

# The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2019

## Resource officer is a go

Shiloh School and Edgar County finalize agreements, begin accepting applications

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

HUME — Shiloh School is one step closer to having a fulltime school resource officer, the Unit 1 school board members learned Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Interim Superintendent of Schools Allen Hall reported the intergovernmental agreement between the school district and Edgar County has been approved. Hall said he received a call from Edgar County Sheriff Jeff Wood to inform him the agreement has been approved.

Hall said the district has already advertised for the resource officer and has received one application. The

resource officer will be an employee of the Edgar County Sheriff's Department but Shiloh will reimburse the county for the cost of the nine-month officer — an estimated \$44,000.

It is likely most of the applicants will be retired law enforcement officers looking to supplement their retirement, Hall reported. He noted while the officer will be employed through the county, the school district has equal rights to select who is employed and if that person stays employed as the officer.

The move to hire the resource officer began nearly a year ago following the Parkland High School shooting

on Feb. 14, 2018. Board members expressed concern at that time about the school's remote location as well as the length of time first responders needed to get to the scene if there was an attack. Among the considerations were hiring a private company to provide the officer but the school attorney said that is illegal in Illinois.

Hall said the district is at least a month to six weeks away from hiring a resource officer.

In other business, the district's auditor, Russ Leigh of Hoopston presented a clean audit for the district, noting no issues to be corrected.

Leigh said the district added \$997,000 to its education fund increasing it from \$2.173 million to \$3.170 million. The district's operations, building and maintenance fund also showed an increase from \$466,000 to \$672,000.

Shiloh District 1 has a solid financial status Leigh said, noting expenses for the district indicate a less than 5 percent increase. "You are doing a good job managing finances," he said.

Leigh said having strong balances is important in light of the possibility the state will be kicking back to school districts at least a portion of the teacher pension cost.

While Shiloh's fund bal-

ances will be able to handle pensions, many Illinois school districts will not be able to, Leigh said. "It's a way of forcing consolidation," he said.

Since there is a new governor there is a lot of uncertainty of school funding, Leigh said. The state remains behind in transportation payments.

In response to a question from board secretary Renee Henry, Leigh said there were no procedures or changes needed for the district book-keeping.

The board members authorized Hall to hire an architect as a first step in possibly installing air-conditioning in the school's gymnasium and

See SHILOH, Page 8A

### LADY TIGERS MOVE CLOSER TO LIC TITLE

The Paris Lady Tigers moved a step closer to the LIC regular season title with a convincing win on Senior Night Thursday at PHS. **SPORTS, 9A**

### Happy Blueberry Pancake Day

Today may just be America's sweetest holiday, so heat up the griddle and celebrate. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

### Mental health in farming

It is not surprising that stress is wearing many farmers thin - what is unexpected is the scale at which this is happening. **AGRIBUSINESS, 7B**



### Holocaust Remembrance

As living witnesses and survivors of the Holocaust grow fewer, their stories become even more precious. **GRACE, 5B**

### General made failure work

America's first action in North Africa ended in a resounding defeat. Eisenhower turned it into a lesson on how to win a war. **HISTORY, 3B**

### Kierstyn Allen competes

The Queen did her county proud at the 2018 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant in Springfield. **NEWS, 3A**

## FASHION SHOW TO BENEFIT ART MUSEUM



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**Susan Stafford, director of the Bicentennial Art Center and Museum, hopes money earned from an upcoming fashion show is sufficient to tackle the needs of a storage area holding much of the museum's permanent art collection. Her goal is to get the space properly finished with environmental controls, better organize the area and relocate non-art items into other storage space.**

## Paris takes the catwalk

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Art comes in many styles and that includes fashion and haute couture.

Given that connection, a fashion show is in the works to benefit the Bicentennial Art Center and Museum. Scheduled for 6 p.m. Feb. 7 in the recently renovated Reed Hall at the Paris First Baptist Church, the evening provides a look at the fashions available from local stores.

"We thought it would be unique to Paris and something that's never been done," said art center director Susan Stafford. "We are hoping to get people to come out to support us with something unique and different."

Stafford said the art center has not done a fundraiser for several years and board members were looking at the growing number of projects needed for the old building that regular revenue cannot cover.

The art center and museum is in the Milton K. Alexander House on Central Street. The oldest part of the building dates to 1842 and Abraham Lincoln was a frequent guest in the Alexander home when he came to town for circuit court sessions.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**The Bicentennial Art Center and Museum is seeking to raise money through a fashion show. Money from the event is needed to redo the art center's cramped kitchenette. Director Susan Stafford said the purpose is not to cook in the building but have a space better suited for handling refreshments during special events. The dorm-size refrigerator needs replaced with a full-size appliance and the cooking surface located to her left under the coffee pot no longer works.**

One challenge facing all local non-profit organizations is finding an event that will attract people while

also giving them an enjoyable experience. Stafford said board member

See **FASHION, Page 8A**

## Health insurance slams city employees

New monthly premium more than several Chrisman city workers monthly take home pay

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — It's no secret the American health insurance system is a mess.

The problem was driven home Tuesday, Jan. 22, to the Chrisman City Council. City clerk Deena Burns reported several employees got letters indicating the premiums on their private policies will quadruple at renewal time.

"It was more than they make in a month," said Burns. "We had to look at other options."

Working with insurance agent Lucas Knight, Burns learned it is possible for the city to offer a group insurance plan. Previous employee health insurance decisions made by the council were based on information indicating the city had too few employees to qualify for a group plan.

Burns said while city policy states the city will contribute 50 percent of the private insurance up to a cap of \$6,000, no payments were made. She said other communities cover nearly 100 percent of the health insurance cost for full-time employees and some offer vision, dental and life insurance options as well.

Knight told the council the law requires employers contribute at least 50 percent of the premium cost on employer offered health insurance and the amount cannot be capped.

According to Knight, there are only two health insurance providers serving Edgar County. He recommended against Blue Cross Blue Shield saying the plans are more expensive and service is limited to Sarah Bush Hospital at Mattoon.

Health Alliance, Knight said, is more flexible about where policyholders can receive care, but it is still expensive. Insurance payments only kick-in after the policyholder meets the required \$1,000

See **CHRISMAN, Page 8A**

## St. Mary's Daddy-Daughter dance is Feb. 9

Annual event brings together all ages

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The popular daddy-daughter dance at St. Mary's Parish Hall is 6-8 p.m. Feb. 9.

"This is the third year," said Becky Kramer. "The first year we were absolutely overwhelmed by the attendance."

Kraemer said the dance

originated from an effort to increase awareness about the church.

Members of the altar society raised money to sponsor community events to keep St. Mary's before the community and to make people feel comfortable about visiting the church. One of the events the committee decided on was a daddy-daughter dance.

"It was something different for the community," said

Kraemer.

St. Mary's Daddy-Daughter Dance does not have an age limit for attendance nor do organizers set expectations regarding how formal the daddy-daughter couples have to dress.

"We want people to come and have a good time," Kraemer said. "We don't want people thinking they can't participate because they don't have a fancy dress for

their daughter."

She added some dads do try to make a day of it by taking their daughters shopping or some other special activity before the dance.

All ticket sales are at the door the night of the event. The cost is \$20 per couple, with a \$5 fee for each additional child.

DJ John Sanchez of Moonlight Entertainment is in charge of providing music

for the evening and keeping things lively.

Refreshments are kid friendly featuring a princess punch, hot dogs, turkey and ham slider sandwiches, chips, popcorn and cookies.

Kraemer said arrangements are also being worked out to have photographers at the event with a goal of having a keepsake photo available for each family to take home at the end of the evening.

### TODAY'S WEATHER

H 25 L 18

Weather forecast here. **2A**Drawing by **LONDON, MEMORIAL**

### LET'S BE FRIENDS!

### Latest news, online extras

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

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### CONTACT US

To share a news tip, request an extra copy or to advertise, call **217-921-3216** or email **nzeman@prairiepress.net**.

Office Hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday-Friday



**PHS B.I.O.N.I.C. Club**

**PROM**

**Dress Sale**

Saturday, Feb. 2  
10 a.m. @ PHS

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**LOCAL FORECAST** NORMAL: High: 35 Low: 18 More weather: go to [www.prairiepress.net](http://www.prairiepress.net) and click on weather.

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
25 18 Prec: 40%	29 22 Prec: 40%	38 10 Prec: 70%	12 -8 Prec: 0%	2 -9 Prec: 0%	10 5 Prec: 0%	19 7 Prec: 20%

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

**ALMANAC**  
Paris through noon Tuesday.

**Temperature**  
High/Low ..... 35°/18°  
Record High ..... 70° in 1950  
Record Low ..... -8° in 1938

**Precipitation**  
Month to date ..... 3.93"  
Normal month to date ..... 2.02"  
Year to date ..... 3.93"  
Normal year to date ..... 2.02"

**SUN AND MOON**

	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Moon Rise	Moon Set
TODAY	7:04 a.m.	5:03 p.m.	11:42 p.m.	10:43 a.m.
SUNDAY	7:03 a.m.	5:05 p.m.	--	11:15 a.m.
MONDAY	7:02 a.m.	5:06 p.m.	12:47 a.m.	11:48 a.m.
TUESDAY	7:01 a.m.	5:07 p.m.	1:50 a.m.	12:23 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	7:00 a.m.	5:08 p.m.	2:51 a.m.	1:01 p.m.
THURSDAY	7:00 a.m.	5:09 p.m.	3:49 a.m.	1:43 p.m.
FRIDAY	6:59 a.m.	5:11 p.m.	--	--

**EVERETT LAU**  
Weather Wizard  
@elau\_weather on Twitter  
@EdgarCoWx on Twitter  
Paris Area Weather

**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.  
**BE A PART OF OUR PAPER**  
We invite our readers and the 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 or message us on Facebook.

**ABOUT US**

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**PLAN YOUR WEEK**

**TODAY**

**ERBA EMPLOYMENT TRAINING**  
The Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc. (ERBA) is now accepting applications from income eligible individuals wanting to pursue training for a CDL license, CNA certificate, Basic Welding Certificate or CNC Operator Certificate. ERBA serves Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence and Richland counties. For more information, call 800-252-1152 before Feb. 2

**MONDAY**

**QUILT GUILD MEETS**  
The Paris Bee Quilters will be holding their January meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Otterbein United Methodist Church, 406 W. Washington St. We invite anyone — young or old, male or female — who is interested in quilting or sewing to join us. You don't have to be an expert to join, just be someone who loves quilts. For more information, call Chris at 217-251-1394.

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

**TUESDAY**

**EVENING TOPS MEETING**  
TOPS Illinois #2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the

**DON'T MISS**

**MARSHALL DINE WITH A DOC, FEB. 8**  
Senior Education Ministries, Inc. in partnership with Chester P. Sutton Community Center for Seniors of Edgar County has scheduled Dine with a Doc® from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8, at the Trinity United Methodist Church, 503 S. Michigan Ave. Marshall. Dine with a Doc® is a free program that welcomes the local senior public to hear an educational topic while enjoying a complimentary lunch. Each doctor has donated this time in effort to listen, hear and answer medical questions while sharing a meal with participants. Various community businesses also participate by donating door prizes or providing the complimentary lunch seniors enjoy and also learn about ways the business may help seniors. The Dine with a Doc® program is designed to allow the seniors to get out of their homes, fellowship with their peers, extend their available financial resources, promote enhanced living and educate them (from a preventative standpoint) with the goal of improving their quality of life and providing them with the resources and information to make an informed choice about their healthcare. This month the guest doctor is Amy James of Cork Medical Center. She is a graduate of the University of Illinois Medical School and completed her family practice at Spartanburg, S.C. She treats patients of all ages with a special interest in pediatrics and adolescent care, women's health and dermatology. She is also the medical director for the Clark County Health Department. The complimentary lunch is provided by Westminster Village of Terre Haute. Reservations are required and can be made by calling toll free at 1-877-223-6109. Please leave a message.

**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.

Presbyterian Church. Weigh-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](http://www.weightwatchers.com), or by attending a meeting.

**THURSDAY**

**MORNING TOPS MEETINGS**  
TOPS #IL 1563 meets every Thursday morning at the Highland Manor Community Room with weigh-ins beginning at 8 a.m. and the meeting starting at 9 a.m. More information is available by attending a meeting or calling Jo Ellen Edmonds at 251-4722.

**EXTENSION DISCUSSES SOIL NUTRIENT LOSS**  
The Illinois Extension is hosting a program Jan. 31, 2019, regarding soil nutrient loss and how to use farmdoc.illinois.edu. Watershed Outreach Associate Jennifer Woodyard discusses the Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy and the Embarras and Little Wabash watersheds. Jesse Soule, Commercial Agriculture Extension Educator, talks about best practices for reducing nutrient loss. Ag and Natural Resources Program Coordinator, Kim Trine, shows how to use farmdoc.illinois.edu for farm decision-making. The free program is available 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the Edgar County Extension, 210 W. Washington Street, Paris; 12:30-2:30 p.m. at the Clark County Extension, 15493 N. State Hwy. 1, Marshall; and 4-6 p.m. at the Crawford County Extension, 216 S. Cross Street. Snacks will be provided at each location. Register online at [go.illinois.edu/talkingtour](http://go.illinois.edu/talkingtour) or by calling 217-826-5422 to choose the time and location that's best.

**UPCOMING**

**HOUGHLAND BIRTHDAY BASH**  
Marge Houghland's 85th birthday bash originally planned for Jan. 13 was canceled because of bad weather. It is rescheduled for 2-4 p.m. Feb. 3 at the First Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 201 S. Main Street, Paris.

**BOOTS AND BLACK TIE REC DINNER AND AUCTION**  
The Youth & Community Recreation Center of East Central Illinois (REC Center) annual dinner and auction to raise money to support the organization is Feb. 23 at the REC. Dubbed Boots and Black Tie, the event starts at 5:45 p.m. with a preview look at the auction items. A silent auction and the serving of hors d'oeuvres is from 6 to 7 p.m. Dinner is served at 7 p.m. and the live auction follows. Seating is limited and people wanting to attend are encouraged to RSVP prior to Feb. 4. More information is available by calling the REC at 466-9622.

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# Fair Queen struts in Springfield

BY NANCY ZEMAN  
nzeman@prairiepress.net

Although 2018 Miss Edgar County Fair Kierstyn Allen did not come home with the state crown, the Paris women came away with one of the top non-finalist prizes at the 2018 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant last weekend in Springfield.

Allen, the daughter of Jeff and Michelle Allen of Paris, was selected as the winner of the non-finalist beauty and physique award. The presentation was made during Sunday evening's pageant finals of the annual pageant, part of the 109th annual meeting and convention of the Illinois Association of Agricultural Fairs.

There were 71 county fair queens vying for the title at the Crowne Plaza Hotel and Convention Center Sunday. Crowned the 2019 Miss Illinois County Fair Queen was Miss Winnebago County, Alexi Bladel of Rockford. Bladel was raised on the family farm in Vermilion County and her mother was a former Miss Vermilion County Fair. The new queen is studying to be a firefighter.

Allen described the pageant, rehearsals and preparation as a whirlwind.

"I was constantly prac-

ting, walking in heels and always smiling," she noted but emphasized she, "gained many new friendships that will last a lifetime and we all shared lots of laughs throughout the pageant."

Although she was nervous walking into her interview with the five judges, Allen said she concentrated on, "that these five strangers just wanted to get to know me. I took a deep breath, smiled and walked into the room with my head up."

As soon as Allen walked into the room the judges, "asked me at once," how to pronounce her name.

The question, Allen recalled, "Made me laugh and calmed me down. I had a great interview and got to talk about my dad, my community and even some (of my) 4-H projects."

Allen said she is grateful for the opportunity to represent the Edgar County Fair at the pageant noting the, "amount of love and support everyone showed me was amazing."

In addition to the fair board members, Allen said pageant director Tracy Quinn-Porter, "always made sure I was treated like a queen and full of Starbucks coffee."

Allen also praised former Edgar County Fair Queen



Special to The Prairie Press

**Kierstyn Allen, the 2018 Miss Edgar County Fair, prepares to introduce herself during the parade of queens at last weekend's Miss Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant in Springfield.**

Taylor Dunn who woke up every morning at 5:30 a.m. to do the queen's makeup and made sure there was breakfast for the queen.

"She made me feel beautiful every day. I'm so glad she was there to help relax me," Allen said.

In addition to Dunn, Allen said former county fair queens Meghan Ingram and Jessica Richardson stayed with her, "to make sure I always had what I needed and was comfortable at all times."

Allen said her family played an important role, "supporting me throughout my reign and even before that."

"My family made sure I had a little gift to open each day with a note to pump me up," she said. "My room was decorated to perfection and by the end of the trip it felt like my room at home, not a hotel."

There are so many people Allen said she would like to thank, "but it would start to seem like a farewell speech and I still have six months left to be your 2018 Miss Edgar County Fair Queen."



Special to The Prairie Press

**Members of the Edgar County Fair Board attended the Illinois County Fair Queen Pageant in support of the Edgar County Fair Queen Kierstyn Allen. Pictured, from left, are fair board president Mary Lou Wright, pageant director Tracy Quinn-Porter, Allen, secretary Terri Quinn and vice-president Mary Liz Wright.**

## Death caused by accidental electrocution

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Edgar County Coroner Scott Barrett has ruled the Jan. 12 death of a Paris woman an accident due to low-voltage electrocution.

At 2:08 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12, emergency 911 dispatchers were notified a woman was found unresponsive by her husband in the kitchen of their residence.

Sarah J. Thompson, 25, of Paris, was remodeling the kitchen flooring of the home she shared with her husband and her husband's great-aunt. The young woman was working on removing the wood trim along the floor. While doing this, she attempted to move the refrigerator when her right leg contacted an exposed uncovered electrical outlet causing her to receive

a low-voltage electric shock.

Thompson was transported via ambulance to the emergency room of Horizon Health where attempts at resuscitation were unsuccessful. Death was pronounced at 3:12 p.m. in the ER.

Forensic pathologist Dele Adeagbo conducted an autopsy Jan. 14 at Terre Haute Regional Hospital. Adeagbo confirmed the electric shock Thompson received was enough to put her elevated heart rate into arrhythmia and cause cardiac arrest.

"It is important to note that it was the combination of the elevated heart rate from working hard on the remodel along with the shock that caused her heart to go into arrhythmia," said Barrett.

## School bus DUI leads to arrest

PESOTUM – Illinois State Police Troopers and officers from the Piatt County Sheriff's Department and the Monticello Police Department responded Jan. 22 to a report of a Mahomet-Seymour school bus driving erratically through Decatur and east on Interstate 72.

The deputies and local officers got the bus stopped before troopers arrived on the scene.

Marvin R. Bell, 69, Mahomet, was arrested at the scene and charged with driving under the influence of drugs and endangering the life of a child.

The bus was carrying approximately 33 students and coaches from Mahomet-Seymour when it was stopped.

## Wear Red

IN RECOGNITION OF AMERICAN HEART MONTH

Wear red and join Horizon Health as it supports the fight against heart disease. Dr. Maria Horvat, an OB/GYN provider who will join Horizon Health full-time in February, will be the featured speaker. Her presentation is titled "At the Heart of It All."

Friday, Feb. 1 @ Noon • Café France, Paris

\$20 per person, includes lunch

Tickets can be purchased at the Paris Community Hospital registration desk.

For more information, call Christina Hoffman at 217-466-4294.

**HORIZON HEALTH**

## Mayo Middle School

Presents

# SHREK

## The MUSICAL JR.

TICKETS

\$10

High school age & older

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Preschool-8th grade

Friday, Feb. 1 @ 7 p.m.

Paris Center for Fine Arts

\*Tickets Available at the Door\*

Saturday, Feb. 2 @ 7 p.m.

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# Edgar County Circuit Court in session

## COURT

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS  
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

Cases appearing before the bench during the Jan. 14 and Jan. 17 criminal and traffic calls in Edgar County Circuit Court were:

### IN CUSTODY

■Amanda M. Andrews, 34, no address provided, appeared in custody. She was charged

with a Class 2 felony aggravated battery of a police officer, a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer and a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery. The public defender was appointed and bond was set at \$15,000. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing and Andrews was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Timothy A. Aubert, 44, Dalton City, appeared in custody

of the Illinois Department of Corrections. His unresolved Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine charge and a Class 4 felony aggravated driving on a revoked license charge were continued for pretrial conferences. He was remanded to custody of the IDOC.

■Alexandra J. Behiter, 25, Brocton, appeared in custody. She was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Behiter was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

Her unresolved charges of a Class 3 felony threatening a public official, a Class A misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon, a Class A misdemeanor or possession of a hypodermic syringe, a Class C misdemeanor or disorderly conduct and a Class C misdemeanor assault charges were continued for a pretrial conference. She was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Tyson W. Ducharme, 33, Vermilion, appeared in custody and waived the preliminary hearing before pleading not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine, a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound and a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia charges. Bond was reduced to \$2,500 from the original bond of \$5,000. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

In another matter, a new public defender was appointed to represent Ducharme for his unresolved Class 4 felony domestic battery, Class 4 felony domestic battery with prior convictions, a Class A misdemeanor aggravated assault and a Class B misdemeanor criminal trespassing to land charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Jerod M. Flessner, 31, Tuscola, appeared in custody. He was charged with two counts of a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol. He told the court he will hire an attorney. Bond was set at \$3,000. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. The state dismissed a Class 4 felony aggravated driving under the influence without insurance charge. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Brittany N. Harris, 27, Paris, appeared in custody. She was charged with a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled

substance. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

In another matter, Harris was presented with and denied a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance conviction. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a pretrial conference. She was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Tyge A. Hissem, 26, 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 and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. Bond was reduced to \$2,500 from the original \$5,000 amount. In another matter, Hissem was presented with a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction. The public defender was appointed and the petition was denied. A pretrial conference was scheduled and Hissem was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Christopher Joseph, 27, Vermilion, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. The public defender was appointed and a not guilty plea with a jury trial demand was entered. Bond was set at \$1,500 and the matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

Joseph was also presented with petitions to revoke his probation sentences for a Class 2 felony aggravated battery and a Class 3 felony aggravated battery convictions. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Scott D. Labaume, 37, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 4 felony domestic battery with prior convictions, a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery and a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Labaume was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Edward A. Lawson, 48, Solsberry, Ind., appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 2 felony burglary and a Class 4 felony possession of burglary tools. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Bond was set at \$30,000 and he was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Daniel L. Littleton, 50,

Paris, appeared in custody. He is serving a 75-day jail sentence in connection with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction. His pending cases of a Class A misdemeanor driving while license suspended and Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia were continued to another date.

■Ciera N. Prouse, 27, Paris, appeared in custody. She was charged with a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing to a residence, a Class 4 felony violation of an order of protection and a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property. Bond was set at \$2,500 and she was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victims or the victims' residence. The public defender was given the case and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. Prouse was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Christopher L. Reedy, 43, Paris, appeared in custody. His unresolved charges of a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class 4 felony obstruction of justice were continued for pretrial conferences. Reedy was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Cody A. Rigdon, 29, Paris, appeared in custody. He was charged and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor battery and a Class A misdemeanor theft. Bond was set at \$2,000 and the public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Karlie R. Timmerman, 25, Paris, appeared in custody. She waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony aggravated battery and a Class A misdemeanor battery. She was granted a bond reduction to \$5,000 from the original bond of \$10,000. A pretrial conference was scheduled and Timmerman was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Travis W. Travioli, 49, West Terre Haute, Ind., appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance and 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.

### CHARGES

■Amber D. Arreola, 33, Paris, was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor or driving on a suspended license. She was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, 100 hours of community service work, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Terry L. Baker, 60, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license revoked. The public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Jonah R. Cordell, 37, Redmon, was charged and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor or battery. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Amanda E. Grimm, 25, Clinton, Ind., 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 \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Tommy L. LaBaume, 42, Paris, was presented with a petition to revoke his conditional

discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license conviction. The public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

### GUILTY PLEAS

■Dakota A. Maloney, 20, Vermilion, admitted a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction. He was resentenced to one year of conditional discharge and 100 hours of community service work.

### NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■Christopher L. Akins, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 4 felony domestic battery charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Terry L. Baker, 60, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Jerry Lee Beno, 60, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 2 felony aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol and a Class 4 felony aggravated driving under the influence of alcohol with license revoked. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

In another matter, Beno was presented with a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol conviction. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Gretchen Biddle, 38, Paris, denied petitions to revoke her conditional discharge sentences for a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol and a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license convictions and a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 4 felony aggravated driving on a suspended license conviction. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Jonathan A. Koski, 29, Villa Grove, waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony unlawful possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and a Class 3 felony unlawful possession of ammunition by a convicted felon on charges.

■Jessica L. Overton, 32, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property, a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer and a Class C misdemeanor or disorderly conduct charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

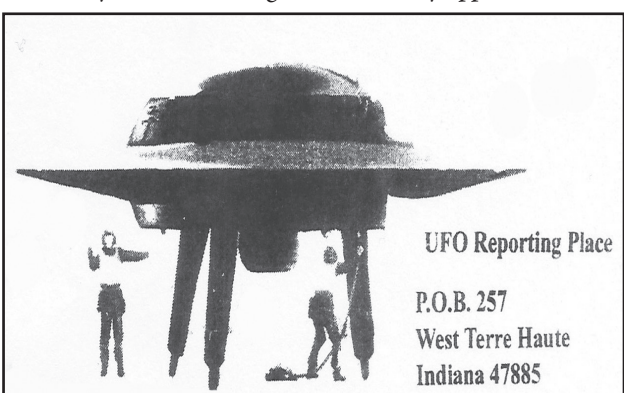
■Scott M. Powell, 36, Paris, denied a petition to revoke his court supervision sentence for two Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol convictions. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Malaika T. Williams, 47, Champaign, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class B misdemeanor speeding charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

### OTHER MATTERS

■Christopher Akins, 38, Paris, learned the court imposed a 10-day jail sentence with good conduct credit to apply for his Class A misdemeanor domestic battery conviction. The sentence was stayed until 2 p.m. Jan. 21.

■Cory W. Hampsten, 41, See RECORD, Page 5A



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**PERRY WALLS**

Perry Dean Walls, 82, of Paris, passed away at 11:24 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at Horizon Health Paris Community Hospital. He was retired after more than 35 years as a welding superintendent at MECO in Paris and taught welding at Lakeland College for several years after retirement.

A service celebrating his life was 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Templeton Funeral Home. Military rites by American Legion Post #211 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #211 accompanied burial in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at Templeton Funeral Home.

Mr. Walls was born March 3, 1936, at Vermilion, the son of the late Commodore and Abigail Ellen Starkey Walls. He married Dixie L. Reed Oct. 26, 1957, at First Assembly of God in Paris, and she survives.

Other survivors include three children, Karen Denise

**MARGARET TINGLEY**

MARSHALL - Margaret Ann "Peg" Tingley, 93, of Marshall, passed away 12:40 a.m. Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, at Burnsides Community Care Center.

A service honoring her life is 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29, at the Zion United Meth-

**OSCAR STINSON**

CASEY - Oscar Thomas Stinson, 90, of Casey, and formerly of Fairbanks, Ind., passed away at 10:55 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, at Heartland Nursing Center.

A funeral service was 1 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the Markwell Funeral Home, with David Hickox officiating. Burial followed in the Casey Cumberland Cemetery. Visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Wednesday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Casey Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Heart Association or a charity of the donor's choice.

More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

**RECORD**

FROM PAGE 4A

Paris, failed to appear in court. The court imposed a six-day jail sentence for his Class A misdemeanor unlawful use of a weapon conviction. A warrant for his arrest was issued.

Johnny G. Oaks, 39, Terre Haute, Ind., was resentenced on a petition to revoke his original probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession

Mitton of Sun Prairie, Wis., Curtis Dean (Mary Beth) Walls and Kelly Dawn (Kent) Milbourn, both of Paris; a sister, Janet Hefner of Marshall; eight grandchildren, Jarrett Yeargin (Navita Sharma) and Erin (Heather) Yeargin both of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, Zachary Walls, Alexys Walls and Skyler Milbourn, all of Paris; Mattesyn Milbourn of Denver, Colo., Chandler Milbourn of Charleston and Kloe Milbourn of Paris; seven great-grandchildren, Waylon, Clayton, Aden and Jaxson Yeargin, Marlee Mae Swank and Kristian and Maxyn Milbourn; and several nieces and nephews.

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

Mr. Walls was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of First United Methodist Church of Paris. He was a talented cook, loved sports and enjoyed bowling in his younger years. He especially loved supporting his grandchildren in their various sports events and activities.

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

Online condolences at [www.TempletonFuneralHome.com](http://www.TempletonFuneralHome.com).

odist Church, with the Rev. John Cross officiating. Burial is in the Zion Cemetery. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at Pearce Funeral Home and one hour prior to the service Tuesday at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to the Zion United Methodist Church or to the Zion Cemetery Fund.

More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).

**CHARLOTTE THOMPSON**

CASEY - Charlotte Diane Thompson, 72, of Earlville, passed away 5:17 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, at the home of her son in Normal.

A funeral service is 10 a.m. today, Jan. 26, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Kenny Inman officiating. Interment follows in Casey Cumberland Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at the funeral home, with an Eastern Star Service conducted at 6:45 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Greater Illinois Chapter.

More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

**BARBARA SWITZER**

Barbara Ellen Switzer, 90, of Paris, passed away at 6 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at Regional Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind. She was a house cleaner and was previously employed by U.O. Colson and Company and J.C. Penney.

A funeral service was 10 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 24, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with Bro. Karl Marshall officiating. Burial followed in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 23, at the funeral home.

Mrs. Switzer was born March 8, 1928, in Edgar County, the daughter of the late Olaf and Marie Cox Drake. She married Clifton "Doc" Switzer March 8, 1952, at Decatur, and he passed away Jan. 16, 1987.

Survivors include two daughters, Lana Winkler and Janet (Aaron) Bishop, both of Paris; one sister, Betty (James) Griffin of Bloom-

**JEAN DAUGHTEE**

Jean Daughettee, 91, of Paris, passed away at 10:43 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at Gibson Family Center for Hospice Care, Terre Haute, Ind. She was a license investigator for the State of Illinois, a homemaker and worked for the Edgar County Community Nurse.

Following cremation, services will be announced at a later date. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting the family with the arrangements.

Mrs. Daughettee was born Jan. 20, 1927, at Greenup, the daughter of the late Marshall and Dorothy Cutright Winnett. She married Bruce Alanson "Pinky" Daughettee Nov. 20, 1945, at Morganfield, Ky., and he passed away April 6, 1996.

**PATTY HICKOX**

CASEY - Patricia Gail "Patty" Hickox, 64, of Casey, passed away at 9:40 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, at Casey Health Care Center.

A funeral service is 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 1, at Markwell Funeral Home, with Pastor Jacqueline Morgan officiating. Burial is at a later date in Casey Cumberland Cemetery. Visitation is from 11 a.m. until the service time Feb. 1 at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Illinois Chapter.

More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

ington; one brother, Richard (Peggy) Drake of Paris; three grandchildren, Christa (Kent Vice) Winkler of Paris, Brent (Brooke) Bishop of Dennison and Amanda (Ryan) Watson of Paris; six great-grandchildren, Austin Winkler of Taylorville, Katelynn and Kylee Bowman of Paris, Jayden and Brody Bishop of Dennison and Wyatt Watson of Paris; two great-great-grandchildren, Halo Miller and Haizley Bowman, both of Paris; one great-great-grandchild expected; one sister-in-law, Harriett Gann of Paris; and one brother-in-law, Tom (Evelyn) Switzer of Paris.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Russell Drake; and one son-in-law, Phillip Winkler.

Mrs. Switzer was a member of the Edgar County Genealogy Society and Edgar County Home Extension.

Memorial donations may be made to Edgar County Genealogy Society or Meals on Wheels.

Online condolences at [www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com).

Survivors include two daughters, Teri D. (Jack) DeWitt of Terre Haute and Jeri Lynn Green of Arcola; two grandchildren, Chad (Brenda) Gann of Paris and Angi DeWitt (Martin) Puckett of Hendersonville, Tenn.; one great-grandchild, Parker Gann of Paris; and one brother, Jim Winnett of Casey.

She was preceded in death by one brother, Charles "Bud" Winnett.

Mrs. Daughettee was also a member of the Edgar County Democratic Party and the Edgar County Farm Bureau.

Memorial donations may be made to Horizon Health Paris Community Hospital.

Online condolences at [www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com).

**CANDY EPPERSON**

MARSHALL - Barbara Candace "Candy" Epperson, 72, of St. Louis, Mo., and formerly of Baton Rouge, La. and Martinsville passed away at 10:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, at Eve-

lyn's Hospice House, Creve Coeur, Mo. Visitation is from 10 to 11 a.m. today, Jan. 26, at Pearce Funeral Home and graveside services immediately follow at the Martinsville City Cemetery, with the Rev. Amy Meaux officiating.

More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).

C. Hollingsworth, 26, Paris; Scott D. LaBaume, 37, Paris; Blake M. Meehan, 18, Georgetown; Jesse J. Prouse, 42, Terre Haute, Ind.; and Damian M. Thompson, 28, Terre Haute, Ind.

**MARILYN OSBORNE**

CASEY - Marilyn Marie Osborne, 66, of Casey, and formerly of Danville, passed away at 4:53 p.m. Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, at the home of her daughter in Westfield.

A funeral service is 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 28, at

**CANDY BARNHART**

MARSHALL - Candace S. "Candy" Barnhart, 65, of Marshall, passed away at 4:57 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19, 2019, at St. Vincent Seton Speciality Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind.

A service honoring her life was 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 25, at Pearce Funeral Home, with Bro. Gary Pruiett officiating. Burial was in the Marshall Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 24. Memorial donations may be made to the Myotonic Dystrophy Foundation or to the American Cancer Society. More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).

Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Gene Ellis officiating. Burial follows in Vernon Addition, Washington Street Cemetery. Visitation is from noon until the service time Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Gene Ellis officiating. Burial follows in Vernon Addition, Washington Street Cemetery. Visitation is from noon until the service time Monday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

**THE REV. JAMES HUNTER**

MARSHALL - The Rev. James R. Hunter, 95, passed away on Jan. 20, 2019.

A memorial service is at a later date.

Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).

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of methamphetamine conviction. The court imposed 110 days in jail with 50 days to be served as electronic home monitoring with the remaining 60 days subject to the court's discretion, two years of probation and an order to pay all previous financial obligations.

Ryan W. Wells, 34, Paris, learned the court imposed a 70-day jail sentence attached to his Class 2 felony aggravated

driving under the influence of alcohol conviction. The jail time starts March 4 and the matter was continued for a status review hearing.

**WARRANTS**

Warrants were ordered and prepared when the following individuals failed to answer the court call: Lancee M. Alexander, 46, Paris; Angelina D. Cianfaglione, 35, Paris; Michael P. Griffin, 40, Paris; John

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## Hate and religion of politics

It may be hard for news junkies to believe, but some folks may not know about the kerfuffle surrounding the Covington Catholic boys, a drum-banging Native American and a small group of racist and homophobic provocateurs belonging to the Black Hebrew Israelites.

In brief, the Kentucky boys were part of an anti-abortion rally at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., when they were drawn by the rants and taunts of the Black Hebrew Israelites preaching their gospel of race and religion baiting, during which a do-gooding Native American got between the boys and the baiters and banged his drum in the faces of the Catholic boys.

Free speech for all, right? Not so fast, Sparky. Those Catholic boys were wearing red MAGA hats, which, as everyone should know, are hate magnets for everyone who hates the current president and, apparently, free speech. You know the ones, the ones who believe you can say what you like as long as they like what you say.

Well, as expected, images of the event blew up social and mainstream media. Within hours, tweets and twits described the boys in the most unflattering terms — to be generous — with many demanding acts of physical violence, even death, against them, their families and their school. One female TV person even offered to give oral sex to anyone who punched out one of the boys. In other words, she offered sex to any male of any age in exchange for violence against a juvenile.

The mainstream media added to these class acts by piling on and promoting the idea that the Catholic boys were young Ku Klux Klansmen who had shed their white sheets in favor of MAGA caps.

Within a day, however, various videos of the event emerged to show what really happened. The only hate and confrontation came from the foul-mouthed Black Hebrew Israelites who skated away unscathed because

See POWELL, Page 7A

## More money doesn't mean achievement

This past week, the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) proposed doubling 2019-20 state school funding, from \$8 billion to almost \$16 billion, the equivalent of raising the individual income tax rate from 5 to 7 percent.

Should the money be available, which it won't be, the challenge would lie in translating the new resources into significant gains in student achievement. The historical record is not encouraging.

At the outset here, let the record show: I favor all the money for education that will make a difference. I favor equal spending for all schools, more for disadvantaged kids. I am not writing to blame the victims. I am not writing to make a case for less school funding.

In 1996, economists Richard Stout and Marty Eisenberg and I produced a report that ranked test performance of all Illinois public schools by the average household incomes of each district.

We found what umpteen research reports have found over the decades — the incomes of district residents appear to drive achievement, rather than the amount spent in the schools. That is, the lower the incomes, the lower the achievement.

Since we wrote in the 1990s, efforts have been made to increase spending in low-income

See NOWLAN, Page 7A

### WHO WE ARE

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## We don't have the money

If Gov. Pritzker wants to be successful, he can't spend funds we don't have

There's always a sense of hopefulness when new administration takes office in Illinois. Public optimism is usually the result of the triumph of hope, not experience.

That's why Gov. J.B. Pritzker took Illinois by storm since his inauguration, followed by a downstate appearance promoting jobs, issuing executive orders and signing legislation.

The truth is Illinois residents — particularly those who live downstate — are watching and hoping he'll lead our sorry state to the promised land of balanced budgets, prudent financial management and fiscal solvency.

Illinois will never get there if Pritzker repeats the mistakes of the past — spending money the state doesn't have. That's why it was disturbing that one of Pritzker's first actions this week involved spending more money the state doesn't have.

One of Pritzker's first acts as governor was to conclude the talks with

### OUR VIEW

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

the state workers union AFSCME and immediately ordering the reinstatement of step raises which former Gov. Bruce Rauner denied, citing a lack of state funds.

Some might consider Pritzker's action to be a simple matter of economic justice.

The other side of the argument is the state doesn't have the money to pay the increased wages, and, further, Pritzker's office either didn't or couldn't say how much the raises will cost. A spokeswoman for Pritzker said "... it will take several weeks to provide an accurate picture of cost."

The word provide is an interesting choice of language because it can be read in two ways.

It could mean the Pritzker adminis-

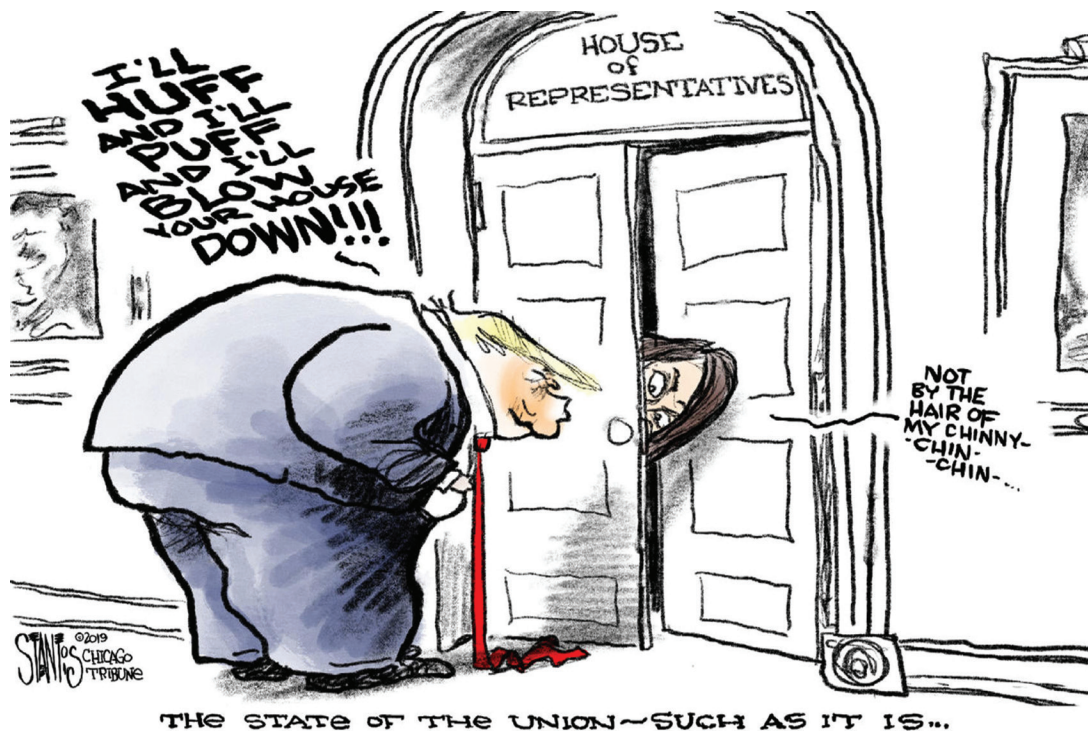
tration knows the cost but intends to wait a while before providing it to the news media. A more benign interpretation is the Pritzker administration doesn't know how much it's committed to spend.

Estimates have varied, with the Rauner administration predicting it would be about \$200 million.

The administration's unwillingness and/or inability to provide cost figures drew fire because it significantly undermines its credibility with respect to fiscal issues.

But it's important to remember that one of the reasons Illinois is in a huge financial hole is because so many elected officials felt a moral obligation to spend money the state did not have.

There are those who say that can't be done — but they're wrong. Illinois has been spending money it doesn't have for years. The bill eventually comes due.



## Deputy governors have a big job ahead

Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker announced last week he had picked Sol Flores



RICH MILLER  
CAPITOL FAX

to be his fourth deputy governor. He'd previously announced deputy governors Dan Hynes, Christian

Mitchell and Jesse Ruiz.

Pritzker's deputy governors are each overseeing a block of related state agencies and departments and track their progress on goals the governor wants those entities to meet. They'll also ensure the agency and department directors are all cooperating with each other whenever and wherever needed. Flores will oversee human service agencies, Hynes has budget and economic development, Ruiz has education and Mitchell will handle the capital bill, among other things.

Pritzker specifically pointed to the issue of Medicaid during a recent interview with me. He said he wants to make sure the Illinois Department of Health and Family Services and the Illinois Department of Human Services are working together, rather than operating in their own individual agency silos.

So, Flores will have a big job to do. Those two agencies cover everything from health care, to child care, to long term care, to cash and food assistance, to housing programs, to mental health, to child support to everything in between. They do, indeed, need to be working together better. Both departments are the products of lots of past mergers of smaller agencies but forcing yet another merger could once again disrupt operations for months or even years.

By all accounts, these new deputy governors are very capable, bright, intelligent people. Flores built

See MILLER, Page 7A

### YOUR VIEW

## Shiloh should take stand on new wind farm

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Where does the Shiloh School Board stand on the Newman and Murdock Township zoning issues?

Up until now our school board has been silent on this subject. By the board's silence, they appear to not be interested in the approximately \$850,000 the district would receive in the first year from Harvest Ridge Wind Farm. Then there's the projected \$19 million dollars in future funds to the district.

If I were on the Shiloh School Board, I would be dreaming of all the programs and facilities we could offer the children and families of this district with these funds. I would also feel a lot more secure about the long-term survival of our school district and our ability to attract and keep good people to add to our current staff.

There might even be the possibility of lowering the property tax levy while dispensing of any district debt and giving our teachers a nice pay raise.

If the proposed Newman and Murdock Zoning ordinances stand, the Harvest Ridge wind farm could be effectively blocked from our area. It will also put undue burdens on every property owner in these townships. These burdens could take the form of restrictions on building or improving property.

When lawsuits are filed by Harvest Ridge, more township taxes will be required to pay the consequences of those lawsuits. More township taxes spent will certainly make it harder to ever get a Shiloh school tax increase passed in the future.

I would strongly urge every teacher, employee, parent and board member of Shiloh School district to contact the Newman

Township Board and tell them not to enact their township zoning. The Newman Township Board members are Samantha Hutchinson, Jason Bosch, Mark Fraser, Roger Sy, and Jim Sans-trom, supervisor.

David Young  
Newman

### Proposed wind farm will bring money, jobs:

Editor, The Prairie Press:

I have helped build hundreds of wind turbines in the last 13 years and know firsthand how wind farms can transform communities.

The Harvest Ridge Wind Farm will create hundreds of construction jobs. Local skilled men and women in the building trades will benefit from this project. On projects of this size, there are also highly skilled craftsmen that will temporarily relocate to the area. They will need places to live, food, fuel, clothes, etc. They make money and put a lot of money back into the economy. I personally have been in this situation, and I have seen a lot of benefits to these communities that I have worked in, whether it is the local grill serving 30 late night diners or the local mechanic fixing contractor work vehicles.

This project will bring other long-term benefits to the communities in Douglas County, such as over \$50 million in tax revenues. The majority of that money will go toward educating our children, helping struggling fire protection districts upgrade lifesaving emergency equipment and giving our townships a boost in their budgets. That alone sounds like a great direction for the entire county. Difficult decisions are being made and heated conversations are being had, but at the end

of the day, the benefit to the entire county is what is important.

Please think of the county as a whole and show your support for wind energy in Douglas County.

Charles Black  
Villa Grove

### Opposition to Trump is incomprehensible

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Year three of Donald Trump's presidency began on Sunday, Jan. 20. But in spite of the positive accomplishments of his administration, Democrats and those on the left still spew their hate and venom toward him, as seen by the letter of Ms. Griffin in last week's paper. Why? A short and incomplete recounting of what he has done in these two years make opposition to him almost incomprehensible.

Our economy has been revitalized. With the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, many millions of Americans have seen more of their hard earned money in paychecks. American businesses are booming because of the repeal of costly and burdensome regulations. Small businesses and large ones have expanded. Even manufacturing jobs, once felt lost forever have come back; at least 1 million construction, manufacturing and mining jobs have been added in the past two years. GDP growth will reach 3 percent for the first time since 2005, a level most experts predicted was impossible under Trump.

Unemployment for women, African-Americans and Hispanics are at an all-time low and overall unemployment at a 40-year low. Wages are growing at a pace not seen for over a decade. More jobs are available than workers to fill them.

See LETTERS, 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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## NOWLAN

FROM PAGE 6A

income districts, via poverty weighting and other compensatory factors.

Still, the wide gap between low and high-income districts persists.

The ISBE Report Card for the past year confirms this as well. Readers can go to ISBE's website and look at academic progress/performance scatterplots, where you can slice and dice performance by all sorts of social and spending indicators. Look up your school district, even your school building. Put your cursor over a dot on the scatterplot and the school district pops up; nicely done, ISBE.

The scatterplots show a very strong correlation between achievement and income, and none that I can see between achievement and spending.

For example, the Dunlap and Mahomet districts (suburban schools just outside Peoria and Champaign, respectively) perform at or near the top of all districts on 11th grade math yet spend between \$5,000-6,000 per pupil on instruction.

In contrast, the Chicago Public Schools spend twice that amount per pupil yet perform near the low end on the same scatterplot.

There are some districts in southern Illinois as well that perform poorly on the spending-achievement scatterplot.

Of course, readers say: Dunlap and Mahomet schools generally have intact, higher income, well-educated families.

They place a high value on education, set high expectations for their children to do well and go to good colleges and provide a rich educational environment — lots of books, good conversation, museum visits — whatever.

And that's my point. I contend that what goes on outside the school building, in the home, neighborhood and community, is much more important than what goes on inside.

This is not to take anything away from teachers.

The ones I know in my rural district work hard and are committed to their students. Yet, they lament that so few parents come to parent-teacher conferences.

I applaud the new state school funding formula, which would allocate dollars, if the state had the money, according to evidence-based indicators of performance. Yet, these are input rather than achievement indicators, and the formula is still fundamentally more dollars to low-income districts, as in the past.

But how does a public entity like the state, through local schools, intervene in private home lives and the surrounding community, something we are understandably skittish about doing.

Maybe we require parent-teacher classes on how to con-

tribute to a child's academic success?

Maybe parent aides, similar to classroom aides — all on the premise that mothers, and fathers where the latter are around, want the best for their kids.

In really poor neighborhoods, where crime and violence are sometimes a problem, maybe integrate community policing (the old neighborhood cop on the beat; good in itself, I think) with social services?

Maybe we should disperse kids from low-income schools into schools in high-income neighborhoods, something that does indeed appear to make a positive difference in achievement?

I don't know what to do. But it appears compensatory spending that sends ever more money to low-income schools hasn't moved the needle much, if at all.

I am for spending more to achieve positive results. Our nation's future depends on it. After all, the Chinese have more honor students than we have students, given that country's 4-to-1 population advantage.

*(A former Illinois legislator, James Nowlan has worked for three unindicted Illinois governors. Whenever kicked out of Illinois government and politics, he has taken refuge at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Nowlan is author or co-author of seven books about Illinois and its government and politics.)*

## POWELL

FROM PAGE 6A

liberals, Hollywooden-heads and their fellow travelers were ready (at the drop of a hat?) to twist and churn a non-event into a hateful targeting of white boys being boys.

What followed were apologies, retractions, sack cloth and ashes from some big media folks. But the damage was done, the snark was out of the bag and the hate still lingered and permeated the air with the smell of objective and responsible journalism's rotting corpse.

A woman I know frequently tells me many of the Facebook hate posts she sees come from people who do not have a religious foundation or simply do not believe in God. Politics is their religion, she says, and like all religious zealots, they will seek out and attack anyone who does not share their political belief.

It is hard to argue against that, especially when one considers the many outlets for these outbursts, from in-your-face media bias to vocal and angry crowds. This does not paint with the broad brush of blame only individuals or groups with liberal leanings; there are plenty of right-wing nuts to go around who share the hate trait with their left-wing counterparts.

As early as 2004, the editors of a southern Illinois newspaper saw the

hate trend blossoming on their opinion page. "Just a casual view . . . is convincing evidence that the Bush-hating Democrats are hard at work vilifying President Bush! Most of the 'hate' letters are not on the issues but merely ugly 'I hate Bush.' Many don't even make any sense, like comparing our president to Hitler . . ." Is this like back to the future?

A Google search for online hate has President Trump easily outdistancing the last guy by more than 2-to-1 with 195 million returns. Journalists appear to be more hated (27.3 million) than priests (13.8 million), communism (11.6 million) and spammers (1.2 million) combined. And used-car sales people are surprisingly more hated (61.1 million) than Congress (58 million).

Who knew? Oh, and the Kardashians have more online sites with

references to them and hate (37.6 million) than ISIS (22.4 million) and terrorists in general (13.5 million) combined.

This is political rhetoric not to be taken too seriously, just as one should not take seriously the rants of professional wrestlers. But pro-wrestling is very popular and lots of folks believe in their hearts that it is real.

The reality of all of this hate rhetoric is that some folks have embraced it by abandoning civil discourse, critical thinking and common decency. Hate has become the new normal in our society, the inevitable result of exchanging religion for ideology, of exalting the created over the Creator.

Mundus vult decipi. *(John David Powell is a Paris native and an award-winning journalist living in Texas. His email address is johndavidpowell@yahoo.com.)*

## MILLER

FROM PAGE 6A

a much-admired organization from the ground up that provides shelter to homeless people and works to prevent homelessness, but she's never overseen anything close to this huge before. And, for that matter, neither has anyone else at the top of Pritzker's administration, except for Ruiz, who served as vice president of the Chicago Public Schools Board and then its interim CEO. Hynes was a state comptroller for 12 years, but that's not exactly a gigantic agency. Mitchell was a legislator who served a stint as interim executive director of the Democratic Party of Illinois.

They're all taking jobs where you can't really get the required experience until you do it. Their tasks are enormous if Pritzker truly wants to rebuild the government after years of neglect, whether through deliberate disregard or incompetence, or just because bad stuff happened and the state wasn't ready or able to deal with it.

I've pointed this out

before, but this state's fiscal condition has not recovered since the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks.

And then came the 2008 worldwide financial and real estate crash. And then came the partial expiration of the 2011 income tax hike in 2015 (a tax hike which basically just helped pay state pension costs and didn't do much to rebuild government), followed by a two-year governmental impasse that, among other things, wreaked havoc on our social services provider network, followed by another inadequate tax hike and two substandard state budgets.

Throughout all this, health care, state employee and pension costs continued to rise. As a result, state agencies have been forced to rely on sorely inadequate resources to do more. Much, probably most of that destruction was endured by human and social services. I do not envy Ms. Flores one iota. She arguably has one of the toughest and one of the most important jobs in all of Illinois government.

So, good luck, Sol, you're gonna need it. *(Rich Miller is the editor of the Capitol Fax blog and newsletter. His email is capitolfax@gmail.com.)*

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6A

Trump changed the face of the federal judiciary. He nominated men and women who are strict constitutionalists to each level of the federal court system and Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court,

We have reasserted our place in the world. North Korea's nuclear threats have been neutralized. Trade deals with Canada, Mexico and the European Union have

benefited the U.S. We pulled out of disastrous trade agreements in the Far East and exited the Paris Accords on climate change, agreements made without congressional approval.

President Trump moved our embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, an action dictated by a 1995 act of Congress. Three Presidents refused to do so — Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama — but Trump did not, thus showing our commitment to the support

of our only true ally in the Middle East.

Trump's promise to build a wall on the southern border, to protect the integrity of our nation has been met with adamant refusal by the Democrats to agree to proposals that many of them have advocated in the past. Twice, Trump offered deals, but has been rebuffed by a party dedicated to destroy his administration and him personally. A partial government shutdown has been blamed on him, but he has consistently offered to

meet and make a deal.

Americans should be pleased with a candidate who has kept his promises. Much more positives than negatives have occurred in these past two years.

We in Edgar County, who voted overwhelmingly for Donald Trump, have been vindicated in our choice. It is time to quit the resistance, give him his due and work with our duly elected president for the betterment of the nation.

Russ Witmer  
Paris

# February 2019

This Month's Guide for Staying Healthy



**HORIZON**  
HEALTH

721 East Court Street, Paris • 217-465-4141 • MyHorizonHealth.org

### Visiting Specialists

<b>Cardiology</b>	<b>Bradley Grissom, APN</b> (Mon)—11 <b>Dr. Namburi</b> (Fri)—1, 8, 15, 22 <b>Dr. Nasser</b> (Thurs)—7, 14, 21, 28 <b>Dr. Shatagopam</b> (Thurs)—7, 21 <b>Dr. Wiarda</b> (Wed)—6, 20
<b>Gastroenterology (GI)</b>	<b>Dr. Batey</b> (Tues)—19
<b>Nephrology</b>	<b>Dr. Jeevan</b> (Tues/Thurs/Fri)—5, 14, 15, 28
<b>Neurology</b>	<b>Dr. Tazudeen</b> (Tues)—5, 12, 19, 26
<b>OB/GYN Gynecology</b>	<b>Dr. Benson</b> (Wed)—6, 13, 20, 27 <b>Dr. Weisbaum</b> (Thurs)—21
<b>Oncology</b>	<b>Dr. Huh</b> (Thurs)—7 <b>Dr. Patel</b> (Thurs)—7, 14, 21, 28
<b>Ophthalmology (Eye)</b>	<b>Dr. Deranian</b> —Surgery 26, Clinic 27
<b>Otolaryngology (ENT)</b>	<b>Dr. Nguyen</b> (Thurs)—7
<b>Pain Management Clinic</b>	(Fri)—1, 8, 15, 22
<b>Pulmonology, Adult</b>	<b>Dr. Main</b> (Wed)—13, 27
<b>Pulmonology, Pediatric</b>	<b>Dr. Davison</b> (Fri)—1
<b>Urology</b>	<b>Dr. Yang</b> (Tues)—5, 12, 19, 26
<b>Vascular Surgery</b>	<b>Sherri Morrison, PA</b> (Tues)—19

### Special Events & Groups

<b>Monthly Health Screenings</b>	Feb. 1 @ 7-9am (Paris Clinic)
<b>FREE Adult AED/CPR Class</b>	Feb. 1 @ 8am-1pm (D)
<b>Wear Red Luncheon</b>	Feb. 1 @ noon (Café France)
<b>Stay Strong, Live Long</b>	Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26 @ 10am (Sutton Senior Center)
<b>Parkinson's Support Group</b>	Feb. 6, 20 @ 2pm (Senior Care)
<b>Bariatric Support Group</b>	Feb. 18 @ 6pm (B)
<b>Caregiver Support Group</b>	Feb. 20 @ 3pm (B)
<b>Cancer Support Group</b>	Feb. 26 @ 10am (B)

\*Parenthesis indicate conference room/location.

### Appointment Numbers

<b>Dr. Batey:</b> 217-463-1946	<b>Dr. Namburi:</b> 812-242-3225
<b>Dr. Benson:</b> 217-258-4030	<b>Dr. Nasser:</b> 812-232-8164
<b>Dr. Davison:</b> 217-383-3100	<b>Dr. Nguyen:</b> 217-258-2409
<b>Dr. Deranian:</b> 217-233-3101	<b>Dr. Patel:</b> 217-465-2606 x4690
<b>Bradley Grissom, APN:</b> 217-554-1700	<b>Dr. Shatagopam:</b> 812-242-3175
<b>Dr. Huh:</b> 812-232-1418	<b>Dr. Tazudeen:</b> 217-431-8400
<b>Dr. Ash, Dr. Hussain, Sherri Morrison, PA &amp; Katie Wilson, FNP:</b> 217-366-2670	<b>Dr. Wiarda:</b> 217-258-5900
<b>Dr. Jeevan:</b> 812-232-8716	<b>Dr. Weisbaum:</b> 217-383-3140
<b>Dr. Main:</b> 217-383-3190	<b>Dr. Yang:</b> 217-466-4661
<b>Pain Management Clinic:</b> 217-466-4226	

### Employed Providers

217-463-1946

<b>Dermatology</b> Angela Hamilton, FNP Joy Williams, FNP	<b>Family Practice</b> Casey Anderson, FNP (Oakland) Dr. Bajaj (Oakland) Dr. Fore Kristina Gabbard, FNP (Chrisman) Dr. Gorasiya Debbie Griffin, FNP Danielle Ireland, FNP (Chrisman) Tory Keefer, FNP Dr. Kumar Dr. Sheikh Samantha Volstorf, FNP	<b>General Surgery</b> Dr. Cozacov Dr. Li	<b>Occupational Health</b> Sara Spesard, FNP Crystal White, FNP	<b>Pathology/Laboratory</b> Dr. Kippenbrock
<b>Endocrinology</b> Dr. Rico		<b>Gynecology</b> Dr. Horvat	<b>Orthopedics</b> Ronald Wheeler, MD Angela Hamilton, FNP	<b>Podiatry/Wound Care</b> Dr. Holloway
<b>EZ Care</b> Jacqueline Coffman, PA Mallory Cook, FNP Carrie Cunningham, FNP Jolena Martin, PA Michelle Miller, FNP Charlene Moore, FNP Matt Woodruff, PA		<b>Hospitalist</b> Dr. Sutton	<b>Pain Management</b> Lovie Cotton, CRNA David Grazaitis, CRNA Adam Schneider, CRNA Lee Webber, CRNA	<b>Radiology</b> Dr. Houle
		<b>NAL Health Clinic</b> Paige Wampler, FNP		<b>Urogynecology</b> Dr. Menchaca
		<b>Nursing Home Care</b> Susan Arp, FNP Ann Bogue, FNP Dr. Gorasiya		

# Polar Vortex ushering in another cold period

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Accuweather has issued an alert that a Polar Vortex will slide into the Midwest during the next few days.

Meteorologist Brett Anderson warns the brutally cold air is capable of dropping temperatures between 20 and 40 degrees below normal. The mass of coldest air will cover all of Illinois, and the leading edge of the Polar Vortex will reach beyond the Florida Panhandle.

According to the forecast, temperatures for Edgar County are expected to nosedive starting overnight Monday, Jan. 28, into Tuesday, Jan. 29. The overnight low is expected to be 5 degrees and it keeps going down from there. The temperature range for Tuesday, Jan. 29, is 10 degrees for a high and minus 11 for the low.

Severe cold hangs on through Wednesday, Jan. 30, with a projected high of 1 degree and the low reaching minus 9. A break comes on Thursday when temperatures, while still cold do not drop below zero. Thursday's temperature range is 14 for a high a 7 for the low. Friday is 20 and 5 and by next Saturday the range is 24 and 13.

A Polar Vortex is the coldest air in the Northern Hemisphere situated in the Polar Re-

gions beyond the Arctic Circle. It normally stays in place but a high-pressure system originating in the Pacific and reaching to the North Pole can push the low-pressure vortex into Canada and the United States. Once the high-pressure system breaks up, the Polar Vortex returns to the Arctic and area temperatures have a chance to normalize.

While the predicted visit by the Polar Vortex will not be of long duration or bring record breaking cold, it is still a dangerous situation.

Frozen pipes are a risk with temperatures plunging into the minus 11 range. Heat tape on pipes can help and so can leaving a small stream of water, about the size of a sharpened pencil point, running from a tap inside the house.

These are also dangerous temperatures for producing frostbite where skin and underlying tissue freezes. Frostbite is most common in the extremities such as fingers, toes, nose and ears, although it can happen to any area of exposed skin. It can occur in approximately 30 minutes when the temperature is minus 11. It can take longer when temperatures are in the single digit range above zero, although wind chill aggravates the condition and speeds up

the freezing.

Hypothermia is another major risk in extreme cold. This is a situation when the body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Normal body temperature is 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit and hypothermia starts when the body temperature drops to 95 degrees and lower.

Dressing appropriately for the weather offers good protection against both frostbite and hypothermia. This means multiple layers to help keep the body heat in and hats and gloves to minimize skin exposure.

Parents need to be aware of these conditions and make sure children going to school are adequately protected. A hoodie is not enough protection against this kind of cold.

Just as these conditions are dangerous for humans, they are equally so for pets. The risk to animals kept outside extends beyond hypothermia and frostbite. Frozen water bowls can result in dehydration.

Pet owners need to take precautions by providing adequate shelter, clean and dry bedding, a constant supply of fresh water and perhaps a heat lamp to help a pet get through the sub-zero nights. The best option is to bring the animal into the house where it's safe.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**The Bicentennial Art Center and Museum is located in the Milton K. Alexander home and parts of the building date to 1842. A Feb. 7 fundraiser is set to help address some interior issues but several more projects are needed to keep the old building maintained and useful as a space to exhibit art and serve the community.**

## FASHION

FROM PAGE 1A

Cindy Belt suggested the fashion show and spearheaded the planning.

Stafford appreciates the idea has gained so much initial support. Bee Sweet Boutique, Ol' Hairitage Beauty & Boutique, Plush, Rural King, Simply Irresistible and Wal-Mart are helping with the clothing and accessories. In addition, 22 people have volunteered to walk the runway modeling the clothes selected for the show.

This is not just a women's event. Stafford said men's clothing from Rural King is included.

"We told Tom Hebermehl he has to wear camo," she said.

It also promises to be a fairly fast-paced event. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the fashion show starts at 6:30 p.m.

Stafford said the half-hour period gives people time to socialize, find seats at a table and enjoy hors d'oeuvres catered by Joni Smith of the Front Street Market in Hume.

"This isn't going to be a vegetable tray," Stafford said. "She's promised something unique so people get their money's worth."

Once the promenade starts it continues without a break until each of the models has appeared in two outfits. The evening includes a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for an artistic basket that includes an art center membership and paid fees for one of the center's art classes.

All funds generated by the fashion show are dedi-

cated for two projects. The art center has a small kitchenette equipped with a dorm style refrigerator and a broken cook top.

Stafford said the goal is to do a remodel that will accommodate a full size refrigerator and a stove for heating food.

"We will not be cooking here, but we need a way to handle refreshments for special events," said Stafford.

The other project is to properly finish a storage area that houses the bulk of the art center's permanent collection.

"That room has never been finished," Stafford said, noting the needs include proper environmental controls for heating and cooling the area.

Work completed last year that replaced rotting boards on the upper porch prompted a more extensive look at the building's needs. Issues identified include: an old chair lift on the stairs no longer functions and cannot be replaced; installing something that provides wheelchair access to the upstairs; problems with the heating and air conditioning system serving the second story of the building; some roof work; plus a need for a fresh coat of paint in the galleries.

"We have those kinds of things that are common to old buildings," Stafford said.

A strength of the art center, she said, is the summer classes offered for children. By working with different media, the one-day classes give children an opportunity to develop art appreciation and a sense of creativity by doing simple projects with the kinds of items commonly found at home.

The art center serves as a place where local Girl Scouts can work on art badges and

Stafford hopes to establish a relationship where 4-H clubs can come to work on art projects for the 4-H Fair.

"We try to keep prices reasonable so there is not an issue with money," said Stafford.

At one time, the art center did adult classes and that is something she hopes to get going again. The problem is getting people to commit to a class and also finding teachers. The upstairs classroom space is equipped with two potter's wheels and a kiln that are not being used as they once were.

Creating art is important but so is exhibiting it to a wider audience.

The art center mounts nine exhibits each year. Stafford said four of the exhibits are juried meaning a judge selects the pieces displayed from those submitted for consideration. Four exhibits are not juried so what is brought in is shown. There is also an Edgar County Student Art Show featuring the creations of students in all Edgar County schools.

"We don't charge people to exhibit their work," said Stafford. "We encourage people to display their work. That is really important to us."

Stafford is also eager to get the upstairs cooling and heating problems resolved in order to clean out two areas and convert them into galleries, where the permanent collection can be put on a rotating display.

The upcoming fashion show is an important fundraiser for the organization, and it also is the venue at which those attending will get advance information about the art center's rebranding.

"Our issue is the Bicentennial Art Center and Museum is a really long name, and we rarely use it all," said Stafford.

She added the creation of the Paris Center of Fine Arts, located at Paris High School, has created confusion. She gets phone calls from people trying to reach the COFA and drivers have also attempted to leave deliveries for the COFA at the art center.

"In a small town, that is not a major issue because we all need to work together," said Stafford.

Still, it's enough of a confusion the art center board wanted a new name that clearly identifies the facility.

The new name will be announced as part of the fashion show festivities.

## NAL DONATES TO ECCEL



Special to The Prairie Press

**High school students from Edgar and Clark counties participating in the ECCEL Academy recently visited North American Lighting (NAL) in Paris. ECCEL is an effort to make students more aware of area employment opportunities after high school graduation. NAL is a sponsor of the program.**

## CHRISMAN

FROM PAGE 1A

deductible and \$6,250 in out of pocket expense for health care. A \$500 deductible with another out of pocket formula is another option.

"Our employees live paycheck to paycheck and this increase is a hardship for them," said Burns.

Responding to a question from Mayor Dan Owen, Burns said the oldest city employee is looking at a monthly premium of \$500 under the group plan.

"He can't afford that," said Owen.

The premium is just for the employee and does not include dependents. Knight said employees can extend coverage to other family members but the city is not responsible for that cost. Premiums for family members are taken from the employee's pay.

The council asked Burns and Knight to create a more detailed breakdown of the proposal by both employee and by city department. It was noted providing employee health insurance could add another \$40,000 in new expense to the city. The matter was carried over for the next meeting.

City attorney Robert Morris updated the council on progress in creating a leash law and a chicken ordinance regarding the keeping of fowl in the community. He proposed dogs be kept under restraint within city limits by means of a tether, fence or electric fence while on their home property. A leash

is required any time the dogs leave the property.

Councilman Rodney Wolfe had some concerns about keeping dogs restrained while in the yard of their owner.

"Some people like to go out and play fetch with their dogs," said Wolfe.

Council members clarified the goal is to prevent dogs from roaming at large so any time it leaves the home property a leash is required. Fines were suggested at \$25 for a first offense, \$50 for a second and \$75 for a third infraction. Dog owners found guilty of violating the leash law are also responsible for court costs.

Similar fines were added to the fowl ordinance.

"For the chickens, it has to be same thing, if there's not a penalty, there is no reason to obey it," said Owen.

Morris promised voting ready revisions for the next council meeting.

The attorney addressed the developing plan for a pipeline between Paris and Chrisman for the sale of water to Chrisman. Morris said indications are Paris is nearing completion on a proposed contract for the Chrisman council to review.

"I understand the grant writer and the city engineer have a meeting with the EPA," said Morris. "I haven't received any indication there is a problem."

Paris is seeking funding through the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to build the pipeline.

Another issue Morris dis-

cussed with the council is the effort to get \$10,000 back from Carus Corporation. The money was paid for chemicals that were not delivered.

"The thing we have to deal with is there's no contract and this dates from 2015," said Morris.

Wolfe noted it will cost the city money in attorney fees if the effort to get the money refunded is continued, but he advocated moving ahead. The other members of the council agreed.

"Even if we don't get anything, we will cost them money," said commissioner Jerry Hoult.

After accepting the resignation of city clerk Sierra Dicken, the council reorganized the city administrative office by moving Burns into the clerk's job from her city treasurer position and hiring Brittaney Kindred as the new treasurer. Hoult said six people interviewed for the treasurer's job and Kindred offered the best qualifications, including grant experience.

The federal government shutdown is having an impact on Chrisman.

Owen reported the project to improve the city's sewage treatment plan is now on hold since a major funding component is coming through the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program.

"The sewer plant construction is on hold until the government comes back to work," said Owen.

## SHILOH

FROM PAGE 1A

multi-purpose room. The board received good news from structural engineers who inspected the two areas and found the roofs can structurally support the large air-conditioning units required.

Hall reminded the board an

architect will charge 10 percent of the cost of the project. Board member Aaron Richardson noted, "if the we're going to do this, let's do it right." He also urged the school to find ways to further utilize the spaces if cooling is added to the areas.

The cost of the projects would be around \$100,000 or more, Hall said, with payment coming from the district's 1

percent sales tax receipts. Shiloh currently receives about \$17,000 a month from Douglas and Edgar Counties in 1 percent sales tax or approximately \$240,000 a year.

Other upcoming work to be paid from the 1 percent fund is further coating of the school roof, new carpeting in the library as well as new cabinets in the home economics room.

## Many hands helping fundraiser

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Putting together a fundraiser is sometimes the work of one person but often many people are needed to make it happen.

The upcoming fashion show to help the Bicentennial Art Center and Museum is an example of where lots of help is needed be-

yond planning the event.

Local businesses Bee Sweet Boutique, Ol' Hairitage Beauty & Boutique, Plush, Rural King, Simply Irresistible and Wal-Mart have agreed to supply the clothing and accessories.

The following people have volunteered to model the clothing: 2019 Little Miss Edgar County Fair Lanie Sal-

lee, Cate Kirby, Claire Kirby, Teresa Twigg, Franceska Trigg, Delilah Bradley, Lexie Sallee, Donna Vietor, Allie McCrocklin, Sue Anne Casey, Millie Arp, Angel Templeton, Barb Sinclair, Robert Morris, Tom Hebermehl, John Sanchez, Susi Willis, Kathy Porter, Maria Horvat, Carolyn Sutton, Olivia Gale and Will Gale.

## 'Shrek Jr.' is opening next month

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Mayo Middle School will present the musical "Shrek Jr." at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Feb. 1-2, at the Paris Center of Fine Arts at Paris High School.

The musical is based on the Dreamworks animated movie "Shrek," telling the story of an Ogre who rescues Princess Fiona from a dragon-guarded castle for Lord Farquaad, a tiny terror with big ambitions.

"It's a musical the whole family can enjoy," director Nancy Zeman said. "Our costumes are fun and there are many laughs."

Part romance and part twisted fairy tale, the musical is an irreverently fun show with a powerful message for the whole family — beauty is in eye of the beholder.

A cast of approximately 35 students has been busy learning music with musical director Peg Dixon and dance with choreographer Cathy Slaven. Assistant director for the production is Mayo teacher Tobi Sanders and Michelle Jacobs is the stage manager.

Shrek is played by eighth grader Seth Worthington who previously played the Genie in "Aladdin" and the Beast in last year's "Beauty and the Beast Jr." The feisty

Princess Fiona — who has lots of spunk and a secret — is played by eighth grader Claire Young in her third major role for Mayo. Donkey — Shrek's companion on his noble quest — is played by seventh grader Calvin Rigdon in his second Mayo musical role after playing Cogsworth in "Beauty and the Beast Jr." Playing Lord Farquaad — who is seeking the perfect princess for Duloc — is eighth grader Will Templeton who last year played Gaston and as a sixth grader played Jafar in "Aladdin." He has been busy working on negotiating the stage as the pint-sized bully.

The fairy tale creatures are led by Pinocchio — complete with his growing nose — played by eighth grader Ethan Vice who is also in his third and final Mayo production. The Wicked Witch is played by Emma Kemper while the Dragon is played by MaeLynn Redmon, who was last year's Belle in "Beauty and the Beast." Seventh grader Will Moody is the Captain of the Guard as well as the Bishop. Maddie Grace Slaven plays the young Fiona while Kya Bradford plays teen Fiona.

Sixth grader Graham Templeton is playing the Gingerbread Man — Gingie. "Graham not only does a great job with the voice, but he's operating the puppet, too," Zeman said.

Costumes are by Jayne Ball at Grande Ball Costumes and More in Charleston. The set was designed and constructed by Chris Millam and Ryan Barrett. Millie Arp painted the set, transforming it into Shrek's swamp home, Farquaad's Duloc Castle and Fiona's tower room.

Zeman emphasized putting together a musical with middle school and elementary students is particularly challenging because many of them are not only involved in drama but also music, band, volleyball, cheerleading and basketball.

Tickets for the production are \$10 for high school through adults and \$5 for middle school and younger. Tickets will be sold only at the door on a first come, first served basis, Zeman said.

In addition to the Saturday production, Paris High School drama is sponsoring a spaghetti supper from 4:30-6:30 p.m. in The Den at PHS to raise funds for a trip to New York City to see Broadway shows.

"Families can make a complete evening of it," Zeman said.

Crestwood Junior High will be presenting "Pinocchio Jr.," Feb. 15-16 at the PCOFA. PHS drama is presenting the musical "Newsies," directed by Tanner Laughlin, April 5-7.

## Titans honor seniors

TCT girls run past Pal/Hut 61-3, move to 6th in AP poll

BY TIM HENDERSHOT

sportsfan122744@yahoo.com  
KANSAS — It has been a wild four-year ride for five seniors on the Tri-County Titans girls basketball team.

The quintet of Harley Barry, Maiya Eskew, Grace Burnside, Meredith Smith and Kiersten Price-Wilson have played together for the Titans team and have led them to four straight LOVC Southeast Division titles, two straight LOVC titles and two straight Sweet 16 appearances.

On Thursday night, the quintet had one final curtain call at home in front of Titan Nation.

These five players, along with foreign exchange student Lea Schimmer, were honored in Kansas before their scheduled LOVC Southeast Division home contest against the Palestine/Hutsonville Pioneers.

The Titans also moved up to number sixth in the latest Associated Press IHSA Class 1A poll building all of the momentum towards another strong post-season run.

After a slow start in the early portion of the contest, the Titans swarming pressure defense overcame the shorthanded, young Pioneers squad as Tri-County shutout Palestine/Hutsonville and held the Pioneers to just one field goal the entire game en route to a 61-3 triumph notching win number 22 on the season.

The Titans were slightly overwhelmed early in the first quarter of Thursday's game, giving up five early turnovers but the Pioneers were unable to capitalize, turning the ball over 14 times in the opening minutes. Tri-County finally got things going inside as Kiersten Price-Wilson scored 6 of the Titans 12 points to take a 12-0 lead.

Tri-County's defense rose to the occasion in the second quarter as Tayler Barry scored 12 of the Titans 26 points. The Pioneers managed their lone points of the frame on a lay-up by Stephanie Budd as Palestine continued to turn the ball over.

Tri-County held a 38-2 lead at the halftime break.

Harley Barry and Madison Barrow combined for 10 of the 23 points in the third quarter. The Pioneers were unable to score, trailing 61-2 heading into the final quarter of play.

The Titans went 24 of 63 for 38.1 percent and 6 of 13 from the line for 46.2 percent. TCT coughed up the ball 19 times.

Tayler Barry led all scorers with 14 points while Kiersten Price-Wilson added 9 points. Maiya Eskew had 6 points, 5 steals, and 2 rebounds and Harley Barry had 7 points and

See **TITANS**, Page 10A

# Crestwood wins regional

Seventh grade Eagles take down number 1 seed to earn trip to Class 2A sectional game

BY JEREMY PATTERSON

pattersonjeremy267@gmail.com

CASEY — The Crestwood boys' basketball team took the IESA Class 2A regional championship title upsetting top-seeded Dietrich 31-27 Thursday night, Jan. 27.

Crestwood will open sectional play against Effingham St. Anthony at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday at Louisville North Clay High School. The winner of that game will advance to the Class 2A state tourney at Bartonville Limestone High School.

In Thursday's championship game, the Eagles jumped to an early lead taking a 14-10 advantage after the first quarter. at will in the first quarter but led just 14-10 after the opening period.

Crestwood was paced in the first quarter by JaxCrestwood was paced by Jaxen Tingley who scored seven points in the quarter.

At halftime, Crestwood continued to hold the lead,



Special to The Prairie Press

**Champions of the IESA Class 2A regional at Casey Thursday at the Crestwood Eagles. Team members are first row, from left, Robert Wells, Sabastian Daugherty, Jacob Staley, Jace Hand, Bradley Litteral, Drake Thompson, Landon Nugent and Cooper Keys. Second row, from left, John Curtis Heelen, Coach Bob Abernathy, Ethan Hefner, Drake Bartos, Connor Rhoads, Jaxen Tingley, Conner Edwards, Landon Garven, Whyatt Morgan and Coach Gary Abernathy.**

taking a 17-14 advantage into the lockerroom at halftime.

The Eagles shut down Dietrich in the third quarter, outscoring the top-seed 8-2 to

take a 25-16 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Despite a furious rally from Dietrich, Crestwood was able to hold on for a 31-27 victory

and regional championship.

Leading the scoring for the Eagles was l Drake Bartos with 14 points. Conner Edwards added 9 points while

Jaxen Tingley scored 8 points. in the win.

**CRESTWOOD 31, CASEY 27**

In the regional semifinal Tuesday, Jan. 22, Crestwood faced Casey-Westfield.

The Eagles fell behind early in the contest and trailed 15-11 at halftime. Casey-Westfield outscored Crestwood 6-4 in the third quarter and held a 21-15 lead entering the final quarter.

The Crestwood offense exploded in the last minutes of the game, outscoring Casey-Westfield 16-5 to capture the win in dramatic fashion at 31-27.

Drake Bartos was key to the Eagle offense as he scored 19 points. Conner Edwards scored 5 points in the game while Conner Rhoads scored 4 points. Ethan Hefner added 3 points.

**CRESTWOOD 53, HUTSONVILLE 14**

The Eagles opened up regional play against Hutsonville

See **EAGLES**, Page 11A

## LADY TIGER SENIORS HONORED



Michelle Jacobs/The Prairie Press

**Prior to the start of the Varsity contest between the Paris Lady Tigers and conference opponent the Flora Lady Wolves, the two Seniors on the Lady Tigers roster were recognized along with their parents. Left to right, Lisa Roush, Emilee Roush, Jeff Roush, Mike Westerfield, Brooklyn Westerfield and Tonya Westerfield.**

# Paris picks up 20th win

BY DAN DUNDAS & JEFF CHAMBERLAIN

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Paris sent off their two senior players in style with a 60-30 win over the Flora Wolf Gals on Thursday (1/24) at Paris High School.

Brooklyn Westerfield and Emilee Roush are the lone seniors for the Lady Tigers and were recognized before and after the game. Roush was able to get the start after sitting out last season with a knee injury. Westerfield had the hot hand to help Paris start off the game and junior Karrington Krabel helped finish it in the second half.

Westerfield scored the game's first 6 points off of post moves and offensive rebounds. Flora nailed a 3 with 5:25 left to cut the score in half and Madysyn Rigdon answered with a 3-pointer and layup. Paris was able to make several more baskets to take a 15-9 lead after the first quarter.

Flora cut the lead to 15-12 on a three-pointer just 30 seconds into the second quarter — then the Paris defense took over. While Westerfield, Krabel and Rigdon all made shots, Paris either forced turnovers or grabbed offensive rebounds to stay up 23-13 at the halftime break.

Paris opened the third quarter with an 8-0 run as 4 of the points came from Westerfield. Rigdon and Krabel helped stretch it to 38-13 with two more shots before Flora began to inch back.

The Wolf Gals made their first field

See **PARIS**, Page 10A



Michelle Jacobs/The Prairie Press

**Freshman Madyson Rigdon goes for the layup to finish a fast break for the Lady Tigers against Flora Thursday, January 24 at Paris High School. Paris dominated the visitors to take a 66-29 win.**

## Tigers exit LIC tourney

BY DAN DUNDAS

dandundas82@gmail.com

The Paris boys opened up their first game in the LIC Tournament as the ninth seed versus the eighth seeded Flora, and ended up losing to the Wolves 54-47 Friday night.

Paris jumped out to a 9-0 lead before Flora came back to make it an 11-7 game. Paris Head Coach Shawn Nugent took note of the loud environment.

"It was definitely a different environment down there, and we did a good job of dealing with it. I thought our guys came out fired up right away given the two hour bus ride we had."

Paris shot well from the floor, shooting over 50 percent, and connected on three of their eight three-point shots. Paris kept themselves in the game by limiting their turnovers. Both teams played evenly in the second quarter on the scoreboard.

Paris went up eight coming out of the half but the Wolves managed to force several turnovers. Paris starters Jude Sullivan and Colton Landrum returned in the second half after spending most of the first half stuck on the bench with fouls.

Even with Paris outpacing the Wolves in free throw attempts, the Wolves outscored them 14-9 in the third quarter and continued into the fourth as well.

"Their guys stepped up late and made some good shots." Nugent said. "It's really a game of runs, to be honest. We withstood theirs, and we had some of our own."

Mason Hutchings paced the Tigers with 18 points on the night with his continual drives to the basket. Landrum finished with 9

See **TIGERS**, Page 10A

# CONGRATULATIONS



to the Paris Lady Tigers on their 2<sup>nd</sup> straight LIC Tourney Title

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# Panthers remain unbeaten in Junior League

BY CINDY WILSON  
cwillson81@frontier.com

The temperatures were cold outside but the action was hot in Eveland Gym for the weekly Paris Junior League games Sunday, Jan. 20.

## CARDINALS 28, EAGLES 14

In the opening game of the afternoon the Cardinals jumped out to a 6-0 lead at the end of first quarter. Both teams did some scoring during the second period but the Cardinals were leading 16-6 at the half. The rhythm continued and at the end of the third the Cardinals maintained a 20 - 11 advantage. The Cardinals held on for the win.

Leading the Cardinals was Bella Moreschi with 8 points. Dylan Lucas was right behind with 6 and Myah Bartos with 5 points. Carter Eastham and Chancy Chaney had 4 points each. Carter Crippes had two points. Xavier Quinn led the Eagles with 3 points. Sophie Hender-

son, Murray Smith, Karson Kollman, Nicholas Doughan and Carson Throneburg all had 1 point. Logan Gerberding finished with a single free throw.

## HAWKS 37, LIONS 18

The first quarter of the game saw a great deal of back-to-back scoring from both teams with the Hawks holding a two-point lead, 12 -10.

Things were tough for the Lions during the second quarter as they were unable to get on the board while watching their opponent skate out to a 20-10 lead.

The Hawks moved ahead 26-14 in the third quarter. That fire lit beneath the Hawks continued into the fourth quarter as they added 11 more points while holding the Lions to just 4 points.

Dominic Asbury led the Hawks with 10 points but right behind was Madox Hutchings with 8. Bradley Litteral got in on the scoring with 7 points. Brody Bish-

op and Carter Wilson had 4 points each. Paisley Reed and Jenna Lewsader finished with 2 points.

Sixth graders Samantha Kindred and John Heelan led the Lions with 6 points each. Eli Brinkerhoff had 4 and Cash Kuglin ended the day with 2 points.

## PANTHERS 45 BEARS 15

The chill in the air didn't stop the Panthers from snatching another victory. They quickly took control of first quarter, leading the Bears 8-2.

They continued that through the second quarter as they increased their lead 16-6

At the end of the third quarter, the Panthers held a

comfortable 27-14 lead. The Panthers exploded on the court during the final period of play and added 18 to the board while the Bears struggled, making a single free throw.

Leading the Panthers was Drew Rogers with 20 points. Jackson Rigdon added 8 points. Dylan Blair had 5 points and Dawson Rogers had 4 points. Caiden Vice, Carter Delashmit, Sean Dunn and Karic Mason each added 2 points.

Conner Little led the Bears with 8 points. Charlie Ford added 4 points. Jacob Staley had a bucket and Gabriel Roush finished with a free throw.

## COLTS 33 TIGERS 22

The final game of the afternoon featured two equally matched teams.

At the end of the first quarter the Colts held a slim 8-4 lead. Play turned around for the Tigers in the second period as they added 10 points to the board and held the Colts scoreless.

Both teams returned in the third quarter with the Tigers having a 14-8 advantage.

The Colts attempted to get things rolling and put on 12 points in the quarter while holding the Tigers to only 5 points.

The Colts held a 20 -19 lead and were poised for the fourth quarter. The Colts owned the

court during the fourth quarter as they put in 13 more points and held the Tigers to only 3 points as they defeated the Tigers 33-22.

Mason Byrnes led the Colts with 9 points and Rickie White finished with 8 points. Drake Thompson finished with 7 points while Dylan Flores scored 6 points. Hailey Yantis finished the evening with a bucket and a free throw.

Ty King led the pace for the Tigers with 7 points. Brody Whitaker finished with 5 points and Logan Dick was credited for 3 points. Macy Bicknell, Brian Smith, and Caison Whitaker each scored a bucket.

## PARIS

FROM PAGE 9A

goal since early in the second period at the 2:25 mark and continued to knock down free throws as the quarter wound down, leaving the score 40-22 at the end of the third quarter.

Krabel knocked down two threes to open the fourth quarter. The scoring for Flora waned as the clock ticked down and, after several more baskets from Westerfield, Rigdon, and Krabel, the clock struck zero.

After the game, both seniors were asked on the radio what advice they would give to a player going into their senior year.

"Soak it up while you can. It feels like we just started the season, and now it's almost over," Westerfield said. Roush echoed similar thoughts

"Just to remember it all, and enjoy it while it lasts," Roush said.

Even with Westerfield almost matching a career high with 18 and Krabel scoring 17, Madyson Rigdon led the team with 19 points.

Paris plays at 11 a.m. today at Effingham St. Anthony in a non-conference contest.

## PARIS 66, ROBINSON 29

ROBINSON — With just two remaining Little Illini Conference games on their schedule, the Paris Lady Tigers took care of business on Monday night (1/21) as they defeated the Robinson Lady Maroons by the score of 66-29.

For the third consecutive season-and the fourth in the last five years-the Lady Tigers have reached the 20-win mark. Paris now sits atop the LIC standings with a 6-0 mark and a 20-7 record overall.

Coach Dave Tingley was a little concerned leading up to the game as the Lady Tigers were not in class due to the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday.

"Whenever players get taken out of their routine, you never know what kind of performance you are going to get. I was really happy with the way the girls came out of the locker room ready to play, and they took care of things early on," the Paris coach noted.

Paris used a full-court press to start the game, forcing Robinson into five turnovers in their first six possessions. The Tigers sprinted out to an 18-6 lead at the end of the first quarter and expanded that lead to 34-10 at the half. Tingley was able to rest his starters for most of the second half ahead of the busy week for his squad.



Seniors Emily Roush, right, and Brooklyn Westerfield celebrate their Senior Night Thursday, Jan. 24, as the Lady Tigers downed Flora 60-30.

Karrington Krabel led the way for the Tigers with 22 points and six rebounds. Madyson Rigdon followed closely behind her with 20 points, including three 3-point baskets on the night. Jenna Gates had a double-double with 13 points and 11 assists on the evening. Katelyn Littleton and Emilee Roush had

eight points apiece, Brooklyn Westerfield had two points and 10 rebounds, and Emma Henderson scored one point.

The junior varsity team was also victorious by the score of 55-21.

Caroline Martin led the way with 14 points and six rebounds and Kylie Arnett added nine points.

## TITANS

FROM PAGE 10A

three assists. Meredith Smith had 3 points and 3 assists in the win.

The Pioneers only made one field goal in 27 attempts for 3.7 percent and shot 1 of 9 from the line for 11.1 percent. Pal/Hut committed 45

turnovers. Stephanie Budd scored all 3 points for the Pioneers in the loss.

The Titans (22-4, 3-0 LOVC Southeast) will travel to Villa Grove Monday to face the Villa Grove/Heritage Blue Devils in an LOVC Southeast Division contest. Tip off is set for 6 p.m. at Villa Grove High School.

## TIGERS

FROM PAGE 9A

points and Matthew Brouwer had 7 points.

"Mason did a great job pacing us and getting baskets for us when we needed."

## LAWRENCEVILLE 69, PARIS 62

After their loss to Flora, the Paris boys ended their run in the LIC Tournament with a 69-62 loss to Lawrenceville Tuesday afternoon. After falling to the host Wolves Friday night, Paris continually battled back from near double digit deficits but weren't able to close the gap.

Lawrenceville forced several turnovers early and jumped out to a quick lead. The Tigers fought back after being down 16-9 after one quarter to tie it up at 21 in the second quarter. "We shot the ball really well, over 50 percent again like on Friday," Nugent said. "We've been working on getting better shots in practice and it shows."

The Indians went on another run from that point on, going up 36-25 into the half. The Tigers played even

with Lawrenceville in the second half on the scoreboard.

"I like how our guys continued to battle after their mistakes. The turnovers did not help us at all, and guys are seeing the difference between when we do that a ton, and actually take care of the ball," Nugent said.

Matthew Brouwer scored 6 points which all came on strong one and two handed dunks in the paint. Brouwer also ended up with six blocks, giving him 54 for the year.

"Colton Landrum had a good game for us as well in the minutes he did play, keeping our energy level up," Nugent said.

The difference in the game very well may have been the three-point shooting with Lawrenceville knocking down three more total than the Tigers.

"Another team deep with seniors figured out how to get their win. We can't get into a hole like that versus a good team like Lawrenceville, and we had to exert a lot of energy to do so. Our sophomores are still trying to figure that out in their first year," Nugent said.

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# TCT girls take LOVC title

BY TIM HENDERSHOT  
sportsfan122744@yahoo.com

ARTHUR — For the second consecutive year, the Tri-County girls basketball team took the Little Okaw Valley Tourney championship 60-27 over the Arthur-Lovington/Atwood Hammond Knights Wednesday at Arthur High School.

When it comes to the history of the current Little Okaw Valley Conference format in girls basketball, there have been two teams constantly at the top of the pecking order. For several years, the Tri-County Titans and the Arthur-Lovington/Atwood-Hammond Knights have been the standard bearers winning their respective divisions and facing off during the regular season bringing some of the best basketball into the area.

Wednesday night these two great teams clashed once again.

Having won their respective divisional tournaments last week, the Titans and Knights took to the floor in Arthur after having to wait four days due to a snowstorm that canceled last Saturday's scheduled contest. The Titans defeated the



Tina Jones/The Prairie Press

**Champions of the LOVC Girls Tourney for the second straight year are the Tri-County Titans, who rolled to a 60-27 win over ALAH Wednesday, Jan. 23, at Arthur High School. Team members are first row, from left, Melia Eskew, Tayler Barry, Meredith Smith, Maiya Eskew, Harley Barry and Izzy Carroll. Second row, from left, manager Hugar Morrissey, Coach Joe Morrissey, Bella Dudley, Grace Burnside, Kiersten Price-Wilson, Lillie Cox, Caroline Smith and Coach Alyssa Childress.**

Knights on their home floor earlier in the season.

After building a 16-10 lead after the first quarter, the Titans ramped up the heat, outscoring the Knights 41-14 in the second and third quarters to take a commanding and insurmountable 57-24 lead

going into the fourth period. Tri-County eased their way to a 60-27 win and their second straight LOVC crown. Four Titans players reached double figures with even distribution of the scoring as Tayler Barry led the way with 14 points and five assists while Kiersten Price-Wilson scored

13 points in the paint. Harley Barry finished with 11 points, six steals, and five assists and Bella Dudley added 10 points off the bench. Grace Burnside scored seven points and grabbed seven rebounds in the victory.

## EAGLES

FROM PAGE 9A

Monday evening, Jan. 21 with a lopsided 53-14 win.

Crestwood jumped out to an early 11-4 lead after the

first quarter of play and never looked back.

The Eagles outscored Hutsonville 20-7 in the second quarter to take a commanding 31-11 lead at the halftime break.

Crestwood kept their foot on the gas in the third quarter, scoring 20 points while holding their opponent scoreless. The Eagles went on to win the contest 53-14.

Drake Bartos led the team

in scoring with 17 points with Jaxen Tingley adding 14 points for the Eagles. Conner Edwards scored 9 points in the contest while Ethan Hefner added 5 points. Robert Wells scored 4 points.

# TCT captures spot in Southeast title tilt

BY TIM HENDERSHOT  
sportsfan122744@yahoo.com

TOLEDO — A spot in the LOVC Southeast Division Boys Basketball Tournament title game was on the line Tuesday night in Greenup as the Tri-County Titans faced off against the host Cumber-

land Pirates.

The third-seeded Titans got to this point with an opening game win on Monday against Martinsville while the Pirates were playing their first game of the tournament, having the first round bye being the number

two seed.

With a guarantee of no less than fourth place in the conference tournament at stake, both teams gave it everything they had.

In the end, it was the Titans who managed a consistent scoring drive through

all four quarters to pull away with a 66-52 win, advancing to the divisional title game.

Mason Hutchinson led the way with 21 points while Blake Lee added 16 points. Mitch Pollock finished with 11 points in the victory.

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**EYES**  
On Marijuana  
By Aaron Rhoads, O.D.

Marijuana is now approved for medicinal use in Illinois as well as 29 other states and one of the approved uses here is for glaucoma. So naturally as eye care providers we get a lot of questions about this use. High eye pressure is a risk factor for glaucoma and lowering eye pressure is a hallmark of glaucoma treatment. In the 1970s it was discovered that marijuana use lowered eye pressure so since that time there has been discussion whether marijuana use could be used in a glaucoma care regimen. Unfortunately, there are major drawbacks for use in chronic disease treatment. Most eye drops are active for 12 to 24 hours where the active ingredient in marijuana, THC, only works for about 3 to 4 hours, meaning you would have to smoke marijuana 8-10x per day to get a therapeutic dose. Not only is this more expensive than drops but comes with side effects. Yes, you might be euphoric all day but being high for 24 hours can impair coordination and judgment, elevate the heart rate and irritate the eyes. There are efforts underway to develop an alternative strategy, such as eye drops but as yet these are unsuccessful. So for the time being marijuana is just not an effective treatment for glaucoma, but make sure to let your eye care provider know if you partake regular as it can affect your treatment strategy!

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As part of his commitment to the community, Spencer is a member of the Paris Economic Development Corporation. He is also an active member of his local congregation, volunteering his skills and time to help them with accounting, construction projects and ministry work.

Stop by our Paris location to meet Spencer, and to find out how he can help you achieve your financial goals.

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# Rodney Watson makes a name at USI

Paris native has compiled 203-65 record at USI

BY JEREMY PATTERSON  
pattersonjeremy267@gmail.com

Coaching — regardless of the sport or the level of the sport — is often viewed by fans and audiences with a black and white lens. Either you win or you lose.

Paris native and Paris High School graduate Rodney Watson, the head men's basketball coach for the University of Southern Indiana, has found much greater things throughout his coaching career besides just winning games.

"This has been such an outstanding career for me and it has really been a dream come true," Watson said. "I have been able to do what I wanted to on the court while also making an impact in my athlete's lives."



Watson has found success at USI, carrying a record of 203-65 in his ninth season with the Screaming Eagles. He has managed to ascend to a national ranking as high as second in Division II basketball (2010) and has qualified for multiple appearances in the Division II national tournament.

"It has been great to be part of such an outstanding program and USI is such a great place," Watson said. "This is an incredible school and basketball program."

In his time at USI, Watson has coached seven All-Americans and 15 players who went on to play basketball at a professional level.

Before making his mark at USI though, Watson learned the ropes at Southern Illinois

University as an assistant coach under head coaches Rich Herrin, Bruce Weber, Matt Painter and Chris Lowery. Watson spent 21 years with the Salukis and helped lead the team to 11 conference championships and nine NCAA tournament appearances.

Prior to his stint at SIU, Watson started his coaching at Coulterville High School in Coulterville, Ill. In his second year with the school, Watson was able to lead his team to the school's first regional championship in program history.

Despite the success that Watson has found throughout his coaching career, Watson says none of it would have been possible without the support of his wife, Carol, and four children, Ashley, Zachary, Olivia and Blake.

"There were times coaching that I couldn't see my family all the time and I would be coming back on weekends," Watson said. "It's a two-way street and the support that I got from my wife was critical to where I am today."

With love and support being such a key consistency through his career, Watson is extremely aware consistency is not the same in other aspects of the job.

The Eastern Illinois University graduate believes the



Special to The Prairie Press  
Paris native and Paris High School graduate Rodney Watson is in his ninth year as the head coach of the University of Southern Indiana Screaming Eagles. Watson credits his time on the concrete courts at Paris schools with helping him learn the game and develop mental and physical toughness.

rise of social media and travel sports have caused the biggest changes in athletics.

"Social media is a blessing and a curse," Watson said. "Coaches and parents can stream games now and that is awesome. On the other side, social media has resulted in less communication with people and more with a phone."

Travel sports teams have been another key citation from Watson, claiming players these days are losing out

on valuable life lessons.

Watson remembers his time on a concrete court at Crestwood School in Paris as a sixth-grade. There and on the playgrounds of the community, he learned to never take his eye off the ball and to be physically and mentally tough.

"So many kids are playing travel basketball and everything is organized and paid for," Watson said. "Pick-up basketball games are where I learned so much and I think

that it is an important part of the culture of the sport."

Halfway through the 2018-19 season, Watson is in pursuit of another winning season for the Screaming Eagles. With so much success in his life, Watson has not forgotten his roots in Paris.

"The schools in Paris are great and so are the people," Watson said. "The lessons that I learned there will be with me for the rest of my life."

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### Rams-Saints rematch 'pricey'

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Redoing last weekend's controversial NFC title game between the Los Angeles Rams and New Orleans Saints would mean a pricey delay of the upcoming Super Bowl, the NFL said Friday.

In a legal filing, the league's Chief Financial Officer Joseph Siclare said replaying even a few minutes of the NFC championship game because of a missed passed interference call would force a delay for an event that demands an investment of "more than \$100 million," the New Orleans Advocate reported.

Siclare's sworn affidavit was submitted by the NFL to get one of two pending lawsuits over officiating moved from state civil court to New Orleans federal court.

The filing marks the league's first formal response to a lawsuit by a pair of ticket-holders over the infamous "no call" that ended the Saints' Super Bowl run last Sunday.

The league cited a federal law that allows a defendant to automatically remove a state class-action lawsuit to federal court.

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## Mother Nature calls

Bathroom humor tickles my funny bones.

We modern folks make constant use of indoor flush toilets. Occasionally we might be forced to use an old-fashioned

outdoor privy, say at a campground or hunting lodge. On rare occasions we might even heed nature's call in the outdoors, much the same as Johnny Appleseed used to do it on the open prairie. Most of us are a bit shy, so we resort to corn fields, shrubbery or tree foliage for concealment. Tall weeds are acceptable, too, despite the danger of chiggers.

Guys who work or play in the outdoors often carry toilet paper in their vehicles for such emergencies – guys such as engineers, surveyors, hunters, fishermen, farmers, linemen and others. It's part of life. We accept it.

My cousin Scott recently hired three young men from a temporary employment agency to operate a weed eaters. It was a full-day job located in unpopulated rural country 20 miles from Madisonville, where his mowing company is located. Scott has his share of problems with hiring workers. I've written a previous column about him trying to hire a male worker who showed up pregnant on a blood test.

These guys, ranging in age from 25 to 35, passed their drug test, but only one possessed a drivers license. Augie had moved to Kentucky from Florida where the state had yanked his license for non-payment of child support. Oop lost his for driving on an expired license, which followed a drunk-driving citation. That left only George, who seemed trustworthy.

George drove the pickup truck to the assigned area, a pipeline right-of-way. Tractors had already mowed, but weed eaters trimmed around metal posts and ditches the tractors couldn't reach. The truck provided transport along the way.

Problems can occur, and it was Augie who developed a sudden one shortly after lunch.

"I gotta go to the bathroom, fellas," he said. "Bowel movement time." "Well, Augie, the boss has that covered," George quipped, as he reached behind the driver's seat and grabbed a roll of toilet tissue. "Here," he added, offering the item to his pard.

See **CODGER**, Page 2B



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT  
OLD CODGER

## CELEBRATING AN ICONIC BREAKFAST



Special to The Prairie Press

Is there anything more inviting than blueberry pancakes for breakfast? Monday is National Blueberry Pancake Day. Blueberries add a freshness to pancakes and nutrients like vitamin K, vitamin C, manganese and copper. At breakfast, add a few blueberries to your pancake, flapjack or hotcake batter. Adding blueberries to the pancake batter when mixing up the ingredients may result in a bluish hue. To avoid this, add them right after dropping dollops of batter to the hot griddle.

## Time for blueberry pancakes

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Here is something everyone can support.

Monday is National Blueberry Pancake Day. It is unknown who was originally behind this idea or how Jan. 28 came to be the official day, but it is clearly the work of a genius. Maybe somebody should invite Chuck Schumer and Mitch McConnell to share a blueberry pancake breakfast.

The confounding issues of should the syrup be warm or room temperature, should syrup be omitted in favor of a blueberry compote and is whipped cream an acceptable topping can easily be resolved as the two Senate leaders are overcome by the temptation of a stack of pancakes just off the griddle. What they will quickly realize is there is no reason for division over the toppings, only personal preference, so nobody is right and nobody is wrong, and they can quickly get on to finding common ground and compromises that move the country forward on other matters.

Perhaps that's a lot to expect from a simple blueberry pancake, but it's an American food doing its patriotic best.

Having National Blueberry Pancake Day in January seems a bit odd since July 8 is National Blueberry Day, July 11 is National Blueberry Muffin Day and April 28 is National Blueberry Pie Day. If there are any lingering issues between Schumer and McConnell after National Blueberry Pancake Day, let's invite them over on April 28 for National Blueberry Pie Day to finish restoring harmony to the Union.

Heck, with the right blueberry pie, Fox News and MSNBC could get together in a kumbaya moment.

### HISTORY OF PANCAKES

Pancakes have a long and varied background. Analysis of Paleolithic grinding tools reveals evidence of flour made from cattails and ferns. People who study such things believe it is possible a flour/water batter was cooked on a hot rock much like a pancake.

The first real evidence of pancakes dates to 5,300 years ago. The frozen remains of a bronze-age individual, still clothed and equipped, were found high in the Alps in 1991 and the discovery gave an unprecedented first hand look at prehistory.

Dubbed Otzi the Iceman, every aspect of the unfortunate individual was examined, including a review of his stomach contents. Among the substances identified was ground einkorn wheat. The presence of charcoal in the stomach

### BLUEBERRY PANCAKES

- 1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 Tbsp baking powder
- 1 ¼ tsp white sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 cup milk
- ½ tsp melted butter
- ½ cup blueberries (thaw first if frozen)

In large bowl sift together flour, salt, baking powder and sugar. In small bowl, mix together egg and milk. Stir the milk and egg into the flour mixture. Mix in the butter and fold in the blueberries.

This mix performs best if allowed to rest for an hour before cooking, but that may cause color to leach from the berries and give the batter a blue hue. The color change does nothing to the batter's taste.

### BLUEBERRY COMPOTE

- 2 cups frozen blueberries
- 3 tablespoons water
- ¼ cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons lemon juice

Combine 1 cup of the blueberries with the other ingredients in a suitably sized saucepan. Cook over a medium heat for about 10 minutes, and then add the remaining blueberries. Continue cooking for approximately eight minutes or until the desired consistency is reached.

The compote is best served warm.

suggests Otzi consumed the flour as a pancake-like food cooked over an open fire.

Pancake cuisine was advanced by the time the Classical Greeks and Romans were cooking the dish. These cultures consumed pancakes with honey.

Elizabethan England expanded the flavoring options to include different spices, rosewater, sherry and apples.

American colonists tinkered with the English recipes to make use of the most common grains in the New World – corn, or maize, flour and buckwheat flour. Despite the name, buckwheat is not in the grass family like the other types of wheat.

A big contribution from America to the pancake was the introduction of maple syrup – a technology the European settlers learned from the native people.

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A lot of names are applied to what is

but some people may find it off putting. An alternative is to add a few berries to each pour of batter as it cooks on the griddle.

Heat a lightly oiled griddle or frying pan over medium high heat. Place approximately ¼ cup of batter per each pancake on the hot griddle. Brown on both sides and serve hot.



known as a pancake, but the question is are the various names accurate or do they apply to different foods? According to the Merriam-Webster dictionary:

■ Pancake is a flat cake made of a thin batter and cooked on a griddle on both sides. Acceptable synonyms are flapjacks and griddlecakes.

■ Johnnycake is a bread made with cornmeal.

■ Hoecake is a small cake made of cornmeal.

■ Crepes are technically a pancake since they are made from a batter and cooked in a pan. Crepes, though, are quite thin and lack the puffy texture and hearty bulk of a pancake.

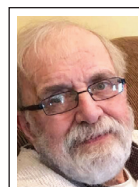
### BLUEBERRIES

Like real maple syrup, blueberries are the other great American contribution to pancakes. Blueberries are a native fruit and were an important food

See **PANCAKES**, Page 9B

## Barr's worrying comment

The malevolent ghost of the Alien and Seditions Acts reared its ugly head last week – and you thought the child of thin-skinned President John Adams had been relegated to history. But, along came William Barr.



HARRY REYNOLDS  
ANOTHER LOOK

President Donald Trump nominated Barr for U.S. Attorney General, thinking he might curb special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of any coordination between the Russian government and individuals associated with Trump's campaign.

The president, who insists he is innocent of such shenanigans, and having said he had nothing to fear, was not happy when Barr told senators during his confirmation hearings last week, he would not interfere in the investigation.

Trump has been calling Mueller's work a witch-hunt as consistently as his daily shave. Whether the president has something to worry about or the whole thing is a bunch of bull, that is not my concern.

Let the chips fall where they may, to borrow an old cliché. Given, I am not a Trump fan, my hope is that everything turns out all right for the guy. We are a nation of laws and freedom. We are the greatest nation in the world, period. I feel that down to my bones. Do you?

Barr will do the job, impartially. Yet, there is one big concern that nags me. He made a chilling observation, which is as follows:

He can conceive of situations where a journalist could be held in contempt when a news organization, "knows they are putting out stuff that will hurt the country." President Adams must be dancing in his grave.

My question would be: Who determines if a journalist could be held in contempt, and on what basis? Would the attorney general have this power of censorship? Would it be the president? Who would it be, this King Solomon?

And what happens when a Democrat president picks an attorney general with the same view as Barr? Journalists at Fox News might be seeking asylum in Russia.

The Alien and Sedition acts made it a crime for anyone to criticize the federal government, make false statements or damn-to-hell President Adams. Off to jail went journalists

See **REYNOLDS**, Page 9B

# Infection contributes to revolutionary evolution

Charles Darwin's famous work "Origin of Species" was published 160 years ago.

Darwin was a contemporary of Gregor Mendel, the Austrian monk, who worked with large gardens of selected pea plants at St. Thomas' Abbey. The father of genetics, Mendel crossed thousands of strains of pea plants and meticulously recorded seven traits such as flower color, seed texture, seed pattern and pod type. By crossing varieties he noted the resulting offspring had traits of both parent plants. Some traits were dominant and others recessive.

Mendel's research was confined to within the walls of the abbey. Darwin had a much larger lab experience. As a failing medical student, Darwin

joined a five-year sailing trip and kept journals describing the plants and animals on each island the ship visited.



TERRY SULLIVAN  
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

In the Galapagos, he saw multiple varieties of finches. They all had a common ancestor but the beak size and shape differed widely among

the varieties. In every case, the beak was ideally suited to access and crack open the available food.

Darwin postulated finch offspring in each clutch had slight variations and the trait best adapted aided survival.

The beneficial adaptation became more pronounced in subsequent generations and over hundreds of generations each finch population became distinct from finch species on other islands, but there is more to the story. Evolutionary change can happen on a much faster scale.

High school biology's standard example of evolution has long been the peppered moth in England. The moth was light colored with dark flakes in its wings. Original English forests were full of light colored trees, and these moths were ideally camouflaged to rest on the bark.

By 1811, there were no light colored peppered moths. This was the beginning of the industrial revolution when

giant coal burning factories pumped out tons of black soot. The trees became coated in soot and the bark was now black. The white moth stood out and birds devoured them. As moths reproduced, those with darker wings survived. Generation by generation they became darker until the dominant peppered moth was black and again invisible against the bark.

What textbooks don't cover is the change happened by 1850. How could an entire species change from light to black in a few dozen generations? Amazingly, the initial white to black change happened in one generation but the question remained how this evolution could occur so quickly?

The idea of horizontal heredity was introduced in the last 30 years and has rapidly gained acceptance. This is a different process for changing the genetic makeup of a living organism, and it can provide instantaneous evolution.

The Earth formed 4.5 billion years ago and almost as soon as it cooled life appeared. This was 4 billion years ago and life was not like we see today. For a billion years, life was simple single cells that could breathe, ingest nutrients and reproduce.

It was naked DNA strands open and freely sharing gene sequences with each other. It was the wild west of genetics. Cells traded DNA when they bumped into each other. Good traits and bad traits floated

back and forth between every living cell.

About 3 billion years ago one of those trades resulted in a cell developing a protective membrane. The membrane shielded the genetic material inside and like a patent stopped open sharing. This slowed evolution. Genes were only passed on to direct offspring during reproduction. Sexual two-parent reproduction added some variety, but most change has been slow for three billion years.

Carl Woese, a microbiology faculty member of the University of Illinois, fundamentally changed how we think about evolution and the origins of life. It turns out that horizontal sharing between species is

See **SULLIVAN**, Page 9B



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# TOPS groups meet

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

TOPS #IL 1563 met Thursday, Jan. 17, with 13 members attending the meeting.

Club members recognized were: Terri Cheatham, TOPS weekly best loser; Jill Hoffman and Sue English tied as KOPS weekly best losers; Janet Embry was the best walker and she also won the walking drawing; Ruth Ann Knight won the food chart drawing; and Sandy Randall was welcomed as a new member.

Members walked 33 miles for the week.

TOPS #IL 1563 meets every Thursday at the Highland Manor Community Room with weigh-ins beginning at 8 a.m. and the meeting starting at 9 a.m. Visitors and new members are always welcome and more information is available by calling 251-5190.

TOPS #IL 2318 met Tuesday, Jan. 22, with 13 members weighing in and 13 members attending the meeting.

Club members recognized were: Verna Smith, TOPS weekly loser; Marion Pate, KOPS weekly loser and KOPS drawing winner; Myndy Wooten, top walker and top cyclist; and Janice Stevens, top exerciser.

Smith gave a program about positive colors.

TOPS #IL 2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. Weigh-in is from 5:45-6:50 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. More information is available by calling 217-808-0078 or 217-8223-6300.

# NAL DONATES TO MARSHALL LIBRARY



Special to The Prairie Press

NAL presented the Marshall Public Library with a \$500 check as one of the company's STEM grant recipients. The donation will be used to fund an afterschool program to inspire local students in the third through the sixth grades to develop critical thinking skills through STREAM projects. Marshall students may sign up for this free program by calling the library. The next STREAM session is Feb. 19 after school. Alyson Thompson, Marshall Public Library Director, left, receives the check from Kayla Lindsay, NAL Talent Acquisition and Branding Coordinator.

## MILESTONES

# Jefson-Brinkley engagement

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Shannon and Trisha Brinkley, of Chrisman, and Scott and Jamie Jefson, of Shelbyville, are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Brandon Allen Brinkley and Mallory Kate Jefson.

Brinkley is a graduate of Lakeland College. He works as a landscaper in Shelbyville and the Chrisman area. Jefson is a graduate of Cedarville University and works as a fifth grade teacher in Shelbyville and as a park ranger.

He is the grandson of George and Trudi Brinkley and Larry and Nancy Harper. She is the granddaughter of Lynn



and Mary Ann Jefson, Shirley and the late Bernie Naber, and the late Jim and Georgia Moody.

An April 2019 wedding is planned.

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

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## CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

"Oh, no," Augie replied. "I want you to drive me to town to a gas station."

"Your toilet is here in the great outdoors, Augie. Just squat in the grass, weeds, or traipse over there to the nearby woods. Watch out for briars or poison ivy. You can even sit on a log if you so desire."

Augie protested, making it plain he'd never used a roadside, a cornfield or a woods and today would be no different. He insisted on a trip to town.

That meant all three,

because George was needed to drive, and Oop couldn't be abandoned by himself. Company policy forbid it. In case of injury, he'd need access to a vehicle. Thus Augie's bathroom demand forced the threesome to ride a 40-mile round trip to Madisonville and back so Augie could effect a 10-minute bowel rectification.

Scott shook his head in disbelief when the three stooges confessed their sojourn. Since they were on the clock, he was obligated to pay wages for the travel time.

Net result? Scott purchased a toilet seat (a horse-shoe-shaped rim, y'know)

that is carried behind the seat with the tissue paper. The rim can be inserted into the trailer hitch below the bumper. Nowadays when an employee needs to use the john, he can either perch on the seat and place a bucket beneath, or simply back the truck to a secluded spot, say a weed patch, and deposit the proceeds directly onto the ground. Quite an innovation.

It makes me scratch my head and ask, "What is this world coming to?"

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

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## Teeth confirm Hitler died in 1945

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

On April 30, 1945, as Allied forces converged on the capital of Nazi Germany, Hitler killed himself inside his Führerbunker. Days later, his remains were captured by the Red Army and were subsequently locked behind the Iron Curtain for decades.

This proved fodder enough for conspiracy theorists, who wanted to argue Hitler did not die in the bunker, but rather managed, somehow, to escape like other high-ranking Nazi officials to South America.

It didn't help things when Connecticut archaeologist and bone specialist Nick Bellantoni examined fragments of the skull believed to be Hitler's in 2009, claimed on the History Channel documentary, "Hitler's Escape," the skull with the bullet wound actually belonged to a woman under the age of 40. (The Russian State Archive, for its part, denies Bellantoni's team was ever given access to examine the skull.)

But now, reports Deutsche Welle, a study of the Führer's purported teeth in the Russian State Archive found them to be an exact match, confirming Hitler did indeed die in his bunker, likely by taking cyanide and shooting himself in the head.

"Adolf Hitler definitely died in 1945," reports Agence-France Presse, which explains in March and July of 2017, Russia's FSB, the successor to the Soviet Union's KGB, gave a team of French pathologists access to Hitler's jawbone and teeth.

It's well-documented the Nazi leader had notoriously bad teeth and gum disease (which led to some extremely bad breath in the last years of his life); by the end, he had only a few of his original chompers left, which left him with a complicated set of bridges and dentures. That, according to the forensic team, made ID'ing his jawbone relatively simple. The teeth appear to match X-rays taken of Hitler in 1944 and descriptions provided to the Soviets by Hitler's dentist and his dental assistant.

"The teeth are authentic, there is no possible doubt. Our study proves that Hitler died in 1945," Philippe Charlier, lead author of the study in the European Journal of Internal Medicine, tells AFP. "We can stop all the conspiracy theories about Hitler."

The team did not find any remains of meat in the teeth, which is also consistent with Hitler's vegetarianism. Bluish stains on some of the false teeth indicate he may have taken cyanide to end his life. Researchers did not find any gunpowder residue on the

See **TEETH**, Page 4B

# U.S. pit nukes against lasers

Why Reagan's Star Wars-esque Strategic Defense Initiative remained science fiction

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS  
www.history.com

It was a plan that read like science fiction: A system armed with an array of space-based X-ray lasers would detect and deflect any nukes headed toward the United States.

President Ronald Reagan saw the proposed Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) as a safeguard against the most terrifying Cold War outcome — nuclear annihilation. When Reagan first announced SDI on March 23, 1983, he called upon the U.S. scientists who "gave us nuclear weapons to

turn their great talents to the cause of mankind and world peace: to give us the means of rendering these nuclear weapons impotent and obsolete."

From the start, politicians and scientists argued that SDI was overambitious. The technical hurdles required to achieve SDI (which included a number of proposed designs and weapons — not just space-based lasers) seemed so incredible at the time that Massachusetts Senator Edward Kennedy referred to it as, "reckless 'Star Wars' schemes." The Star Wars moniker stuck. Over the course

of 10 years, the government spent up to \$30 billion on developing the concept, but the futuristic program remained just that — futuristic. It was formally scrapped by President Bill Clinton in 1993.

Despite criticisms from politicians, many scientists and others the SDI was impractical, expensive and dangerous, the concept was developed during a frightening era.

"The Soviets had literally hundreds of ballistic missiles aimed at the U.S., and the idea was that SDI would render all of them obsolete,"

says Matt C. Pinsker, adjunct professor of Homeland Security & Criminal Justice at the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs at Virginia Commonwealth University.

"The practical objection to SDI was that it was too expensive and not technologically feasible. The theoretical opposition to it was that it might ignite an arms race, though this does not make sense because there already was one."

Vince Houghton, historian/curator at the International Spy Museum in Washington, D.C., says he

believes Reagan, "truly despised nuclear weapons, and especially despised the threat they posed to the security of the United States. As much as people love to give him grief for what would end up being a trillion-dollar quagmire or accuse him of wanting Star Wars so that the United States could have a legitimate advantage over the Soviets in a nuclear war, Reagan seemed to truly believe that ballistic missile defense could finally release us from the perpetual, enduring, soul-crushing threat of Armageddon."

See **DEFENSE**, Page 4B

## DEFEAT BY ROMMEL PROVIDED KEY LESSONS



Special to The Prairie Press

The U.S. Army's Second Corps looking over a burned-out tank belonging to Rommel's Africa Corps following the Battle of the Kasserine Pass.

# Eisenhower learned from loss

After his first battle in North Africa exposed U.S. weaknesses, Eisenhower regrouped

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS  
www.history.com

As the Supreme Commander of Allied Forces in the European theater, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower is remembered as one of the most masterful military figures in history, the man behind the bold and superbly-executed Normandy invasion in June 1944 that led to Nazi Germany's defeat less than a year later.

But before Eisenhower's great military successes, there was a great failure. When he first faced the Germans in Tunisia in February 1943, his forces took a brutal beating in the battle of the Kasserine Pass. The battle is regarded by some as the most humiliating U.S. combat setback in World War II, with American forces suffering more than 6,000 casualties.

The loss was so devastating that British allies began to question Americans' ability to fight. But after figuring out what had gone wrong, Eisenhower made sweeping corrections. He reorganized his forces to work together in a more cohesive fashion, shook up his intelligence operation and brought in the brash, aggressive Gen. George S. Patton to shape up the U.S. Army's ground combat force in Tunisia.

Just as important, Eisenhower didn't lose faith in his men. Instead, he was able to see what they did right in the battle, and to build upon those strengths.

"The U.S. Army, the entire Allied force, was restructured from top to bottom after Kasserine," Robert Citino, the Samuel Zemurray Stone Senior Historian at the National WWII Museum in



Special to The Prairie Press

General Dwight D. Eisenhower, with his deputy, British Chief Air Marshal Arthur Tedder, and the principal commander of Allied ground forces in Europe, British General Bernard L. Montgomery in a U.S. armored vehicle as they review a tank exercise in England 1944.

New Orleans, explains. "If Eisenhower wasn't ready for Kasserine, he also showed that he knew how to jump start things."

As the National World War II Museum's website details, in November 1942 Eisenhower led the American and British forces in Operation Torch, an invasion of Axis-held North Africa. The Allied forces moved eastward, with the British forces under Gen. Bernard Montgomery taking Tripoli in late January. Then the Allies crossed the Atlas mountains, with a plan to head toward

the Mediterranean and split the German forces to the north and south.

In response, German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel used two of his tank divisions to push back the Allied line. Then, he saw an opportunity. He decided to launch a direct counterattack against the Allies through the Kasserine Pass, a gap in the mountains in central-western Tunisia.

Early in the morning on February 19, the Germans struck, and over the next week or so, inflicted heavy punishment

See **WWII**, Page 4B

## A true statesman

It takes a dedication to serve those people who elected him or her with a trustworthiness that is steadfast and true.

We have many statesmen right here in Edgar County who serve with distinction. It

may be a teacher, a minister, a writer, a board member or just a plain old businessman or an astute member of the general public. We all serve in some way or other and are responsible for ourselves and our families. We should also take into account and support the God given rights of man above all other ideas and pressures. We all should know the Constitution of our country well enough to engage in discussions for what and how the law of the land was brought forward by our forefathers, who wrote it.

It was not just a group of guys who came together to protest the handling of the colonies by the king of England and his emissaries. It was also about the right to own property and being responsible for putting together ideas to keep the newly formed American people with freedom and justice that were necessary, not the freedoms to do for themselves without regard for others.

An elected official is a true statesman who supports the ideas that lead to justice and fairness to all. It would be great if these leaders could share true wisdom and love that comes from understanding what the Ten Commandments are all about and being influenced by Jesus' loving grace.

They need a sharp mind and a determination to not be swayed by others when he or she knows the right pathway. They don't have to be a lawyer because sometimes they think and write laws using the legalese to say almost anything that can be interpreted in a way that is only confusing and ambiguous.

So many times an eloquent speaker can state the basis for the intent of their meaning and then to only

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B



ROGER STANLEY

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**DEFENSE**  
FROM PAGE 3B

But was the technology even feasible? In the 2000 book "Way Out There in the Blue: Reagan, Star Wars and the End of the Cold War," Frances Fitzgerald writes, "a perfect antiballistic missile defense was beyond the reach of technology. It was just a story, and yet to trust the polls, the idea had great popular appeal in the mid-'80s, and many Americans believed such a thing could be built. In that sense the Strategic Defense Initiative was Reagan's greatest triumph as an actor-storyteller."

Houghton says scientists and engineers continue to say if they had the necessary funding, they could have made the technology happen. But he

calls that argument problematic, pointing to a 1987 study by the American Physical Society, which brought together some of the nation's top scientific minds to take measure of all of the systems then under development. The study focused on the technical challenges of SDI, including developing high intensity lasers and particle beams.

"The report concluded that not a single one of the systems then under study or development was even remotely close to deployment," says Houghton. "It noted that every single system under consideration had to at least improve its energy output by 100 times to be effective. In some cases, as much as a million times."

Pinsker, however, claims the

technology was feasible — if given enough time to develop. "We know this because much of it exists today," he says. "For modern day examples of this, you can see how the U.S. Navy is placing lasers on its ships and has used them in exercises to take out drones and boats in military exercises."

Of course, this is now. In the 1980s, that kind of technology was rudimentary. Still, Pinsker argues, that was the point of Reagan's initiative — to grind away at the research until the concept became feasible.

Peter Westwick, an adjunct history professor at the University of Southern California, believes it was clear at the time the technology was going to take a long and intensive R&D effort over many years or decades, and even then many

technologies would likely not prove attainable.

Partisan debate on the issue had Democrats in Congress questioning the viability of the program, with Louisiana Senator J. Bennett Johnston calling it absolute folly and some scientists and members of the media describing SDI as a bargaining chip or bluff. In 1993, The New York Times reported the Pentagon had "rigged a test and falsified other data to make the \$30 billion program appear more successful than it was."

Nevertheless, Westwick says, "I've seen no contemporary evidence that it was a bluff, at least for the first few years of the program, and the person whose view counted the most, namely Reagan, certainly didn't view it as a bluff."

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

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**STANLEY**  
FROM PAGE 3B

be misused by those who add to it and change the meaning completely. He or she should be firm and use the understanding of his research in a positive way and for their worthy supporters.

I think our representative form of government means an elected official should not be so dependent on the salaries and perks afforded by the people. It should mean he or she is a member of the people realizing what is good for the hard working citizens. They would then be truly following in the footsteps of the original framers of our laws.

A statesman needs to be mostly living in his home community and know what real life is like to them. He or she should not take advantage of misused power.

I believe a good statesman should serve for a relatively short time and then go back to the community he came from and make good use of his experience and his life goals.

**WWII**  
FROM PAGE 3B

An excellent statesman may be called on for higher office and that may be also a good way to serve the people, but stay true to them.

It's all about being a servant of the people and to not be so starry-eyed and try to seek more power than he or she deserves. It would also be very nice if they spent the tax-payers' money wisely.

The most important statesmen of any community are those who love their neighbors and try their best to raise their family to be good citizens. One of the best examples anyone can use to help others is found in what is done in their own home.

We can only be thankful for those great statesmen that enriched our lives, both in our community and elected to higher office.

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

**TEETH**  
FROM PAGE 4B

jaw, which suggests if Hitler did shoot himself, it was done through the forehead or the neck, not the mouth.

The story of why it's taken more than 70 years to ID Hit-

ler's teeth is as screwy as the Fuhrer's teeth, themselves. DW reports Hitler, fearing that his body might be strung up or mutilated like Benito Mussolini's, gave orders his body and that of his wife Eva Braun be burned after their deaths.

On May 5, the Soviets discovered the two charred bodies in a bomb crater outside the bunker. Head of the KGB, the later Soviet Premier Yuri Andropov ordered the remains to be thrown in the Biederitz River to prevent a burial site from becoming a place of pilgrimage for fascists.

However, the Red Army did keep a portion of the jaw and a piece of skull with a bullet wound, transferring them to the archives in Moscow.

DW reports Stalin decided to sow doubt about Hitler's death in a ploy called "Operation Myth." The idea was to make the world believe the Americans or British were hiding Hitler for some nefarious reason and associate the West with Nazism.

It may not have worked, but it was enough to spawn conspiracy theories, books and films which kept alive the notion Hitler somehow escaped the bunker.

**enough for the job.**

"Eisenhower came out of the battle with renewed confidence that he had the men, the firepower, and the equipment he needed, if only that force was better commanded," Citino explains.

One of Eisenhower's key moves was to relieve Fredendall, about whom he'd had misgivings even before the battle, from command of the II Corps. He replaced him with Maj. Gen. George S. Patton, a tough taskmaster and aggressive, daring tactician. Patton turned out to be the perfect man to retrain the II Corps and incorporate the lessons learned from Kasserine Pass.

"Eisenhower's replacement of Fredendall with Patton shows that Eisenhower was a decisive leader who could make the tough decisions," Leo Barron, author of "Patton's First Victory: How General George Patton Turned the Tide in North Africa and Defeated the Afrika Corps at El Guettar," says.

"Eisenhower realized after Kasserine Pass that Fredendall had spent most of the battle hunkered down in a command bunker, miles away from the battle while leaving his subordinates leaderless and confused for most of the fighting."

Eisenhower also overhauled his intelligence operation, which had provided faulty information about the position of German forces. In addition, Eisenhower set a tougher standard for all of his officers. According to Ambrose, Eisenhower told Patton he expected him to be, "perfectly cold-blooded," about getting rid of anyone whose ability he doubted.

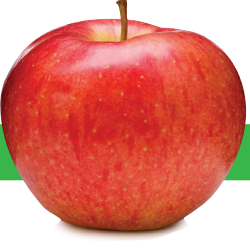
Eisenhower instilled in his forces the concept of fighting as one unit, rather than as disjointed pieces. This new approach quickly bore fruit a month later in the battle of El Guettar, which Barron noted was, "the U.S. Army's first major tactical victory against the Wehrmacht."

The Allied forces ultimately were victorious in North Africa, and went on to take Sicily and Italy as well. About a year and a half after the near-catastrophe at Kasserine Pass, Citino says, "it's the same U.S. Army that's landing in Normandy, and it's pretty damn good there."

"If there's one individual responsible for that turnaround more than any other, it's Eisenhower."

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# Reviving the Crystal Cathedral

Catholic Diocese of Orange continues repairs and renovations leading up to landmark church's reopening

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

GARDEN GROVE, Calif. — For nearly 30 years, the Rev. Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral was not only a religious landmark, but an architectural wonder and an embodiment of flush times in Southern California's Orange County.

Schuller, who began preaching to motorists at a drive-in movie theater in 1955, captured the ebullient positivity of midcentury America, and by the 1970s he was one of the country's top televangelists, best-known for his broadcast, "Hour of Power." The symbol of his success was Crystal Cathedral, a 128-foot-tall building designed by the cutting-edge modernist architect Philip Johnson to be the largest

glass building in the world.

From the top, you can see Disneyland. The inside seats almost 3,000. On holidays, services included live animals and acrobatic performers. It was a physical representation of the limitless hopes of the evangelical community of the time.

But the landscape began to change.

Around the turn of the 21st century, Schuller's large following of white evangelicals was aging, and the population of nonwhite residents in California was increasing. Membership and donations to Crystal Cathedral began to decline. The cathedral filed for bankruptcy in 2010.

At the same time, the Roman Catholic Church started seeing an increase in South-

ern California. In 1976, the Diocese of Orange consisted of about 300,000 Catholics. Today, the numbers are closer to 1.6 million, supporting 62 parishes, 41 schools, three hospitals and care centers and a number of agencies serving the poor, according to The Orange County Register.

"It's like, 'Where are all these people coming from?' They keep coming and coming," said Hank Evers, director of strategic communications for the Diocese of Orange, adding the overall population growth of the area impacted everything from the economy to the local churches. Fittingly, then, Crystal Cathedral is almost ready to open as a church again — this time as Christ Cathedral, seat of the

Diocese of Orange.

"It's the carrying on of a legacy that was begun before us," said Fr. Christopher Smith, a priest at Christ Cathedral. "And a very important sign of Christian unity."

When Evers joined the Orange Catholic Foundation in fall 2011, his first project was a capital campaign aimed at raising at least \$200 million to build a replacement for Holy Family Cathedral, an early 1960s parish church that was selected as the diocesan seat when the Diocese of Orange split off from Los Angeles in the 1970s.

It was that winter the Crystal Cathedral campus was foreclosed and bidding for the entire campus, including 35 acres, seven buildings and 340,000

square feet of building space, opened up.

"The timing was unbelievable," Evers said.

Unbelievable, but far from simple.

"We're buying a used cathedral," Evers said. "That's never happened before."

For one thing, the Diocese of Orange wasn't even the highest bidder. But at Schuller's request, the bankruptcy judge awarded the Diocese of Orange the campus for \$57.5 million.

Then came the hard part. Crystal Cathedral needed major repairs and would have to be adapted to serve as a Catholic facility. The new focus of Evers' capital campaign was raising money for its transformation. The final numbers were just

too high — \$25 million to \$30 million over budget.

The diocese brought in Richard Heim, division CEO for Clark Construction Group and a local Catholic. By cutting back on construction costs on what Heim refers to as back of the house features that few worshippers would notice, the diocese was able to save millions of dollars. The total cost of acquiring and adapting the building, at a little more than \$100 million, came to about half that of building a new cathedral.

"We had to strike a balance between the architectural significance, the functionality of the space, but also bring it in within the available funds," Heim said.

See **CATHEDRAL**, Page 6B

## Preach the Word

*"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction."*  
2 Timothy 4:2 NIV

The beloved apostle Paul wrote two letters that are extant to Timothy, a young man he mentored in the faith.

Actually, the relationship between the elder Paul and youthful Timothy

was more like a father to his boy, so much so that Paul refers on occasion to Timothy as his son in the faith.

He repeatedly encouraged the young minister, advising Timothy on a multiplicity of matters ranging from qualifications of pastors and deacons in the church to how to pass on the faith to future generations. There is so much more in the two letters to Timothy but then Paul came to the most important responsibility of the preacher/pastor as he was wrapping up the second letter: preach the word.

That's the key, the foundation and core and the bedrock for all the public pronouncements that a gospel preacher makes. Without this truth held inviolate, preachers don't have a ministry. They simply have a job or a business. Preaching the word is the primary function of all heralds of the gospel.

Bible colleges and universities have exhaustive programs for ministers. Mentally, socially, practically and philosophically the curriculum is designed to develop professionalism in individuals, and the truth is that one can become a polished professional without being a genuine possessor of faith or a passionate communicator of eternal truth. There's the rub, combining the aspects of being a reputable cleric and also being able to be as forthright and boldly free as a John the Baptist or Elijah the prophet.

But setting the balance aside, the most necessary of all the above is not how to impress others with style, it is to impact others through delivery of the truth: preach the word.

The admonition  
See **PASTOR**, Page 6B

## SURVIVOR CONTINUES TELLING HER STORY



Rena Quint, who survived the Holocaust as a young child, often speaks to groups about her experiences during and after the Holocaust. Sunday is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

## Holocaust survivors aging

The value of firsthand accounts, witnesses increases as time goes on

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

Rena Quint, who survived the Holocaust as a child, spent much of this week leading up to International Holocaust Remembrance Day Sunday, Jan. 27, speaking to groups about her traumatic early years and the rewarding life she has led since.

"This week alone I've been to Yad Vashem four times," Quint said, referring to Israel's national Holocaust center. "I spoke to a group of Catholic bishops, an American group, a Birthright group from Chile and an educators group from New Zealand. I told them my personal story, that I believe very strongly in God and the importance of Israel as a Jewish homeland."

In the continuing fight to educate the world about the Holocaust and anti-Semitism and to honor the millions who were slaughtered, survivors like the 82-year-old Quint are a vanishing resource. As the youngest remaining witnesses reach their 80s, their inevitable disappearance weighs heavily on Holocaust educators, who believe there is nothing more effective and moving than face-to-face testimonies.

"I don't like to speak of the day when there won't be any more survivors," said Shulamit Imber, pedagogical director of Yad Vashem's International School for Holocaust Studies. "My parents are survivors and I hope they will live many more years."

Even so, Imber said, "we ask ourselves what we will do when the survivors are no longer here. To answer that, first we must identify what survivors offer us and what we learn from them."

Quint was 3 1/2 years old in 1939, when the Nazis herded her family into a ghetto in central Poland.

Later, her mother and brothers were murdered at the Treblinka extermination camp. Someone managed to reunite Quint with her father in a slave-labor camp and he kept her alive by disguising her as a boy until he was sent to the Buchenwald concentration camp, where he



Survivors of Auschwitz arrive at the International Monument to the Victims of Fascism at the former Nazi German concentration and extermination camp KL Auschwitz II-Birkenau on International Holocaust Remembrance Day in Oswiecim, Poland, on Jan. 27, 2018. Sunday is International Holocaust Remembrance Day.

was killed. By the time the Allies liberated her at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp in 1945, when she was nine, she was the only surviving member of her family.

"To hear that 6 million Jews were murdered is overwhelming. To hear one story from someone who lived through the Holocaust makes a very strong impression," she said.

While Yad Vashem has thousands of survivor testimonies in its archives, the importance of in-person survivor testimonies goes beyond anecdotal evidence, Imber said. In surveys, teachers who have participated in Yad Vashem's multiday-Holocaust education seminars listed face-to-face encounters with survivors as the most effective part of the program.

"You watch the survivors' body language, see their eyes. They answer your questions and share their lives. They are moral authorities. They lived through the experience. You want to embrace their commitment to the memory of the Holocaust. There is nothing comparable to having them in the same room with you."

The race against time has prompted Yad Vashem to create a contextual kind of filmed testimony, in recent years, in which survivors travel to their hometowns in Europe and to the places where they experienced the Holocaust most

acutely.

"These are very powerful films," Imber said. The survivors "go through a kind of journey. They are seeing and touching the homes they once lived in, a world that was lost. Something happens there, beyond the testimony."

Yad Vashem is also actively encouraging teachers to use its extensive archive of diaries by Holocaust victims, many of whom did not survive the war.

"Everyone knows about Anne Frank's diary but there are thousands more, translated into many languages," she said.

In one such diary, Moshe Flinker, a young refugee in Belgium, dreams of becoming, "a Jewish statesman in the Land of Israel," years before Israel's establishment in 1948. But he sadly acknowledges that it would take a miracle to free the Jewish people from the grips of the Holocaust.

Flinker and his parents perished in Auschwitz.

Sol Nayman, who was imprisoned in a Soviet slave labor camp when he was a child, fears the day there will be no Holocaust survivors left to tell their stories.

"There are fewer and fewer of us every day," he said. "Our responsibility as witnesses is to educate young people about the Holocaust who can bear witness."

Nayman, 83 and a longtime resident  
See **SURVIVORS**, Page 6B

## Super Bowl Sunday can't open Chick-fil-A

Chick-fil-A won't make a Sunday exception for the Super Bowl — because the founder was a devout Southern Baptist.

The fried chicken chain, which has a location in the Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, Georgia, where the New England Patriots will face off against the Los Angeles Rams, confirmed it will remain closed during Super Bowl LIII — as it is on every Sunday, according to the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

The policy of being closed on Sundays was first established by founder Truett Cathy in 1946 to allow employees a day of rest and worship — and 73 years later, the tradition is still in place.

On the Chick-fil-A website, it reads: "Our founder, Truett Cathy, made the decision to close on Sundays in 1946 when he opened his first restaurant in Hapeville, Ga.

"Having worked seven days a week in restaurants open 24 hours, Truett saw the importance of closing on Sundays so that he and his employees could set aside one day to rest and worship if they choose — a practice we uphold today."

Despite its strict policy, the chain decided to open a location in Mercedes-Benz Stadium — where the majority of NFL football games take place on Sundays — because other events are also held at the stadium. Franchise operator Jonathan Hollis explained: "We're open for about 100 events a year that happen right here at the stadium" including soccer games, concerts and college football games.

The chain's commitment to its values despite the location of the 53rd Super Bowl has been applauded on social media.

"I truly admire the fact that they're sticking to what has made them successful," one person wrote.

Another said: "They stand by their principles, I respect that."

Someone else jokingly asked why the Super Bowl couldn't be moved to a Saturday instead, to accommodate Chick-fil-A.

In the past, the chicken chain has made exceptions to its Sunday rule — but only in circumstances where it can help people. In 2015, Chick-fil-A locations in Texas opened on a Sunday to feed people for free after tornadoes killed 11 people, and in 2016, Chick-fil-A locations in and near Orlando, Florida opened their doors on a Sunday to feed first responders and volunteers following the Pulse nightclub shooting, which left 49 people dead.

The Super Bowl will take place Sunday, Feb. 3.

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**PASTOR**

FROM PAGE 5B

includes additional directives: a preacher of the word must be prepared at all times (ministry isn't just 9 to 5); correct (error is best seen and quickly confronted in light of the revelation of the word); rebuke and encourage (there are times when both actions must be taken to bring lives into alignment with the word); and an aptitude to long-suffering and being precise in what we try to implant into another's mind and heart. Yet, all extra directives simply are the

garnish. They are the relishes that complement the main course, which is to preach the word.

Preaching the word is a privilege not to be taken lightly. The stewardship of delivering the untarnished and unadulterated, pure, whole counsel of God, is a weighty one. It's not our word; it's God's word. It is not at our convenience; it is for his pleasure. It is not to be hampered by any prejudices that we may harbor; it is for all men and women of all color, culture and character.

Preaching the word is not

an afterthought or just a nice ditty to be added to some heady discourse or flowery poetry. It is the substance that fuels every discourse, the webbing that binds together every preacher's prose, whether it is eloquent with Addisonian structure or even if it is a bit stilted or tushery. It is not about style or impressive fluent rhetoric. It is about faithfully preaching the word of God to a lost and dying world.

Thank God for every minister that does the above with passion and purpose. Sadly, there are those who

sermonize and spin stories, illustrations and pithy sayings without exegesis or exposition of the eternal unchanging truth of God. What a shame. God wants mankind to know exactly how much he loves us and precisely what he expects of us so he gave us his word.

The hashtag for any genuine preacher or pastor is #preachtheword.  
 (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.)

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**SURVIVORS**

FROM PAGE 5B

of Toronto, believes survivors also have a lot to teach about resilience.

"We went from death to life. We created families, we created homes, institutions, schools, great thinkers, great artists. We helped to create Israel. That is the strength of the Jewish people."

Quint, who has nearly 50 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, said much of her resilience is rooted in her faith.

"The people I speak to want to know how I can have such a positive attitude. They ask me how I can be so normal. I believe very strongly in God," she said.

Quint believes the value

**Holocaust Memorial Day 2019: Torn from home**

HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY TRUST

of relating her experience can go beyond understanding the Holocaust. Her listeners, she said, are often able to internalize the lessons she tries to convey by applying them to their own

lives.  
 "Once, in South Africa, the warden of a woman's prison asked me to speak to the prisoners. He told me that the women lose hope in prison. They wonder how,

after being released, they can ever create a home, find a job, have a family.

"He wanted me to tell them that if I could make a good life after what I experienced, they can, too."

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**CATHEDRAL**

FROM PAGE 5B

Some of the changes were small, such as switching from English walnut to red oak for the pews and looking at a wider range of flooring. The rehabilitation crew also ran into a lot of unexpected challenges, finding undocumented changes to the design, for instance, and having to replace underground plumbing and gas lines. The entire glass facade and roof had to be recalculated to withstand an earthquake.

"It is not the traditional stone concrete cathedrals that you would see in Europe that would last 500 years," Heim

said. "We are restoring a glass cathedral in the middle of a seismic zone in California, which is a bit of a challenge."

To transform the building into a place for Catholic Mass, a substantial altar area replaced Schuller's pulpit in the middle of the predella, giving it a central place in the cathedral and a major focal point. Limestone walls have been erected to create a sense of enclosure, and 11,000 panels, called quatrefoils, hung toward the ceiling help control temperature, monitor the acoustics and create a more somber atmosphere. The Hazel Wright Organ, one of the largest church instruments in the world, named for the "Hour of Power" viewer who donated the money for it, has been moved to a side.

Some architecture critics have taken exception to the changes, saying they diminish the openness of the Johnson

design. But the diocese feels that it has done much to preserve the beauty of the cathedral, which it considers a boon to the local community, while accommodating the diocese's needs.

"I think we've done many things with both the original vision of Philip Johnson but also makes it more of a Catholic worship place," Heim said.

Smith notes the words of Dorothy Day, who emphasized the need for beautiful spaces and encouraging the rich and the poor to come inside, listen to the music, look at the art and be inspired.

"Food is part of what we need to keep alive as humans but we also need to nourish our spirits," Smith said. "Beauty is one of the things that does that."

The diocese currently hosts 12 Masses in four languages every Sunday in another

building on the campus. The newly-dubbed Christ Cathedral is on the path to be done with construction by spring 2019, with a dedication planned for the summer.

Smith said that's when the staff's work will really begin.

"It's more than just learning how to turn on the lights — although that'll be a project here, too," he said with a laugh. "There's a lot of logistics of things."

The staff will also be reworking the Mass schedule, likely decreasing the number of Masses each Sunday. The new building will have a much bigger capacity and Smith said he wants to make sure pews are full at each Mass to create an environment of worshipping together.

"The building is going to continue its journey and its purpose of meeting the spiritual purpose of the people," Heim said.

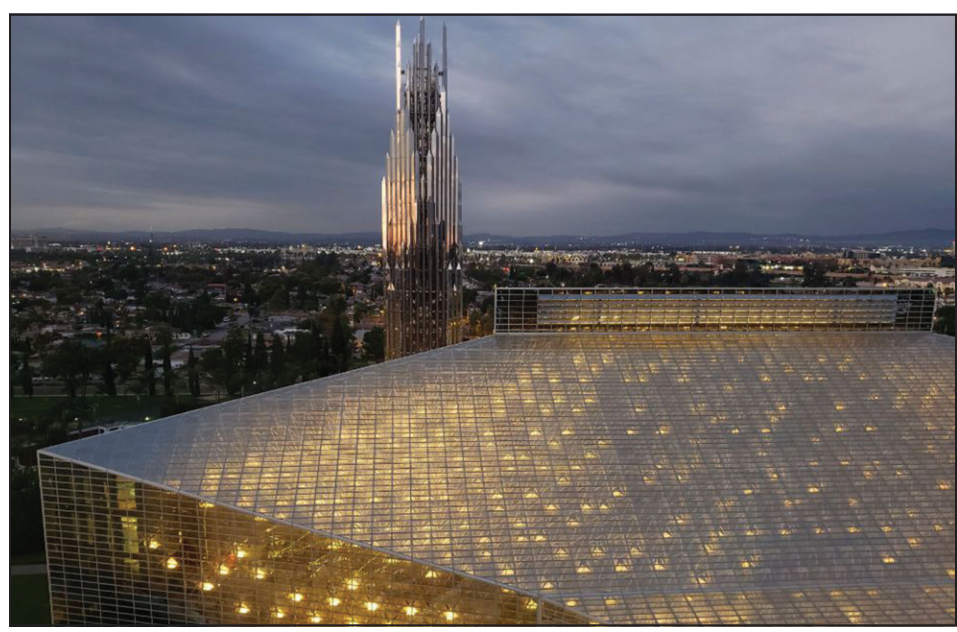
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Christ Cathedral is seen during the "Lighting of the Quatrefoils" ceremony on Oct. 13, 2018, in Garden Grove, Calif. Architect Philip Johnson created the Crystal Cathedral in 1980, known at the time as the largest glass building in the world. Its glass enclosure was designed in response to the Rev. Robert Schuller's request that the church be open to the, "sky and the surrounding world," according to the Diocese of Orange's website.

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## March corn outlook optimistic

Trade War resolution likely in near future, promising economic growth; Brazilian drought decimates corn

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

URBANA — March corn futures prices have maintained a range between \$3.70 and \$3.85 since the onset of the government shutdown, according to University of Illinois agricultural economist Todd Hubbs.

"The range-bound nature of corn prices continues despite projections of lower ending stocks. While soybean prices respond to rumors of a trade deal, the implications for corn prices may be just as strong this marketing year," Hubbs says.

A resolution of the trade dispute with China holds the promise of increased commodity prices and improve-

ment of economic growth issues facing the world in 2019. Each of these outcomes benefits corn prices, Hubbs says. "In particular, China levies a 1 percent tariff on corn imports on up to 5 million metric tons, or 197 million bushels, at which point the tariff increases to 65 percent on additional imports. Due to the current trade impasse, tariffs on U.S. corn imports to China sit 25 percent higher, at 26 percent and 90 percent respectively."

Recent reports out of China indicate the massive stocks built up under the price support program in place from 2007-2016 are approaching what the government considers a normal level. "It is difficult

to estimate corn stocks in China due to a lack of data availability," Hubbs says. "Chinese government officials indicated last week that they would sell off the remains of their old supplies in 2019. USDA projections for Chinese ending stocks comprise 67 percent of the current world ending stocks with no prospects of exporting corn and the development of a production deficit."

China currently faces a 26.5 MMT (1.04 billion bushels) production deficit under normal growing conditions in the forthcoming year. Because U.S. corn prices for export sit at the lowest level in the world, removal of the 25 percent tariff on U.S. corn imports infers

an uptick in exports to China, Hubbs says. "It seems plausible that 2 to 5 MMT (78.8 to 197 million bushels) of U.S. exports is feasible under the current tariff rate quota faced by the rest of the world. If China increased the baseline quantity of the tariff rate quota to help meet the production shortfall, corn exports could grow. The USDA forecast for corn exports this marketing year sits at 2.45 billion bushels. It seems unlikely that the current forecast includes exports to China given the lack of trade in recent years."

World supplies appear set to grow tighter this year, Hubbs adds. "South Africa, usually an exporter, appears set to be an

importer in 2019 on a significant crop shortfall associated with drought. The contraction may be severe with local agencies indicating up to a 19 percent loss of corn area planted. At 4.89 million acres, South African acreage forecasts sit on par with the drought year of 2015-16," he says.

CONAB, the Brazilian agricultural statistics agency, projected corn production at 3.59 billion bushels for 2018-19 in the January report. USDA's current projection sits at 3.72 billion bushels. "The prospects of USDA lowering production of Brazilian corn seems feasible. Projections indicate the second crop accounts for almost 70 percent of Brazilian

corn production this year," Hubbs says.

"The recent dryness in many regions of Brazil spurred soybean harvest and led to early corn planting. A continuation of recent weather patterns in Brazil may be a harbinger of things to come. The forecast for Argentine production sits at 1.67 billion bushels and may stay at that level for the near future. On top of these world production issues, an expectation of lower corn production for the 2018 U.S. crop leaves world supplies heading lower as we move into 2019," he adds.

While corn supplies continue to deteriorate around the world, U.S. exports maintain

See **OUTLOOK**, Page 8B

## Fair and balanced reader mail round-up

Tweeter-in-Chief, President Donald J. Trump, has been quite clear in his



ALAN GUEBERT  
FARM AND FOOD FILE

opinion of CNN, the cable television news network. Indeed, Trump's despise of the network—he thinks its initials

stand for Certainly Not News — encourages supporters to use CNN as a slander.

For example, when a reader of this weekly effort sends an email that includes the sentence "I think your views and the way you wrote [them] up was as good of a job as a typical CNN reporter," it's not meant as a compliment.

The key reason for my inability to be better than the network that invented 24-hour cable news, according to emailer "Josh" is simple: "You didn't show both sides of the story..."

Guilty, Josh.

I didn't present both sides of the story you didn't like for two reasons. First, only sourced, verifiable facts are offered as supporting evidence on any topic I write about. The Trump Administration, purveyors of over 7,000 provably misleading or flat-out wrong alternative facts, are not known to follow the same guideline.

Secondly, this is an opinion column. By definition, that means it contains, well, you know, opinions. If you want fair and balanced, I suggest you turn to the only news channel to promote itself as such.

Yes, that one.

Josh wasn't the only reader who didn't like my facts-based views of White House ag and trade policies. Melissa, from a Texas cattle ranch, wants no more anti-Trump columns writing, "The Americans that elected him want America run for Americans."

Moreover, she adds, "He's not a politician and does not act like one. He's a populist."

Fred from Ohio echoes Melissa. "With President Trump you basically get what you voted for," he wrote, "... a booming economy, record low unemployment, and a mindset change from Globalist to make America great again."

Another staunch Trump supporter took a slightly softer, but still full swing at me: "Think you are pretty hard on Trump," wrote Jim. "Things are looking better... we have to do something or there will be nothing left." Anyway, he

See **GUEBERT**, Page 8B

## FARMERS MUST NOURISH MENTAL, PHYSICAL WELLNESS



Special to The Prairie Press

**Stress has led to an increase in suicide among farmers and agribusiness professionals. As a result, Michigan State University Extension developed the Communicating With Farmers Under Stress workshop designed for people who work with agricultural producers and farm families to help them learn more about managing stress and communicating with those in need.**

## Managing farmer stress

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

"We are going through some difficult times on the farm."

Mike Rosmann, a farmer/psychologist from Harlan, Iowa, spoke those words during a webinar hosted by the Iowa Farm Bureau recently.

Rosmann spoke about strategies and behavior management that can help farmers deal with stress in order to function optimally as producers of food and renewable fuels.

"Financially, there's a lot of uncertainty about markets and now we have the added stress of a government shutdown and not sure when that may end," he said. "But, there are things we can take charge of and one of those is our behavior."

Rosmann said it's important, in times of stress, to manage physical health and behavior.

"Our behaviors are something we have considerable control over," he said.

What can be controlled?

Rosmann said there are behaviors farmers can control, and they can get help from many people besides professional counselors and physicians.

"We can turn to (Iowa State University) extension, to people in our community, to people that we trust and who have our best interests in mind," he said.

Why do producers and landowners care so much about their land and why does economic stress and other uncontrollable factors take such a heavy toll on farmers?

Rosmann said he likes to use the agrarian imperative theory to explain why this occurs.

The theory, according to information



Special to The Prairie Press

**Stress has led to an increase in suicide among farmers and agribusiness professionals. As a result, Michigan State University Extension developed the Communicating With Farmers Under Stress workshop designed for people who work with agricultural producers and farm families to help them learn more about managing stress and communicating with those in need.**

provided by Rosmann, is a purposeful drive to acquire the territory and resources necessary to undertake agricultural activities that lead to the production of food, fiber and renewable energy.

"It's a plausible explanation, but it's still only a theory," he said. "We strive to protect our territories. We feel motivated to produce essentials for life that will allow us to feed our families, but also our communities and the larger community of people all around the world. This urge to produce essentials for life is a powerful urge and it makes our calling to be farmers, to be noble, and gives us meaning."

"We hang on to our land at all cost. Wars have been fought over farmland."

The agrarian imperative, Rosmann said, not only helps farmers acquire land

and resources, but also sets a spot to have problems when individual behavioral characteristics come to play.

"When we feel threatened on the farm and we go to great lengths to try to protect our resources, we work extra hard," he said. "We take off-farm jobs, we try to save money. We try to manage our time carefully. We take risks to help us make us successful farmers."

"But at the same time, taking risks can be dangerous and can sometimes set us up to make mistakes."

Rosmann said it's important for producers to know how they manifest, or display, anxiety and tension as they proceed through their lives farming.

To help further understand how

See **STRESS**, Page 8B

## USDA staff work without pay

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

Federal meat inspectors are reporting to work without pay during the partial government shutdown, said an industry trade group on Wednesday, Jan. 23, as the USDA called on 9,700 furloughed FSA employees to reopen offices nationwide today to serve farmers and ranchers. Food stamp benefits were paid early for February, but the USDA does not have a large enough reserve to pay benefits in full in March if the month-old shutdown continues.

When asked if meat companies had reported any disruption in inspections, a spokesperson for the North American Meat Institute, a trade group, said, "Our experience is that inspectors are on the job and inspecting meat." The shutdown is affecting a wide range of government agencies. At the IRS, for example, hundreds of employees have called in sick or received permission to stay home due to financial hardship, said the Washington Post. Now, the Post said, some of the USDA's 8,600 meat inspectors, "have begun calling in sick — in numbers large enough to trigger an agency crackdown."

"There haven't been any production impacts that we're aware of," said the meat industry spokesperson. "We haven't heard anything to suggest that will change, so we fully anticipate inspection at all our plants will continue normally."

A USDA spokesperson was not immediately available for comment on meat inspectors or expectations for staff workers at its Farm Service Agency offices. The USDA says all FSA offices will be open today and handling a wider range of business than they provided during stopgap service last week.

The shutdown has stalled implementation of the 2018 farm law, slowed access to USDA loans and crop payments, and shut down the stream of USDA statistical reports and estimates that help farmers decide which crops to plant.

## With no USDA data, big farm traders have edge

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

In the absence of crucial government crop reports, the likes of Archer-Daniels-Midland Co., Bunge Ltd., Cargill Inc. and Louis Dreyfus Co., known collectively as the ABCDs, are tapping their wide networks and in-depth research to navigate markets. That's giving them an edge, bringing back memories of when information didn't travel as fast and they had a bigger advantage

over rivals.

Agriculture markets have been mostly in the dark since the U.S. Department of Agriculture ceased issuing reports that set the tone for trading in livestock and crops. Data including U.S. wheat plantings and the agency's monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates, typically a market-moving global benchmark, have already been delayed.

The data void signals the

trading goliaths, each with more than a century of history, will hark back to the roots that for years gave them an advantage buying crops in producing countries and delivering to consumers.

In the 1970s, the biggest trading houses used intelligence gathered on a faltering Soviet Union crop to sell millions of tons of grains in a secretive deal known as the Great Grain Robbery. Even earlier, information was so key to their

business that in the 1920s, Cargill bought and developed a teletype technology that ultimately allowed private messages to be sent almost instantly with a proprietary shorthand.

"You kind of go back to that old time where the grain traders have a bit of an advantage over the rest of us now, because you don't have USDA data being disseminated on a daily basis," says Stephen Nicholson, senior analyst for grains and oilseeds for Rabobank

Still, no trader has access to all information and, in varying degrees, they all rely on the USDA as the basis for their own assessments and for confirmation of deals. The agency has a lot of important data the market has come to rely on, said Tom Halverson, chief executive officer of CoBank, a \$125 billion lender to the agriculture industry.

The business of agricultural commodity traders has been

See **TRADERS**, Page 8B

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## OUTLOOK

FROM PAGE 8B

strength this marketing year. Export inspections place corn exports at 810.09 million bushels through Jan. 17. The current export level sits near 864 million bushels when accounting for differences between census data provided through October and weekly export inspections.

Corn exports need to average approximately 49 million bushels per week to hit the USDA forecast, Hubbs explains. Through Jan. 17, corn export inspections averaged slightly above 40 million bushels per week thus far this marketing year. While below the pace to attain the current USFDA forecast, export inspections sit 61 percent above last year over the same period. U.S.

corn continues to be the cheapest at export terminals in the world and looks to benefit from any trade deal. "A resolution of the trade dispute with China creates a bullish scenario for corn prices," Hubbs says. "The present outlook projects tighter world corn supplies in 2019. When considering world ending stocks without China's large position, USDA

world ending stocks come in near 3.98 billion bushels, down 644 million bushels from last marketing year." Hubbs adds that calculations of world ending stocks by the USDA do not include lower production by major exporters that developed since December. An entry by China into a tight world corn market under a new trade deal look supportive of corn prices, he says.

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## STRESS

FROM PAGE 8B

producers face challenging times, Rosmann said they took a look at the seven-state regional program AgriWellness Incorporated headquartered in Harlan and monitored 26 months of telephone calls that came into hotlines and help lines.

calls were logged in during that 26 month period, taken by telephone responders that were familiar with agriculture and, in the course of discussion with the caller, they were able to figure out if the person was farming, his or her role in the farming operation, why they made the telephone contact and what stressors they were going through.

to do with how we managed stressed, but also in many cases, because farm prices improved, or the conditions that caused the stress remitted." Another common issue in about 11 percent of callers was anxiety - excessive worrying, the inability to sleep well, not being able to settle down. Depression was also common.

nals or excessive stress, depression and suicide? Rosmann said to be aware of any verbalization that someone may say such as, "what's the use of trying," or, "sometimes I just feel like ending it all."

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Confidentiality was protected throughout the study, Rosmann said, and added many of the people were referred for follow up counseling that was available, in many cases, free of charge through federal and state funding, grants and private resources.

"Depression is chronic or more long-term than anxiety," he said. "Anxiety is a beneficial response to a threat. It gears us up to respond by working a little harder, or by scrambling to figure out what we can do."

Besides the feeling of hopelessness, another clear factor to look for is someone who says they haven't enjoyed anything for several weeks, "I haven't laughed for a long time," or "nothing is fun anymore."

"About 10,000 people were seen in counseling sessions," he said. Why did people contact the hotlines and help lines? And what were the diagnoses?

Rosmann said it is in the course of being anxious that people can sometimes deplete their bodies of hormones. "These chemicals become depleted and when that occurs we become depressed," he said. "So, that explains how anxiety turns into depression."

He added substance misuse of some kind was an occurring problem in about 40 percent of all the cases.

One of the first problems that emerges, Rosmann said, is when farmers are overly stressed, they start to quarrel with loved ones. About 40 percent of the reasons people called the hotlines is because of relationship turmoil. Rosmann said anger, physical and verbal abuse were the most common reasons.

He added substance misuse of some kind was an occurring problem in about 40 percent of all the cases. "It is often the situation where farmers, both men and women, will use alcohol or other drugs to calm themselves down or to not have to think about the stressful issues or just to sleep," he said.

Another type of statement could be a threat such as, "I'm going to shoot all of my cows and I might do it to myself." Those statements also need to be taken seriously, according to Rosmann.

After the problem was diagnosed and the persons were seen by counselors, many of these problems were resolved.

The study did not show many severe cases of psychiatric or mental health issues.

He added that a fourth key symptom to look for is what he calls the, "lump in the throat phenomenon."

"They are called adjustment disorders - that is, our anxiety and our depression go away when the stress diminishes," he said. "Some of that had

Most of us can handle two stressors simultaneously, but when we get a third stressor also occurring, our coping capacity is overwhelmed," he said.

I could cry but I can't - that's a pretty good indication that the person is feeling numb, unhappy and stressed to the point that feeling the need to cry, but can't do it," he said.

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## GUEBERT

FROM PAGE 8B

added, "Thanks for your time; we need new and all ideas." Jim is right. If 2018 taught us anything, it surely taught us this nation of diverse people and diverse politics desperately needs new and all ideas because the old, narrow ones we currently operate under have brought stumbles, stalemate and disgrace. It will be worse in the year ahead unless we do better. All of us, all sides, everyone.

that after reading the column, "I wept."

An October column that quoted Aldo Leopold's famous "February" essay caused Ed to explain how he has, "gone to it many times hoping to carry it in my mind." What a lovely idea, Ed; I hope it's there now.

Not all letters arrived dipped in hemlock. Most were filled with compliments, kindness and personal stories that warmly connected the writers to what I had written. For example, an August column that described my dairy farmer father as a steady man of measured steps brought a waterfall of heartfelt letters and emails.

Someone named Harry — from where he didn't say — sent an email on Oct. 20 that, in its entirety, read: "Amen to your columns. Climate change piece today was outstanding journalism. Wish I could buy you a beer."

The column was, "masterful and moving," noted Ken from Indiana. Sadie from Illinois wrote to say the story, "touched a place in my heart." Bill from Ohio emailed to say

Well, amen to you, too, Harry. Email me your city and state so the next time I get within, say, 100 miles, I can make both our wishes come true.

Until then, Happy New Year and keep those notes and emails coming. I'll keep my, er, unbalanced columns flowing the other way.

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

## TRADERS

FROM PAGE 8B

challenged in recent years as information now travels faster and is more widespread, not only via the USDA but also on social media. Farmers can sit in the cab of a combine, pull out their tablets or smartphones and get real-time data on everything from weather in competing countries to prices.

Twitter may be a good way to find out which companies sold what in international grain tenders and the use of satellite imagery has seen the spread of crop-forecasting companies like Gro Intelligence, which is distributing its data for free during the shutdown. Indigo Ag, another startup, shared its January corn and soybean yield forecasts for the Americas.

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# Energy assistance is now available

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) announced income qualified households can apply for winter heating assistance through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). A single-person household can qualify with a monthly gross income of up to \$1,518; a two-person household up to \$2,058; a family of three up to \$2,598; and a family of four up to \$3,138. Benefits are paid directly to energy vendors on behalf of eligible households. The exception is households whose heating costs are included in their rent.

The assistance also applies to those whose 30-day income has been affected by the federal shutdown, people who have lost a job and students living away from home.

LIHEAP applications are processed through a network of 35 local administering agencies around the state. Customers must bring all required documentation when applying for assistance, including:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day income period beginning with the date of the application.
- A copy of the current heat and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if they pay for their energy directly).
- A copy of the rental agreement showing the monthly rental amount, landlord contact information and informa-

tion confirming utilities are included in the rent.

- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.

- Proof the household received TANF or other benefits, such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP, if receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Reconnection Assistance is also available for households that are disconnected from the energy source needed for heating or are under imminent threat of disconnection (are within 7 days of being disconnected or have less than 25 percent in a propane tank).

Furnace Assistance is available as well for households who qualify for LIHEAP, have an inoperable heating system and are in need of furnace repair or replacement.

LIHEAP heating assistance applications, including Reconnection Assistance, will be accepted through May 31 or until funding is exhausted. Furnace Assistance applications are accepted through March 31 or until funding is exhausted. Applications are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

For a complete listing of LIHEAP's local administering agencies and additional information about the program, go to [www.liheapillinois.com](http://www.liheapillinois.com), or call the LIHEAP toll-free hotline at 1 877 411-WARM (9276).

# Art entries sought for next exhibit

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Bicentennial Art Center and Museum has issued an entry call for the 2019 Town & Country Amateur Art Exhibition/Blackhawk Park Exhibition and the first Painting the Prairie juried exhibition.

The combined Town & Country Amateur Art Exhibit/Blackhawk Park Exhibit is Feb. 15-March 15. For the purposes of the exhibit, amateur artists are defined as people who exhibit art for a pastime and do not make a living from art, do not have an art related degree, do not teach arts or crafts as a profession or compete in professional art exhibits.

Entries in the Town & Country may be in all visual media such as paintings, drawings, printmaking, crafts,

sculpture, photography and mixed media. There is an adult division for those 18 and older and a youth division for those between 10 and 17.

The Blackhawk Park exhibit is also divided into an adult and youth division and works may be in the same media categories as used for the Town & Country. The difference is all entries must depict something from Blackhawk Park that captures the sights and spirit of the park.

Museum staff and volunteers will accept entries for both exhibits 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Feb. 8; 9-11 a.m. Feb. 9 and 1-3 p.m. Feb. 10.

An entry fee of \$20 for art center members, \$25 for non-member and \$15 for students is good for three pieces.

All entries must be original and must be entered under

the name of the artist. All two-dimensional pieces must have a secure wire attached to the back for hanging. Pieces with universal clips and sawtooth hangers will be rejected.

First, second, third place and honorable mentions as determined by the judge will be designated. Cash prizes are not a feature of this event. First place winners in the Town & Country Exhibit qualify for the state level Town & Country exhibit held in December.

The opening reception for the two exhibits is 5-6:30 p.m. Feb. 15. The judge will be critiquing the entries and announcing the awards at 5:30 p.m.

An exhibit entry form is available at [www.parisartcenter.com](http://www.parisartcenter.com).

Painting the Prairie is a ju-

ried exhibit meaning entries are pre-evaluated by a judge, who selects the pieces used in the exhibit.

All paint media is eligible as well as pastel, pen and ink and mixed media projects. Artists are asked to interpret the people, landscapes and sights of the Midwest.

Cash prizes of \$300 for a single best of show and \$150 each for four merit awards, plus ribbons for the honorable mentions are part of this exhibit.

A special prize for the Painting the Prairie is a \$200 Spirit of Lincoln Award that reflects the characteristics of Lincoln, the man or his life in Illinois.

More information about the Painting the Prairie is available at [www.parisartcenter.com](http://www.parisartcenter.com).

## BAD WEATHER CAN'T SPOIL A JOLLY GOOD SHOW



Shiloh Photography Class/Special To The Prairie Press

The Shiloh drama program is trying again after inclement weather canceled a production of "Help Us Mr. Holmes." Junior high and high school students are performing the play at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 6 in the Shiloh gym. In the play, a retired Sherlock Holmes and Dot, the granddaughter of Dr. Watson, work together on the case of a missing husband and father. Cast members pictured, left to right, Josie Carroll, Emily Milburn, Mollie Pollock, Levi Eads, McKenzie Aue and Baylee Rhode.

## LONGVIEW BANK SUPPORTS ECCEL



Special to The Prairie Press

High school students from Edgar and Clark counties participating in the ECCEL Academy recently visited Longview Bank in Paris. ECCEL is an effort to make students more aware of area employment opportunities after high school graduation. Longview helps sponsor the program.

# Overdue book travels home cross-country

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHARLESTON — An Eastern alumnus returned a library book to Booth Library Wednesday that was 16,347 days overdue.

Gary Henigman, who graduated in 1977, received a copy of "Twilight of the Gods: The Beatles in Retrospect" by Wilfrid Mellers in the mail with a pink post-it, which said:

"Dear Gary, — could you please return this for me to EIU's library? Thanks, my friend!

It's a little overdue."

The book came from his friend and Eastern alumnus from the class of 1976. Henigman's friend, who asked to remain anonymous, called him a couple weeks ago to explain the situation. Still a huge Beatles fan but now a resident of Colorado, Henigman's friend needed Henigman to return it for him.

"He called me and said he was going through some old

boxes at home and came across the book," Henigman said. "He said, 'I need you to do me a favor. I'm mailing you a book. Please take it back to Booth Library.' And I just laughed."

After tracing it back, Henigman said he thinks his friend checked the book out during the first semester of his sophomore year.

If calculated by Booth Library's standard late fee of 25 cents for every day it was late, he owed the library \$4,086.75.

After calling the resource center, Henigman returned the book to Booth Library without a charge.

"I think we're just glad to have it back," said Jana Aydt, a library specialist, with a laugh.

She then joked to Henigman, "Do you feel like you'll walk out a lighter man?"

"I feel cleansed," Henigman replied, in the same light-hearted spirit.

# Community projects needed for first-year Civil Engineering students at Rose-Hulman Institute

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

TERRE HAUTE — It might be the heart of the winter season, but first-year civil engineering students at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology are already gearing up to work on design projects this spring.

Traditionally, these projects are sponsored by local

citizens and community groups.

As first-year students, they have limited engineering skills, but always show enthusiasm and creativity, and provide a genuine service to the community, according to professor Michael Robinson.

Typical projects include parking lot layouts, solutions for drainage and traffic problems, simple waste treatment problems, floor plans for small buildings, and designs for athletic fields, playgrounds and park projects. Each project is

completed by the students within nine weeks, beginning March 4.

Persons or organizations with project ideas should contact Robinson at 812-877-8286 or [robinson@rose-hulman.edu](mailto:robinson@rose-hulman.edu) by Feb. 21.

Founded in 1874, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology is dedicated to preparing its students with the world's best undergraduate science, engineering and mathematics education in an environment infused with innovation, intellectual rigor and individualized attention. The institute is

consistently recognized nationally as an elite STEM school for distinctions that include faculty excellence, return on investment, value added and career services. Career placement is near 100 percent year after year. Six of the college's professors are listed in the Princeton Review's Best 300 Professors book. Located in Terre Haute, Indiana, Rose-Hulman has an enrollment of approximately 2,100 undergraduate students and nearly 100 graduate students. Learn more at [www.rose-hulman.edu](http://www.rose-hulman.edu).

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## BRIEFLY

### Cook County OKs \$24M settlement with 3 wrongly convicted men

CHICAGO (AP) — The Cook County Board has approved a \$24 million settlement for three of four men who were wrongfully convicted of a woman's 1994 rape and murder.

Harold Richardson, Michael Saunders and Vincent Thames, along with Terrill Swift, spent more than a decade in prison before DNA evidence exonerated them in 30-year-old Nina Glover's death. They became known as the Englewood Four. They were later cleared and granted certificates of innocence. They were teenagers at the time of Glover's death.

Richardson, Saunders and Thames will split the money approved Thursday. The Cook County settlement comes after a more than \$24 million settlement from the city of Chicago in the three cases. Swift settled separately with the city and county in 2017.

### Manteno veterans' home resident with Legionnaires' dies

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A Manteno veterans' home resident who contracted Legionnaires' disease has died, state officials said Friday, becoming the 15th resident of a state veterans' facility killed by the flu-like illness.

The resident died Sunday night, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs spokesman Dave MacDonna said. He could not release further details.

The death came just two days after Gov. J.B. Pritzker visited the northern Illinois facility where he signed an order for an audit of all Veterans' Affairs safety and security processes and to ensure full and timely communications with residents and their families, staff and the public.

The home 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Chicago is the second veterans' home hit by the disease. Fourteen residents died and dozens of others were sickened after a 2015 outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at the veterans' home in Quincy in western Illinois.

The state Veterans' Affairs department enacted a safety response plan at the Manteno home and notified residents after it was alerted Jan. 8 that one of them had tested positive for the disease. Actions included testing the water and checking residents' vital signs more often. Legionnaires' is contracted by inhaling water vapor infected with Legionella bacteria.

Pritzker was heavily critical of predecessor Gov. Bruce Rauner's management of the Quincy crisis. This week, Pritzker's office released a letter sent to Manteno residents, their families and staff, saying officials put filters on showerheads, treated the water and increased flushing of fixtures. It says testing found Legionella in three plumbing fixtures and that officials took them out of service.

### Shutdown delaying plans for Cairo public housing

CAIRO, Ill. (AP) — The partial federal government shutdown has sidelined plans to award a contract to demolish two public housing complexes in southern Illinois.

The two 1940s-era complexes are slated to be torn down this spring. The (Carbondale) Southern Illinoisan reports the deadline for general contractors to submit sealed bids to the Alexander County Housing Authority has been extended from Friday to Feb. 21.

# Pritzker joins climate club

Illinois now part of U.S. Climate Alliance, will abide by Paris Agreement independently

BY PETER HANCOCK  
phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an order Tuesday, Jan. 22, to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a bipartisan group of governors who have committed to abiding by the terms of an international climate treaty known as the Paris Agreement, despite the fact President Donald Trump has withdrawn the United States from that pact.

Speaking at a news conference in Springfield's eco-friendly Southwind Park, Pritzker joined officials from the Illinois Environmental Council and the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club emphasizing the need to take local action to address climate change while also taking a few verbal jabs at the president.

"While the president is intent on taking us backward, I will work hard every day to move this state forward," Pritzker said.

Pritzker's action made Illi-



Special to The Prairie Press/Capitol News Illinois

**Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed an order Tuesday to join the U.S. Climate Alliance at a news conference in Springfield's eco-friendly Southwind Park. Pritzker was joined by officials from the Illinois Environmental Council and the Illinois chapter of the Sierra Club emphasizing the need to take local action to address climate change.**

nois the 18th state to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, a group that was formed in 2017 immediately after President Trump announced his intention to withdraw from the Paris Agreement. That agreement calls for reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below

2005 levels by 2025.

During the news conference, Pritzker focused almost exclusively on the issue of electric generation in the state, saying Illinois is already on a path to producing 25 percent of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025, and he sug-

gested the state could achieve 100-percent renewable production by around 2050.

However, he offered no details about specific state laws, regulations or policies that would need to change in order for Illinois to comply with terms of the Paris Agreement. In particular, he did not respond directly to questions about how long existing coal-fired power plants should be allowed to continue operating in the state, or how such a change would affect the state's coal industry, which provides some of the fuel to those plants.

"I think it will be part of a broader effort across the state of Illinois to reduce emissions from those energy-producing plants that, certainly by 2050 as we move to a 100-percent clean-energy economy, will have to evolve," Pritzker said.

In his remarks, Pritzker also focused his attention almost exclusively on power plants and electricity consumption while saying nothing about

other major sources of carbon emissions such as vehicle emissions or agriculture and livestock production.

He did, however, suggest that energy efficiency needs to be part of the discussion as his new administration works with lawmakers on a much-anticipated capital improvements package.

He also indicated his action to join the U.S. Climate Alliance would be just one part of his new administration's focus on environmental protection, something that was a key element of his 2018 campaign.

"This is about protecting the beauty of our state's natural resources," he said. "We're home to forests and farms, to rivers and lakes, to prairies and wetlands that should be preserved and protected for generations to come. This is also about ensuring that the people of Illinois have clean air and clean water. Every Illinoisan deserves a healthy environment to live and raise a family in."

## A STORY OF TRANSFERABLE SKILLS



Rick Danzl/The News-Gazette

**In this Jan. 11, 2019 photo, former Coast Guard Lt. Don Uchtmann smiles at his home in Urbana. Uchtmann earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science at the University of Illinois in June 1968. Studied Law during his stint in the Coast Guard and completed law school at Cleveland State University in 1974, three months early. He now is a faculty member at U. of I. in the Department of Agricultural Economics, combining his studies of law, economics and agriculture.**

# Careers on land and sea

BY PAUL WOOD  
The News-Gazette

URBANA, Ill. (AP) — Don Uchtmann served in the Coast Guard, started law school while in the service and became a professor at the University of Illinois.

Lt. Uchtmann, now 72, grew up in Sparta, not far from the Mississippi River.

But he's mostly a landlubber.

In the Coast Guard, "I learned to sail a desk quite well and to respect the seamanship skills of others," he said.

Uchtmann values his experience during the Vietnam era, crediting it with building teamwork skills.

He flies the flag every day in his front yard.

Uchtmann earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science at the UI in June 1968.

But President Lyndon Johnson eliminated most graduate school deferments only months before.

The future professor had already been accepted at the UI College of Law and for a master's program in economics at the University of Leeds in England.

When he realized there was a nearly zero percent chance of attending graduate school in the fall of 1968, "the Coast Guard came to mind and became my preferred choice for fulfilling my military obligation."

He applied to Officer Candidate School and was accepted.

Officer Candidate School candidates were either college grads or Coast Guard enlisted personnel who had been selected as strong candidates for a commission. Those who successfully completed the school received a commission as ensigns.

Uchtmann did temporary duty at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Ala., for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Warfare Defense School, "the only Coast Guard officer in a class of mostly Navy guys."

The skills could turn out to be vital. "During military exercises, for example, I would create maps based on current weather data, showing the probable drift of radiation if Cleveland were hit by a nuclear weapon. Fortunately, such an attack never came," Uchtmann said.

He was also the range officer for the 9th Coast Guard Small Arms Training Program for two summers.

Small arms training was important in his branch of service for reasons dating back to the War of 1812.

Under the treaty that ended the war of 1812, the Great Lakes were demilitarized.

"Armaments on naval vessels of both the U.S. and Great Britain (later Canada) with home ports on the Great Lakes would be limited — no heavy weapons, only small arms," Uchtmann explained.

Uchtmann was a military aide for two years for Coast Guard admirals, successive commanders of the 9th Coast

Guard District, with his duties generally limited to ceremonial occasions.

"It was very good experience for someone who might become a career officer in the Coast Guard, but that did not become my path," he said.

Uchtmann was able to attend law school at night for two of his three years on active duty.

He, "worked very hard, 100 percent to the Coast Guard during the week, and nearly 100 percent to study law on nights and weekends."

He completed law school at Cleveland State University in 1974, three months early.

"Had I continued in the Coast Guard for my career, I probably would have been assigned to a Coast Guard legal office, but that was not my path," he said.

That year, he returned to Urbana as a faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics, combining his studies of law, economics and agriculture.

"Perhaps the greatest lesson I learned from my Coast Guard experience was that life often does not unfold exactly as we have planned, that we need to adapt and make the best of the unexpected circumstances we encounter, that doing one's best in whatever endeavor we find ourselves is probably a wise strategy, that working with good people is a real blessing and that a fair share of luck along the way is very welcome," Uchtmann said.

## Illinois office may seek new sentencing in slaying

BY MICHAEL TARM  
Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — The Illinois attorney general's office has signaled it may be considering a rare sentencing-related appeal if it concludes the less than seven years in prison a white Chicago police officer received in the killing of black teenager Laquan McDonald was wrongly calculated.

The office said in a brief statement emailed Thursday it is reviewing Jason Van Dyke's sentence. With credit for good behavior, Van Dyke will likely serve only around three years for firing 16 bullets into McDonald in 2014. Dashcam video of the shooting released by the city in 2015 showed Van Dyke continued to fire as the 17-year-old crumpled to the street and lie on the ground.

The graphic video images stirred expectations that Van Dyke would receive a lengthy sentence. But activist William Calloway, who helped force the city to release the video, echoed the sentiment of many Chicago residents last week when he said the punishment imposed by Cook County Judge Vincent Gaughan amounted to, "a slap on the wrist."

Attorneys acknowledged before sentencing the judge was heading into uncharted waters, having to calculate the proper sentence for what is thought to be the first case in which a Chicago officer was convicted of killing an African-American.

Prosecutors had asked Gaughan to hand the 40-year-old Van Dyke a sentence of between 18 and 20 years, saying in an earlier written filing that one could also make an argument for a sentence of up to 96 years. The defense said giving Van Dyke no prison time and putting him on probation would have been appropriate.

One Chicago-based attorney Steve Greenberg, who has defended clients at more than 100 murder trials, said such appeals rarely succeed unless the sentencing judge's error is egregious.

## HAVE YOUR SAY

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