

In the know



JR. HIGH BASEBALL UNDERWAY

Junior high baseball is underway for Mayo, Crestwood and Tri-County as the Redbirds and Eagles both take wins this week.

SPORTS, 9A

Unique school reunion party

Former students gathered at the Edgar County One-Room Rural School Reunion for dinner and stayed for the memories.

HISTORY, 3B

Veggie Tales is back for special

For television viewers who get nostalgic over singing vegetables, Christmas is bringing an extra gift on TBN.

GRACE, 5B



Mountain city has great food

Denver, Colorado's culinary culture makes fine dining possible for any meal and any craving.

C'EST LA VIE, 1B

Corn forecast throws farmers

The USDA's corn predictions lean toward a much higher production than expected, but state farmers remain skeptical.

AGRIBUSINESS, 8A

Casey goes big for Guinness

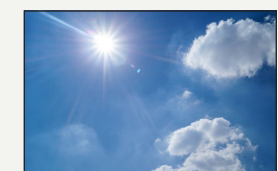
Casey adds massive gavel, golf club and swizzle spoon to its collection of oversized items, hopes to make the Guinness Book of World Records once more.

NEWS, 3A

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 77 L 55

Sunny and pleasant. 2A



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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 2019

Hefner trial date set

Doctor declares Justin Hefner fit to stand trial, despite continuing psychiatric issues

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

After more than a year, multiple psychiatric evaluations and two stays in a state mental hospital, Justin Hefner, 42, is deemed fit to stand trial.

The testimony of psychiatrist Gabriel Valdes during the fitness hearing Monday, Aug. 19, was hardly a ringing endorsement that Hefner is completely in charge of his faculties. Several times under direct examination by public defender William McGrath and cross-examination by Edgar County State's Attorney Mark Isaf, Valdes declined to address Hefner's current ability to contribute to his defense and deferred to the June

report finding the defendant fit for release from the Alton Mental Health Center and a return to the Edgar County Jail for trial.

McGrath noted that finding was reached after an approximate 30-day stay at Alton even though a previous report from the McFarland Mental Health Center at Springfield stated there was little probability Hefner would attain fitness with less than a year of treatment. The McFarland report prompted the court to find Hefner unfit in March and his custody was eventually transferred to the Illinois Department of Human Services and the Alton hospital for treatment.

Valdes did not read the report from McFarland or evaluations by two other psychiatrists finding Hefner unfit prior to making his diagnosis.

The psychiatrist had read the handwritten materials and phone messages Hefner left with McGrath's office.

"There is a lot of anger in the messages," said Valdes. "They are very consistent with statements he made at Alton."

Valdes confirmed Hefner has a psychotic disorder due to a traumatic brain injury.



HEFNER

VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE CONSTRUCTION FEAT



Bethanny Lawson/The Prairie Press

Crosspoint Apostolic Sanctuary started building a new church at 7 a.m. Friday, Aug. 16. By 9 a.m., this is what the building looked like, with the walls up, no siding on yet and the roof nearly complete.

'Church in a Day' success

Construction event is the first of its kind in Paris

BY BETHANNY LAWSON
bethannysbooks@gmail.com

Friday, Aug. 16, anyone driving down Jasper Street near Edgar Cemetery saw an army of people hard at work all day. While morning visitors saw nothing but framework for a building across from the cemetery, by evening there was a completed church. Even the landscaping was in.

Church in a Day is a project that goes on nationwide, but this is the first one to come to Paris. CrossPoint Apostolic Sanctuary rented a building to hold church services in for several years, but last Sunday congregants got to worship in their own building, thanks to the success of Church in a Day.

Pastor Andrew Garvin only got two hours of sleep the night before the build, and he and the crew also worked a sleepless night on Friday to finish the interior of the building. Regardless, Garvin was nothing but optimistic halfway through construction Friday afternoon.

"Everybody's in good spirits," he said. "We're really excited to finally have this building coming together."

The spirit behind putting up a whole church in a single day is a huge motivator anywhere the project is



Bethanny Lawson/The Prairie Press

By 1 p.m. Friday, much of the building crew for Crosspoint Apostolic Sanctuary had moved to working on the interior of the building, as the roof was on and much of the siding was complete.

used. The work is all volunteer-based, which saves both time and money. There was an abundance of volunteers for the project in Paris, who had to park off-site at the cemetery and were taken to the site by golf carts. Every part of the building was crawling with volunteers at all times, somewhat resembling an anthill.

"Occasionally it feels like people are climbing on top of each other," Garvin joked, "but no one has complained once, everyone's so positive."

Having a church building is an essential part of a church's growth, one which CrossPoint is thrilled to finally have. Members have plans to expand in the future, once they outgrow their new sanctuary, but right now they are simply grateful to have new opportunities for hospitality and contributions to the community.



Bethanny Lawson/The Prairie Press

Part of the building crew at Church in a Day were working on the sanctuary doorway around 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16.

Having their own church building will equip them with more space to welcome people into their congregation and church family. The new building also has reliable air conditioning and more comfortable seating than the previous location.

For the six years CrossPoint has

See CHURCH, Page 8A

Volunteers organize to clean community

More volunteers needed for Sept. 7 citywide litter sweep

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Everyone reaches a breaking point when they say enough is enough and that occurred for Phillip Stapp during a family walk.

Stapp normally collects litter on these walks using the type of plastic bag retail stores put purchases into. On this occasion, he happened to grab a 13-gallon kitchen trash bag and his children's toy wagon. He filled the bag with litter picked up from the street. The items going into the trash bag

consisted of paper, wrappers, empty cigarette packages, aluminum beverage cans and the large Polar Pop cups sold at convenience stores.

"It was seven blocks of one street, and I filled one trash bag," said Stapp. "In my opinion, that's outrageous."

He does not understand why people are so lazy, noting when he stops to pick up litter on Main Street there is almost always a trash can in site, and it is not a difficult thing to keep a bag in a car to hold trash until it can be emptied.

He complained on Facebook after getting home with the full bag of other people's trash and that evolved into the idea of volunteers giving

one day for a citywide litter cleanup.

"I got an overwhelming response," Stapp said regarding the volunteer idea.

The next step was reaching out for support. Horizon Health is providing gloves, sunscreen and hand sanitizer. Prospect Bank agreed to supply trash bags and Lake Ridge Christian Church will keep volunteers in water and ice during the daylong event.

Stapp also asked the city to pay for a dumpster where volunteers can place the filled bags at the end of the day. The council will make a decision about meeting that cost during the Monday, Aug. 26, meeting.

"We are covering the entire city," said Stapp, who has created approximately 40 cleaning routes of about 15 to 20 blocks each. The hope is to get between 120-150 volunteers in order to assign six people per route.

He added this is a good opportunity for Scout troops, church youth groups, sororities, fraternal clubs and individuals to do something good for the community.

For safety reasons, the cleaning routes do not include Clinton Road or state Route 1 south of the Paris Family Restaurant or north of Pool's Ace Hardware.

"There is a group of high school kids that has agreed to

magazines of smaller capacity.

Valdes confirmed Hefner still believes himself a Department of Defense agent and the defendant is evasive about explaining why he believes that.

"He refers to his high security with the Department of Defense and falls back on that," said Valdes, also confirming the defendant does not trust the court system and insists those involved with the court are lying about him.

The psychiatrist also testified that confronting Hefner about his false beliefs causes the defendant to get belligerent, and he becomes uncooperative when he is under duress.

See HEFNER, Page 8A

Polky retiring from Edgar County HRC

August 30 will be the executive's final day

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Work time for Ken Polky, executive director of the Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties, is starting to wind down as he approaches his Sept. 30 retirement.

It is a move he is taking with considered deliberation.

"The way people respond to retirement is as varied as they way they respond to work," said Polky.

In preparation, he has talked extensively with people who have been retired a long time and those still fresh into retirement for their perspectives. It has given both him and his wife, who is retiring a month later, insight about how to approach retirement.

"We have both worked long hours, and there never seemed to be any free time in the schedule," said Polky. "The first thing we want to do is take some time."

Part of that time will be adjusting to a less demanding lifestyle, accommodating to a change in both income and expenses and considering what fresh opportunities to explore. He credited his wife for shouldering a lot of the family load when HRC demanded so much of his time, and retirement means rebuilding connections with her and their children.

"I don't want her in that role, and I want to reward her," he said. "We plan to do some traveling while we can."

One item already at the top of the must do list is tackling all of the home improvement projects that were put off while working full time.

"We want to get our home prepared for the market," Polky said. "We are not sure if we are going to stay or move, or where we might go. We need a year to decide that."

Most of Polky's career was spent in Indiana and Illinois. He grew

See POLKY, Page 8A

ABOUT US

The Prairie Press

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Business office: 101 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944
Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Phone: 217-921-3216
Publisher: Nancy Roberts Zeman
Editor: Gary Henry
Contributors: Suzanne Williams, Ruth Patchett, Ned Jenison, Roger Stanley and Danny Brisenio.
Sports: Jeremy Patterson, Jeff Chambers, Dan Dundas, Tim Hendershot
Photographers: Gary Henry, Adonna Bennett, Tina Jones, Christian Colvin, Cindy Spencer and Danny Brisenio
Bookkeeper: Barbara Gard
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TALK BACK

ACCURACY CHECKS

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

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 at 217-921-3216, email us at nzeman@prairiepress.net or ghenry@prairiepress.net or message us on Facebook.

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

LOCAL FORECAST

NORMAL: High: 84 Low: 63

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

TODAY

77 55

Prec: 0%

SUNDAY

80 64

Prec: 0%

MONDAY

81 66

Prec: 60%

TUESDAY

80 60

Prec: 30%

WEDNESDAY

81 61

Prec: 0%

THURSDAY

79 57

Prec: 20%

FRIDAY

78 56

Prec: 0%

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EVERETT LAU

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Paris Area Weather

VALUES

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

TODAY

Mostly sunny and pleasant with highs topping out in the upper 70s.

SUNDAY

Another comfortable day with highs topping out near 80 under mostly sunny skies.

MONDAY

Scattered shower and thunderstorm chances return. Otherwise, mostly cloudy with highs in the lower 80s.

ALMANAC

Paris through noon Tuesday.

Temperature

High/Low: 84°/63°

Record High: 103° in 1947

Record Low: 44° in 1951

Precipitation

Month to date: 3.16"

Normal month to date: 3.44"

Year to date: 33.23"

Normal year to date: 28.11"

SUN AND MOON

Sun

Rise

Set

Moon

Rise

Set

TODAY

6:11 a.m.

7:34 p.m.

12:05 a.m.

2:43 p.m.

SUNDAY

6:12 a.m.

7:33 p.m.

12:48 a.m.

3:52 p.m.

MONDAY

6:13 a.m.

7:31 p.m.

1:39 a.m.

4:53 p.m.

TUESDAY

6:14 a.m.

7:30 p.m.

2:39 a.m.

5:49 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

6:15 a.m.

7:28 p.m.

3:48 a.m.

6:39 p.m.

THURSDAY

6:16 a.m.

7:27 p.m.

5:01 a.m.

7:23 p.m.

FRIDAY

6:17 a.m.

7:25 p.m.

6:18 a.m.

8:02 p.m.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

MONDAY

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

QUILTING GROUP MEETS
The next Bee Quilters Guild meeting is 6:30 p.m. Aug. 26 in the Otterbein United Methodist church basement, 406 West Washington Street. The meeting is open to all with an interest, regardless of skill level, because all are still learning. More information at 217-251-1394.

TUESDAY

EVENING TOPS MEETING
TOPS Illinois #2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of the 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, or by attending a meeting.

THURSDAY

DON'T MISS

THREE-PART DEMENTIA SEMINAR: SEP. 5, OCT. 3, NOV. 4
A free seminar series about dementia is coming to the Marshall Library this fall. Nurse Jackie Witges from Willowbrook Management leads the first session 6:30 p.m. Sept. 5 covering the basics of the disease through understanding brain changes and behavior in dementia patients. The second session is 6:30 p.m. Oct. 3, and Elizabeth Hagemann's presentation is "Know the 10 Signs: Early Detection Matters." Hagemann, Manager of Education & Community Volunteers of the Alzheimer's Association, will highlight warning signs of Alzheimer's disease. Attendees will also hear from people who have the disease and find out how to recognize the warning signs in themselves and others. "Advance Directives: What are they and who needs them?" is 6:30 p.m. Nov. 4. Nurse Practitioner Amy Ladd from Hospice of Wabash Valley will answer questions about making decisions in times of medical crisis, advance directives and why they are needed. Registration is recommended, but not required, for the dementia workshop series. More information is available by calling the library at 217-826-2535 or visiting www.marshalllibrary.com.

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.

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.

VFW AUXILIARY DINNER
The Paris Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary weekly dinner is 5-7 p.m., Aug. 29, at the post home. The \$5 meal includes fish, baked beans, coleslaw and a drink. Dessert may be purchased for another \$1.

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Casey seeks more biggest records

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

CASEY - Big things in a small town have significantly impacted Casey, located in neighboring Clark County.

The small town holds several Guinness World Records for largest attractions that have brought excitement to the locals and drawn tourists. That is the catalyst that led Jim Bolin to create additional big items, a gavel, a golf club and a swizzle spoon that were officially measured Tuesday, Aug. 20.

"The biggest things have given the community something to talk about that is uplifting," said big things creator Jim Bolin. "It has shifted the conversation to a positive one instead of talking about the negatives."

He has engineered the large items with the help of his family and employees of Bolin Enterprises, Inc.

He added residents are enthusiastic about the attractions and often act as tour guides showing friends and family the landmarks.

"I hear all the time 'My relation came in and I got to show them the big things,'" he said.

The first big creation, the world's largest wind chime, was erected in the fall of 2011, two years after Bolin got the idea. Now the community boasts of the world's largest pitchfork, golf tee, rocking chair, knitting needles and crochet



Suzanne Williams/The Prairie Press

Joey O'Rourke, right, of WMMC Radio in Marshall, serves as an official witness to the measuring ceremony of what Bolin's Enterprises in Casey hopes to be the town's next world's largest for the Guinness Book of World Records. O'Rourke assists Caleb Towles of Myers Engineering Inc. of Terre Haute, Ind. to document Towles' measurements with surveying equipment before using a measuring tape to measure all aspects of the golf club. Also measured that day to meet another record was the large gavel at the Clark County Courthouse and a swizzle spoon to be displayed in front of Brownie's Place in Casey.

hook, mailbox and wooden shoes. Other big items include a wooden token, toy airplane, yardstick, ear of corn, pencil, bird cage, minion, spinning top, baseball bat and bookworm.

Bolin will know the outcome of this week's measuring attempt Sept. 28 when the town hosts a Guinness measuring event of three additional pieces - an automobile key, a barber pole and a teeter-totter. Representatives of the Guinness organization are expected

to do the measuring for those items.

Bolin said the attractions he designs are mostly made from repurposed materials and are created for different amusing reasons. He has drawn them on napkins or whatever is handy when an idea comes to him.

"I had a tree die and had persimmon wood. Golf clubs are made out of the wood because of its strength, so we made a golf club," he said. "I saw a gavel at an antique store in Missouri and thought that was a good idea."

The gavel was placed on the Clark County Courthouse because it is the county seat.

He also plans to construct a large mousetrap with a sign reading "Trapped in Casey" for the new visitors center opening later in downtown Casey.

According to Bolin, the big things draw tourists to the area but the specialty shops that are now open keep people coming back to Casey on a regular basis.

"We have had many stores opening up because of this," said Bolin.

Dave Liebenow, owner of The Casey Candy Depot and chamber of commerce president agreed.

"This is what brought us here," said Liebenow. "We opened up the store three years ago because of the wonderful things going on here. It is a great opportunity."

The business he operates with his wife, Beverly, is located behind the world's largest mail-

box. Liebenow said while the store's business is tourist driven, they depend on repeat customers within a 50-mile radius who come to Casey specifically to buy their sweet treats.

"We have regulars from Effingham, Terre Haute, Charleston and Mattoon that come back on a regular basis," he said.

Liebenow and members of the community gathered Tuesday, Aug. 20, to watch the official measuring ceremony.

Caleb Towles of Myers engineering used surveying equipment to get the measurements of the golf club before measuring a second time with a tape measure. He was assisted by official witnesses Joey O'Rourke of WMMC and Molly Bellamey of the Illinois Tourist Information Center, who recorded the many different measurements.

The same process was followed for the swizzle spoon assisted by official witnesses Patty Richards, a local historian, and Marsha Lee from Casey In Action.

"We try to have active community members involved in this exciting process," said Deb Bohannon, marketing, media and human resource manager at BEI

The public is welcome to attend the measuring ceremony in September. More information will be provided in the near future cityofcaseyil.org/chamber-commerce or on Facebook at Casey IL Chamber of Commerce.

Baber art exhibited at Swope museum

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. - The colorful art of Edgar County native Alice Baber is on exhibit at the Swope Art Museum until Oct. 27.

Titled "Color Hunger" the exhibit concentrates on Baber's early works and is located mostly on the second floor lobby and education galleries. The Swope's Second Saturday Studio program Oct. 12 is inspired by the colors of Baber's paintings, and the 1-3 p.m. drop-in program in the Swope Education Center is free for people of all ages.

Starting in the lobby is a work from Baber's time as a student at Indiana University, where she received her Master of Art in 1951 under the study of the figurative expressionist Alton Pickens. The works are from the collection of the late Ronnie Templeton of Terre Haute, a sorority sister of Baber at Indiana University.

After a summer of study in Paris, France, Baber (1929-1982) settled in New York during the fall of 1951 and began her work in abstracts. Following chronologically from her still life pieces to her Red Man series, the exhibition culminates in the Education Gallery with examples of her internationally known works.

A painter, printmaker, curator, feminist and writer, Baber's abstract expressionist paintings in watercolor and oil explored the infinite range of possibilities of color and light within and from the form of the circle. With a focus on composition, transparency, color and line, Baber aimed to depict the form of a feeling through the use of intense pigments.

She constantly sought to satisfy her indulgence for what she later called her color hunger that she likened to the hunger of plants for light.

Baber was also instrumental in curating and organizing exhibitions of women artists, most notably an international exhibition of 125 artists in celebration of the United Nations' International Women's Year in 1975. Her artistic career was cut short by cancer at the age of 54.

The majority of the works in the exhibition are from the collection of the Link Art Gallery in Paris. The exhibition is underwritten by Hank Metzger Landscape, Inc. of Terre Haute.

For more information: Fred J. Nation 812-238-1676 ext. 113



Suzanne Williams/The Prairie Press

Official witness Molly Bellamey, of the Illinois Tourist Information Center, worked with Caleb Towles of Myers Engineering, Inc. to carefully measure the dimensions of what creator Jim Bolin of Casey hopes is the Guinness World's Record largest golf club. Bolin used the talented staff of Bolin's Enterprises to create the club that is constructed from persimmon wood.



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This engagement is supported by the Arts Midwest Touring Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment of the Arts, with additional contributions from the Illinois Arts Council and the Crane Group.

Cases appearing in Edgar County Circuit Court

COURT

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

These cases appeared before the bench during the Aug. 12 and Aug. 15 criminal and traffic calls in Edgar County Circuit Court.

IN CUSTODY

■Joseph W. Christopher, 28, Chrisman, appeared in custody. The unresolved petitions to revoke his probation sentences for a Class 2 felony aggravated battery, a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor unlawful use of weapons convictions were continued for a pretrial conference. In another matter, he was granted a bond reduction for his unresolved Class 2 felony burglary, Class 3 felony aggravated battery, Class 4 felony criminal trespassing, Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license and a

Class A misdemeanor battery charges. Bond was reduced to \$7,000 from the original bond of \$15,000 and the matter was continued for a pretrial conference. Christopher was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Angela D. Eslinger, 37, Vermilion, appeared in custody for missing a sentencing hearing on a petition to revoke her court supervision sentence for a Class A misdemeanor conviction. The matter was continued for the sentencing hearing. She was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Scott D. LaBaume, 38, Paris, appeared in custody. He was charged with a Class 3 felony failure to report to a penal institution. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel. LaBaume was granted a personal recognizance bond and was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■Eve A. Lorange, 37, New- man, appeared in custody. A sentencing hearing was scheduled for the petition to revoke her conditional discharge sentences for two counts of a Class 4 felony aggravated fleeing from police and a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine convictions. She was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Ashley Mobley, aka Ashley LaBaume, 33, Chrisman, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery and a Class C misdemeanor or disorderly conduct. The case was given to the public defender and bond was set at \$5,000. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Her bond conditions include she is to have no contact with the apparent victim or the victim's residence. Mobley was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Tersh S. Scamihorn, 25, Charleston, appeared in custody, waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 4 felony unlawful possession of a certificate of title, a Class 4 felony obstruction of justice and a Class A misdemeanor obstruction of justice charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Alexus S. Young, 22, Vermilion, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class 2 felony aggravated battery and a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer. The public defender was assigned and bond was set at \$5,000. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing and Young was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■Jessica L. Bond, 25, Paris,

is, was charged with a Class 4 felony aggravated assault, a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Ryan M. Fletcher, 33, Paris, was charged with a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Evan J. Kispert, 20, Paris, was charged with a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Cynthia I. Johnson, 57, Casey, was charged with two counts of a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol. The case went to the public defender. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Sevdet Malovski, 38, Paris, was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class B misdemeanor speeding charge. He was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Tyler D. Mitchell, 19, Robinson, was charged and pleaded guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class B misdemeanor. He was sentenced to a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Bradley C. Moore, 41, Marseilles, was charged and pleaded guilty to a Class B misdemeanor. He was sentenced to a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Amanda J. Smith, 38, Hume, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with

counsel.

■Gage M. Rager, 21, Paris, was charged with a Class B misdemeanor speeding, and the public defender got the case. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

GUILTY PLEAS

■Ryan Gardner, no age provided, Oakwood, pleaded guilty to a Class C misdemeanor or disorderly conduct charge. He was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge and a \$200 fine. He was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victim.

■Mary Jo Tatum, 47, Johnston City, pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license charge. She was sentenced to 10 days in jail with credit for five days previously served and the remaining time to start Aug. 15, one year of conditional discharge, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■Kylee J. Beaven, 32, Paris, failed to appear in court. In her absence, the preliminary hearing was held. A not guilty plea with a jury trial demand was made on her behalf. An arrest warrant was ordered and bond was set at \$12,000.

■Mark A. Dill, 56, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor battery charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Jacob L. Neibarger, 23, Paris, denied a petition to revoke his court supervision sentence for a Class A misdemeanor battery conviction. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■Patrick M. Thompson, 54, Kansas, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine. The public defender was appointed and

the matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

OTHER MATTERS

■Brendan P. Connors, 48, Charleston, was ordered to serve 14 days in jail with work release attached to his Class 4 felony domestic battery conviction.

■Chad R. Jewell, 41, Paris, learned the court imposed a 42-day jail sentence with work release attached to his Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol conviction.

■Kip M. Pesavento, 50, Terre Haute, Ind. was resentenced on a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine conviction to 120 days in jail with credit for 26 days previously served, 90 days to be served as electronic home monitoring and the remaining 38 days subject to the court's discretion, two years of probation. He was ordered to pay all previous financial obligations and ordered to obtain counseling per an evaluation.

■Courtney R. Swinford, 27, Paris, was sentenced on a petition to revoke her probation sentence for a Class 4 felony obstruction of justice conviction. She was resentenced to 120 days in jail with credit for 24 days previously served and the remaining time subject to the court's discretion, two years of conditional discharge and an ordered to pay all previous financial obligations.

WARRANTS

Warrants were issued and prepared when the following individuals failed to answer the court call: Courtnei A. Hays, 33, Paris; Brian D. Nicholson, 35, Paris; Marcus D. Priest, 37, Tilton; Clayton S. Rhoads, 18, Paris; Dustin P. Scott, 29, Robinson; and Christy L. Tingley, 31, Paris.

Swinford Family & Friends Annual Reunion

Date: September 8, 2019 (Sunday)
Where: Twin Lakes West Park Pavilion
Paris, IL
Time: 12:00 Noon
Bring covered dish and your own dinnerware

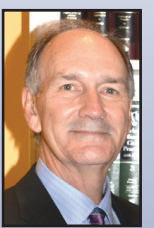
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Program demonstrates grinding effect of poverty

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

For nearly three hours, regular full and part-time staff at Lincoln Trail College in Robinson took on the roles of a single father, head of the household for a unique blend of dependents or a college student trying to make ends meet. These roles, among nearly 50 others, were part of a poverty simulation led by University of Illinois Extension employees designed to mimic barriers faced by low-income

individuals and families. When employees arrived in the LTC cafeteria they were randomly assigned to a family and asked to sit in pods of chairs ranging in number from one to five. They wore nametags showing their new name, age and role in the family.

Each family had a packet of information explaining its particular situation.

Over the course of four 15-minute periods simulating a week, each family had to learn how to navigate a dozen

different community resources positioned around the room. Illinois Extension employees staffed these community resources including a utility company, employer, grocery store, daycare, school, quick cash store, bank, pawnshop, jail, juvenile hall, realtor, social services and community action and inter-faith agencies.

Families were tasked with keeping their families safe and fed while juggling health emergencies, transportation issues, lack of money, working at their job and many other typical day-to-day barriers that might spring up.

Some families wore signs indicating they were hungry and could not afford to buy groceries that week. Children were left alone at home while their parents went to work. One single dad was seen pooling his money with his teenage daughter and preteen son to come up with enough cash to keep their electricity on. Other families were seen negotiating at the pawnshop, counting out cash for rent at the realtor or bartering with each other for needed items.

At the conclusion of each

15-minute week, extension staff checked in with each family to determine their situation. Some were still hungry or fired from their jobs because of lack of transportation, while others were evicted from their homes, robbed of their kitchen appliances or spent an enormous amount of their time gathering needed resources from social service agencies.

At the conclusion of the simulated month, the entire group reflected on their poverty experiences. Many reported the lack of transportation as their biggest hurdle. Others reported how stressed they were, how they were vulnerable to crime and how guilty they felt leaving their kids alone.

Because poverty has implications in the classroom, Lincoln Trail College employees shared the importance of having empathy for their students and working to connect them with community resources to give them hope. They also discussed that poverty can extend the time it takes a student to complete their degree or be a barrier to student retention.

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OBITUARIES

STEVE DAVIS

CASEY - Stephen Allen Davis, 79, of Casey, passed away at 8:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.



DAVIS

A funeral service was 1 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Justin Janney officiating. Burial followed in Washington Street Cemetery. Visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

day, Aug. 22, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Justin Janney officiating. Burial followed in Washington Street Cemetery. Visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

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

LEE MARKWELL

CASEY - Lee Clinton Markwell, 93, of Casey, passed away at 10:04 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at Casey Health Care Center.



MARKWELL

A funeral service is 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 24, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev.

Gary Fairchild officiating. Military graveside rites by Casey Veterans of Foreign Wars and Martinsville American Legion accompany burial in the Casey Cumberland Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday Aug. 23, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Casey United Methodist Church or Casey VFW.

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

JAMES MELTON SR.

James Edward Melton Sr., 81, of Kansas, passed away at 10:05 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019, at Paris Healthcare Center. He was retired after serving 23 years in the United States Army. He later owned and operated Melton Trucking in Kansas for 10 years.

The family is hosting a memorial service Thursday, Aug. 29, at Grace Fellowship Church in Paris. Military rites take place at 6 p.m. and the memorial service follows. Visitation is from 5 p.m. until service time at the church. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Melton was born May 21, 1938, at Oliver, the son of the late Ellis L. and Mary



MELTON



CARLYLE BRANSON

Carlyle Richard Branson, 78, of Paris, passed away at 5 a.m. Sunday, Aug. 18, 2019, at his residence.

A funeral service was 2 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with Pastor Gary Williamson officiating. Burial was in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation was from noon until the service time Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Paris First Church of the Nazarene.

More information and online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneral-home.com.



BRANSON



STEPHANIE KIMBALL

Stephanie Ann Kimball, 59, of Terre Haute, Ind., and formerly of Paris, passed away at 3 a.m. EDT Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, at her residence.

A memorial visitation was from 4 to 6 p.m. CDT Thursday, Aug. 22, at Templeton Funeral Home. Private interment is at a later date.

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

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



KIMBALL



PAULA CHRISTIAN

Paula Kay Christian, 61, of Paris, passed away at 3:02 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019, at Carle Hospital, Urbana.

At her request, all services are private. Templeton Funeral Home of Paris is assisting with the arrangements.

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

Elizabeth Bettle Melton. He married Nancy L. Wilt Feb. 10, 1957, at Dennison, and she survives.

Other survivors include two sons, James Melton Jr. of Kansas, and Ricky (Marsha) Melton of Effingham; a daughter, Susan (David) Belzer of Kansas City, Mo.; a brother, Steve Melton of Paris; a sister, Virginia Fitzgerald of North Carolina; 16 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Josie Melton; and a sister, Ruth Twigg.

During his military career, Mr. Melton served in Vietnam, Korea and Europe. He was an active member of Grace Fellowship Church having served on the board for many years.

Memorial donations may be made to the Danville National Cemetery.

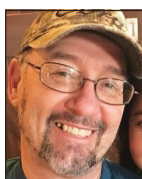
Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneral-Home.com.

TERRY BAYES

CHARLESTON - Terry Bayes, 63, of rural Charleston, passed away Saturday, Aug. 17, 2019, at his home after a courageous battle with cancer.

A memorial visitation is from 10 a.m. to noon today, Aug. 24, 2019 at the Harper-Swickard Funeral Home. Friends are invited to share memories in a short service, beginning at noon. The family requests casual attire for those attending and camo is welcome.

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



BAYES

LINDA BURTNER

MARSHALL - Linda K. Burtner, 61, of Marshall, and formerly of Paris, passed away Monday, Aug. 19, 2019, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.

A memorial visitation was 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, at Pearce Funeral Home.

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



BURTNER

MIRIAM FINDLEY

Lila Miriam Low Findley, 93, formerly of Paris, died at 10 p.m. Friday, Aug. 16, 2019, at Mark Twain Manor, Bridgeton, Mo.

A wake and funeral service was Wednesday morning,

Aug. 21, at Hutchens Mortuary, Florissant, Mo. A burial service was 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, in the Marshall Cemetery.

Mrs. Findley was born Nov. 27, 1925, at Marshall, the daughter of Charles and Nellie Saiter Low.

She is survived by a son, David (Jeanette Ogle) Findley of Florissant, Mo.; a daughter,

BILL WILKEY

William Michael "Bill" Wilkey, 35, of Paris, and formerly of Brocton, passed away at 5:36 a.m. EDT Wednesday, Aug. 21, 2019, at Eskenazi Hospital, Indianapolis, Ind. He was employed at North American Lighting as a certified forklift driver.



WILKEY

A celebration of life service is 10:30 a.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at Templeton Funeral Home. Burial follows in Payne Cemetery, north of Brocton. Visitation is from 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25, at the funeral home.

Mr. Wilkey was born June 3, 1984, at Paris, the son of Mike and Donna Gardner Wilkey.

Survivors include his parents, Mike and Donna Wilkey of Brocton; a brother, Mark (Marci) Wilkey of Benton;

CHARLES EVELAND

Charles Edward Eveland, 90, of Paris, passed away at 8:35 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019, at Paris Healthcare Center. He was retired from the J.I. Case Company, and had worked for the City of Paris at Potts Lane.

A funeral service is 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with the Rev. Michael Dixon officiating. Burial, with military honors, follows in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, near Kansas. Visitation is from 4 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26, at the funeral home.

Mr. Eveland was born Sept. 30, 1928, at Paris, the son of the late Robert and Ida Rosalie Humphrey Eveland. He married Betty I. Perry Eveland Oct. 29, 1949, at Paris, and she passed away May 8, 2003. He then married Larma "Susie" Haavisto Malone Eveland June 24, 2004, in Henry County, Tennessee, and she survives.

Other survivors include three children, Betty Jean Scroggin of Mt. Pulaski, Dennis Eveland of Plano, Texas, and Janice Peterson of Paris; two siblings, Robert Eveland of Paris and Marcella Johnson of Paris; five grandchildren, Travis Scroggin of New Berlin,



EVELAND

paternal grandmother, Ruth Wilkey of Mattoon; longtime girlfriend, Loretta Gahimer of Vermilion; two nephews, Derek and Eli Wilkey of Benton; several uncles and aunts, including Sue Vail of Kansas and Diana Ellingson of Napoleon, Ohio; many cousins; and his cat, Merle.

He was preceded in death by paternal grandfather, David Wilkey; maternal grandparents, William and Dorothy Thrasher; and two uncles, Frank Vail III and John Ellingson.

Mr. Wilkey was a 2003 graduate of Shiloh High School. He enjoyed riding his motorcycle. He loved fishing, shooting guns and was an avid animal lover. Above all else, he loved spending time with his family and girlfriend.

Memorial donations may be made to the Exotic Feline Rescue Center, Center Point, Ind.

Online condolences available at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

Nicole Meagher of Mt. Pulaski, Andy Scroggin of Clinton, Illinois, Petie Peterson of Paris and Colt Peterson of Paris; and 10 great-grandchildren, Ava Scroggin, Allee Scroggin, Kiersten Meagher, Kayla Meagher, Braden Meagher, Issac Meagher, Elijah Scroggin, Issac Scroggin, Trey Peterson and Emery Peterson.

He was preceded in death by three siblings, James Eveland, Kathryn Hiddle and Eugene Eveland and one great-grandchild, Gabriel Scroggin.

Mr. Eveland was a veteran of the United States Army. He was a member of First Christian Church Disciples of Christ, Marshall American Legion Post 90 and the 1544th U.S. Army National Guard Transportation Company.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.



WILLIAM KERNS

William Dean Kerns, 89, of Paris, passed away at 2:10 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 22, 2019, at Hawthorne Inn of Danville. He was retired after many years as a Certified Public Accountant, serving as Comptroller of Quaker Elevator of Dana, Ind., and Numerical Concepts of Terre Haute, Ind. He had previously farmed, and also taught for a number of years at Indiana State University.



KERNS



A funeral service is 11 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 27, at Templeton Funeral Home, with Pastor Daniel Smith officiating. Burial follows in Edgar Cemetery and is accompanied by military rites by American Legion Post #211. Visitation is from 10 a.m. until the service time Tuesday at the funeral home.

Mr. Kerns was born March 31, 1930, at Martinsville, Ind., the son of the late Harold and Jessie Miller Kerns. He married Maxine Evans Nov. 28, 1970, and she preceded him in death Aug. 14, 1980. He later married Barbara Ann Moore Sept. 26, 1981, at Grace Lutheran Church in Paris, and she preceded him in death Oct. 6, 2004.

His marriage to Barbara Moore brought three daughters into his life, Brenda

(Rich) Burman of Arlington Heights, Cindy (Larry) Myers of Danville and Pam (Joe) Pereira of Murrell's Inlet, S.C., who became treasured blessings to him, as did four grandchildren, Cara Knutson of Downers Grove, Anthony Giacomini of Chicago, Brittany (Randy) Wisler of Osceola, Ind., and Christina (Eric) Hamric of Bradford, Ind.; two step-grandchildren, Lauri (Dennis) Flaherty of Decatur and David (Jodie) Myers of Westville; eight great-grandchildren; and five step-great-grandchildren. Other survivors include two sisters, Ina Belle Keen of Green Bay, Wis., and Carole Diehm of Evansville, Ind.; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a grandson, Aaron Pereira, and an infant brother.

Mr. Kerns was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War, earning the rank of corporal. He attended Purdue University prior to earning his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Indiana State University. He was a member of Grace Lutheran Church of Paris as well as American Legion Post #211 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #3601. He will be remembered as a man of deep faith who took pride in his family and was dedicated to the service of other veterans.

Memorial donations may be made to Grace Lutheran Church of Paris or to V.E.W. Post #3601.

Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.



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China is winning the ‘war’

For millennia, war was how people did economic development. Today, economic and technical dominance are how we do war, and right now we’re losing something akin to a modern war with China.



JIM NOWLAN
GUEST COLUMN

When I first arrived in Shanghai 15 years ago, to serve as a foreign expert (visiting professor) at Fudan University, one of China’s best, I took a stretch-the-legs Saturday morning stroll along a street outside my guest quarters.

I came upon a gaggle of little kids in neat uniforms, gathering outside what was obviously a school building.

Later I asked my host professor about this. “Oh, of course, our children all attend school every Saturday morning, until noon.”

Indeed, Chinese children not only attend school about 210 days each year (versus our 174 days), but for an hour longer each week-day than in the U.S.

Chinese and other Asian youngsters are hungry to learn and become rich (exhorted by their parents).

How hungry? During my first teaching gig at Fudan, I took a 6:30 a.m. walk around the campus with my assistant teacher, graduate student Gu Yu. We walked by a group of maybe 20 young people, standing before the doors of a campus building.

“Who are they, and why are they standing there?” I asked. “Oh, they’re students. They’re waiting for the library to open.”

The Chinese government is pouring huge amounts of money into education. More Chinese are now enrolled in their universities than Americans here. Scores of thousands additional Chinese attend university in the U.S., soaking in knowledge from our best schools, which they apply upon their return to China.

And, as China has four times more people than we have, it is but arithmetic to note that China has more honor students than we have students.

Over the course of three foreign expert visits to China, I also saw firsthand how fast

See **NOWLAN**, Page **7A**

AFL-CIO gets new leadership

The Illinois AFL-CIO hosted its annual State Fair reception last week. The highlight was probably a speech by Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who thanked his audience of union leaders for their support in the 2018 campaign and for their help passing an enormous amount of legislation during his first session of the General Assembly.



RICH MILLER
CAPITOL FAX

But there was also some real news. The event was the last time Michael Carrigan attended as the organization’s president.

Carrigan intends to retire at the end of this year after 10 years at the helm. He succeeded the late Margaret Blackshire in 2010 after serving 10 years as the organization’s secretary/treasurer, the number-two position.

The Illinois AFL-CIO isn’t as cash-rich as the Chicago Federation of Labor, but it can be an enormously influential organization among unions in election campaigns and with legislators in the General Assembly.

After years on its city council, Carrigan served briefly as mayor of Decatur. So, when Gov. Bruce Rauner chose that city shortly after taking office in 2015 as the site of his first formal address urging passage of anti-union right to work laws, the decision was seen as a direct shot at the AFL-CIO president.

Carrigan worked hand-in-glove with House Speaker Mike Madigan against Rauner for four solid years, even going so far as to warn Senate Democrats against agreeing to any grand bargain with the Republican. And he was determined to oust Rauner in the 2018 election.

President Blackshire engineered an early labor endorsement of Rod Blagojevich ahead of the 2002 gubernatorial campaign, which helped bring the rest of organized labor on board.

Carrigan helped do the same for J.B. Pritzker in June of 2017, almost a year before the 2018 primary. That early endorsement was crucial for Pritzker. Some influential trade unions had endorsed the candidate a month before, but the AFL-CIO nod was essential to broadening his appeal. None of Pritzker’s Democratic primary opponents received any significant labor support after that.

Carrigan told me around that time that he’d

See **MILLER**, Page **7A**

Watch out for the kids

Drivers need to pay close attention as children walk, bike to local schools

School is back in session this week throughout Edgar County. That means preschool age through high school students are out again in large numbers. Let’s make this a safe year by taking special care in school zones and crosswalks.

Our children are walking and biking to school and waiting for buses along community streets and country roads. We all must be vigilant to make sure all our children arrive safely at school and back home.

We’re just not talking about family vehicles. We’re also talking about watching carefully for school buses and their precious cargo. We all remember the story from Indiana about the siblings who were killed crossing to road to their school bus in the early morning. They were hit by a vehicle that passed the bus.

Talk to Michelle Ball of MSB Transportation and she’s quick to tell you

OUR VIEW

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

stories of near misses and drivers who pass school buses when their stop arm is out — which is against the law.

That’s particularly important now that more preschool children are boarding buses. Our school districts work hard to insure the safety of our children but as comedian Ron White says, “You can’t fix stupid.”

Just this week we heard a scary story about a driver who disobeyed a crossing guard at a Paris school and almost caused a tragedy not just for the crossing guard but the children who were in the crosswalk. Thank goodness the Paris Police Department is now patrolling those school zones.

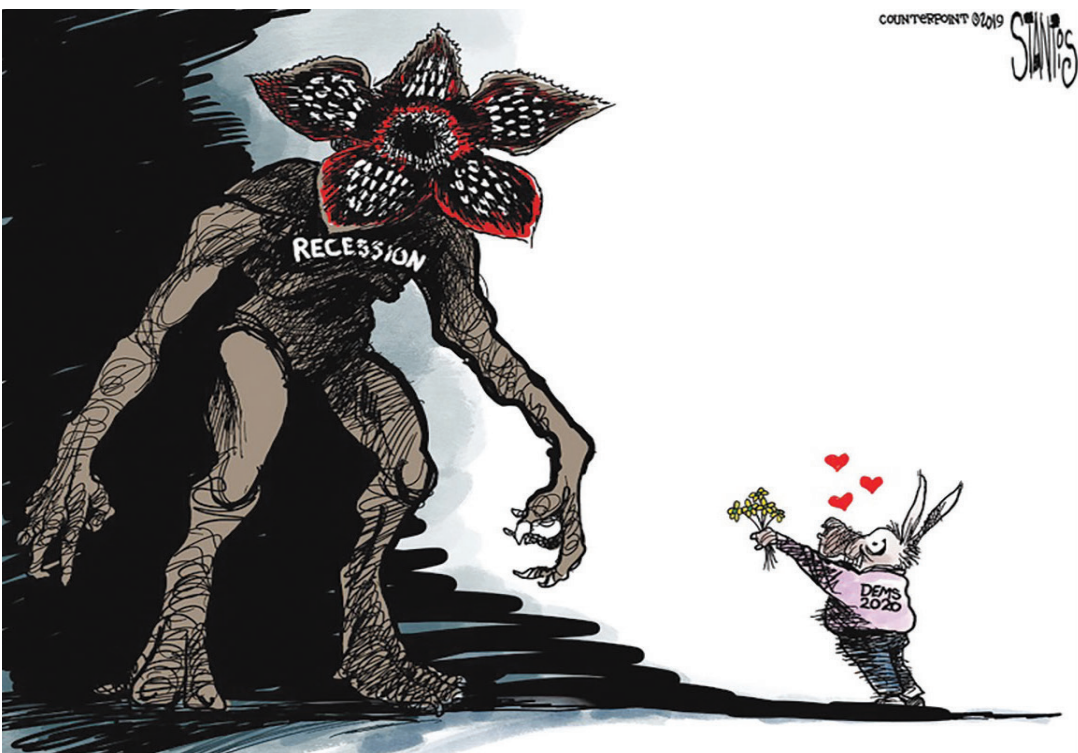
There are other parts to this equa-

tion, though. More students biking and walking means more students on the sidewalks and streets over the next few months — at least until winter really sets in. With the sun coming up later every day, that will mean kids walking in less-than-ideal lighting conditions.

Schools take precautions to keep students out of harm’s way. They send out crossing guards and teach students about being safe on the way to school. But kids are still kids. They’re not always going to do exactly what they’re supposed to.

All of which means it’s time for drivers to be extra careful. You already shouldn’t be texting while driving. That’s doubly true now. Pay attention. Obey the speed limit. Watch for our children.

Let’s have an accident free school year.



YOUR VIEW

White nationalism is threat to democracy

Editor, The Prairie Press:

After 9/11 Bush saw that even if there was a 1 percent chance it could happen again, we would do everything in our power to protect out citizens.

The domestic threat from homegrown terrorists is blamed on mental issues. Take away the weapons of war and the 100-round magazine and see how many are killed. This is not a way to live, going about your daily routine and thinking, am I next?

Because of white supremacist hatred of Latinos and immigrants that is being fueled by Trump and merged with weapons of war, we are all paying the price.

What reason would anyone need 100 rounds on his person except to kill as many people as possible? I’m sure the NRA and their supporters will come up with some idiotic excuse.

Enough. Do Something. We’re not talking about hunters here, or the protection of our homes. McConnell, are you listening?

We are now on a deliberate collision course against ourselves. With words like Hispanic invasion and vermin infested cities, the undrained, slimy swamp is really Trump’s Republican Party. His talking points on a teleprompter are not the real Trump and nobody believes a word he says. Rather it’s at rallies with his people as he laughs when they shout shoot them — meaning immigrants.

“Only in the panhandle can you get away with that,” he smiles. With that statement it is totally acceptable to legitimize hate in America.

We worked to defeat Islamic terrorism. White nationalism is as equal a threat, and now in a

different way our basic democracy, the fabric of our lives is being dismantled.

Trump is now coming after legal immigrants by denying them green cards and therefore citizenship simply because they are poor. The policy of self-sufficiency is not just about immigrants. It’s Ann Rand’s heartless theory of only the best deserve to live. We can see from history what happens when the policy is implemented.

Where Democrats see the poor, along with the compassion to help, Republicans see them as less-than; and where we see those desperate for a better life, they see people who are takers, taking resources away from us.

We ignore the Statue of Liberty’s pledge to the poor and those yearning to be free to our peril. Trump is not just coming after them, but yes, ultimately us, any-one young or old who depends on social services to get by. His goal is the complete eradication of all welfare programs and safety nets.

With 40 percent of all jobs to be replaced by A.I. in the near future, imagine that world and the ramifications and devastation within.

Anita Griffith
Vermilion

Please watch your speed in Vermilion

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Anyone who drives faster than 25 mph in Vermilion is driving unlawfully.

One of those drivers ran over the two-year-old cat our grandson gave us. The vehicle never stopped. Would it have stopped if it hit a child by accident?

Our neighbor had to bring the

cat to us and help us bury it.

We need some speed bumps if speed is not enforced.

Charlotte Bennett
Vermilion

President’s divisive language must end now

Editor, The Prairie Press:

Members of our Congregation’s Leadership Team just returned from the annual assembly of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), where they joined more than 650 leaders of orders of Catholic sisters who sent a letter to President Trump imploring him to end all divisive language.

Our entire leadership team also felt compelled to expand on this letter.

Our Congregation is a community of Catholic women religious who collaborate with others to create a more just and hope-filled world through prayer, education, service and advocacy.

We are not perfect. But our mission as a Congregation is to live the Gospel’s message of love, mercy and justice in today’s world. We strive to achieve this every day.

And in today’s world, marked with so much violence and hatred, we call on those leading our nation to stand up and lead. No one is in a greater position to stand up and lead than President Trump.

Through the eyes of the world, the president is the face of our nation. The president’s words and actions have consequences. We are dismayed by President Trump’s continued hostile language, which brings about disunity and discord,

See **LETTERS**, Page **7A**

Pritzker signs GOP legislation

Several bills sponsored by Senate Republican lawmakers were recently



SEN. DALE RIGHTER
SENATE WEEK IN REVIEW

signed into law, including measures to provide sexual assault victims with more transparency on the status

of rape kit processing, and to authorize special license plate decals to raise awareness and funds for pediatric cancer treatment and research.

As students across Illinois head back to school, the Illinois State Police is reminding citizens to be aware of stopped school buses, crosswalks and children walking or riding their bicycles to school.

A new law providing survivors of sexual assault more transparency during the processing of their rape kits was signed into law Aug. 16.

The new law came from the work of the Sexual Assault Evidence Tracking and Reporting Commission and requires the Illinois State Police to establish a statewide sexual assault electronic tracking system. The new system must be operational no later than one year after becoming law.

The new tracking system addresses concerns that Illinois lacked a uniform system across law enforcement agencies to track sexual assault evidence. Under the new law, survivors can access real-time updates about the status of rape kits, providing vital transparency to the process of investigating these serious crimes.

Senate Bill 1411/PA 101-0377 passed the Senate unanimously.

Illinois motorists will have the opportunity to support pediatric cancer research thanks to a newly signed law. Senate Bill 946/PA 101-0372 allows the Illinois Department of Human Services to issue a decal for pediatric cancer awareness.

Funds from the sale

See **RIGHTER**, 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.

BY MAIL/IN PERSON:
The Prairie Press
Attn: Letters to the Editor
101 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944

BY EMAIL:
nzeman@prairiepress.net
BY FAX: 217-921-3309
QUESTIONS? Call 217-921-3216

NOWLAN

FROM PAGE 6A

the economy has been growing. On my first visit, my host professor rode to campus on a bicycle from her family's apartment. Five years later, she came on a motorized bike. Yet another five years (2015) and she drove to campus in her Mercedes.

So what, readers might say? Let their economy dominate the world. We can become another Switzerland, relatively small but still wealthy and comfortable.

The Chinese have, however, grudges to bear, and repay. Chinese history is measured in thousands of years. School students learn to revere the Ming, Qing and many dynasties, going back to prehistory. During much of that time, the Chinese were, or certainly thought they were, at the center of the world, with all others merely barbarians. Indeed China means the Middle Kingdom, the center of the Earth.

That is, until Western nations humiliated China to

the quick 150 years ago. For half a century, Europe and the U.S. chopped the Middle Kingdom into concessions for commerce, one for each foreign power.

If you can believe it, Western nations, especially the British, literally forced debilitating opium on the Chinese people. This enriched Western traders, all against the opposition of China's aggrieved, but helpless (at the time) emperor.

For the Chinese, a century and a half back is but yesterday. The Chinese are very proud and plan, I think, to even the score.

The Chinese model of state-supported capitalism might not be ideal for the long haul, yet it is effective at focusing huge investment at present in education and science/technology research. Here in the U.S., in contrast, we focus too much of our treasure on expensive, exotic medical therapies that might keep old geezers like me kicking for an extra few months.

Scholars have been sounding the alarm since at least 1997, when Richard Bern-

stein and Ross Munro penned "The Coming Conflict with China." Yet, today, while the Chinese as a nation lean forward in their chairs, you might say, eager and hungry to succeed, we seem to lean back in ours, reflecting on past glories.

I am not a Trump fan, yet in his ham-handed way he appears to get the message.

The U.S. needs to recruit the best and brightest from around the world, who might not think much of us but find our political-economic system attractive.

We also need to mount another moon shot investment program for science and technology. Otherwise, the Chinese will race past us, as they are already doing in some fields.

We're at war, and we're losing.

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

RIGHTER

FROM PAGE 6A

of the decals will go to the University of Illinois' Cancer Center for pediatric cancer research. The decals have an original issuance fee of \$25 with \$10 directed to the Pediatric Cancer Awareness Fund and \$15 to the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund. The renewal fee is \$25 with \$23 directed to the Pediatric Cancer Awareness Fund and \$2 to the Secretary of State Special License Plate Fund.

This legislation was introduced in memory of Johnny Wade of Jerseyville who passed away from cancer at the age of eight.

As students across Illinois head back to school, the Illinois State Police are reminding the public to be aware of school buses, crosswalks and children walking or riding their bikes to school.

Back to school is a good time for motorists to brush up on school zone traffic laws, and to avoid distracted driving. In school zones, the speed limit is 20 miles per hour from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on school days when children are present.

Pedestrians have the right-of-way in a crosswalk, and when a school bus is stopped with its lights activated and stop sign extended, drivers must stop their vehicle before reaching the bus or they could face a \$150 fine and a three-month

drivers license suspension.

Drivers are also reminded that under a new law that took effect July 1, Illinois now has stiffer penalties regarding the use of hand-held devices behind the wheel. First-time incidences of driving while operating a handheld mobile device now count as a moving violation and a driver using a hand-held device while a car is in drive could face a \$75 fine.

So please, as kids go back to school make sure they have a safe, happy and healthy year by keeping an eye out and carefully following traffic laws

in school zones.

(Senator Dale Righter (R-Mattoon) represents the 55th District in the Illinois Senate. Part of his district includes Kansas and Grandview townships in Edgar County.)

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about our schools,
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MILLER

FROM PAGE 6A

realized he could take Pritzker to meet with refinery workers in the Metro East or workers anywhere else, for that matter. He quickly began putting together union support.

It hasn't all been ponies and rainbows between Carrigan and Pritzker's campaign and governing teams, but those have mostly been specific personality conflicts. But, when it came to the issues, Carrigan and Team Pritzker were pretty much of a single mind.

A gradual minimum wage

increase to \$15 an hour, a progressive income tax, legalizing cannabis and a massive \$45 billion infrastructure program were just a few of the things they got done. Labor had a myriad of smaller, relatively unknown legislative requests which had been piling up during Rauner's hostile administration, and most of those were approved as well.

The tradition at the AFL-CIO is for the secretary/treasurer to move up to the top job when the president retires. Carrigan did so with relative ease 10 years ago,

but Blackshear had to fight a tough campaign ahead of her 2000 ascension. The current secretary treasurer is Tim Drea, who started out as a coal miner and eventually went back to school (with me at one point) and worked his way up the ladder at the United Food and Commercial Workers Union. Drea is widely expected to seek the presidency.

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

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6A

not only here, but across the globe.

We write to ask President Trump to put an end to this polarizing language. It continues to create division in our country and throughout the world.

Great leaders inspire others around them to act toward achieving a common goal. Great leaders are admired. Great leaders are remembered for their positive contributions to humanity.

We will continue to pray, Mr. President, that you have the fortitude to put an end to these hateful words and hope

that you will steer our country in a moral and just direction.

Sisters of Providence Leadership Team
Sister Dawn Tomaszewski, General Superior
Sister Lisa Stallings, Vicar and General Councillor
Sisters Mary Beth Klingel, Jeanne Hagelskamp and Jenny Howard General Councillors



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Chrisman street work approved

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — A single bid to micro-surface several blocks of two Chrisman streets came in much higher than expected and gave Commissioner Thad Crispin pause about doing the project.

Crispin discussed the issue during the Monday, Aug. 19, city meeting. He explained the city's engineer anticipated a bid around \$60,000 for grinding the surface, removing the cold patch that is filling bumps and putting concrete in those spots before applying a new driving surface. The one bid, from Beniach Construction of Tuscola, exceeded \$90,000.

The scope of the work is resurfacing Madison and Monroe streets from state Route 1

to the city square.

The higher bid had Crispin stymied. He said one option is to wait and rebid next spring, although he was considering the possibility of using city workers to grind the bumps yet this year in hopes of creating a smoother driving surface.

One surprise to the bid was the amount of money needed for sidewalk work to make sure the concrete ramps have a compatible slope with the resurfaced streets.

"The sidewalks have to be done according to IDOT," said Crispin. "If we don't use MFT, we don't have to do the sidewalks."

MFT, or motor fuel tax, is the money the Illinois Department of Transportation pays out to local governments

from the taxes on gasoline and diesel drivers pay at the pump. MFT is to be used, with IDOT oversight, for street maintenance and some related expenses.

The other members of the city council did not see any benefit to delaying the work or trying to pay for it from general funds instead of MFT.

Commissioner Rodney Wolfe noted the city budgeted more than \$100,000 for all MFT projects, including tree trimming and tree removal. He acknowledged accepting the bid meant taking a significant chunk away from other projects but some of those are easier to do from other accounts than resurfacing.

"I think we have to bite the bullet and be done with it," said Wolfe. "Those are the two

main streets in town."

Mayor Dan Owen doubted waiting several months to rebid will offer any benefit to the city.

"Another winter and those streets are going to be in terrible shape," said Owen. "We will spend more next year by waiting."

The council accepted the Beniach bid for \$90,450, although work will not likely start until after the Chrisman Days Celebration, Sept. 6, 7 and 8. When this process started earlier in the year the hope was to have the streets resurfaced before the festival weekend.

A long-standing agenda item was put to rest during the meeting.

City attorney Robert Morris reported completing a

review of all documentation regarding a billing dispute between Carus Corporation and the city. Morris doubted there was sufficient legal recourse to pursue the matter.

Wolfe said the dispute arose when the city was billed but the chemicals for the water plant were not received. Investigating that matter revealed the company had set up automatic billing and refused to refund the overpayment.

The council decided to drop the issue after hearing Morris' assessment.

"We'll call it a wash, and a lesson learned," said Wolfe.

A problem of excessively high weed growth along the railroad right of ways in town is becoming an increasingly frustrating issue to solve.

Commissioner Tyler Alex-

ander met with a representative of WATCO, the parent company of the Decatur & Eastern Illinois Railroad that operates trains on the tracks.

According to Alexander, WATCO owns the right to use the track but CSX continues to own the ditches and other property on either side of the track bed. And therein lies the problem, CSX has a history of not being responsive to local jurisdictions.

City treasurer Brittney Kindred told the council she found the listing for a CSX employee apparently responsible for such complaints but calls to him at the CSX number automatically go to a voicemail, which is full, and emails bounce back claiming the email account is also full and cannot accept new messages.

POLKY

FROM PAGE 1A

up in Maryland near Andrews Air Force Base and came to Indiana for graduate school. While in graduate school, he worked in residential care at the Gibault School for Boys. That led to a 24-year career with Gibault, and Polky was serving as the executive director of the school's foundation when the opportunity at HRC opened.

Working at HRC, he said, offered a way to make a major career change from residential treatment to community mental health without leaving the area. It was also time for a change.

"Working with young individuals with problems in a residential setting 24 hours a day was pretty much non-stop," he said.

His 19-year career at HRC witnessed several major events. There was the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, wars, an increase of mass shootings and other national crises.

"It did impact the people coming to us for services," said Polky.

Perhaps one of the most trying periods was a multi-year standoff between Governor Bruce Rauner and Illinois Speaker of the House Mike Madigan that resulted in no Illinois state budgets. Without a budget, state payments for mental health services ceased and agencies similar to HRC closed around the state.

It is a point of pride for Polky that HRC kept operating and is still here.

Other highlights he mentioned are a changing public attitude about mental health, and a growing awareness between those in the medical community and mental health



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Ken Polky is retiring as the executive director of the Human Resources Center of Clark and Edgar Counties after a career of more than 40 years in the mental health field, with almost 20 of those years spent at the local facility. Polky plans to remain selectively active with volunteer community projects by doing things with a definite start and end date.

workers that better results are achieved when there is partnering to treat the whole person.

"Nineteen years ago there was not that much sharing between entities – not that it was anybody's fault. It's just the way things were done everywhere," said Polky. "We are no longer working in silos. It's a combination of factors that impact wellness."

As a result, HRC relocated its services in Clark County and opened the Forsythe Center adjacent to the Cork Medical Center in Marshall.

"It has allowed us to do so much more with family and child counseling and occupational counseling," said Polky. "That close proximity to primary care also allows for that warm hand off from a doctor to mental health."

A similar facility, the Life Center, is under construction on the Horizon Health campus and Polky credited the generosity of Horizon Health and others for making that a

reality. Both the Life Center and the Forsythe Center provide places where people experiencing a mental health crisis can seek help or be immediately referred if they go to a physician first.

"Many small communities don't have this type of opportunity, and people in a mental health crisis don't have a place to go except the ER," said Polky.

He was quick to point out these accomplishments are not his doing but the result of hard work, dedication and a shared vision by all HRC staff members.

Even though Polky is retiring before the Life Center opens, he is OK with that because the timing for all other aspects of retirement was right.

"It reaches a point where it is a win-win," said Polky. "It was a good time for a new person to take over and lead and give me time to dial down."

Last Music in the Park celebrates Woodstock era

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Music in the Park series rocks out for the final performance of the 2019 series at Spicer Pavilion in Twin Lakes Park.

"In the spirit of Woodstock's 50th anniversary, we are dedicating this show to those who grew up in the late 60s and 70s," said Randy Rhoads. "Think of this as a love offering to our old friends and fans through the years."

Rhoads is a long-time area musician and during the late 1960s and early 1970s he played with the Silvertones and later the Vikings. Both bands were popular live acts covering the hits of the day for high school and community dance events.

While the Silvertones and the Vikings are no longer around, members of those, and other bands, are still playing. Rhoads has pulled his musician friends together creating Randy Rhoads and RHADIOPLAY for a one-time performance of the great music broadcast on the radio as

people cruised the strip in the various Edgar County towns, caught some rays while working on a tan or set the mood parked under the stars in a rural spot for some teen romance.

"Other bands do classic rock, but they normally don't touch the songs I picked for this," said Rhoads.

The musicians participating in RHADIOPLAY are Gary Wise and Ken Hoedebecke on acoustic and electric guitars with drummer Richard Faust and bass guitar player Marshall Patrick. Rhoads and Bill Cunningham are on the keyboards.

According to Rhoads, the addition of a second electronic keyboard allows RHADIOPLAY to recreate the sounds of legendary rock groups such as the horn line of Chicago, Mellotron flutes and harpsichord used in some Beatles' songs, the flute featured in the music of Jethro Tull, the pipe organ sound from Led Zeppelin, the recorder and accordion used by Faces as fronted by Rod Stewart and for good measure some blues harp from the music of Supertramp.

"We've got jammers, sing-alongs, and songs to dance to," said Rhoads.

He added this performance is exciting for the musicians taking part because they all play with different groups that may perform country, a little classic rock and music from the 1950s and 1960s. Those songs, he said, are more geared to line dancing.

"This gives us a chance to play music we normally don't get to play," Rhoads said.

It is no longer possible to go down to Yasgur's Farm but that time still exists for those ready to seek the "Freedom" promised by Richie Havens through Sly's "Dance to the Music" and knowing everybody needs a little help from friends as explained by Joe Cocker.

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity to relive some good times," claimed Rhoads. "I've been telling all of my friends to take a nap in the afternoon if they have to so they can stay up past 9 p.m."

Randy Rhoads and RHADIOPLAY closes out Music in the Park 6:30-9 p.m. Aug. 29.



Bethanny Lawson/The Prairie Press

By Saturday afternoon, Aug. 17, Crosspoint Apostolic Sanctuary had a completed church building to call home, and to worship in together that Sunday.

CHURCH

FROM PAGE 1A

For the six years CrossPoint

has been in Paris, getting established in their own building has been a goal. Now the dream is finally a reality. The congrega-

tion looks forward to continuing to grow as a church body as they settle in to their new home base.

Shiloh school fiscal year is set

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

HUME — The Shiloh school board unanimously approved the fiscal year 2019-2020 budget during its monthly meeting Monday, Aug. 19.

The budget was approved following the required budget hearing which allows local taxpayers to speak or ask questions. There were no questions.

Shiloh Community Unit District 1 continues to have a strong bottom-line, according to interim superintendent Allen Hall, who spoke briefly about the budget.

In other business, the board members:

- Accepted the resignations of classroom aides Marcia Rich and Traci Pribble.

- Accepted the resignation of Jami Budd as a junior high math teacher.

- Accepted the resignation of Abbie Higginbotham as a parent educator/home visitor.

- Employed Ashley Kolakowski, assistant junior high basketball coach; Leanna Christenberry, assistant junior high softball coach; Kailey Carey, assistant junior high volleyball coach.

- Employed Noah Allen, Abigail Bush, Erin Pope and Kaylee Ridout as classroom aides.

- Employed Nichole Shekles as a junior high math teacher.

- Employed Trisha Drake and Lori Carroll as parent educators/home visitors.

Lynn Holm, who directs the district's early childhood

program, discussed the successful birth to three years program offered by the district through a grant from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Holm reported the program has expanded to serve families in Kansas, Chrisman and Oakland. "Our goal is get kids ready for preschool," she said. The program is now serving 29 new families and 41 students.

In addition to the children attending the program, 20 group connections and five family events were hosted by the program. A pool party at Oakland attracted 19 children. Group connections during the summer included working with the Newman Library and Matt Hales.

Motley, who was formerly the team paid assistant, will now be an unpaid assistant. Justin Richardson, who was the unpaid assistant, will now be the paid assistant.

Two new employees will join the district staff. Mariah Witmer was employed as a one-on-one aid and Steve Kile was hired as a substitute bus driver at \$12.50 per hour.

Kansas BOE looks at financial risk

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliams@prairiepress@gmail.com

KANSAS — The Kansas Board of Education approved the district's risk management plan during the regular meeting Wednesday, Aug. 21.

A risk management plan is designed to protect the district's assets against uncertainty from a variety of causes. The plan follows safety concerns taking into consideration insurance, safety pre-

cautions, annual inspections and training. It also addresses state and federal law and safety compliance.

In another matter, non-certified staff is in line for a bonus. The board voted to approve a longevity bonus of \$1,000 annually to those staff members who have worked for the district for 25 years or longer.

Junior high baseball coaching changes were made. Wes

CLEAN-UP

FROM PAGE 1A

can reach Stapp at 217-251-2645 or go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/1206288579542524>. The event starts 10 a.m. Sept. 7 in the gravel parking lot, south of the former high school, on Main Street. Volunteers can stop there for trash bags, gloves, sunscreen, hand sanitizer and safety instructions about where not to go and how to contact organizers if encountering dangerous or suspicious objects.

Social media response,

claimed it was doubtful the defendant could be rendered fit in a year's time.

The defense also referred to Valdes' testimony that Hefner's delusions may negatively impact his ability to assist with the defense.

Isaf used the June report claiming Hefner is fit although it also acknowledged the potential impediments for the defendant mounting a defense.

"The state has little evidence he is fit," said Isaf.

Judge David W. Lewis faced a conundrum.

Valdes testimony only stipulated that on a given day in June, Hefner was deemed fit for trial even though his delusions might be a barrier. The witness was unable to say if Hefner re-

mained fit having not had an opportunity for a follow up examination.

"The testimony we have heard today raises questions," said Lewis, adding Hefner's delusions were known before he was placed at Alton and the hospital's treatment team still found the defendant fit.

Lewis acknowledged McGrath's concerns that Hefner might get angry during the trial when his claims are challenged but that happens with other defendants whose sanity is not questioned.

"I find he is fit to stand trial, to make a plea and to understand a sentence," said Lewis.

Sept. 17 was selected for a trial date, although that is subject to change.

I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO SAVE THE WORLD, BUT I CAN CLEAN UP MY LITTLE CORNER OF IT."

PHILIP STAPP
CLEAN-UP ORGANIZER

which is different from public commitment, has Stapp hopeful for a successful event. A massive litter pickup is an important reflection of Stapp's personal values.

"We've got one planet that we are using up at an alarm-

ing rate," he said. "I may not be able to save the world, but I can clean up my little corner of it. My hope is not to ever need another one of these, but realistically we may need to do it twice a year."

Redbirds open with a victory

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

The Mayo Redbird baseball team began their season a couple of days late, thanks to the first measurable rainfall in nearly a month — but the delay was worth the wait.

Brody Sanders tossed a no-hitter in the 2019 opener, and every Mayo starter recorded at least one hit in a 10-0 rout of Oblong Thursday afternoon, Aug. 22, at the American Legion diamond. Mayo, coached by Colton Dosch, is 1-0 on the year.

Neither team scored in the first inning, but Mayo scratched out a two-out run on just one hit. Ethan Curl led off with a double and, with two outs, stole third base. On a 3-1 count, Curl stole home to give the Redbirds the early 1-0 lead.

Once again in the third inning, Mayo scored with two outs. This time though, they plated three runs to grab a 4-0 lead. Parker Underwood reached on an error by the Oblong left-fielder, then came around to score on a single by Jackson Rigdon. Sanders then helped his own cause with an RBI single to right. Following a single by Curl to put runners at first and second, Christian Miller grounded sharply through the hole at third base to score Sanders.

Rigdon had a huge day at the plate with a double, two singles and four RBIs. Curl had a double, a single and also stole three bases. Miller drove in one with a pair of singles. Underwood reached base safely in three of his five plate appearances from the leadoff spot. He doubled, walked and drove in two runs. Drew Rogers added a double and Sand-

See **REDBIRDS**, Page 10A

Eagles take win

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

The Crestwood Eagle baseball team began their season on the road against a pair of formidable opponents.

On Thursday, Aug. 15, the Eagles traveled to Charleston and dropped the contest to the Little Trojans 15-1. On Friday, Aug. 16, Crestwood headed back to Coles County to face a tough Mattoon team falling 15-0 as the Mattoon pitcher threw a no-hitter.

Against Charleston, Mason Byrnes and Jaxen Tingley collected the only two hits in the game for Crestwood against Charleston. Tingley reached on a first inning walk against Mattoon and was the only baserunner in the game for the Eagles.

CRESTWOOD 12, ALAH 2

Crestwood bounced back on Monday, Aug. 19, as they travelled to Arthur-Lovington-Atwood-Hammond and recorded their first win of the year with a 12-2 win over the hosts.

See **EAGLES**, Page 10A



Nancy Zeman/The Prairie Press

The Paris High School Tiger football team kicks off the 2019 season at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 30, when they host longtime rival and Little Illini Conference foe the Newton Eagles. The Tigers are coming off an historic season in 2018, ending the regular season a perfect 9-0 and winning the first round of the IHSA playoffs at home against former Apollo Conference foe Salem.

Paris kicks off season Friday

Tigers coming off first undefeated campaign in 50 years hope to build on 2018 success

BY JEFF CHAMBERS
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

With the historic 2018 Paris Tiger football season in the rearview mirror, Paris Coach Jeremy Clodfelder and his troops are ready to embark on another mission.

Paris completed a perfect 9-0 regular season, won the Little Illini Conference title, won its first-ever home playoff game and finished with a stellar 10-1 season record last year. Clodfelder feels that this year's edition of the Tigers has just as good of a chance being successful — and maybe even more so. The loss of seven seniors from last year's team pales in comparison to the 17 that Clodfelder lost the previous year.

Winning teams are built in the off-season — and this year's squad has been putting in the time in the weight room and in 7-on-7 competitions.

"It has been a pretty productive summer," Clodfelder said. "Our kids have always seemed to buy in to the expectations we have for them in terms of going through the process; whether it be through the summer phase, or any other time of year in terms of preparation."

All good football programs are able to not only replace those players lost from the previous season but replenish as well. Clodfelder believes the 2019 Paris team has as much depth as last season's team — and maybe even a little more.

One thing that will not change is the style and pace with which the Tigers play.

"We are hopeful that the fans will continue to see an



Nancy Zeman/The Prairie Press

Leading the Paris Tiger football team this season will be four senior captains and two junior honorary captains. First row, from left, are seniors Coy Landrum, Sam Mays, Hudson Hollis and Nathan Zorn. Standing are honorary junior captains, from left, Danny Perry and Mason Hutchings.

exciting brand and style of football," Clodfelder said. "As always, with graduation, there will be some new names on Friday nights and Saturday afternoons who will have to step up and make plays alongside the returning players."

When asked if the team's offensive scheme will change with the new personnel, the fourth-year coach emphasized, "As far as the schemes on both sides of the ball goes, we will continue to play very similar to what you've seen, along with some new wrinkles here and there."

On the offensive side of the ball, Paris will do some-

thing that they have not had the luxury of doing in the past. They will implore a two-quarterback system with senior Hunter Newlin and junior Danny Perry handling snaps under center. Newlin was forced into action when Caleb Gates broke his thumb in the Robinson game last season. He led the Tigers to their first playoff victory in school history. Perry — who was named junior varsity co-MVP last season — will share duties with Newlin and be called upon in specific game situations.

Clodfelder said both quarterbacks run the ball excep-

tionally well — a major asset in his offensive scheme.

"Both quarterbacks have similar abilities, and both do some things differently pretty well," Clodfelder said. "Hunter obviously has big game experience after last season and Danny really made strides at the JV level as well as seeing some varsity action."

Addressing the "wrinkle" he mentioned, Clodfelder explained that, "It wouldn't be shocking to see them both in the game — and quite possibly in the game at the same time."

Senior tailback Coy Landrum will be the workhorse ball carrier this season

for the Tigers. He will not, however, be alone in the backfield as junior Nathan Zorn and fellow senior Sam Mays are expected to see significant touches as well.

Running the football is a staple for Clodfelder's spread offense, and additional Tiger players such as Carter Hays, Mason Hutchings and Garrett King will also see touches on certain plays to showcase their speed.

Discussing the strength of the 2019 Little Illini Conference, Clodfelder stopped short of naming every team in the conference as viable opponents this season.

"I believe our schedule will still be a challenge on a weekly basis. Newton seems to always be a force and very competitive in our league. Casey, I believe, will be much improved along with Lawrenceville," Clodfelder said, "Marshall will be a quality team. Olney, on paper, will be a very talented team. Robinson — with second-year coach Casey Pinnell — will be another team that improves with their new coach."

The lone non-conference team on the schedule this season will be the Macomb Bombers. Paris is scheduled to travel there in week five.

Clodfelder acknowledged a target has been placed on his squad, but the Tiger coach isn't one to shy away from the additional pressure.

"We know as a program that the bar has continually been raised," he emphasized. "We look forward to the challenge of giving Tiger Nation another team that they can be proud of."

PHS golfers take tri-match

Bradley, Dawson lead Tiger golfers

BY JEFF CHAMBERS & TIM HENDERSHOT
prairiepresssports@gmail.com
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

OAKLAND — Paris took its first triangular match of the season Tuesday, Aug. 20, cruising to a 24-stroke win over Oblong and Tri-County.

The Tigers carded a 152 team total to easily beat Oblong(176) and Tri-County(194). The Tigers had three golfers shoot in the mid-thirties to take the team win while the Panthers consistently had four golfers in the mid-forties

to take second with a 175.

Medalist for the match was Zach Rogers of Bement who took individual honors with an even par 34. The other Bement golfer, brother Luke Rogers tied for fourth with a four over par 38.

The Tigers were led by sophomore Luke Bradley who tied for second place individual honors with teammate senior Dawson Watson. Each carded a 36. Bradley had one birdie on the par-three fifth hole and four pars on the day. Chance Westerfield tied for fourth with a 38 and Reese Wagner fired a 42 to finish the team scoring. Nathan Minn- is carded a 43 with two pars

and Mitchell Worrell finished with a 48.

Grant Kidwell led the second-place team, the Oblong Panthers, shooting a 40 while Joe Pugh fired a 42 with two pars. Jake Smothers carded a 47 with a par of the par-three eighth while the duo of Hayden Johnson and Joe Littlejohn each fired a 47. Braden Thompson carded a 48 and Caleb Newman finished with a 52.

The Titans return four players from last season with the standard was set high going into the 2019 season after such success.

Head Coach Kevin Fleckenstein sent five golfers

out onto the course at Norton Knolls Golf Course in Oakland on a sunny and humid day for the triangular meet.

As with any first meet of the season, golfers would expect to be nervous trying to get into a rhythm after having many days of practice before the real situation arrived.

On this day, the Titans did experience some nerves, but managed to finish strong in the last few holes taking third place.

Holden Kile was the low scorer for the Titans carding a 41 collecting four pars on the day while Mike Thomas carded a 50 with four bogeys.

See **GOLF**, Page 10A

Mayo takes win over Eagles 5-2

BY JEREMY PATTERSON
pattersonjeremy267@gmail.com

The Mayo Lady Redbirds took the win in the game against crosstown rival Crestwood Thursday, Aug. 22, 5-2.

MAYO 5, CRESTWOOD 2

Mayo used some swift base running and a keen offensive eye to jump out in front of crosstown rival Crestwood, ultimately winning the contest 5-2.

Mayo wasted no time getting their offense rolling

See **SOFTBALL**, Page 10A

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Titans drop season openers

BY TIM HENDERSHOT
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

CASEY — After graduating a strong eighth grade class a year ago, the Tri-County Titans junior high baseball team had to go youthful, allowing fifth graders to join the team for the 2019.

The Titans have 14 players taking to the field on Saturday, Aug. 17, to begin the season in the Casey-Westfield Tournament taking on the host Casey-Westfield Braves and the Neoga Indians in the round robin competition.

The Titans had to wait a little bit as heavy early morning rains forced the tournament to be moved back. Once the skies cleared, the Titans hoped to begin the season strong with two victories limping on a 2-8 season a year ago.

Coach Joe Morrissey is back in the dugout after taking last season off due to medical rea-

sons.

At the end of the day, the Titans managed a total of two hits in the two games going 0-2 to begin 2019.

CASEY-WESTFIELD 13, TCT 2

In the first game of the day, the Titans faced the host Casey-Westfield Braves.

The contest started off well with Braxton Buckler reaching on an error by the Braves second baseman. After two outs, Buckler then scored on a passed ball to give TCT a 1-0 lead with the benefit of a hit.

That would be the only lead of the game for the Titans as the Braves responded in the top of the second inning with seven runs to take a 7-1 lead and never looked back. The Braves took the win 13-2 via run rule in four innings.

The Titans did manage one more run in the top of the fifth without recording a hit as Levi Ash scored on a

passed ball.

The Titans were held without a hit the entire game, but managed to draw seven walks in the contest to have scoring opportunities. However, TCT left six runners on base. Levi Ash had a stolen base and a run scored while Braxton Buckler added a run scored. Justin Robertson chipped in a stolen base in the loss.

Robertson went one and one-third innings taking the loss giving up one hit and one earned run while striking out one. Caden Logan went two and one-third innings in relief giving up five hits and eight runs — two earned — while walking two and striking out one. Levi Ash went the final one-third of an inning in relief giving up four hits and four runs — all earned — while walking one and striking out one.

NEOGA 4, TCT 0

Game two pitted the Ti-

tans against the Neoga Indians.

The TCT bats went quiet as the Titans were held to just two hits.

Neoga took an early 2-0 lead after the first inning and went on to a 4-0 win.

Both Titans hits came in the top of the fourth inning as Braxton Buckler and Caden Logan each singled, giving the Titans the bases loaded with only one out. TCT was unable to score during the rest of the inning.

Buckler finished the game going 1 for 2 and Caden Logan also finished up 1 for 2.

Buckler went two innings taking the loss giving up two hits and three runs — one earned — while walking one and striking out two.

Justin Robertson went the final two innings in relief giving up a hit and an unearned run while walking one and striking out one.

Slugging Nats roll past Cubs 9-3 Friday

CHICAGO (AP) — Aníbal Sánchez wanted to help his weary teammates with a strong performance on the mound.

The solid afternoon at the plate was an unexpected bonus.

Sánchez pitched one-hit ball into the ninth inning and helped himself with two perfectly placed bunts, leading the Washington Nationals to a 9-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Friday.

"I'm not a good hitter, but if I can do something for the team on the home plate, it's

good," Sánchez said.

Washington had a short turnaround with an early start after its 7-1 victory at Pittsburgh on Thursday night. The Nationals didn't arrive in Chicago until early Friday morning, but their loaded lineup looked as if it got more than enough rest.

"Proud of the boys," manager Dave Martinez said. "They battled through a long night last night, came back here and (were) ready to play. They played really well and Aníbal led that."

Juan Soto and Adam Ea-

ton homered as Washington improved to 13-4 in its past 17 games, putting pressure on NL East-leading Atlanta and strengthening its position atop the wild-card standings. It has outscored its opponents 129-66 since Aug. 5.

Chicago had won five in a row, but it was unable to overcome a shaky start by Jon Lester (10-9) and another rough performance at the plate. The Cubs finished with three hits, including two in their three-run ninth, a day after they had two in a 1-0 victory over San Francisco.

"It's my job to do better, and I'm not," Lester said. "I let a five-game winning streak basically go down the wayside because I didn't throw the ball very well."

Sánchez (8-6), who flew into Chicago ahead of time on Thursday, allowed one earned run while improving to 8-0 with a 3.13 ERA in his past 16 starts. Matt Grace got the last two outs.

The 35-year-old Sánchez "did a good job moving the ball in and out, mixing up speeds," Cubs slugger Kyle Schwarber said.

EAGLES

FROM PAGE 9A

The Eagles scored two runs in the first and nine runs in the third inning to run away with the victory.

Drake Bartos and Ethan Hefner were each three-for-three in the game — all

singles — and each drove in a pair of runs. Sebastian Daugherty added a pair of singles and drove in three runs.

Whyatt Morgan and Byrnes added a single each to round out the hitting for Crestwood.

Bartos earned the win

going 3.2 innings on the mound. He allowed two runs on one hit, walked one and struck out five. Jacob Staley finished the game without allowing a run or a hit. He did not walk a batter and struck out two.

Crestwood (1-2) will return to action after a sev-

en-day layoff as they head to Palestine Monday. They will finally play a home game Tuesday when they host Casey, then follow that game up with a home date against Westville. One week from today, they will face Tri-County in doubleheader action at Kansas at 10 a.m.

REDBIRDS

FROM PAGE 9A

Sanders, Marcus Mitchell, Ty King and Payton Lankster each added a single. Sanders and Lankster drove in one run each with their base hits.

Sanders worked all five innings in the game, striking out eight and walking four batters.

Mayo will travel to

Georgetown at 10 a.m. today for a single game to start a busy week.

On Monday, they will head to Danville before returning home Tuesday to host Lawrenceville. On Thursday they travel to Cumberland. On Saturday, Aug. 31, they will host Marshall at 10 a.m. All games during the week begin at 4:30 p.m. at the Paris American Legion diamond.

SOFTBALL

FROM PAGE 9A

as Peighton Smith stole two bases in the opening inning before finding her way to home plate off of a sacrifice bunt from Emma Sanders.

Dyer managed to get the Lady Eagles on the board in the bottom of the first inning with a run off of a passed ball.

Mayo reclaimed its lead as Jaidyn Simpson scored on a Smith single. The bats of both groups quickly died down for the next three innings though, with neither side yielding a run.

It wasn't until the top of the sixth inning that Kenzi York scored on a double from Smith and Smith made her way around the bases before scoring on a passed ball. York scored her second run of the day in the seventh inning on a hit by Cloe Thompson.

The Lady Eagles attempted to rally in the bottom of the seventh inning as Yantis scored on a Yates double but were unable to close the deficit as Mayo won 5-2.

York and Smith each had two runs in the game, with Smith also tallying three hits and two RBI in four at-bats. Simpson garnered a run and two hits for the Lady Redbirds.

Smith pitched all seven innings for Mayo, giving up three hits and two runs while walking five batters and striking out 11 batters.

Dyer and Yantis captured the only runs of the game for the Lady Eagles. Moreschi pitched four innings for Crestwood, giving up five hits and four runs while walking

one batter and striking out two batters. Yantis pitched one inning, walking one batter and striking out three others. Edwards threw two innings, giving up three hits and one run while walking two batters and striking out one.

The Lady Redbirds play at 10 a.m. today at Effingham State.

MARTINSVILLE 14, MAYO 6

After falling behind early in the opening innings, Mayo was unable to recover in their matchup with Martinsville, falling 14-6.

The Lady Redbirds struggled defensively in the first frame of play, giving up four runs in eight at-bats. After the initial outburst from Martinsville, Mayo managed to calm the storm, allowing only three runs in the next three innings. This, paired with six runs of their own, cut the deficit to 7-6 heading into the bottom of the fifth inning.

What little cap Mayo was able to put on the Martinsville bats exploded again in the bottom of the fifth, this time giving up six runs and ultimately leading to the teams 14-6 loss.

Cloe Thompson led the Lady Redbirds offensively, tallying two hits, two RBI and one run. Lauren Kuhn also managed two hits and one run for Mayo. Peighton Smith had one hit, one run and one RBI.

Smith pitched 5 1/3 innings for Mayo, giving up 12 hits and fourteen runs in the game. Smith walked five batters while striking out eight batters.

GOLF

FROM PAGE 9A

Jacob Knofsky finished with five bogeys scoring a 51 while newcomer Krayten Willison fired a 52 with four bogeys. Josh Hunt rounded out the Titans scoring with a 65 with his best score being a double bogey on the par-3 eighth hole.

The Titans will travel to Ironhorse Golf Course on Monday for the Warriors

Invitational hosted by the Tuscola Warriors. This is a unique 18-hole two-man team event where every nine holes is played in a different format. Tee time is set for 1 p.m. in Tuscola.

Paris will begin Little Illini Conference play on Wednesday as they travel to Casey for a 4 pm match. Thursday, they travel to Tuscola for a non-conference match at Iron Horse golf course.

Bears, Colts set to face off

Pagano expecting emotional return to Indy tonight

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bears defensive coordinator Chuck Pagano returns to the city where he used to be the head coach when Chicago travels to Indianapolis to face the Colts on Saturday.

Less than a month into the 2012 season, Pagano was diagnosed with leukemia and spent part of that year being treated for the disease before he could go on through a six-year stint as Colts coach.

Pagano said there is sure to be some emotion even if it is a preseason game.

"I'd be lying if I said there wasn't going to be any," Pagano said. "I'm sure, once we get down there, step out on the field and go through all the pregame stuff, see a lot of old faces, shake a lot of hands, high-fives and all that stuff."

"But, no, it's a business trip. We got a game to play and all that stuff and there's a lot on the line for a lot of these players. So our focus and our energy and everything has been in our preparation for the game. Had six great years there and have a lot of fond memories. So it'll be pretty cool."

The Bears won't play many starters. Coach Matt Nagy said earlier in the week his approach will be similar to the previous preseason game. Starting quarterback Mitchell Trubisky has been in for three plays this preseason, so he won't get more snaps until the regular season. The Bears won't play starters in the final preseason game Aug. 29 against Tennessee either, since it's only a week from the start of the regular season against the Packers.

Kicker Eddy Pineiro remains the focus for the Bears after Elliott Fry was cut. If Pineiro can continue kicking effectively, he can prevent the Bears from signing another kicker when teams make final roster cuts.

SAINTS AT JETS

Saints quarterback Drew Brees hasn't played a snap yet this preseason. But it sounds as if that could change against — of all defensive coordinators — the Jets' blitz-happy Gregg Williams.

After seeing the hits Atlanta's Matt Ryan took from the Jets last week, one might have figured this weekend's third exhibition game would be a less-than-ideal time for New Orleans' 40-year-old, record-setting QB to take his only preseason snaps. Yet it sounds as if coach Sean Payton thinks this is when it needs to happen for the sake of better synching up the first-team offense.

"I think in a game like this, we'll plan on playing him," Payton said. "How much? We'll see. I think it's important for everyone else around him, too."

Brees is all too familiar with Williams, who was New Orleans' defensive coordinator from 2009-11, a stint that included the franchise's only Super Bowl and three straight playoff appearances. It was also the period during which the NFL investigated the Saints' "bounty" program that rewarded big and sometimes injurious hits with under-the-table cash payments. The scandal resulted in season-long suspensions for Williams and Payton in 2012.

Jets starters including Sam Darnold, C.J. Mosley, Jamal Adams, Leonard Williams are expected to play into the third quarter.

However, running back Le'Veon Bell will not be on the field. The Jets are keeping him out of preseason games as a precaution, with Bell set to make his debut with the team in Week 1 of the regular season against Buffalo.

Center Ryan Kalil is expected to make his debut for the Jets and play about a quarter.

The 34-year-old Kalil came out of retirement earlier this month and has been getting back into football shape while learning the terminology of the Jets' playbook the last few weeks. He practiced in team drills for the first time Sunday, and had progressed in the

days since.

TEXANS AT COWBOYS

With Ezekiel Elliott still holding out, the Cowboys are treating rookie Tony Pollard as the starting running back. He played just the first series in each of the first two preseason games, as did quarterback Dak Prescott. Both should get their most playing time of the preseason in Dallas' first home game.

Pollard has 58 yards on nine carries, a 6.4-yard average, with a 14-yard touchdown in two games. The TD came last week against the Rams. Prescott has completed all nine of his passes for 89 yards.

Receiver Amari Cooper hasn't played in the preseason while dealing with plantar fasciitis, but says he will be ready for the opener at home against the New York Giants on Sept. 8. Linebacker Sean Lee said he expects to make his preseason debut after injuring a knee in the first padded practice of training camp in California.

After playing just one series in his preseason debut last week, Houston quarterback Deshaun Watson is hoping to get a lot more playing time in the team's third preseason game.

49ERS AT CHIEFS

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes could play into the second half in what is expected to be the reigning league MVP's final dress rehearsal before the start of the regular season Sept. 8 at Jacksonville.

The Chiefs also hope to get more work out of running back Damien Williams, who has been slowed much of camp by a hamstring injury. Their potent offense struggled in limited work last week in Pittsburgh, so coach Andy Reid wants to see better production from the No. 1 unit before likely getting the preseason finale off.

San Francisco quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo figures to get his most extensive action of the preseason in his return to the site of last year's season-ending knee injury.

Garoppolo is expected to play about a half in his second start since tearing his left ACL against the Chiefs last September. Garoppolo struggled in his return to game action last week when he completed 1 of 6 passes for no yards, an interception and a 0.0 passer rating at Denver.

BRONCOS AT RAMS

Coach Vic Fangio is sitting Joe Flacco and most of his other starters: "It's our fourth game, not our third," said Fangio, whose team played in the Hall of Fame game. "I just feel like that it's the best thing for our team right now."

Asked if that messes up the usual game-planning done for starters in this upcoming preseason game, Fangio said, "I've never game-planned for any preseason game in my life. We just go out and play kind of basic football so we can evaluate the guys because it's hard to game plan because you never know who they've got in there either."

With Flacco sitting out and rookie Drew Lock (thumb) sidelined, Kevin Hogan will start and play most of the game with undrafted rookie Brett Rypien, who went 37-12 at Boise State, expected to replace him.

The Rams' final preseason game at the Coliseum will feature none of their starters or significant players as coach Sean McVay sticks to his strategy to rest everybody throughout August. Linebacker Obo Okoronkwo is among the younger players looking to earn roster spots and larger roles with strong play in the final two games.

CARDINALS AT VIKINGS

The Cardinals are hoping for a much better all-around performance after a dismal effort against the Raiders last week.

No. 1 overall pick Kyler Murray said he hopes a slightly more expansive playbook will help the offense take a step forward after he completed just 3 of 8 passes for 12 yards against the Raiders. He was also sacked twice, in-

cluding once for a safety and called for two false starts.

The Cardinals also have questions at cornerback. Patrick Peterson is suspended for the season's first six games and the team's other projected starting cornerback Robert Alford is also out for several weeks because of a leg injury. In their absence, Tramaine Brock, Chris Jones and rookie Byron Murphy will see lots of time.

The Vikings will likely leave their starters in for the first half, giving quarterback Kirk Cousins more time with the revamped interior of the offensive line as the rollout of the new scheme under coordinator Kevin Stefanski and adviser Gary Kubiak continues.

Though the Vikings have one of the NFL's best wide receiver duos in Adam Thielen and Stefon Diggs, they've been waiting all summer for some of their younger players at that position to emerge as reliable depth.

SEAHAWKS AT CHARGERS

Seattle's starters will likely get their final preseason action as Pete Carroll's plan in the past has the majority of them sitting for the final week of the preseason. Russell Wilson played one quarter last week in Minnesota and will likely get a bit more time against the Chargers.

The Seahawk starting offense looked crisp against the Vikings with the exception of two missed third-down throws that would have extended drives.

The other competition to watch on offense will be the

depth at wide receiver with several players — Jazz Ferguson, Keenan Reynolds, Gary Jennings, John Ursua, Malik Turner — battling for the final spots.

Philip Rivers, Keenan Allen and Joey Bosa will not play for the third straight game for the Chargers. Rivers, who used to want to get as many preseason snaps as possible, has been asked if he is comfortable rolling into the regular season without any live game reps and he said he would be ready to go. Allen tweaked his ankle last week but has practiced this week and hopefully should not miss time during the regular season. Bosa is a healthy scratch like Rivers.

STEELERS AT TITANS

Most of Pittsburgh's starters, including quarterback Ben Roethlisberger, will make extended preseason cameos, though the real intrigue is in what comes after Roethlisberger makes an exit.

Mason Rudolph and Josh Dobbs are competing to be Roethlisberger's backup, a spot Dobbs held last season. Coach Mike Tomlin has seen little separation between the two through two preseason games, though Rudolph did lead the Steelers to a touchdown drive last week against Kansas City.

Rookie inside linebacker Devin Bush expects to play after sitting out against the Chiefs because of a minor shoulder injury. Bush, the 10th overall pick in the draft, was a revelation in his NFL debut, racking up 10 tackles in the preseason opener against Tampa Bay.



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Shiloh brainstorms education options

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

HUME — How to improve the education and learning for Shiloh students was the focus for the majority of the monthly meeting of the Shiloh Community Unit District 1 board of education Monday, Aug. 19.

Interim district superintendent Allen Hall led the discussion noting in the past, groups like the North Central Association — which was disbanded in 2014 — accredited schools. Hall said that process involved a group of educators and community members visiting a school at intervals and writing a report highlighting the school's strengths, weaknesses and also making recommendations.

In the absence of such a group, Hall reviewed his list of strengths and weaknesses of the Shiloh school.

Among the strengths listed were:

- The district's class size for all grades is an advantage. Hall said classes that are larger are either split into two sections or an extra classroom aide is added to the room to assist the teacher. He noted later in the meeting the board was scheduled to act on hiring three new aides.

- The district's title programs are strong. Shiloh students receive the remedial help they need either by being pulled out of the classroom and working with the title teachers or within the classroom.

- Every student in the district has the use of a Chromebook, Hall said, noting the district's technology strength. Teachers received outside training. While some teachers use the Chromebooks more than others, there are Smartboards in every room.

- The district's textbooks are up to date.

- Field trips and outside experiences for students are encouraged. "We never turn anyone down," he said.

- Shiloh now has a school psychologist 2½ days a week, up from the previous one day a week. The district is also actively searching for a social worker.

While the school has many strengths, Hall said the district does fall short in some areas including:

- Parents want to see A's on report cards and Hall is concerned about grade inflation. "There is pressure on teachers not just at this level but at the university level as well," he said. He shared a discussion he had with a University of Illinois professor about grade inflation.

- Assigned classroom grades at Shiloh don't reflect on the district's test scores.

- The high school's advanced classes don't provide much competition for the district's best students. "Instead of having 20-25 students in an advanced class, we have maybe five or six," he said. "Students feed off each other." Shiloh High School presently has an enrollment of 106 students.

- Because of the small size, there are no high school department chairs to evaluate area programs.

- Shiloh needs more vocational offerings. There is an area vocational center in Tilton, but it's a 40-minute trip each way. Most classes offered at Shiloh have only one section limiting when students can take them and because of graduation requirements, some students who would benefit from vocational classes cannot take them.

- Summer school should be offered because students regress a great deal during summer break. While superintendent in the Heritage school district, Hall offered summer school but the students who really needed it didn't attend or only attended sporadically. "It was terribly frustrating and eventually we finally just dropped it," he said. An incentive plan might help spur attendance. "It (summer school) is a big advantage for lower grades," he said.

- Attracting and maintaining quality teachers is a problem just not just at Shiloh, but throughout Illinois. Teachers in Champaign-Urbana don't want to drive to Hume for a job. Shiloh's location is a deterrent, he said.

Board member Renee Henry emphasized the need for Shiloh students to learn and not chase grades.

"I would be supportive of stop playing that game," she said.

District curriculum and technology director Terry Sul-

livan said there aren't a lot of options for grading other than the standards-based grading, which hasn't been warmly received in classrooms — especially by parents.

Board member Aaron Richardson expressed his concern with the lack of vocational experiences for Shiloh students.

"I think if we can build a new bus barn, we can add a couple of classrooms (for vocational education)," he said.

Following Hall's discussion, the board members brainstormed possible areas of interest for educational goals and programs. Among the possibilities are:

- More peer-to-peer tutoring for students.

- Establish a grow-your-own teacher program.

- Provide more life skills training in consumer education.

- Increase computer skills including offering more classes. Henry suggested coding should be added.

- Hire another science teacher.

- Empower teachers to be more innovative through a grant program.

- Provide more planning time for teachers.

- Pay teachers for attending practicums.

- Investigate Project Lead the Way, a science program that emphasizes active learning.

- Invite visiting musicians to spend time in the school.

Hall said he will organize the discussion and report back at an upcoming meeting.

Horizon Health receives gold seal award

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Horizon Health continues to receive national recognition for its commitment to patient safety and top quality care.

The Joint Commission, which independently evaluates and accredits nearly 21,000 healthcare organizations and

programs in the United States, has awarded Horizon Health a gold seal of approval as an accredited critical access hospital. This followed an intensive, unannounced three-day survey and tour of the hospital in May. The 2019 accreditation is valid for three years.

Receiving the accreditation means Horizon Health complies with the highest national standards for safety and quality of care. Seeking Joint Commission accreditation is voluntary, and Horizon Health has been accredited since it first applied for the status in 1998.

"Meeting the Joint Commission's standards shows the community that our quality of patient care and patient safe-

ty initiatives are performing at the highest levels. It's a bar we continue to raise and work at," said Amy Arnett, infection control/performance improvement manager at Horizon Health.

As part of its survey, the Joint Commission used a tracer methodology to track a patient's experience from the time of admission to the hospital until the time of discharge.

The survey included a visit from a life safety specialist who inspected such things as the hospital building and grounds, signage, entrance and exit points and emergency management plans.

Surveyors also reviewed the hospital's overall environment

of care, infection prevention and control methods, the medical staff and leadership and national patient safety goals.

"As a private accreditor, The Joint Commission surveys health care organizations to protect the public by identifying deficiencies in care and working with those organizations to correct them as quickly and sustainably as possible," said Mark Pelletier, chief operating officer, accreditation and certification operations, and chief nursing executive, The Joint Commission. "We commend Horizon Health for its continuous quality improvement efforts in patient safety and quality of care."

RMTD ridership exceeds 1 million

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

HARRISBURG — For the first time in its history, ridership on Rides Mass

Transit District routes exceeded 1 million passengers during the previous fiscal year which ended June 30. In total, RMTD saw a nearly 36 per-

cent increase in ridership.

"We certainly are pleased with being able to transport so many passengers and being able to make such a positive impact across all of the counties we serve," said RMTD assistant director Adam Lach. "We've seen significant increases within the urbanized area between Marion and Carbon-dale, plus we've also seen solid increases across the rest of our district. We understand that people count on us as a public transit provider to get to work, class, medical appointments and to run errands."

Over 1.1 million rides were given throughout the 18-county service area, which includes large portions of southern and east central Illinois. Edgar County is one of the communities served by Rides Mass Transit.

"We want to continue to work on ways to improve our service," said Lach. "Clearly, when we transport that many people over such a large area, you aren't without challenges, but we're always looking for ways to improve our level of service each day. Our staff at each of our locations do a great job and care about the people they transport and want to help make a difference."

RMTD is the largest rural public transit district in Illinois. In addition to local residential service, it provides weekday access to destinations such as St. Louis, Champaign, Springfield, Evansville, Ind., and Terre Haute, Ind.

The organization is also nearing completion of its park-and-ride transit hub in Marion, which will make transferring and connecting passengers even easier when moving around the region.

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Drunk delays

All of my life I've been saying to myself, "Self, you've never stood on Lookout Mountain. Driven past it? Yes. Flown above it? Yes. But have you actually planted your feet atop it? No."



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

I've outlived most of the barns that provided advertisements painted vividly on their roofs: "See Rock City atop Lookout Mountain," or "See Seven States Atop Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Tennessee." Those ads were more numerous than the other famous slogan, "Chew Mail Pouch Tobacco."

I finally did it, family and all, Aug. 7, 2019. We rode the Lookout Mountain Railway in a straight line right up to the top. It's called the world's steepest railroad. As one strong cable pulls the passenger car upward, another unwinds and lowers a second car. They pass by each other at the halfway point of the two-mile-long railroad in operation since 1895.

There's another straight-line railroad to the top of Mt. Washington, N.H., the tallest peak in the Appalachians. We rode it in 1970. Four dinky little steam locomotives were huffing and puffing mightily to pull passengers upward on a cog railway. They had to stop for coal and water along the route. Struggling up, they belched kachuck. . kachuck. . kachuck all the way. Returning effortlessly downward, they issued a rapid chuckachuckachuckachuka to the very bottom. This train spawned the idea for "The Little Engine That Could," a kiddie story many of us have read in school literature books. Today, only one steamer continues to perform. The others are diesels.

Well, readers know me, the Old Codger. I'm always seeking funny stories to share, so I pried one from one of the guides on Lookout Mountain. At first they could think of none, other than an occasional kid that bawls and squalls from fear. Someone has to cuddle them and calm sore nerves.

This story, however, is about an event that caused an hour of delay because of an unusual fight on the railroad track.

As the cable car rolled upward to perhaps two-thirds of the distance, they encountered a drunk lit up somewhat like Otis Campbell on "The Andy Griffith Show." The old coot was tipsily walking upward with his loyal dog on a leash. Why, some may ask? Perhaps he was lost. Then maybe he was a resident along one of the roads at mountaintop. Maybe he was seeking someone to visit. He was clearly inebriated, though, and had no intention of yielding right-of-way.

The guide asked him politely to move aside. The drunk became quarrelsome. By necessity, the cable operator atop the mountain was required to stop the cars. Law enforcement officers were requested.

Several minutes elapsed before two cops arrived. Before long they called for assistance. The number grew to six. Everything functioned in slow motion because of the steep slope. Events were further complicated when the drunk decided to resist arrest.

Twice he attempted to flee. Officers couldn't push, lift or drag the

See CODGER, Page 2B

COLORADO CAPITAL IS A SPOT TO SAVOR



Ruth Patchett/The Prairie Press

Stuffed piquillo peppers are one of the tapas options at TAPateria in Colorado Springs. The dish is served with Manchego cheese among other ingredients and flavored with a sherry vinaigrette.

Denver is served

BY RUTH PATCHETT
rpweib1@gmail.com

Finally, I met my granddog. Shaggy lives in Denver, and I have wanted to meet him since my son and his wife adopted him.

He is a border collie/lab mix and was trained by female inmates in the Colorado penal system. Shaggy was in about five different penitentiaries for training before they brought him home. A job helping train dogs is much desired and each dog trained spends two weeks 24/7 with one person before another trainer takes over. This keeps a dog from becoming too attached to one inmate and acclimates them to living in different places.

Most grandparents can be bores about how smart or cute their grandchildren are. I will not bore readers about how smart or cute my granddog is, but I will say he is very special. He loves to fetch and only chews on toys given to him. I brought out a toy, and he chewed it to smithereens but never touched a pillow or shoe or anything else.

We left him alone when we went to Pike's Peak and were gone for more than nine hours. This was the longest he was by himself ever, but the house was never bothered. My granddog truly is grand.

And speaking of grand and chewing I had some of the best food while visiting. I made it a point to take pictures and write down what I had eaten so I could recommend some good places in case a reader is headed that way.

There are many delicious restaurants, but I always insist on breakfast at Snooze. My son had not been there since the last time we visited more than two years ago. He does not like the two-hour wait time for a seat, but we are early risers so our wait time was only 20 minutes. Free coffee and water are available while standing in line outdoors and the weather was pleasant, so no problem.

Snooze first opened in Denver April 2, 2006, and it is an environmentally conscious business. It recycles and composts everything possible. The entire last page of the menu is about all the good things the business is doing



Ruth Patchett/The Prairie Press

Snooze is the breakfast place in Denver, Colo. The popularity is such there is often a two-hour wait to get seated. The Benny Duo is two kinds of eggs Benedict with a variety of options creating a flavorful and unique dish.

to save the environment, including the use of locally grown products for most of the menu items.

I am a menu reader so it was fun to read while waiting on my breakfast. My Benny Duo breakfast had two different kinds of eggs Benedict. I chose Bella Bella Benny, thin slices of prosciutto, Tallegio cheese eggs on toasted ciabatta, topped with cream cheese hollandaise and balsamic glaze. The other was a Lox-n-Latke Benny featuring crispy latkes topped with lox-style salmon, poached eggs, hollandaise, fried capers, red onions and pistou.

The rest of our table had Breakfast Pot Pie, something Tom always orders, Pineapple Upside Down Pancake, Havana Daydreaming, and Makin' it Grain Bowl. For vegetarians or those who eat little meat, this grain bowl is a perfect choice. It featured Farro black rice, quinoa, caramelized onion, mushroom, roasted garlic and sesame balsamic, topped with eggs, arugula, avocado, tomatoes, watermelon radishes and pickles. The menu changes seasonally but I hope when I go back I can get the Makin' It Grain Bowl, as I looked at it

with envy.

Since the original Snooze opened in Colorado others have opened in California, Texas, Arizona, North Carolina and one will be opening in Kansas City soon. The restaurant at Union Station in downtown Denver always has a two-hour wait but it is worth the time as Union Station has now been remodeled. We were there about 25 plus years ago coming back from a trip out west, and it was old and decrepit at the time. Now, there are interesting shops to peruse and a farmers market with all sorts of food to investigate. Union Station is also, close to one of the best bookstores ever called The Tattered Cover. It is huge and with ample reading nooks to while away the hours.

I was with my daughter-in-law Andrea enjoying the shops and because it had been at least five hours since eating at Snooze we decided a light appetizer was necessary. The 16th Street Mall in Downtown Denver offered a great selection of places to try. We chose Cho 77 a small bar bistro, which is next door to the more elegant full-service

See DENVER, Page 9B

Designing safety: the science of concussion

The fall prep-sports season is here as we prepare for 2019 Friday Night Lights.

Athletes have been conditioning and most schools have public exhibitions this weekend and begin competitions next

week. Besides cardio and strength work, trainers are recording mental baseline data. There is a strong focus on concussions and brain protection for athletes in prep sports. Every team has a medically certified trainer and every coach has completed mandatory concussion training. Schools are required to establish a concussion protocol.

Trainers put athletes through a series of mental tasks such as counting months backward or repeating number sequences to establish an individual baseline. If there is ever any question of a concussion, the trainer administers the same test to determine if there is any change in mental function. Any indication of concussion places the athlete on an injured list and a prohibition from playing. They cannot return to competition or practice until cleared by a concussion team. Every school has an expert team, including medical professionals, to review each case.

The data makes clear why these measures are mandated. Concussions are serious enough to require medical intervention and are one of the most common injuries in sports. Between 2001 and 2005, children ages 5-18 years old accounted for 2.4 million sports-related ER visits annually. Of these, 6 percent involved a concussion. Two in 10 high school athletes who play contact sports will suffer a concussion this year. It is not just boys who are at risk. Girls soccer has the second-most concussions of all high school sports, and girls basketball is number three.

Historically, coaches have failed to recognize when a student suffered a concussion. Evidence of permanent damage from repeated concussions is irrefutable. It's especially devastating if the student returns to play too soon.

A concussion, also known as a mild traumatic brain injury (MTBI), is caused by a bump, blow or jolt to the head causing the brain to move rapidly inside the skull. It changes how the brain normally functions. Overly simplified, it is a bruise on the brain but does not have to exhibit bleeding or swelling. Just getting brain fluids sloshed around disrupts normal communication between neurons.

Signs and symptoms include headache, nausea, fatigue, confusion or memory problems, sleep disturbances or mood changes. Symptoms are typically noticed right after the injury, but some might not appear until days or weeks later.

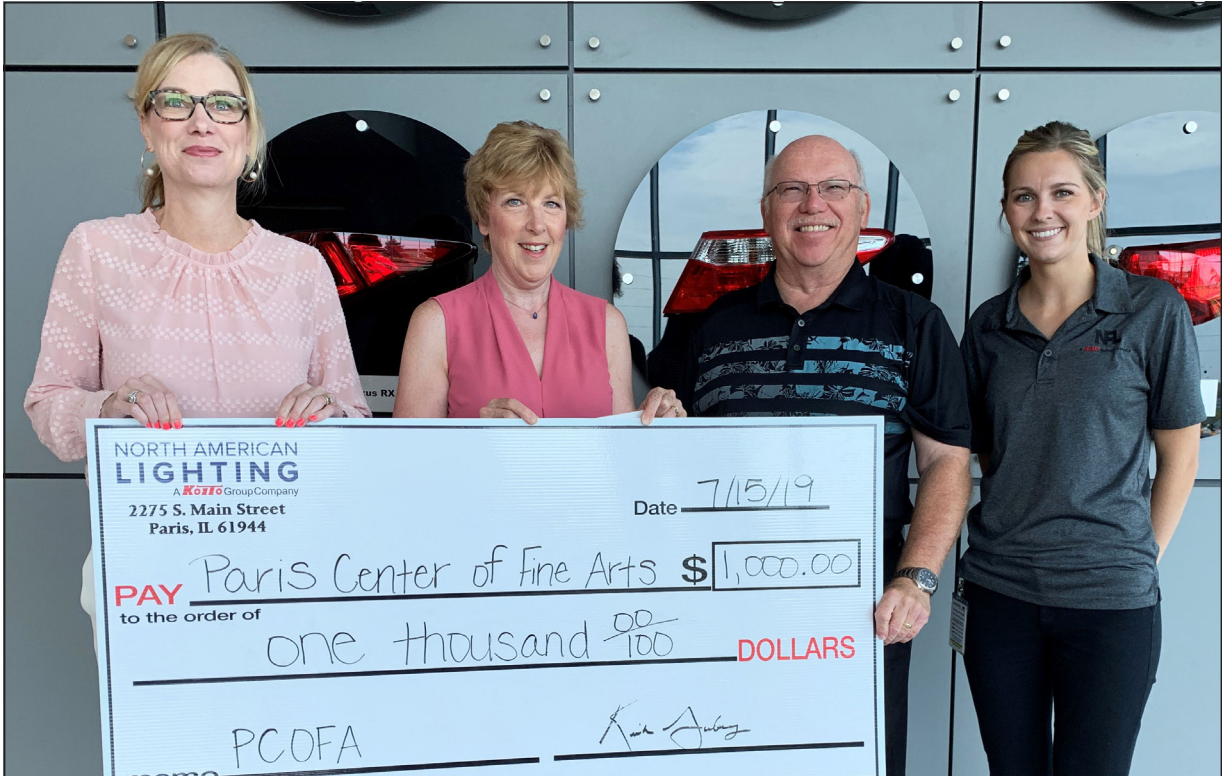
Facts highlight why this is taken so seriously. An athlete who sustains a concussion is 500 percent more likely to sustain a second concussion and the damage from concussions is cumulative. Up to 86 percent of athletes that suffer a concussion will experience a post-traumatic migraine or some other headache pain. Recent evidence indicates the severity of headache symptoms may be a good

See SULLIVAN, Page 9B



TERRY SULLIVAN
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

NAL DONATES TO THE PARIS CENTER OF FINE ARTS



Special to The Prairie Press

North American Lighting (NAL) is getting on the corporate bandwagon supporting the Paris Center of Fine Arts (PCOFA). The donation entitles NAL to a 20 percent discount when buying tickets, which the company plans to use by making tickets available to employees through a raffle system. Corporate sponsorship starts at \$500 and the offer is good until Sept. 14. Pictured, left to right, Mandy Martin, Kristin Chittick, Harry Hughes and Kayla Lindsay.

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MILESTONES

Farnham celebrates 90th birthday



SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Dorothy Martin Farnham

will observe her 90th birthday Aug. 30 with a family outing.

An Edgar County resident for her entire life, Farnham was born and grew up in Vermilion. She now resides in Paris.

She has three children, Karl Farnham Jr., Brad Farnham and Linda Leeth, all of Paris. She is a proud grandmother of five, Aaron and Logan Farnham, Sasha

Leeth, Elizabeth Brown and Ericka Brandes and nine great-grandchildren, with another expected in December.

Farnham worked for 25 years as a registered school nurse at Crestwood and that became her second family as she witnessed two generations come and go at the school.

She is a faithful member of her church and loves her savior.

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

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Longbeards Grant Scholarships



Special to The Prairie Press

The Edgar County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation awarded the 2019 Edgar County Longbeards/Brant Allen Hutchens Scholarship to Carley Wilson. Pictured, left to right, are: Greg Morgan, Scott Williamson, Jeremiah Hall, Wes Morgan, Carley Wilson, Don Humphrey, Thad Arrasmith, Bryce Switzer, Spike Hollingsworth, Lacie Johnson and Stacey East.



Special to The Prairie Press

The Edgar County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation awarded the 2019 Edgar County Longbeards/Brant Allen Hutchens Scholarship to Shasta Shannon. Pictured, left to right, are: Greg Morgan, Scott Williamson, Jeremiah Hall, Wes Morgan, Shasta Shannon, Don Humphrey, Thad Arrasmith, Spike Hollingsworth, Bryce Switzer, Lacie Johnson and Stacey East.



Special to The Prairie Press

The Edgar County Longbeards Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation awarded the 2019 Edgar County Longbeards/Denita Morris Memorial Scholarship to Emilee Roush. Pictured left to right are: Greg Morgan, Scott Williamson, Dave Morris, Wes Morgan, Jeremiah Hall, Emilee Roush, Don Humphrey, Thad Arrasmith, Spike Hollingsworth, Bryce Switzer, Lacie Johnson, and Stacey East.



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Remote glacial lake full of skeletons

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

Ever since a British forest guide first stumbled on Roopkund Lake in northern India in 1942, experts have struggled to understand how hundreds of human skeletons ended up in this small, shallow glacial lake, which sits in a valley more than 16,000 feet above sea level.

Over the years, various theories have surfaced to explain who the skeletons might belong to, as well as when and how they made their way into Skel-ton Lake, as Roopkund is known.

At first, people thought they might be the remains of Japanese soldiers who died crossing through the Himalayas during World War II — but the bones were too old for that. Others suggested a natural disaster, an epidemic of disease or a mass ritual suicide. According to one leading theory, a sudden and severe hailstorm struck a group of unsuspecting pilgrims, sending giant ice balls smashing into their heads and shoulders.

Now, DNA analysis and radiocarbon dating research has upended much of the prevailing wisdom — and raised new questions — about the bones in Roopkund Lake. In a study published in Nature Communications, researchers linked 38 skeletons from the lake to three distinct groups of individuals, including 23 men and women of South Asian ancestry, 14 with genes associated with the eastern Mediterranean region and one individual with Southeast Asian-related DNA.

But DNA isn't the only thing that separates the groups from each other. While the researchers dated the skeletons with South Asian ancestry to around 800 A.D., the remains of the eastern Mediterranean group and the Southeast Asian individual were much younger, from around 1800. These findings cast doubt on the idea that a single catastrophic event deposited all the skeletons of Roopkund Lake, suggesting they were instead placed there on different occasions, some 1,000 years apart.

Earlier DNA testing of another set of bones from Roopkund Lake indicated the presence of related members of a family or tribe, as well as another group that was smaller in stature. From similar head wounds found on the skeletons, which were all dated to A.D. 850, scientists concluded that a hailstorm had killed the entire group. This theory intriguingly mirrored a local legend, which held that the mountain goddess Nanda Devi had sent a fierce hailstorm to punish a group of pilgrims who had defiled her sacred ground by playing music and dancing.

Researchers in the new study believe a mass death

See **SKELETONS**, Page 4B

Buying the Virgin Islands

Over 50 years, the U.S. bought Saint Thomas, Saint John and Saint Croix from Denmark

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

Every March 31, the U.S. Virgin Islands of Saint Thomas, Saint John and Saint Croix observe Transfer Day to commemorate the sale of the islands from Denmark to the United States. Of the U.S.' five permanently inhabited territories, the U.S. Virgin Islands is the only one the country ever purchased from another imperial power. The two powers negotiated over the three islands for more than 50 years before finally transferring power in 1917.

Though the U.S. and Denmark each had their own complex motivations in this exchange, "they turned upon the question of imperialism — declining in the case of Denmark and increasing on the part of the United States,"

wrote the late historian Isaac Dookhan in a 1975 issue of Caribbean Studies. Ultimately, the U.S. successfully pressured Denmark to sell the islands by threatening a military attack on the neutral nation during World War I.

Denmark had colonized the three islands — known as the Danish West Indies — back in the 17th and 18th centuries. It forced enslaved Africans to work on plantations producing products like sugar, which it profited from until the 1840s, when sugar prices fell.

Big changes also came in July 1848, when several hundred enslaved people on St. Croix revolted and won their freedom by threatening to burn the islands' towns to the ground. After abolition, these newly freed people struggled to make a profit on exhausted

lands and plantations that were small and old-fashioned compared with newer industrial operations, according to the Danish State Archives.

By the late 19th century, Denmark was finding it increasingly expensive to run the islands. Yet as early as the American Civil War, the U.S. was eyeing them as a possible economic and national security asset. This was because U.S. officials thought the islands could help secure American economic interests in the Caribbean. But they also worried a hostile foreign power might take control of them before the U.S. could.

"During the 1880s and 1890s, suspicion was directed mainly against Germany, which was developing interest in Latin America," Dookhan wrote. "The fact that the Ger-



Special to The Prairie Press
A portrait of the locals of St. Croix in 1916 before the United States purchased the former Denmark Islands for \$25 million in gold. Negotiations took place on and off for 50 years before the deal was concluded.

man steamship company, the Hamburg-American Line, used St. Thomas as its regular refueling station tended to exacerbate those suspicions."

The first negotiations between the U.S. and Denmark began in 1865, the year

the Civil War ended. Secretary of State William Henry Seward actually negotiated a treaty with Denmark to cede the islands to the U.S. in 1867, but the Senate rejected it. This was probably partly due to an

See **ISLANDS**, Page 4B

ONE-ROOM SCHOOL STUDENTS GATHER TOGETER



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

Marge Houghland helped organize the recent Edgar County Rural School reunion, which more than 40 people attended.

Rural school reunion

BY ROGER STANLEY
rstanley1937@outlook.com

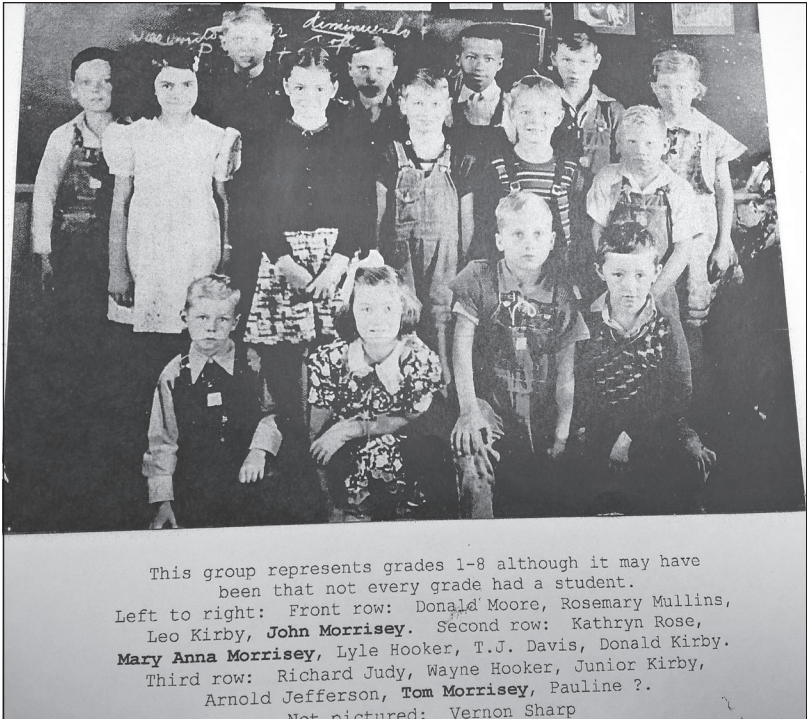
A group of 43 older generation students got together Aug. 11 to celebrate old memories of school days gone by and eat a lunch catered by Jeanette McDaniel.

Kate Morecraft called the meeting to order for the Edgar County One-Room Rural School Reunion at 12:30 p.m. at the fellowship hall of the First Christian Church in Paris. As the eight tables of people anxiously waited for good food and fellowship, Morecraft welcomed them and presented a short reading. It was a humorous piece for those of the older generation and how uniquely we had lived our lives.

She insulted the audience and herself in just the right way for us all to feel welcome. Morecraft read a blessing for the food and our lives, and then we welcomed a scrumptious meal with exquisite dessert items.

Morecraft aided by co-host Marge Houghland recognized where participants went to school and the logistics of the oldest and youngest in attendance, and who came the farthest. A tally was taken for the number of schools represented. Asher School of Symmes Township had the most attendees with eight. Ft. Sumpter had seven and North Union had six, and these were the leading schools of the 32 schools represented.

The oldest attendee was Mamie Dart and the youngest was Joel Gleckler. David Gleckler came the farthest from Salem. Tom Morrissey, an alumnus of Kimble, and Don Wallace went



This group represents grades 1-8 although it may have been that not every grade had a student.
Left to right: Front row: Donald Moore, Rosemary Mullins, Leo Kirby, John Morrissey. Second row: Kathryn Rose, Mary Anna Morrissey, Lyle Hooker, T.J. Davis, Donald Kirby. Third row: Richard Judy, Wayne Hooker, Junior Kirby, Arnold Jefferson, Tom Morrissey, Pauline ?. Not pictured: Vernon Sharp

Special to The Prairie Press

Old photos helped spark memories at the recent Edgar County One-Room Rural School Reunion. This group of students attended Kimble School during the 1940s.

to just one school for all eight years. There were five first-time attendees at the reunion, who were recognized and well received.

A PowerPoint presentation of "The Old Schools of Edgar County from 1880 until 1955" was the program given by Roger Stanley. Pictures of the old schools, their locations and many students of the past were included with the school settings. The audience members also made many observations about the schools,

teachers and identifying themselves or someone they had known.

There was also mention of schools occasionally having more than one name. Some schools had a community name that did not always jibe with the name of record. One such school was Duck School that was officially known as Grand Center School. All seemed to enjoy the presentation and identifying those they knew.

The meeting was adjourned by

See **REUNION**, Page 4B

Is that a real word?

The word acronym has only been around for less than 80 years, but I bet the

bedickens it has puzzled many readers of newspapers and listeners of television for about as long. Does

everyone know that ISBE stands for the Illinois State Board of Education, or do we have to read the story to figure that out? Yes, I understand using such acronyms because headlines many times have to be shortened. It seems national news agencies like to use POTUS instead of the President of the United States. I guess I should have used U.S. so I could go along with the program of correct acronym.

How about when we visit the doctor's office and he says something is wrong because the CAC is too high. I would ask why he wants me to see a certified alcoholism counselor, since the strongest thing I drink is root beer without caffeine.

Acronym is just a newer word for those who don't like to spell out what they mean like TMI could stand for too much information, or that's my idea. TMI for writing this piece and readers can take the

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B

FOOTNOTES

GENEALOGY LIBRARY REDUCES HOURS

The Edgar County Genealogy Library is reducing its weekly schedule to two day per week for the remainder of the summer. The new hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursday and Friday from now through Sept. 6.

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Did Yellow Journalism fuel the outbreak of the Spanish-American war?

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

The Spanish-American War, while dominating the media, also fueled the United States' first media wars in the era of yellow journalism. Newspapers at the time screamed outrage, with headlines including, "Who Destroyed the Maine? \$50,000 Reward," "Spanish Treachery" and "Invasion!"

But while many newspapers in the late 19th century shifted to more of a tabloid style, the notion their headlines played a major part in starting the war is often overblown, according to W. Joseph Campbell, a professor of communication at American University in Washington, D.C.

"No serious historian of the Spanish-American War period embraces the notion that the yellow press of [William Randolph] Hearst and [Joseph] Pulitzer fomented or brought on the war with Spain in 1898," he says.

"Newspapers, after all, did not create the real policy differences between the United States and Spain over Spain's harsh colonial rule of Cuba."

The media scene at the end of the 19th century was robust and highly competitive. It was also experimental, says Campbell. Most newspapers at the time had been typographically bland, with narrow columns and headlines and few illustrations. Then, starting in 1897, half-tone photographs were incorporated into daily issues.

According to Campbell, yellow journalism, in turn, was a distinct genre that featured bold typography, multicolumn headlines, generous and imaginative illustrations, as well as, "a keen taste for self-promotion, and an inclination to take an activist role in news reporting."

In fact, the term yellow journalism was born from a rivalry between the two newspaper giants of the era: Joseph Pu-

litzer's New York World and William Randolph Hearst's New York Journal. Starting in 1895, Pulitzer printed a comic strip featuring a boy in a yellow nightshirt, titled the "Yellow Kid." Hearst poached the cartoon's creator and ran the strip in his newspaper. A critic at the New York Press, in an effort to shame the newspapers' sensationalistic approach, coined the term Yellow-Kid Journalism after the cartoon. The term was then shortened to Yellow Journalism.

"It was said of Hearst that he wanted New York American readers to look at page one and say, 'Gee whiz,' to turn to page two and exclaim, 'Holy Moses,' and then at page three, shout 'God Almighty!'" writes Edwin Diamond in his book, "Behind the Times."

That sort of attention-grabbing was evident in the media's coverage of the Spanish-American War. But while the era's newspapers may have height-

ened public calls for U.S. entry into the conflict, there were multiple political factors that led to the war's outbreak.

"Newspapers did not cause the Cuban rebellion that began in 1895 and was a precursor to the Spanish-American War," says Campbell. "And there is no evidence that the administration of President William McKinley turned to the yellow press for foreign policy guidance."

"But this notion lives on because, like most media myths, it makes for a delicious tale, one readily retold," Campbell says. "It also strips away complexity and offers an easy-to-grasp, if badly misleading, explanation about why the country went to war in 1898."

The myth also survives, Campbell says, because it purports the power of the news media at its most malignant. "That is, the media at their worst can lead the country into a war it otherwise would not

have fought," he says.

According to the U.S. Office of the Historian, tensions had been brewing in the long-held Spanish colony of Cuba off and on for much of the 19th century, intensifying in the 1890s, with many Americans calling on Spain to withdraw.

"Hearst and Pulitzer devoted more and more attention to the Cuban struggle for independence, at times accentuating the harshness of Spanish rule or the nobility of the revolutionaries, and occasionally printing rousing stories that proved to be false," the office states. "This sort of coverage, complete with bold headlines and creative drawings of events, sold a lot of papers for both publishers."

Things came to a head in Cuba Feb. 15, 1898, with the sinking of the USS Maine in Havana harbor.

"Sober observers and an initial report by the colonial government of Cuba conclud-

ed that the explosion had occurred on board, but Hearst and Pulitzer, who had for several years been selling papers by fanning anti-Spanish public opinion in the United States, published rumors of plots to sink the ship," the Office of the Historian reports. "... By early May, the Spanish-American War had begun."

Despite intense newspaper coverage of the strife, the office agrees that while yellow journalism showed the media could capture attention and influence public reaction, it did not cause the war.

"In spite of Hearst's often quoted statement—'You furnish the pictures, I'll provide the war'—other factors played a greater role in leading to the outbreak of war," the office states. "The papers did not create anti-Spanish sentiments out of thin air, nor did the publishers fabricate the events to which the U.S. public and politicians reacted so strongly."

ISLANDS

FROM PAGE 3B

anti-expansionist sentiment that set in after the Civil War, and partly due to the fact that the Senate was angry at Seward over his support of President Andrew Johnson during his impeachment trial, notes the U.S. State Department.

Negotiations started up again in the 1890s but fizzled with the onset of the Spanish-American War in 1898. In the aftermath of that war, the U.S. gained the territory of Puerto Rico in the Caribbean and the territories of Guam and the Philippines in the Western Pacific (Puerto Rico and Guam are still U.S. territories; the Philippines won independence after World War II).

The U.S. was a larger imperial power now, with a greater interest in expanding. It had also set its sights on building the Panama Canal, and this made it even more interested in purchasing St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix in order to secure the future canal's route. Again, another secretary of state — this time

John Hay — negotiated a treaty with Denmark. The Senate ratified the treaty in 1902, but this time, the Danish parliament rejected it.

In 1915, the fear of German takeover motivated the U.S. to make another try for the islands. Especially after the sinking of the Lusitania, President Woodrow Wilson and Secretary of State Robert Lansing feared that Germany might annex Denmark and launch more attacks from the Danish West Indies. Danish leaders resisted ceding the islands and their majority-black inhabitants to the racially segregated United States.

Angry at this, Lansing insinuated that if Denmark didn't sell the U.S. the islands, it just might go and seize them to prevent Germany from getting to them. It was a bullying tactic, and it worked.

Eager to prevent a U.S. military attack (Denmark was currently a neutral party in World War I), Denmark negotiated a treaty with the U.S. that President Wilson signed on January 16, 1917. On March 31, 1917,

Denmark formally transferred governance over the islands to the U.S., and the U.S. reciprocated by paying Denmark \$25 million in gold coin.

What this meant for people living on St. Thomas, St. John and St. Croix — now the U.S. Virgin Islands — was unclear. In 1920, the acting secretary of state specified that Virgin Islanders had "American nationality" but not the "political status of citizens." This changed in 1932 when Virgin Islanders won American citizenship, but voting was a separate battle.

The U.S. Virgin Islands didn't win the right to vote for their own governor until 1970. Today, American citizens in the U.S. Virgin Islands — as well as those in the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands — still cannot elect voting members to Congress or vote for the president of the United States.

REUNION

FROM PAGE 3B

Morecraft thanking everyone for their participation and encouraged the group to contact and welcome older generation students who have not yet attended. The rural school reunion was started by Don Camp and Barbara Switzer several years ago, and Houghland and Morecraft are to be commended for keeping it going.

Alumni who attended Edgar County rural schools before 1956 are welcome to attend the reunions held annually the second Sunday of August. The next reunion is Aug. 9, 2020, so mark the calendar and join the fun.



Roger Stanley/The Prairie Press

Pine Grove School is the oldest surviving school building in Edgar County. It was built in 1867.

SKELETON

FROM PAGE 3B

during a religious pilgrimage might well explain the presence of at least some of the skeletons in the first group they identified, of South Asian ancestry. But they have more questions about the second group of individuals, whose DNA indicates they were from the eastern Mediterranean, where Hindu

religious practices were not common.

"Whether they were participating in a pilgrimage, or were drawn to Roopkund Lake for other reasons, is a mystery," the researchers write. Future investigation will focus on archival research, aimed at finding any potential reports of sizable groups of foreign travelers dying in the Himalayas in the past few centuries.

As Roopkund Lake re-

mains frozen for much of the year and is accessible only via an arduous multi-day trek into the Himalayas, scientists believe there could still be many more skeletons yet to be found. As the lake's fame has grown, however, tourists have been taking bones away as souvenirs, lending increased urgency to efforts to preserve and continue to learn from this remote and mysterious site.

STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

pick of which initialization I am talking about.

Many professions have the wild use of initialization just to shorten things up and surely everybody can understand those shortcuts. Banks and accountants commonly use the terms AR and AP to make sure the BOH is sufficient.

The only concern I have is that my accounts payable do not exceed my accounts receivable so that I have a good balance on hand at the end of the year. I usually don't worry about that because my EFS Rosie takes care of that. OK, I must confess Rosie is my executive financial secretary. I hope the readers can substitute the right acronyms for the right phrases because otherwise I would be misleading them.

There are so many examples of acronyms we use every day whether we know what they mean or not. When we use the term BS I sure hope we can distinguish whether we are talking about bovine male excrement or a Bachelor's of Science degree awarded to a good student.

I have a BA degree, and I will have you know that is Bachelor of Arts degree and I am not really a mean donkey. In teaching mathematics, the term PEMDAS comes up, which explains the order of operations as parentheses, exponents, multiplication, division, addition and subtraction. The numbers just don't come out right without this procedure.

We have all heard the term SOP, and it was entrenched into me while I was in the Army. Not using standard operating procedure can get a person into big trouble

while working with the troops. No one particularly liked being on KP duty. Surely everyone knows this one, and it doesn't mean kindly polite 'cause some of those older Army cooks meant business, and kitchen police was not looked forward to.

Now I am finished with TLA, which is a real acronym that stands for three-letter acronyms. I will leave with a couple of doozies the first being WIMP meaning woefully inept manufacturing process, and not just a very weak person, if used as just a word.

Let's end it very smartly by using SMART an acronym for self-monitoring analysis and reporting technology, which I hope I did.

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

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Freedom from Fear is local effort

January event features speakers of the topic of anxiety, “generational fear,” followed by worship service

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Looking at the anxiety many high school and college age youths are experiencing, two young women from Edgar County are making an effort to address the problem.

Bethanny Lawson and Presley Branson have organized Freedom From Fear: Hosted by A Chosen Generation 5:30 -10 p.m. Jan. 10, 2020, at the Meeting Grounds, Terre Haute, Ind.

“There will be three speaking sessions and worship after that,” said Lawson.

Chaz Smith of Los Angeles,

Calif., a social media star and short-film maker is doing two presentations. Peter Heck of Kokomo, Ind., is a teacher, author and radio commentator, and he is the second speaker.

The young women said they were compelled to organize the event partially from personal reasons and also because they wanted an event like this in a smaller area since it is not always easy for people in rural communities to get to the larger urban centers where faith-based events featuring prominent figures are more frequently held.

“A lot of people in our age

group have anxiety,” said Branson. “There is a fear of the future, a fear of the unknown.”

Lawson added another pressure students in early college have is a perception they are supposed to have already figured out their lives and what they want to do. That is not always the case.

As organizers, Lawson and Branson are working with the speakers to address what they call generational fear and how those attending the event can overcome their misgivings and leave equipped to move ahead.

“This is a transitional part of

life,” said Lawson. “We are not saying other generations didn’t have fear, but we are stepping from childhood to adulthood when we are supposed to have everything figured out, and we don’t.”

Branson acknowledged having anxiety about the future and grappling with the uncertainty that presents. She also understands the importance of continuing to move forward and not let doubts become a crippling burden.

“I like the quote, ‘Do it scared,’ because everything you do you are scared,” said Presley.

Both young women are big fans of Chaz Smith on Instagram and are amazed they were able to secure his participation.

“We started putting it together, and things we thought we couldn’t do are falling together,” said Branson.

Some details are still in the planning stages. They want live music for the event, and Avery Gore of Paris has agreed to participate.

“There are a lot of people interested in being part of it,” said Lawson. “It’s just a matter of working out the details.”

Word of the event is starting to spread and church youth

groups from Terre Haute, Effingham, Mattoon, Marshall and Indianapolis have already sought ticket information. Branson and Lawson find that encouraging and are confident of filling the Meeting Grounds when tickets go on sale Sept. Seating is limited to 150 and perhaps another 50 tickets might be available for standing room only.

All ticket sales are online starting Sept. 1 by searching for A Chosen Generation on either Facebook or Instagram.

“We want all types of people getting together for this,” said Branson.

Worship together

One thing the Paris Ministerial Fellowship enjoys doing is providing opportunities for Christians of many different churches, or



RODGER ALLEN
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

While we all value the traditions of our individual congregations and denominations, there is something special, and Biblical, about Christians joining together in unity for worship.

These are the various worship services PMF organizes:

Wednesdays-in-Lent, at noon – music and meditation services. The season of Lent begins six weeks before Easter, and on its Wednesdays the Paris Presbyterian Church hosts half-hour worship services, followed by lunch. Each service features several special musical numbers and a five-minute message. The musicians and speakers come from many churches, with a different line-up each year. While PMF is a sponsor of the services, most of the work is done by Paris Presbyterian’s music director, the musicians and the lunch providers.

Good Friday Noon service – The location varies, usually between the closest-to-the-square churches, since the original intent was for people to come during their lunch hours and return to work on time. So the services run less than one hour, and they are often followed by lunch.

Baccalaureate – The May weekday evening service for graduating high school seniors and their families, and anyone else who wants to attend, usually held at First Methodist Church.

Thanksgiving – Held either the Sunday afternoon or Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving, at the preference of the host church. To balance the hosting of the Good Friday service by the downtown churches, this service rotates among the churches not near the square, including Lake Ridge, Bell Ridge, Nevins, New Providence and others.

Advent Choral Service – Ten days after Thanksgiving, on Sunday afternoon, at either First Methodist or Paris Presbyterian. Four of our local music directors lead a large multi-church choir through a service of Advent and Christmas songs, along with carols, scripture readings and prayers.

For many years, PMF also coordinated a Sunday morning Community Honeybee Service,

See **PASTOR**, Page **6B**

VEGGIE TALES IS STAGING A REVIVAL



Image courtesy of VeggieTales

A scene from the new VeggieTales special, “The Best Christmas Gift,” which will air on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. The beloved Christian cartoon show attracted millions of fans with a mix of Bible lessons, trademark silly songs and humor.

Famous veggies return

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The story of VeggieTales, the beloved Christian cartoon show, can be summed up in a famed line from one of its creators’ comedy paragons, “Monty Python and the Quest for the Holy Grail”:

“I’m not dead yet!”

The iconic Christian children’s program, which has attracted millions of fans with its mix of Bible lessons, trademark silly songs and, yes, Monty Python-esque humor, is undergoing its latest revival this fall on the Trinity Broadcasting Network.

The Christian broadcaster will air 18 new episodes of VeggieTales, beginning with a Christmas special that will debut in late fall.

VeggieTales co-creators Phil Vischer and Mike Nawrocki wrote most of the new episodes and will also reprise their roles as the show’s hosts, Bob the Tomato and Larry the Cucumber.

The show’s revival came as a surprise to Vischer, who thought his characters’ salad days were over.

In 2016, Dreamworks Animation, which then owned VeggieTales, stopped making new episodes for sale on DVD. A Netflix version of the show, “VeggieTales in the House,” was a disappointment to fans, said Vischer.

He thought his days of playing Bob the Tomato were over.

Then Vischer got a call from TBN, which was in talks to license the show from NBCUniversal – VeggieTales current owner. TBN asked if he would be interested in doing the voice of Bob.

Vischer said no. He wasn’t interested in being part of VeggieTales unless he had a role in shaping the show.

“Then they asked, ‘Would you at least look at the pilot?’” said Vischer.

He did, and was encouraged by how much the pilot felt like a classic episode of the show. As he became further involved, he asked if he could rewrite the script. Before long, he and Nawrocki, who plays Larry the Cucumber, signed on as writers and voice actors.

The new revival he said, centers on the relationship between its hosts.

“Here’s what you need to know about Bob and Larry,” explained Vischer, who with Nawrocki invented the duo — and eventually a small media empire — on a computer in his family’s guest room in the early 1990s. “Bob wants to help kids. Larry wants to help Bob. That’s VeggieTales. Now, the conflict comes from the fact that most of the things Bob tries to do to help kids don’t work. And Larry helping Bob quite often isn’t actually helpful.”

Nawrocki said he’s also surprised to be working on VeggieTales again.

He’d stayed with Big Idea, the com-

pany that makes VeggieTales, when it moved to the Nashville suburbs after a bankruptcy sale in 2003. When it halted production of new episodes three years ago, Nawrocki no longer had a role. After more than two decades, he said goodbye to Larry the Cucumber.

“I had spent the last 25 years becoming really good at being an animated cucumber. So that was a big challenge for me,” he said. “It was, OK, God, what do you have next for me?”

Nawrocki started his own creative company — one of his projects is a new series of kids books called “The Dead Sea Squirrels” — and began teaching film and animation at Lipscomb University, a Christian college in Nashville, where some of his students had grown up on VeggieTales.

Many, he said, had fond memories of the show.

Those memories help explain why VeggieTales has survived despite a changing media landscape, said Hillary Warren, professor of communication at Otterbein University in Indiana.

The show began as straight-to-DVD video, then moved to feature films, a stint on Saturday morning network television and the series on Netflix.

“One reason that VeggieTales has staying power is that the first generation who grew up with the show, who grew up with Bob the Tomato, now have kids of their own,” said Warren. “It’s a show that they know and they feel comfortable letting their kids watch it.”

Parents today can be overwhelmed by how many choices there are for kids’ entertainment. And they can’t screen them all ahead of time.

They’ll let their kids watch VeggieTales because they trust it, she said. And VeggieTales, while clear about its Christian content, also teaches some universal values.

“Share. Don’t lie. Don’t steal,” said Warren. “Almost everybody can get behind that.”



Image courtesy of VeggieTales

The new VeggieTales special, “The Best Christmas Gift,” airs on the Trinity Broadcasting Network. The iconic children’s cartoon program has 18 new episodes beginning with the Christmas special, this fall on TBN.

Leslie Ferrell, senior vice president of the Big Idea Content Group at NBCUniversal, said the new show retains the classic feel and values of VeggieTales while updating the animation and feel of the show.

She said the message of VeggieTales remains the same.

“Bob and Larry are all about the kids,” she said. “That’s just what they are. They want to help the kids know God, know they’re loved by God and follow God. So that had to stay.”

The TBN version’s format may remind some of “The Muppet Show.” Set in a theater owned by Mr. Nezzer, a familiar VeggieTales character, each show starts with a question from a kid, which will be answered in a stage show put on by the usual suspects: Bob and Larry, Junior Asparagus, the French Peas and the rest. Most episodes will be based on Bible stories.

“And once in a while we will break into a silly song,” said Nawrocki.

Vischer believes the new shows will have more theological depth — in part, he said, because he and Nawrocki have grown since they first started the show. When they produced the first VeggieTales episode, “Where Is God When I Am Scared,” he and Nawrocki were in their late 20s. Now both are in their 50s; besides being more experienced in writing, their journey through good and bad times has given more depth to their faith.

Vischer already stars in the Mr. Phil Show, a streaming Bible-teaching show for kids, and co-hosts the Holy Post Podcast. But most days, he said, he’s content to be himself.

Bob the Tomato, however, still has aspirations of filling Mister Rogers’ shoes.

“Mister Rogers is Bob’s hero. But that’s the thing that drives Bob crazy is when Mister Rogers does Mister Rogers, everything goes perfectly. Nothing ever goes wrong on ‘Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.’ And Bob wants that for his show, but he can never achieve it.”

Trump steadily fulfills right’s wish list

NEW YORK (AP) — When Donald Trump assumed the presidency, conservative religious leaders drew up wish lists of steps they hoped he’d take to oppose abortion and rein in the LGBTQ-rights movement. With a flurry of recent actions, Trump’s administration is now winning their praise for aggressively fulfilling many of their goals.

Mat Staver, president of the legal advocacy organization Liberty Counsel, said Trump has fulfilled about 90 percent of the goals on a list that Staver and other conservative leaders compiled.

“In the first two years of his administration, he’s achieved more than all of the presidents combined since Ronald Reagan,” Staver said. “He’s been the most pro-religious freedom and pro-life president in modern history.”

One of the most dramatic steps — hailed by conservatives and decried by liberals — came this week when the Department of Health and Human Services implemented a new rule for the federal family planning program known as Title X. Planned Parenthood, long a target of religious conservatives because of its role as the leading U.S. abortion provider, quit the program — walking away from tens of millions of dollars in grants — rather than comply with a new rule prohibiting clinics from referring women for abortions.

Last week, the Labor Department proposed a rule that is expected to shield federal contractors from discrimination complaints regarding hiring and firing decisions motivated by religious beliefs. Critics say the rule, if implemented, would enable employers to discriminate against LGBTQ people.

On Friday, the Justice Department filed a brief telling the Supreme Court that federal law allows firing workers for being transgender. The brief is related to three cases the high court will hear in its upcoming term related to LGBTQ discrimination in the workplace.

Earlier this year, Health and Human Services issued a waiver allowing a state-contracted foster care agency in South Carolina to deny services to same-sex and non-Christian families. HHS also moved to revoke newly won health care discrimination protections for transgender people.

These and other actions aimed at curtailing abortion rights and LGBTQ

See **TRUMP**, Page **6B**

GRACE NOTES

SEPT. 7 HUNGER BUST FUN RUN/WALK
A Hunger Bust Fun Run/Walk is 10 a.m., (EDT) Saturday, Sept. 7, at the campus of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College and Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. All proceeds from the event benefit Providence Food Pantry, a ministry of the Sisters of Providence that serves approximately 3,000 families annually in the West Terre Haute area. Registration for the race begins at 9 a.m., and conclude at 9:45 a.m., with the race beginning at 10 a.m., rain or shine. The fee is \$10. More information is available by calling 812-535-3048 or 812-243-4844 or email jrichey75@gmail.com.

SEPT. 10. TAIZÉ PRAYER
Join the Sisters of Providence for song, quiet contemplation and inspired readings during the ecumenical Taizé Prayer gathering 7-8 p.m. (EDT), Tuesday, Sept. 10, in the Church of the Immaculate Conception at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods. Persons of all faith traditions are invited to the free gathering.

SEPT. 15 CAMP MEETING AT OLIVET
The annual Olivet Camp Meeting at the Tabernacle in Olivet, is Sept. 12-Sept. 15. Services are 6:30 p.m. daily except for Sunday when the camp meeting starts at 5:30 p.m. Ted Lee of Olivet Nazarene University is the guest speaker and music ministry is provided by Brian Allen, Carlos Longberger, Don Reddick and talented local musicians. Questions may be directed to 217-260-3684.

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Fractures mean we should fall back on the Word

I felt deeply saddened when reading the article in Saturday's newspaper on the inevitable



HOWARD TYLER
GUEST COLUMN

break-up of the Methodist Church. While I am not a member of the Methodist denomination, we Christians are all part of the church of Jesus Christ. We may worship a little different, but we all believe and follow Jesus, who is the son of the living God, was crucified for the sin of the world and was resurrected.

As expected, the split is occurring over the issue of LGBTQ. Before I go further, every person on the LGBTQ movement is accepted to attend a Christian church service to learn more about Jesus and the good news he brought to the sinful world. All who have sinned are welcome to come. We Christians are commanded to walk in love, for every person and their soul. The churches are full of sinners. The purpose of the church gathering is to teach and learn about our father God and his son Jesus. It is also there to create a family for support during tough times. The article tells of creating a blueprint for creating two divisions of Methodists. They

want one for the liberal side and one for the conservative traditionalists. They want to create a plan for peace and fairness. On the surface those are nice words, but the results are opposed to God's word. In Matthew 10:34 Jesus said he did not come to bring peace. In paraphrasing, following Jesus will divide families and friends. We Christians must put Jesus first.

The Methodists have a rule book which has a statement they want to delete. It is the practice of homosexuality is incompatible with the Christian teaching. They can delete it if they want, but that is a man-made rule book. It doesn't change what God's word clearly says in Romans 1.

The church is experiencing what the Apostle Paul warned us in Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. (Hebrews 13:8) Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. (Eph 5:6)

False teachers have emerged in the church as warned in 2 Peter 2. For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through

lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage. For if, after they have escaped the pollution of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

To be clear, God desires all to come to him and be saved, in 1 Timothy 2:3-5, For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

God gave man free choice to choose or reject him. There is no fence. No middle ground. No gray area. Matthew 12:30 Jesus says, "Whoever is not with me is against me., Romans 6:23 says, For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. This is speaking of spiritual death.

I understand as people, some of us know personally

someone in the LGBTQ movement, or some who try to keep a low profile. But if we truly love and care for them, we cannot tell them what they are doing is OK with God. If they believe in Jesus, we Christians must be truthful with them on how to get to heaven. It isn't head knowledge of Jesus, it is believing in your heart and when you do, you will want to follow the word of God and walk the Christian walk. Love the sinner but hate the sin. If church leadership tells people their sin is OK or tells them it's not a sin in our culture, they might as well burn the Bible. God did not give us options, he gave us instructions.

Some mature Christians would say this a sign of the End Times. Don't be fooled, Jesus will return for his church, which is the ones who have overcome the world and Satan.

Don't be deceived by one or two verses taken out of context. Study. We are told to study, as a worker, diligently, to learn the truth. 2 Timothy 2:15. It is our job to be sure the person teaching us is following the word.

Ignorance will not be accepted at the judgement seat.

God help us. Satan is working overtime and is fooling church people.

(Howard Tyler is a lifelong resident of Paris and active member of the First Baptist Church of Paris.)

PASTOR

FROM PAGE 5B

on Honeybee Festival weekend. While many very much enjoyed this service, as more and more participating churches noticed that fewer of their members attended a community service than one held at their home church, they felt they could no longer in good conscience participate in something that resulted in discouraging Sunday morning worship attendance. PMF may explore an alternate time for this service this fall.

(Rodger Allen is the Pastor at the Paris Presbyterian Church. Email him at rodger@parispresbyterian.org. Pastor's Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

International interfaith gathering: 'We must work together or we will all fail'

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

LINDAU, Germany — The 10th Religions for Peace World Assembly launched Tuesday, Aug. 20, with calls for religious groups to take decisive action on the main geopolitical issues of the day and ending with an unusual statement of commitment aimed at fostering multireligious cooperation. Almost every religious leader who spoke at the opening ceremony called communities of faith to look beyond their own local or church-related issues.

"Nothing can be accomplished if we work separately," said Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I of Constantinople.

Kosho Niwano, president-designate of the Japanese Buddhist movement Rissho Kosei-kai, praised interfaith cooperation of the past and

said it should continue in the future.

"We have seen half a century of progress so far and for that to continue the only way is for us to work together."

Cardinal John Onaiyekan, archbishop of Abuja, Nigeria, agreed.

"The future depends entirely on how we address our shared welfare," he told the more 1,000 attendees at the gathering.

Shaykh Abdallah Bin Bayyah, president of the Forum for Promoting Peace in Muslim Societies, told a parable involving a double-decker ship where the drinking water was stored on the top level.

"The people on the bottom level needed water to drink and so they started to drill a hole in the side of the ship to get the water from the outside," Bin Bayyah said. "If those on

the top level would share their water then everyone would survive. But if they don't, the ones on the bottom will drill the hole and soon the entire ship will sink and everyone will perish."

He went on: "It is the same for everyone here," Bin Bayyah said. "We must work together or we will all fail."

One key part of the opening day's activities — the formal presentation of a 25-foot wooden ring-shaped sculpture that will remain in Lindau as a symbol of the assembly — was postponed because of rainy weather.

But the assembly still got underway with plenty of pomp and circumstance along with high ambition for immediate, concrete and near-term results that go beyond interfaith fellowship and sharing of experiences and best practices.

TRUMP

FROM PAGE 7B

rights have helped many conservative Christians overlook other aspects of Trump's presidency, such as his often-divisive rhetoric on Twitter and at rallies.

The Rev. Robert Jeffress, pastor of the Southern Baptist megachurch First Baptist Dallas and a frequent guest at the White House, predicted that Trump would win more evangelical votes in 2020 than he did in 2016, when they helped provide his margin of victory.

"When he ran in 2016 and promised pro-life, pro-religious freedom policies, most evangelicals who voted for him didn't know whether he would or could fulfill those promises," Jeffress said. "When they look back now, they see he checked off all of those goals. ... He'll win by an even larger margin on basis of promises kept."

The same phenomenon being celebrated by religious conservatives is viewed with alarm by liberal activists.

For the religious right, every day is Christmas, said Rachel

Laser, president & CEO of Americans United for Separation of Church and State. She worries that the mantra of religious freedom is being used to protect some Americans while hurting others.

"It can't be religious freedom just for white evangelical Christians — it has to be religious freedom for all of us," she said. "We're witnessing divisiveness as Trump and his cronies and religious extremists across the country continue to chip away at church-state separation."

The American Civil Liberties Union is among several organizations seeking to block some of the administration's moves in court.

"This is essentially the wish list of groups that have a very extreme and discriminatory perspective on what religious liberty means," said Ian Thompson, the ACLU's senior legislative representative in Washington.

"It's important not to see any one of these policies in isolation but to see them as part of a coordinated effort by the administration across agencies," Thompson said. He urged the Democratic-controlled House of Representatives to go on record against the policies and investigate those which seem particularly problematic.

From both the right and left, activists noted that Trump's numerous appointments of federal judges have been welcomed by the religious right as a potential long-term boost to its causes.

"We are heartened by the appointment of constitutionalist judges, including two excellent Supreme Court justices (Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh), and look forward to more such appointments throughout the federal court

system," said Bruce Hausnecht, judicial analyst for Focus on the Family.

Peter Montgomery of People for the American Way, which is often critical of religious conservative groups, said their Trump-supported agenda, "is bad news for women in the U.S. and around the world, for LGBTQ people, and for the principle that taxpayer money should not be used to fund discrimination."

"Trump is advancing religious right priorities in the short term through administrative actions and in the long term through his appointment of young, right-wing ideologues to lifetime positions on the federal judiciary," Montgomery added in an email.

The Trump administration actions represent a sharp turnaround from the presidency of Barack Obama, who supported abortion rights and same-sex marriage, mandated that contraception be covered by the Affordable Care Act, enabled transgender people to serve openly in the military and issued guidance to school districts they should let transgender students use the bathrooms of their choice.

Alliance Defending Freedom is among the conservative legal groups that have litigated against numerous Obama-era initiatives and have welcomed Trump's moves to reverse them.

"The defense of life, free speech and religious liberty should never be subject to political and cultural whims," said Kristen Waggoner, an ADF senior vice president. "They are constitutional guarantees, and we are grateful that this administration recognizes that reality and is taking serious steps to correct injustice and protect all Americans."

August USDA reports are in

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

URBANA — The highly anticipated August Crop Production report contained a larger-than-expected production forecast for the 2019 U.S. corn crop. Soybean production came in lower on smaller acreage, reports University of Illinois agricultural economist Todd Hubbs.

For corn, the USDA lowered harvested acres to 82 million acres, but this came in above expectations of 80 million acres, Hubbs says. Corn planted acreage totaled 90 million acres. "When combined with a Farm Service Agency projection of 11.2 million acres of prevent plant corn, the total corn base appears to exceed 101 million acres in 2019."

The U.S. corn yield forecast of 169.5 bushels per acre

exceeded trade expectations by 4.6 bushels. The projected corn crop is 700 million bushels larger than the average trade guess at 13.9 billion bushels. "As expected, due to poor crop condition ratings, the eastern Corn Belt yield projections came in at lower levels than last year," Hubbs says. Illinois (181 bushels per acre), Ohio (160), and Indiana (166) corn yield forecasts currently sit over 20 bushels per acre lower.

"Current field conditions in many areas indicate the yield projection may not see growth as we move toward harvest. In the last 10 years, USDA's August yield forecast came in below and above the final yield estimate five times each," he adds.

Old crop year-ending stocks estimate came in at 2.36 billion bushels, which is up 20 million bushels from the July estimate.

Ethanol use fell 25 million bushels on weaker production levels. Corn exports continue to show weakness and may not reach the current projection of 2.1 billion bushels. Feed and residual use remains uncertain, with 681 million bushels necessary to meet the projection of 5.275 billion bushels. "An expectation of ending stocks for the current marketing year above the present projection is reasonable at this point based on recent consumption trends," Hubbs says.

For the 2019-20 marketing year, the USDA decreased corn for ethanol use and exports by 25 and 100 million bushels, respectively. The forecast for 2019-20 ending stocks sits at 2.181 billion bushels, up 170 million bushels. The average farm price for the year ahead came in at \$3.60, down 10

cents from the July report.

"Given the current production uncertainty, an expectation of lower ending stocks for the next marketing year seems prudent," Hubbs explains. "The potential for lower yield appears acute, particularly in the eastern Corn Belt."

The soybean crop forecast of 3.68 billion bushels is 120 million bushels lower than the average trade guess. Soybean planted acreage totaled 76.7 million acres, down 3.34 million acres from last year. Harvested acreage came in at 75.9 million acres with an estimated 4.35 million acres of prevent plant acres. The U.S. average soybean yield forecast of 48.5 bushels showed no change from the July forecast.

"Yield forecasts in many states across the Corn Belt reflected the poor growing

conditions this summer. Iowa [55 bushels per acre] and Illinois [55] yield forecasts came in down 2 and 10 bushels per acre from last year respectively," Hubbs says. "States in the mid-South region showed some excellent soybean yield projections."

Kentucky and Tennessee reported record yields of 53 and 50 bushels per acre, respectively. Over the last decade, the USDA August yield forecast has been lower than the final national soybean yield estimate only two times, Hubbs says.

"The USDA has not produced an August soybean yield forecast higher than 1 bushel above the final soybean yield since 2003 when it came in 6 bushels above than the final yield," he adds.

For old crop soybeans, the USDA decreased the soybean

crush projection by 20 million bushels to 2.065 billion bushels and maintained exports at 1.7 billion bushels. The pace of domestic crush and exports currently suggests these projections will hold for this marketing year. The forecast for ending stocks during the current marketing year increased by 20 million bushels to 1.07 billion bushels.

Forecasts for the 2019-20 marketing year decreased ending stocks by 104 million bushels to 755 on the lower production levels. The forecast for domestic soybean crush increased 15 million bushels to 2.06 billion bushels. Soybean export forecasts decreased by 100 million bushels reflecting recent development in trade negotiations and export sales pace.

See **USDA**, Page **8B**

How you know it's going to be a long, hot summer

You know it's going to be a long, hot summer if, on the day before you assume the political leadership of the United Kingdom — as Boris Johnson did on July 23 — one of the world's most authoritative newspapers, the New York Times, prints a column that begins with the phrase, "Boris Johnson, to whom lying comes as easily as breathing..."

As searing as that opening line was, it wasn't the column's most pointed point. That came when it suggested that Prime Minister Johnson — formerly known as Mr. Brexit — might have trouble dealing with his European Union (EU) counterparts because, well, "It doesn't help, of course, that its officials regard Mr. Johnson as a dangerous buffoon."

Keep in mind that these are the Europeans playing nice. When they're not playing nice they simply say nothing, like right now in response to the White House's demand that US-EU trade talks include agriculture.

Silence, when it comes to trade talks, isn't golden.

Another sure sign of summer heat is the inability of most federal officials to see the broad, clear picture in front of them once the smell of burning jet fuel hits either end of Pennsylvania Avenue in late July.

For example, with Congress itching to leave on its annual August recess, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced changes in rules governing the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) to cut an estimated \$2.5 billion and 3 million Americans from the program.

It's Secretary Sonny's second run at SNAP; he made a similar attempt during the 2018 Farm Bill fight. Congress roundly rejected his idea and left it out of the final, bipartisan bill. Now, just a year later, Perdue claims he has the authority to implement the cuts despite the Farm Bill that his boss, President Donald J. Trump, signed.

See **GUEBERT**, Page **8B**



This cornfield in northern Edgar County illustrates the difficulty area farmers had getting a crop planted this year. Stalks are various heights and at different stages of formation as a result of replanting areas during the wet spring. There are also noticeable gaps in the field where corn did not germinate after replanting, and it was too late to plant again.

Continued crop questions

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

URBANA — The USDA's August crop production forecast delivered a shock to corn markets with much larger production than expected. Market participants continue to question the size of the 2019 corn crop; in particular, harvested acreage and yield come under speculation, according to University of Illinois agricultural economist Todd Hubbs.

Despite the USDA's forecast, corn producers in the state are not as optimistic.

"Illinois Corn does not have an in-house methodology to either confirm or contradict the NASS estimates," said Illinois Corn Growers Association Executive Director Rodney Weinzierl.

"So minus the opportunity to consult a crystal ball, we're in this just like everybody else and we won't know what 2019 corn production is until it's in the bin and reported by farmers."

Weinzierl said there appears to be a disconnect between the NASS corn acreage estimate for Illinois and, "what our farmer-members are telling us is out there, and higher than the numbers that are being shared anecdotally by crop insurance agents."

Weinzierl said a year like 2019, "is a test for everybody in agriculture, including the NASS survey procedures. It may be time to consider the NASS methodology and timing so that the most accurate information is available to farmers, our customers here and abroad, policy makers, and other interested stakeholders."

Farm Journal's annual Pro Farmer Midwest Crop Tour reported dismal re-



Some Edgar County corn is starting to turn but a major concern is the late planting will significantly delay harvest maturity to a point that frost damage may further risk the anticipated smaller harvest. Market analysts and other agriculture experts have openly doubted a recent USDA report about the number of corn acres planted and expected yield.

sults from the Illinois portion of the tour, saying the state's crops are a sorry sight. "The state that normally boasts bin-busting crops is falling short — and by a substantial margin," the report noted.

Compared to last year's Pro Farmer estimates, Illinois corn fell 21.46 bu. per acre — or 11 percent — below 2018. Corn came in below the Pro Farmer three-year average estimates.

"The Illinois crop was sub-par," says Brian Grete, lead of the eastern leg of the Pro Farmer Crop Tour. "It just wasn't there. Too much variability in the crop within fields and field to field. It's hard to build much yield with variability. The eastern side of the state is worse than the

western side of the state."

The northwest part of the state, north of I-80, really struggled to get planted this year and scouts say that was evident in their samples. While the crops might look good from the field, they were full of skips and plants without ears—by-products of planting in less-than-ideal conditions, Grete adds.

[Corn] bushels break down to 11.1 percent lower than last year on tour," Grete says. "There's some really poor areas out there, it's all over the board."

Now the big question for corn is will it realize the full yield potential—or will it lose even more? In the earlier planted

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USDA staffer in Midwest threatened

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

In a sign of rising tensions with the farm community, the Trump administration withdrew staff from a privately-run tour of Midwestern corn and soybean fields after a government employee was threatened.

While the threat came from someone not involved in the Pro Farmer Midwest Crop Tour, the U.S. Department of Agriculture pulled all its staff as a precaution. Lance Honig, crops chief at the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, was scheduled to address the tour in Nebraska City Tuesday night but a video interview with him was screened instead.

"Federal Protective Services were contacted and are investigating the incident," NASS Administrator Hubert Hamer said, without giving details on the threat. "The safety of our employees is our top priority."

In another incident, which wasn't connected to the threat, an arrest was made at a crop-tour event in Spencer, Iowa Wednesday night.

The USDA's data arm has been the subject of ire in recent months after crop estimates surprised traders and growers who had expected the agency to significantly reduce its outlook after rain delayed planting. The USDA had already been criticized for its June estimates and took the rare step of re-surveying farmers to get more accurate numbers.

Its withdrawal from the crop tour comes about two weeks after farmers leveled criticism at Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue at a fair in Minnesota over President Donald Trump's yearlong trade war with China, which has eroded demand and pressured already low prices.

In a statement Wednesday, Farm Journal,

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China buys U.S. soybeans after ban on American farm goods

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHICAGO — China snapped up a small volume of U.S. soybeans last week after pledging to halt purchases of American farm products due to the escalating trade war between Washington and Beijing, U.S. Department of Agriculture data showed on Thursday.

The world's largest soybean importer struck deals from Aug. 9 to 15 to buy 9,589 tonnes for delivery in the current marketing year and

66,000 tonnes, approximately one cargo, for the next year, the data showed.

China's Commerce Ministry said on Aug. 5 that Chinese companies stopped buying U.S. farm products in the latest escalation of the trade war between the world's two largest economies.

"You do have some buying going on," said Arlan Suderman, chief commodities economist for INTL FCStone. "It's a little bit of a surprise."

China last year imposed retaliatory tariffs that remain in

place on imports of U.S. farm products including soybeans and pork. The duties have slashed exports of U.S. crops and prompted the Trump administration to compensate American farmers for losses over two years with as much as \$28 billion.

China said on Thursday it hopes the United States will stop a plan to impose new tariffs, adding that any new duties would lead to a further escalation.

China has largely turned to South America for soybeans

since the trade war began last year. U.S. soybean sales to China in 2018 dropped 74% from the previous year.

"Compared to what they used to buy, they essentially have halted - but some have gotten through," Suderman said.

The sales of 9,589 tonnes for delivery in the current marketing year will probably be rolled ahead to be delivered in the next year, which begins on Sept. 1, said Don Roose, president of Iowa-based broker U.S. Commodities.

The cargo sold for delivery in the next marketing year could have been in the works before Beijing said Chinese companies would suspend purchases of U.S. farm goods, said Terry Reilly, senior commodity analyst for Futures International.

"The government may have just given the green light to say, 'Let this one go through,'" Reilly said.

"One cargo is not going to change the fact that they're not buying millions of tons of soybeans."

CORN
FROM PAGE 7B

acres, Grete is confident, it's the later planted acres that are the big question.

"Producers reported they planted 90 million acres of corn and intended to harvest 82 million acres for grain. Initial reaction to 90 million planted acres with 11.2 million acres of

prevent plant corn approached complete disbelief," Hubbs says.

The switch into corn acres happened for both the prevented planting decisions and crop planting. The expansion of corn acres reduced soybean acres in particular. When matched with Farm Service Agency data on reported planted acres, Hubbs says the possibility of USDA

lowering planted corn acreage by a significant amount this year seems very low.

"Harvested acreage continues to come under question due to poor crop ratings in many regions, he says. "Speculation of more acreage harvested for silage or abandoned than shown in the August report drives the idea of reduced acreage for grain. Spring flooding issues get mentioned as another reason for lower acres harvested for grain."

The difference between planted acreage and intentions for harvested acreage sit at 7.99 million acres. Over the last 10 years, the difference between planted acres and acreage harvested for grain averaged 7.63 million acres. At almost 356,000 acres above the ten-year average, this year's acreage spread comes in slightly higher.

"Comparisons to the 1993 and 1995 crop years have grown common this year due to the extremely wet spring. In 1993, the difference between planted acres and acres harvested for grain totaled 10.3 million acres. At 6.3 million acres, the difference in 1995 came in much lower. The final harvested acres fell 1.04 million acres

from the August crop production report in 1993 and grew 528,000 acres in 1995," Hubbs explains.

On a state level, the difference between planted acres and acres harvested for grain saw increases over last year in many key production areas. The difference in Illinois came in at 250,000 acres, up 100,000 from last year and 20,000 acres higher than the 10-year average. Iowa's difference between planted and harvested acres sits at 400,000 acres this year, on par with last year. At 350,000 acres, Nebraska's difference is up 60,000 acres from last year.

"Severe flooding in Iowa and Nebraska earlier in the year will maintain speculation on harvested acres into the fall in all probability. USDA's final harvested acres for grain failed to deviate from the August forecast by more than 1.7 million acres over the last 10 years. The greatest drop came in 2013 at 1.7 million acres," Hubbs says.

"If harvested acres declined by 2 million acres, a decrease in corn production of 340 million bushels would still see supply for the 2019-20 marketing year near 16 billion bushels at current yield levels. Any rally in

corn price appears centered on yield at this point," he adds.

The USDA's forecast of U.S. average corn yield was 169.5 bushels per acre, up 3.5 bushels from the previous projection. The forecast uses a survey of farmers with some support from satellite data. This year the objective yield survey does not occur until September. The objective yield surveys collect data on plant population, ear totals, kernel row length, and ear diameter as crop maturity permits. The September crop production report holds the first objective yield survey this year.

"USDA yield forecasts usually become more accurate as we move toward harvest. Because over a third of the corn crop got planted in June, the debate about the yield forecast looks to remain prevalent through harvest," Hubbs states. "Using 1993 and 1995 as comparisons, the final yield fell 16 and 12 bushels per acre from the August forecast, respectively. While the current yield forecast seems high to many market observers, the potential for a small or limited reduction in national corn yield exists."

The late-planted crop and

dry weather throughout July and early August, particularly in areas of the eastern Corn Belt, point toward uncertainty on yield and acreage through January.

"Crop tours by private industry get underway shortly and may provide additional insight into the 2019 corn crop," Hubbs says. "Results from these tours should be taken with caution due to limits with the extent of the tours and methods used in collecting the data. The variability within fields this year appears high and difficult to capture with the methods used in the tours."

U.S. corn ending stocks for the 2019-20 marketing year are projected at 2.2 billion bushels. Recent weakness in demand may see carry-in grow 50 million bushels before the 2019-20 marketing year begins.

"The combination of lower production or higher consumption needs to total near 900 million bushels to see corn supplies tighten. If harvested acres for grain remain at 82 million acres, a national average corn yield near 158 bushels per acre is necessary for this scenario under current use projections," Hubbs concludes.

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GUEBERT
FROM PAGE 7B

Worse, Perdue could not have picked a more perfectly awful time to make his legally questionable, politically clumsy move.

First, no sooner had Perdue assumed legal powers not given him by the Constitution, the President took to Twitter to note — wrongly, as is often the case with his tweets — that "Farmers are starting to do great again, after 15 years of a downward spiral."

As every farmer knows and every fact makes clear, there has been no 15-year downward spiral for farmers for decades. In fact, U.S. net farm

income hit an all-time record, \$123.4 billion, just six years ago before bottoming out at an estimated \$62 billion in 2016.

After that whopper, though, the president did get the next fact exactly right: "The 16 Billion Dollar China 'replacement' money didn't exactly hurt!"

No, it didn't. Nor did the estimated \$9 billion farmers also received in similar trade mitigation subsidies in 2018.

In fact, if the entire \$16 billion in China money the president alluded to was paid to farmers this fiscal year — and it won't because the paymaster, USDA's Commodity Credit Corp., must wait for the new fiscal year on Oct. 1 to

replenish its drained accounts — the Trump replacement cash would represent 23 percent of 2019's forecasted net farm income of \$69 billion.

Twenty-three percent. How that's something to brag about when it flies in the face of most farmers' — and every Americans — understanding of free markets and free trade?

Worse, the president's self-congratulatory tweet gave the Washington press corps another shot to compare White House policy directed at its rural political supporters — \$16 billion in unfunded, non-Congressionally approved subsidies — even as it makes an end run to cut Congressionally-required,

legal benefits to the poor by \$2.5 billion.

It was such a slow, fat softball that even the myopic, mostly non-athletic White House press folks hammered it out of sight.

"The selective socialism of Donald Trump: Farmers, yes. Poor families, no," declared a headline in the July 23 Washington Post.

Great. This long, hot summer just keeps getting longer and hotter.

(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.)

USDA
FROM PAGE 7B

The forecast for the marketing-year average price stayed at \$8.40 per bushel.

"The potential for lower soybean consumption than current USDA forecasts remains linked to trade issues over the next year," Hubbs says. "Soybean exports

will depend on continued growth in soybean exports to non-Chinese sources. The potential for South American soybean production to come in 150 million bushels larger than the last crop seems likely. Combining the current soybean production levels in the U.S. and continuing trade issues, average farm prices for soybeans appear set for con-

tinued weakness in the 2019-20 marketing year."

The USDA corn and soybean production forecasts will be updated on Sept. 12. "Uncertainty remains for U.S. corn and soybean supply this year. Prices will reflect crop production potential with a strong emphasis on yield as we move into the harvest period," Hubbs says.

TENSIONS
FROM PAGE 7B

the parent company of crop-tour organizer Pro Farmer, said it took the threat seriously and has also taken precautions to ensure the safety of participants.

"For 27 years the Pro Farmer Crop Tour has been a public service for the benefit of agriculture, in good times and bad," it said. "And it's clearly a stressful time right now."

While security measures have been increased, there are no planned changes for the remainder of tour, which is scheduled to finish on Friday, Joel Jaeger, the general manager of Pro Farmer, said in an interview.

The first USDA staff to leave the tour were from NASS, followed by employees of the Foreign Agricultural Service, he said.

At nightly crop-tour stops in Indiana, Illinois and Grand Island, Nebraska, farmers questioned officials from both the USDA and Pro Farmer about the government's methodology in determining corn planted area and yields. Some growers, stung by years of low prices, were frustrated by the rapid rise in prices in May and subsequent steep drop.

Corn for delivery in De-

cember is down about 11 percent since the release of the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report last week.

USDA officials said yield estimates were based largely on input from farmers as well as satellite imagery. Planted acreage numbers published by the Farm Service Agency earlier this month referred to Aug. 1 data and that figure has already increased, Chris Hawthorn, a NASS statistician, told farmers on the tour, explaining the difference between those figures and the ones published by NASS.

"We had a great time with the USDA guys yesterday," said Jim Putnam, a Minnesota farmer, who traveled with two USDA staff on the tour Tuesday. "I'm sorry this happened. It makes us all look stupid."

Last month, the Trump administration announced another \$16 billion in aid to farmers to cushion the blow of its trade war with China, after a \$12 billion tranche in 2018. Earlier this month, Trump hinted his administration may provide more money for farmers if the trade war were to persist.

Trump's overwhelming support in rural America was crucial to his narrow 2016 election victory. Maintaining the backing of farmers is critical to his re-election. Just this week, the administration has taken criticism from agricultural interests for its handling of the Renewable Fuel Standard, the policy that mandates use of corn-based ethanol and soy-based biodiesel.

On Tuesday, the Iowa Soybean Association sent a letter to Trump and Perdue, asking for a meeting to discuss the Environmental Protection Agency's granting of small refinery exemptions, saying that the agency's Aug. 9 announcement that it granted 31 waivers adds to the "economic pain Iowa's farmers and biodiesel producers are experiencing."



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Puzzles

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 9B

SUDOKU

			3					2
	2			5		3		
8								
5					7			4
4		6	8			5		7
1	7		9					8
9	5			1		7		
					3		6	
		4					1	

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	4	1	3	8	6	9	5	2
6	2	9	7	5	4	3	8	1
8	3	5	1	2	9	4	7	6
5	8	3	2	6	7	1	9	4
4	9	6	8	3	1	5	2	7
1	7	2	9	4	5	6	3	8
9	5	8	6	1	2	7	4	3
2	1	7	4	9	3	8	6	5
3	6	4	5	7	8	2	1	9

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test.



Ruth Patchett/The Prairie Press

Tortilla Española is a mix of eggs, Manchego cheese, spicy yogurt, potato, peppers, garlic and greens.

SULLIVAN

FROM **PAGE 1B**

indicator of severity of head injury.

The human skull is the product of millions of years of evolution providing effective brain protection. It compensates for birth and growth. The skull consists of eight individual bones besides the face pieces, which fit together like puzzle pieces at the top of the head.

At birth, the skull is soft and open because the bone is not fused. The top of the skull is only protected by skin and cartilage allowing the head to flex and squeeze during birth. Soon after the bones grow together to firm up the skull but remain pliable allowing for rapid brain growth in our early years. By the teen years our brain is near adult size and the skull mostly sealed, but not fully. The skull is not fully sealed until our mid-20s putting high school athletes at greater risk of brain injury than college and professional athletes from the same impact

The brain is enclosed by the bones of the skull and protected by a covering of three thin membranes called meninges. It's also cushioned by cerebrospinal fluid running down from the brain through a canal in the center of the spine column. The combination serves to absorb and dissipate impacts, similar to the way a car bumper deforms and deflects the force of a collision.

Repeated Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy (CTE) was formerly believed to exist primarily in boxers but occurs in all sports. It is a progressive, degenerative disease from repeated brain injury developing over a lifetime. It can become debilitating due to atrophied brain neurons. The brain of an individual with CTE gradually deteriorates. Some areas of the

afflicted brain experience an accumulation of protein causing interference with neuron function and mimics Alzheimer's or Parkinson's disease.

In football, baseball, and other sports, the helmet is designed to function as an extension of the skull to extend natural protection. In 1888, college football voted to allow tackling.

Protective padding was required but not helmets. A shoemaker made early helmets for an Army-Navy game. In those days, a helmet looked like an old aviator cap made of soft leather, with earflaps and light padding. Players on the sideline kept them in their back pocket. This continued up to World War II when the Riddell Company of Chicago introduced plastic helmets. A facemask was added for more complete protection.

In response to head injury studies, Riddell developed a design called the Revolution in 2002 with more layers and impact absorbing features. This led to the Riddell Speed Flex in 2014 with more side impact protection using air pockets. The performance of a football helmet is based on its ability to reduce the peak force by temporarily storing then dissipating impact energy. Schools must have every helmet factory inspected annually to verify integrity.

We are about to begin the Friday Night Lights tradition of student athletes giving their all. Everyone's goal is better knowledge, preparation and equipment to avoid that light coming from an athlete getting his bell rung and seeing stars.

(Terry Sullivan's fascination with science started as a child watching Carl Sagan's "Cosmos" and James Burke's "Connections" on PBS. He is the technology and curriculum director for the Shiloh School District. Email him at sullivant@shiloh1.us)

CROSSWORD

Across

1. Baker's dozen?
5. Bed board
9. Corolla part
14. Withdraw gradually
15. Container weight
16. Deposed leader, perhaps
17. Betrothal gifts (2 wds)
20. Do museum work
21. Short, sharp drum sound (hyphenated)
22. Jail, slangily
23. Balances
25. Without previous examination (2 wds)
29. Not yet dry
32. Doing nothing
33. Fail to see
34. Kidney waste product
36. Approaches
38. Brown-capped mushroom
39. Blends
40. Art able to
41. Experienced
43. Sean Connery, for one
44. Antiquity, in antiquity
45. Expressions of loathing
48. Wilkes—, Pa.
49. Elephant's weight, maybe
50. Stanley Kowalksi's wife
53. Rat
57. Respect of one nation for another's laws (3 wds)
60. Gorillalike
61. Old Glory
62. Clothing
63. Airheaded
64. Sort
65. Eye affliction

Down

1. The America's Cup trophy, e.g.
2. Characteristic carrier

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18					19					
20									21					
			22				23	24						
25	26	27				28						29	30	31
32					33					34	35			
36				37		38				39				
40						41			42		43			
44				45	46					47				
			48						49					
50	51	52						53				54	55	56
57						58	59							
60						61					62			
63						64					65			

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| 3. Comedian's stock | 24. Evening bell | 46. Inside shot? (hyphenated) |
| 4. "Invasion of the Body ____," film | 25. Because | 47. Barfly's binge |
| 5. Chest protector | 26. Archetype | 48. Seventh heaven |
| 6. Flimsy, as an excuse | 27. Pituitary, e.g. | 50. Bunch |
| 7. "____ we having fun yet?" | 28. Neigh softly | 51. Pith helmet |
| 8. Big ____ Conference | 29. Expression that radio message will be acted upon | 52. Give off, as light |
| 9. Yearly (2 wds) | 30. ____ a high note (2 wds) | 53. Become unhinged |
| 10. Leaves | 31. Exams | 54. Boor |
| 11. Hair colorer | 35. Plastics containing organic material | 55. May racing event, for short |
| 12. Aquatic plant | 37. Furtive | 56. "____ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto) |
| 13. "____ we forget" | 42. Power | 58. "How ____ Has the Banshee Cried" (Thomas Moore poem) |
| 18. Attack | | 59. Bug out |
| 19. Certain surgeon's "patient" | | |
| 23. Core | | |

DENVER

FROM **PAGE 1B**

restaurant. Lobster Rangoon and General Cho's Soup Dumplings hit the spot as I made my way through Colorado enjoying the cuisine.

Sunday we made the trip to Pike's Peak, something in the numerous times I have been to Colorado I had never done. It was a warm 80 degrees at the base of the mountain. When we reached the top it was less than 45 degrees and pelts of grapple were falling.

Pike's Peak is more than 14,000 feet high, and we were

1	E	G	G	S		5	S	L	A	T		9	P	E	T	A	L			
14	W	E	A	N		15	T	A	R	E		16	E	X	I	L	E			
17	E	N	G	A		18	G	E	M	E	N	19	T	R	I	N	G	S		
20	R	E	S	T	O	R	E					21	R	A	T	T	A	T		
				22	C	A	N		23	E	24	V	E	N	S					
25	S	I	G	H	T	U	N	S	E	E	N		29	W	E	T				
32	I	D	L	E		33	M	I	S	S		34	U	R	I	N	E			
36	N	E	A	R	S		37			38	C	E	P		39	M	E	L	D	S
40	C	A	N	S	T		41	K	N	E	42	W		43	S	C	O	T		
44	E	L	D		45	E	46	X	E	C	R	A	47	T	I	O	N	S		
				48	B	A	R	R	E		49	T	O	N						
50	S	T	E	L	L	A				53	S	T	O	O	L	I	E			
57	C	O	M	I	T	Y		58	O	59	F	N	A	T	I	O	N	S		
60	A	P	I	S	H		61	F	L	A	G		62	D	U	D	S			
63	D	I	T	S	Y		64	T	Y	P	E		65	S	T	Y	E			

Pritzker signs protections bill for immigrant tenants

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.



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Saturday August 24
8:00 am - 2:00 pm each day
Collectable items
Household items
Everything must go!

YARD SALE
529 O'Kalla St
Friday, August 30,
8:00 am-12:00
Lots of holiday decor, women's clothes, misc. household items.

802 Marshall St.
Fri., 23rd 9-5 &
Sat., 24th 9-12 noon
In back inside garage
Kids through adult clothing
Too much to list. NRFA

323 Elm Street
Friday, Aug 30, 1:00-?
Saturday, Aug 31, 8:00 ?
clothes, jackets, kids books, toys.Lots of misc.

11 Janice Ave, Paris
8-29, 4:00-7:00,
8-30, 8:00 - 6:00
Girls newborn to Justice 20, Womens, Strollers, Home Decor, Comfortors

1306 Ten Broeck
around back thur alley
Friday and Saturday
Aug. 30 & 31
Friday and Saturday
Sept. 6 & 7
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LEGALS

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ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on August 20, 2019 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Edgar County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: CARDINAL LOT CLEANING & MAINTENANCE Located at : 10872 N 1545th St, Paris, IL 61944 Owner(s): Joe Scheiner Dated: August 20, 2019 August H. Griffin EDGAR COUNTY CLERK

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF SHIRLEY A. TRETTER, Deceased

No. 2019 P 33

NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS and CLAIM NOTICE
Notice is given of the death of SHIRLEY A. TRETTER. Letters of Office were issued on July 2, 2019 to BESSIE E. BRADY as Executor whose attorney is FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.). 129 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, 61944, or with the representative, or both, on or before December 2, 2019 and any claim not filed within the applicable period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days

after it has been filed.

Notice is further given to Unknown Heirs of SHIRLEY A. TRETTER that within 42 days after July 2, 2019, you may file a Petition with the Court to require proof of the Will by witnesses, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act and to contest the validity of the Will by filing a Petition with this court by December 2, 2019

BESSIE E. BRADY, Executor

FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.)
129 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944
Phone: 217-465-4196
Fax: 217-466-1213

IPA/Ameren Rider Notice **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Proposed Tariff Changes
Gas Service Schedule III. C. C. No. 2

To the Gas Patrons of Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois:

Ameren Illinois (or Company) hereby gives notice to the public that on August 1, 2019, it filed with the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC or Commission) evidence (direct testimony) regarding the reconciliation of revenues collected from its gas customers under the Company's Gas Energy Efficiency and Demand Response Cost Recovery (GER) Rider, with actual and prudent associated costs from January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018. This reconciliation may result in changes to the Company's rates and charges with respect to gas delivery services in the Company's service area in Illinois. The changes in rates and charges will take effect after hearings and after the Commission issues its final Order.

The Commission docketed the filing as Docket No. 19-0370. xbe inspected at Ameren Illinois' offices located at 300 Liberty Street, Peoria, Illinois or online at www.icc.illinois.gov/e-docket/. All parties interested in this matter may obtain information with respect thereto either directly from Ameren Illinois or by addressing the Chief Clerk of the Illinois Commerce Commission, 527 East Capitol Avenue, Springfield, Illinois 62706.

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

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

In the matter of the Estate of Priscilla D. Rhoads, deceased

No. 2019-P-37

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of PRISCILLA D. RHOADS of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on August 7, 2019 to VERNON E. BEAVEN, JR. , 103 Janice Ave., Paris, Illinois 61944, and CAROL J. TUTTLE, 112 Janice Ave., Paris, Illinois 61944, as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney is Drew P. Griffin, of Jones & Griffin Law Offices, P.C., 110 E. Washington, P.O. Box 8, Paris, Illinois 61944.

Claims against the Estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois 61944, or with the representatives, or both, on or before February 18, 2020, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

DATED this 17th day of August 2019.

VERNON E. BEAVEN, JR and CAROL J. TUTTLE, Independent Co-Executors of the Estate

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The Prairie Press

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101 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944

of PRISCILLA D. RHOADS, deceased

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

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on August 19, 2019 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Edgar County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as: **TRIPLE BARN FARM**

Located at: 14960 E 500th Rd., Paris, IL 61944

Owner(s): Lori K. Wiley
Dated: August 19, 2019

August H. Griffin
Edgar County Clerk

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Proposed Tariff Changes
Gas Service Schedule III. C. C. No. 2
To the Gas Patrons of Ameren Illinois Company d/b/a Ameren Illinois:
Ameren Illinois (or Company) hereby gives notice to the public that on July 31, 2019, it filed with the Illinois

HELP WANTED

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Please send your resume with a detailed work history to:
Prairie Press, BOX C
101 N Central, Paris, IL 61944
Qualified applicants will be contacted directly.

Pritzker says 'gag rule' limits women's healthcare

BY PETER HANCOCK
phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker joined with Planned Parenthood and other abortion rights advocates Monday in denouncing the Trump administration's new policy that blocks federal family planning money from going to any organization that provides or facilitates abortions. "The Trump administration's gag rule is fundamentally wrong," Pritzker said in a telephone news conference Monday. "This policy has caused a mess of confusion and uncertainty, destabilizing women's health care nationwide and doing extraordinary harm to the lives of patients, particularly women of color."

The program in question is known as Title X. It distributes about \$260 million a year to clinics around the country to provide family planning services to an estimated 4 million people, primarily lower-income individuals. Planned Parenthood organizations throughout the country receive about 40 percent of all Title X funding.

In Illinois, the state Department of Public Health typically receives about \$4 million a year, which it distributes to various public health clinics in Illinois. Planned Parenthood of Illinois receives about another \$3.5 million, while Aunt Martha's receives about \$500,000.

The money is used to pay for such services as contraception, cancer screening and testing for sexually transmitted diseases, among other things.

Since the program's inception in 1970, federal law has prohibited recipients from using Title X money to pay for abortions. But abortion opponents have for years wanted the ban to go further by prohibiting money from going to any organization that provides abortion services or refers women to abortion providers, even if the funding for those services comes from separate sources.

That's essentially what the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services did earlier this year when it announced its new rule. In July, the state of Illinois along with Planned Parenthood of Illinois and Aunt Martha's Health and Wellness announced they would no longer participate in the program.

"Since this gag rule went into effect, we have not drawn down on federal funds, and we will not draw down on federal funds while this regulation remains in place, and we call on Congress to join our fight to protect women," Pritzker said. "An attack of this magnitude clearly calls for a federal solution."

Monday marked the deadline for program recipients to certify with HHS that they were in compliance with the new rule. Alexis McGill Johnson, acting president of Planned Parenthood's national organization, said her organization could not in good conscience sign such a statement.

The new rule faces a number of court challenges, but a federal appeals court in California has allowed the rule to go into effect while those cases are being decided. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco is scheduled to hear oral arguments in the case in late September.

Law gives \$40K teacher pay

Pritzker signs bill upping educators' minimum wage; goal is to address teacher shortage

BY PETER HANCOCK
phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – Some teachers in Illinois will get a pay raise starting next year, thanks to a bill that Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed into law Thursday.

House Bill 2078, which passed the General Assembly in the final days of the 2019 session, phases in an increase in minimum teacher salaries to \$40,000 a year over the next four years.

"As Illinois' children head back to school this week and next, this new law says to them and their parents loud and clear, we value teachers," Pritzker said during a Statehouse news conference.

The bill is aimed at relieving what many have described as a severe statewide teacher shortage in Illinois. During the 2018-2019 school year, Pritzker said, roughly 1,500 teach-

ing positions across the state were unfilled.

"We need to start taking this problem seriously and this legislation is a good step toward solving it," state Sen. Andy Manar, D-Bunker Hill, the chief Senate sponsor of the bill, said in a statement.

According to data from the Illinois State Board of Education, the average salary of a public school teacher in the state was \$65,721 during the 2017-2018 academic year, the most recent year for which figures are available. But the salaries for individual teachers varies greatly, depending on their location, years of experience, their own level of education and the financial resources of the district in which they teach.

Officials estimate the new law will affect about 8,000 of the state's 127,000 full-time public school teachers.

Bentley Stewart, a sec-

ond-year teacher at Crossroads Learning Center in the Jacksonville School District, said during the news conference that she earns about \$34,000 teaching students who've been suspended or expelled from regular schools.

"It's a very hard job and teachers don't mind that, but we also want to be secure in knowing we'll be able to raise our own families and that our families will be secure," she said. "This law goes a long way towards that."

Under current law, the minimum salary for a teacher ranges from \$9,000 for someone with less than a bachelor's degree to \$11,000 for someone with a master's degree. That law hasn't changed since the early 1980s.

The new law raises the minimum salary to \$32,076 in the 2020-2021 school year. It then adds \$2,500 in each of the next two years, finally arriving

at \$40,000 in the 2023-2024 school year. After that, mandatory increases will be indexed to inflation.

Although passage of the bill will increase costs for some school districts, Pritzker noted that this year's budget included a \$375 million increase in state funding for K-12 education.

According to a fiscal analysis of the bill, the higher minimum salary will add, on average, about 0.5 percent to each district's "adequacy target" under the state's new Evidence Based Funding system. It also could widen the gap between current funding and the adequacy target for many districts.

Under that funding system, each district is assigned a target for adequate funding, and those that are the furthest below their target receive top priority for funding increases each year, with the goal of providing adequate funding to all

districts by 2027.

State dollars currently account for only about 27 percent of all school funding in Illinois. The bulk of K-12 funding, 66 percent, comes from local property taxes, with the remaining 7 percent coming from the federal government.

According to the state's most recent data, of Illinois' 851 public school districts, 702 received less than "adequate" funding during the 2017-2018 school year. The percentages of adequate funding vary widely across the state, from a low of 47 percent in the J.S. Morton High School District in Cicero, to a high of 288 percent in the Rondout School District in Lake Forest.

"The districts that benefit from EBF – the evidence-based funding – are in fact the districts where many of the people are getting paid under \$40,000," Pritzker said.

DEER HUNT FOR HEROES WELCOMES ALL WARRIORS



In this Nov. 4, 2014 photo, William White sets up his gas powered crossbow at the HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes program at Funks Grove. The former U.S. Marine served in Bosnia, Somalia and Beirut before a construction accident at a military base cost him an arm and a leg. The HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes program is designed to give wounded veterans confidence and support as they come home.

Special to The Prairie Press

HOOAH gets vets hunting

BY KENNEDY NOLEN
Decatur Herald & Review

DECATUR, Ill. (AP) — Iraq War veteran Brian Miller served in the United States Air Force and was skeptical about veteran groups.

He said many left a bad taste in his mouth and he felt they were only in it for the money. Miller's friend was part of a veteran group and kept asking him to join.

Miller, who lives in Clinton, finally decided to go on a deer hunting trip with the organization HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes. After leaving on a Thursday, he expected this to be a one-and-done trip, he said. Miller didn't get back home until Sunday.

"I had been around less than an hour and realized they're legit," Miller said.

HOOAH is an organization designed for veterans to enjoy the outdoors, build a support system and enjoy camaraderie. Many of the activities take place in Central and Southern Illinois.

Founder Tom Huffington, of McLean, started the organization seven or eight years ago, alongside co-founder Matt Graden, as a way to give back to wounded soldiers. Tom Gaither and Jeff Gaither also got involved as board members.

Hunting and fishing are just a small portion of the organization, Huffington said. Sometimes, veterans are in a dark place, and the program can give them a way to decompress. Some of the men and women who participate have come from transitional units at Fort Knox and Fort Campbell.

He said the volunteers never ask about their situation and never have them share their stories. As time goes on, they may open up to a friend in the program, but nothing is forced.

Huffington said all costs are covered for applicants who get selected. This includes airfare, lodging, equipment and

anything in between.

Miller was in the Air Force, deployed in 2007 and arrived back home in 2011. He said he didn't feel the effects of leaving the service until he was away from other veterans.

During his encounter with HOOAH, he found that the volunteers cared "from the bottom of their hearts."

"They're in it for the right reasons," Miller said.

All hunts are fully guided, Huffington said. A lot of the participants have never hunted or fished, so it's a whole new experience for them.

About 600 veterans have been through the program since it started, he said, whether that means they've attended a one-day event or a weekend trip.

All veterans are eligible to apply without restrictions, Huffington said.

"The worst part is (choosing) who goes and doesn't go, because they all deserve it," he said. "That's the tough part."

The organization has had veterans of Vietnam, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq.

For some veterans who love outdoor activities but have injuries affecting the time they can spend outside, "it's disheartening," he said. HOOAH has some of the best adaptive equipment, such as action track chairs and fishing poles that reel themselves in, which help veterans who may be paralyzed or missing a limb.

When reviewing applications, the board members don't look at injuries. They look to see who can benefit from the hunt most, Huffington said. HOOAH also looks for veterans who would be good mentors, as well.

Many groups and places for veterans to hang out may involve alcohol, but HOOAH is an alcohol-free, positive environment for veterans to find a release through outdoor activities, Miller said.



Special to The Prairie Press

In this Nov. 14, 2014 photo, Josue Cordova of Naperville receives help setting up his crossbow at the HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes program at Funks Grove. The HOOAH Deer Hunt for Heroes program works to provide wounded veterans with opportunities they may have experienced in the military but are now applicable to civilian life.

By day two or three of these trips, "you'd think we were lifelong friends," Miller said.

The organization also allows for veterans to bring their spouses to designated couples trips.

"When we're deployed, they're left to take care of everything," Miller said. "We come back, maybe not in one piece physically or mentally."

The couples fishing trips allow spouses to connect, communicate and relate.

Miller said veterans from the group talk daily and watch out for each other. He believes in the group so much, he got involved and speaks for the group at fundraisers and events.

Huffington said a number of HOOAH participants have similar interests, so the "real value is the network."

A lot of the veterans who enter the program leave as friends, he said. "That's just the real magic of this program."

Initial numbers indicate a historically successful Illinois State Fair

Records show the largest attendance since 2014's Fair

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The numbers for this year's Illinois State Fair continue to demonstrate a historically successful event. While records for both revenue and ticket sales were broken for the grandstand lineup, high marks from parking, attendance and vendors were also achieved.

Estimated attendance totals of nearly 509,000 are 37 percent higher than 2018's projection of just over 370,000 making it the largest estimated total attendance since 2014. Despite a reduction in admissions for Sunday through Thursday, gate revenue was up over last year's fair. More parking passes were sold this year than the previous 17 years that this information was recorded. This year's fair also saw an increase of vendors over last year by nearly 50.

"This year's fair took an already wonderful event to new heights, breaking records at the grandstand and bringing Illinoisans from all across the state together to celebrate everything that makes Illinois so special," said Governor JB Pritzker. "From barns packed with all that our agriculture industry has to offer to entertainment for Illinoisans of all ages, I'm thrilled my first state fair as governor was such a success."

"No matter the metric, this year's fair was undoubtedly a success," said Illinois State Fair Manager Kevin Gordon. "Our goal was to bring families back to the fair during the week. I feel our decision to reduce admission during the week was rewarded by the attendance of the public. The weather was wonderful, our promotions were well received, our grandstand lineup was historic and I spoke with many vendors and concessionaires pleased with the crowds and their revenues. I'm excited to see what this means for our total revenues once those numbers are finalized."