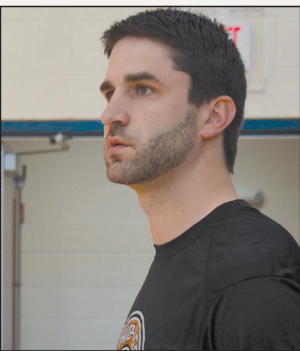


In the know



PHS HIRES NEW BOYS BB COACH

Paris native Chase Brinkley is the new boys head basketball coach at Paris High School. Brinkley was hired this week by the PHS board. **SPORTS, 9A**

Try new food as you fire up grill

Spring brings with it the famous American tradition of grilling, and there is always room for new items to the menu. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

Disaster unites Nebraskans

Citizens of different denominations and faiths are moving forward together in the wake of last month's floods. **GRACE, 5B**



Sister's legacy matters today

Mother Anastasie Brown spent her life focused on teaching, leadership and art. **HISTORY, 3B**

Farmers age and farms decrease

Study finds the number of farms is dropping and farmers getting older, but new farmers and organic farms are also on the rise. **AGRIBUSINESS, 7B**

Springtime in Paris

Preparations wind up for Memorial Day and the Splash Park's seasonal opening. **NEWS, 8A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 61 L 44
Weather forecast here. **2A**



Drawing by **DAKOTA, CRESTWOOD**

LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Latest news, online extras

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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

LOCALLY OWNED, LOYAL TO OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

Pondering solar power

Chrisman schools consider going green; Illini FS grants \$1,500 Chrisman high school

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN – A plan for halving what Chrisman schools pay for electricity was presented to the Unit 6 board of education during the Thursday, April 12, board meeting.

Nick Finney and Josh Morgan of Novel Energy Solutions (NES) discussed a unique way to benefit from solar energy, which is part of a state initiative to eventually have 100 percent of the electricity consumed in Illinois generated by renewable sources. There is legislation in place requiring 40 percent of state's electric generation

to be from renewable sources by 2030 in order to spur development toward a renewable grid.

The representatives explained the Solar for All initiative is designed so not for profits, like school districts, can do solar by participating in the Community Solar Gardens NES has already built or has plans to build in the state. Close proximity to a Community Solar Garden is not necessary because everything is calculated by the amount of electricity the NES solar arrays are putting onto the grid.

An incentive to the school See **CHRISMAN, Page 8A**



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Illini FS made a \$1,500 donation to the Chrisman school district during the April 11 school board meeting. The money comes from fuel purchases using a special credit card issued to Chrisman school supporters. Left to right, school principal Cole Huber and Illini representatives Brad Young, Jeff Voigt and Randy Moore.v

ONE OPTION FOR AMBULANCE CARE



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Horizon Health Ambulance service wants the contract to provide emergency response the special service area of seven townships in Edgar County. Pictured are Horizon Health employees Samantha McCarty and Jesse Lewsader. The Edgar County Board is to decide which bidder gets the contract during a special meeting April 22.

Meeting will decide bid

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Edgar County Board has scheduled a special meeting April 22 to decide if the five-year contract for the seven-township service area is awarded to the Edgar County Special Service Area Ambulance (ECS-SAA) operated by Eric and Nichole Shaughnessy or the Horizon Health Ambulance based at Paris Community Hospital. ECSSAA currently provides ambulance service in the designated area.

County board member Derrick Lorenzen asked to table the decision at the Wednesday, April 10, county board meeting. He said discussion of the issue during the Monday, April 8, study session revealed board members still have questions and some more time is needed to reach a decision. The board voted to table the decision until 9 a.m. April 22.

A special service area consisting of Hunter, Stratton, Elbridge, Symmes, Grandview, Buck and Paris townships was formed late in the 20th century and the ambulance was operated for a while by Paris Community Hospital until hospital management asked to be relieved of the responsibility because it was too expensive. Residents in the special service area pay a tax to



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Nicole and Eric Shaughnessy owners of the Edgar County Special Service Area Ambulance are one of two bidders waiting for the Edgar County Board to decide which ambulance service will provide emergency response to Hunter, Stratton, Elbridge, Symmes, Grandview, Buck and Paris townships.

underwrite ambulance service.

The bids opened April 3 outline how each agency can provide ambulance service and how much tax money is needed to do so. Horizon Health's proposal claimed an ability to provide the service without the use of tax money. The Edgar County Special Service Area Ambulance asked for \$381,101 in year one of the con-

tact and \$386,116 the second year, \$392,626 the third year, \$396,145 the fourth year and \$401,159 in the final year.

Public comment during the April 8 study session did not support awarding the contract to Horizon Health.

"You are required to take the lowest responsible bid," said Kirk Allen. "The See **BID, Page 8A**

Mail SNAFU hurts local candidate

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Paris City Council candidate Jacob DuCharme wants the public to know he took running for office seriously and his failure to respond to written questions mailed by The Prairie Press to Paris city candidates was not intentional.

"I got the questions four days after the election was over and 11 days after the other candidates did," said DuCharme.

The Prairie Press mailed the questions to the two mayoral candidates and six council candidates on the same day using the addresses the candidates filed with their Statement of Candidacy petitions.

DuCharme said after filing the documents, he closed on a house and moved. The address on file was not the same address where he was later receiving mail.

"It was just a bad set of events," he said regarding the

failure to receive the questions when the other candidates did. "I didn't want to go on social media and talk about this, because there is too much of that kind of stuff going on."

As he has matured, DuCharme said he has decided to put sports aside and concentrate on the much bigger and more im-

portant game of politics.

"I like politics because there is nothing else like it for helping people and making a difference," he said. "The idea of creating a better future excites me."

The run for city council was his first attempt at public office and acknowledged the inability to respond to the questions probably hurt his effort. His decision to run for the council was motivated by a desire to help the city.

"I wanted to get involved

because I care about Paris," said DuCharme. "It sickens me when I hear people say they want to leave and never come back."

While the first attempt at public office was disappointing, DuCharme is determined to try again. He plans to run again for city council or perhaps mayor in the next election.

"Eventually, I hope to get involved at the state level as either a representative or a senator," said DuCharme.

Paris 95 hones plan for district

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

The Paris 95 school district is putting the finishing touches on the new strategic plan for the district, the board of education heard during its April meeting Monday, April 8.

The first draft of the strategic plan was presented to the school board by Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson. The first draft was based on submission from the community, parents, teachers and administrators following a public meeting in March. The first draft was also presented during a public meeting Wednesday, April 10.

There were 27 people who attended the session Wednesday to review the plan, Larson said Friday. He described the suggestions as, "enthusiastic and well-thought out."

"I continue to be amazed at the commitment and excitement this community has for the fine arts," Larson said. "The people here are hungriest for the fine arts. They want a commitment to see it grow."

The revised strategic plan will be available for public inspection after the spring break, which began Friday. Students return to school Monday, April 22. "We'll make the new plan available online and in other venues," Larson said.

The core values of the district include collegiality, integrity, responsiveness, accountability, responsibility to learners and sustainability.

The strategic plan includes five areas — ambitious instruction, support services, wellness/safety, commitment to the community and student activities.

"We continue to believe in strong schools and strong communities," Larson said in describing the plan Friday. "The Paris Union School District No. 95 opens their doors to community feedback and collaboration to help guide the direction of our schools."

Monday's board meeting was the final one for the old board and a reorganization will occur by April 30 following the April 2 election. There will be no personnel changes on the board as all four the incumbents — Amy Isaf, Cindy Mathis,

See **PARIS 95, Page 8A**

ABOUT US

The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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Wednesday prior to the Saturday publication. Advertising (display or classifieds ads) are due 1 p.m. Thursday prior to the Saturday publication. The Prairie Press is published weekly on Saturday by Prairie Beacon LLC and is delivered to residents in and around Edgar County, Clark County, Douglas County, Vermillion County and Coles County, Ill. The publisher assumes no liability through typographical error, and in no event will liability be assumed for merchandise incorrectly priced. Postmaster please send address changes to The Prairie Press, 101 N. Central Ave., Paris, Ill. 61944. Copyright 2019 by Prairie Beacon LLC. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited.

TALK BACK

ACCURACY CHECKS

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

Edgar County community to join the discussion to make your newspaper better.

We'd love to hear what you think. Drop us an email or stop by the office.

Have you got a news tip? Call us at 217-921-3216, email us at nzeman@prairiepress.net or ghenry@prairiepress.net or message us on Facebook.

We always welcome family, club, church and community news for publication in The Prairie Press/Paris Beacon-News.

BE A PART OF OUR PAPER

We invite our readers and the

LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 62 Low: 41 More weather: go to www.prairiepress.net and click on weather.

Weather forecast grid with icons and temperatures for Today through Friday. Includes Almanac, Sun and Moon, and a photo of Everett Lau.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

DISCOUNTED ADMISSION The Children's Museum is having a Community Day April 13 with admission of only \$2 thanks to a generous contribution by the ISU Credit Union.

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

HALBROOK VISITS CHRISMAN Rep. Brad Halbbrook (R-Shelbyville) is continuing his spring listening tour with a 4-5:30 p.m. stop April 15 at the Chrisman City Hall. Halbbrook will be present to hear constituents' issues and opinions about state government.

SPRING BREAK ACTIVITY Paris Public Library celebrates the beginning of spring break with an activity for elementary students. Craft and More, with an under the sea theme, is 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 15. Call 217-463-3950, come in, or email read@parispubliclibrary.org to register.

EVENING TOPS MEETING TOPS Illinois #2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-

DON'T MISS

BIKER, BRUNCH AND BLESSING MAY 5 ST. MARY OF THE WOODS, Ind. - The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana, are inviting all motorcycle riders to the upcoming "Biker, Brunch and Blessing," scheduled for 10:15 a.m. Sunday, May 5, at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center.

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

in starts at 5:45 p.m. and the meeting is 7 p.m. Contact Janice Stevens at 217-808-0078 for more information.

WEIGHT WATCHERS MEETING Weight Watchers meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Edgar County Farm Bureau building, 210 W. Washington, Paris. Weigh-in starts at 5 p.m. and the meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. Information about the Weight Watchers system is available at www.weightwatchers.com, or by attending a meeting.

RIGHTER TOWN HALL MEETING Senator Dale Righter (R-Mattoon) is hosting a town hall meeting to provide an update on the spring legislative session and discuss matters before the Illinois legislature 6-7 p.m. April 17 at Harlan Hall, Marshall.

BOOK CHAT AT MARSHALL The next book chat at the Marshall Public Library is 10:30

a.m. April 17 featuring "Home for Unwanted Girls," by Joanna Goodman. Call 217-826-2535 or visit www.marshalllibrary.com.

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE A.B.A.T.E. Heritage Trail Chapter is currently accepting applications for the 2019 scholarship. Eligibility is open to members of all branches of the armed forces or their children and grandchildren. Applicants must submit an essay describing their academic achievements, community organizations, future educational goals and their connection to the military either personally or through a family member. All applications must be submitted to Abate Heritage Trail Chapter, P.O. Box 417, Marshall, Ill. 62441. The deadline to do so is April 17.

MORNING TOPS MEETINGS TOPS #11563 meets every Thursday morning at the Highland Manor Community Room with weigh-ins beginning at 8

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

HOW RURAL AMERICA IS CHANGING Illinois Extension Educator for Commercial Agriculture Jessie Soule presents "The Changing Face of Midwest Families" 6:30 p.m. April 18 at the Marshall Public Library. Soule will discuss the significant changes in farm households and farm structures, spurred by ever-changing technological and sociopolitical factors by looking at how farm families have evolved and how rural America will continue to evolve. Registration is recommended for this free program by calling the library, 217-826-2535, or online at www.marshalllibrary.com.

FREE MOVIE The First Christian Church is sponsoring free daily showings of the film "Balto" at the Paris Theatre during the Paris 95 school district spring break. Daily screenings are 10 a.m. April 16, 17 and 18.

VFW AUXILIARY DINNER The weekly VFW Auxiliary dinner is 5-7 p.m. at the post home on West Court Street. This week's menu is ham with a white or wheat roll, and scalloped potatoes, baked beans or broccoli and cheese. The cost is \$5. Drinks are 50 cents and dessert is \$1.

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

RUN, WALK, CRAWL The Paris Pacers' annual Run, Walk, Crawl event is April 20. Walkers starts at 7:45 a.m. and runners leave at 8 a.m. Packet pickup is 6:45-7:45 a.m. the day of the race. Same day registration is possible. The route starts and finishes in front of Tom's Fitness, 120 E. Wood Street.

CARPENTERS ONCE MORE Carpenters Once More is a tribute show to the talent of the late Karen Carpenter and features many of the tunes she and her brother made famous during the 1970s. The performance is 7-9 p.m. April 27 at the Paris Center of Fine Arts. Ticket information at www.pcofa.net/copy-of-box-office.

CHRISMAN BLOOD DRIVE The Red Cross is holding a blood drive 2-6 p.m. April 29 in the Fellowship Hall at the Chrisman Nazarene Church.

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Teachers, employees not bound by district

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

Teachers and fulltime employees in Crestwood Community Unit School District 4 may continue to send their children to the school even if they do not reside in the district, following action by the Crestwood school board Wednesday, April 10.

The board held a public hearing prior to the meeting for any comments about the waiver. The waiver was approved on a 7-0 vote.

Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Danette Young explained the waiver is nothing new but rather a continuation of the district's present policy. The waiver — which must be approved by the General Assembly — must be approved every five years, she said.

The waiver also allows teachers who do not live in the district to send their children to Paris High School as a Unit 4 student. Many school districts have the same waiver, she said.

During audience to visitors,

Crestwood junior high math teacher Michelle Duke addressed the board about the possibility of adding a lead teacher in each of the three wings of the school — junior high, elementary and primary. She noted Paris District 95 has a lead and it has worked successfully.

Duke explained a lead teacher is responsible for keeping other teachers in her area informed about what is going on in the other wings. "It's about communication as much as anything," she said, noting the lead teachers would also work and meet with the principal each week to discuss the upcoming week.

The lead teacher could also aid in mentoring new teachers as well as checking in with substitute teachers — either prearranged absence or sickness — to see if any help is needed or to answer questions. "It's someone they can go to," she said. "It's about making things smoother."

Board member Kit Kirby praised the idea while other

board members expressed concern about jealousy among the staff. Duke said the appointment would be only a year at a time.

The designation would come with a stipend, she said, because extra work is required. "Meetings would be before or after school," she said. The Paris 95 stipend for a lead teacher is \$2,739.

Duke concluded her appeal by noting she believes a lead teacher in each wing would help with morale.

The board took the suggestion under advisement.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the 2019-2020 calendar with teachers reporting on Aug. 14 and early dismissal for students on Aug. 15-16. The first full day of classes will be Monday, Aug. 19.
- Approved membership in the IESA at a cost of \$875.
- Heard first reading on revised board policies as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

- Tabled the appointment of the ELASE delegate until the school board reorganizes later this month.
- Approved a contract with Lifetouch Photography for school pictures.
- Approved a contract with Stout's Building Services for grinding and re-covering the school's basement at a cost of \$8,110.
- Approved an agreement with the Edgar County Highway Department to prime and seal the bus parking lot and lane leading to Wood Street. The area has huge potholes — some 8-10 inches deep — according to maintenance director Josh McCarty. There is a total of 36,000 square feet of area at a cost of \$48,796, Young noted.
- Heard busy month of activities is coming up beginning after spring break.
- Set the reorganization of the new school board for

Wednesday, April 24, at 7 p.m. One board member, Paul Porter, did not seek reelection. He will be succeeded by Jonathan McCarty.

- Accepted a resignation from Meghan Damler as assistant volleyball coach.
- Accepted a resignation from Debbie Maynard as a paraprofessional, effective at the end of the school year.
- Accepted a resignation from Michelle Duke as student council sponsor, effective

at the end of the school year.

- Accepted a resignation from Mickey Jacobs as junior high social studies teacher, effective at the end of the school year.
- Hired Cerys Boston as an elementary teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Hired Haleigh Wetzel as an elementary teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Approved River Wilkin as a volunteer assistant track coach.

THANK YOU

Robert Willoughby, American Legion Post 977 and the Brocton American Legion Auxiliary in Brocton, Illinois expresses a **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone that attended our fundraising event this spring during the Red Barn Market and **THANK YOU** to our sponsors.

Prospect Bank, McClain Excavating LLC, Don Rowe and Matt Ehlers, Pioneer Seed, Pekin Insurance, The Equity, Spriska Insurance, Nutrien Ag Solutions, Inc., John Wood Trucking, Birkey's Farm Store, Longview Bank & Trust, Casey's General Store, Ray McClain, WalMart & Wild Willy's

HOUSE CATCHES FIRE



Nancy Zeman/The Prairie Press

The Paris Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 418 W. Newton at 4:08 p.m. Thursday, April 11. The fire was contained to the back of the house and remains under investigation by the Paris Fire Department and the Paris Police Department.

EnerStar Electric Cooperative participates in Youth Day 2019

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD - EnerStar Electric Cooperative was represented by Jerad Lawson and Dylan Herrington at the April 3 Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield.

Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. More than 235 students representing 23 co-ops from across the state attended the event.

Students had the opportunity to visit the state capitol, view state government in action from the senate floor and question their legislators on key issues. They were also invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs addressed students and chaper-

ones and encouraged them to find where their passion lies.

After lunch, the students visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

Students representing EnerStar will participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, June 14-21, 2019.



Special to The Prairie Press

Youths representing EnerStar Electric Cooperative attended the recent Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day at the state capitol where they learned about state government and met with area legislators. Pictured, left to right, Rep. Chris Miller (R-Oakland), Jerad Lawson and Dylan Herrington. The young woman was not identified in the submitted material.

Diabetes class considered a success

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Paris Lions Club recently sponsored an I on Diabetes class at the senior high rise featuring Mary Liz Wright, a University of Illinois Extension educator for Nutrition and Wellness.

Wright said attendance grew with each session.

I on Diabetes is a series of four 2 1/2 - 3 hour sessions designed for anyone interested in preventing or managing diabetes.

"The program provides in-

formation on treatment goals and self monitoring, managing carbohydrates, sodium, cholesterol and fat portions, planning meals, reading food labels, and using artificial sweeteners, low-fat products, and herbs and spices," said Wright. "In each session participants receive recipes, watch cooking demonstrations and taste foods to meet their dietary needs."

She added the sessions give participants the information needed to prepare their own healthy meals that are tasty

and nutritious through the use of fresh ingredients and use of herbs and spices rather than depending on processed foods that are high in sugar, salt, preservatives and chemical additives.

"They learned about how to live well with diabetes," said Wright.

One of the participants expressed appreciation for the course, Wright's ability to connect with everyone in the class and described the handbook participants received as a gold mine of information.

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Class X felony charges filed in recent drug cases

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

COURT

Two Paris residents face multiple counts of the most serious felony drug charges possible in Illinois.

Dawn M. Ordiway, 34, and Owen D. Hawkins, 36, appeared in custody April 4 and both were charged with a Class X felony delivery or the intent to deliver methamphetamine, a Class X felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class X felony methamphetamine trafficking.

Ordiway faces an additional charge of a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer while Hawkins faces a Class 3 felony possession of ammunition by a convicted felon. The public defender was appointed in both cases and the matters were continued for the preliminary hearing. Ordiway's motion for bond reduction was denied. They were remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

Other individuals appearing before the bench for the April 1 and April 4 traffic and criminal calls in Edgar County Circuit Court included:

IN CUSTODY

■Katelynn M. Bowman, 22, Paris, appeared in custody, waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class B misdemeanor possession of cannabis. By agreement, bond was reduced to \$5,000 from the original bond of \$10,000. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference. Bowman's unresolved Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia charges were continued for a pretrial conference. She was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Joseph W. Christopher, 27, Chrisman, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. The unresolved petitions to revoke his probation sentences for a Class 2 felony aggravated battery conviction and a Class 3 felony aggravated battery conviction were continued for a pretrial conference. He was released on a personal recognizance bond.

■Sean P. Christopher 31, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 2 felony aggravated criminal sexual abuse and a Class 4 felony criminal sexual abuse. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Kaden Garner, 18, Paris, appeared in custody, waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony aggravated battery. Bond was reduced to \$15,000 from the original bond of \$30,000. He was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victim and a pretrial conference was scheduled. Garner was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Keith A. Gosnell, 33, Paris, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class A misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Bond was set at \$1,500. In another matter, the state withdrew a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Jessica Buchanan Harkins, 28, Paris, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. The court imposed a 56-day jail sentence attached to her Class 4 felony obstruction of justice conviction. She was remanded to custody to begin her jail sentence.

■Howard P. Kiser III, 44, Villa Grove, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 3 felony threatening a

public official, a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. Bond was set at \$10,000. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Bradley J. Latch, 30, Paris, appeared in custody. He waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine, a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery charges. By agreement, his bond was reduced to \$5,000 from the original bond of \$10,000. He was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victim.

In another matter, Latch's unresolved Class 4 felony criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespassing to a residence and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct charges were continued for a pretrial conference. Latch was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Robert J. Lovell, 21, Chrisman, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The public defender was assigned to the case and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Lovell was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Scott E. McClarey, 43, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 2 felony burglary and a Class 2 felony possession of a stolen motor vehicle. The public defender was appointed and bond was set at \$25,000. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Foster W. Miller, 21, Martinsville, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. A pretrial conference was scheduled for a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespassing conviction. In another matter, his unresolved Class 4 felony possession of a hypodermic syringe, a Class A misdemeanor retail theft and a Class B misdemeanor criminal trespassing charges were continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Dallas E. Peterson, 38, Paris, appeared in custody for missing a previous court appearance. His unresolved Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia charges

and a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class A misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon conviction were continued for a pretrial conference. Peterson was granted a bond reduction of \$1,500 from the original bond of \$2,500 and was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■Christopher L. Asbury, 37, Paris, was charged with a Class 2 felony delivery of methamphetamine, a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Nickie A. Decker, 31, Paris, was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. She was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Jared Ryan Ford, 32, Chrisman, was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor or driving on a suspended license charge. He was sentenced to 30 days in jail subject to the court's discretion, 18 months of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■John J. Hollingsworth, 48, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Julian P. Powell, 28, Paris, was presented with a petition to revoke his court supervision for a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property conviction. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Doris Leigh Sharp, 52, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. The public defender was assigned and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Ashley R. Sister, 26, Montezuma, Ind., was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class B misdemeanor speeding. She was sentenced to a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Roger J. Snoddy, 37, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Michael A. Starr, 32, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony reckless discharge of a firearm and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a firearm without a FOID card. He told the court he will hire an attorney.

The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Brittany N. Wilson, 28, Paris, was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. The public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

GUILTY PLEAS

■Jonathan H. Campbell, 30, Paris, pleaded guilty to a criminal damage to property charge. In exchange for the plea, the state dismissed a Class A misdemeanor leaving the scene of an accident charge. The matter was continued for a sentencing hearing, and the court quashed Campbell's failure to appear warrant.

■Amber N. Roberts, 36, Paris, pleaded guilty to a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge and was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees. In exchange for the plea, the state dismissed a Class A misdemeanor battery charge.

■Phillip E.L. Stapp, 30, Paris, entered a negotiated guilty plea to a Class 3 felony delivery of cannabis and was sentenced to 150 days in jail with 75 days to be served as electronic home monitoring and the remaining 75 days subject to the court's discretion, 30 months of probation, a \$500 fine, court costs and various state fees. He was also ordered to complete counseling per an evaluation. In exchange for the guilty plea, the state dismissed a Class 4 felony possession of cannabis charge.

■Jamaica A. White, 41, Paris, entered a negotiated guilty plea to a Class B misdemeanor criminal trespassing and was sentenced to 30 days in jail with credit for four days previously served and the remaining time subject to the court's discretion, 18 months of conditional discharge, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees. In exchange for the plea, the state dismissed a Class 1 felony residential burglary, a Class 2 felony burglary and a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property charges.

NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■Jeffrey Edwards, 18, Brocton, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 2 felony burglary charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Colly W. Thomas, 38, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license is revoked and a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

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OBITUARIES

JANET WALTERS

Janet Arlene Walters, 87, of Paris, passed away at 4:50 p.m. Sunday, April 7, 2019, at Horizon Health Paris Community Hospital. She was a homemaker.

A funeral service is 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with the Rev. Michael Dixon officiating. Burial is in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time Wednesday at the funeral home.

VIRGINIA CUTRIGHT

Virginia E. Cutright, 100 of Paris, passed away at 9:56 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at Paris Health Care Center. She was a homemaker.

A funeral service is 11 a.m. today, April 13, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home. Burial is in Grandview Cemetery. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time today at the funeral home.

Mrs. Cutright was born June

home.

Mrs. Walters was born June 7, 1931, at Paris, the daughter of the late Asbury and Geneva Rigdon Dawson. She married Joe "Curly" Walters July 3, 1951, in Paris, and he passed away Oct. 8, 2002.

Survivors include two children, Nick Joe (Tonita Ann) Walters of Knoxville, Tenn., and Debra Walters-Jones of Paris; six grandchildren, Jeremy Walters of Covington, Ind., Matthew Walters of Columbia, S.C., Amanda Allison of Chesapeake, Va., Terry (Jonya) DePriest of Linden, Tenn., Dan (Angel) Knorr of Knoxville,

Tenn., and Savannah DePriest of Virginia Beach, Va.; two siblings, Jack Dawson of Paris and Norma Eveland of Paris; several great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by two grandchildren, Shaun Patrick Leeth and Timothy Paul Jones; a son-in-law, Max Jones Jr.; and one brother, Robert Dawson.

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

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

DALE HANDLEY

CASEY - Dale Leon Handley, 72, of Charleston, passed away at 7:36 a.m. Tuesday, April 9, 2019, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, Mattoon.

A funeral service was 1 p.m. Friday, April 12, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Dan Ledley officiating. Burial followed in Jack Oak Cemetery, Cumberland County. Visitation was from noon until the service time Friday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Developmental Foundations, Inc. P.O. Box 3458, Champaign, IL 61826-3458.

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

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RUTH PRATT

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Ruth Tedin Pratt, 84, of Ann Arbor, Mich., passed away suddenly in her home March 31, 2019.

Her wishes were for a simple cremation in lieu of a viewing or funeral service and she requested her remains be interred at the Hilmoe White River Cemetery in central South Dakota.

Mrs. Pratt was born March 6, 1935, at Pierre, S.D., one of five children born to the late Albert and Martha Enang Tedin. She married Charles "Chuck" Pratt at Tioga, N.D., and he preceded her in death after 58 years of marriage. She is survived by her twin brother, Robert Tedin of

Clyde, Texas; younger sister, MaryLou (James) Glaze of Danville, Calif.; three children, Eric of Paris, Christine of Baltimore, Md., and Evan of Ann Arbor, Mich.; four grandchildren, Marlys, Charlotte, Violet and Miles; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her stepfather Lee Bailey; sister, Marlys; and brother, David.

Known as "MorMor" by the family, Mrs. Pratt graduated from Presho High School in South Dakota and received an associate degree from the Minot State Teachers College in North Dakota.

She was a teacher for several years and became an assistant librarian at the Paris Carnegie Public Library a few years after the family moved to Paris in 1969. She was an avid reader of all types of books and especial-

ly enjoyed authors who were natives of or wrote about the Midwest and in particular the Dakotas.

Mrs. Pratt was active in the Edgar County Historical Society, organizing and participating in its outreach activities. Her interest and appreciation for local history extended to family and she was a go-to source for family history. She supported several charitable organizations providing education to children on reservations in the Dakotas.

She enjoyed the theater, American folk music, visits to art exhibits and museums and was a tireless attendee at and supporter of first her children's, then her grandchildren's, school activities and interests. She will be remembered for her kindness, sense of humor and endless patience.

LAWRENCE WALTZ

Lawrence Lee Waltz, 98, of Paris, passed away at 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at the Veteran's Administration Medical Center, Danville.



WALTZ

He was a mechanic for Mooney Motors in Chrisman and also worked for Foley Salvage Yard, the railroad and drove a truck for Black Brothers Trucking Company.

No services are planned. A visitation is from 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday, April 14, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home.

American Legion Post 211 will provide military honors. Mr. Waltz was born July 1, 1920, at Hume, the son of the late Ray and Cleo McCrocklin Waltz. He married Dorothy Louise Martin Nov. 25, 1949, at Henderson, Ky., and she survives.

He is also survived by three children, Garry (Karen) Litteral of Atwood, Olin (Pat) Waltz of Chrisman and Marsha (Dan) Thomey of Paris; a brother, Andrew (Sarah) Waltz of Paris; 15 grandchild-

ren; several great-grandchildren; and several great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Jean Hard Waltz; two sons; one grandson, Andy Litteral; one granddaughter, Bev McCullough; one great-grandson, Gage Waltz; three brothers; and five sisters.

Mr. Waltz was a United States Army veteran.

Memorial donations may be made to the Veteran's Administration Medical Center at Danville.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

DELORES VANCE

Delores Mae Vance, 91, of Paris, and formerly of Rochelle, passed away at 5:20 a.m. Wednesday, April 10, 2019, at Life's Journey Senior Living, where for the last three years she was cared for by their loving staff. She was a homemaker.



VANCE

Private family services will be held at a later date in Muscatine, Iowa. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Mrs. Vance was born July 8, 1927, at Muscatine, Iowa, the daughter of the late Oliver and Alice Apple Terry. Shortly after World War II, she met the love of her life, veteran Robert Vance. They were married Nov. 15, 1946, at Muscatine, and he passed away in 2002 after almost 56 years of marriage.

She is survived by two daughters, Pam (Steve) Brinkerhoff of Paris and Jan (Ed) Kissick of Rochelle; seven grandchildren; 17

great-grandchildren; one sister, Mabel Terry of Muscatine, Iowa; and a brother-in-law, Harvey (Darlene) Vance of Muscatine, Iowa.

She was preceded in death by five siblings.

Mrs. Vance was a member of the Methodist Church and the hospital auxiliary. She was a loving, stay-at-home mother and was devoted to her family.

Memorial donations may be made to Life's Journey Senior Living.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

CAROLYN CURL

Carolyn Marie Curl, 87, of Paris, passed away at 10:15 a.m. Friday, April 5, 2019, at Horizon Health/Paris Community Hospital. She worked for the Internal Revenue Service.

Following cremation, a memorial visitation is 1 to 3 p.m. today, April 13, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home.

Mrs. Curl was Born May 25, 1931, at Paris, the daughter of the late Allen B. and Louisa Sudduth Piper.

She is survived by cousin Pat Logan of Avon, Ind.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Allen Lee Piper.

Mrs. Curl was an avid gardener, a gourmet cook and loved to golf. She also enjoyed traveling extensively.

Memorial contributions may be made to Paul Warner Animal Rescue.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

JERRY VAN HOUTIN SR.

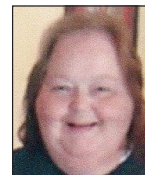
Jerry Van Houtin Sr., 70, of Lincoln, and formerly of Paris and Mt. Vernon passed away at 7:15 a.m. Monday, April 8, 2019, at Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital, Lincoln.

A graveside service was 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 12, in Ohio Chapel Cemetery, West Union. Visitation was from noon until 1:30 p.m. Friday at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Prison Ministry. More information and online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

PATRICIA KENNEDY

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. – Patricia Ann Kennedy, 69, a Paris native, passed away Saturday, March 30, 2019, at her residence.



KENNEDY

She was a book-keeper and retired from Waldron and Sons after more than 25 years.

A celebration of life service is 10 a.m. Monday, April 29, at Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home. Burial follows at Evergreen Cemetery. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time at the funeral home.

She is survived by her sisters by choice, Deborah (Ronald) Fox of Christiana, Tenn., Debby Halliwell of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jeanette (John) Palmer of Eagleville, Tenn.; Judy (Barry) McBrien of Murfreesboro, Tenn., Jo Anna (Willie) Prazak of Campbellport, Wis., and Wanda (Gary) Coley of Cleveland, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Norine Kennedy.

Online condolences at www.jenningsandayers.com.

OPAL TURNER

MARSHALL – Opal W. Turner, 90, of Marshall, passed away 8:20 a.m. Monday, April 8, 2019, at Burnside Community Care Center.



TURNER

A service honoring her life was 10 a.m. Thursday, April 11, at Pearce Funeral Home, with Pastor Tim Duke officiating. Burial was in the Medsker Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 10.

Memorial donations may be made to the Medsker Cemetery Association.

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

JERRY SUTTON

MARSHALL – Jerry L. Sutton, 59, of Marshall, passed away 9:04 p.m. Thursday, April 4, 2019, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.



SUTTON

A funeral service was 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial was in the South Vigo Black Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday, April 8, at the funeral home.

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

BEULAH THOMAS

GEORGETOWN – Beulah Thomas, 96, of Danville, passed away at 11:30 p.m., Saturday, April 6, 2019, at Pleasant Meadows Senior Living, Chrisman. She worked for 33 years at U.O. Colson where she started sewing and then moved to calendars.

A celebration of life service is 1 p.m., today, April 13, at Sunset Funeral Home & Cremation Center. Burial is in Little Grove Cemetery, near Paris. Visitation is from 11 a.m. until the 1 p.m. service today at the funeral home.

Mrs. Thomas was born Aug. 5, 1922, at Marshall, the daughter of the late Joseph and Ruth Ann Kennedy Lewsader. She married Lester Thomas April 9, 1941, and he passed away Nov. 25, 2002.

She is survived by her daughters, Ruth Ann (Richard) Jones and Freda (Bobby) Vandivier; her grandchildren, Bobby (Kara) Vandivier Jr., Carole (Scott) Chalkus, Denny (Mariann) Vandivier, Richard (Jeanne) Jones and Janet (Bob) Shaffer; her four great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Thomas enjoyed sewing crafts, traveling and camping. She was member of East Park Church of Christ. She will be missed by all who knew and loved her.

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

Online condolences at www.sunsetfuneralhome.com.

PETER CHURUKIAN

Peter Van Churukian, 67, of Decatur, and formerly of Paris, died April 3, 2019, at his home after a short illness.

A private family burial is in Mayfield Heights, Ohio.

Mr. Churukian was born June 15, 1951, at Terre Haute, Ind., the son of the late Dr. Giragos and Helen Tootikian Churukian.

Surviving are his brother George (Carol) Churukian; nephews, Greg Levonian and Chris (Emily Warmerdam) Levonian; nieces, Julie Levonian, Ann (James Costopoulos) Churukian, Martha (David Bales) Churukian and Alice (William Slechta) Churukian; and four grand-nephews, Michael Bales, and Matthew, Paul and Theo Levonian.

Mr. Churukian grew up in Paris where he played the tuba in the Paris High School marching band and graduated from Paris High School in 1969. He earned a Bachelor of Arts in biology from Millikin University and remained in Decatur, working first for Bio-Test, Toxigenics and finally Staley.

He was active in Theatre 7

for many years, serving as actor, director, producer, president, treasurer, archivist and party planner extraordinaire. He enjoyed trips to New York to see shows, visiting family in Cleveland and California, and touring Hollywood and Los Angeles. He also contributed to a family memoir, "Never Settle for Second Best," by his brother, George.

A world traveler, he was grateful to see many countries with his parents, including their place of birth, Kessab, Syria. He will be remembered for his engaging restaurant reviews, appreciation of theater and film, witty sense of humor, love of the Cubs, and pride in his Armenian heritage.

Memorial donations may be made to Theatre 7 or the Millikin University scholarship fund.



We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and cards following loss of our son, Bill Jr. Bill & Ginny Henness

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In Memory of Gary L. Spencer. April 20, 1957 - April 12, 2013. It has been six years since you have been gone. Yet, there is not one day that goes by that you aren't in our thoughts. Time changes many things. One thing it hasn't changed is our love for you. We Miss you! Kim, Jesse, Jamie, Courtney, Ashley and Family

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Miller says progressive a mistake

Coming out of Springfield, all we hear is you aren't doing enough.

You work hard, you care for your family, and you are active in your community. Maybe you are involved with your church or volunteer with your kids' sports teams.

What we hear from Gov. Pritzker, Speaker Madigan and the Chicago Democrats is you aren't paying your fair share of taxes.

The party in power looks at Illinois' 'worst-in-the-nation' credit rating, highest unfunded pension liabilities, one of the highest tax burdens, rampant corruption, and has the gall to point fingers at you!

Maybe the solution is growing jobs by removing regulations and welcoming businesses? Speaker Madigan and the Democrats won't even discuss those bills.

Maybe the solution is rooting out fraud, abuse, and waste; they won't even look at these proposals.

Maybe the solution is cutting spending; all they want to do is tax more, borrow more, and spend more.

But the political elites believe the problem is you! And their policy "solutions" show they think the reason families are fleeing and our finances are in the garbage is because you don't pay enough in taxes.

That is why they've proposed gas tax hikes, plastic bag taxes, and the graduated income tax hike with no guarantee on what the tax rates will be, and have already budgeted for the taxes they expect to make on gambling and legalization of marijuana, which will hit the poor the hardest.

They say they are going after the rich, but why should we trust them? What level of financial competence have they ever displayed to qualify them to tell us folks in Southern Illinois how to live our lives?

Last year, State Rep. Robert Martwick (D-Chicago) introduced a graduated income tax bill that would raise taxes on anyone making over \$17,300. People were rightfully outraged, and his proposal went nowhere.

See C. MILLER, Page 7A

YOUR VIEW

Shopping locally is a bunch of bull

Editor, The Prairie Press:

I am so tired of hearing the words "Shop Paris First." That's a bunch of bull.

We have been to a grocery store that advertised their digital coupon sale. We've been there several times to shop and the cashier has always given us the coupon price since we don't have or use a computer.

Now a manager says we have to have the coupons to get items on sale even after we told them we don't have a computer or Smartphone set up for it. Needless to say now we shop in Terre Haute.

Another store here advertised coffee on sale. We went there and they only had one can that was on sale.

Their excuse, "We didn't order enough." No rain checks, either.

Another time - same store. Three different times they advertised 45 pounds of cat food, only they had the 40-pound bag of cat food on sale. We drove out there to find out they didn't have what they advertised. Their excuse, "It wasn't on the truck."

How do they get by with advertising an item on sale and not even have it? That's bull.

Shop Paris First is truly a big bunch of bull.

At least if you go out of town shopping the employees are much more courteous and helpful than they are here in Paris.

Bill Simpson
Paris

Trump followers would believe anything he tells them to think

Editor, The Prairie Press,

As J.F.K. said, "The great enemy of the truth is often not the lie - deliberate, contrived and dishonest - but the myth - persistent, persuasive and unrealistic. Belief in myth allows the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought."

In other words, Trump's followers would believe in the back of a Cheerios box, if that's what he told them at the moment. The colossal mistake voters made, aside from voting for Trump, was they imagined his bluntness was an advantage, as if that provided all the solutions to America's problems.

Shift the blame and attack the messengers, that's their style. As it stands now, most Republican politicians meet the low standards of spineless wonders by assigning this president

See LETTERS, Page 7A

Music fills the prairie

Once again Edgar County students have shared the joy of the theater with us

"The arts are an essential element of education, just like reading, writing and arithmetic...music, dance, painting and theater are all keys that unlock profound human understanding and accomplishment."

—William Bennett

If much of Edgar County has a spring in its step the past couple of weeks, it's because once again the children of Edgar County have demonstrated how important music, dance and the arts are in our educational system.

Thanks to the outstanding production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" by Chrisman High School and the nearly sold out four performances of "Newsies" by Paris High School drama, those lucky enough to take the time to attend the performances once again

OUR VIEW

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

marveled at our children. Let's not leave out two other productions in February of "Shrek Jr." by Mayo Middle School and Crestwood's "My Son Pinocchio Jr.," where those pre-teens knocked our socks off with their singing and dancing.

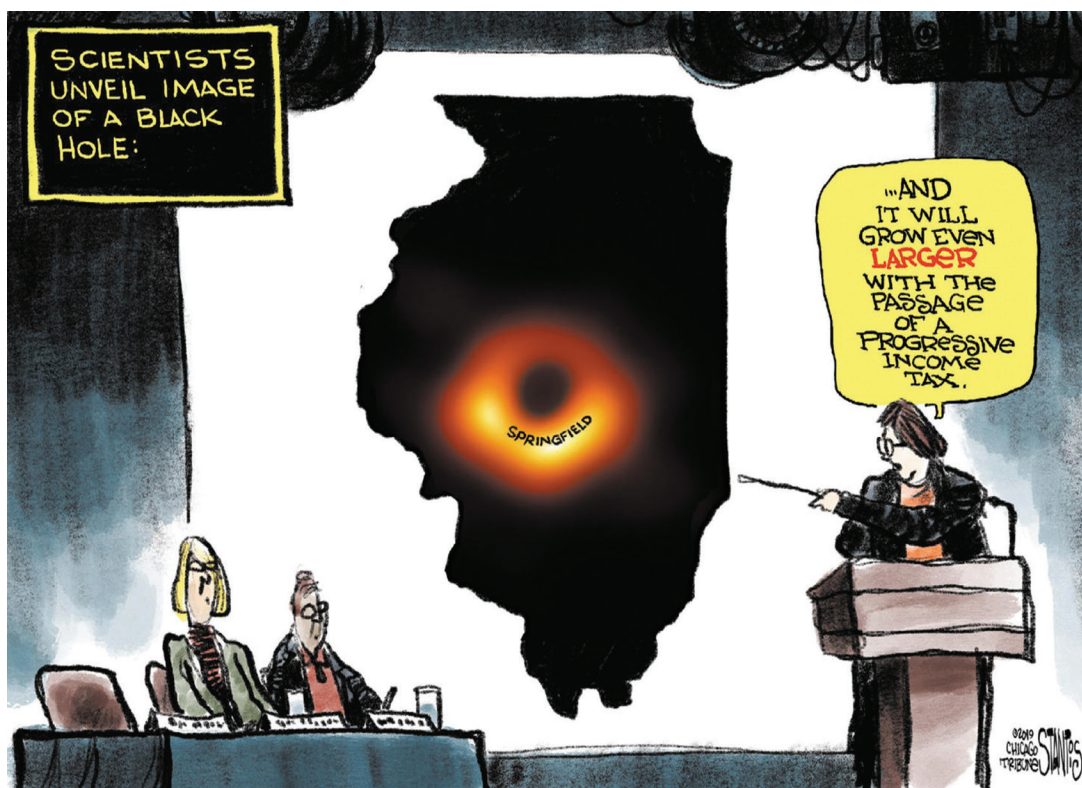
Edgar County has always been a bastion of music and the arts, whether it was the years of Ethel Marie Crabtree's School of the Dance, A.A. Harding, Lou Waterloo and Warren Sperry at the PHS band, Jeff Nelson and the Chrisman music program and now the Paris Community Theater.

That's why we urged school districts who are expanding their

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs to add a little heat — specifically STEAM — to those programs. The "A" of course is the arts.

The "Newsies" production last weekend provided more local and area residents a glimpse into the possibilities of the Paris Center of Fine Arts. Can you imagine for those PHS drama parents and students who went on before trying to stage that musical in Eveland Gym? Bravo to the students and particularly the creative team of Tanner Laughlin, Agnes Wright, Jane Smittkamp and Jessica Hendrickson for their vision and providing a true theater experience for us.

We hope — as we've trumpeted in the past here — that other schools have the opportunity to use the PCOFA. The possibilities are endless.



Warning: Beware of the circular firing squad

At a time when his own former running mate is fending off criticism, former President Barack

Obama's recent warning about an emerging circular firing squad on the left sounds too appropriate to be coincidental.

Although Obama, who was speaking at an Obama Foundation town hall event in Berlin for young leaders, didn't specifically mention former Vice President Joe Biden or the 2020 presidential campaign, he didn't have to. His implications were obvious.

Very similar remarks could have described the early days of his own rise to the White House.

"One of the things I do worry about sometimes among progressives in the United States, maybe it's true here as well, is a certain kind of rigidity," Obama said in a back-and-forth with the audience. That rigidity, he said, sometimes leads to, "what's called a 'circular firing squad,' where you start shooting at your allies because one of them has strayed from purity on the issues."

"When that happens, typically the overall effort and movement weakens," he said. "You can't set up a system in which you don't compromise on anything. But you also can't operate in a system where you compromise on everything; everything's up for grabs. That requires a certain amount of internal reflection and deliberations."

Remember when Obama upset the established order with his maverick campaign? He impressed a new generation of voters by standing apart from other candidates and opposing the Iraq

War, unlike other top Democrats — including Hillary Clinton and Biden, among others.

Obama ran into a buzz saw of opposition in the primaries, not to mention snarky remarks by former President Bill Clinton. Among other cracks, Clinton accused Obama supporters of having, "played the race card against me," and called media coverage of Obama's record on Iraq, "the biggest fairy tale I've ever seen."

Yet, the Clintons and other Democrats pulled themselves together behind Obama's nomination and eventual victory in the traditional fashion of campaigns, as described by President Richard Nixon, of moving toward the base in the primaries and shifting toward the sensible center for the general election.

President Donald Trump broke that tradition by maintaining not only a base-focused campaign but continuing with a base-focused presidency. Despite his many controversies and unorthodox, to say the least, style of governing, polls show that he has kept his hard core of about 40 percent of the public and 80 percent or more of Republicans.

That's far short of a majority of voters, but still enough of a rock-hard base to keep some Democrats awake at night.

With more than a dozen Democratic candidates in the race — and Biden likely to join them — we already can see signs of Democrats turning on one another.

Biden has come under fire in this #MeToo era for his hands-on style of relating to men and women at photo ops and other public occasions. He promised to show more restraint but has rankled some by joking about it to an approving, mostly male, audience of union members. At the

same time, other Democrats have pushed back against the criticism, saying Biden's alleged offenses pale in comparison with Trump's taped vulgar boasts of grabbing women — and then winning the Electoral College anyway.

But can Democrats or any other party afford to police its candidates so punitively with standards of so-called political correctness that seem constantly to be in flux? It is a worthy and even necessary topic for vigorous and even heated debate and discussion. But in the end, as Obama used to say on the campaign trail, we should be able to disagree without being disagreeable.

More problematic are the bold moves by the new wave of congressional progressives, particularly the rising star Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York. She's too young to run for president, but the obsessive media coverage of her, particularly by conservative outlets, makes it hard for some people to know that.

She has been accused of inviting primary challenges of centrist Democratic incumbents who have not been progressive enough to suit left-wing tastes. The tea party employed that strategy to push congressional Republicans into persistent gridlock with Democrats.

Using that strategy to help progressives risks abandoning Democratic incumbents in the 206 counties that voted for Obama in 2008 and 2012 before voting for Trump in 2016. Persuadable voters in those swing districts hold the key to future Democratic presidential victories, if the party follows Obama's advice: Target the problems that are facing voters, not their ideology.

(Clarence Page is a member of the editorial board of The Chicago Tribune.)

Tax ads are creating havoc in some areas

Freshman Rep. Terra Costa Howard, (D-Glen Ellyn), was reportedly



RICH MILLER
CAPITOL FAX

none too pleased when Think Big Illinois began running TV ads in her district. Think Big Illinois

is the dark money group created to support Gov. J.B. Pritzker's progressive income tax proposal. It started running ads in late March in four individual House districts a couple of days after an opposing dark money group called Ideas Illinois targeted the same Democratic House members: Costa Howard, Monica Bristow, Jonathan Carroll and Mary Edly-Allen.

One of the Ideas Illinois ads ended by telling viewers: "Tell Terra Costa Howard to vote 'No' on the jobs tax." A pro-Pritzker Think Big Illinois ad told viewers: "Tell Terra Costa Howard to vote 'Yes' and put the middle class first."

None of the four Democrats were given a heads-up about the pro-tax ads. And word got around that Costa Howard wasn't happy, so a Think Big staffer reached out to her. I'm told she didn't specifically demand the ad be taken down, but the group pulled the spot off cable TV almost right away.

Costa Howard scored a huge victory when she defeated Rep. Peter Breen last November. Breen (R-Lombard) is a nationally known pro-life attorney and by last year had become the House Republican floor leader. But Costa Howard beat him by a solid seven points.

Normally, legislators like Costa Howard are encouraged by staff to not stick out their necks on controversial legislation. Costa Howard voted against the \$15 minimum wage bill, as did Reps. Bristow and Edly-Allen.

See MILLER, Page 7A

HAVE YOUR SAY

We welcome letters to the editor and guest columns. When submitting a letter, please include the writer's name, address and phone number for verification purposes and limit it to 500 words. Columnists should demonstrate authority and knowledge of the topic (preferably of state and local interest) and make information-backed arguments. We reserve the right to edit letters or to not publish certain letters or guest columns.

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C. MILLER
FROM PAGE 6A

Learning the risk of letting the truth slip, this year Gov. Pritzker is out with a rebranded plan that he claims is fair and will only increase taxes on millionaires.

But if that is the case, the math doesn't work. The only way to fund the spend-first budget Pritzker proposed is with higher taxes on the middle class. A report from the Illinois Policy Institute found that the typical family would have to pay an extra \$3,500 to cover Gov. Pritzker's spending promises.

Does that sound fair to you?

Families that work hard, save, or invest in the hope of moving up, will be hit with higher taxes. Successful businesses will send more money to the government rather

than hire another worker. That same report found the graduated income tax hike would cost the state almost 300,000 jobs.

As jobs leave, families find they can't move up, so they move out, to Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, or another state that welcomes workers with open arms.

Those are the reasons families are fleeing: Because our state's finances are in shambles. Even a small amount of success is threatened, and opportunities for growth and security are disappearing.

Politicians have overspent for decades and relied on us to bail them out. The graduated income tax hike is just the newest gimmick.

I ran for office because we already pay too much to state government. I ran to represent you and your fam-

ily. That is why I oppose the graduated income tax hike Gov. Pritzker is pushing.

It will lead to higher taxes on the middle-class and the successful, and will increase the rate at which our neighbors become our ex-neighbors.

We must force lawmakers to cut spending, repair the damage they have caused, and finally give hardworking families a break.

We must stand united against this tax hike. Don't trust the Chicago politicians who say this will only impact the rich. Don't let Gov. Pritzker and Speaker Madigan dig deeper into your wallet than they already have.

You deserve your hard-earned money. They don't.

(Rep. Chris Miller (R-Oakland) represents the 110th district in the Illinois House of Representatives.)

MILLER
FROM PAGE 6A

The idea is to hold the seat for the party and let other, more politically secure members pick up the slack on the tough stuff.

But the Democrats have 74 seats and the governor needs 71 House votes to put his graduated income tax proposal on the ballot. Since the House Republicans are universally opposed, he can't afford to lose more than three Democratic votes.

While the purpose behind the ads was to defend fellow Democrats against attacks from the other side, the spots can be perceived as Democrats being pressured in their own home districts by a billionaire governor to put the middle class first and vote for his tax plan.

Even so, the other three Democrats said it was no big deal. Rep. Jonathan Carroll, (D-Northbrook), said he

has no issues with the Think Big ads. Carroll is the most liberal of the four.

Rep. Mary Edly-Allen, (D-Libertyville), said, "I welcome the efforts to provide cover in my district on the issue." The freshman claimed the local response to the ad, "has been very positive and I look forward to continued discussions."

Rep. Monica Bristow, (D-Godfrey), echoed her colleagues, saying she welcomed the ads.

And how are things going in the House?

So far, House Speaker Michael Madigan hasn't done much more than informally poll his members. As of last week I was told, "We don't have 60." That's far short of the 71 they need, but members aren't really being pushed on it yet.

To say this is the governor's top priority would be a huge understatement. Pritzker has staked his entire

future on this proposal. His bridge budget proposal kicks the can in anticipation of eventual fiscal relief from his so-called \$3.4 billion Fair Tax. It's fully integrated into who and what he is.

If Pritzker fails, it will be the most spectacular flame-out since Republicans helped override Gov. Bruce Rauner's veto of the 2017 tax hike. Come to think of it, this could be worse, because that override saved Illinois from junk bond status and if this graduated tax thing goes down Pritzker could be the one tagged "Gov. Junk" unless they quickly switch their focus to a higher flat tax.

And that'll come with its own political nightmares.

Expect a hard, hard push.

(Rich Miller is the editor of the Capitol Fax blog and newsletter, which he has been publishing for more than 20 years. His email is capitolfax@gmail.com.)

State receives opioid dollars

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) announced this week the state will receive an additional \$15 million from the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to combat the opioid crisis across the state.

Since September 2016, Illinois has been awarded over \$82 million in federal funding to expand the prevention and treatment of opioid use disorders and the response to opioid overdoses. Illinois will potentially receive another \$29 million in 2020.

"With the additional

funding, we'll continue to work to ensure that all communities throughout the state have access to treatment for opioid use disorder," said IDHS Secretary Designate Grace B Hou.

The new funding will also strengthen and enhance the Illinois Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to continue the state's efforts to prevent the misuse of prescription opioids and continue to support the availability of naloxone, a life-saving drug that can reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.

"We're excited to grow our programs that have shown success throughout the state," said Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) Director, Dani Kirby. "The influx of federal dollars has not only helped us

to expand access to medication assisted treatment programs, but also to pilot new programs to find out which ones are bringing the most successful prevention, treatment and recovery efforts to Illinois residents."

As of March 2019, over 12,000 individuals with opioid use disorder have been served in Illinois through the federal Opioid Crisis Response Grants, not including individuals served through federal block grant funds, state funds or Medicaid dollars.

Since the Illinois Helpline for Opioids and Other Substances launched in December 2017, there have been over 11,000 calls and 21,000 website visits made to the Helpline.

LETTERS
FROM PAGE 6

qualities he simply doesn't have. Worst of all the base defends the indefensible. Shame on them.


Now propaganda TV like Fox News and all who buy into it, deride the Green New Deal, and still can't decide what to do about health care. We as a people don't want to go to bed every night worrying over medical insurance, high food prices and Trump's craziness.

So dismiss the truth, accept the lies and believe in myths. The one-horned unicorn and the Trump administration will thank you.

In the end though, the primeval reptilian-like response that is Trump's trademark will finally show its true colors, and they're not red, white and blue.


Anita L. Griffith
Vermilion

EYES
On Computers
By Aaron Rhoads, O.D.



Over the past few decades computer use has skyrocketed and there are very few of us that don't spend a moderate amount of time staring at screens every day. In fact, many careers involve many consecutive hours in front of a computer. Unfortunately, our eyes are not made to perform this task for an extended period of time. After screen time many people complain of eye strain, dryness, headaches and often neck or back pain. Taken together these symptoms are referred to as Computer Vision Syndrome. There are many ways to reduce this problem. Less screen time is really helpful, but sometimes not feasible in a work environment. For people that need help up close a trifocal or no-line bifocal can be helpful. Computer glasses may be recommended. Artificial tears may relieve symptoms of dryness and frequent breaks can relieve eye strain. I often recommend the 20/20 rule; every 20 minutes take a 20 second break, look 20 feet away and blink 20 times. Often this can extend our screen time without symptoms. Treat your eyes right and don't fall victim to Computer Vision Syndrome.

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NEWWAVE
COMMUNICATIONS

City of Paris is preparing for spring

BY NED JENISON
njenison@mac.com

Warm days early this week put the Paris City Council in a spring mode.

Street and parks commissioner Jerry Branson announced facilities at Twin Lakes Park will officially open Memorial Day weekend, May 27. The Tiger Falls splash park will be open daily at 9 a.m. after that.

The council renewed the lease of refreshment concessions to Savoia's Pizza, which

will have the park stand open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. for the summer months. In other improvements, playground swings at several city parks will be replaced on a bid by Palos Sports of \$1,550.

Branson also stated the Potts Lane landscape collection site will reopen this weekend, weather permitting. The site is free for residents of the city, but permits must be obtained at City Hall.

The present city council

has one more meeting on April 22 before the new fiscal year begins May 1. The city's budget for the coming year has been prepared, finance commissioner Harry Hughes reported, and is available for inspection, by any interested person, at the city clerk's office during office hours. The budget will have a public hearing at 5:15 p.m. Monday, April 22, in advance of the regular council session.

The council approved a TIF committee recommen-

ation to grant \$10,000 to Dalby Designs for repairs to the roof of the major business building on the east side of the square. The grant is about half the total project cost.

Also approved was a recommendation by Mayor Craig Smith to amend the agreement with the Yontz family on the purchase of the former warehouse property on East Court Street. The city will pay \$17,000 for the lot, which was recently cleared of the deteriorating two-story

building. The original agreement called for a \$20,000 purchase price, but the city ran into some extra costs after the building was demolished, Smith explained.

One more set of firefighting turn-out protective gear for the new fireman commissioned at the last council meeting was purchased from Mid America Fire & Safety at a cost of \$2,109.

Maintenance in the city's well field near the Wabash River continues as a pro-

posal from Bastin Logan for \$13,800 was approved to cover cleaning of Well No. 1 and pump inspection. At the city sewage treatment plant on the Clinton Road, repair for a gearbox by Wabash Valley Motor was approved for \$6,131.

Commissioner Steve Kemper said the city's Cross Connection Control survey, required by the Illinois EPA to be taken every two years, will be mailed to some Paris property owners later this month.

PARIS 95

FROM PAGE 1A

Kevin Knoepfel and Steve Eitel, Knoepfel is currently president of the board and Mathis is secretary. Eitel is also currently the president of the Paris Cooperative High School board of directors.

Larson announced the all of the district's physical education teachers have completed coursework so the district can provide its own adaptive P.E. classes for special needs students. Previously, the district used a teacher that traveled from Mattoon a couple times a week to fulfill the Paris 95 students needs.

In answer to a question from Eitel, Larson explained there will be a savings for the district but there will also be a stipend for the teachers involved. Memorial School P.E. teacher Amy Payne explained the adapted class for students will likely be during a prep period.

Larson praised the work of Mayo principal Kyle Shay who "did the legwork" to make the changes possible. "We appreciate Kyle leading the way," the superintendent said.

Much of the meeting was filled with housekeeping work, including setting the lunch prices for next year, approving non-certified salaries and hiring or transferring new personnel.

Larson recommended the price of a school lunch for the 2019-2020 school year be increased to \$2.65, up 10 cents from the current school year. He explained the district must use a formula provided by the USDA to determine the price. "It goes up 10 cents every year," he explained.

The district will be filling out paperwork required by the state to determine if it makes sense that Paris 95 join the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). The program is a non-pricing meal

service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Larson said previous CEP computations for the Paris 95 determined a greater loss for the district's school lunch program.

The school lunch price increase was approved by the board on a 6-1 vote, with board member Bill "Beetle" Bailey voting no.

Salaries for non-certified

employees including maintenance, secretaries, paraprofessionals, aides and custodians for the new fiscal year were approved by the board. Larson said the non-certified raises are 2 percent, in line with the recent three-year contract approved by the Association of Paris Teachers (APT) and the district.

In other business Monday, the board approved the hiring of former Paris High School physical education and basketball coach Shawn Nugent as a physical education teacher at Mayo Middle School. The vacancy was made possible by the transfer of Mayo P.E. teacher Mick Roberts to the district's Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) on Eads Avenue. The program provides the opportunity for dropouts or chronic truancy students with an opportunity to obtain their high school diplomas. The program has already graduated 15 students and 17

are presently enrolled. Larson said Nugent is also certified in adaptive P.E.

The board also:

Hired Debbie Ashley as the superintendent's secretary and Melinda Lynch as a secretary.

Hired Lori Black as a custodian.

Accepted the retirement request of Mayo Middle School guidance counselor Dan Gates in four years.

Approved the first reading of minor changes in district policy as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Adopted the 2019-2020 school calendar. Teachers and staff will report for in-service on Wednesday, Aug. 14. Students will begin school Aug. 14-15 with early dismissal at 11:35 a.m. on those dates. The first full day of school will be Monday, Aug. 19.

Approved the student handbooks for the 2019-2020 school year.

Approved the district's Risk Management Plan.

Approved the food agreements with HeadStart and Bridges. Paris 95 provides lunches for the children attending those programs.

At the beginning of the meeting, Larson introduced two students, Joshua Griffith and Eli Brinkerhoff, who were the first students to participate in IESA bowling and chess. Griffith, a fifth grader, bowled three games at the recent sectional tourney. Brinkerhoff was the first Paris 95 chess player to win a game in competition.

The board also heard from Wenz School teacher Stephanie Schmitt, who leads mentoring for new teachers in the district. Larson said there are over 20 new teachers in the Paris district this year and Schmitt coordinated making sure the new faculty had the support they needed.

CHRISMAN

FROM PAGE 1A

district is entering a three-year agreement and getting the electric rate automatically cut in half, resulting in an estimated savings of \$12,000 for Unit 6.

"You are buying that power as green power," said Morgan.

Interim superintendent Jim Acklin asked if there is any advantage to having solar panels on school property as opposed to participating in the solar garden. The NES representative said that option can result in even more savings but it does require an expenditure by the district plus a solar array will take up space on the grounds, unless it can be built on the roof.

Another disadvantage to building an array is construction takes time before any benefits are received whereas participation in a Community Solar Garden results in an immediate rate change.

The NES representatives said the company also does commercial and residential solar installations as well as Community Solar Gardens and does not regard one approach as superior to another. It all comes down to each district's

goals and how the board wants to handle the situation.

Cutting the rate without a financial investment is a possibility, but spending money for even more savings in the long-term by owning an array of solar panels is also a good option, although it takes longer to see the financial benefit start. Finney and Morgan said a typical 10-kilowatt home solar system generally costs about \$32,000.

Board member Jim Ingram claimed the payback for installing solar panels is quicker than just the savings from generating electricity. He said a friend installed panels that not only meet his needs so he buys less electricity but the individual also receives monthly payments from a Pennsylvania utility for carbon credits.

Finney and Morgan were unable to address the issue of carbon credits but did have information about the environmental positives a Community Garden Solar array provides. Such a facility is capable of producing 443,000 kilowatt hours of electricity without pollution. A coal-powered generator has to burn 343,246 pounds of coal to do the same thing all the while releasing hydrocarbons



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press
Chrisman school board member Steve Lorenzen was honored at the April 11 board of education meeting. Lorenzen is retiring after 25 years serving as a school board member. He did not seek re-election in the recent election. Interim superintendent Jim Acklin, left, made the presentation.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press
Chrisman school board member Mark Wyatt, right, was recognized at his last board meeting, April 11. Wyatt completed two terms on the board serving for eight years and did not seek re-election for a third term. Interim superintendent Jim Acklin, left, made the presentation.

into the air and producing toxic coal ash residue as a leftover.

No action was taken but board members were intrigued by the possibilities presented to them.

In other parts of the meeting, board members were updated about the move toward one-to-one education for junior and senior high school students. This method provides each student with a personal computing device to use during the school day. Chrisman plans to supply the students with Chromebooks.

"As we move forward, we

have to think about the cost," said interim superintendent Jim Acklin. "We will need to replace 25 Chromebooks annually to establish a rotation. We continually have to cycle new computers in."

Acklin said the estimated expense of \$8,000 to purchase new Chromebooks each year is possible using the annual REAP grant. While it is not exactly a cost saving issue, one-to-one education eliminates the need to have a computer lab and keeping that equipment current.

Making the switch to one-

to-one does mean a large expenditure the first year but all of that is covered without the use of local tax dollars. The district received a \$103,000 grant from the Illinois State Board of Education to improve technology access in the junior high school. That grant was recently augmented with another \$7,000. REAP money and private donations are covering the expense for the high school.

The district's elementary

school is not part of the one-to-one switch, but Acklin said increased public awareness regarding technology needs in the district is already showing some benefits for the grade school.

"Some local people have expressed a willingness to help with the \$16,000 needed to get the elementary school set up for wireless Wi-Fi," said Acklin.

BID

FROM PAGE 1A

key word is responsible."

He acknowledged board members are faced with an enticing offer of not taxing for an ambulance service while claiming that is not a responsible action because the ECSSAA will close if the contract goes to Horizon Health. Allen, who is the Kansas Fire Chief, claimed the departure of ECSSAA will hurt all emergency response because Horizon

Health is not as well equipped as the present ambulance service. ECSSAA has five ambulances and two paramedic response vehicles based in Paris.

Allen presented official findings from an outside review critical of the hospital's emergency room response and suggested coupling ambulance service with the hospital is not keeping the best care of patients in mind.

"Please don't take ambulances out of this county," said Allen.

Special service area resident Dale Muchow also had reservations about the hospital assuming emergency response with its ambulances. He said currently Horizon Health has two ambulances that handle transfers from the hospital to other facilities and ECSSAA responds to emergency situations.

Muchow expressed concern situations may arise where both of the Horizon Health ambulances are out of town doing transfers and not available for emergency response.

The bid specifications require the ambulance organization providing service to have three ambulances, with a minimum of two ready to respond 24 hours and day, seven days a week with the third as a backup. A paramedic response vehicle is also required by the contract.

Horizon Health employees responded to the issues raised during public comment.

Samantha McCarty is the hospital's critical care unit manager and oversees the ambulance operation. She said the current business model for the Horizon Health ambulance is providing patient transfer, and winning the contract will require changing the business model to one where emergency response is the main responsibility. She add-

ed it may be necessary to temporarily contract with another ambulance to do transfers until such time as the Horizon Health ambulance can get fully reorganized.

Horizon Health CEO Olie Smith did not dispute the findings Allen left with county board members while stressing Paris Community Hospital was one of only two hospitals in Illinois recently honored by the Rural Healthcare Association. He stressed management at Horizon Health is not the same as in the past, noting the Horizon Health ambulance will operate under the same oversight and protocols from Carle Foundation Hospital as the ECSSAA currently does.

County board member Phil Ludington asked about Horizon Health's financial status.

"Are you so financially sound, you can turn down tax dollars?" asked Ludington.

Smith replied the hospital is Horizon Health's main service and having its own ambulances is a way the hospital can help the community.

"It's not just a matter of numbers anymore," said Smith. "We get graded on quality for Medicare reimbursements. If we can run the ambulance without taxes, that is better for the people."

Ludington expressed concern at some point, without tax underwriting, Horizon

Health might find it necessary to charge so much for an ambulance call it either becomes a financial burden for the patient or the hospital will again want to drop the service. The discussion that followed by the Horizon Health representatives and Eric Shaughnessy revealed an ambulance can not randomly set charges because run costs must be justified to Medicare and the insurance industry based on actual expenses.

Early in the discussion, Shaughnessy confirmed the ECSSAA will close if it does not get the contract and tax subsidy to help with operating expenses.

Ludington asked Smith if Horizon Health will keep its ambulances if ECSSAA gets the contract, and Smith said the hospital-based ambulances will remain in service regardless of the outcome.

"That (keeping both ambulance services in operation) seems the best service to residents," said Ludington.

"The option here is to give taxpayers a break," replied Smith.

County board member John Chittick questioned how much that tax break is likely to be. He said the tax liability for an average house in Paris is only \$25 annually to support the ambulance. The tax rate on farm ground is calculated

differently but is less than \$1 per acre, he said.

"As a farmer, I grumble about taxes, but I also know that farming is the second most dangerous occupation in the United States and if we get hurt we are in the most isolated areas," said Chittick.

Multiple other issues were raised during the discussion such as response time, what happens when people can't pay the ambulance bill and if Horizon Health will take a patient to another hospital if that person does not want to go to PCH.

It was confirmed the patient, with some exceptions, has the right to dictate which hospital is the destination. One exception is trauma cases where oversight protocols for ambulance and hospital care requires direct transportation to the nearest trauma center even if that bypasses a local hospital like PCH.

The U.S. is also divided into hospital areas and PCH is in the same hospital area as Union and Regional at Terre Haute, Ind., so a patient in Paris can direct the ambulance to any of those three facilities. A patient in Paris cannot be taken to Carle in Urbana on the initial response because Carle and Paris are not in the same hospital area. A subsequent transfer to Carle after initial treatment is another matter.

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Tigers fall to Olney

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

OLNEY — For the second consecutive day, the Paris Tiger baseball team lost on their opponent's final at bat.

This time, the pain was a little greater as they fell to Olney 5-3 in the opening game of the Little Illini Conference season. Paris falls to 7-10 on the year and 0-1 in the LIC while Olney improved to 7-5, and 3-0 in the conference.

With a steady 25 mph wind blowing in from left field, runs were at a premium for both teams. Paris wasted little time in scoring as Mason Hutchings lined a single off of the forearm of Olney's starting pitcher and reached on a single. He advanced on a wild pitch and scored on an RBI groundout from Caleb Gates.

In the top of the third inning with the score tied at one all, Jude Sullivan led off with a single to left. He advanced to third on a double by Brock Minor. Consecutive walks to Blayne Roberts and JT Johnson gave the Tigers a 2-1 lead. Neither team could score again until the bottom of the fifth inning.

The bottom of the fifth inning started out innocently enough as the lead-off batter drew a walk. Consecutive strikeouts by Gates had Olney in a two-out situation with a runner at second base. An error by the Tiger third baseman allowed the tying run to score. A single and a hit batsmen loaded the bases, with two outs again. This time, an error by the Paris shortstop allowed Olney to grab a 3-2 lead.

The Tigers were not through, however, as Hutchings and Sullivan led off with their second hits of the game to put runners at the corners with one out. Gates then drove in his second run of the game with a groundout to tie the score.

Like to the sixth inning, Paris recorded the first two outs of the inning in order. A pop-fly on the infield should have ended the inning but fell out of the glove of the Tigers' second baseman. The Olney batter hustled out of the box on the play and ended up at second as the ball traveled just 80 feet. Consecutive errors by the Tiger shortstop and third baseman led to a pair of runs to give the home team the winning margin.

Hutchings and Sullivan had a pair of singles each to lead the Tiger offense. Minor added a double and Bryan Kohlmeyer had a single. Gates did not record a hit but drove in a pair of runs on the day.

Tiger pitching was once again outstanding but was also let down by the team defense — the Tigers committed six errors in the contest. Minor started and went four strong innings. He allowed two runs on four hits. He walked two and struck out four. Gates was charged with the tough-luck loss as he went

See **TIGERS**, Page 12A

Brinkley gets PHS nod

2009 Paris alum to returns home to lead, rebuild Tiger boys basketball program

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

There is a new coach for the Paris Tiger boys basketball team for the first time in nine years — but it's a familiar face.

Chase Brinkley, a 2009 graduate of PHS, is returning home to guide the orange and black. His employment comes following the March resignation of Shawn Nugent last month after nine seasons at the helm for the Tigers.

While this will be Brinkley's first official head coaching position, the former all-conference player has gained plenty of experience at a couple different levels since his graduation.

Brinkley played for two years at Olney Central College for Coach Mike Burris. He earned the title of team captain and also garnered GRAC Academic All-Con-



Nancy Zeman/The Prairie Press

PHS girls basketball coach Dave Tingley, left, discusses a basketball workout with new Tiger boys head basketball coach Chase Brinkley Tuesday, April 9, at Paris High School. The young coach returns his hometown to coach the school where he played basketball for four years.

ference honors, as well as the conference Sportsmanship Award. From there, he

headed to the University of Illinois-Springfield where he played for two seasons. He

helped lead UIS to the post-season for the first time in its history during the 2011-12 season. At UIS, he graduated with a history major.

Upon graduation, Brinkley served as a student assistant at UIS. In that role, he handled everything from travel arrangements, to individual workouts, to monitoring player academic progress, to heading up several summer basketball camps during the summer.

While student teaching at Marshall High School, Brinkley served as an assistant to then head coach Tom Brannan. During the 2011 season, he was a volunteer assistant at Shiloh High School.

Brinkley then got the opportunity to work as an assistant to Todd Franklin at Vincennes University. Brinkley described Franklin's style as

"very structured, very disciplined. Players did it his way or they didn't play," he explained.

Brinkley got the opportunity to return to Olney Central College in 2016 as an assistant to his former coach. "He (Burris) is one of the best basketball minds that I've ever been around. We had one of the best two-year records (46-16) in the history of the school," the new Tiger coach noted.

With all of that experience at such the young age of 28, what attracted Brinkley to return to the high school ranks, let alone to his alma mater.

"Coaching in college seems like a glorious position, but it's tough," he said. "Not knowing where I would be the following year was really difficult."

See **BRINKLEY**, Page 10A

PHS SOFTBALL ON A 9 GAME WINNING STREAK



Michelle Jacobs/The Prairie Press

Lady Tiger Aubrey Sanders waits on her pitch Tuesday, April 9, at Georgetown-Ridge Farm. Paris defeated the Lady Buffaloes 14-2 as part of the team's current nine-game winning streak.

Lady Tigers are dominating

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
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OLNEY — The Paris Lady Tigers softball team continues its dominance through the early portion of the schedule as they opened Little Illini Conference play with a resounding 14-2 win at Olney Thursday, April 11.

Paris has now won nine consecutive games and sports a 13-1 overall record. The Lady Tigers are currently tied with Newton at the top of the LIC standings with identical 1-0 marks. Olney falls to 6-8 on the season and 1-2 in conference play.

Kaitlyn Mathews got the hit parade started as she led off the game with a single to center. Carlei Sapp then singled to the mound, but the first of five Olney errors allowing Mathews to score on the overthrow. Sapp came in to score on a pair of errors to give the Tigers a 2-0 lead.

Kelsey Dosch drew a one out walk to start the second inning. Brooklyn Westerfield was then hit by a pitch. With two on, Mathews singled for the second time in two at bats to bring home the third run of the game. Sapp bunted once again reaching on an error allowing both Westerfield and Mathews to score. Whitney Todd, who was injured a little later in the game and would not return, reached on a bunt bringing Sapp home with the sixth run. Following a single by Sydney Fox, Aubrey Sanders launched a three-



Michelle Jacobs/The Prairie Press

Kaitlyn Mathews (12) slides into second base just ahead of the ball during the Tuesday, April 10 non-conference game at Georgetown. The Lady Tigers won 14-2.

run homer that landed on the baseball field adjacent to the softball diamond. When the dust had settled, the Tigers led 8-0.

In the top of the fourth inning, Sara Burger led off with a single. Consecutive infield hits by Sanders and Katrina Strow loaded the bases with just one out. Kendall Mathews singled sharply to right field to plate Burger with the ninth run of the day. Five pitches later, Dosch launched a grand slam home run that landed in nearly the identical spot as Sanders' in the second inning. Kaitlyn Mathews continued the inning by tripling to centerfield, then scored on yet another bunt single by Sapp. Paris led by two touchdowns

14-0 heading into the home half of the fourth.

Kaitlyn Mathews continued her mind-blowing season at the plate as she was 3-for-4 with a triple and two singles. She is now batting an absurd .608 on the year. Dosch drove in four runs, including her fourth inning grand slam and a single. Sapp had two singles and drove in two. Sanders drove in a pair with her fourth round-tripper of the season. Todd, Burger, Strow and Kendall Mathews all added singles to round out the offense.

Karley Moore pitched another gem for the Tigers, going the distance in just 70 pitches. She allowed just two

See **PARIS**, Page 10A

Titans baseball find wins tough

BY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

BROADLANDS — It is tough being a Tri-County Titan baseball player. The team has not had a win for the 2019 season.

The team has been so close to getting their first win of 2019, but have unable to get over the hump. The Titans looked to finally push over that hump on Friday afternoon at Don Stampini Field in Broadlands for an LOVC Southeast match-up against the Villa Grove/Heritage Hawks.

The game started off well but the end — not so much as the Titans fell 18-5 in five innings.

In the top of the first, the Titans pushed across five runs off of Hawks starter Carson Howard as Blake Lee singled on the opening at-bat, then advanced to second on a Hawk error off a ball hit by Jack Armstrong to put runners at first and second. Lee then reached third on an error another Hawk error, then scored on a fielder's choice by Mitch Pollock to give TCT a 1-0 lead.

Two batters later, Lucas Bosch singled to center to score Pollock to make the score 2-0. After a Trenton Pinnell walk, Caleb Ard stepped up and hit a double to center scoring Bosch giving the Titans a 3-0 lead. Jacob Knofsky then doubled on the next at bat to score both Pinnell and Ard to make it 5-0 in favor of the Titans.

The Hawks then answered the call in the bottom of the frame with nine runs on 13 batters eventually tying the score at 5-5 then adding four more runs to make the score 9-5.

In the bottom of the second, the Hawks pushed three more runs across as to put VGH up 12-5. The scoring barrage continued

See **TITANS**, Page 11A



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BRINKLEY

FROM PAGE 9A

Not worrying about where he will be coaching is one advantage of the Paris job, he said. "I'm beyond excited to be given this opportunity and cannot thank the board of education and administration enough for their support," Brinkley observed. "It's nice to have the feeling that they (administration) have my back and that we both shared the same vision for where we want the program to get to."

One thing Brinkley will not bring to Paris is a particular style of play. The young coach considers player development to be paramount in building a program. "I'm huge on skill development. As a coach, I will help players identify areas that they need work on and we will make them better," he explained.

In discussing his offensive scheme, Brinkley said, "We

will fun what is best for that particular team and that may change from year to year. One thing I do promise is that we're going to play hard, play smart and play the game the right way."

While at PHS as a freshman and sophomore, Brinkley played for former Tiger star Josh Virostko. As an upper-classman, Brinkley played for Terry Elston, who was the first person he contacted when he heard the Paris job was open.

"Coach Elston was my first phone call. I wanted to get some guidance on how he got kids involved and helped grow the program during his time as the head coach," Brinkley said.

One thing Brinkley plans to do is attend the Paris City League games on Sundays and to help at the junior high level. He believes getting them involved and learning his terminology will only help ease the process once they reach the

high school level.

Paris High School athletic director Creighton Tarr is thrilled to bring Brinkley into the fold.

"We are excited to be bringing Coach Brinkley in as both a teacher and a coach," Tarr said. "Chase has had the experience of working at the high school level with Tom Brannan at Marshall, and also gaining experience with two very good programs in Vincennes and OCC. We are happy to have him home."

Brinkley will also be present at the high school every day during the school year as he will be one of the new physical education teachers.

While he still currently resides in Olney, Brinkley has already begun the "fun process" of finding a place to live here in Paris. He is the son of Paris residents Dick and Donna Brinkley.

PARIS

FROM PAGE 9A

runs — both unearned — on four hits while striking out eight.

Coach Jeremy Clodfelder was elated with the week that his squad completed.

"We had a really nice week playing three games on the road," the Tiger coach said. "Georgetown is ranked in the top 10 in the Champaign News Gazette so to beat them 14-2 was big for us."

The Tiger coach noted the Lady Tiger offense has "been really big for us so far up and down the lineup. However, our defense seems to be what we have improved the most at every position, to go along with great pitching."

Clodfelder praised the team's senior leadership that "has been really productive in terms of both culture as well as performance. Aubrey (Sanders) and Brooklyn (Westerfield) have been outstanding in their roles."

Today is a big day for the Lady Tigers as they host the Route 1 Showdown. Paris will play Robinson at 1 p.m. at the high school, while Marshall and Georgetown square off at Roberts Field at the same time. The losers from the first two games will face each other in the third place game at Roberts Field at 3 p.m., with the two winners playing for the championship at the high school at the same time.

Aubrey Sanders plated the first run of the game with an RBI single to center field. Fox came in to score on an error off the bat of Katrina Strow giving the Lady Tigers a 2-0 lead.

Both teams went quietly over the next two innings. Kaitlyn Mathews led off the top of the fourth with a single to left, Sapp reached on a bunt single and both came in to score on a triple off the bat of Whitney Todd. Fox hit the very next pitch up the middle for an RBI single. Sanders knocked in her second run of the game with a double to left. Strow singled on the next pitch and Kendall Mathews executed a perfect squeeze bunt to make it 7-0. Kaitlyn Mathews finished the rally off with an RBI single to left.

Leading the hit parade for Paris was Kaitlyn Mathews with four hits and an RBI. Sanders had a double, two singles, and two RBIs on the afternoon. Todd had a triple, a single and two runs batted in while Fox had a pair of hits and drove in one. Kendall Mathews drove in one with her two hits while Sapp, Strow and Brooklyn Westerfield each added a single.

Kaitlyn Mathews went seven strong innings, allowing just one run while scattering seven hits. She walked four and struck out five.

a single and she scored on yet another error. Sanders then ripped the first pitch that she saw over the left field fence to make it 14-2.

Kaitlyn Mathews and Sanders led the hit parade for Paris as each collected a two-run homer in the game. Sanders added an RBI single. Katrina Strow tripled, Fox had a pair of singles and drove in two and Todd added an RBI single of her own.

Karley Moore went the distance for Paris, allowing two runs — one earned — on six hits. She walked one and struck out eight in five innings.

PARIS WINS 2 IN TOURNEY

EFFINGHAM — The Paris Lady Tiger softball team continued their historic start to the season last Saturday, April 6, as they swept a pair of games in the Effingham St. Anthony Invitational Tournament.

Paris opened with a 9-4 victory over the host school, then capped off their day with a 19-4 drubbing of Okaw Valley.

In the opener, Paris scored in each of the first five innings of the game and cruised to victory. Kaitlyn Mathews doubled on the first pitch of the game but was forced out at third on a fielder's choice. Aubrey Sanders came through with a two-out single to give the Tigers their first run. Kendall Mathews led off the top of the second inning with a single, stole second and came in to score on an RBI single from her sister Kaitlyn.

Paris added five runs in the third inning, with the big blow being a three-run homer off the bat of Kaitlyn Mathews. Kelsie Dosch and Brooklyn Westerfield also had RBI singles in the inning.

Along with her big day at the plate, Kaitlyn Mathews earned the victory on the mound as she threw all seven innings. She allowed four runs — three earned — on seven hits. She walked two and struck out four.

She also helped herself at the plate as she was 3-for-4 with a single, double and home run to go along with four RBI's. Westerfield added three singles and an RBI. Dosch had a pair of hits and drove in one and Kendall Mathews, Carlei Sapp, Whitney Todd, Sydney Fox, Katrina Strow and Sanders each had a single.

In game two against Okaw Valley, the Lady Tigers plated 13 runs in the home half of the first, and added a pair of runs in each of the next three innings to earn the 19-4 win.

Four Lady Tigers homered in the contest — Sara Burger, Sydney Fox, Aubrey Sanders and Kendall Mathews. Kaitlyn Mathews had a triple and a single, Todd had a single and a pair of RBI's, Alex Winger had a triple and Westerfield added a base hit.

Sami Potter started for the Tigers and earned the victory. She went 3.1 innings, allowing four runs on nine hits. She walked one, hit two and struck out three. Burger finished the fourth inning and allowed just a walk.

PARIS 14, GTRF 2

GEORGETOWN — The Paris Lady Tigers took advantage of some wild pitching from the Georgetown-Ridge Farm Buffaloes Tuesday afternoon to earn a 14-2 victory in a non-conference affair.

Paris capitalized on nine walks, a hit batsman and five Buffalo errors to cruise to the win.

A dropped third strike and a walk put two Lady Tigers on base with just one out in the top of the first inning. Following a double-steal by Whitney Todd and Carlei Sapp, Sydney Fox singled to bring the pair home. Aubrey Sanders followed that up with a single of her own to plate Fox and give the Tigers a 3-0 lead.

PARIS 8, RIVERTON PARKE 1

MONTEZUMA, Ind. — It does not matter which state the Lady Tigers play in at the moment — they just continue to win.

Paris ran their winning streak to eight games on Wednesday afternoon with an 8-1 victory over the Riverton-Parke Lady Panthers.

Paris pounded out 16 hits in the contest, wasting little time in lighting up the scoreboard. Carlei Sapp drew a one-out walk and advanced on a single by Sydney Fox.

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TITANS
FROM PAGE 9A

in the bottom of the third with four more runs to put the Hawks up 16-5.

In the bottom of the fourth, The Hawks put up two more runs in the bottom of the fourth to bring about the final score of 18-5.

After the first inning scoring, the Titans were then shut down the final four innings unable to scratch across another run sealing the thirteen run win for the Hawks.

Caleb Ard went 1 for 2 with a double, a run scored, and an RBI for the Titans while Jacob Knofsky was 1 for 1 with a double and two RBI. Mitch Pollock added a run scored and an RBI and Lucas Bosch went 1 for 3 with a run scored and an RBI. Blake Lee was 2 for 3 with two runs scored.

Trenton Pinnell pitched to only fourteen batters in the first inning without recording an out taking the loss giving up three hits and four runs — all earned — while walking one. Jack Armstrong went two innings in relief giving up six hits and eight runs — all earned — while walking three and striking out six. Carson Logan faced 10 batters without recording an out while giving up three hits and four runs — all earned. Blake Lee went the final two innings in relief giving up five hits and two runs — both earned — walking one and striking out three.

The Titans (0-11, 0-4 LOVC Southeast) will head south to face the Martinsville Blue Streaks in an LOVC Southeast Division doubleheader Wednesday. First pitch is set for 4:30 p.m.

CASEY-WESTFIELD 6, TRI-COUNTY 5

CASEY — It took an extra inning to determine a winner between the Tri-County Titans and the Casey-Westfield Warriors — and TCT came up on the short end of the score again 6-5.

TCT got off to a strong start with three runs in the top of the first getting the bases loaded with one out and Mitch Pollock hit a single to score Kenzal Lloyd to make the score 1-0. Trenton Pinnell was the next batter and he hit a grounder to third that was mishandled by Warriors third baseman. Jack Armstrong scored on the error putting the Titans up 2-0. Two batters later, Carson Logan scored on a passed ball putting

Tri-County up 3-0.

The Warriors got on the board in the bottom of the second with two runs and took over the lead in the fourth inning. A Greg Reese single for Tri-County in the top of the fifth scored Lloyd and tied the game at 4-4, but Casey-Westfield pulled ahead by one in the bottom of the fifth

TCT continued the back and forth scoring when Anthony Jones singled to drive-in Jacob Knofsky to tie the game once again at 5-5. That score held for the remainder of the seven-inning regulation play and pushed the contest to extra innings.

The Titans failed to score in the top of the eighth, but the Warriors did concluding the game at 6-5.

Tri-County player Anthony Jones was 2 for 4 with a stolen base and an RBI. Greg Reese was 1 for 2 with an RBI. Mitch Pollock was 1 for 4 with a stolen base and an RBI and Kenzal Lloyd was 1 for 5 with two runs scored.

Pollock went four and one-third innings on the mound taking the loss giving up seven hits and two runs - one earned - while striking out three. Reese pitched the final three innings in relief giving up three hits and four runs - three earned - while striking out three.

CUMBERLAND 13, TRI-COUNTY 3

Cumberland took advantage of some Titan miscues in the field and used some heavy bats to carve out a 13-3 win via run rule in five innings putting the Titans back to the drawing board.

The Pirates got on the scoreboard first in the top of the first, but Mitch Pollock's homer for Tri-County in the bottom of the first closed that inning 1-1.

Cumberland scored big the next inning and grabbed an 8-1 lead over Tri-County. Pollock and Jack Armstrong each scored a point for Tri-County for an 8-3 score.

Home runs and other scores by Cumberland through the rest of the game pushed the final score to 13-3.

Pollock lead the Titans at 2 for 3 with a double, a home run, two runs scored. Caleb Ard was 1 for 3 with a run scored and an RBI. Jack Armstrong was 1 for 2 with a stolen base and a run scored in the loss.

Ard went three innings taking the loss in the start giving up four hits and nine runs - all of them unearned - while walking four. Jacob

Knofsky threw one inning in relief giving up three hits and four runs - all earned - while striking out two. Carson Logan pitched the final inning in relief without giving up a hit or run.

PAL/HUT 7, TRI-COUNTY 6

It was another close game, and another heart-breaking result.

Tri-County started strong with a 5-1 lead, but a costly defensive miscue in the bottom of the seventh inning helped the Tigers score the game-winning run in walk-off fashion taking a come-from-behind 7-6 win.

Solid play started in the first inning when Jack Armstrong hit a double scoring Kenzal Lloyd all the way from first base to give the Titans a 1-0 lead. Greg Reese was the next batter and his single drove Armstrong home for a 2-0 lead.

In the top of the third, the Titans struck again plating three runs in the frame and Jacob Knofsky walked with the bases loaded scoring Armstrong to lift the lead back to two runs at 3-1. Trenton Pinnell singled with the bases loaded scoring Mitch Pollock, and Blake Lee was hit by a pitch, scoring Knofsky and Tri-County had a commanding 5-1 lead.

The sixth inning belonged to the Tigers with five runs scored and a 6-5 lead going into the seventh.

Seventh inning play saw Lloyd hit a single with one out and two runners on to score Ard to tie the game at 6-6. With a tie, play went into another inning. The Titans did not score in the top of the eighth, but the Tigers did when Tri-County's Lee bobbled a pop-up by one of the Hutsonville/Palestine players.

Jack Armstrong finished 1 for 3 with a double, two runs scored and a RBI. Kenzal Lloyd was 2 for 4 with a run scored and an RBI.

Armstrong went two innings in relief giving up three hits and two runs - both earned - while walking two and striking out two. Caleb Ard went five innings in the start getting a no decision giving up two hits and four runs - one earned - while walking three and striking out six. Trenton Pinnell pitched two-thirds of an inning in relief getting the loss giving up two hits and one unearned run while walking one and striking out one.

OBLONG 7, TRI-COUNTY 3

Both teams came out fighting and it took a late

push by the visiting Panthers in the top of the seventh to pull away for a 7-3 win.

After a scoreless first two innings, the Panthers got scoring started in the top of the third. Tri-County responded when the team came to bat with Trenton Pinnell doubled, Blake Lee was hit by a pitch and Kenzal Lee's single loaded the bases. Pinnell took advantage of a wild pitch by Oblong to close the inning 2-1.

The fourth inning was another big scoring block for Oblong with the Panthers earning three runs.

In the bottom of the frame, the Titans kept fighting. Jacob Knofsky started the rally with a single. Caleb Ard singled with Knofsky going to third on the hit. After a walk by Pinnell to put the bases loaded, Lee was hit for the second by a pitch scoring Knofsky from third to cut the deficit to 5-2. Lloyd walked at the very next at-bat scoring Ard to make the score 5-3.

Oblong went back up 7-3 in the seventh inning, and that is where the game concluded.

Trenton Pinnell finished up 1 for 1 with a double and a run scored. Kenzal Lloyd was 1 for 2 with an RBI. Caleb Ard went 1 for 3 with a run scored and the duo of Mitch Pollock and Jacob Knofsky went 1 for 4 with Knofsky adding a run scored. Blake Lee chipped in an RBI in the loss.

Pinnell went two and one-third innings taking the loss giving up three hits and two runs - one earned - while walking three and striking out three. Armstrong went four innings in relief giving up five hits and five runs - all earned - while walking three and striking out five. Knofsky went the final two-thirds of an inning in relief walking one and striking out one.

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TIGERS

FROM PAGE 9A

two innings, allowing three unearned runs. He gave up two hits and struck out four.

The Tigers will travel to North Central in Farmersburg, Ind., today for a single game beginning at 10 a.m.

RIVERTON-PARKE 7, PARIS 5

MONTEZUMA, Ind. — Facing their third consecutive Indiana team, the Paris Tigers lost fell on three-run home run in the bottom of the seventh inning to Riverton-Parke

Wednesday, April 10.

Wednesday's game marks the fifth time this season that the Tigers have lost a game in their opponent's final at-bat.

Paris grabbed the early lead as JT Johnson led off the top of the second with a walk, followed by an infield single from Bryan Kohlmeyer. With two outs, Mason Hutchings singled to center bringing home the first run of the game. The second run of the inning came when the Riverton-Parke third baseman could not handle a pop fly off the bat of Jude Sullivan.

The Tigers added three more in the third inning as Brock Minor walked, Blayne Roberts singled and Johnson drew his second consecutive walk. Minor scored on a wild pitch. Kohlmeyer laid down a sacrifice bunt to put runners at second and third with one out. Garrett King walked to load the bases, then Roberts scored on a passed ball to make the score 5-1.

Riverton-Parke scored three runs of their own in the bottom of the third to draw within one, 5-4. They added another run in the fifth to tie things up at five all. The Tigers had just one baserunner over the final three innings — a theme that has plagued them all season.

The home team got the lead-off man aboard with a single, moving to second on a sacrifice bunt forcing coach Creighton Tarr to intentionally walk the Panthers' number three hitter to set up a double play situation. That was not to be as the cleanup hitter launched a walk-off three-run shot to left field to end the game.

Minor had a double and a single to lead the Tigers' offense. Hutchings had a pair of singles and an RBI; Roberts and Kohlmeyer had the only other hits for the Tigers, who were out-hit 11-6 on the day.

Freshman Zach Farnham started for the Tigers and went three innings. He allowed four runs — three earned — on four hits. He walked one and struck out two. Mitchell Worrell was charged with the loss as he went 3.1 innings allowing

four runs on seven hits. He walked one and struck out three.

PARIS DROPS 2 AT WEST VIGO

WEST TERRE HAUTE, Ind. — The Paris Tiger baseball team has never shied away from facing tough competition. They faced two of the top teams in Indiana Saturday, April 6.

In the opening game, the Tigers (7-8) fell to the host West Vigo Vikings by the score of 12-5. The Vikings scored 10 runs in the first three innings and held off the Tigers the rest of the way. Paris outscored West Vigo 5-2 over the final five innings.

Paris mustered just three hits on the day as Sullivan, Worrell, and Martin each had a single.

In the second game Paris faced a highly-ranked Edgewood team falling by the score of 14-4 in six innings. The Mustangs feature one of the highest ranked outfielders in the country in Ethan Vercumba who has committed to Indiana University.

Gates led the way offensively with a pair of doubles and a single. Roberts had a double and an RBI; and Hutchings and Sullivan added a single each.

Brock Minor went four innings and was charged with the loss. He allowed 11 runs on 11 hits. He walked one, hit three batters, and struck out four.



Michelle Jacobs/The Prairie Press

Two signup dates for the 2019 Paris Tiger Youth football teams have been set by the board of directors of the Paris program. Signup for fourth through eighth graders is scheduled from 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 24 and 9-10 a.m. Saturday, April 27 at Allen Field.

Paris Tiger JFL sets 2019 signups

BY NANCY ZEMAN

nzeman@prairiepress.net

The Paris Tiger Youth Football program — coming off a championship season in 2018 — has set signups for the 2019 season.

Sign ups for incoming fourth through eighth graders are scheduled for Wednesday, April 24th 6-7 p.m. and Saturday, April 27th from 9-10 a.m. Sign ups will be held at John P. Allen Football Field and cost \$50 per player.

The JFL seventh and eighth grade Tigers were champions of the 2018 Wabash Valley

Youth Football League.

Player safety is a top priority of the Paris JFL program, according to Chip Keys, who is vice-president of the Paris JFL board and president of the WVYFL. eAll coaches are certified through USA Football's Youth Tackle Certification.

The Paris Youth Football program is also leading the Wabash Valley Youth Football League in requiring all players to have a baseline concussion screening before participating in the upcoming 2019 season. One of the goals of the Paris program this season is to have an athletic trainer at all home games to reduce game day injuries and increase their standards for safety.

Coaches for the fifth and sixth grade team are Chip Keys, Steve Branch, Jordan Keys, Caleb Keys, Jim Roush, Terry Rogers, Brent Bishop and Shannon Quinn.

Junior high coaches are Jeff Arp, Matt Wright, Keith Huffman, Mike Curl, Michael Mattingly, David Hamilton and Paul Ricketts.

Jeff Moody is president of the Paris JFL board. Sheila Keys is secretary and Beth Keys is treasurer.



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Lower T hijinks

Almost everyone has heard the old saying, "Dynamite comes in small packages." One



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of these packages is Myrna Jo. She's a retiree in her golden years now. How I wish I could have grown up with her. She would have been

a never-ending source of fun, ornery as the day is long. Not criminal. Not mean. Just a prankster and full of laughs.

Her parents lived near the Lower-T, one of Edgar County's landmark roads. It's crooked like a snake. Give it a few more years for new homes to be added, and it might incorporate as a town. It might be named Stringtown, or maybe Winding Snake, or of course, Lower-T. Either that or be joined with Paris, making Paris a city on the map with a 12-mile-long kite tail all the way to the Indiana line. Right now, though, it has a rural feel. Croplands and pastures provide spaces between homes.

Far more buzzards are sighted on it than people. These big alert birds feast on roadkill, y'know. The Lower-T buzzards are among the best-fed scavengers in Illinois. Some are so fat and overweight, they struggle to rise from the surface to soar in the air currents.

Well, once upon a time, the Lower-T was a gravel road, believe it or not, muddy in the winter and spring, dusty in the summer. Myrna Jo remembers work crews paving it with asphalt when she was a young teen. The road became a boon to the county's transportation network, as well as a huge benefit to the buzzard population, since it increased the speed of automobiles, which in turn caused a significant roadkill growth.

Myrna Jo is a cute little old lady today. Therefore I'm certain she must've been a real doll in her teens before eventually starting to gray a little bit around the edges. She says she was part of a group of girls - six perhaps - who liked to run around together on weekends. The Lower-T in those days featured the new asphalt surface. Along with that came several newly constructed ditches to improve drainage.

Said Myrna Jo, "We girls had great fun hiding in the ditches at night. My friend Nattie had a mom who accumulated a closet full of purses. Nattie would swipe - excuse me, borrow - one of them. We'd tie a string on it and place it at road's edge. Pretty soon a car would come zipping along. The headlights would illuminate the purse. Most often the car's rear lights lit bright red as the brakes were applied. The driver would back up to search for the purse, but, of course, we had jerked the string. The purse had vanished. Sometimes there would be an extra person or two in the car. We could hear commands for the driver to back up a little more. Someone would request the headlights to shine in a certain area because they knew they saw the purse.

See CODGER, Page 2B



Danny Briseno/The Prairie Press

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BY DANNY BRISENO
dnl.briseno@gmail.com

Thinking back to childhood and straight into adulthood the coming of warm weather meant one thing - the return of the cookout.

Grilling is an American tradition as families and friends all across the country gather at a location of choice and partake in some fine food cooked on the grill as well as some tasty beverages. No matter the food or drink that is prepared and shared one thing is for sure, and that is a good time is had by all.

As an adult I believe most men and some women will say they are the best cook when it comes to grilling out and their way of grilling is the only way. I am here to set things straight. There is no wrong way to grill if the end result is what the cook set out to create.

When it comes to grilling food there are a number of steps one has to follow before the cooking begins. The first question confronting those new to grilling is what kind of grill to use with such options as charcoal, gas or wood-fired grills. The choice of grill is left up to the one who will use the equipment the most. Everyone has an opinion but there is no wrong choice since this is a matter of preference. Personally, I will choose a wood-fired grill whenever one is available.

For today's column, I am using the gas grill my wife bought me for my birthday.

Once the grill is chosen, it is time to select the food. Everything from fruit and vegetables to steak and seafood can be prepared on the grill, and pizza has experienced a surge in popularity for being cooked on the grill in the last few years.

In my opinion, there is nothing better than a fat, juicy rib-eye steak cooked medium rare, a nice side of grilled asparagus and a refreshing mojito to wash it all down. My mouth is watering just typing this out.

After deciding on the cut of meat for grilling, it is time to consider seasonings. People everywhere have their own ideas including everything from ancient family recipes to just a good old dose of Montreal Steak Seasoning. I go a different direction with a preference for just a little salt and pepper.

The first thing I do is pull the steaks from the package and let them sit out and bring them up to room temperature. I then fire up the grill. Once the grill is up to temperature and clean, I salt and pepper my steaks and gently lay them on the grill.

After about two minutes, I lift the steak from the grill and turn it approximately 20 degrees and sit it back on the grilling surface in hopes to see those magical grilling cross

marks when I flip it. I let the steak cook about another two minutes after turning and then I flip it over and repeat the cooking process. I prefer my steaks medium rare where others eat them well done so cook times will vary.

Once the steak is cooked to my likeness I remove it and let it rest. Do not cut into the steak too soon because that lets all the liquid goodness run out all over the platter.

Let's talk about the side dish. Grilled asparagus can be a tricky vegetable to cook on the grill. Asparagus burns if the heat is too high, but if it is too low, the cook will be there to see Rumpelstiltskin wake up before they finish. When prepared correctly asparagus stalks become salty crispy bursts of delightfulness to the taste buds.

To prepare asparagus melt about a half-pound of unsalted butter. I add some coarse salt to the melted butter. I then place the asparagus onto the grill and let them start to cook. After a few minutes, I roll them around and baste them with my butter and salt mixture. I continue moving the asparagus around the grill and basting them until the desired softness is achieved. I like them with just a little snap left.

To finish I like to sip on a clean, refreshing mojito while eating my grilled steak and asparagus. The combination of food and drink really does not matter. The real importance here is the bonds made between family and friends while enjoying themselves through the warm days of the year by gathering for one of America's truly great pastimes, the cookout.

RIB-EYE STEAK

- 2 1-inch thick rib-eye steaks
- Salt and pepper or other seasoning

Prepare and start the grill.

Once the grill has reached the desired temperature, season the steaks and gently place them on the grilling surface.

After two to three minutes pick up the steaks and turn them about 20 degrees and sit them back onto the grilling surface. Give them about two to three minutes before flipping the steaks over. Let the steak continue

to cook for another two to three minutes, lift the steaks and turn them 20 degrees and sit them back down. After about another three minutes touch the steaks and if the feel about like touching the end of the nose they are around medium rare. This is where I pull my steaks and let them rest. Those who like well done steaks should continue to flip every couple of minutes to avoid burning until the steaks feels like the consistency of touching the forehead.

Let the steaks rest about five minutes before slicing.

GRILLED ASPARAGUS

- A bunch of fresh asparagus
- ½ pound of unsalted butter, melted
- 2 teaspoons of coarse salt

Mix salt into melted butter

Place asparagus on hot grill. As the asparagus starts to cook baste with butter mixture. Every couple of minutes roll the asparagus around and baste. Continue to do so until the desired doneness is reached. Remove from heat and plate with your steak.

MOJITO

- ½ lime cut into 4 wedges
- 1 ½ ounces of white rum, brand is a personal preference
- 10 fresh mint leaves
- 2 tablespoons of white sugar (more for those who like a sweeter drink)
- ½ cup of club soda
- 1 cup of ice

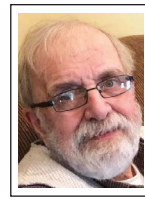
Place mint leaves and 1 lime wedge into a glass. Crush the mint and lime to release the mint oils and lime juice. Add 2 more lime wedges and the sugar, and muddle to release the lime juice. Do not strain the mixture. Fill the glass almost to the top with ice. Pour the

rum over the ice, and fill the glass with carbonated water. Stir, taste and add more sugar if desired. Garnish with the remaining lime wedge.



It's time to gripe

Happy day, huh? Read on and after reading this column you might throw yourself off the roof. Maybe, even jump off a cliff, or do yourself in with a wet spoon.



HARRY REYNOLDS
ANOTHER LOOK

Several days ago, I was washing my hands in the men's restroom

at a restaurant when a guy emerged from a stall and dashed out. Of course, he pulled the door handle, thus depositing germs, which being germs, were eager, in their little germ way to infect someone else.

On several occasions, I have been tempted to say, "What the hell is wrong with you? Didn't your mom make you wash your hands?" That, shall I do, when the offender is at least 90 years old, walks with a crutch, and weighs no more than 100 pounds.

No luck, so far. For some reason people who are the least able to wash their hands, wash their hands. And one can forgive someone with Alzheimer's, or swamped in dementia.

For most of us, the act of washing our hands finds no difficulty using soap, while rubbing them vigorously with hot water. We use paper towels, or dry our mitts under a blower.

Do not get me wrong. I am not a never-bend-the-rules guy. Being American of not-distant Irish descent, I am mercurial, stubborn and pugnacious - and heartedly hostile to group think, authoritarianism and some bureaucrats.

Most readers are quite cognizant of the fact that America is the land of flash research, which rarely finds anything good to eat or drink; and resolutely committed to finding things wrong with things people like.

I draw the line at the latest flash research on alcohol, sugary drinks, coffee, trans-fat foods and lollipops. They can all kill you, the experts proclaim. And, of course, having just eaten a greasy hamburger, even greasier fries, downed with a supersized soft drink, you will die.

The question is how long will demise take - minutes, hours, days, months or years? Recently, I read about a 108-year-old woman, in perfect health, who has bacon, eggs, fried potatoes and toast slathered with real butter for breakfast.

We all have bad habits. One can become possessed by some, to the point at which the threat of death comes calling, and we toss aside our foibles in favor of staying above ground as long as possible.

The flash research on alcohol, conducted by the Women's Temperance Union, found that one drink of alcohol can ruin your health. Were that the case, the hospitals and funeral homes would be groaning with business.

See REYNOLDS, Page 2B

Thomas Jefferson left a legacy of education, science, invention

This week the University of Virginia won the national basketball championship. Founded in 1819, the university is celebrating both a national championship and a bicentennial.

University of Virginia is acclaimed for its business school, engineering programs, law school and school of medicine. Insiders refer to it as Mr. Jefferson's University, because it was founded by our third president, Thomas Jefferson. He was as gifted a scientist as he was a statesman.

April 13 happens to be Jefferson's birthday. Born in 1743, he was 76 years old when he established UVA. It was one of his last great contributions

before he died in 1826.

Living his early years on the frontier he developed a keen interest in nature and adventure. He credited his father with pushing him early in his studies that included English, Latin, French and the sciences. At the age of 17, Jefferson started at William and Mary where he spent seven years studying the classics, the sciences and finally law.

His belief in the value of education helped form the American system of free public education for all. In Jefferson's scheme, primary schools were to be free to both boys and girls, and the best male students were supposed to attend the university at public

expense.

Jefferson said if choosing between primary and university he chose the former because



TERRY SULLIVAN
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

it is safer to have a whole people enlightened than a few in a high state of science and the many in ignorance. Horace Mann built on Jefferson's work

with the Common School Movement.

Jefferson was only 14 when his father died. The boy inherited 5,000 acres including the location for Monticello, his

future home, and a few dozen slaves. He also inherited the family library.

He started building Monticello and at the age of 29 and married the young widow Martha Wayles. She helped him with Monticello but was never first lady, because she died only 10 years after the marriage. Jefferson never remarried. His losses of family pushed him into a life of solitude that was prone to depression.

After the loss of his wife, Jefferson accepted a position as the American ambassador to France. He immersed himself in the French culture and that nation's thriving science community. He witnessed

the beginning of the French Revolution during his four years from 1785-1789. He was there when the metric system was adopted and later he applied base ten to the U.S. currency system making all money multiples of 1, 5 or 10.

Jefferson returned in 1789 just as the Constitution was ratified. He is responsible for the Bill of Rights contained in the first Ten Amendments. He stayed active in government, but more so in science. He was elected John Adam's vice president in 1797 and that same week he presented a formal research paper on paleontology to the American Philosophical Society.

The American Philosophi-

cal Society (equivalent to our National Science Academy) made Jefferson its president. He called it, "the most flattering incident," of his life, even though he had also just been elected vice president of the United States. Jefferson served as president of the society for two decades.

Jefferson believed agriculture was the most important science and helped invent modern agriculture science. He re-engineered the plow, which had changed little in 3,000 years since the Sumerians.

For most of history, the plow was just a stick used to gouge and break soil. Jefferson

See SULLIVAN, Page 2B

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MILESTONES

Wheat celebrates 70th birthday



SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Jeanie Wheat, Paris, is celebrating her 70th birthday with an open house 2-6 p.m. April 20 at Step Station. The event is being hosted by her husband of 21 years, Gary Wheat.

A 1967 Paris High School graduate, Jeanie Wheat worked in customer service her entire career. She recently retired after 29 years of service with Edward Jones. Prior to that, Wheat was a customer service representative at the K-Mart service desk for 10 years. She also owned and operated her own beauty shop, Jeanie's Hair Fashion.

Wheat volunteered for 15 years for the American Red Cross where she provided service to military families. She has one son, Michael Hudson of Effingham.

The family invites people to visit with Wheat at the open house.

Summer, Fall 2019 at DACC

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

DANVILLE — Registration for summer and fall classes at Danville Area Community College is in progress now.

Early Summer term is May 20-June 7 and Regular Summer session is June 10-July 26. The Fall 2019 term begins August 19.

Wednesdays are walk-in appointments for Advisement & Counseling. Also on Wednesdays during the month of April the Admission/Registration and Advisement & Counseling has extended hours of 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

For more information visit DACC's Admissions/Registration or Advisement & Counseling offices, call 217-443-3222 (DACC) or checkout out the course schedules at www.dacc.edu/schedules.

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ROTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Paris Rotary Club's students of the month for March at Paris High School are Austin Ricketts, left, and Aubrey Sanders, right. Kim Stewart, Rotary Scholarship chair, is in the center.

Special to The Prairie Press

DAR RECIPIENTS



The Walter Burdick Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution announced DAR Good Citizen Recipients for the 2018-2019 school year during a March 18 program at Harlan Hall, Marshall. Left to right, Mallory Price from Martinsville High School, Ashlyn Jones from Casey-Westfield High School, Bailey Aitken from Paris High School and chapter regent Vicki Zink. Marshall High School winner Chelsea McGee was unable to attend the presentation.

Special to The Prairie Press

NEW AT THE LIBRARY

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The following items were among those added to the Paris Public Library collection:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>FICTION</p> <p>The Irishman's Daughter – V.S. Alexander</p> <p>The Liar's Child – Carla Buckley</p> <p>Broken Bone China – Laura Childs</p> <p>Run Away – Harlan Coben</p> <p>Stroke of Luck – B.J. Daniels</p> <p>What Doesn't Kill Her – Christina Dodd</p> <p>Murder at the Palace – Margare</p> | <p>ret Dumas</p> <p>Never Tell (large print) – Lisa Gardner</p> <p>American Duchess – Karen Harper</p> <p>War Valley – Lancaster Hill</p> <p>Cemetery Road – Greg Iles</p> <p>Dead as a Door Knocker – Diane Kelly</p> <p>Low Country Hero – Lee Tobin McClain</p> <p>California Girls (+ large print) – Susan Mallery</p> <p>The Perfect Alibi – Phillip Margolin</p> <p>Wicked River – Jenny Milch-</p> |
|---|---|

COWL scholarship awards

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD – The Conference of Women Legislators (COWL), a bipartisan, bicameral, nonprofit organization of women legislators in the Illinois General Assembly, has announced the 2019-2020 Scholarship Award Program.

Applications must be post-marked or emailed by April 30 for this scholarship program that endeavors to assist Illinois women, 25 years or older, who are seeking to earn undergraduate college degrees. Each scholarship is \$2,500.

Scholarship applicants are required to enroll in an Illinois accredited college or university for a minimum of six credit hours to qualify, making the scholarships available to part-time and online students.

Awardees will be notified by May 31. All scholarship materials may be downloaded at www.cowlil.com.

HEALTH 360


An Adult Wellness Fair

Health is more than what's provided within hospital walls. That's why we are offering a **FREE** wellness fair that includes a range of health education, screenings, and community resources.

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 **HORIZON HEALTH**

CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

they saw the purse. Meanwhile, concealed neatly down in the ditch, we laughed ourselves silly.”

One night Nattie's mom searched for a particular purse in her closet, only to conclude it was missing. She asked direct questions, but her daughter gave elusive

answers. Eventually, she learned the truth. The girls were slow to jerk the purse from the road. A motorist tossed it into the car, string and all, and drove away with the discovery. The mother didn't see the humor in the prank like the girls did. In fact, her angry scolding effectively put an end to the project.

Girls are rarely suspected

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REYNOLDS

FROM PAGE 1B

Being a religious man, I want to take the elevator up, but having done some things wrong (being human), my destination is far from certain.

My idea of heaven does not conjure so much angels eternally singing, as it does a local bar featuring 16 brands of beer, and a variety of whiskey, vodka (despite the fact that I hate Russians), rum, gin, brandy and tequila (I like Mexicans).

Wonder if the big guy will pick up the tab?

(Harry Reynolds is a retired editor and columnist from the Mattoon Journal Gazette and Charleston Time-Courier. He recently started writing occasional columns for the fun of it, in which he offers a different look at life and aging. Email him at reynolds-harry1943@gmail.com)

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The mission to kidnap Hitler's scientists

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

One of the Allies' greatest fears during World War II was that Adolf Hitler and his Nazi forces would unleash so-called Wunderwaffen, or wonder weapons. Most concerning was the possibility the Germans would manufacture an atomic bomb.

At the outset of World War II, Germany far outpaced other countries in atomic research. In 1938, German scientists discovered nuclear fission. The Germans had even organized a special scientific unit headed by quantum physicist Werner Karl Heisenberg to develop an atomic weapon, amassing stockpiles of uranium for the effort.

To learn the truth, the Americans organized a covert special-ops unit in 1943, tasked with discovering Nazi nuclear secrets and capturing their top scientists. Code-named the Alsos Mission, and nicknamed "Lightning A," the unit consisted of a small force of scientists and counterintelligence troops, headed by Colonel Boris T. Pash. A counterintelligence officer who had run security for America's own nuclear-weapons efforts, the Manhattan Project, Pash had uncovered a ring of communist spies trying to steal U.S. nuclear secrets.

Pash and his team initially followed the Allies onto the front lines of Italy and France, interrogating scientists and capturing research. These efforts led American intelligence to conclude that Germany likely did not have the capability to develop a nuclear weapon. But they didn't have proof, and the Americans were anxious that German nuclear research and scientists not fall into Soviet hands.

To prevent that from happening, Pash led Lightning A on its most dangerous and audacious operation yet: across enemy lines and into Germany.

When Pash's small force entered enemy territory on April 22, 1945, on a mission code-named "Operation Big," they were protected only by two armored cars, four Jeeps fitted with machine-gun mounts and a cache of captured German weapons. Even as the Nazi regime was collapsing, the unit faced threats from resisting military units and so-called Wehrwulf, or Werewolf bands of diehard Nazi youths.

Working ahead of advancing Allied armies, Lightning A scoured the countryside, heading southward to the town of Haigerloch. Fortunately for Pash, the Germans in the town, believing the war would soon be over, surrendered by hanging white sheets from windows and poles.

In a cave not far from Haigerloch, Pash found the prize: a Nazi nuclear laboratory complete with a test reactor. The Americans began dismantling it the next day and then destroyed the site.

Pash divided his team in an effort to hunt down the German scientists who had gone into hiding. One Lightning A unit rolled into Tailfingen, barely escaping an attack by a Wehrwulf band.

The other descended on Bisingen, where despite being attacked by locals, they subdued the town.

Operation Big ended, but See **MISSION**, Page 4B

Joy and grief on Easter, 1865

Religious holidays of that year brought Lee's surrender, Lincoln's death in succession

BY TOM EMERY
licivilwar@yahoo.com

Holy Week is a reflective time for people of many faiths, and Palm Sunday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday are marked by tens of millions around the world. Holy Week in 1865 was a defining period in American history.

On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865, General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse, signaling the death knell for the Confederate cause that wilted away in the coming weeks. Five days later on Good Friday, President Abraham Lincoln was mortally wounded in his box at Ford's Theater by assassin John Wilkes Booth. Lincoln died the next morning after being carried across the street

to the Peterson House.

The timing of Lincoln's death has drawn parallels to Christ. It has been claimed only Christ has been the subject of more books than the 16th president. The extent of Lincoln's Christian devotion has been one of the most intensely debated topics among Lincoln scholars for decades.

Lincoln's Christianity — or lack thereof — was an issue in his successful 1846 Congressional race against Methodist minister, the Rev. Peter Cartwright. His own law partner, William Herndon, even declared Lincoln was an infidel. Many of Herndon's various claims about Lincoln have since been debunked.

It is accepted by many writers that Lincoln underwent a religious transformation after the death of his second son,

four-year-old Eddie, in 1850. Still, Lincoln was never an official member of any church in his lifetime.

Clearly, however, Lincoln was a believer. His words are peppered with Christian phrases and alliterations, and some of his greatest orations, such as the Gettysburg Address and his Second Inaugural address, have been cited by scholars for their religious references.

On the opposite side were men like Lee, a deeply religious individual who frequently credited his military successes and setbacks to a higher power. His reports and verbal declarations often contained references to "a merciful God," "the blessings of God" and "the Giver."

Lee biographer Michael Fellman wrote in 2000 the

general, "transparently and warmly believed in the existence of a literal heaven, a far better place to which all Christians would go," and that, "death was no void but a permanent home."

As Lee was about to ride to Appomattox Courthouse for the surrender on Palm Sunday, he told a subordinate, "as good Christian men...we must consider only the effect which our action (to continue or surrender) will have upon the country at large."

Lee's devotion was reflective of the period, as Christianity was a greater part of life for many 19th century Americans than U.S. citizens today. Though less than half of Americans were members of a church in that era, as many as four out of five attended services regularly. Christian

phrases and prose were also common in writing and everyday vernacular.

The evening of Maundy Thursday, April 13, was remembered for the grand illumination of candles and lanterns in nearly every house and business in Washington. The illumination was less for religious observance and more as part of a day-long city holiday celebrating the Union victory. The New York Times described the spectacle as, "general and brilliant, utterly beyond anything ever before attempted here."

Two days before, on April 11, Lincoln delivered a speech by candlelight from a second-story White House window. In that appearance, he laid the groundwork for African-American citizenship — See **EASTER**, Page 4B

MOTHER ANASTASIE'S SKETCHBOOK



This sketch showing the barns at the Academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods is one of many that were done by Mother Anastasie during her lifetime. Mother Anastasie was born Oct. 13, 1826, as Jane Brown at North Arm and became a good friend with St. Mother Theodore Guerin the founder of the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

Sisters pioneered North Arm

BY DANNY BRISENO
dnl.briseno@gmail.com

The North Arm Section was the first area of Edgar County to be settled. In 1817, early settlers moved into the area and set up a little town, and little did any of them know that one of their offspring was destined for greatness.

Catholic missionary Aloysius Brown and his wife Elizabeth Drury migrated north from Kentucky in 1817 with a group of others. Brown quickly took up a leadership role in North Arm. He held the role of justice of the peace and his home was the site of community prayers when no priest was available in the area. He learned the trade of brick making at which he was quite good. With this ability honed, Aloysius Brown built the first brick church in North Arm.

A daughter, Jane Brown, was born to the family Oct. 13, 1826. Her father's brick making ability set her life into motion for something much larger than anyone could have expected for the child.

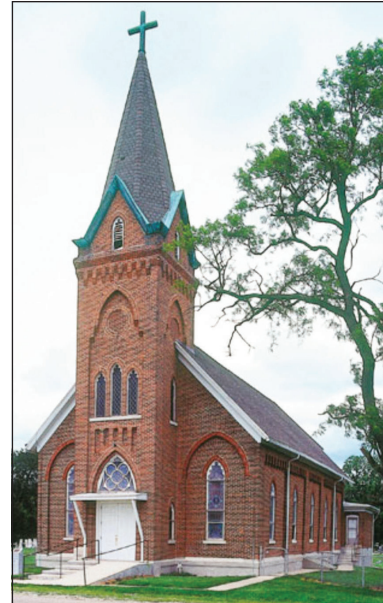
In 1840, just across the Illinois - Indiana border, a new Catholic group moved into the area. Following an invitation from the Bishop at Vincennes, Indiana, Mother Theodore Guerin left the Sisters of Providence of Ruille Sor Loir in France to found the Sisters of Providence in the United States. Mother Theodore was canonized as a saint Oct. 15, 2006.

The need of building materials put Mother Theodore Guerin and brick-maker Aloysius Brown in contact. The business relationship between the two led to something greater for his daughter. Jane Brown attended the Sisters of Providence Academy, also known as the Institute for Girls, when it opened in 1841. Mother Theodore's relationship with the teenage girl was a truly solid one and Jane Brown learned math and astronomy from her mentor.

The next big step in the young girl's life happened Jan. 23, 1844, when she entered the congregation as a Sister of Providence. Mother Theodore gave Jane Brown her new religious name of Sister Anastasie and Sister Anastasie became a fully professed sister Aug. 15, 1847. Her first mission was at Vincennes but by 1849 Sister Anastasie was back in the Terre Haute area when she and a few other sisters opened Saint Joseph School. 1853 proved another good year as she opened the first house of Evansville.

Sister Anastasie came back full circle in 1859 when she took over as the directress of the Academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. She held this position until 1868.

The academy held an election for Superior General in 1868, and it proved quite controversial. Sister Anastasie's predecessor, Mother Mary Cecilia Bary, was upset she was not re-elected. She was so upset she talk-



Aloysius Brown, one of the first settlers in the North Arm area, was a brick maker and helped in the construction of the first brick church at North Arm. That church was later replaced by the church shown here. His daughter became a prominent leader of the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

ed with a few of the other sisters about breaking away and starting their own Sisters of Providence sect, but this proved to be just idle threats.

When Mother Anastasie was elected See **SISTER**, Page 4B

Selective hearing

Many of us that have farmed for many years and being the beneficiary of loud engine noises and grinding gears whirring have impaired hearing. I have the added displeasure of being the recipient of little pigs squealing right in my ears as I worked with them.



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

Adding to that while in the Army, I raised up a little too quickly while dropping a mortar shell down the tube during a fire for effect drill. It was quite a blast that I thought I had shook off after an hour or so later. I carry that reminder with me still.

I am not complaining because I enjoy selective hearing at times. I also have the added advantage of learning to read lips. I use that ability when kids come up in class at school and whisper, "Can I go to the bathroom?" I kind of reinforce that notion while determining how much they are squirming and then tell them they may go to the bathroom.

Every once in a while I ask them to actually say aloud what they want and a few times I find them whispering if they can sharpen their pencil, and I feel a little foolish when they head for the pencil sharpener instead of going to the bathroom. I guess that is still better than the old commercial on television when the hard of hearing husband says to his wife, "No, I'm not going to kiss your brother Jake," when she asked him if he wanted a Dairy Queen Cake.

Many times it is convenient to misunderstand what a person is saying because I really didn't want to do something I don't enjoy doing. It is also more amusing because the person speaking shakes their head and laughs at me and then

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B

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Due to the city's safety concerns with our east alley, we have been forced to discontinue our drive-up service for an indefinite period of time. Customers needing drive-up service may use our south alley and either call us or honk and we will come out to you. We are looking into video type of door bell to alert us of your presence.

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STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

they politely, but loudly say, "You didn't hear I word I said did you?"

It is usually Rosie who gets my goat with that saying and she really enjoys that little gig. Oh well, I have hollered OK many times from the television room when she is in the kitchen and asks me a question or makes a statement that is important. I have had many surprising meals that way and she just says, "You agreed."

We do have a standing joke when she knows I didn't hear her correctly she will say, "What if I said I am going to feed your meal to the hogs?"

I first heard the term selective hearing used by Rosie's great-aunt who was pretty old and hard of hearing. She kind of chuckled and explained, "Life is more enjoyable when you hear what you want to, then you don't have to worry about the rest." She was quite an interesting person to visit with and what a sense of humor. Maybe more of us could use a little bit of that attitude and kind of shut out the un-

kind things in life and make do with the good.

Usually, I don't have to worry when someone violently disagrees with me because I can tell by their red face and their jumping up and down even though I don't hear them too well. It's those sneaky ones that whisper, "You're a blankety-blank idiot, and you know it." That's when I just shake my head and reply, "You're right, and I will consider your concern."

I appreciate that person because I think he said I am intelligent.

Thinking about selective hearing is like considering what kind of necessity hearing is in the first place. Maybe I am just now understanding that necessity is the mother of my invention of how to handle my hearing when I realize many times desperation is the father of my foolishness.

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

MISSION

FROM PAGE 3B

Pash wanted Heisenberg. Following the clues and full of foreboding — there were still nagging rumors the Fuhrer would unleash a last Wunderwaffe against the Allies — Pash headed into the Bavarian Alps. After Wehrwulf youths sabotaged a critical bridge over a gorge, the Lightning A team had to abandon their vehicles, whereupon Pash led his 19 men across the ravine and up into the mountains.

When they came to the town of Urfeld near the alpine lake of Walchen, Pash led German troops to believe his force was larger than it was and about 700 SS troops giving way to his paltry passel of soldiers. After interrogating locals, Pash found Heisenberg and his family in a mountain cabin on May 2, 1945. Two days before, Hitler had committed suicide in his bunker.

The German scientists were

eventually brought to a safe house called Farm Hall in England. The scientists for their part publicly stated they were anti-Nazi and had tried in their passive-aggressive way to undermine research so Hitler could not get the bomb.

British intelligence bugged Farm Hall and learned the scientists were amazed the Americans had successfully detonated an atomic bomb at Hiroshima. Otto Hahn, who had discovered nuclear fission, was anti-Nazi and did not take part in the German atomic-research effort, felt personally responsible his early discoveries had led to so many gruesome deaths. And while the Americans couldn't conclusively infer the other scientists' motivations, it was clear that, ultimately, Germany had not been close to developing a working atomic bomb.

More information on the remarkable Alsos mission is coming to light as source material becomes declassified and is digitized.

EASTER

FROM PAGE 3B

much to the dismay of Booth who was present in the audience below. Many scholars believe Booth made the decision at that moment to kill Lincoln.

Many in 1865 noted the congruity of Lincoln's death to Holy Week.

In a funeral address at Lincoln's Springfield burial in May, 1865, Bishop Matthew Simpson said the president's assassination on Good Friday, "the saddest day in the whole calendar for the Christian Church, henceforth in this country was made sadder, if possible, by the memory of our nation's loss... so filled with grief was every Christian heart that even all the joyous thought of Easter Sunday failed to remove the crushing sorrow."

For those of the Jewish faith, April 14, 1865, was the fifth night of Passover. Their services on the seventh and eighth

days were also tinged with Lincoln reference. Many rabbis likened Lincoln to an American Moses.

Elsewhere in the world, particularly among some European populations, there was shock that Lincoln attended a theater performance on Good Friday, a practice apparently not done in those societies.

When Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. on Saturday morning, April 15, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton stared at Lincoln's lifeless body and uttered the words, "now he belongs to the angels." It was only later that Stanton changed the final word to "ages," believing it would read better in history.

Stanton's edited words have become synonymous with Lincoln's assassination — and are engraved above the memorial room in the Lincoln Tomb in Springfield.

SISTER

FROM PAGE 3B

to her second three-year term she began to work on the building of a hospital in Terre Haute. The Sisters of Providence's congregation put a lot of time and money in the building of the new hospital facility that ran into many problems. The U.S. was gripped with a huge anti-Catholic sentiment and a lack of community support put the hospital project into bankrupt by 1873.

Mother Anastasie was not re-elected as Superior General in 1874 and spent the next seven years working in Lafayette and Madison. However in 1881, she returned to her love as directress of the Academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

This position was perfect for Mother Anastasie as she was a great lover of art and culture. She continued learning throughout her life with early instruction in perspective and mechanical drawing from her father and moving on to drawing from nature using painting and watercolor as a student at



Special to The Prairie Press

Mother Anastasie, born Jane Brown in North Arm, was good friends with Saint Mother Theodore Guerin, founder of the Sisters of Providence at St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Brown served many roles at St. Mary-of-the-Woods, including six years as the superior general.

the Academy at St. Mary-of-the-Woods under Sister Saint Francis.

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Throughout her life Mother Anastasie Brown did many wonderful things including the Monday Night Program at the Academy where the students and teachers examined all different types of art. She continued as an artist into her late life. She created many sketches and drawings for use at the Academy. The school still has bound volumes of her sketches that can be viewed at certain times.

Mother Anastasie's love for this area never wavered as she always returned after being called away. She remained at St. Mary's after her 1896 retirement.

Mother Anastasie Brown is the prime example of how one's love for their home can be used to provide so much greatness for the area. She lived a long and beneficial life but she suffered through two strokes and died peacefully Aug. 10, 1918, at the Motherhouse in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.

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Reconciling faith and floods

Nebraskans of all backgrounds and walks of faith rise to each other's aid after winter's disastrous flooding

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

LINCOLN, Neb. — In the days following major midwestern floods this spring, people of faith prayed for their neighbors and got busy lending a hand.

They also turned to their beliefs to make sense of a disaster that washed away homes and roads, leaving more than a billion dollars of damage in its wake.

For members of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, the floods came at a sacred time, when the Ponca people celebrate the arrival of spring and the new year with the first thunderclap.

Some took to Facebook to

celebrate: "First thunder."

Some gathered quietly or said quick prayers of thanks to Wakonda, or God, that winter was ending and the earth was coming back to life, according to Dwight Howe, culture director for the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska is one of four federally recognized tribes with headquarters in the state of Nebraska, according to Howe. About a third of Ponca members live in Nebraska — many of them in service areas affected by the flooding.

"It's a holy time. It's a powerful time. And this on top of it

just sort of made it even almost supernatural," he said.

That sacredness was underscored last month when, not long after the first thunder of the season, heavy rains fell and snow melted across the Midwest. Something called a bomb cyclone struck and dams broke, washing away bridges and buildings and hurtling large ice chunks into farmers' fields near Niobrara, Neb., the ancestral homeland of the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska.

One day a road was there, he said. The next it was gone.

"Only God can do that," Howe said.

The culture director ac-

knowledged the flood caused a great deal of damage. But he said he tried to see it as a blessing.

"We get so wrapped up that we fail to see," he said. "When something like this happens, it kind of clears our heads for a minute. It takes the blinders off, and we can see something sacred happened."

Mark Mathewson, theologian-in-residence at Lincoln Berean Church in Lincoln, Neb., said he has focused more on how to respond to the floods than on why the floods occurred.

Barring direct revelation from God as to why things like

devastating floods happen, he said, some Christians would say, "we simply don't know."

Three-quarters of Nebraskans are Christian, almost evenly divided among evangelical Protestants, mainline Protestants and Catholics, according to the Pew Research Center's most recent U.S. Religious Landscape Survey.

Mathewson pointed to the biblical figure of Job, who lost everything he had in a series of disasters.

"We can speculate all we want, but then in the end we simply have to trust that God's ways are the best ways," Mathewson said. "He knows

what he's doing, even when we don't understand why."

Regardless of the reason God allows such a disaster to happen, the theologian said, God calls Christians to respond, to help others and to, "show them the love of Jesus," in the midst of it.

That's what Lincoln Berean is doing.

The church is partnering with Samaritan's Purse to clean out flood-damaged homes and remove debris in Fremont, Neb., a hard-hit area about 50 miles north of the city. The church's splashy website features a link titled "Nebraska See NEBRASKA, Page 6B

Exercising pure religion is simple

"This is pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father, to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

James 1:23 NASB

It may be faith-based church folks have misrepresented what a godly life is by making it more complicated with various hoops to jump through, including great emphasis

on appearance, expectations and too much drama; so much so that we risk missing the common practicality of our religion.

Some people go overboard in their efforts to impress God with their piety. They add more and more rules and regulations, good deeds and works of penance, until being a Christian becomes a burden and drudgery, and not joy, spontaneity and freedom. It has been said the great reformer Martin Luther had distaste for the letter of James. Perhaps he didn't get there was balance in its message.

Faith is integral to us knowing God. "Without faith it is impossible to please God," another passage in the New Testament declares. But simple verbiage and rote will not save.

Along with the declaration of faith, which is an inner belief which none of us can see in anyone else, there must also be a demonstration of how our faith works through an external witness. We simply cannot be hearers of the word who are deluding ourselves. We must also be doers of the word.

James, one of the earliest New Testament writers, majored on the simplicity of Christianity. His theme is faith without works is dead — simple enough, huh?

"Show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works,"

James 1:23. This passage can be thought of as the simplest equation to pleasing God.

First is faith requiring exercising a personal trust in Jesus Christ, his finished work on Calvary and his victorious resurrection from the grave. One cannot gain heaven without ceasing to attempt to gain heaven. Stop trying to achieve heaven and begin trusting in Jesus alone.

"Believe on the Lord Jesus See PASTOR, Page 6B

JUDAS THROUGH THE AGES



The painting of the Last Supper by Philippe de Champaigne, a 17th century French artist shows Judas seated in a prominent position, with his toga riding high, revealing his bare leg in startling and rather disconcerting clarity. While the other disciples look rather aghast — Jesus has apparently just predicted his betrayal — Judas is staring directly at Jesus, a confrontational expression on his face and in his body language.

Special to The Prairie Press

Betrayed by Judas Iscariot

Once one of Jesus's most trusted disciples, Judas became the poster child for treachery and cowardice

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

From the moment he plants a kiss on Jesus of Nazareth in the Garden of Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot sealed his own fate: to be remembered as history's most famous traitor.

But by identifying Jesus to the Jewish authorities, Judas set into motion the series of events that became the foundations of the Christian faith: Jesus's arrest, his trial, his death by crucifixion, and eventually his resurrection, known collectively as the Passion of Christ.

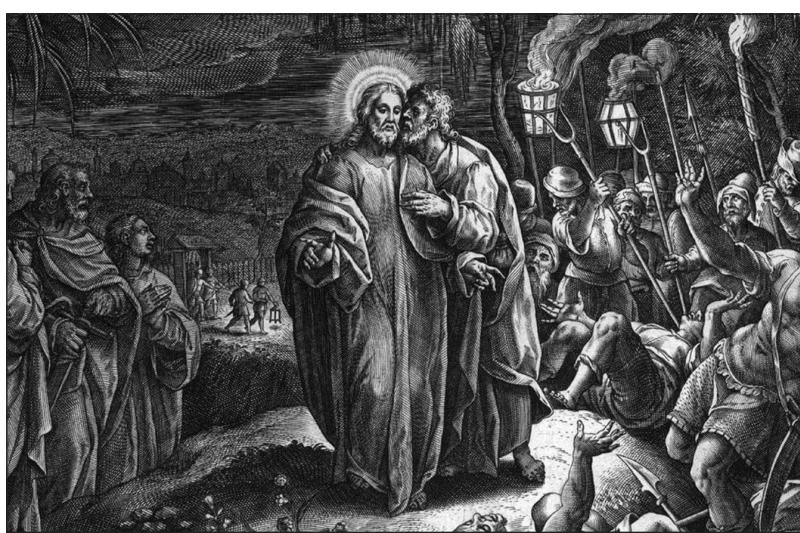
Given how little we actually know about him from the Bible, Judas Iscariot remains one of the most enigmatic — and important — figures in Jesus's story. In recent years, the discovery of the long-lost Gospel of Judas, a Gnostic text originally dating to the second century, has led some scholars to reconsider his role, and even to ask whether he might have been unfairly blamed for betraying Jesus.

Though the Bible offers few details about Judas's background, all four canonical gospels of the New Testament name him among Jesus's 12 closest disciples, or apostles. Intriguingly, Judas Iscariot is the only one of the apostles whom the Bible (potentially) identifies by his town of origin. Some scholars have linked his surname "Iscariot," to Queriot (or Kerieth), a town located south of Jerusalem in Judea.

"One of the things that might set Judas apart from the rest of Jesus's disciples is that Judas is not from Galilee," says Robert Cargill, assistant professor of classics and religious studies at the University of Iowa and editor of Biblical Archaeology Review. "Jesus is from the northern part of Israel, or Roman Palestine. But [Judas's] surname might be evidence that he's from the southern part of the country, meaning he may be a little bit of an outsider."

Alternatively, others have suggested the name Iscariot identified Judas with the Sicarii, or dagger-men, a group of Jewish rebels who opposed the Roman occupation and committed acts of terrorism circa A.D. 40-50 on behalf of their nationalist cause. But there's nothing in the Bible to link Judas to the Sicarii, and they were known to be active only after his death.

"We're not sure Judas was from the



This biblical scene circa 30 A.D., shows Judas betraying Jesus with a kiss, surrounded by the disciples and soldiers. Judas led soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he identified Jesus by kissing him and calling him rabbi, according to Mark 14:44-46.

Special to The Prairie Press

South, and we're not sure Judas was a Sicarii," Cargill says. "These are attempts to see if there may have been something up front that set Judas apart from the rest. Because people are always trying to explain — why would he have done this? Why would Judas have betrayed Jesus?"

According to the Gospel of John, Jesus informed his disciples during the Last Supper that one of them will betray him. When they asked who it would be, Jesus said, "It is the one to whom I give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." He then dipped a piece of bread in a dish and handed it to Judas, identified as the son of Simon Iscariot. After Judas received the piece of bread, "Satan entered into him." (John 13:21-27).

Judas then went on his own to the priests of the Temple, the religious authorities at the time, and offered to betray Jesus in exchange for money — 30 pieces of silver, as specified in the Gospel of Matthew. Like the Gospel of John, the Gospel of Luke also cited Satan's influence, rather than mere greed, as a reason for Judas's betrayal. John, however, made clear that Judas was an immoral man even before the devil got into him: He kept the common purse, the fund that Jesus and his disciples used for their ministry, and stole from it.

"There have always been those who have wanted to tie Judas's betrayal to the fact that he had a love of money," Cargill points out. Others have suggested a more political motive for his traitorous act. According to this theory, Judas might have become disillusioned when Jesus showed little interest in foment-

ing a rebellion against the Romans and re-establishing an independent kingdom of Israel.

Alternatively, Cargill suggests, Judas (like the Jewish authorities at the time) could have seen a rebellion as potentially dangerous for the Jewish people in general, as in the case of the Roman destruction of Sepphoris earlier in the first century: "Maybe he decided to hand Jesus over, in effect, to stop a larger rebellion."

Whatever his motives, Judas led soldiers to the Garden of Gethsemane, where he identified Jesus by kissing him and calling him rabbi. According to the Gospel of Matthew, Judas immediately regretted his actions and returned the 30 pieces of silver to church authorities, saying "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." When the authorities dismissed him, Judas left the coins on the floor, and committed suicide by hanging himself.

According to another canonical source in the Bible, the Book of Acts (written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke), Judas didn't kill himself after betraying Jesus. Instead, he went into a field, where, "falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out" (Acts 1:18). This spontaneous-combustion-like process was a common form of death in the Bible when God himself caused people's deaths.

Judas's betrayal, of course, led to Jesus's arrest, trial and death by crucifixion, after which he was resurrected, a sequence of events that — according to Christian tradition — brought salvation

See JUDAS, Page 6B

FCC gets interim minister

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

The Rev. Mark Parkinson has been called by the congregation of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) to serve as the church's interim minister.



PARKINSON

Parkinson, a native of Muncie, Ind., began his duties in March. He will serve a year at the church following the retirement of longtime pastor the Rev. Michael Dixon, who left the pulpit Dec. 31, 2018.

The Disciples of Christ requires a church to call an interim minister, Parkinson explained to allow the congregation to do a lot of work to prepare to call a new minister. "There is a theological reason why we do this," Parkinson explained. He said during the Lenten season, the Christians prepare for the crucifixion and resurrection, the Paris congregation must make preparations to call a new minister.

"It is a large task," he said. The church is not even supposed to form the pastor search committee for a year. "There is a lot of work to do," he noted.

Parkinson wasn't always a pastor. He served as a journeyman meat cutter, was employed by the railroad repairing signals and as software developer and in human resources at the same time.

In 2009, the software company employing Parkinson dropped the top one-third of the company in a cost-cutting measure. "I knew I didn't want to go back to cutting meat," he said. Parkinson said he was preparing to enter graduate school at Ball State University to study business. The day before he was set to register for classes he was asked to preach.

"I realized then this was my call," he said. Parkinson never returned to Ball State and instead entered seminary. At the same time, he was asked to be the interim minister for a small church, which he served until graduation.

Following graduation, Parkinson accepted a call as the minister of the Broad Street Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Martinsville, Va., where he served for 4½ years. The congregation was small and was aging.

Parkinson completed the search and call profile to serve as an interim minister. Since accepting the call to the Paris church, Parkinson has attended special classes especially for interim ministers.

"There are intentional things that must be done See FCC, Page 6B

NEBRASKA
FROM PAGE 5B

Flood Relief” on its homepage, advertising twice-weekly work days with the evangelical disaster relief organization, and Mathewson said it also has shared ways members can do-

nate money to recovery efforts if they are unable to volunteer their time.

Salih Rashki, president of the United Yazidi Community of America, was at a Washington, D.C., rally protesting the killing of Yazidi women in Syria when he heard about the flooding

back home in Lincoln, where UYCA is based.

People were evacuating their homes and leaving everything behind, Rashki said.

That’s something to which Yazidis, a largely Kurdish-speaking religious group originally from northern Iraq, can relate. Many have fled as refugees from what the United Nations has confirmed is a genocide of the Yazidi people by the so-called Islamic State.

“Whenever we needed help in Iraq, nobody gave us anything. Nobody helped us,” said Rashki, who said he came to the United States seven years ago and now is a U.S. citizen.

He doesn’t want others to feel alone and isolated in their time of need.

“Whenever people are in need, we are going to go help them,” he said.

That’s part of who they are as Yazidis and part of their faith,

according to Rashki.

That faith is independent of any other religion and acknowledges both a supreme God and a deity called the Peacock Angel, said Zeyad Eesa, who manages communications for UYCA.

Today, about 2,000 Yazidis call Nebraska home, making it the largest Yazidi community in the United States, he said.

Eesa had been with Rashki in D.C. and began posting on Facebook when he got home, hoping to mobilize the community to do something to help flooding victims.

UYCA doesn’t have an office, but it has a tent. So it set up a place over the weekend of March 22 to 24 to collect items for disaster relief efforts.

Almost every Yazidi family in Lincoln filled that tent with diapers, baby formula, food, bottled water and other supplies, Eesa said. It took three pickup

trucks and a U-Haul to take those donations to Fremont, where the Yazidi community also has sent teams of volunteers to help.

“Together we are stronger. Together we can do something. We can make something better for Lincoln, for Nebraska — not just for the Yazidi community,” Rashki said.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska also has responded to help flood victims.

The devastation was humbling, a reminder to think of others who need help, according to Howe, the culture director. The Ponca people have always valued community and helping one another, he said, but they can’t just think of other Poncas, he said.

“The same God that made me, made you. We’re all related,” he said.

Howe said he has seen Ponca members and white farm-

ers come together at the tribal headquarters in Niobrara to discuss how to move forward. Those farmers probably never had visited a tribal office before, he said.

God brought them together, he said, and they have an opportunity now to build bridges — not just the physical bridges that washed away, but also bridges between people. Together, they talked about starting a phone tree in case of future disasters and about replanting trees lost in the flood.

The Ponca Tribe of Nebraska has started collecting donations to help tribal members and has sent donations to help their neighbors in the Santee Sioux Nation.

There are spiritual lessons to take from all that has happened, according to Howe.

“Hardship can be an opportunity to grow spiritually,” he said.

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GRACE NOTES

APRIL 16 WOMEN'S LUNCH
The next monthly luncheon of the Christian Women's Connection of Terre Haute is 11 a.m. April 16 in the MCL meeting room at Meadows Shopping Center. Speaker Linda Sill will discuss how she started quilting and show some of her projects. Music for the event is by Sharon Dierdorff and Karon Neiswinger. Reservations are required and may be made by calling 812-234-7388 or 812-249-3084.

APRIL 16, 17, 18 FREE MOVIE
First Christian Church of Paris is sponsoring a free screening of the movie "Balto" during the

Paris 95 school district spring break. Show times at the Paris Theatre are 10 a.m. April 16, 17 and 18. In addition to the free movie, the theatre snack bar will have items for purchase, and the church will give out dog-themed prizes to a lucky few, with free puppy chow to all.

APRIL 19 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE
The Paris Ministerial Fellowship welcomes everyone to join in a Community Good Friday worship service designed so Christians of all different denominations and churches find it meaningful and familiar. The service is noon on Good Friday, April 19, at St. Mary's Catholic Church. Pastor Gary Thomas, from the First Assembly of God Church, will provide the message and pastors and participants from several different Paris churches, Protestant and Catholic, will help lead worship. Members of the ministerial fellowship look forward to worshipping with people from many traditions, gathered together around this important story of what Jesus did for us.

FCC FROM PAGE 5B
and we will work the steps through the process," he explained, including what should or shouldn't be changed within the Paris church.
Parkinson was very impressed with not only the community outreach of the Paris church but the commitment of the congregation to move forward the two months before he arrived.
“This congregation planned and led worship services for

PASTOR FROM PAGE 5B

Christ and you will be saved.”
After we have placed our faith in the living Christ, how much do we need to do to be right with God?
James makes a couple simple suggestions. If we want a pure religion and a functioning Christian life, we must, “visit orphans and widows in their affliction.” Simply, we are to help the most vulnerable among us, those who have no parents to protect and raise them, and those who have lost their husbands to death. Bible study confirms widows and orphans occupy a special place in God’s heart and economy. If we are to practice pure religion, not only must we never take advantage of orphans or widows, we should be proactive in helping those who are neglected, marginalized and in need.
The second aspect of having pure religion is to make sure that our relationship with our heavenly Father is intact. Just as we enter into relationships with the

people we help we must also observe a vital and intimate relationship with God, but that will not take place unless we through faith actually work at keeping right. Faith demands that we clean up our act. The world’s culture around us is corrupt, dirty and toxic, but we actually can live unspotted, staying the course of holiness by walking in separation from that which would defile us.
That’s it. We don’t need to fill the boat with weights until it sinks. Just two areas... serve others (especially those in need) and watch ourselves making sure that we are genuine in our faith, which evidences itself in our working at staying spiritually and morally clean. Just do right, that’s all. No additional burdens, no religious formulas, no litmus test and no striving for spiritual rank.
Love God, love others, stay right.
(Jack Hoffman is the senior pastor at Cornerstone Baptist Church in Paris. Email him at jillandjack1971@gmail.com. Pastor’s Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

two months,” he said. “Nothing stopped.”
When he arrived at the church, he found the pastor’s office had been repainted and refreshed with new wallpaper all in preparation for Parkinson. “I think that also helps them with the transition, too,” he said.
Parkinson and his wife, Kendala, are the parents of three adult daughters — two living in Indiana and one in Florida. They also have six grandchildren. His wife is retired from the banking industry and has been a partner in his ministry, including leading Bible studies. She is a member of Altrusa.
First Christian Church of Paris has 19 active commit-

tees including an active outreach for the community with a variety of projects. “They are thrilled and excited and ready to do the work,” he said.
One of the most exciting things about the Paris church for Parkinson is the sound of children and teens in the church building. “God’s Gang is over 40 kids,” he said. “I just love that.” Parkinson attended one of the Wednesday meetings of the children’s ministry and played guitar and sang with them. He also is a drummer but admitted he doesn’t read music.
The interim minister said it was wonderful to be back in the Midwest. “We really missed the prairie,” he said. “I grew up in a small town.”

JUDAS FROM PAGE 5B

to humanity. But the name Judas became synonymous with treachery in various languages, and Judas Iscariot is portrayed in Western art and literature as the archetypal traitor and false friend. Dante’s Inferno famously doomed Judas to the lowest circle in hell, while painters liked Giotto and Caravaggio, among others, immortalized the traitorous Judas kiss in their iconic works.
“The most important fact about Judas, apart from his betrayal of Jesus, is his connection with anti-Semitism,” Joan Acocella wrote in The New Yorker in 2006. “Almost since the death of Christ, Judas has been held up by Christians as a symbol of the Jews: their supposed deviousness, their lust for money and other racial vices.”
The historical tendency to identify Judas with anti-Semitic stereotypes led, after the horrors of the Holocaust, to a reconsideration of this key Biblical figure, and something of a rehabilitation of his image. Professor William Klassen, a Canadian biblical scholar, argued in a 1997 biography of Judas that many of the details of his treachery were invented or exaggerated by early Christian church leaders, especially as the church began to move away from Judaism.
In 2006, the National Geographic Society announced

the discovery and translation of a long-lost text known as the “Gospel of Judas,” believed to have been originally written around A.D. 150, then copied from Greek into Coptic in the third century. First alluded to in writing by the second-century cleric Irenaeus, the Gospel of Judas is one of many ancient texts discovered in recent decades that have been linked to the Gnostics, a (mostly) Christian group who were denounced as heretics by early church leaders for their unorthodox spiritual beliefs.
Rather than denounce Judas as Jesus’s betrayer, the author of the Gospel of Judas glorified him as Jesus’s most favored disciple. In this version of events, Jesus asked Judas to betray him to the authorities, so that he could be freed from his physical body and fulfill his destiny of saving humanity.
Controversy surrounds the Gospel of Judas, as some scholars have argued the National Geographic Society’s version represented a mistranslation of the Coptic text, and the public was wrongly made to believe the document portrayed a noble Judas. In any case, the fact the Gospel of Judas was written at least a century after Jesus and Judas died means it provides little in the way of historically reliable information about their lives, and certainly doesn’t provide the missing link to understanding Judas Iscariot’s true motivations.

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Corn and soybean update

Projections lowered for corn and soybean exports, market could be damaged by instability with China

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

URBANA — As the U.S. administration continues to negotiate a trade deal with China, the prospect of a resolution looms larger for corn and soybean export potential in 2019, according to University of Illinois agricultural economist Todd Hubbs.

“Corn exports weakened in the early part of this year as they pulled back from the torrid pace seen throughout 2018. Soybean exports look to benefit from a trade deal resolution as recent sales to China buoyed optimism for this marketing year,” Hubbs says.

The USDA lowered the 2018-19 marketing-year projection for corn exports to 2.375 billion bushels in the March WASDE report.

“Corn export sales con-

tinued to disappoint until a bump from Chinese buying last week,” Hubbs says. “For the first half of the marketing year, corn exports came in at near 1.12 billion bushels. Through April 4, corn exports sit near 1.317 billion bushels. For the rest of the current marketing year, 1.06 billion bushels of corn exports are required to meet the USDA projection.”

Over the last four marketing years, corn export totals from April through August averaged 1.08 billion bushels, Hubbs notes. “The largest total, associated with poor crops in some major exporting countries, occurred during the previous marketing year and came in at 1.39 billion bushels. Without the hefty export total from last year, the remaining three years averaged 978 million bushels,”

he adds. Looking forward, outstanding sales of corn through March 28 total 518 million bushels, down from the 910 million bushels of sales at the same time last year.

“Mexico, Japan, and South Korea lead the way in corn purchases. While the prospects of China entering the corn export market continue to generate speculation, current outstanding corn sales to China sit at 18 million bushels,” Hubbs says.

When taking into account accumulated exports and sales, the total commitments for corn through March 28 sit at 1.7 billion bushels, down 164 million bushels for commitments at the same time last year. Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and Columbia account for 70 percent of total commitments on the books

thus far. As a percentage of last marketing year’s exports, total commitments for Mexico, Japan, South Korea, and Columbia sit at 85, 71, 59, and 68 percent respectively.

“The potential for continued strong exports remains for major U.S. markets, but an increase in corn buying from other markets looks necessary to reach the current USDA projection,” Hubbs explains.

Projected soybean exports began the marketing year at 2.06 billion bushels last September despite the ongoing trade fight with China. USDA projections for soybean exports decreased 160 million bushels in November and subsequently fell to the current forecast of 1.875 billion bushels in the February WASDE report. Through April 4, soybean exports sit near 1.16

billion bushels. For the rest of the current marketing year, 718 million bushels of exports are required to meet the USDA projection. Over the last four marketing years, soybean export totals from April through August averaged 386 million bushels. The largest total occurred last marketing year and came in at 559 million bushels.

“Total outstanding sales through March 28 for the current marketing year totaled 501 million bushels. Outstanding sales to China constitute 58 percent of the total sales. At 293 million bushels, the sales to China highlight the recent uptick in Chinese buying associated with trade negotiations,” Hubbs says.

“Since March 28, the Foreign Agricultural Service reported two additional purchases of soybeans totaling 60

million bushels to China for the 2018-19 marketing year. The lack of a trade deal holds peril for soybean exports this marketing year given China’s prominence in current outstanding sales,” he adds.

Currently, total outstanding sales come in 137 million bushels above last year. Sales to Mexico sit at 58 million bushels, eight million bushels above last year’s level. Additionally, outstanding sales to countries outside of China and Mexico trail last year’s level by 69 million bushels with 149 million bushels of sales.

Total commitments for soybeans through March 28 came in near 1.6 billion bushels, down 289 million bushels for commitments at the same time last year. China, Mexico, Japan, and the EU-27 account

See **UPDATE**, Page **8B**

Pruning perennials

The beginning of the growing season is a good time to refresh our minds about



pruning perennials.

Those new to gardening are often a little hesitant to prune their plants fearing to make a mistake that will cause irreversible damage. That is seldom the case. The following are several reasons why and when pruning should occur.

By far the easiest is fall and/or spring clean up because one is working on dead plant material. Perennials infested with insects, or especially disease, should have all dead debris cleared away after a killing freeze in the fall to prevent pathogens over-wintering on dead leaves. Everything else can be left until early spring.

The object is to remove the unsightly dead parts to make way for the new spring growth. A few perennials like candytuft and coral bells are mostly evergreen but may need a few brown leaves removed in the spring to tidy up the plant.

Occasionally we deadhead to prevent reseeding. Rose campion (actually a biennial) spread so cutting off the spent flowers and seed heads before they open is a good idea to keep it from spreading to areas it is not wanted. The same goes for garden phlox, which can be kept in check by individual seed head or cutting back the grouping of plants by a third with large garden shears.

Speaking of garden phlox, pruning for better air circulation springs to mind. Perennials like phlox that are particularly susceptible to foliar diseases (mildews and bacterial wilts) need air movement to dry them out fast after the morning dew. Once the stems are up and growing in the spring, cut several of the interior stems down to the ground, opening up the plant, allowing air to circulate around all the stems.

Mums, autumn joy sedum and asters have a tendency to grow really tall, split and droop over. Pruning them in early summer forces them to grow lateral shoots resulting in a compact rounded habit that holds together. Some sources recommend cutting the plant back by half while others say a third. I go with the third. Most perennials will respond with a bushier habit whenever the growing tips are removed. Just stop by July.

Size matters to some gardeners, especially if they grow blooms as cut flowers or for competitions. Certain perennials produce one

See **GARDENER**, Page **8B**

DATA TELLS THE CURRENT STORY OF FARMING



Special to The Prairie Press

The U.S. agricultural landscape continues to age and consolidate, according to the new USDA agriculture census released Thursday, April 11.

Fewer farms, older farmers

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

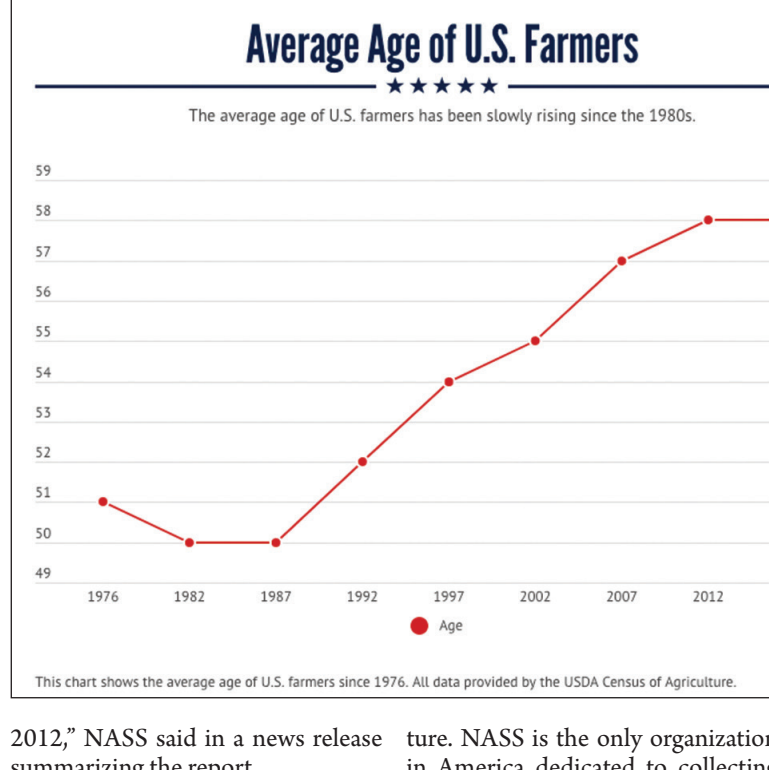
U.S. farmers are getting older, continuing a long-term trend, and the total number of farms is declining, according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture released today by USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The average age of all U.S. farm producers in 2017 was 57.5 years, up from 56.3 years in the 2012 Ag Census. “Producers also tend to be experienced,” NASS said in a fact sheet. “They had been on their current farm an average of 21.3 years.”

The amount of acreage farmed nationwide in 2017 was 900 million acres, down 1.6 percent from 2012, while the average farm size increased by the same percentage, to 441 acres. The number of farms fell from 2.11 million to 2.04 million, a 3.2 percent drop.

“All categories of mid-sized farms declined,” NASS said. “The largest farms (sales of \$5 million or more) accounted for fewer than 1 percent of all farms but 35 percent of all sales. Small farms (sales of \$50,000 or less) accounted for 76 percent of the farms and 3 percent of the sales.”

Fewer farms accounted for the vast majority of sales. “Just 105,453 farms produced 75 percent of all sales in 2017, down from 119,908 in



2012,” NASS said in a news release summarizing the report.

Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue said at an event held Thursday afternoon the department prides itself on being facts-based and data-driven and the data in the census is what the department relies on to make policy decisions.

“We have to have data like this to help us improve American agricul-

ture. NASS is the only organization in America dedicated to collecting and disseminating agriculture statistics to the public,” Perdue said.

The National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition said the census data reflects, “the continued consolidation of U.S. agriculture,” which has reduced the number of medium-sized farms, “concentrating

See **CENSUS**, Page **8B**

Four more US storms

Mother Nature will spread out her fury with the late-April thunderstorms

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The bad news is that four more storms are expected to hit the U.S. before the month of April ends.

The only silver lining is that not one single area will be hit by all four storms.

For farmers, planting delays will be unavoidable, though, for the next 10 days.

However, after this series of storms, the month of May looks warm and dry.

The first storm is very intense coming out of the central Rockies Thursday, April 11, dumping snow and traveling into the central Plains states moving eastward into the western Lakes over the next few days.

“The very slow-moving storm was hitting western Kansas on Wednesday. By noon Thursday, it will have not moved very far,” says Dale Moehler, AccuWeather meteorologist.

The eye of the storm was expected to be over Rochester, Minn., Friday. The storm will weaken at that point. It will trigger some rainfall in the eastern Corn Belt by the weekend.

It’s the slow movement that is contributing to the amounts of rain and snow the Midwest will get out of this first storm.

“On the north side of the storm, where there is a lot of cold air, 18 inches of snow has fallen in western South Dakota. And we’re looking for general storm totals of between 1 and 2 feet of snow between northwest Nebraska, most of South Dakota, into west-central Minnesota,” Moehler says.

To the south of storm number one, the weather will be a mixture of rain, snow, and sleet, he says.

Just 40 miles north of that

See **STORMS**, Page **8B**

Farm Bureau details funding priorities

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

As lawmakers on both sides of Capitol Hill work on funding agriculture programs for 2020, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) is urging them to move past the political impasse that has stalled the supplemental disaster relief bill

In a statement to the House and Senate Agriculture Appropriations committees, the organization explained that farms and ranches across the country endured several weather disasters in 2018 and pointed out that trend is continuing in 2019 with historic hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires.

“Losses total more than \$8 billion, and the full impact of recent flooding in the Midwest is still being assessed. Many of the farmers impacted are facing near-complete losses of their crops, livestock and farm infrastructure,” the group wrote. “At the same time, Puerto Rico’s humanitarian crisis continues and reauthorizing the Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico program at \$600 million is critical.”

Also in the statement, AFBF detailed several agriculture-related programs for which it was recommending either increased funding or funding at authorized levels. The four areas in which Farm Bureau would like to see increased funding are farm programs,

international programs, agricultural research and food safety.

“AFBF supports protecting the programs that will ensure U.S. farmers and ranchers can continue to farm and ranch until market conditions improve,” the group wrote.

This includes risk management tools like federal crop insurance and commodity programs, as well as federal conservation programs. The group also called for a funding boost for the Farm Service Agency loan guarantee programs and the FSA Ag Mediation Program. Spending on the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program should also be bumped up, as should

funding for USDA’s Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service.

In addition, enhanced funding for the Food and Drug Administration and Food Safety and Inspection Service should be allocated for implementation of the Food Safety Modernization Act, increased education and training of inspectors, additional science-based inspections, the effective inspection of imported food and feed products and other priorities.

Among the many programs Farm Bureau is encouraging lawmakers to

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CENSUS

FROM PAGE 7B

wealth and power among fewer, larger agribusinesses.”

“We can’t sit idly by while the middle falls out of American agriculture,” NSAC Interim Policy Director Juli Obudzinski said. “If we’re going to reverse these trends, we need to focus on programs and policies — beginning farmer and rancher programs, local and organic agriculture, and farmer-driven research to name a few — that help our family farmers thrive, not just survive.”

Obudzinski also cited several positive points in the report. “Beginning farmers have increased by 5 percent over the last five years, for example. That’s a clear sign that interest in agriculture is rising, but it also means that we’ve got to increase our investment in support and outreach to meet that rising interest.”

“We’re also seeing great trends in the organic industry — average organic sales

per farm grew by 84 percent and the number of acres transitioning into certified organic also increased by 15 percent over the same period,” Obudzinski said. “Similarly, local food sales continue to rise; the sector is up by roughly \$1.5 billion since the last census.”

In 2017, U.S. farms and ranches produced close to \$389 billion in ag products, down slightly from \$394.6 billion in 2012. Crop and livestock commodities account for half the total. NASS noted that in 2012, for only the second time in census history, the value of crop sales exceeded livestock sales, but 2017, “is a return to longer-term trends.”

NASS said the number of male producers declined 1.7 percent, but the number of female producers increased nearly 27 percent, accounting for most of the overall increase in agricultural producers from 3.18 million to 3.4 million. The number of farms with just one producer went down from 1.18 mil-

lion to 932,000.

Ninety-five percent of producers are white; 3 percent are Hispanic, and 1.7 percent are Native American or Native Alaskan. Other ethnic groups include African-Americans (1.3 percent); Asian (0.6 percent), Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (0.1 percent), and more than one race (0.8 percent).

Beginning producers (those with 10 years of fewer in farming) made up 27 percent of the total number of producers.

Average farm production expenses rose 2.5 percent from the 2012 census, from about \$156,000 to nearly \$160,000.

More highlights from NASS:

- The 273,000 smallest (1-9 acres) farms make up 0.1 percent of all farmland while the 85,127 largest (2,000 or more acres) farms make up 58 percent of farmland.

- Of the 2.04 million farms and ranches, the 76,865 making \$1 million or more

in 2017 represent just over two-thirds of the \$389 billion in total value of production, while the 1.56 million operations making under \$50,000 represent just 2.9 percent.

- Farm expenses are \$326 billion with feed, livestock purchased, hired labor, fertilizer and cash rents topping the list in 2017.
- Average farm income is \$43,053. A total of 43.6 percent of farms had positive net cash farm income in 2017.

- Ninety-six percent of farms and ranches are family-owned.
- Farms with Internet access rose from 69.6 percent in 2012 to 75.4 percent in 2017.
- A total of 133,176 farms and ranches use renewable energy producing systems, more than double the 57,299 in 2012.
- In 2017, 130,056 farms sold directly to consumers, with sales of \$2.8 billion.
- Sales to retail outlets, institutions and food hubs by 28,958 operations are valued at \$9 billion.

STORMS

FROM PAGE 7B

storm line, it’s expected to be an all-out blizzard, Moehler says.

“The highest snow totals are probably going to be around 3 feet for central and northeast South Dakota, with 50 to 60 mph wind — an all-out blizzard,” Moehler says.

Historically, this is a five- to 10-year storm for the High Plains that could close down highways and interstates.

Because most of the U.S. Plains, High Plains, and Upper Midwest winter snow has melted, a major factor for the current storms is how fast this current snow will melt.

“The good news is that the weather following this current major storm is somewhat

chilly,” Moehler says. Meaning, the snow will melt during the day, refreeze at night. So, the whole snowmelt will be slowed down. So, we will release the runoff in a staggered fashion.”

There are more storms, after this week’s storm ends. However, the path is different.

Storm number two comes out of the southern Plains over the weekend and heads up the Ohio Valley, Moehler says.

The winds from this week’s storm are going to line up at 20,000 feet in the air. When that happens, very strong surface winds develop, he says.

“We’re expecting 60 to 65 mph winds Wednesday afternoon, across the Texas and Oklahoma Panhandles. The wheat crop that’s growing in those areas will get hit hard

with the wind, sand, and dust. I think there will be crop damage,” Moehler says.

“So, most of the rain will cover the southeastern part of the Corn Belt,” Moehler says, with probably 1-2 inches.

Storm number three hits in the middle of next week. It will take the path of the Tennessee and Ohio River Valleys.

“The southeast of the Midwest will see most of the rain with this storm,” the meteorologist says. Both storm number two and storm number three are quick hitting; they combine for about 4 inches for the southeastern part of the Midwest. This could cause some major rises on the Ohio River and keep the Mississippi River running high.”

It’s a little early to describe the location of storm four, and most annuals will grow more flowers if the old spent ones are deadheaded before they set seeds. It is in the plant’s best interest for survival of its species to get those seeds disbursed. If thwarted, they will keep trying.

For information on pruning or anything else in the landscape, call the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Edgar County at 217-465-8585.

(Jan Phipps is a master gardener and a member of the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Edgar County. Email her at janphipp@gmail.com.)

Moehler says.

“The timing of this mostly rainstorm is late next weekend and the start of the final week of April,” he says. This storm takes a much more northerly track. It will move across the northern Rockies, northern Plains and even up into the Canadian Prairies.”

The good news with this storm is that it will be so far north that it will not bring a lot of rain to the Midwest.

As of April 10, weather models indicate the month of May could trend drier and warmer.

“A warmer pattern should begin in the last week of April and continue into May. So, we should get favorable weather for catching up with slowed corn and soybean planting,” Moehler says.

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GARDENER

FROM PAGE 7B

major bloom flanked by two smaller ones. Pruning the side shoots frees up all the energy to grow one very large flower. Dahlias, roses and peonies respond well to disbudding.

Conversely, deadheading the central flower spike once it is finished, will encourage the lateral buds to develop and bloom to their full potential. Butterfly bush responds well to this type of pruning, which extends the length of time the plant is in bloom providing a food source for pollinators.

Finally, many perennials

tries make competition for soybean export markets stiff this year.

“The implications of a failed trade deal with China appear to be growing more acute for soybean exports this year. Soybean ending stocks and prices remain exposed to severe issues without a resolution. Corn export pace needs to pick up to meet current USDA projections. The upcoming WASDE report may not adjust exports, but the risks remain,” Hubbs says.

UPDATE

FROM PAGE 7B

for 60 percent of total commitments.

“Development of growth in the soybean export market remains highly contingent on events associated with the current trade negotiations,” Hubbs says. “African swine fever in China could dampen soybean meal demand over the next 6 to 12 months.”

Argentina and Brazil stay on track to produce large soybean crops. Weak currencies and low prices in both coun-

Farm Credit Illinois announces scholarship recipients for 2019

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Farm Credit Illinois has awarded \$2,000 agriculture scholarships to 28 high school seniors in central and southern Illinois.

Scholarship selections are based on a combination of academic achievement, participation and leadership in school and community organizations and the applicant’s commitment to an agricultural career.

Caleb Block, a senior at Paris High School, will use the money to attend the University of Illinois to study crop science.

FUNDING

FROM PAGE 7A

fund at their authorized levels are those related to ag trade, rural development, crop production tools, animal health, biotechnology promotion, Agriculture in the Classroom and more.

The organization is also asking that Congress fund the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network at its authorized levels.



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Graduation for ALOP students

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

Students who attend the Alternative Learning Opportunities Program (ALOP) being offered by Paris Union School District 95 may participate in graduation if they choose to do so following action by the Paris Cooperative High School Board of Directors Monday, April 8, at the high school.

Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson, who is overseeing the program, presented four changes to the ALOP handbook. Larson said he believes it is important to give the 15 students who currently have completed work for their high school diplomas through the program to have the opportunity to attend commencement.

Larson also made two other recommendations. ALOP students will not be able to attend dances — such as prom — unless they are the guest of a PHS student. They also will not be able to participate in extracurricular activities, he said.

The handbook proposals — which were approved unanimously by the board — were made in consultation with high school interim principals Lorraine Bailey and Carol Jones as well as assistant principal Mark Cox.

The board members were

introduced to two more of the ALOP students who have completed their work. Frank Lee, 19, is employed fulltime at Pretium, Larson said. Lee is working 38-48 hours a week, including several 12-hour days.

“He was getting off at 8 a.m. after working overtime and arriving at ALOP at 8:30 a.m. where he worked three hours,” Larson said.

Lee said receiving his high school diploma means the ability to find a better job. He currently lives on his own, pays his own bills and has his own vehicle.

Velvet Fredrickson, who just turned 18, also recently completed her high school diploma. Fredrickson said she needed to complete five classes. She has accepted employment at Paris Healthcare Center and will live on her own.

Both students praised ALOP teacher Josh Hollis who helped guide them through the program.

Hollis said a total of 15 students have earned their high school diplomas through ALOP. There are now 17 students enrolled working toward that same goal.

The board heard from PHS teacher Heather Seaton who reported on the continuing success of her entrepreneur class in raising funds for the

after-prom festivities. This past week the students sponsored a donkey basketball game at Eveland Gym. In the past month, they have also sponsored a car and truck show, which had a \$1,240 profit.

Seaton said the students have already raised more than \$10,000 with more to come in thanks to the upcoming “Egg Your House” project for Easter. “We’ve ordered 130 dozen eggs,” she said. Seaton said there have been 17 events and only one — cow chip bingo — was canceled. “That’s a pretty good record,” she noted.

Board member Mary Liz Wright praised the work of the students.

“I’ve been impressed with every single idea,” she said.

In other business, the board: ■ Accepted the resignation of high school P.E. teacher Shawn Nugent, who has accepted the job of P.E. teacher at Mayo Middle School.

■ Accepted the resignation of assistant coach Scott Block, effective immediately.

■ Accepted the resignation of Jessica Navarette as high school French teacher at the conclusion of the present school year.

■ Hired Taylor Birchfield as a P.E. teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.

■ Hired Nicole Shay as the

health and driver’s education teacher for the 2019-2020 school year.

■ Hired Chase Brinkley as a P.E. teacher and head basketball coach for the 2019-2020 school year.

■ Approved J.B. Eslinger as a volunteer JV boys baseball coach for the current season.

■ Approved Craig Smith and Ronnie Waggoner as volunteer golf coaches for the 2019-2020 school year.

■ Approved a three-year contract with the teacher’s union (PACT) beginning Aug. 1, 2019 and running until July 31, 2022. No details of the contract were available.

Heard from parent Crystal Trotter, asking the board to once again consider its policies concerning students who are homeschooled. Trotter said the decision to homeschool her child is not a reflection of Paris High School. Her daughter has been involved in color guard previously but is now ineligible because she is homeschooled.

Bailey announced school attendance for the school year now stands at 94.72. The goal is 94 percent.

“If we make it, we will have a yard party for the students,” she said. In March, the juniors and freshmen attendance was 96.9 percent while the sophomores were 96.4 percent.

VET VISITS MEMORIAL



Special to The Prairie Press

Verne Bear of Paris recently participated in a Veterans Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., to visit the various memorials in the capital. A veteran of the Korean War era, Bear is shown with the Korean War Memorial behind him.

County board meets

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

What is generally a routine matter generated some discussion during the April 10 Edgar County Board meeting.

The agenda item was appointing Susan Saxton, Roger Stanley and Ray Young to terms on the Edgar County Board of Review, which hears and resolves tax protests from citizens.

County board member Phil Ludington said he did not have a problem with the individuals being appointed but he does not like that all of them have farm connections.

“The urban population needs represented, too,” said Ludington.

Supervisor of Assessments Deena Hasler told the county board she also would like a more diverse board but it is hard to find people willing to serve. She noted it is not just a matter of volunteering because those serving on the board of review must attend a two-day training session in Springfield followed by a third day for taking a test.

Ludington acknowledged the problem Hasler faces in finding volunteers.

“It’s a personal issue for me,” he said.

The county board approved the appointments.

Board members sought clarification on the efforts to bring high-speed fiber optic Internet service to the Edgar County Health Department, the Edgar County Highway Department and possibly other county offices. The confusion is if the vendor is charging a connection fee for each site or if the connection fee covers each location.

Janet Mason, director at the health department, and Josh Knight at the highway department are talking with different sales representatives from the same vendor but getting mixed information about the costs for

making the switch to fiber optic service.

Mason said it is critical the health department have better Internet because the current service does not provide enough bandwidth or the speed needed for health department staff members to work efficiently. She added figures provided to her indicate the health department’s monthly Internet bill will decline by approximately \$50 per month.

County highway engineer Aaron Lawson said his department’s monthly bill will go up by the same amount the health department’s is declining, but the highway department needs the expanded capability offered by fiber optic service. He noted the department is still using software that is no longer serviced by the vendor because newer software puts too much of a demand on the current level of Internet.

“We have a tremendous need for our asset software management,” said Lawson.

County board chairman Jeff Voigt said there is no doubt both departments need better Internet, but he questioned if that is the case for all county offices. He is concerned about an additional \$6,000 annual expense for Internet costs by moving all county offices to fiber optic service.

“We are facing a lot of issues with diminishing returns,” said Voigt, specifically mentioning the new minimum wage of \$15 per hour starting in 2025. “I don’t mean to sound alarmed, but we need to think about the long term.”

County Clerk and Recorder August Griffin discussed the April 2 consolidated election.

“The election went smoothly, and the new equipment worked perfectly,” Griffin said.

He expressed disappointment at how few people bothered to vote in the election. Countywide the turnout was less than 15 percent of eligible voters. He promised to report back on the cost of conducting the April consolidated election after all of the bills are received.

Paris chapters celebrate 150 years of P.E.O.

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

P.E.O. (Philanthropic Educational Organization) celebrated the 150th birthday of International Chapter of the P.E.O. Sisterhood Jan. 21.

Chapters KP and NX in Paris joined the other 230,000 current members of P.E.O. from nearly 6,000 chapters across the United States and Canada in celebrating the historic milestone.

“The P.E.O. members in Paris stand on the shoulders of the generations of P.E.O. sisters who came before us,” said Ellen Webb, president of Chapter NX. “They were dedicated to the mission of women supporting women, just as we are today. And it is a cause that will continue to be relevant for the next 150 years.”

Chapter KP has been a part of the Paris community since it was organized in 1965 with

Virginia Zimmerly — who will be 103 in May — as the first president. With the help of KP, Chapter NX was formed in 2002 with Lee Barrett as its first president.

Since its inception in 1869, the nonprofit organization has helped more than 105,000 women pursue educational goals by providing more than \$321 million in grants, scholarships, awards and loans and the stewardship of Cottey College.

The P.E.O. Sisterhood has brought together nearly a half a million women in the United States and Canada who are passionate about helping women advance through education, while supporting and motivating them. In addition to the educational philanthropies, the P.E.O. Sisterhood provides a framework of support and community for all members.

What started with a bond of friendship among seven wom-

en in Mount Pleasant, Iowa, is now one of the oldest women’s organizations in North America.

To learn more about P.E.O.,

its powerful educational philanthropies and see stories of women who have benefited from the programs, visit peointernational.org



Special to The Prairie Press

Paris PEO Chapters KP and NX joined chapters across the U.S. and Canada celebrating the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Philanthropic Educational Organization (P.E.O.) Pictured, from left are Paris chapter members Cindy Sullivan, Cindy Robinson, Evie Gill, Megan Mathis, Kathy Peel, Ellen Webb and Kate Kollinger.

Miller, Halbrook holding meeting

MATTOON – Rep. Chris Miller (R-Oakland) and Rep. Brad Halbrook are hosting a town hall meeting for constituents 2-3 p.m. Sunday, April 28, at the Lake Land College Theater.

“Everywhere I go, people are asking me about all of the different issues being debated in the General Assembly,” said Miller, adding the town hall meeting provides an opportunity for the public to

ask questions about specific legislative proposals and public policy.

Miller and Halbrook will be joined by three other southern Illinois legislators for the meeting.

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After the show, have your picture taken with the dogs for \$5 and 100% will be donated to local shelters!!!

BRIEFLY

Reckless homicide, fatigue charges filed in death of state trooper

FREEMONT, Ill. (AP) — Reckless homicide charges have been filed against the driver of a commercial vehicle that struck and killed an Illinois state trooper. Craig W. Dittmar was allegedly driving the semitrailer that slammed into Trooper Brooke Jones-Story on March 28 while she inspected another semitrailer on Route 120 near Freemont.

The 55-year-old Dittmar of Stockton was cited at the time for improper lane usage and violating Scott's Law, which mandates that all drivers slow down and move over for emergency vehicles.

The Stephenson County state's attorney's office approved the additional reckless homicide and operating a commercial motor vehicle while fatigued charges on Thursday. Dittmar is being held in lieu of \$250,000 bail in the Stephenson County Jail. It wasn't immediately known if he has legal representation.

Three Illinois state troopers have been struck and killed by vehicles in 2019.

Video shows Chicago police hitting high school student

CHICAGO (AP) — Newly released surveillance video shows Chicago police dragging a high school student down a flight of stairs before striking and kicking her and using a stun gun.

Chicago Public Schools student Dnigma Howard's attorney, Andrew M. Stroth, said Friday the video contradicts statements the two officers made saying the 16-year-old initiated the January altercation. She was charged with felony aggravated battery. Those charges were later dropped.

Dnigma's father, Laurentio Howard, on Thursday filed an amended federal civil rights lawsuit against the city, the Chicago Board of Education and the officers. The city's Law Department says it doesn't comment on pending litigation. The school district's inspector general and the agency that investigates Chicago police misconduct are both investigating. Howard is seeking monetary damages. Stroth says the case can also be a "catalyst to influence police reform."

Beer truck stolen from parking lot found with cargo intact

CALUMET CITY, Ill. (AP) — In what police call a crime of opportunity, a truck loaded with beer was stolen from a Chicago grocery store parking lot and later found abandoned with its cargo intact.

Chicago police say the truck carrying Modelo beer was stolen Thursday morning after the driver parked it outside a South Side grocery and left the keys in the ignition. As police spokesman Tom Ahern put it, "somebody just hopped into it and drove off."

Ahern says police issued an alert to nearby suburbs shortly after being notified of the theft.

Ahern says police found the tractor-trailer shortly after noon abandoned in Calumet City. He said it hadn't crashed and its cargo was undisturbed.

Ahern says no arrests have been made, and police were trying to locate security cameras in the area that might have recorded the theft.

House OKs double fines

Fines rise for passing stopped school buses, opponents argue this won't deter offenders

BY GRANT MORGAN
gmorgan@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Drivers who don't stop for school buses could see a doubling in ticket fines under a proposed state law that passed the House on Thursday, April 11.

House Bill 1873, sponsored by GOP Rep. Darren Bailey of Xenia, doubles the fine for first offenses to \$300 from \$150, and for second offenses to \$1,000 from \$500.

It passed the House on Thursday morning by a vote of 74-16, with 12 representatives voting present after extended and heated debate.

Bailey called the bill a matter of "public safety, to protect school children as they load and unload off buses."

Critics said increasing pen-

alties don't deter people from violating the law, and provide only extra hardship for those who already have the least ability to pay them.

Chicago Democrat Melissa Conyears-Ervin was the first to voice opposition, saying she could not support the bill if the public is not educated about it simultaneously.

"Residents that can't pay it may lose their license, may in turn not be able to go to work, and may in turn not be able to put food on the table for their children."

"There are people that will have no clue of this legislation, and all the bill will do is put them in a deeper hole," Conyears-Ervin said.

Bailey said he'd be willing to work with her on educating the

public about the change in fine structure, because education, "is what will raise the awareness to protect our children."

Others, like Jacksonville Republican C.D. Davidsmeyer, said a driver's first violation of the law should be enough education.

HB 1873 changes only the fine structure for school bus violations.

It does not change other provisions of current law for drivers to have their licenses suspended for three months for first violations and for a year for second violations.

In those cases, drivers can apply to the Secretary of State's office for a restricted driver permit, which allows them to drive to and from work.

Plainfield GOP Rep. Mark

Batinick, one of the bill's sponsors, said even with the doubled fines, Illinois' laws for failing to stop for school buses are weak.

"I'm sitting over here stunned that we're putting the price tag to say [an extra] \$150 is too much for a school kid," Batinick said.

He referenced other states' penalties, some of which include jail time and fines as much as \$10,000.

Minnesota, he said, has a \$500 fine and 90 days of jail time for a first offense.

"We're at the low end of the fines on this, which is probably why it keeps happening, because nobody cares about the fine," Batinick yelled.

Bailey said Illinois school bus drivers reported more than

20,000 instances where buses were passed while the stop arm was out in 2017, according to a survey by ABC 7 in Chicago.

Opponents maintained that doubling fines is regressive, and would result only in financial hurt for those who can't pay it.

"This bill is based on a flawed premise," said Democrat Will Guzzardi of Chicago. "The idea [is] that by raising penalties on certain types of behaviors, we will deter those behaviors."

"Raising the fines isn't going to keep our kids any safer. It will just take more money out of the pockets of people who can least afford it."

HB 1873 was quickly placed on the Senate's calendar to be heard for the first time Friday.

PUSHING FOR AMMENDMENT APPROVAL



Jerry Nowicki/Capitol News Illinois photo

Rep. Mike Zalewski, a Riverside Democrat, tells reporters Tuesday, April 9, that House Democrats are committed to working with the Senate and the governor to pass a graduated income tax amendment.

Graduated tax clears Senate

BY JERRY NOWICKI
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SPRINGFIELD — A constitutional amendment which would allow the state to adopt a graduated income tax is on its way to the full state Senate after clearing committee on party lines Wednesday.

The measure, SJRCA 1, would give the Legislature the authority to tax higher margins of income at higher rates. If three-fifths of each the Illinois House and Senate vote to put the question on the ballot, voters will decide in November 2020 if that authority is granted.

Senate sponsor Don Harmon, an Oak Park Democrat, said the amendment is necessary to bring tax fairness to the state, as the bottom 20 percent of Illinois earners pay 14 percent of their total income in taxes, while the top 1 percent of earners pay 7 percent of their income in taxes. Those numbers are contained in the "Terrible 10" report conducted by the Washington D.C.-based Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, which has been characterized as left-leaning.

Currently, the state constitution mandates a flat tax of 4.95 percent on every penny of income. Under the proposal touted by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, only earners whose income exceeds \$1 million would be taxed at a flat rate — 7.95 percent — on every penny of income.

For all other earners, different rates ranging from 4.75 percent to 7.85 percent would apply to different margins of income. Those making \$250,000 or less — about 97 percent of taxpayers, according to the governor's office — would pay less in taxes than they do currently. The proposal would increase the property tax credit by 20 percent and would



Jerry Nowicki/Capitol News Illinois photo

House Minority Leader Jim Durkin (R-Western Springs) meets with reporters Tuesday, April 9, at the Capitol to reaffirm his caucus's unanimous opposition to a graduated income tax. "The middle class eventually is going to absorb most of these costs within time," he said.

include per-child tax credits up to \$100.

While Harmon said he expects the Legislature to pass a specific proposal by the end of the legislative session, Republicans continued to question the likelihood of the rates remaining as they are in Pritzker's proposal for any measure of time.

Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, a Bloomington Republican, opposed the amendment at committee Wednesday. He said he believed it opened up the ability to raise taxes even further and play games with the tax code by removing language which states, "there may be no more than one such tax imposed by the state."

Todd Maisch of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce said this could allow the state to add surcharges or assessments

on separate lines of income for taxpayers.

Harmon dismissed that argument, noting that language was in place only to prevent the Legislature from imposing a synthesized graduated tax by proposing multiple rates, and he said the amendment would give no greater taxing authority to the state than it already possesses when it comes to varying income sources.

Dale Righter, a Mattoon Republican, opposed the amendment as well.

"Over the last 20 years, the states that have graduated rate structures have lowered the threshold of income one must make in order to qualify for the highest marginal rate 23 times, and in 18 of those 23 times, that figure has dipped below \$100,000."

Bill to raise minimum teacher salary approved in Senate

BY GRANT MORGAN
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SPRINGFIELD — A second bill raising the minimum annual salary for Illinois teachers to \$40,000 found legislative success this week.

Senate Bill 10, sponsored by Rep. Andy Manar (D-Bunker Hill), passed on a 45-11 vote Thursday afternoon.

It would provide a five-year

ramp to increasing Illinois' minimum teacher salary, from just more than \$32,000 in 2020-21 to \$40,000 in the 2023-2024 school year.

The substance of the bill is the same as a House bill — HB 2078, sponsored by Rep. Katie Stuart (D-Edwardsville) — that passed earlier in the week.

But Manar's bill was approved with an amendment

the House version did not have, which directs a state review panel to figure out how Illinois' most underfunded school districts can get extra state aid to comply with the minimum salary law.

Manar said the state's school funding formula must be slightly adjusted to make up the difference for the cost of the bill, so that underfunded

school districts could pay the minimum salaries.

He said initial estimates are that just under \$20 million would have to be added to the funding formula to help the neediest school districts comply with the law.

According to SB 10's amendment, the Professional Review Panel's recommendations must be made by Jan. 31, 2020.

Lightfoot calls for statewide unity

Chicago's mayor-elect addresses downstate resentment toward city

BY PETER HANCOCK
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SPRINGFIELD — Chicago Mayor-elect Lori Lightfoot issued a call for statewide unity Wednesday in a speech on the floor of the Illinois House of Representatives.

"We are all Illinoisans, and we all have the best interests of our constituents at heart," Lightfoot said.

Lightfoot was elected mayor of the state's largest city, and the nation's third-largest city, in a landslide on April 2. She won majorities in all 50 of the city's wards over Toni Preckwinkle, chairwoman of the Cook County Board and the Cook County Democratic Party.

But she was speaking Wednesday before a chamber where the city of Chicago often generates resentment among some downstate lawmakers because of the political power it holds, the amount of influence it exerts and the amount of state resources that go to Chicago.

One example of that is a resolution introduced this year by a group of downstate Republicans that would urge Congress to declare Chicago a separate state.

While that resolution is unlikely to receive serious consideration, Lightfoot tried to address the sentiment behind it by emphasizing that Chicago is still part of Illinois.

"I-80 is just a stretch of pavement. It is not a border," she said, referring to the Interstate highway that, for many, marks the dividing line between northern and downstate Illinois. "We are all one state. And Illinoisans, wherever we live, all want the same thing for themselves and their families. The list is a long one: safe communities; access to good schools; stable and well-paying jobs; affordable homes; quality health care; and a government that is ethical and acts as a responsible steward of our tax dollars."

Lightfoot also told lawmakers that Chicago and the rest of Illinois have common interests.

Lightfoot is scheduled to speak to the Illinois Senate on Thursday. She will be sworn into office May 20.

HAVE YOUR SAY

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