be greatly missed.

Memorial donations may be made to Haven Hospice or Chrisman United Methodist Church.

Online condolences at www.krabelfuneralhome.com.

BETTY BENNETT
 Elizabeth "Betty" Ina Bennett, 78, of Paris, passed away at 10:45 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2020, at Twin Lakes Rehab Center.

In keeping with federal mandates, private services are a later date. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Mrs. Bennett was born April 6, 1942, at Almont, Mich., the daughter of the late George Edward Griffin and Mabel Ina McMeans Griffin. She married Robert Lovel Bennett July 2, 1966, in Port Huron, Mich., and he survives.

She is also survived by her daughters, Patricia Ina (Kevin) Hahn of Timnath, Colo., and Robin Lovel (Steve) Cartright of Paris; her siblings, Mary Ann Duncan of Calistoga, Calif., Deborah Marie (David) DeLaRosa of Doerne, Texas, William Joseph LaPorte of Ha-

zel Park, Mich., and Carolyn (Robert) Myers of Michigan; her half sisters, Linda Griffin of North Carolina and Cheryl Griffin of Michigan; her grandchildren, Junior Lynn (Nicole) Rice of Vincennes, Ind., Kendra Christine Cartright of Paris, Christian Hahn of Timnath, Colo., and Brandon Hahn of Timnath Colo.; a great-grandchild, Kinsey Amanda Lynn McCoy of Kenny.

She was preceded in death by her siblings, Carl William Griffin, Jack Griffin, Walter Durphy Griffin and James Griffin.

Mrs. Bennett cleaned houses, was a seamstress and a member of NRA.

Memorial donations to an education fund for Kinsey Amanda Lynn McCoy may be made in care of First Mid Bank and Trust of Paris.

Online condolences please at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

KAREN MILLER
 Karen Marquis Miller, 72, of Hazel Crest, and formerly of Paris, passed away at 9:44 a.m. May 24, 2020, at Ad-vocate South Suburban Hospital, Hazel Crest.

Private interment is in Edgar County Cemetery. Templeton Funeral Home assisted with arrangements.

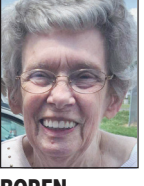
More information and online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.



NANCY BOREN
 Nancy Lee Boren, 83, of Paris, passed away at 11:22 a.m. Monday, June 15, 2020, at her residence. She retired in 1992 after many years as Controller for Paris Community Hospital.

Private burial is in Franklin Cemetery, near Chrisman. The family will host a public celebration of life at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home of Paris is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Boren was born Jan. 13, 1937, at Paris, the daugh-



ter of the late Harley Eugene and Edith Trott Cravens. She married Henry L. Boren Feb. 13, 1965, in Paris, and he survives.

Other survivors include six children, Kim (Jessica) Boren of Elkhart, Ind., Teresa (Tony) Gale of Hillsdale, Ind., Rhonda (Calvin) Tomes of Paris, Tonya (Randy) Blair of Kansas, Danita Powell of Elkhart and Rita (Tony) Haupt of Paris; a sister, Shirley Jenkins of Temple, Ga.; 15 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and her beloved dog, Baby Girl.

She was preceded in death by a son, Kevin Boren; a brother, David Cravens; and a granddaughter, Misha Boren.

Mrs. Boren was an active and devoted member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3601 Auxiliary. In addition, she was a member of American Legion Post #211 Auxiliary and Project PAL. She was an avid NASCAR fan and was especially loyal to Dale Earnhardt Sr. and Michael Waltrip. She was also a faithful St. Louis Cardinals fan. She enjoyed baking and loved spending time with her family.

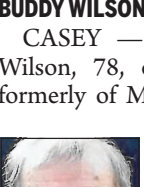
Memorial donations may be made to the Paris Community Hospital Foundation or to Paul Warner Animal Rescue.

Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

Buddy Wilson
 CASEY — Buddy Deon Wilson, 78, of Casey, and formerly of Martinsville and Charleston, passed away at 2:27 a.m. Sunday, June 14, 2020, in the Casey Health Care Center.

A graveside service is in the National Cemetery at Danville. Pearce Funeral Home of Marshall is in charge of the arrangements.

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

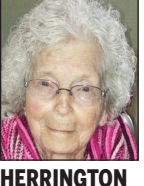


BERNA HERRINGTON
 Berna Georgia Herrington, 97, of Paris, passed away at 5:52 a.m. Friday, June 12, 2020, at Twin Lakes Rehab & Health Care. She was a devoted homemaker.

Private burial is in Fairview Cemetery, Kansas, with Pastors Bob and Jeff Donaldson, her son-in-law and grandson, officiating. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Herrington was born Aug. 11, 1922, at Paris, the daughter of the late Elmer and Ethel Malone Richey. She married Bernard Leo Herrington Dec. 8, 1941, at Chicago, and he preceded her in death Oct. 19, 2001.

Survivors include four daughters, Kay Murphy of New Orleans, La., Mary (Pastor Robert) Donaldson of Wallace, Mich., Coleen (Glenn) Gephart of Dietrich and Judith Wilkinson of Concord,



Calif.; 11 grandchildren; 29 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a sister, Fern Crum; a brother, Thomas Richey; a grandson, Scott Murphy; and an infant sister.

Mrs. Herrington was a talented cook and pie baker and was a loyal, flag-waving Chicago Cubs fan. She was compet-

itive at times, especially when beating her daughters at rummy, and she was suspected by her family of having a bingo addiction. Her sense of humor and hearty laugh enriched the lives of many.

Memorial donations may be made to Twin Lakes Rehab & Health Care of Paris.

Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.



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Benefiel receives the Lake Land College Distinguished Service Award

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

MATTOON — Paris resident Debbie Benefiel received Lake Land College's 2020 Distinguished Service Award during the June 18 virtual commencement ceremony. The award acknowledges an individual who has rendered outstanding service to the college. Benefiel has served on the Lake Land College Foundation Board of Directors since 1994 and has committed years of personal time and energy to the college, which contributes to the current strength of the foundation. She has also served on the scholarship com-

mittee for several years and enjoyed seeing nearly a third of the student population receive scholarships, annually totaling nearly \$500,000. For years, Benefiel and her husband, Steve, have supported the Lake Land College Foundation with two annual scholarships: The Steve and Debbie Benefiel Annual Scholarship and The Pearman Pharmacy Annual Scholarship. The couple are co-owners of Pearman Pharmacy in Paris.



BENEFIEL

The Benefiels decided in 2019 to take the first step in making their contributions to the college a permanent investment by moving from an annual scholarship to an endowment: The Steve and Debbie Benefiel Endowed Scholarship. "It is not unusual for the Benefiels to see an unmet need in the community, especially when someone is pursuing an education, and to meet that need personally," said Jackie Joines, who nominated Benefiel for the award. Not only does Benefiel focus her volunteer efforts on education at Lake Land, she is also active in the Paris community.

She has served on various boards and committees helping guide the direction and growth of the Presbyterian Church of Paris while currently serving on the board of deacons and serving on the membership and evangelism committee. She has volunteered at the former Paris YMCA, now the Paris REC Center, for more than 26 years. Benefiel is currently a member and trustee of the Paris Recreational Endowment Trust and serves as its treasurer. She is a charter member of the 100 Women Who Care giving circle that provides

\$10,000 each quarter to make a difference in Edgar County. She has served on the board of directors of the Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan as a Region Three Trustee for more than 20 years and is a patron of the Paris Fine Arts Center where Steve Benefiel serves on the advisory board. She is a member of the Horizon Health Foundation of East Central Illinois that supports Horizon Health Hospital and area clinics around Edgar County. In November of 2018, the Benefiels were recognized for their generosity as the recipients of the Outstanding Volunteer

Fundraiser Award presented by Horizon Health at the Association Fundraising Professionals National Philanthropy Day. "The lives that Debbie has changed through the gifts and volunteerism is unmet in the Edgar County area," said Joines. "She has strengthened the faith, wellness and culture of the community and supported numerous youth in making their lives better through education." Benefiel earned a bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University and a master's degree from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

MEALS

FROM PAGE 1A
15,000 meals in 40 days," said Minor. "We're on course to double that. The need is much higher, and the response and participation have been much

higher." A change in the program this year is having restaurants, or other food services, prepare a lunch for each child that signs up for the program. Families can then either come and pick up their meals or have them



Braden Chittick/The Prairie Press

Carla Fancher, of On The Tracks Café, works on the extensive record keeping needed for reimbursement by the Illinois State Board of Education's Summer Meals Program. The Paris restaurant is preparing breakfast and noon meals, per ISBE nutrition guidelines, five days per week to keep children fed over the summer. Joanie Smith of the Front Street Market in Hume is preparing meals for Shiloh School District students, and Kansas School Principal Cindy Spencer is trying to get a meal program put together for that school district.

delivered by volunteers. "[The volunteers] are people from their prospective communities, two are students, three are parents," Minor said. "We are still looking for a driver that'd be able to deliver daily to the Hume area, right now we have two grandmothers sharing responsibility." Joanie Smith of the Front Street Market in Hume is preparing daily meals, Monday-Friday, for Shiloh School District students signed up for the program. Minor said approximately 80 meals are being served every day in the Shiloh district and school officials anticipate that number increasing. It initially appeared there would not be a local program because of COVID-19 restrictions limiting how many people can gather at a time eliminated the possibility of doing the training required by ISBE's summer meals program. Some policy changes, such as letting restaurants prepare the meals, made it possible. "We had to put it together in eight days," said Minor. "I'm pretty proud of what we've accomplished in that time."

Carla Fancher is the co-owner of On the Tracks Café and provides the meals in Paris. "We deliver around 150 breakfasts and 200 lunches," said Fancher. "We have community volunteers from school teachers, to pastors and anybody from local churches. That's how we're finding people. I started out with one route, with 50 kids. It ended up being four routes now. We had 25 to 30 kids once walk in for lunch and I said, 'absolutely.' No questions asked." Her goal is to contact one church for each of the seven remaining weeks to send volunteers. Kansas school principal Cindy Spencer has been getting a local program put together. "Right now, they're having shelf-stable food delivered

through either the postal service, UPS or FedEx," Spencer said. "Through June, they'll get 20 breakfasts and 20 lunches." This mailed food program is a Baylor University project, but it stops at the end of the month. Spencer said ISBE funding is available for the school district to provide meals after the Baylor program is over. "I can't tell you what that'll look like, though it'll be where they (students) pick it up locally and would likely start in July," said Spencer. "We've reached out to local restaurants." Minor makes special note of both the families delivered to, and the vendors preparing the food. "The response for the meals has been overwhelming, just a great deal of

gratitude and appreciation," said Minor. "A lot of them have never needed the program before. Each one of these vendors is sending far more food than what is required, they are investing in the food and the milk far more than what we can reimburse. We're just doing what we can do." To register for meals from the program, visit SummerMealsIllinois.org, call 800-359-2163, or text FoodIL to 877877. To make a tax-deductible donation, send a check to the Douglas County Health department at 120 E. US Highway 36, Tuscola IL, 61953. Write "Attention Summer Meals Program" on the envelope. To volunteer to deliver in Paris, call route coordinator Sheila Grant at 217-712-0094.

CHRISMAN

FROM PAGE 1A
implications of the change followed. In 2019, the city spent a total of \$58,000 in pay for all part-time police officers.

Understanding the Chrisman Firefighters still want to do the ham and bean supper and Jonah Fish Fry that are staples of the festival but change it so all food service is take away using drive up lines instead of sitting up tables and chairs in the park.

Owen proposed making the job salaried, so the city does not get into a position of paying overtime. The current rate of pay for the police chief is \$18 an hour, and Owen suggested an annual salary of between \$35,000 and \$38,000 as a starting point. Commissioner Rodney Wolfe pointed out it is not a simple matter of multiplying the \$18 an hour to achieve a full-time rate, which comes out to \$37,440. Wolfe noted changing the position to full-time also increases how much the city pays in health benefits and its contributions into a state retirement fund.

Owen was unable to provide an answer for the tractor pull as it is not known what the corona virus will be doing in early September and what restrictions may be in place at that time. Some infrastructure improvements were approved during the meeting. Commissioner Thad Crispin reported getting a \$23,595 quote from Feutz Contracting to do curb work on the west side of the square. "It will come out of MFT (motor fuel tax)," said Crispin. "It does not include any sidewalks or ramps."

Council members approved the change and the city will advertise the position. "What would be ideal for us is somebody who will work a split shift during the school year so somebody is around in the morning when kids are going to school and be back on duty in the afternoon when they are going home," said Owen. Uncertainty about how to plan public events during the age of COVID-19 was on display during the council meeting. Commissioner Brian Haddix asked if the city parks will be open later in the summer for the tractor pull in Centennial Park that is part of the annual Chrisman Days Celebration. It is not clear if the annual festival can occur given the restrictions on the number of people that can gather. Haddix added it is his un-

derstanding the Chrisman Firefighters still want to do the ham and bean supper and Jonah Fish Fry that are staples of the festival but change it so all food service is take away using drive up lines instead of sitting up tables and chairs in the park. Owen was unable to provide an answer for the tractor pull as it is not known what the corona virus will be doing in early September and what restrictions may be in place at that time. Some infrastructure improvements were approved during the meeting. Commissioner Thad Crispin reported getting a \$23,595 quote from Feutz Contracting to do curb work on the west side of the square. "It will come out of MFT (motor fuel tax)," said Crispin. "It does not include any sidewalks or ramps." Crispin said the city engineer has confirmed Chrisman will receive \$14,000 twice a year for the next three years as part of the MFT Rebuild Illinois program. He noted the first payment was not included when the city budget was approved so no spending plan exists for how to use it. Crispin suggested dedicating the Rebuild Illinois funds to repair or replace sidewalk and the others agreed. "Let's get as much of the square done as we can," said Haddix. The council also gave approval to a rough draft of a new ordinance that prohibits the keeping of swine, horses and cattle within the city limits. An exception was made for goats. "It was brought to my attention goats may attract coyotes into town," said Crispin, add-

ing he also heard concerns that spilled animal feed will benefit nuisance animals like rodents, skunks and racoons. "I know we already have a problem, and we don't want more." Ordinance author Tyler Alexander acknowledged the point, but he was uncertain how to address the problem. "I don't know how you stop that (coyotes and other vermin in town) with an ordinance except not to have the animals," said Alexander. The new ordinance allowing goats, but forbidding other farm animals, goes to legal review for proper writing before getting final approval.

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Reflection on our life

I was thinking my granddaughter Annie needed a new word and decided reflection might be good. Annie is five and this spring when asked what she had done that week, since her preschool was closed, and school was now virtual as well as take home packets, she said she was bored. If ever there is a word I despise it would be bored. Everything has some importance in my opinion and she was way too young to say she was bored. Granted, she was missing her friends from school and was not able to do all the interesting things she normally did, but boring was not something I wanted her to be talking about. At this point I took it upon myself to send her a new word, in a letter I typically mail each week, and have her use it.

Annie's parents have read books to her since before she was born and her vocabulary is large. Books do that for children as well as talking to them and every educator will tell you the more words children hear before the age of five the larger their vocabulary. Research also shows that words spoken to a child either by reading or talking are much more effective than hearing them from a television program or video.

Reflecting on life, as it is during the COVID-19 crisis, is not a bad thing. Writing it down for posterity is even better. A dear friend and former English teacher told me she hoped that people are recording thoughts and information concerning this time. News media constantly talks about these being unprecedented times and they certainly are. We really should write down how we have been occupying ourselves, even if it has just been staying home baking banana bread.

Taking my own advice I decided to write down how the coronavirus has impacted my life. One of the things I have been doing is cleaning and sorting many things in my house. I had a stack of items for the compassionate clothing ministry, items for Goodwill, items for the Paris Restore, and items for the trash bin. Unfortunately, other than the trash pickup, the stack of items has been taking up space in a dining room corner. At least my dining room has been used for something, as entertaining has not been considered a good idea with the need for social distancing. After about six weeks I will confess I had three very dear friends in to celebrate a birthday. I put every leaf in my dining room table, and had individual packets of hand sanitizer on the table available and we were widely spaced. No one was affected and we were all very conscientious about not hugging as we used to do.

Another change has been the lack of sports to watch or participate in. My son, who lives in Denver, has been able to play golf pretty much since the start but has not always been able to use a cart. The first time he played 18 holes without a cart he complained, but was also glad to just be able to golf. His sole exercise had been walking the dog, doing yoga and dancing with his wife.

Andrea, his wife, is a clinical psychologist and her patient level has increased though it all has to be done virtually. Andrea is usually able to unwind after work by going to a yoga or dance class, but she has only been able to do it at home with Matt now. She does not enjoy golf and I really feel sorry for her as I can't imagine what it must be like to help all those people dealing with the stress of this pandemic.

Matt is also a snowboarder and many times in the winter when he's working by Aspen or Vail will bring his board along, in case he has a few hours where can make a run or two down the slopes. He said he was no longer able to leave Denver as the county was in lockdown. Even if he could have, the restrictions put in place at the ski resorts when they opened were very cumbersome, making a trip to the slopes almost futile. Something that I really missed this past spring was March Madness. For years I have been teased about how passionate I am about Illini basketball. You really don't want to watch a game with me unless you wear ear plugs as I am very loud, jumping up and cheering on my team. I was so looking forward to Illinois being in the tournament and filling out my bracket. This was the year Illinois was finally going to the big dance again and I could hardly wait.

Other sports I have missed were the Kentucky Derby and the Indy 500. Maybe I just love the songs sung at these two events "My Old Kentucky Home" and "Back Home in Indiana". Perhaps it is viewing the beautiful hats worn by the ladies at the derby race and then hoping for a Triple Crown winner at the Belmont and the Preakness. Either way, I missed it as well as watching the Masters Golf tournament. I did thank God my son-in-law got to the Super Bowl to see his KC Chiefs win before the outbreak.

Something else I missed was visiting June, my mother-in-law at the nursing home in Chrisman. Visitors not come in starting about March 12. This was a wise move and I am sure saved lives, but talking to someone you love from a plate glass window is just not the same. When we visit now, still through the window, she mentions the book in her room we were reading. For those who

See **PATCHETT, Page 9A**

Remembering our fathers

Sunday is Father's Day and whether you're lucky enough to still have your father with you, it's safe to say we all think about our Dads on that day.

Father's Day celebrates dads — those mythical beings who reliably bring home a paycheck, fix a leaky roof, provide an endless and sometimes-appreciated stream of parental advice, and instinctively know when a simple game of catch can help a son or daughter through an emotional moment.

Sometimes, Father's Day can feel like an afterthought — a belated companion to Mother's Day, which was founded (unofficially) more than 30 years earlier.

And historically, that's not far off. But Father's Day is more than that — and as an ever-increasing body of research shows, fatherhood plays a crucial role in the success and happiness of our children.

The importance of fathers is now undeniable. And currently, 24 million American children — 34 percent — don't live with their biological father, according to data from the 2010 U.S. Census. That's not to say stepfathers and grandfathers and uncles don't step in and do it well, but there's a unique role a father

OUR VIEW

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

plays in a child's life.

To honor all fathers this Father's Day, we're sharing some thoughts from Paris native and city commissioner about his own father, the late Harry C. Hughes, who operated the City Service Gas Station at the corner of Crawford and Main Street.

"My Dad was a disciplinarian with a soft heart. You might even say he carried a big stick with a cotton ball on the end. He wasn't much on chit chat but when he talked, you ought to be listening.

My father owned a gas station back in the 1950s when the price of gas was a lot more reasonable than it is today. He went to work at 6 a.m. and got home after 8 p.m. almost every day — except on Sunday when the station was closed.

I can remember sitting on a stack of tires watching him tear down a motor and put it back together in running condition. It was an awesome feat.

My job was to fill the Coke machine out front — the one with the six ounce glass bottles. My pay for

the chore was to enjoy one of those ice-cold Cokes when I was done. It sure tasted good.

The kids from all around Paris would stop by to air up their bicycle tires. Dad would always say, "Help yourself boys, the air is free today." That was followed by a smile and a little wink my way.

Back then there were hard times and some customers couldn't afford gas or repairs on their vehicles. Dad would just charge it to their account because he knew they needed to get to a doctor's appointment or to work. He would always tell me he knew his customers would pay him when they could.

To this day — more than 50 years later — some people still owe him.

My Dad is gone now but I will always remember his compassion for people and all that he taught me. Because you know, the air is free today."

Fathers are no afterthought. As for Father's Day, it's an appropriate time to celebrate both the role and the man and they have shared with us both as children and adults. Plan something special with your father or give give them a call to tell them you're thinking of them.

We hope your Father's Day is filled with love and gratitude.

RAMIREZ LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL 2020 © CREATORS.COM



YOUR VIEW

Racial statistics used to make a point

Editor, The Prairie Press:

I'm writing in response to Ms. Witmer's letter of June 13.

First of all, in my opinion, it is never too late to show respect. I think it would be nice if more individuals felt the need to show respect, particularly those in public positions.

I saw no signs that the chief was being complicit, but rather accepting the fact that he was willing to take responsibility for being part of the problem. It always amazes me how people can quote one verse from the Bible to illustrate a point while forgetting many others (such as how God expects all of us to treat others in his kingdom).

I agree that the officer who choked Mr. Floyd should have been fired earlier, but as you probably know, I am guessing that red tape as well as perhaps some lack of responsibility by several people kept him on the job.

You mentioned that the Minneapolis Police Chief is deflecting responsibility for his officers. I did not draw that conclusion. After all, it was not the chief's knee that killed Mr. Floyd.

One of my major emphases as a teacher was to attempt to be as consistent as possible. Why is it that when our president blames the media, Democrats or Obama (among others), I have not read any criticism from you. If you are

being consistent, don't just blame the chief. None of us should make excuses for the president when he blames others for things that are his responsibility. A true leader puts his nose to the grindstone and tackles the job in front of him.

Now, my real reason for writing. A great deal of your letter contained statistics regarding black people. It is my experience that when people use statistics, they are trying to back up some specific point.

What are you trying to tell us with all of these stats? I don't want to assume. I do know that the same stats can often be used to show different conclusions. As a black person, I have had far too many experiences where assumptions have been made about me by people who had no idea who I am.

You mentioned that many think the president is a racist. Many of the things he says make it easy to draw that conclusion. Most racists, like most alcoholics, never admit their problem. What one says and what one does determines if one is a racist. Since I don't really know you, I can't draw any conclusion about you.

I do think a person can be a racist and not really be aware of it. Being a racist can be just like the COVID Virus. You can have it and not exhibit any of the symptoms outwardly until you speak or do something. The important thing

is not how you feel about me or even how you treat me, but rather it's how you feel and treat people like me.

You stated that you think President Trump has done more to help the Black community than any other president. I don't know what information you used to draw that conclusion, but I would say that if you pick most any Black community and interview a number of individuals from that community, you would not make that statement.

Don McGee
Paris

Democrats caused more damage than Trump

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Ms. Charlotte Bennett's letter in Saturday's The Prairie Press is remiss on so many fronts that this one reply will not be enough to answer her. Perhaps another letter in the future will complete my response.

First, she makes a huge mistake in blaming President Trump, even partially, for the lockdown of the nation in the pandemic we call COVID-19. One of the people she would vote for this fall was Dr. Fauci; he, along with Dr. Brix, was the author of the unprecedented work stoppage and stay at home policies we experienced.

See **LETTERS, Page 9A**

'Us versus Them' is on display

In his illuminating 800-page book "Behave," Stanford neuroscientist Robert Sapolsky

describes how the brain shapes our actions, sometimes based on hard-wired "Us versus Them" predispositions.

For example, the recent, awful kerfuffle

around police actions and sometimes violent protest reactions illustrate all too graphically just how hard, nigh impossible, it is to shake the sense there are two kinds of people in the world — us (good) and them (likely bad).

Alas, most of us are captive of this incredibly strong Us versus Them syndrome, which developed in our brains in cave-dwelling times, when this now-toxic behavior made eminently good sense in a really dangerous world.

Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts epitomized the syndrome recently in a conversation with black community leaders, when he referred to them, instinctively, as "you people."

This is the first of two columns on this topic. The column next week is the tough one — what to do about our present plight?

Sapolsky devotes 40 pages solely to the topic of us versus them. He reports that our brains are irrepressibly hardwired to unconsciously break down the world around us into whites v. blacks; rich v. poor; urban v. rural; elites v. rednecks; Cubs v. Cardinals fans. This action in our limbic system, that is, the emotional parts of the brain, apparently helped humans eons ago to simplify and "understand" the world around us.

Even babies begin to distinguish between us and them, in separating the world around them by things such as skin color. By the way, according to Sapolsky, a MacArthur

See **NOWLAN, Page 9A**

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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PATCHETT

FROM PAGE 8A

have had loved ones die during this time and who were not allowed to be with them as much as possible, I cannot imagine how disheartening that must have been.

This has also been a time for writing letters and sending notes via the post office. I know I bought 300 stamps in late January thinking that would last me well into the year. During this time I have written many letters and sent many cards requiring me to buy more stamps. It makes me think I am a one person supporter of the Brocton Post Office.

Easter was not the same this year and I really hated that. Usually I get to see my grandchildren at Easter and we have egg hunts which they thoroughly enjoy. I also bring out or purchase a hat to wear to Easter Sunday church, and

I did not get to do that. There is also the Easter dinner we always have at my brother's house where the adults have an egg hunt as well as the children. Of course there is usually music being played at a jam session and while I don't play an instrument, I am the one person dancing and mostly by myself. It is so much fun being with my brothers and sisters and that was not possible this year. Tom and I tried to have a traditional Easter dinner but it was not the same with just the two of us.

Reflecting on what I have written so far I think I am sounding rather selfish. Please forgive me as I have nothing to complain about. My children are still employed and working every day. We had plenty of toilet paper, tissues, and paper towels before this started and not because I was hoarding. I just happened to be at a large

box store in early February and after renewing my membership decided to make use of it and buy some needed items. Canning and freezing produce from my garden and fruit trees last summer has allowed us to eat without running to the store every week. A friend sent me yeast when I wanted to make homemade rolls and she sent so much I was able to share with Matt, who could not find it in Denver.

It is now time to reflect on how this has changed the most important thing in my life and Tom's, and hopefully yours also. God! Yes, attending church virtually has been different. Going to drive-in communion where your pastor is wearing a mask and using plastic gloves is something we could never have foreseen. Another thing is how truly bad we are at singing while looking at a screen. We very much missed our church family and

the routine of going to Sunday service and sharing breakfast afterwards.

Fortunately that time is ending as churches are opening up. Yes, there are many changes that will take place in order for this to happen. At our church we are wearing masks till we reach the pew we plan to sit in and not shaking hands with a greeter. If we go to the first service everyone sits in a pew with a yellow dot with blue dotted pews in between each yellow. The blue dotted pews are for second service attendees. Hand sanitizer is in each pew. If a hymnal is used during the service it is to be left in the seat and will be sanitized afterwards.

Normally we would kneel at the communion rail but will instead stand after an usher dismisses each pew to go up the center aisle for communion and communicants are to return down the side

aisle. The common cup will not be used and individual cups are spaced so no one need touch another. Rather than the ushers passing a basket for weekly contributions a basket is put at the entrance in the sanctuary. Many of the people in our church have been making online donations. Families are expected to sit in the same pew and because we have enough space we are able to accommodate every other seating. If anyone is not comfortable coming or has a compromised health situation they are encouraged to not attend and to watch the virtual service which is taped during the first service. Our pastor has done an excellent job of protecting us physically and also providing for our spiritual needs. We have had a short virtual midweek devotion where he plays his

guitar and we listen to a bible reading and message.

Still, people have expressed to me "why is God allowing this to happen?" My personal belief is that it is not God doing this, for we are all sinful. God created a perfect world and man sinned and messed it up. My daughter sent this to me a week ago and I am so glad she did. While putting Annie to bed and listening to her prayers it really showed how we should not question God but have a childlike belief. Annie was finishing her prayers, talking to God, and said this "And one more thing I need to tell you, you are great just the way you are, Amen." HE IS, and if only we all believed and followed His teachings.

(Ruth Patchett is a resident of rural Brocton and retired teacher. Email her at rpweib1@gmail.com.)

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 8A

However, the only people who implemented those policies were the governors and mayors who put in place some of the almost draconian rules for their constituents to follow.

This is seen even today, as some states are still under executive orders while others are reopening and have been for some time now.

Examples — governors in California, New York, Michigan, New Jersey, Virginia, Oregon, Washington and Illinois kept rules in place while others, such as Texas, Florida and Georgia allowed many of their people to go back to work. Hmm — one factor seems to be that all of those states which are still under orders are governed by Democrats. Both Drs. Fauci and Brix have stated that

President Trump in making recommendations did so on their own ideas. Facts are pesky things, aren't they? Another statement by Ms. Bennet was the last assertion that a woman might not take us into war. That remains to be seen, as the people of America wisely rejected the only woman who ran for president on a major ticket (see November 8, 2016). But what she did not mention was that most

of the wars started by men in the Oval Office had one thing in common. A quick look at the history of the United States since 1900 shows this graphically. World War I was begun with Woodrow Wilson in office, a Democrat. FDR, a Democrat led the country into World War 2. The Korean Conflict (not a declared war, it ended in a truce in 1953) saw our soldiers committed to fight by Harry Truman, another Democrat. Our next clash was the Vietnam War, called "Johnson's War" because Lyndon Johnson, another Democrat, pushed us into that disastrous conflict. Next in line was the Bosnian war with American troops involved, begun with Bill Clinton, yes, a Democrat, as president. Even President Obama presided over fighting in Libya, of course he is a Democrat.

Iraq and Afghanistan were instigated under George W.

Bush, a Republican. Iraq, in my considered opinion, was a mistake, but even President Obama called the operation in Afghanistan the essential war when he took office in 2009.

Perhaps Ms. Bennett should rethink her stance, since President Trump has not started any foreign conflict; instead he has shrunk our military presence around the world.

Russ Witmer

Paris

Evidence shows Trump is racist

Editor, The Prairie Press: In reference to Mr. Trump's alleged racism, unlike Ms. Witmer, I don't have a lot of numbers to throw at you. I can't find that hat.

But I have three numbers. First, Mr. T and his dad were sued numerous times (how many?) for violating New York's Fair Housing laws for refusing to rent to black people.

Second, Mr. T took out a full-page ad in the New York Times accusing five black and Hispanic youths of assaulting a woman in Central Park. All five were exonerated. The real perp was arrested.

Third, Mr. T initiating the birther movement, accusing our first bi-racial president of not being an American. This was, of course, a hoax, to use Mr. T's word.

Mr. T applauds himself for dubiously self-describing as the U.S. president who's done the most for black people, with the debatable exception of Lincoln.

These are all facts out there to be verified.

In my opinion, Mr. T is not a racist — only. Considering his Muslim ban, wonderful Mexican wall, the Chinese virus and mistreatment of women. Mr. T likes only people who look just like him — white, male, overweight, pancake make-up, girdle, platform shoes and orange comb over.

Michael Bennett

Vermilion

NOWLAN

FROM PAGE 8A

Foundation "Genius" award winner, skin color evokes the strongest us v. them reactions, which can spur racism, of course.

However, even baseball fans will, according to psychological experiments, be more helpful to a distressed fan who is wearing their team's colors over someone sporting those of the reviled opponent.

Our upfront, prefrontal cortex — the thinking part of the human brain — developed long after the rest of the noggin. This PFC tries to override the us v. them wiring, but with uneven and limited success.

The question is what can be done to: 1) reduce "us versus them-ing," and 2) improve the lot of African-Americans and other groups that appear to suffer from it.

According to Sapolsky, about the only mental state of mind that can reduce the us v. them conflict lies in his call for us to "individuate," that is, evaluate each person as an individual, apart from any general notions we might harbor about groups of "thems." Unfortunately, I fear, and I think Sapolsky would agree, such self-discipline will take generations, if ever, to override completely the us versus them syndrome.

So, for the present, we are left with the challenge of figuring out how we can help make life better for those "thems," who may have less than us.

The conventional response, beginning largely with the 200 programs of the Great Society of Lyndon Johnson in the 1960s, has been basically to: 1) increase access to educational opportunities for minority groups, and 2) soften inequality by spending more on social support programs.

LBJ's programs have brought some minorities into the middle class who might not have made it otherwise. I worry, however, that the panoply of Great Society social service programs may have seduced those in difficult straits to take the easy path out, rather than strive to achieve. Debate continues to rage over observations like this.

I contend as well that these programs have contributed to the decline of the nuclear family, which has contributed to the

growth of negative subcultures, both in isolated urban neighborhoods and in white rural America, where single motherhood (and absent fatherhood) has mushroomed.

Social workers I talk with in rural Illinois lament that many single mothers — and often grandmothers as well — have for whatever reasons lost the skill and capacity to rear their children effectively.

If there is anything to the above, what can be done to turn these subcultures around?

Next week, I tackle this challenge. My lead-in will be somewhat as follows: After centuries of us v. them-ing in America, reflected in a history of slavery; Jim Crow laws; unimpeded, even casual lynchings; denial of the vote, and barriers to good jobs and higher education, why in the world should minorities now think that majority whites, even if they could, will resolve their problems for them? The brain ain't wired to do that.

(For many years, Jim Nowlan was a senior fellow and political science professor at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign. He has worked for three unindicted governors and published a weekly newspaper in central Illinois.)

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Paris REC is back serving the community

BY DREW CHITTICK
bradenandrew@gmail.com

As a part of the shelter-in-place order due to the coronavirus pandemic, Paris' Rec Center has been closed since March, but it is gradually re-summing services.

"We were called and told that we needed to close, so we closed to the public," said Erin Hutchinson, executive director of the Rec Center. "We have to follow orders as a charitable or-

ganization. So for two and a half months, we've not been able to operate."

Even though physically closed, the Rec has remained a resource for the community. "We've had yoga and Dance to Fitness classes online, free to the public," Hutchinson said. "Our instructors are doing it all on a volunteer basis. I'm very proud of my team and my staff, all of our instructors are keeping contact with our members

with words of encouragement and workout routines."

But as a part of Phase Three reopening, some of the Rec's services have come back. "The only things health and fitness centers are allowed to do is one-on-one training or outdoor classes, and we're currently looking for a licensed personal trainer," she said. "But since we have a license-exempt childcare we could open up our summer camps. [The Health Depart-

ment] helped us get open and explain the rules, and summer camp has been a success, even though they've had to operate under trying circumstances."

Children are temperature screened when they enter the building and asked to stay in their groups and keep their masks on when they are within six feet of each other. Even though the numbers are limited, Hutchinson said the summer camps have not reached capacity.

"It's a huge benefit to the community to be able to offer childcare," she said. "It's a huge honor to get to serve that way. And when Phase Four hits and parents go back to work, we're expecting to double our numbers. There's a lot of changes,



Braden Chittick/The Prairie Press

From left to right, Sarah Staley, Emily Melton, Evie Staley and Whitney Haase play one of many games of four square at the Rec while waiting for parents to pick up their children.

but I'm confident that with our staff and excellent members we'll be able to be patient together."

For information about online classes, outdoor classes and summer camps, look for the Paris Rec Center on Facebook.

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Professional educator development offered

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Exploring science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) careers, science inquiry and building relationships with students are the topics being offered in the Teacher Tuesdays Summer Series for educators of all kinds. This summer, three online events, led by University of Illinois Extension staff, provide a short, engaging virtual presentation on topics relevant to anyone who works with young people.

STEM Career Exploration and Community Engagement - June 23, 1 p.m.

The session features a panel discussion of educators from Central Illinois who have participated in past Extension STEM programming. Participants can learn ways these teachers have incorporated career exploration into their class-

rooms and how they find resources within the community. Science Inquiry - June 30, 1 p.m.

Participants will explore different levels of inquiry in the classroom. The session also features practical tools and resources that can help teachers begin to incorporate more inquiry-based education into their science lessons.

Building Relationships with Students - July 7, 1 p.m.

This session looks at current research showing the many benefits young people gain from positive relationships with adults. Plus, participants will learn the elements necessary to build these relationships and explore ways to foster these in the classroom.

Teacher Tuesdays - Make, Play, Connect is facilitated by the University of Illinois Extension Fulton-Mason-Peo-

ria-Tazewell Unit and traditionally offers monthly networking and professional development opportunities to educators throughout the region. These events allow both classroom and out-of-school time educators to foster peer-to-peer support while building a learning community around STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) education for our area.

The Summer Series sessions will take place through Zoom. Those interested can register by Monday prior to each Tuesday event at go.illinois.edu/teacher-tuesdays. Zoom invitations will be sent out to those registered via email on the morning of each respective session.

ISBE Professional Development hours will be offered. More information is available at https://extension.illinois.edu/fmpt/teacher-tuesdays.

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Introducing Alvin Albright

Surprise, readers. It feels strange to be writing in this part of the paper, but as the frequent readers of this space found out last week, the Old Codger, Allen Englebright, is taking a break as he tries to find some new

stories to tell. For those of you who don't know, I am the Old Codger's grandson. Over the past few weeks, he's been asking family members to pick their brains for humorous stories that he could write about.

As a good grandson would do, I'm jumping in to fill his spot for a week while he's on break, though I can't begin to write as good of a story. I've recalled some funny incidents that my grandpa gets a chuckle out of, so I'm surprised he hasn't shared them with his readers already. They're all about one man who's familiar with and well known in the Edgar County area – Alvin Albright.

Alvin grew up in southern Illinois and attended both Eastern Illinois University and Western Illinois University. After graduating, he began his teaching career and taught in Australia and northern Illinois before taking a social studies teaching position at a middle school in Paris. In Alvin's retirement, he's driven cars for local car dealerships, chatted with fellow Parisians over breakfast at local restaurants, been a hayride storyteller/narrator, cheered on his favorite MLB team – the St. Louis Cardinals, and enjoyed spending time with friends and family – especially if a card game was involved.

Alvin's been married for a little more than 53 years to a wonderful woman from Fairfield, named Nancy.

See LAU, Page 7B

THE BEST TOPPINGS CAN MAKE THE PERFECT BURGER



Special to The Prairie Press

Summer is burger season, and it is surprisingly simple to make restaurant-quality toppings like candied bacon at a cookout.

Burgers are taste of summer

FAMILY FEATURES

A summer weekend isn't complete until we fire up the grill, but flame-kissed steaks are just the start to an unforgettable meal that celebrates all the best of the season.

To create the perfect main dish, start with high-quality protein, like Omaha Steaks' Private Reserve Boneless New York Strips. Thick, juicy and full of flavorful marbling, these premier steaks

are meticulously aged for optimal taste and tenderness with robust, beefy flavor brought out when cooked properly on the grill.

If opting for burgers, elevate the menu with flavorful accompaniments like crisp candied bacon, sautéed shrimp and zesty homemade pickles for a menu people won't soon forget.

Find more ideas for upgrading the grilling experience in the backyard at OmahaSteaks.com.

CANDIED BACON

Ingredients

- 1 pound (1 package) Omaha Steaks Applewood Smoked Steak-Cut Bacon
- 1 tablespoon fresh ground black pepper
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar

Heat oven to 375 F.

Place wire rack on foil-lined baking sheet. Place strips of bacon on wire rack

and sprinkle with black pepper. Lightly pat brown sugar on top of bacon in thin layer.

Place baking sheet on center rack in oven and bake 25 minutes, or until brown sugar melts and bacon is crisp.

Remove from oven and cool 10 minutes. Using tongs, transfer bacon to parchment-lined baking sheet and cool to room temperature.

Store in airtight container up to 3 days at room temperature.

CONNECTICUT-STYLE SHRIMP

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons chives
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 12 large, cleaned, uncooked Omaha Steaks Wild Argentinian Red Shrimp

Heat medium skillet to medium-high heat. Add butter; cook until melted.

Add chives, salt, pepper and shrimp to

pan. Cook 2 minutes, turn shrimp and cook 2 minutes, or until shrimp is opaque and cooked through. Remove from heat and serve.



QUICK PICKLES

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup white vinegar
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 teaspoon mustard seed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 clove garlic, crushed
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes (optional)
- 1 teaspoon dried dill, chopped, or 2 tablespoons fresh dill leaves
- 1 bay leaf
- 4 cucumbers, cut into angled 1-inch slices

Heat small saucepan over medium high heat. Add vinegar, sugar, mustard seed, salt, garlic and red pepper flakes, if desired; cook until mixture begins to simmer and sugar dissolves. Remove from heat.

In heat-proof bowl, toss dill, bay leaf and sliced cucumbers. Pour simmering liquid over cucumbers and stir to evenly coat. Cool to room temperature or chill before serving.

Note: Pickles may be made up to 3 days in advance. Refrigerate in covered non-reactive container.

A Roman Centurion sets example for our faith

"And when Jesus heard it, he marveled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel." Matthew 8:10 (ASV)



KEVIN LEVELLIE
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

This is one my favorite gospel stories. It is of the centurion who believed and received as he believed.

This man was a mover and a shaker. He was all army, through and through. I say that because he talked about the entire structure of ordering things to be done by subordinates and about doing things he was ordered himself. He regarded the ordering as non-negotiable, non-arguable, not-changeable. He simply applied what he knew of his own world to Jesus.

In many ways, that's what faith is. It's applying what we know about how things work to God and expecting him to work like we would, only better.

Faith is noted. It is not a desire, but a deliberate strategy toward an end. It is giving to God what we could not ever do ourselves, and it is then getting out of the way.

We're talking faith. It has to be a total leaning of the self on Jesus for what is requested. There's no working toward it. This man didn't almost get the servant healed and then come to Jesus for the last part of it.

He didn't try to approach Jesus himself. He didn't have any preconceived notions of what would take place, either. Naaman expected the prophet would come out and make a big show of healing him. It was the smallness of what he was asked to do that he seemed to despise.

See PASTOR, Page 7B

With survival and science on the line, the clothes make the astronaut

In "Hamlet," Polonius said, "The apparel oft proclaims the man," a classic lesson appreciated by SpaceX's Elon Musk.

A record crowd watched the first ever private enterprise Dragon Crew spaceship lift off from American soil for the first time in a decade. Always the showman, Musk had the two-man crew looking dapper as they walked out in their tailored white suits with black accents, sporting 3-D printed helmets and touch screen sensitive gloves. They wore superhero knee-high black boots giving a cowboy swagger. The image was far from the frumpy orange pumpkin suits worn by the last crew to walk out to a Space Shuttle.

The symbolism was made for Hollywood. SpaceX hired a costume designer to create a Starman look. The resemblance to a formal tux was intentional. During design, Musk kept saying, "Anyone looks better in a tux, no matter what size or shape they are." Musk wanted to capture public imagination in space to attract support and investors.

Need for a functional flight suit dates to the late 1800s when Italian Emilio Herrera dreamed of reaching the stratosphere in a balloon. Early high-altitude balloon pilots died from the cold and lack of oxygen. Herrera incorporated layers of wool, rubber and outer fabric reinforced with strands of steel. With air tanks and his suit, he flew up-up and away into the stratosphere before the Wright Brothers got off the ground.

High performance aircraft during World War II created a need for a flight suit. More planes were lost to pilots blacking out than being shot down. Rapid accelerations and turns in dog fights caused pilots blood to rush into their legs and away from the head causing dizziness from the rapid drop in brain blood pressure. To prevent blackout, a G-suit was designed to fit tightly and work like a compression sock keeping blood from pooling in the legs.

In space, the blood flow issue is the exact opposite. Blood tends to pool in the

upper body and head in conditions of microgravity, but the issue remains of keeping blood pressure even, whether a person is experiencing microgravity or increased G-force.

A space suit must be a complete life support system. It needs to supply

fresh oxygen, remove carbon dioxide, regulate temperature and protect the occupant from intense radiation. It has to protect against punctures by micrometeorites traveling thousands of miles per hour. Besides all that, it needs to include some way to scratch the nose (a piece of Velcro inside the helmet) and deal with normal bodily wastes.

The Mercury program consisted of short, single-man missions. The first American in space was Alan Shepherd in 1961. His sub-orbital test flight was to only last 15

minutes, but NASA didn't consider long delays on the launch pad. In the middle of a long delay, Shepherd noticed pressure building in his bladder. NASA debated scrubbing the mission, but as a test pilot, Shepherd was willing to do whatever was needed. He peed his pants so they could go on to complete the mission. A year later John Glenn's first orbital mission lasted almost five hours. By then NASA added a version of an adult diaper to the suit.

The Gemini missions between 1965-1967 were the first extravehicular activities or space walks. This was the first time astronauts were 100% dependent on the suit.

The suits had to provide all life support. An umbilical cord supplied oxygen and communications. The suit's outer layers were self-sealing material to act like a bullet proof vest as protection from micrometeorites. The face shield was made of Lexan to stop meteorites and the glass was self-tinting to protect from intense solar radiation. A thin-layer of gold

foil was added to block light as bright as a welding arc. Gemini was the first time NASA dealt with excrement by sending astronauts up with a baggy taped to their butts.

The Apollo flights required astronauts to function on space walks and walk around on the moon. Double-layer zippers had rubber between to make an airtight seal. The suit had 13 layers of material made of rubber coated nylon, aluminized Mylar, aluminized Kapton and Teflon coated cloth.

The design contest was won by a clothing manufacturer experienced in flexible, supportive undergarments. Playtex seamstresses, famous for bras and girdles, were up to the challenge. The company out maneuvered every competitor and knew showmanship by putting together a showcase with an employee on a football field, kicking, sprinting, getting down and back up, all in full gear. Playtex won and made the multilayer suits with flexible gloves that brought back rocks from the moon.

Walking on the moon required protection against regolith, or sharp volcanic glass shards. The solution was Moon Boots that became an icon of fashion in the 80s. To deal with body waste, a pair of undershorts with layers of absorbent material was used. There were still accidents like the Apollo 10's mission with an Abbot and Costello worthy exchange. It started with, "give me a napkin now," and proceeded to deal with escaped feces floating inside the capsule and no one taking responsibility.

NASA choose to go with modular suits for the Space Shuttle era. The initial plan was to create small, medium, large and extra-large suits, but budget restrictions allowed for only 18 suits at a cost of \$12 million each. The new space suits were ordered only in medium and large. These 1980 suits were supposed to last 15 years, but 40 years later they are still in use.

Female body proportion differences mean none fit the

See SULLIVAN, Page 7B



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PHS ACES end the competitive year



Special to The Prairie Press

The Paris High School 2020 ACES team posted a school best by finishing 11th in the state academic challenge. The state competition was all online this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. Left to right, Payton Block, Richard Lin, Mallory Pine, Lizzie Rouse, Kelsie Dosch, Matthew Brouwer, Justyn Allen, Dustin Creech, Karson Martin, Drew Cearlock, Raymond Lin, Adam Creech, Nathan Minnis and Emma Pinkston

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Paris High School ACES (Academic Challenge for Engineering and Sciences) team recently completed its season by competing in the Academic Challenge state competition through Eastern Illinois University. The local team advanced to the state competition by winning the Lake Land regional in February and finishing third at the Eastern sectional in March. Due to COVID-19

restrictions, the state competition was held online for the first time. Students received a username and password to test online through D2L, EIU's online learning management system. Academic Challenge is a competition for high school students throughout Illinois and Missouri by Eastern Illinois University. Each student tests in two subjects chosen from biology, chemistry, computer science, engineering graphics, English, math

and physics. The tests are designed to be challenging and cover material typically learned in high school and first-year college courses. Paris competes in Division 700 (schools with enrollments from 301 to 700).

Team scores are calculated for each category by adding the team's top two scores in that category. Within each division, the team with the highest score in a category earns 100 points in that category, and that team's score is the perfect score for the topic. Other teams score points in each category equal to the percent of the perfect score earned in that category. Teams must count scores in chemistry, English and math, and the top two scores in other categories.

Paris did not earn any individual medals, but the combined team score of 319.7 was good for 11th out of 21 schools. Eleventh place marks the best team finish in Paris' more than 30 years of participating. The only other Paris team to advance to state was the 2018 team, which finished 18th.

The Academic Challenge team is chosen and assisted by faculty advisors in each category. This year's advisors were Stefan Aydt (math and computer science), Brett Block (chemistry), Doug Happ (physics), Jody Smith (engineering graphics), Jordan Stallings (English) and Jami Wilson (biology).

Academic Challenge team members of the 2020 state team as chosen were seniors: Matthew Brouwer, Drew Cearlock, Dustin Creech, Karson Martin, Nathan Minnis, Mallory Pine, and Lizzie Rouse; and juniors: Justyn Allen, Payton Block, Adam Creech, Kelsie Dosch, Raymond Lin, Richard Lin and Emma Pinkston.

MILESTONES

Newlins celebrating their golden anniversary



SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

William "Bill" and Leona Newlin Jr. are celebrating 50 years together June 21.

A small family gathering is planned for Sunday, June 21, to honor this milestone. The party is at their home and hosted by their two oldest sons: William Newlin III, Randolph Newlin Sr. and their families.

The family includes 13 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and two

more expected in October. Mr. and Mrs. Newlin were married June 21, 1970, by the Rev. Joseph Gluck at the Forks of Cheat Baptist Church, Morgantown, W. Va. He worked in the West Virginia coal mines for 20 years before going to work for Simonton Windows. They moved to Paris when he helped open the Simonton facility here, and he continued working at the Paris Simonton plant for 16 years until retiring in 2009.

She was a homemaker and held a variety of jobs until the move to Paris. At that time, she also went to work for Simonton and remained with the company for 16 years and retired in 2011.

They are enjoying their retirement years spending time doing what they love. Some favorite activities include camping, working together in the yard, small adventures to see new things, Harry Potter movie marathons and spending time with family and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. McNary toast to 50 years together



SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

John and Connie Claypool

McNary of Paris will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary June 27. They were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Marshall in 1970.

They have a son Chris (Laura) McNary, and grandson Evan, all of Plano, Texas; and a daughter, Dr. Erin McNary of Miami, Fla.

The couple enjoys spending time together by attending University of Illinois football and basketball games, traveling to visit their family, going to movies and dining out.

Cards are welcome at 116 Allenwood Dr., Paris, IL, 61944.

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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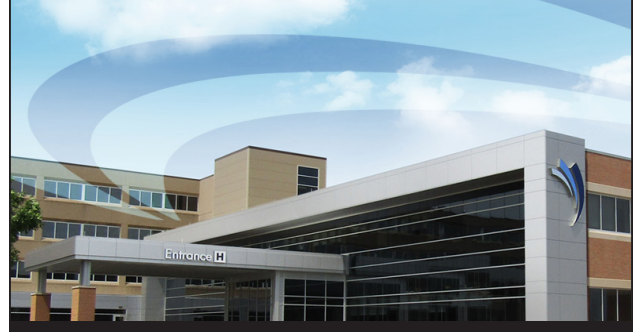
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Why isn't D.C. a state?

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

Leading up to the American Revolution, one of the colonists' chief complaints about the British Empire was that it imposed taxation without representation — a slogan that Washington, D.C. has since adopted as its unofficial motto.

In 2000, D.C. started printing Taxation Without Representation on all of the city's standard license plates, and in 2016, the city updated it to End Taxation Without Representation.

The license plates reference the fact that D.C. residents pay federal taxes without having any voting representatives in the U.S. Congress, and they're part of a long history of D.C.'s fight for the same voting rights and self-governance as the 50 states.

AFTER RECONSTRUCTION, CONGRESS ABOLISHES D.C.'S GOVERNMENT

Washington, D.C. is the ancestral home of the Nacotchtank people, also known as Anacostans. After British colonists violently drove them out of their land, it became part of Maryland and Virginia. In 1790, both of these states ceded the territory to establish the District of Columbia as the capital of the United States. At the time there were about 3,000 people living in D.C. — too few to become a state — and white men who owned property in D.C. continued to vote in either Maryland or Virginia as they had before.

Starting in the early 19th century, Congress established a series of different government models that allowed voters to elect some local leaders while stripping them of their previously-held right to vote for president or elect voting members of Congress. Then in the 1870s, Congress stripped D.C. of its local representation too. White congressmen didn't want newly enfranchised black men running the nation's capital.

During Reconstruction, black Americans made up about a third of D.C.'s population. Once black men won the right to vote in local D.C. elections in 1867, they quickly established themselves in the city's local government. Congress responded by dismantling that government through new laws in 1871 and 1874 that gave the president — whom D.C. residents still couldn't vote for — the sole power to appoint D.C. leaders. The president could consult with Congress when appointing these leaders, but because D.C. voters couldn't elect voting members of Congress, they had no way to influence these decisions.

The president, congressmen and many federal staff members remained immune to these changes because they were registered to vote in their home states. D.C.'s restrictions on voting and self-governance only applied to full-time

See D.C., Page 4B

What is Juneteenth?

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

Juneteenth — short for June Nineteenth — marks the day when federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas, in 1865 to take control of the state and ensure that all enslaved people be freed.

The arrival of the troops came a full two and a half years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln.

Juneteenth honors the end to slavery in the United States and is considered the longest-running African-American holiday.

Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House two months earlier in Virginia, but slavery had remained relatively unaffected in Texas — until U.S. General Gordon Granger stood on Texas soil and read General Orders No. 3: "The

people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free."

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

The Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Lincoln Jan. 1, 1863, established that all enslaved people in Confederate states in rebellion against the Union, "shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free."

But in reality, the Emancipation Proclamation didn't instantly free any slaves.

The proclamation only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control. However, as Northern troops advanced into the Confederate South, many slaves fled behind Union lines.

JUNETEENTH, TEXAS SLAVERY

In Texas, slavery had continued as the state experienced no large-scale fighting or significant presence of Union troops. Many slave owners from outside the Lone Star State viewed it as a safe haven and moved there with their slaves.

After the war came to a close in the spring of 1865, General Granger's arrival in Galveston that June signaled freedom for Texas's 250,000 slaves. Although emancipation didn't happen overnight for everyone — in some cases, slave owners withheld the information until after harvest season — celebrations broke out among newly freed black people — and Juneteenth was born. That December, slavery in America was formally abolished with the adoption of the 13th Amendment.

The year following in 1866,

freedmen in Texas organized the first of what became the annual celebration of Jubilee Day on June 19. In the ensuing decades, Juneteenth commemorations featured music, barbecues, prayer services and other activities. As black people migrated from Texas to other parts of the country, the Juneteenth tradition spread.

In 1979, Texas became the first state to make Juneteenth an official holiday. Today, 47 states recognize Juneteenth as a state holiday.

Efforts to make Juneteenth a national holiday have — so far — stalled in Congress.

CELEBRATIONS

While many Americans are not familiar with Juneteenth, celebrations are taking place throughout the country.

■Atlanta, Ga., the holiday is a three-day music festival and

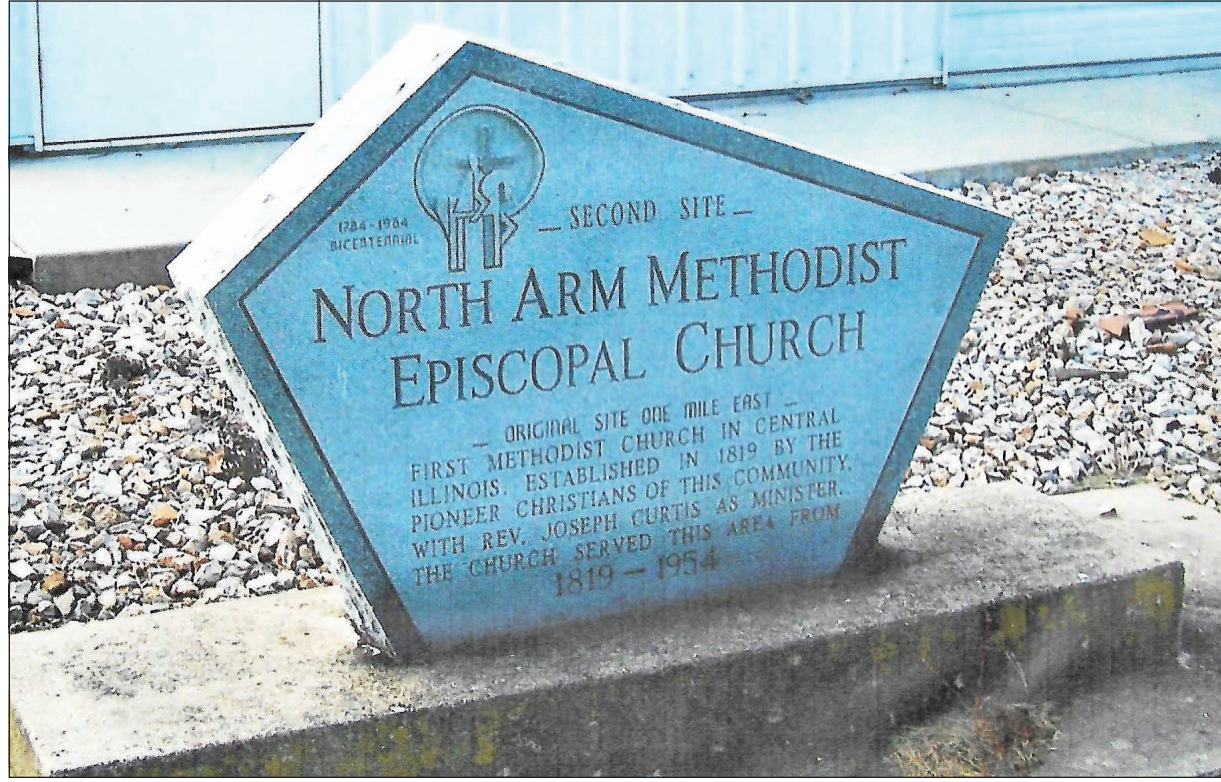
parade ending Sunday, June 21.

■Fort Worth, Texas, the celebration kicked off Saturday, June 13, for a multi-day event featuring a parade, a 5K walk/run, a festival, barbecue cookoff, a health fair and fireworks with "Juneteenth — The Stage Play" performed Thursday, June 25.

■The University of Wisconsin at Madison has a virtual 2020 Juneteenth Celebration planned by the Kujichagulia Madison Center for Self-Determination. Juneteenth has been celebrated in Wisconsin since 1971 and was declared a state holiday in 2009.

■Chicago celebrations are planned throughout the city including parades, block parties and cultural activities. Illinois companies are joining employers elsewhere in marking the day by closing offices and giving employees a paid day off.

MEMORIAL STONE MARKS HISTORIC CHURCH SITE



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

This memorial stone is all that's left of the North Arm Methodist Church. The congregation organized in 1819 and disbanded in 1954.

Methodist church founded 201 years ago

BY ROGER STANLEY
rstanley769@yahoo.com

A group of early pioneers started the North Arm Methodist Church in 1819 at the home of Johnathan Mayo, but it was not the first church in Edgar County. A little north of there, Aloysius Brown helped establish what became St. Aloysius Catholic Church in 1817.

The first Catholic Church in Edgar County was built in 1837. The Methodist Church was erected in 1843. Before those buildings were in place, services were held in the homes and barns of the settlers.

In 1939, the North Arm Methodists held a commemorative service at a newer church built in 1876 at a different location. The church was packed for the observance, which had several historic skits and musical numbers held together with a running dialogue of history presented by Mrs. Herbert Dickenson.

The first skit showed a gathering of the seven prominent people who started the church. William Dickenson played the part of John Stratton for whom a township is named. Sumner Spencer played Joseph Curtis, the first pastor of the group, and Estes Hiddle portrayed Colonel Mayo at whose home the organization meeting occurred.

The four women who made up the group were Anna May Day as Mrs. Stratton; Katherine Wright as Mrs. Whitley; Mrs. Pauline Haddix as Mrs. Curtis; and Opal Wright as Mrs. Mayo. There was a baby in the scene with John



Special to The Prairie Press

The North Arm Methodist Church celebrated its 120th anniversary in 1939 with a historical pageant. Costumed church members portrayed the founding members forming the congregation in 1819. Left to right, William Dickenson as John Stratton, Sumner Spencer as Joseph Curtis, Estes Hiddle as Col. Mayo, Anna May Day as Mrs. Stratton, Katherine Wright as Mrs. Whitley, Pauline Haddix as Mrs. Curtis, Opal Wright as Mrs. May. The baby in the picture is infant John Walter Wright.

Walter Wright the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wright. The skit entailed the discussion about this church being named North Arm Methodist Church.

Many old historical books from the church were displayed during and between the scenes. There were old hymn books, including one that only had the words but no musical notes. There was also an old church Bible published in 1844.

Myrtle Watson, Florence Wright, Metta Watson and Bertha Pearman sang a double-duet. Mrs. Herbert Dickenson read about the history of the

church during the Civil War, and Maxine Sisson sang "Tenting Tonight," a song soldiers knew well during the war.

Another skit followed depicting a lively discussion of the trustees considering building a new church in 1876 to replace the old one made of bricks. The crux of the matter was if it should be made of bricks again or be a wood-frame building. One of the trustees was upset when they decided to build it with wood and change the location. The audience broke out with spontaneous laughter when the disgruntled

See NORTH ARM, Page 4B

Celebrating with a camping trip

Our family gets together every year to celebrate Rosie's and my wedding anniversary and for the last several years we have



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

invaded Shakamak State Park near Jasonville, Ind. The park boasts 400 acres of mostly wooded terrain with three man-made lakes. That makes it an ideal place to walk the many trails and enjoy the scenic lakes where many people boat and fish. There is a water park of sorts and there used to be swimming in the lake that at one time boasted an Olympic type diving platform.

I experienced the breathtaking diving from that device when a bunch of us boys and girls found our way to the park after graduating from Paris High School. The dive didn't take nearly as long as climbing up that tower and getting up enough courage to actually plunge in. It was awful to think about the danger of making a belly-flop landing in the water or attempting a cannonball dive and not ending up with a perfect landing.

I finally got enough razzing that I dove from that board, and I gained speed all the way down. I did make a little ripple in the water when I hit, and the water got colder as I went way further down, but not to the bottom. One dive was all it took to know it was a little crazy to do that stunt, but for a 17-year-old I just had to try it.

Several years later Rosie and I took 4-Hers to the park, and when Junior needed a leaf collection for eighth grade, we made a pretty rich haul of leaves that couldn't be found around our farm. As we started around the lake collecting leaves, I suddenly needed to go to the bathroom, but it was something

See STANLEY, Page 4B

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NORTH ARM
FROM PAGE 3B

soul said, "You'll be wanting to change Easter next."

The next presentation recognized the activities of the Ladies Aide Society which started in 1907. Three of the original founders were present for the 1939 celebration: Mrs. Walter Downing, Jennie Fry and Nettie Henning. The Ladies Aid Society sponsored ice cream suppers, helped with fox drives, box suppers and even served lemonade at the county fair, and the activities helped pay the pastor. By 1932, the group had 57 members and

was active in servicing the community

A vocal solo of "A Perfect Day" was sung by Hazel O'Hair, and that was followed by a piano duet played by Mrs. Roy Geiling and her daughter Wanda Lu. The celebration concluded with a benediction given by the Rev. John Bilby, pastor of the church at the time.

Information for this story comes from a historical scrapbook in the Edgar County Historical Society's collection and Lloyd Lewis' book "North Arm Neighborhood." Lewis lived near the Methodist Church building for many years.



Special to The Prairie Press
The North Arm Methodist congregation built this frame church in 1876 to replace the first church built in 1843. The frame church served the group until the congregation disbanded in 1954.

NOTICE OF VACANCY

Clark-Edgar Rural Water District is seeking an individual to fulfill a vacancy on the Clark-Edgar Rural Water District Board of Trustees. This is a short-term vacancy to fulfill the remainder of a term until the end of April 2021. Individuals must reside within Clark-Edgar Rural District service area. Interested individuals must submit a Letter of Intent and Qualifications to Clark-Edgar Rural Water District by August 1, 2020.

Letter of Intent and Qualifications can be dropped off at 475 IL Hwy 1, Marshall, IL or mailed to Clark-Edgar Rural Water District, P.O. Box 297, Marshall, IL 62441.

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STANLEY
FROM PAGE 3B

I didn't wish to do behind a tree. Junior made a very witty remark about that scene, and he and Rosie reminded me of that many times for the next 50 years.

Junior said, "I guess Mom and I will be the party, and you can be the pooper." So any time I hear the term, "don't be a party pooper," it gives me a very significant reminder of Shakamak Park and Junior's dry humor.

This year we didn't have as many people camp and visit as usual, but the weather was perfect for celebrating our 63rd anniversary. We enjoyed cooking on charcoal burners and even had a wood fire for hot-dogs and marshmallows. There was a nice array of desserts, which included a cake,

watermelon, pralines and cookies. Ginger made a derivative of a chocolate Texas sheetcake, and she had quite a story about the making of that delicious treat.

She was up early on Saturday morning the day of the event and her husband, Kenneth, was busy making glorified rice and washing dishes at the same time. Ginger is choir director for her church, and she was using her iPad playing a song to learn the words and notes. She tried diligently to follow the recipe in a cookbook at the same time.

As she was mixing the ingredients she realized she had omitted the baking soda. Ginger didn't want to add it directly so she mixed the baking soda to a new batch of flour and sugar and then stirred that up.

It appeared that the mix was going to be too dry, so she added an egg. The recipe called for buttermilk, but Ginger did not have any. The solution was making her own by mixing vinegar and milk. Whoops, she added the vinegar to the mix instead of the milk. Now what?

She decided it would work if she poured the vinegar from the top the mix into the cup of milk. Voilà, she mixed that concoction up and then baked it. We all thought the taste was delightful. Bryan, our son in law, swore he heard an "alleluia" when the cake cover was lifted, after hearing Ginger's story about her musical cake.

Our great-grandson Brighton was one of the group, and he really relished the playground and playing with all the kids. As a seven-year-old

and being kept at home all the time in Illinois he found others that relished their freedom. No one wore a mask all the time we were there, but many of the adults in the park did practice social distancing. Our family chose to give hugs, and we sat close together at the picnic tables.

Rosie and I enjoy camping in Indiana, thank heavens it isn't far away. Shakamak had no vacancies in the campground, and maybe the Hoosiers know how to get a life.

We also ate at Red Lobster today to complete our celebration as we cannot have an inside dinner served in Illinois, except at home. Somehow, something ain't right.

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

D.C.
FROM PAGE 3B

residents. And, like the racist voting restrictions that southern states used to prevent black men from voting after Reconstruction, these restrictions were specifically meant to suppress black political power.

Black D.C. residents fought to change their city's unequal status during the civil rights movement and won some key victories. The first was the right to vote for the president and vice president through the 23rd Amendment, ratified in 1961.

construction, there were still many white members of Congress who didn't believe a city with such a large black population should govern itself. John Rarick, a House member representing Louisiana, "warned that any measure giving the district power to govern itself could lead to a takeover by the Black Muslims," the Associated Press reported in 1972.

D.C. BECOME THE 51ST STATE?

Since 1980, D.C. has advocated for congressional representation through statehood. Activists and politicians have connected D.C.'s fight for representation to similar struggles in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Northern Mariana Islands and American Samoa. Like D.C. residents in 1960, the U.S. citizens who live in these territories pay federal taxes but have no voting members in Congress and can't vote for president.

Many statehood advocates have pointed out that there is no constitutional reason that D.C. — a 68-square-mile city with a larger population than Wyoming and Vermont — cannot become a state.

Congress has introduced multiple bills that would make D.C. the 51st state. So far, none of these have passed in both houses, but politicians and activists continue to push for statehood.

CIVIL RIGHTS BRINGS CHANGE

The 1870s system that denied D.C. residents the right vote for their own local government — as well as the congressional members and president who oversaw that government — stayed in place for nearly a century. During that time, D.C.'s black population grew.

In 1957, D.C. became the nation's first predominantly-black city. In 1970, the black population peaked at over 537,000 people, or 71 percent of the city's population. By then, many white residents had moved to the suburbs of Maryland and Virginia where they could enjoy full voting rights.

The city held its first presidential election in 1964, voting overwhelmingly for the sitting president Lyndon B. Johnson over Barry Goldwater, a Republican senator from Arizona who'd voted against the Civil Rights Act earlier that year.

Still, there were drawbacks to this victory. Even though D.C.'s most recent census population of over 760,000 people made it more populous than 11 states, it couldn't receive more electors than the lowest-populated state (that was Alaska, with roughly 226,000 people). Since 1964, D.C. has always had three electors, the lowest number possible, regardless of its population size.

Self-governance was another battle. A century after Re-

Despite such resistance, D.C. residents won the right to elect their own mayor and city council through the Home Rule Act, which Congress passed in 1973. The next year, D.C. elected Democrat Walter E. Washington as its first home-rule mayor. Still, there were limitations on what the new home-rule government could do. Congress has the right to reject any laws the D.C. mayor and council pass — and has used it to strike down many D.C. laws.

In 1971, D.C. also won a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives. This delegate can serve on committees and speak on the floor but cannot vote on

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Costs of safely reopening a restaurant

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.khn.org

Like countless other restaurateurs across California and the nation, Alex and Charity Prestifilippo have been caught in a precarious health-and-safety limbo.

Beginning in March, the COVID-19 pandemic shuttered their popular Gourmet Italia restaurant in Temecula, a wine-growing community of 115,000 southeast of Los Angeles. Dozens of employees were laid off; food stocks quickly became outdated.

They began bleeding cash — about \$20,000 every day in lost business, rent and sundry other payments on Gourmet Italia and their other properties, a winery and the pizzeria Spuntino.

While desperate to reopen, the couple also realized the perils involved in serving food to the public with a dangerous

pathogen on the loose. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's guidelines were confusing enough for the general public. For restaurateurs trying to keep loyal patrons safe, the lack of clarity was maddening.

What precisely did social distancing mean inside their restaurant, the Prestifilippos wondered. Did customers expect servers, chefs and busboys to wear masks? How vigilantly did they have to sanitize counters and tables? How often should employees wash their hands?

"It was stressful," said Charity Prestifilippo. "While we understood the government itself was trying to figure all of this out, nobody could give us any hard answers. And we couldn't devise a plan of attack without permanent information."

After being advised he

could seat his restaurant at only 50% capacity, Alex Prestifilippo was later informed there was no capacity limit, as long as tables were spaced 6 feet apart.

"Government health officials were giving owners a moving target. Even restaurant associations were having a hard time getting a handle on the right process," said Phil Mott, a Colorado-based restaurant consultant. "Owners faced retraining all their employees, but they weren't even sure what that training entailed."

The Prestifilippos recently reopened Gourmet Italia and Spuntino, but not without much anguish and deliberation, and many tough decisions.

Beginning in April, she joined a weekly virtual meeting with dozens of other restaurant owners in the

tightknit tourist community, dotted with privately owned wineries and mom and pop eateries. Many feared they would be forced to close for good if they didn't reopen soon. Some wanted to go rogue, opening collectively and gambling that health officials would not close them all down.

In the end, the group of Temecula restaurant owners decided to wait, using the time to develop a list of preferred practices for the future, precautions that ranged from providing hand sanitizer and wipes to replacing traditional salt and pepper shakers with disposable packets.

They agreed to document bathroom cleaning schedules and open the parking lot to outdoor tables so customers could keep their distance. Cafes with counter service considered installing plexiglass

barriers between diners.

"The idea was to do more than you would probably need — so customers could see that you were doing your best to create a safe place," said Charity Prestifilippo. "But there were also business considerations. Could you be as quick and efficient with your service if you have to take all these precautions? How was all this going to work?"

After emigrating from Sicily, Alex, 51, learned English and opened his first restaurant in 1999. He eventually developed a 7,000-square-foot space with high-end Italian cuisine and white linen tablecloths described as a romantic dining spot.

His wife, 47, was one who found romance there. She came in first as a customer, met the owner and they fell in love.

The Prestifilippos received

about \$300,000 in economic assistance through Small Business Administration loans. Still, it felt as if they were leaking hard-earned money. The projected costs of implementing all these health precautions — between \$500 and \$1,000 a day — brought sticker shock.

Not only were supply prices escalating with increased demand, but also there were long waits for items such as specialized thermometers that could be applied to the foreheads of employees — and possibly customers — which cost \$180 when available.

"I just spent \$2,800 on peroxide for the two restaurants and I have no idea how long that's going to last," he said. Masks cost \$1.50 each, and the chefs, servers and busboys use several each shift.

See **REOPEN**, Page 6B

More local COVID-19 cases confirmed

Positive cases in Edgar County rises to six this week

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Edgar County Public Health Department (ECPHD) reported five more cases of COVID-19 in the county during this past week.

One patient is a male, in his 50s, who lives in a single-family home.

"He's at home with his family, and they are on self-quarantine," said Monica Dunn of the ECPHD.

Dunn added the patient works in the community and the health department reached out to everyone who may have had contact with him.

That case was reported Monday, June 15.

The other patient is also a male, in his 60s, living in a single-family home.

Dunn said he has gone into self-isolation after receiving the diagnosis, and the health department has notified all of his contacts about possible exposure to the virus.

This case was reported Wednesday, June 17.

Positive COVID-19 cases in the county took a jump with the news release Friday, June 19, when three new cases were reported. In that situation, one of the patients is female, under 18, living in a single-family home and is self-isolating at home. The second of the three is a female, in her 40s, living in a single-family home and is self-isolating at home. The last of the three cases is a male, under 18, living in a single-family home and is self-isolating at home.

Dunn said all contacts of the three new patients have been notified about possible exposure. She could not confirm or deny if the three new patients are a family, saying she is not authorized to release such information.

It is not known how or where any of the people

See **CASES**, Page 6B

CITIZENS RALLY AGAINST HEALTH DEPARTMENTS



In this Friday, May 15, 2020 file photo, protesters hold a rally against Pennsylvania's coronavirus stay-at-home order at the state Capitol in Harrisburg, Pa.

Special to The Prairie Press

Health officials threatened

Public health officials face wave of threats, pressure amid coronavirus response

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Emily Brown was stretched thin. As the director of the Rio Grande County Public Health Department in rural Colorado, she was working 12- and 14-hour days, struggling to respond to the pandemic with only five full-time employees for more than 11,000 residents. Case counts were rising.

She was already at odds with county commissioners, who were pushing to loosen public health restrictions in late May, against her advice. She had previously clashed with them over data releases and had haggled over a variance regarding reopening businesses.

But she reasoned standing up for public health principles was worth it, even if she risked losing the job that allowed her to live close to her hometown and help her parents with their farm.

Then came the Facebook post: a photo of her and other health officials with comments about their weight and references to armed citizens and bodies swinging from trees.

The commissioners had asked her to meet with them the next day. She intended to ask them for more support. Instead, she was fired.

In the battle against COVID-19, public health workers spread across states, cities and small towns make up an in-



Emily Brown was director of the Rio Grande County Public Health Department in Colorado until May 22, when the county commissioners fired her after battling with her over coronavirus restrictions. "They finally were tired of me not going along the line they wanted me to go along," she said.

Special to The Prairie Press

visible army on the front lines. But that army, which has suffered neglect for decades, is under assault when it's needed most.

Officials who usually work behind the scenes managing everything from immunizations to water quality inspections have found themselves center stage. Elected officials and members of the public who are frustrated with the lockdowns and safety restrictions have at times turned public health workers into politicized punching bags, battering them with countless angry calls and even

physical threats.

Ohio's state health director — who had armed protesters come to her house — resigned. The health officer for Orange County, California, also resigned after weeks of criticism and personal threats from residents and other public officials over an order requiring face coverings in public.

As the pressure and scrutiny rise, many more health officials have chosen to leave or been pushed out of their jobs. A review by Kaiser Health News and

See **OFFICIALS**, Page 6B

Miller joins family practice at Paris Clinic

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Registered nurse Kayla Miller has been a familiar face at Horizon Health for the past 12 years. While her passion for nursing remains strong, her focus has shifted to treating patients as a nurse practitioner in the Paris Clinic.



MILLER

"As a nurse I wanted to further my education and provide more for patients," Miller said. "I'm honored to be able to continue my personal and professional growth at Horizon Health. I have watched the organization grow in so many ways and am excited for the future."

Miller recently completed advanced education to become a family nurse practitioner. She supports the practice of Kumar Sodvadiya, family medicine physician. Together they provide a full range of primary care services for patients of all ages.

"I'm excited to welcome Kayla to our healthcare team," said Sodvadiya. "I'm confident she will continue the commitment of providing the highest level of care to our patients and their families."

Miller began her career at Horizon Health as a certified nursing assistant in 2008. Over the years she worked in various hospital and clinic departments, including the medical/surgical unit, special care unit and orthopedics department. She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University. She completed education as a licensed practical nurse (LPN) and registered nurse (RN) at Danville Area Community College.

Born and raised in Chrisman, Miller still lives

See **MILLER**, Page 6B

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OFFICIALS

FROM PAGE 5B

The Associated Press finds at least 27 state and local health leaders have resigned, retired or been fired since April across 13 states.

From North Carolina to California, they have left their posts due to a mix of backlash and stressful, nonstop working conditions, all while dealing with chronic staffing and funding shortages.

Some health officials have not been up to the job during the biggest health crisis in a century. Others previously had plans to leave or cited their own health issues.

But Lori Tremmel Freeman, CEO of the National Association of County and City Health Officials, said the majority of what she calls an alarming exodus resulted from increasing pressure as states reopen. Three of those 27 were members of

her board and well known in the public health community — Rio Grande County's Brown; Detroit's senior public health adviser, Kanzoni Asabigi; and the head of North Carolina's Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services, Chris Dobbins.

Asabigi's sudden retirement, considering his stature in the public health community, shocked Freeman. She also was upset to hear about the departure of Dobbins, who was chosen as health director of the year for North Carolina in 2017.

"They just don't leave like that," Freeman said.

Public health officials are, "really getting tired of the ongoing pressures and the blame game," Freeman said. She warned that more departures could be expected in the coming days and weeks as political pressure trickles down from the federal to the state to the local level.

From the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, federal public health officials have complained of being sidelined or politicized. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has been marginalized; a government whistleblower said

he faced retaliation because he opposed a White House directive to allow widespread access to the malaria drug hydroxychloroquine as a COVID-19 treatment.

In Hawaii, U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard called on the governor to fire his top public health officials, saying she believed they were too slow on testing, contact tracing and travel restrictions. In Wisconsin, several Republican lawmakers have repeatedly demanded that the state's health services secretary resign. The state's conservative Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that she had exceeded her authority by extending a stay-at-home order.

With the increased public scrutiny, security details — like those seen on a federal level for Anthony Fauci, the top infectious disease expert — have been assigned to state health leaders, including Georgia's Kathleen Toomey after she was threatened.

In Orange County, in late May, nearly a hundred people attended a county supervisors meeting, waiting hours to speak against an order requiring face coverings. One person suggested the order might

make it necessary to invoke Second Amendment rights to bear arms, while another read aloud the home address of the order's author — the county's chief health officer, Nichole Quick — as well as the name of her boyfriend.

Quick, attending by phone, left the meeting.

In a statement, the sheriff's office later said Quick expressed concern for her safety following, "several threatening statements both in public comment and online." She was given personal protection by the sheriff.

But at the next meeting, Quick resigned. She could not be reached for comment. Earlier, the county's deputy director of public health services, David Souleles, retired abruptly.

An official in another California county also has been given a security detail, said Kat DeBurgh, the executive director of the Health Officers Association of California, declining to name the county or official because the threats have not been made public.

Many local health leaders, accustomed to relative anonymity as they work to protect the public's health, have

been shocked by the growing threats, said Theresa Anselmo, the executive director of the Colorado Association of Local Public Health Officials.

After polling local health directors across the state at a meeting last month, Anselmo found about 80% said they or their personal property had been threatened since the pandemic began. About 80% also said they'd encountered threats to pull funding from their department or other forms of political pressure.

To Anselmo, the ugly politics and threats are a result of the politicization of the pandemic from the start. So far in Colorado, six top local health officials have retired, resigned or been fired. A handful of state and local health department staff members have left as well, she said.

In California, senior health officials from seven counties, including Quick and Souleles, have resigned or retired since March 15. Charity Dean, the second in command at the state Department of Public Health, submitted her resignation June 4. Burnout seems to be contributing to many of those decisions, DeBurgh said.

In addition to the harm to current officers, DeBurgh is worried about the impact these events will have on recruiting people into public health leadership.

Some of the online abuse has been going on for years, said Bill Snook, a spokesperson for the health department in Kansas City, Mo. He has seen instances in which people took a health inspector's name and made a meme out of it — or said a health worker should be strung up or killed. He said opponents of vaccinations, known as anti-vaxxers, have called staffers baby killers.

In Colorado, the Tri-County Health Department, which serves Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas counties near Denver, has also been getting hundreds of calls and emails from frustrated citizens, deputy director Jennifer Ludwig said.

Some have been angry their businesses could not open and blamed the health department for depriving them of their livelihood. Others were furious with neighbors who were not wearing masks outside.

It's a constant wave of, "confusion and angst and anxiety and anger," Ludwig said.

CASES

FROM PAGE 5B

were exposed to the coronavirus. "The minute we find out there is a positive case the health department doubles down and works non-stop to notify everybody," said Dunn.

A Horizon Health employee tested positive for COVID-19

between May 18 and May 21. The employee, who works in administration and does not have contact with patients, is not an Edgar County resident and was not counted as the county's first case.

ECPHD confirmed the first Edgar County resident diagnosed with COVID-19 the following week on May 29.

According to the ECPHD, that patient is deemed as fully recovered.

Approximately two weeks elapsed before more positive tests were received.

As of Friday, June 19, the ECPHD website showed 971 Edgar County residents tested for COVID-19 with 965 negative results, six positives and one totally recovered.

Less than 6% of the county's population has been tested so far. That number is determined by the number of tests administered as of Friday against the U.S. Census Bureau's July 1,

2019, estimate of 17,161 people living in Edgar County.

Dunn emphasized the ECPHD is keeping residents informed of COVID-19 with daily updates of the health department's website, ecphd.org. By visiting the website residents can stay informed about the daily testing results, plus read the most accurate COVID-19 news from the Centers for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health.

MILLER

FROM PAGE 6B

there with her husband, Tim, and three children, Danielle, Remington and Charlie. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family, being outdoors and riding motorcycles.

Office hours for Miller and Sodvadiya at the Paris Clinic are 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. They work together to provide same-day appointments. For an appointment, call 217-463-1946.

REOPENING

FROM PAGE 5B

Alex Prestifilippo decided not to raise prices to cover the costs. That would not be fair to his customers, he said.

On May 30, after months of quarantine, customers formed a line outside for Gourmet Italia's first lunch seating.

The diners encountered a coronavirus safety plan months in the making. For starters, the owners kept the front doors open so customers didn't have to touch the handles and installed

hand-sanitizing devices at the entrance.

Servers and busboys wore masks, and the bar and kitchen staff donned gloves as well. Only after tables were seated were plates and wrapped silverware presented. Menus were sanitized after each use, and salt and pepper shakers were brought on demand — and quickly wiped down. Tables were moved into the bar area to create extra distance, and workers patrolled the restaurant to clean surfaces. All 35 workers returned from layoffs.

So far, business has been

down. The restaurant had 150 diners during the Saturday night of the reopening and brought in \$10,000 — down from 450 customers and \$30,000 on a typical Saturday before the shutdown.

And though he hails from an Italian culture of embraces and social kisses, Alex Prestifilippo has chosen to put safety over traditional social graces.

"I told myself, 'I'm not gonna hug,'" he said. "It's very important to respect the code. I let my employees know — elbow bumps only. No hugs. No hands."

Ageism is harmful to health of older adults

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
By Paul Nash University of Southern California & Phillip W. Schnarrs, University of Texas at Austin

People over 65 account for about 80% of the deaths related to COVID-19 in the U.S. But we have to consid-

er comorbidity, not just the number of years lived. Older people more likely live with underlying health conditions, such as cardiovascular disease, lung conditions, diabetes and cancer. It is these complications — not just age

— that dictate the mortality of COVID-19.

Yet the misperception persists older adults are frail and weak. As educators in the field of health and gerontology, we can report the research shows ageist attitudes harm the health of older adults. The World Health Organization acknowledges ageism as the last socially accepted form of prejudice. This impacts the kind of care they receive and the health care outcomes they experience.

In the U.S., these perceptions are reinforced in medical training. Geriatric care doesn't even appear on the list of required training for doctors. This approach may have contributed to the U.S.'s arguably poor response to COVID-19. When the virus emerged, the narrative was focused on older people as the vulnerable group. Younger people, it was said, were not so much at risk.

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Lawson represents EnerStar, Illinois on the Youth Leadership Council

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

For more than 50 years, teens from rural America have been going to Washington, D.C., on the trip of a lifetime, courtesy of their local sponsoring electric cooperative, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Over the years, these delegates have toured some of the finest museums in the world and visited America's most historic monuments. They have met with elected officials, explored Capitol Hill, and learned about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities. Each year, roughly 2,000 delegates and staff make an impact on Washington.

During Youth Tour, delegates have the chance to represent their home state on the NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC). Members of the YLC play an important role during NRECA's Annual Meeting the following spring. Not only are the YLC members recognized on stage, they have a hands-on experience with virtually every facet of the meeting including the resolutions process and helping members communicate with their legislators. Youth Leadership Council members leave more poised, confident and a better developed leader with a strong determination to improve their community and make their country a better place. Further, they leave having built life-long friendships with other student leaders from across the country.

Due to the cancellation of Youth Tour 2020, the YLC has been selected from delegates who went on the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour. The AIEC chose Jerad Lawson of Paris, to represent Illinois as the 2020-2021 YLC. His trip

was sponsored by EnerStar Electric Cooperative.

Lawson will travel to Washington, in November for a leadership conference, focusing on the electric cooperative industry. During this conference, the YLC National Spokesperson will be selected to address the membership at the NRECA Annual Meeting and to address the Youth Tour delegates the following year.

Jerad is a 2020 graduate of Lawson Christian Academy and will begin his college career at Ivy Tech Community College in the fall, exploring potential career paths.

"While saddened at the cancellation of the 2020 Youth to Washington Tour, we are looking forward to next year," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin. "The Youth Tour teaches the youth of our rural communities about the electric cooperative form of business, impact on their local communities, and the seven Cooperative Principles."

Griffin added applications for next year's tour will be available in October.



LAWSON

ECCF GIVES GIFT CARDS TO UNIT 6 STAFF



Special to The Prairie Press

The Edgar County Community Foundation Board of Directors presented gift certificates for local businesses to the Chrisman Unit 6 food staff, which prepared meals for students while school attendance was suspended. Front row, left to right: Doug Hasler, ECCF board president; Unit 6 food staff Karen Hux, Carla Haga, Kim Thomas and Lisa Stewart; Second row, left to right: ECCF director Aaron Phipps, Unit 6 Superintendent Jim Acklin, Chrisman Elementary School Principal Kelly Schluter, Chrisman Junior/Senior High School Principal Cole Huber, ECCF director Billy Hardas and ECCF director Bob Morris. Gift certificates for food service employees in all Edgar County schools were presented this month from funds donated by members of the foundation board of directors, as a thank you in recognition of their contribution.

If The Press didn't tell you ... **WHO WOULD?**

DACC lists honor students

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

DANVILLE — Honors for the spring 2020 semester at Danville Area Community College includes several area students.

A student must carry 12 or more credit hours and a straight A (4.0) average on a 4.0 scale to be included on the President's List. To be included on the Honor's List, a student must carry 12 or more credit hours and have a B+ (3.5) grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Earning honors were:
 ■Chrisman — President's List: Elizabeth Evans. Honor's List: Hayley Hardin, Kirkland Hoult, Madisyn Norman.
 ■Paris — President's List: Anthony Hutchings, Brandi Strow.
 ■Ridge Farm — President's List: David Kurtz, Joshua Land, Cheyenne Meeker, Shelby Waltz. Honor's List: Carissa Barham, Emma Phenicie, Matthew Tansy.

SPENCER DONATES \$1,000



Special to The Prairie Press

Retiring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Commander Steve Spencer, left, presents a \$500 check to Beth Hansel for Hopes and Dreams, a program that helps homeless Paris High School students. Hopes and Dreams aligns with the VFW goal of making Paris a better place to live.



Special to The Prairie Press

Retiring Veterans of Foreign Wars Post Command Steve Spencer, left, presents a \$500 check to Chip Keys, right, for Paris Youth Football. The youth program helps build physical skills, teamwork, sportsmanship and discipline in pre-high school age youth and fits well with the VFW goal of making Paris a better place to live and raise a family.

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Lake Land College NSLS inducts new members

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

MATTOON — Several area residents are among the Lake Land College students who were welcomed into the National Society for Leadership and Success in May. The society offers these students the opportunity to be part of a nationally recognized organization providing access to some of the country's top leaders.

Those joining the chapter include Alanson Gann of Paris, Annika Wood of West Union, Bailey Drummond of Kansas, Gunnar Scott of Marshall, Shelby Kile of Marshall and Teri-Rae Long of Paris. Sigma Alpha Pi, is the largest collegiate leadership honor society in the U.S and provides its members access to a five-step leadership program on campus as well as honoring excellence. Members will develop skills within the five-step program to inspire success even after college.

Gallagher receives Ph.D.

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

AMES, Iowa — Iowa State University awarded Phillip Gallagher, Paris, with a Ph.D. in rhetoric and professional communication during the university's recent virtual commencement exercise. The traditional on-campus celebration was moved online as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Leaving Your Employer? Understand Your 401(k) Options.

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 Shelly 217.808.0527

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

PRIME retail space available for rent on the square. Call 347-957-0017 for information.

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 Service on all types of garage doors. New door sales. Residential & commercial 217-346-2808

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 Spring/Summer Sale. Insured. Free Estimates.
 Firewood for sale; \$55.00 truck load delivered
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 Call Gary 217-264-6444

GARAGE SALES

36 Helen Avenue -
 Thurs, 6/25 4:00-7:00 pm,
 Fri, 6/26 8:00 -2:00 pm,
 Sat, 6/27 8:00-12:00 pm.

MOVING SALE- 9780 N Beech Pk. New Goshen, IN
 June 26 & 27 8am-4pm.
 Tools, furniture, teen reg. & plus sz clothing, wedding items, college items, home goods, etc

Huge 2 family moving sale -
 Lots of everything. Too much to mention. Clean and priced to sell.
 Also 1990 Miata hard top and small golf cart. **Come on by 1242 Tucker Beach Rd** from 8-3 on July 2nd, 3rd, and 4th.

Rummage Sale- We are running out of room...
 Come rummage through our stuff.
 Too many items to list.
 You don't want to miss this!
208 E Court St., Paris, IL
 Saturday, June 27, 9-1
 All donations to benefit Hopes and Dreams, INC.

Huge Garage Sale- 631 E Court St.
 Fri 3-7 Sat 8-4 Furniture, Dbl Bed, Cabinets-util, kit, and home, wicker, home decor, holiday decor, longaberger, Vera Wang, books, crafts, clothing, etc...

HELP WANTED

Effingham Equity in Marshall is accepting applications for seasonal help for spring 2020 planting season:
 • Seasonal Facility Labor
 • Drivers with Class A CDL or individuals willing to obtain Class A CDL (If interested in obtaining CDL, please apply ASAP)
 (If Interested in obtaining CDL, please apply ASAP)
 Retirees are encouraged to apply.
 To apply, please contact Marshall Equity at (217) 826-6331

CUSTOM APPLICATOR

Requirements: possess a CDL class A license; apply fertilizer and ag products through custom application equipment; blending, mixing, delivering loading and unloading of ag products; scout field for weed and insect problems; take soil samples; other duties as assigned.
 For more information or to apply go to www.threeequity.com/ careers for application form or call Marshall Equity Office at 217-826-6331

WANTED TO BUY

Freon Wanted: We pay CA\$H for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-598-1758 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

LEGALS

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

In the matter of the Estate of DAVID C. MITCHELL, deceased
 No. 2020-P-22

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DAVID C. MITCHELL of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on June 3, 2020, to HEATHER R. JOHNSON, 15

Poplar Drive, Paris, Illinois 61944, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Drew P. Griffin, of Jones & Griffin Law Offices, P.C., 110 E. Washington, P.O. Box 8, Paris, Illinois 61944. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois 61944, or with the representative, or both, on or before December 7, 2020, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.
 DATED this 6th day of June, 2020.

HEATHER R. JOHNSON,
 Independent Administrator of the Estate of DAVID C. MITCHELL, deceased

Drew P. Griffin
 JONES & GRIFFIN LAW OFFICES, P.C.
 110 E. Washington, P.O. Box 8 Paris, IL 61944
 Tele: (217) 465-7525
 Fax: (217) 466-2230

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on June 5, 2020 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Edgar County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as:

NEW LIFE MEDICAL CLINIC
 Located at: 509 S MAIN ST, PARIS

Owner(s): JAMES CIULLA MD & WANDA CIULLA PA-C

Dated: JUNE 5, 2020

AUGUST GRIFFIN
 EDGAR COUNTY CLERK

Lien Notice

Storage Express will hold public auctions ending on **July 9, 2020** to satisfy liens held on delinquent accounts located at the below properties and ending at the assigned times. The auction is an online auction conducted at www.storage-treasures.com.

610 E Jasper St, Paris, IL @ 12:00 PM CST:
 JENNY MINNICK
 309-142

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed Tariff Changes Electric Service Schedule III. C.

C. No. 1
To the Electric Patrons of Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois:

Ameren Illinois (or the Company) hereby gives notice to the public that on May 26, 2020, it filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (Commission) proposed changes in its rates and charges for approved Energy Efficiency and Demand-Response Measures (EDR) throughout its territory in Illinois pursuant to its Rider Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Investment (Rider EE) tariff in Docket No. 20-0477. The changes to Rider EE are applicable to Ameren Illinois Rate Zones I, II and III.

A copy of the proposed change in schedule may be inspected at the Ameren Illinois offices at 300 Liberty Street, Peoria, Illinois or online at www.icc.illinois.gov/e-docket/.

Customers should be advised that the Commission may alter or otherwise amend the rates or conditions of service after hearings are held pursuant to 83 Ill. Adm. Code Part 200, and may increase or decrease individual rates in amounts other than those requested by Ameren Illinois.

All parties interested in this matter may obtain information with respect thereto either directly from Ameren Illinois or by addressing the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

AMEREN ILLINOIS COMPANY
 d/b/a Ameren Illinois
 By: Richard J. Mark, President & CEO

Sale of Used Equipment

Sealed bids will be received at the Edgar County Highway Department, 12637 E 950th Rd, Paris, IL 61944, for the following surplus inventory owned by the Edgar County Sheriff's Department and the Edgar County Highway Department until 9:00 A.M. Monday, July 6, 2020 and at that time be publicly opened and read.

2006 Dodge Durango
 2007 Dodge Durango
 2002 Cadillac Seville STS
 2011 GMC 2500 HD 2WD
 2012 Ford F250
 2013 Ford F250

Bidding Form, Terms & Conditions can be obtained at the Edgar County Highway Department from the Operations Manager, Mr. Dick Mohon at (217)465-4139.

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

Do you have
CASH
in your closet?

Turn those unwanted items into cash. **Sell them in the Classifieds!** They may be just the thing someone else is looking for.

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EDGAR COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING

The Edgar County Courthouse Courtroom 2, 115 W. Court St., Paris, IL 61944

June 22, 2020
 9:15 a.m.

AGENDA

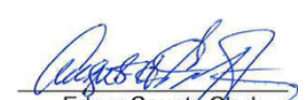
1. Call To Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call
4. Public Comment
5. Action on Airport Construction Bids or Related Alternatives
6. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes
7. Action on Sheriff's Committee Recommendation Regarding 911 Relocation
8. Adjourn

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a request, signed by at least one-third (1/3) of the Members of the Edgar County Board for a SPECIAL MEETING to be held on June 22, 2020 at 9:15 a.m. at The Edgar County Courthouse, Courtroom 2, 115 W. Court St., Paris, IL has been filed in the County Clerk's Office, for the purpose of:

1. Action on Airport Construction Bids or Related Alternatives
2. Resolution Authorizing Issuance of Tax Anticipation Notes
3. Action on Sheriff's Committee Recommendation Regarding 911 Relocation

Given under my hand and seal this 16th day of June, 2020

 (Seal)
 Edgar County Clerk

EDGAR COUNTY BOARD STUDY SESSION

June 22, 2020
 9:30 a.m.

Edgar County Courthouse Courtroom #2
 115 W. Court St, Paris, IL 61944

Enter Through North Basement Doors

AGENDA

1. Call To Order
2. Public Comment
3. Committee Reports
4. County Clerk
5. Closed Session
6. Adjourn

Service Center Representative
 Dimond Bros. Insurance is looking for candidates with strong computer skills and customer service experience to join our Service Center team at our Corporate office. We offer an attractive compensation and benefits package that includes health, dental, life, voluntary life, vision, short/long term disability, EAP, Teledoc, 401(k) with company match and vacation/personal time. Please send your resume to:
Steph Shobe, Director of Human Resources
Dimond Bros. Insurance, LLC
928 Clinton Road
Paris, IL 61944
steph.shobe@dimondbros.com



Premier office space on the square
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 for further information

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Call (217) 826-3100 to view this home

**Consumer Confidence Report
Annual Drinking Water Quality Report**

**REPORTS WILL NOT BE MAILED
COPIES AVAILABLE AT CITY
HALL, 206 S. CENTRAL AVE.**

PARIS
IL0450300

Annual Water Quality Report for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2019. This report is intended to provide you with important information about your drinking water and the efforts made.

The source of drinking water used by PARIS is Ground Water

For more information regarding this report contact:
Name Andy Bess
Phone 217-712-0151

Este informe contiene informacion muy importante sobre el agua que usted bebe. Traduzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.

Source of Drinking Water
The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.
Contaminants that may be present in source water include: - Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife. - Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming. - Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses. - Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems. - Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at (800) 426-4791.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population.

Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. We cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Source Water Information	Type of Water	Report Status	Location
Source Water Name			
WELL 1 (01640)	GW	ACTIVE	1 N INDIANA
WELL 2 (01641)	GW	ACTIVE	LOCATED IN INDIANA
WELL 3 (01930)	GW	ACTIVE	LOCATED IN INDIANA
WELL 4 (01931)	GW	ACTIVE	LOCATED IN INDIANA

Source Water Assessment

We want our valued customers to be informed about their water quality. If you would like to learn more, please feel welcome to attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. The source water assessment for our supply has been completed by the Illinois EPA. If you would like a copy of this information, please stop by City Hall or call our water operator at 217-712-0151. To view a summary version of the completed Source Water Assessments, including: Importance of Source Water; Susceptibility to Contamination Determination; and documentation/recommendation of Source Water Protection Efforts, you may access the Illinois EPA website at <http://www.epa.state.il.us/cgi-bin/wp/swap-fact-sheets.p1>.

Source of Water: PARIS The source water assessment for this system has not yet been completed by the Illinois EPA. EPA is required to complete source water assessment for all public water supplies, when this assessment becomes available we will summarize the results and incorporate the information into this report.

2019 Regulated Contaminants Detected

Lead and Copper

Definitions:
Action Level Goal (ALG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. ALG's allow for a margin of safety.
Action Level: The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Lead and Copper	Date Sampled	MCLG	Action Level (AL)	90th Percentile	# Sites Over AL	Units	Violation	Likely Source of Contamination
Copper	06/14/2017	1.3	1.3	0.12	0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives; Corrosion of household plumbing systems.
Lead	06/14/2017	0	15	1.8	0	ppb	N	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits.

Water Quality Test Results

Definitions: The following tables contain scientific terms and measures, some of which may require explanation.

Avg: Regulatory compliance with some MCLs are based on running annual average of monthly samples.

Level 1 Assessment: A Level 1 assessment is a study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment: A Level 2 assessment is a very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

Maximum Contaminant Level or MCL: The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal or MCLG: The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum residual disinfectant level or MRDL: The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant goal or MRDLG: The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

na: Not applicable

mrem: millirems per year (a measure of radiation absorbed by the body)

ppb: micrograms per liter or parts per billion - or one ounce in 7,350,000 gallons of water.

ppm: milligrams per liter or parts per million - or one ounce in 7,350 gallons of water.

Treatment Technique or TT: A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Regulated Contaminants

Disinfectants and Disinfection By-Products	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of Contamination
Chlorine	2019	0.9	0.8-0.9	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	ppm	N	Water additive used to control microbes.
Haloacetic Acids (HAA5)	2019	3	2.85-2.85	No goal for the total	60	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.
Total Trihalomethanes (TTHM)	2019	25	24.85-24.85	No goal for the total	80	ppb	N	By-product of drinking water disinfection.

Inorganic Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of Contamination
Barium	01/16/2018	0.072	0.072-0.072	2	2	ppm	N	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits.
Fluoride	01/16/2018	0.542	0.542-0.542	4	4.0	ppm	N	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
Iron	01/16/2018	0.058	0.058-0.058		1.0	ppm	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits
Manganese	01/16/2018	8.4	8.4-8.4	150	150	ppb	N	This contaminant is not currently regulated by the USEPA. However, the state regulates. Erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate (measured as Nitrogen)	2019	1	1.3-1.3	10	10	ppm	N	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	01/16/2018	50	50-50			ppm	N	Erosion from naturally occurring deposits. Used in water softener regeneration.

Radioactive Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Level Detected	Range of Levels Detected	MCLG	MCL	Units	Violation	Likely source of Contamination
Combined Radium 226/228	07/11/2017	0.508	0.508-0.508	0	5	pCi/L	N	Erosion of natural deposits.