

In the know

SPECIAL COUNTY BOARD MEETING

The Edgar County Board is having a special meeting 9 a.m. Wednesday, May 20, in Courtroom 2 at the Edgar County Courthouse. Agenda topics include: Adopting an Ordinance Establishing Special Service Area No. 2; Selecting an Engineer for the Edgar County Airport; a Resolution of Support for a Rebuild Illinois Fast-Track Public Infrastructure Program Application; and Discussion of COVID-19 Impact on Edgar County.

A sequel to oxtail soup

Ruth Patchett reaches out to the family who inspired her article about oxtail soup, and learns another delectable vintage recipe. **C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

Blood plasma a hot commodity

The plasma of COVID-19 survivors is being sought after to treat infections, create an antibody serum. **HEALTH, 5B**



"Dearest Chaplain Mine"

The Weick family uncovers a love letter from their grandmother to their grandfather during WWII. **HISTORY, 3B**

Summer theater throws in towel

The Paris Community Theater cancels "Beauty and the Beast" summer show. **CALENDAR, 2A**

End of Chrisman academic year

Chrisman school board reviews changes made in unprecedented year. **NEWS, 4A**

TODAY'S WEATHER

H 78 L 65
Warm with likely storms. **2A**



LET'S BE FRIENDS!

Latest news, online extras

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The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

LOCALLY OWNED, LOYAL TO OUR COMMUNITY

SATURDAY, MAY 16, 2020

County board hears concerns

Small business owners express their opinions and hardships with COVID-19 closings

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

About 20 people addressed the Edgar County Board Wednesday, May 10, asking for any possible help in getting the State of Illinois to speed up the reopening of closed businesses.

Unlike other locations, where frustrations have boiled over, those speaking to the board were respectful and acknowledged the county lacks the authority to either undo the governor's executive orders or to tell people it is OK to reopen.

Jill Mattingly of the Bloomfield Barn asked board members to be a voice for local businesses and keep pressure on officials in the executive branch about how difficult it is for businesses to

remain closed.

"We need your help," said Mattingly. "We want to keep Edgar County COVID-free, but we need a lifeline. If businesses fail, the county fails."

For some, it is an issue of fairness. Maddie McCarty of Ol' Hairitage Beauty & Boutique complained her business was shuttered March 22 with no warning, and she has had no income since then. She said as a beauty shop the business must maintain sanitary standards, and she is willing to follow any additional steps required for the safety of staff and customers.

"It's not fair for us to be shut down when places like Wal-Mart and Rural King can stay open," said McCarty.

Dustin Reed of On the Tracks Café said his business

is hurting, and he has taken a job away from the restaurant. He did participate in a paycheck protection loan plan so his employees continue getting a paycheck.

"But my regular bills didn't stop," said Reed.

He has tried to keep going with curbside and home delivery of meals and is worried about what will happen if plans to limit customers to only 50 percent of building capacity are implemented when he can have diners back in the building. He said in his small building that is about five tables and probably is not enough volume to sustain the business.

"When this started we looked at the data and said, 'Yes, it is right to close,'" said Tom Dolan of Tom's Fitness

and Martial Arts.

The uncertainty of how long closures might last makes it difficult for local businesses, according to Dolan.

"As a business, we want to do our part, but when does this end?" he said. "Nobody wants to see anyone hurt. We want to be reasonable."

Some referred to Edgar County not having any positive tests for COVID-19 as a reason why the strict measures designed to contain an outbreak should not apply here.

Cynthia Patrick of Andrew's at the Westbrook echoed the call for the county board to be the community's voice to higher levels of government. She said people want to be open in order to

pay bills, mortgages and not lose their businesses.

"The Edgar County Health Department has to act in the best interest of Edgar County, not the state," she said.

Phillip Stapp sounded a cautionary note about moving too fast. He expressed understanding at the frustration of wanting to get back to work, noting he lost a good paying job and had to take one that pays less. He was also skeptical about the relevancy of the claims that since Edgar County is COVID free the county should be allowed to follow its own path. He noted the tests conducted so far cover less than 2 percent of the population.

"All of these people saying they are willing to follow the

See **CLOSURES**, Page 4A

TRYING TIMES NOT STOPPING NEW SODA SHOP



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Trisha Vitale, left, owner of The Fizz, and employee Georgina Means, right, work together getting the new Paris business ready to open for the day.

The Fizz offers sweet memories

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Something unexpected happened when The Fizz Soda Shop & Eatery at the corner of Main and Crawford recently tried a soft opening.

"We had no idea we would be so busy," said owner Trisha Vitale.

The bright blue, shed-like building often has a line around it as people use the drive-through to order from a big menu of eclectic flavored drinks. Vitale currently has 16 part-time employees who went through extensive training learning how to mix the various drinks.

She said the soft opening was intended to ease the staff into practical experience and see what kind of flow patterns worked best to provide the fast and friendly service she wants every customer to experience as part of the business motto to bring fun and joy. Instead, it has been a frantic pace as everyone works to

keep up with demand.

"It has been a good time to open," said Vitale. "The community has embraced us."

An operation like The Fizz does not happen overnight, and there is always a backstory to every new venture. Vitale said the business has been two years in the making.

"A few years ago, I was investigating up and coming trends," she said. One important discovery is young people do not want just a plain coffee or standard soft drink.

"The millennials love to customize everything," said Vitale.

That realization along with a desire to capture flavors everyone associates with special events like fairs and festivals set her onto a path of experimenting by adding different flavors to base drinks such as coffee, teas, colas, root beer and others.

See **THE FIZZ**, Page 4A



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

Before opening The Fizz, owner Trisha Vitale devoted a year to experimenting with flavor combinations to create coffee drinks, sodas, smoothies, frappes, energy drinks and what she calls signature beverages. She credits input from the experts at Torani syrups for helping her through that process.

Paris Class of 2020 will have their graduation ceremony

BY NANCY ZEMAN
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Paris High School's class of 2020 will get its graduation ceremony, albeit not exactly the usual indoor ceremony in the high school gym, the Paris High School board of directors learned Monday during the May 11 meeting.

Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson and Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Danette Young provided an in-depth outline for the board members and interim co-principal Lorraine Bailey who were either present in person or by WebEx meeting.

Larson reminded the board members the original plans for graduation were to hold a virtual ceremony. Members of the senior class protested that decision. The administration met with class of 2020 officers who defined the three most

important priorities for them regarding graduation. Those are:

■Seniors want to walk across the stage for their diploma.

■The senior class wants to be together as a group one last time.

■The class members want to be able to tell their teachers and classmates goodbye.

Larson said due to health guidelines, the students understand a traditional ceremony in the gym is not possible this year.

As a result, the seniors and the administration agreed the graduation will be held at 5 p.m. Friday, June 19, on the Tiger Stadium football field. The high school will follow the health guidelines outlined by the state related to group size. If the group size does not allow for the entire senior

class to come together at that time, the date will be moved to 5 p.m. Friday, July 17.

Based upon the health guidelines for large group gatherings, Larson said a limited number of tickets will be issued to each student for guests to attend the ceremony.

Larson said if the guidelines are around the same size as the graduating senior class, then only students will be present.

"The seniors recognize the ceremony is for them, and they want to be together again," he said.

The high school will work with the Paris Sports Network, PEN and local radio stations to help stream the ceremony to provide access to those who cannot attend.

Larson said as the date for the ceremony approaches, more information concerning how many can attend will be

come available.

If neither the June 19 nor the July 17 ceremonies can be held due to health guidelines limiting large group settings, the high school will stream a virtual graduation ceremony. In order to be prepared for a virtual graduation, Larson said members of the class of 2020 should go ahead and submit a picture in their caps and gowns to us@pchs.k12.il.us no later than Friday, May 29.

In addition to graduation, Larson said there are plans to do a mini May Fete in honor of the senior girls sometime in July. There will be no dances from the underclassmen, PHS assistant principal Mark Cox said, but as is tradition, senior introductions will be made and a May Queen crowned.

Cox said a queen ballot was sent to all high school stu-

dents.

"Those came back in pretty quickly," he noted. Cox takes over as PHS principal July 1.

Larson noted the final day of school for all students at PHS, Paris 95 and Crestwood is Monday, May 18. From Tuesday, May 19, through Tuesday, May 26, teachers will contact students who earned an incomplete. Those students will be given that time period to complete work and earn a pass.

From May 19-22 and May 26, teachers will meet virtually to plan remote learning. Teacher Institute days are May 27-28.

Report cards will be mailed to all families May 28.

Crestwood school board president and PHS director Jim Blue praised the administration, "for your willingness

See **GRADS**, Page 4A

ABOUT US

The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

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TALK BACK

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

Edgar County community to join the discussion to make your newspaper better.
We'd love to hear what you think. Drop us an email or stop by the office.
Have you got a news tip? Call us at 217-921-3216, email us at **nzeman@prairiepress.net** or **ghenry@prairiepress.net** or message us on Facebook.
We always welcome family, club, church and community news for publication in The Prairie Press/Paris Beacon News.

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LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 73 Low: 53 More weather: go to www.prairiepress.net and click on weather.

| TODAY | SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | | | | | | |
| 78 65 Prec: 60% | 76 55 Prec: 80% | 65 50 Prec: 30% | 70 54 Prec: 0% | 72 56 Prec: 0% | 75 57 Prec: 0% | 80 62 Prec: 0% |



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

TODAY — Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and storms developing in the afternoon. Highs top out in the upper 70s.
FRIDAY — Scattered showers and thunderstorms continue with highs in the mid 70s.
SATURDAY — Highs fall back into the mid 60s with mostly cloudy skies and scattered morning rain showers.

ALMANAC
Paris through noon Tuesday.
Temperature
High/Low 73°/53°
Record High 90° in 2001
Record Low 35° in 1921
Precipitation
Month to date 2.63"
Normal month to date 2.40"
Year to date 17.44"
Normal year to date 14.14"

SUN AND MOON

| | Sun Rise | Sun Set | Moon Rise | Moon Set |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| TODAY | 5:35 a.m. | 8:00 p.m. | 3:02 a.m. | 2:18 p.m. |
| SUNDAY | 5:34 a.m. | 8:01 p.m. | 3:27 a.m. | 3:15 p.m. |
| MONDAY | 5:34 a.m. | 8:02 p.m. | 3:51 a.m. | 4:13 p.m. |
| TUESDAY | 5:34 a.m. | 8:02 p.m. | 4:15 a.m. | 5:01 p.m. |
| WEDNESDAY | 5:33 a.m. | 8:03 p.m. | 4:40 a.m. | 6:09 p.m. |
| THURSDAY | 5:32 a.m. | 8:04 p.m. | 5:07 a.m. | 7:09 p.m. |
| FRIDAY | 5:31 a.m. | 8:05 p.m. | 5:37 a.m. | 8:11 p.m. |

No Paris Community Theater summer show

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
The Paris Community Theater company has announced it will not produce a summer show in July 2020 due to the continuing concern about COVID-19.
According to director Stuart Metcalf, the company was well on the way to producing Disney's "Beauty and the Beast" for its third production.
"We are extremely disap-

pointed to announce we will not be presenting a show to the community this summer," Metcalf said. After meeting with the five-member board, the decision was made to pull the plug for 2020.
"As our audition dates grew closer, we knew we had to make a decision," said Metcalf.
He noted the Paris Center of Fine Arts is closed due to the pandemic and the cast would be larger than the 10 people allowed to meet at this

time under Gov. JB Pritzker's emergency declarations.
Social distancing in the theater would make the cost of the musical production prohibitive, Metcalf said.
"As disappointing as it is, we decided to not present a show," he said.
One of the factors in discussing the production of a show was the possibility of Paris High School Drama presenting the planned spring musical, "Grease" if the re-

strictions are relaxed. The high school production was two weeks away from opening when the pandemic shutdown took effect March 17.
"Beauty and the Beast" would have been the third musical production by PCT following successful runs of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and last summer's "Mamma Mia!"
The company has also produced two cabarets featuring local talent.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

SUNDAY
ONLINE CONCERT
The Terre Haute Symphony Orchestra is offering an online spring concert, Music in Bloom, 7 p.m., today, May 16. The concert may be viewed from the comfort of home at THSO.org

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

Crisis Line: 1-866-567-2400
24/7 access for people feeling suicidal or homicidal.
■ Illinois Warm Line: 1-866-359-7593 Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Free phone support for anyone living in Illinois. From the main menu, select option #2, then #5. Interpreters available for hundreds of languages. Staff are also adept at conversing through Video Relay TTY: 1 (866) 880-4459
■ National Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1-800-273-8255
■ Crisis Text Line: Text HOME to 741741.

Memorial Day services conducted at the post homes and on the Paris courthouse square. Spokespeople for the two organizations said the COVID-19 pandemic prompted the cancellation of events that normally would have been May 25.

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REMAIN AVAILABLE
In this time of high anxieties and serious life-stressors we may find ourselves in need of mental health or substance use disorder services. There are some resources actively available to our community members. Here is a list of such resources:
■ Human Resources Center remains open at the Paris and

118 EAST COURT STREET, PARIS
217-465-4118
M: 8:00am – 5:00pm
T: 8:00am – 7:00pm
W: 8:00am – 5:00pm
TH: 8:00am – 7:00pm
F: 8:00am – 1:00pm

406 N 2ND STREET, MARSHALL
217-826-6212
M: 8:00am – 5:00pm
T: 8:00am – 7:00pm
W: 8:00am – 7:00pm
TH: 8:00am – 7:00pm
■ Regional Behavioral Health

CANCELED EVENTS
MEMORIAL DAY PROGRAMS CANCELED
The Brocton American Legion and the Paris American Legion have both canceled the annual

HORIZON HEALTH ANNOUNCES HOLIDAY CLOSURES
Horizon Health clinics in Paris, Chrisman and Oakland will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. All locations will resume normal business hours Tuesday, May 26. The NAL Health Clinic will also be closed Memorial Day and resume regular hours of 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday, May 26. EZ Care in Paris and Marshall will have regular hours over the Memorial Day weekend. Those hours are 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Memorial Day. More information about Horizon Health clinics is available at MyHorizonHealth.org.

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Concern about the spread of the COVID-19 virus has caused the cancellation of numerous events.
Governor JB Pritzker has extended the stay-at-home order through May.
Effective immediately all face-to-face events organized by Illinois Extension through May 31 are canceled, suspended or transitioned to online delivery. This includes all 4-H Club meetings. People should look for cancellations or postponements on the website go.illinois.edu/cce. Plans may change based on directions provided by the local health department and questions may be submitted via email at uie-cce@illinois.edu. Extension staff are exploring ways to provide judging, exhibit and showcase opportunities for 4-H projects.
The University of Illinois Extension offices in Edgar, Clark and Crawford counties have suspended regular hours until further notice. Extension staff will continue to work remotely and will not interact with the public in the office.

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OS TATA WEEK 2020



From our family to yours, we're here for you during these challenging times.

The National Hospital Association celebrates National Hospital Week 2020 as "A Week of Thanks." At Horizon Health, we're honoring the innovative ways our healthcare workers are supporting the needs of our communities during this pandemic.

National Hospital Week - May 10-16



HORIZON HEALTH

MyHorizonHealth.org

Chrisman schools end academic year

COVID-19 forces adaptations

BY GARY HENRY

ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — Thursday, May 14 was the last day of a unique school year for Chrisman Community Unit School District #6.

During the board of education meeting that night, school administrators discussed how staff and students adapted to an unusual last quarter that kept students out of the buildings and attempting to continue education at home through e-learning.

Elementary principal Kelly Schluter said the end of e-learning appeared to be a relief for both teachers and parents, but it is still continuing for some students who are at risk of getting an incomplete be-

cause they either did not finish or turn in assignments.

"So many teachers are doing one on one with Zoom to help those students," said Schluter, adding the work must be completed by May 18 to avoid an incomplete. "They are really wanting to do the best for our kiddoes."

Cole Huber, principal of the junior high and high school, described the participation in e-learning as mixed. He explained online class sessions offered via Zoom had disappointing attendance, with some students never signing in. Math participation was exceptionally low, he said.

Teachers, he said, estimated between 70 and 80 percent of the students did attempt to take advantage of online learning in some fashion.

As an administrator, Huber does see a positive developing

from the experience of doing remote learning.

"It is really forcing our teachers into thinking about how to push individual kids instead of trying to keep a class to a standard," said Huber.

The need to maintain social distancing and prevent the gathering of large groups is disrupting the final rite of the school year — high school graduation. Chrisman High School has adapted so graduates can still walk across the stage in cap and gown to receive a diploma. It will be done one student at a time, accompanied by family, over the course of a day.

"I've got kids signed up every 10 minutes from 8 to 3, May 30," said Huber.

Each student will be videoed crossing the stage and there will be time for a family photo opportunity. Valedictorian

and salutatorian speeches will also be recorded and the finished video of the graduation is scheduled for release June 7 through the school's website. Also on June 7 is a graduation parade through Chrisman, and perhaps Scotland.

"There will be one graduate per car, and about 25 cars," said Huber. The graduation parade starts at 2 p.m. June 7 from the high school, although details of the parade route are still being worked out.

Current and future finances was the topic of interim superintendent Jim Acklin's report. He presented an amended budget for the current fiscal year. He said a couple of issues are driving the need for an amended budget.

The district was awarded a \$100,000 state School Improvement Grant but some of that money may not come in

until the new fiscal year starts July 1. The operations and maintenance line item also spent \$14,000 that was not originally budgeted for security cameras.

"We still anticipate being in the black in all funds, but it is not quite as rosy as we expected in September," said Acklin.

He also provided a warning to board members the state shutdown for COVID has resulted in less tax revenue for the state, and there is speculation that loss in revenue will translate into less state aid next fiscal year.

"I expect we will have to cut into reserves," said Acklin. "We are positioned well to ride out any storm next year. We just hope it is not more than one year."

Board member Cory Chaney asked if the new budget will include the purchase

of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other medical related items as safety measures against a continued coronavirus outbreak.

Acklin said the most recent CARES act from the federal government included financial aid for schools and Unit 6 is scheduled to receive \$61,000.

"Almost all of the superintendents I have talked to anticipate using the money for PPE, thermometers and technology upgrades in case we have to go back to remote learning," said Acklin.

Schluter announced school nurse Tricia Brinkley has already researched touchless, scanning thermometers and has money left in the nurse's budget.

"We are going to order a couple of them," said Schluter. "It is good practice anyway, and better than what we have now."

Brocton wants people to pay water bills

BY GARY HENRY

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BROCTON — The Brocton Village Board is serious about following proper protocols during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A notice printed at the top of the agenda posted at the village hall stated a maximum of 10 people were allowed inside and all present were required to wear a mask. The village board met Wednesday, May 13.

Trustee Christie Cox noticed the water department report showed some village residents are amassing large, unpaid water bills. She described the amount as substantial in some cases.

"I had one guy tell me he can pay, but he is not going to while we can't do anything about it," said Mayor Dennis Cary.

Under the state's executive orders for coping with COVID-19, utilities are prohibited from shutting off services for unpaid bills. Cox suggested once those orders are lifted, all unpaid water bills become due, in full, during the next billing cycle. Households that do not pay the total amount in arrears will have water service cut. The other trustees agreed.

Trustee Debbie Porter expressed appreciation for resi-

dents who have continued to pay water bills and acknowledged some people may be having financial difficulty because of the pandemic, but it angered her that a few are deliberately not paying because the village cannot take action against them at this time.

"We have expenses to keep the water going to everybody," said Porter. "We can't let our water department go back into the red because they are not paying."

The next water bill will include a printed message to warn customers that letting unpaid water bills accumulate will eventually result in one large bill that must be paid in full to continue receiving service. The unpaid bills will not be forgiven.

A problem with tall grass and weeds was on the table for action.

"Some yards are out of control," said Cox, adding she talked to one resident who has promised to mow within the week, depending on rain.

The trustees passed a nuisance ordinance stating it is illegal to allow any plant, except for trees and ornamentals, to reach a height of eight inches. Property owners in violation will receive only one notice per year with a five-day period to rectify.

Failure to act will result in the village mowing the property at a \$125 fee. Should the growth get out of hand on subsequent dates, the village will mow the property without issuing any more violation notices and assess another \$125 for each mowing.

"It will be \$125 each time, and we will put a lien on the property," said Cary.

Porter announced a new project by the Community Center Committee to start a twice-weekly sack lunch program in the park.

She said the goal is to help fill some of the food gap for children once the Shiloh School District stops home delivery of meals when the school year ends later this month.

"It's for school age kids, but we won't turn anybody away," said Porter. "It's a volunteer effort to help the community."

The tentative plan is to begin serving the takeaway lunches during the second week of June, but like so many activities at this time it is difficult to say anything with certainty.

"It all depends on how this COVID stuff goes," said Porter.

Paris approves maintenance expenses

BY GARY HENRY

ghenry@prairiepress.net

The Paris City Council moved quickly through business matters Monday, May 11, by authorizing expenses presented by Commissioner Steve Kemper and briefly discussing a joint letter between the city and county asking Gov. JB Pritzker to let Edgar County's closed businesses re-open.

Kemper's approved bills were:

■The purchase of four fire hydrants from IMCO, \$7,908.

■The purchase of a replacement control board for use at the sewer plant, \$1,100.

■The purchase of a pen chart recorder from Durkin for use at the sewer plant, \$1,962.

■The \$18,342 invoice from B&T Drainage for repairs and replacement of the Crawford

Street storm sewer.

■A \$76,380 first payment to Hanfland Painting Contractors for painting the water tower near the Simonton Windows factory.

Mayor Craig Smith reviewed a letter the city council, the county board and Horizon Health sent to Pritzker noting Edgar County is already at the stage set for businesses closed by the executive orders to re-open. The letter was mailed May 8 and also sent via email.

"We felt the letter was not in your face," said Smith. "The goal was to get factual information to the governor."

Smith added the president of the Illinois Municipal League also sent a copy of the local letter with his endorsement to the governor's office. Edgar County Board Chairman Jeff Voigt reported

Wednesday, May 13, the director of the Illinois Association of County Boards also endorsed the letter.

Both the municipal league and the county association want the executive branch to revamp Pritzker's decision to organize the state into four zones for recovery activity. The two organizations claim the regions are too big, with too much variety within those regions, for timely reopening in all areas. They advocated dividing the state along the already established 11 emergency medical zones as a more practical approach.

"That would put us in a smaller region," said Smith. "The state is vastly different from place-to-place. The 28-day time to reduce COVID-19 cases is too long. We asked for it to be 14 days."

CLOSURES

FROM PAGE 1A

rules, but only three came in wearing masks," said Stapp. "No one should die over this. No one should die over something that is preventable."

Following the comment period, board chairman Jeff Voigt thanked everyone for participating and reminded all the county board, Paris City Council and Horizon Health had previously sent a

letter to Gov. Pritzker outlining all of the concerns stated at the meeting. The letter also pointed out Edgar County is already at the stage the governor set for starting to reopen and asked to be allowed to do so.

"The governor has a timeline that keeps moving, and this is a problem," said Voigt.

He also clarified that if anyone came assuming the county board would pass a resolution declaring the county open, that was not

going to happen.

"We are not giving it, because it is not our position to give you permission to open," said Voigt. "We will endeavor to take steps to help overcome the problem. We need a plan for both the short-and long-term future."

Voigt cautioned any business owners that decide to reopen to first confer with their insurance providers regarding liability issues.

"You don't need any bigger problems," Voigt said.

Paris 95 continues student meal program

BY NANCY ZEMAN

nzeman@prairiepress.net

Students attending Paris Union School District 95 schools in the 2020-2021 school year will once again have access to free breakfasts and lunches, thanks to action by the Paris 95 school board during its May meeting Monday, May 11.

The board unanimously approved a recommendation from Paris 95 Superintendent of Schools Jeremy Larson to continue the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program for the 2020-2021 school year. The school board voted to offer the program for the 2019-2020 school year as a pilot program.

CEP is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications.

Larson reported the school lunch program is currently running a deficit of \$46,125.90

but emphasized not all the revenue for the program has been collected. When schools were ordered to move to e-learning on March 17, the USDA switched districts participating in the CEP to the summer lunch program.

"This was a very popular program for our district families," Larson said. Although the district's lunch program prior to joining the USDA's CEP program usually was close to breaking even, the superintendent noted, "We are feeding a whole lot more people than just our students."

The Paris 95 district not only provided breakfasts and lunches, they delivered to families in both Paris 95 and Crestwood districts as well as PHS students. "We didn't turn anyone away," Larson said, including food insecure adults and senior citizens who were hesitant to leave their homes to shop due to the COVID-19 virus.

Larson, who has always described himself as a fiscal conservative, said he is personally fiscally comfortable with continuing the program.

CEP simplifies the process by which students — in this case preschool through eighth grade — access healthy school meals. In addition, there is no stigma attached to receiving a free meal as all students are eligible. To be eligible, a school district must have a percentage of at least 40% eligible for free or reduced.

In other business, the board:

■Accepted the IESA's new rule that a coach who is ejected from a game for a second time must pay a fine of \$250. A student ejected for a second time must pay \$100 to return. The IESA makes the school district pay the fine but Paris 95 is now requiring the guilty parties to reimburse the district before returning to participate.

■Heard several letters and notes from local families and individuals praising the food program for students and families since school was closed on March 17.

holding Zoom meetings with students and the school's coaches, "are coming up with new ways to keep their athletes training, including doing Zoom workouts."

"It's neat to see them overcome a situation," Cox said.

All school lockers have been emptied and the contents bagged up and labeled so students can come to PHS and pick up their personal items. Coaches have collected all sports uniforms, Cox reported.

In other business, the board:

■Approved on the second reading updated policies from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

■Approved a dual credit

agreement with Lake Land College allowing PHS students to enroll in dual credit courses for the 2020-2021 school year.

■Accepted a \$1,500 donation from 2001 PHS graduate Kristin Dilts Gray, which is matched by her employer Google.

■Approved Mike Curl and Jordan Keys as volunteer assistant football coaches.

■Hired Sophia Turner as assistant volleyball coach.

■Employed Anna Shupe as PHS ag teacher and FFA sponsor.

■Employed Renae Powers for summer school.

THE FIZZ

FROM PAGE 1A

"My dining room has been a laboratory for the last year," she said, adding personnel from her flavored syrup vendor, Torani, were helpful in guiding her through the process of creating what she called crazy drinks.

The Fizz is also equipped with a commercial kitchen of stove, grill and deep fryers and Vitale is waiting for a couple of more pieces of equipment to arrive. Drinks are the only offering at this time and food options will be added gradually as each change smooths out.

Vitale is also taking the lead in designing the food, just as she did the drinks. She said the cuisine is food truck inspired, and she anticipates offering breakfast bowls, sandwiches and easy-to-go things like walking tacos and walking nachos. Snacks will likely be the first addition to the menu with more substantial options coming later.

What Vitale wants to do is continue innovating with flavors and food options.

"I don't want our menu to become stagnant," she said.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

It may not be readily visible under the mask, but a hallmark at the Fizz is service with a smile and fun. Employee Josalyn Ramsey passes an order through the window to a drive-up customer.

"We all want something new to try."

Vitale noted there are many positive things associated with The Fizz the public does not see. For example, the city helped through TIFF and the Enterprise Zone, which she referred to as terrific tools. Numerous local contractors were flexible about getting their tasks done in way that kept the project moving.

"COVID slowed us down some," said Vitale. "We let only one contractor be here

at a time. We didn't want to be responsible for making anybody sick."

She is also sourcing supplies through as many Illinois businesses as possible, including a Chicago coffee roaster. "It's been nice to assist other Illinois businesses in this terrible time," said Vitale. "What is good for one is good for all."

Employee Georgina Means said the business is selling lots of smoothies, energy drinks, slushies, frappes and signature beverages topped with whipped cream made every day on the premises.

The creative drinks on the menu are only the starting point since there are multiple syrups, sauces, fruits, purees and candies customers can add. Vitale likes it when customers take one of her creations and personalize it.

"It's fun to watch what people create," she said. "Customization is so much fun."

With so many options, Vitale had to think before naming her favorite — a nitro cold brew with sweet cream.

"That's probably my favorite drink," said Vitale. "I'm a pretty simple girl."

OBITUARIES

SPENCER SMITH

Spencer Martin Smith, 51, of Danville, and formerly of Paris, passed away May 10, 2020, at United Samaritan Hospital, Danville.



SMITH

A memorial service will be held at a later date in Paris.

Mr. Smith was born Jan. 15, 1969, the son of Clyde Elmer Smith and Judy Ann Smith.

He married Heidi Jo Smith, and she survives.

He is also survived by his father, Elmer Smith of Paris; one daughter, Brianna Powell of Danville; two stepdaughters, Julia Smith and Karlie Parsons, both of Danville; three brothers, Lewis Smith, Vincent Travis Smith and Clyde Smith, all of Paris; six sisters, Donna Jones of Nashville, Tenn., Cynthia Diane Christopher of Paris, Julie Angel Mattingly of Paris, Amanda Jane Smith of Paris, Rho-

da Ann Smith of Nashville, Tenn., and Jodie Lynn Smith of Nashville, Tenn.; three grandchildren; favorite nephew and niece, Kayden and Kaydee Smith of Paris; and his stepfather, Joseph Wesley Christopher of Danville.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

Mr. Smith was a graduate of Westville High School. He enjoyed hunting ginseng in the woods. His other passion was music and playing his guitar.

More OBITUARIES, Page 5A

JAMES GRIFFIN
James H. Griffin, 91, of Paris, passed away Saturday, May 9, 2020, at Sugar Creek Alzheimer's Special Care Center, Normal. He was retired from the Secretary of State's office.

In keeping with federal mandates, the service is limited to immediate family only. A private graveside service was May 14 in Edgar Cemetery, with Kurt Speece officiating and military honors conducted by American Legion Post 211. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home assisted the family with the arrangements.

Mr. Griffin was born May 9, 1929, on Jefferson Street in Paris, the son of the late Howard

and Lillie Parsley Griffin. He married Betty J. Drake June 30, 1950, and she preceded him in death after 69 years of marriage. He is survived by his children, Virginia "Ginny" (Jerome) Stoeber of Bloomington and Wayne H. Griffin of Paris; his brother, Ralph (Betty Jo) Griffin and a sister Phyllis (Russell) Brooks, all of Paris; his sisters-in-law, Norma Griffin of Paris and Betty Griffin of Casey; his grandchildren, Katie (Greg) Keller of Paris, Jennifer Stoeber of Normal, Andrew Stoeber of Normal and Alycia (Chris) Elliott of Danville, Ind.; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by two brothers, John Russell Griffin and Phyllip Griffin; his sister, Alice Marietta; and a daughter-in-law, Vickie Griffin. Mr. Griffin served in the U.S. Army from January 1952 until

January 1954 and achieved the rank of corporal. He worked at the Blue Link Grocery when he was in high school. Then he worked for the U.O. Colson Company and Horace Link Furniture Store before starting his employment with the Secretary of State.

He was a member of the Bell Ridge Christian Church, where he taught Sunday School, was a deacon, elder and chairman of the board. He was on the Clark-Edgar water board from its inception until June 2018. He was a member of the Asher Community Club.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Asher Community Club or Bell Ridge Christian Church.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

For more information and online condolences please go to www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com

LARRY PETERS
Larry Carl Peters, 78, of Paris, and formerly of Vermilion, passed away at 8:25 p.m. Wednesday, May 13, 2020, at Twin Lakes Rehab and Health Care. He was retired after 44 years as a butcher with Edgar County Locker and also worked part-time for Woodard Signs.

Private burial is in Vermilion Cemetery. A public memorial service will be announced at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Peters was born April

26, 1942, at Paris, the son of the late Carl and Marguerite VanDeventer Peters. He married Jayne Griffith July 23, 1971, and she survives.

Other survivors include three children, Larry (Amanda) Peters II of Brocton, Annie (David) Winans of Indianapolis and Rachel Breneman (Ron Brown) of Paris; three brothers, Don Peters of Amana, Iowa, and Ray and Wayne Peters, both of Paris; four sisters, Norma Simpson of Terre Haute, Ind., Martha Perry of Paris, Sharon Perry of Simsboro, La., and Janet Apple of Charleston; eight grandchildren, Brooklynn and Briar Peters, Wesley (Halle) Winans, Katie Winans and Madison, Ella, Joe and Adaline Brene-

man; four great-grandchildren, Johnny and Mikey Bailey, Colt Winans and Xander Breneman; and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Kenny Peters; and a granddaughter, Kristen Winans.

Mr. Peters enjoyed camping, caving, road trips and watching wrestling on television. Above all else, he loved spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Autism Society of America or to the Myocarditis Foundation.

Online condolences at www.templetonfuneralhome.com.

TOMMY WILLIAMS
Thomas Allen "Tommy" Williams, 24, of Paris, passed away at 8:41 a.m. Monday, May 11, 2020, in the emergency room of Horizon Health Paris Community Hospital.

At his request, interment is private at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Mr. Williams was born Sept. 19, 1995, in Danville, the son

of Allen G. Williams Jr. and Nicole L. Hamilton Williams.

Survivors include his parents, Allen G. Williams Jr. of Paris and Nicole (Kent) Sherman of Metcalf; his grandparents, Allen G. (Cindy) Williams and Brenda (Richard) Bright, all of Paris, and Thomas Hamilton and Loretta Hamilton, both of Chrisman; two brothers, Austin Williams of Metcalf and Ashton Williams of Paris; a sister, Kaitlyn Williams of Metcalf; a stepsister, Kristi (Mark) Wallman and family of Nicollet, Minn.; his adopted grandparents, Elbert

and Kay Hall of Paris; several aunts and uncles; and his beloved dog, Cleo.

He was preceded in death by a grandmother, Kathy Williams.

Mr. Williams loved the outdoors, especially kayaking, hunting and jet skiing. He also enjoyed spending time with his friends and working on his house.

Memorial donations may be made to the Edgar County Animal Shelter.

Online condolences at www.templetonfuneralhome.com.

DALE THRONEBURG SR.
Dale Eugene Throneburg Sr., 70, of Paris, passed away Friday, May 8, 2020, at his residence. He worked in auto glass and Simonton Windows.

In keeping with federal mandates, a celebration of life will be held at a later date, after COVID-19. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Mr. Throneburg was born Oct. 20, 1949, at Paris, the son of the late Norman Dale and Virginia Mae Arrasmith Throneburg. He married Barbara "Bobbie" J. Rigdon Sept. 1, 1968, at Paris, and she survives.

He is also survived by his children, Dale E. (Tammy) Throneburg Jr. of Paris, Shannon R. (Dennie) English of Metcalf and Brian P. (Bobby)

Throneburg of Paris; his siblings, Norma (Ron) English of Albion and Cheryl (Ron) McCammon of Paris; grandchildren, Brittany (John) Foote, Madison (TJ) Simpson, Wyatt (Katelyn) Throneburg, Renna Throneburg, Holden English, Dalton English, Laci Throneburg and Carson Throneburg; and great-grandchildren, Mackenzie, Landon, Jayse, Skylar, Olivia, Roman, Lucian and Nova.

He was preceded in death by his brothers, Michael Throneburg and Richard Throneburg.

Mr. Throneburg was a 1967 graduate of Paris High School and was a member of the Otterbein Methodist Church in Paris.

Memorials may be made to Edgar County Do-It/The Edgar County Community Foundation.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.

CHARLES CONDON JR.
MARSHALL — Charles William Condon Jr., 80, passed away April 26, 2020.

A full Irish Celebration of Life is postponed until it can be done properly. Pearce Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial donations may be made to the Southern Poverty Law Center or Carle Auxiliary Guest House.

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

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BOYD EDWARDS
Boyd L. Edwards, 79, of Paris, passed away at 12:15 p.m. Friday, May 8, 2020, at his residence. He was a retired automobile and insurance salesman.

Private interment is in Edgar Cemetery. Templeton Funeral Home of Paris is in charge of arrangements.

Mr. Edwards was born Oct. 26, 1940, at Millwood, Ky, the son of the late Bloomell D. and Naomi Lively Edwards. He married Brenda J. Luck Oct. 5, 1959, in Atwood, and she passed away March 4, 2009.

KIMBERLY MATTINGLY
CHRISMAN — Kimberly Ann Marie Mattingly, 29, of Chrisman, passed away Wednesday, April 29, 2020.

The family will hold a private memorial service at a later date. Krabel Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Ms. Mattingly was born Feb. 10, 1991, at Lafayette, Ind., the daughter of Brad and Gena Combs Holbrook.

She is survived by her parents; her three children, Leah Pembor, Holden Mattingly and Weston Mattingly; two sisters, Courtney Heath-Page and Cassandra Heath; a stepsister, Shayla Brady; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Orville and Mary Combs; and great-grandparents, Alvin and Una Bailey.

Ms. Mattingly loved music, and her smile could light up a whole room. She was a loving mother to three beautiful children, and her greatest joy came from spending time with them. She was dearly loved by her friends and family, and she will be deeply missed.

Memorial donations may be made to the family, in care of Gena Holbrook.

Online condolences at www.krabelfuneralhome.com.

Survivors include a daughter, Connie J. (Lee) Ormiston of Paris; two sons, Craig O. Edwards of Mocksville, N.C., and Chris A. (Mary Ellen) Edwards of Cochranville, Pa.; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Sondra French; a brother, Carl Edwards; and an infant grandson, Jesse Luck Ormiston.

Mr. Edwards was a member of Sugar Grove United Methodist Church and was a former member of the Paris Lions Club. He logged more than 1,000 hours as a volunteer for the Paris Community Hospital.

Memorial donations may be made to Grace Lutheran Child Development Center.

Online condolences at www.templetonfuneralhome.com.



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MEMORIAL FLAG PROGRAM

As Memorial Day approaches, our thoughts turn to those who have given so much to our country by serving in the United States Armed Forces. Memorial Day is a day to give thanks to all veterans, and to remember those veterans who have gone before us. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home initiated the Memorial Flag Program to honor those veterans. We will be giving American flags to veteran's family members to be placed on their loved one's grave.

Please stop by Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home May 18th through May 22nd between the hours of 8 am and 4 pm to receive your flag.

Memorial Flags are for families of all U.S. Veterans.
Limit one flag per veteran.



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A time to reset our broken politics

In a recent wide-ranging column, I had only space enough to touch on my thought that we need a reset of American politics. One reader asked that I drill down on the topic. Here goes.

Politics is not bad. The FDR speechwriter turned conservative columnist Raymond Moley observed: "Politics is not something to avoid, abolish or destroy. It is a condition of life, like the air we breathe. It is ours to live with, as we must, to control if we can. Either we must master its ways, or most surely we will be mastered by those who do." I used to recite that as part of my political speeches, when I was on that circuit.

I know that sounds high-minded, and our Founders were certainly not without their personal ambitions. Yet, their overriding concerns were to establish order, harmony and prosperity in our new nation. These three objectives are still paramount, with conservatives tending to put more emphasis on order, liberals more to harmony.

The question is how we play the game. I worry that over the course of our 200-plus years as a nation, we have seen, slowly, the pursuit of public life shift perceptibly from virtue toward ambition, from public service to self.

We have transformed our politics from that of "standing for office" ("Here I stand, take me and my thinking, or vote for the other fellow.") to campaigns that are often painfully negative and often only for the uber-wealthy.

Candidates at the local level, for school board and city council, for example, often still do stand for office. When I was running for the Legislature more than half a century ago, my opponents and I never said a bad word about one another. To do so was bad form. As a young candidate for the Legislature, I raised enough money at beer-and-skittles, \$5-a-pop fundraisers to run a campaign and pay for some ads and billboards.

Today, I fear, running for office, to win at all costs, has become more important than serving in office.

However, after largely ignoring the worldwide spread of the coronavirus for some time, Congress and the president did prove that, in the face of crisis, they could put polarization aside, come together and act boldly to address the problem.

Which takes me to the past. Pietas was one of the hallowed virtues of the Roman Republic. If I have it right, it meant something like, "Rome before self. Unselfishness in public life." The virtues appear to have been honored most by Roman leaders from about 500 to 150 B.C. For example, the general Cincinnatus was called twice from his farm, during existential crises in the mid-400s B.C., to lead the Romans in repelling and smiting down enemies. Each time, the job done, the general quietly returned to the farm, giving up his dictatorial powers as granted by the Senate.

By the 140s B.C., however, the historian Polybius recounts that self-serving ambition and greed had corrupted the virtues within Rome's leading families. The siren calls of power — and grasping the money necessary to buy votes to achieve that power — had corrupted the Republic, which collapsed into an empire of ruling Caesars.

I worry that we might be on such a slippery path today, toward rule by billionaires, the rest of us but puppets in their game. In our past, political party organizations gave opportunities to little guys like Harry Truman and Richard J. Daley. But, alas, parties have withered; and now it seems only those with big bucks need apply to play in our important political game.

So, what to do? First, the effective use of low-cost digital communication may provide access to the voters for non-billionaires.

Second, robust use of public financing of campaigns, as in 13 states, could maybe keep the little guy in the game. Wealthy candidates who eschewed the limits of public finance would bear the onus of having dissed the rules that others accepted, which might help the less well-funded candidates a bit.

Third, maybe more civic-minded types will say, enough, and stand for office. They would most likely fall on their swords at first, yet maybe could ignite a trend that would start isolating the billionaires. For example, young Marcus Throneburg in my part of central Illinois plans to stand for the state's Senate via the new, national Alliance Party (Google it). A former elected county board member, Marcus is not naïve. He is just grievously offended by our present politics.

I have sophisticated political friends who would, I am sure, tsk-tsk that my musings here are daft. I think instead this a call for a reset of our broken American politics.

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



JIM NOWLAN
ILLINOIS PERSPECTIVE

Can we afford to wait?

Is it safe for businesses to open in Edgar County? Can we afford to wait out COVID-19 given the pressure on our county's small businesses?

Have we reached a peak? Are we in a calm before the storm? Can we safely begin to live our lives in a fashion somewhat closer to what was normal? Can we afford it? Can we afford not to?

All of us sort through these questions and others on a daily basis. Our current issue is because we are making history as we live. There's no one available to give us the answers we crave. And, of course, everyone has an opinion.

Gov. JB Pritzker's plan to open the state according to achieving certain numbers was certainly a step in the right direction. We agree, however, with our Paris City Council, Edgar County Board and Horizon Health that Edgar County — with no positive COVID-19 results — should be allowed to accelerate to a level beyond the rest of the state.

Some of Pritzker's orders continue to be curious to say the least. Pritzker's management was quick to shut down public places. The relative quiet

OUR VIEW

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

outside of Cook County is likely a testament to that strategy. Many of his plans and decisions influenced leadership in other states.

But Pritzker is holding too many keys to the kingdom. Dog stylists being allowed to work while human stylists are not is baffling. Businesses wanting to reopen and are willing to adhere to restrictions imposed by the state are not being provided with options.

Unfortunately, even the top scientists in the world are still trying to unravel an understanding of this virus and how it works. Every decision will have to be made with the awareness that as our knowledge evolves, our reaction has to as well. What's important and relevant today could be outmoded in even a few days as we learn about this invisible and unprecedented foe.

Pritzker must keep an eye on surrounding states. He does no one favors if the stay-at-home order is implemented here but not in surround-

ing states. For Edgar County residents, it's no problem to jump in our cars and head to Indiana for a haircut, get our nails done, tan or have a meal inside a Hoosier restaurant. That means our local businesses — operated by our friends and neighbors — are suffering.

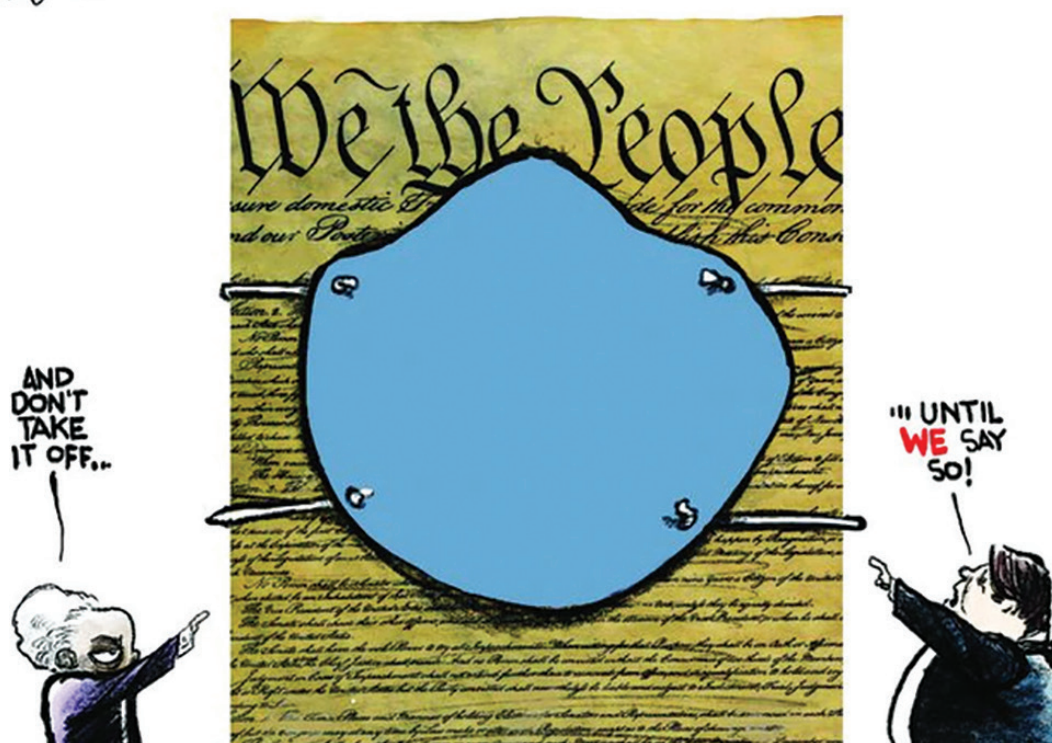
We also have to face reality. Getting through this, as difficult as it is, will pale in the price we have to pay to recover. As debts pile, local governments — perhaps even school districts — will be forced to cut essential services. The economy has to be a consideration in the decisions as we move forward as part of the formula but not the only consideration.

We also have to realize some of us may take a long time to start believing we are safe. That's a tricky tightrope to walk.

Those on the one side of the issue would certainly whoop with delight at a reopened state. Those on the opposite side are likely to continue to live with caution.

We must find some middle ground without politicizing and bullying either side. If we don't, we are slowly destroying our county, its businesses and its people.

JAMES CHICAGO TRIBUNE



Liabilities of reopening

Gov. JB Pritzker has repeatedly said he's delegating enforcement of his stay-at-home order to local governments.

That stance has frustrated some folks who want him to get tougher with violators (although he'd undoubtedly risk making martyrs out of them if he did crack down hard). And the governor's position seems to have emboldened some local officials to defy the governor's order and open up their economies on their own.

But when local governments refuse to enforce his executive order, it appears that trial lawyers may step in and insurance companies might take a walk.

"The risk of opening early outweighs the benefit of limiting liability not only for the municipality but also for any employer who follows the guidelines of the municipality," said Illinois Trial Lawyers Association president Antonio Romanucci via a written statement. "The prudent course would be to stay closed for another 25 days and limit any further potential spread which could lead to litigation."

Kevin Martin, executive director of the Illinois Insurance Association, told me that insurance policies are not going to cover intentional acts. In other words, if a business intentionally reopens in violation of the EO and somebody injures themselves at the establishment or contracts the virus, insurance coverage isn't a given.

If you don't fear the virus, then you might want to start to fear being wiped out by lawsuits that aren't covered by insurance.

(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 capitol-fax@gmail.com.)

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Making memories beyond confinement

One can safely say the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated coronavirus confinement

have created a wealth of stories for billions of individuals around the world. Some will choose to remember these times while others will choose to forget.

My family is no different. In fact, the confinement comes as my wife and I stand at the threshold of our 46th wedding anniversary. Lots of memories — good and bad, happy and sad — create an amazing mosaic that chronicles our lives so far.

Confinement arrived after our older daughter and her family moved in with us as they waited to move into their new house. Two weeks later, our jobs required us to work from home. Literally overnight, we found ourselves facing challenges we never anticipated, including what to do with two elementary school kids with no school to attend.

Kids and confinement present unexpected opportunities to create great memories for grandparents and grandchildren. I never met my maternal grandmother who died many years before my birth. She was Chinese, adopted by missionaries from Michigan. She met my grandfather, an illegal Chinese immigrant, had my mother, then divorced. I have only a few

memories of him, of Fred. Mostly pictures with him in his apartment in Chicago, or with him outside the restaurant he owned. But I remember the smell of the stairway leading up to his apartment, and the aroma of ginger and garlic in his kitchen. He died when I was five.

I have a few more memories of my paternal grandmother, but not necessarily warm and fuzzy ones. I have no recollection of her touch, her hug, none of the fond and happy memories one would expect from a grandparent who died after I was married. She did not even come to the wedding, although she lived about an hour away. This lack of attention, I believe, was not for lack of affection, but because it just was not in her nature. At least not for my younger brother and me.

We are determined, my wife and I, to create as many good memories as possible for the two grandkids confined with us, the toddler who visits on video calls from Louisiana, and the one on the way. The summer road trips to the Alamo and Arkansas caves with the older ones will have to wait until next year, but until then, we'll make do with all that confinement will allow. And, I try not to think about the fact that another anniversary means one less year to provide special memories of their Papa, to give them what I did not have.

The kids like musicals and the boy likes mysteries, particularly film noir movies with gritty narration from hard-boiled detectives. We introduced them to "Singing in the

Rain," where they learned "Good morning, good morning, to you" was a wake-up tradition passed on from us to their mother and then to them. They learned to play dominoes and Blackjack, donning masks as they lost their vacation money to each other. Everyone, including them, nixed my attempt to teach them how to smoke cigars and drink bourbon while we played.

This week we learned to make tamales, then declared they were the best tamales we ever ate. Well, at least the best homemade tamales we ate this week. But who's counting, right?

When I think of the movies, the stories, the games, the clutter of Legos and artwork and school papers, I find myself pondering the inevitable. I see a scene where our grandchildren are watching their grandchildren play. And that is when I imagine one of our grandchildren telling his or her sibling or cousin, "I can't remember how Papa smelled. Can you?"

So now I am committed to creating memories, special moments that will outlive me in their hearts, recollections of their Papa they can pull up and share with each other and with their children and their grandchildren, especially on that day when they realize they have lost the last tangible essence of my existence. I hope that is the moment when they will stop and laugh and share their own special memories.

(John David Powell is a Paris native lives in Texas. His email address is johndavidpowell@yahoo.com.)

HAVE YOUR SAY

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

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Crestwood approves final calendar for school year

BY NANCY ZEMAN
nzeman@prairiepress.net

The Crestwood Unit 4 school board elected a new member to the Paris Cooperative High School Board of Directors, approved a final calendar for the year and hired personnel during its Monday meeting Wednesday, May 13, at the school.

Crestwood's intergovernmental agreement about the high school requires the board president to serve as well as two other members, elected for staggered two year terms.

Crestwood is currently represented by board president Jim Blue, Mary Liz Wright and Keith Trogon, who serves as president of the high school board.

Wright's seat was up for election. The longtime PHS member and board secretary said she was ready to move aside for another Crestwood member to serve.

Jarrold Dyer agreed to serve, and he was elected to the high

school board, beginning with the June meeting.

Crestwood Superintendent of Schools Danette Young presented a financial update for the board, noting the district was right on target on the budget until the pandemic forced the closure of the school — along with all state schools.

Young said the good news is the district had received \$57,326 from the state for categoricals and one other categorical payment has been vouchered.

The district will also receive \$69,000 from the CARES Act for improving e-learning for the school. That money is expected by the end of June, she said.

The bad news, she warned, is the state is warning due to the COVID-19 crisis, school districts should expect a significant reduction in state funding.

Young said the corporate personal property taxes will also likely be reduced.

Young emphasized there

is so much unknown about state funding right now all the district can do is continue to watch its finances.

In other business, the board:

■ Approved a bid from Cottle Flooring of \$51,490.57 to replace the flooring in the second floor hallways, classrooms and stairs with vinyl flooring.

■ Approved membership in the IESA for the 2020-2021 school year, including paying fees for all sports and activities for the school. Young, who serves on the IESA board of directors, said if sports are unable to be held the IESA will either refund the money to the district or credit them.

■ Re-elected board member Mike Reed as district treasurer.

■ Set the fees and lunch prices for the 2020-2021 school year. Registration will be \$65 while lunch will be \$2.95, a 10 cent increase. Breakfast will be \$1.50, also a

10 cent increase, Young said. There will again be no sports fee.

■ Approved a motion to amend the district's budget. Young said there were some changes that need to be made, including \$2,000 in laptop purchases to aid Crestwood students with e-learning. The revenue from interest also needs updated, she said.

■ Set the budget hearing date for the amended budget for 5:15 p.m. June 10 prior to the June board meeting.

■ Approved the final calendar for the 2019-2020 school year, which must be sent to the Regional Office of Education, which in turn sends it to the Illinois State Board of Education.

■ Young said the actual calendar included three emergency days, 10 act of God days and e-learning days from March 31 to May 18.

■ Heard the Crestwood eighth grade virtual graduation is scheduled at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 20.

■ Heard students will pick up the contents of their lockers on Monday and Tuesday, May 18-19. Remote learning planning days for the staff will be May 19-27, and the final day for teachers is May 28. Report cards will be mailed, Young said.

■ Approved a contract to Paris 95 for three days of speech services for the 2020-2021 school year.

■ Accepted the resignation of Mary St. Clair as yearbook sponsor effective at the end of the current school year.

■ Employed Amy McClain as yearbook sponsor for the 2020-2021 school year.

■ Hired Shawna Heath

and Susan Barnes as student council co-sponsors for the 2020-2021 school year.

■ Approved a new three-year contract for Young with a 3.5% pay increase.

■ Hired Cathy Slaven as an elementary teacher for the 2020-2021 school year.

■ Approved Meghan Damler as a fulltime dean of students for the 2020-2021 school year at a salary of \$62,500.

■ Adopted revised board policies as recommended by the Illinois Association of School Boards.

■ Authorized the release of bids for milk and bread for the 2020-2021 school year.



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TAXES

FROM PAGE 1A

and he anticipates borrowing more at the end of the month.

"I will be drawing on it again," said Wiseman.

He suggested on option is to delay when penalties and interest start on a late payment. Legally, those extra

charges start accruing the day after the first payment is due.

He suggested waiving the interest and fees on a missed first payment up to the time

the second installment is due. If the first payment isn't made

by the second installment then the costs apply retroactive to the date of the first pay-

ment.

"There will be some hard interest hit on the day after the second installment," Wiseman said.

By law, the interest charged on a missed tax bill is 1.5 percent for the first 30 days, jumps to 3 percent for the second 60 days and so on until the bill is paid.

"It is the same at 18 percent annually," said Wiseman. "That's what a lot of people don't understand. It really is credit card-level interest."

Another option is to delay sending the bills so both the first and second installment are due later in the year. Wiseman said his office can work

with taking second installment payment sometime in October, if necessary, but he prefers not to go into November since the county's fiscal year ends Nov. 30.

Wiseman suggested mailing the tax bills by June 30 with a first installment date of Aug. 15 and the second payment due in mid-October. No decisions are made during study sessions, and the board will take the topic up again at another time.

Board member Karl Farnham Jr. advocated some action to help property owners with their taxes.

"I've talked with business owners and people who are

laid off," said Farnham. "They are having problems paying their mortgages and other bills. It's not their fault."

Board chairman Jeff Voigt said any action must be simple so it is clear to all what is expected.

Board member Derrick Lorenzen liked simple while also advocating for what he described as a nimble approach.

"We have to plan for the worst possible scenario," said Lorenzen. "We don't know what this (the COVID-19 pandemic) is going to look like in October. The local situation could be worse with people sick and more businesses closed."

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Throwaway flowers

Morecraft Mum Gardens at Vance and Kimble was noted among flower lovers



ALLEN ENGLEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

for beautiful mums. If there's one thing besides chocolate that set women abuzz, it's colorful flowers. Helena, a sil-

ver-haired grandmother, stopped by the attractive place one day, dead set on purchasing some mums that caught her eye.

"Well, Helena," said Mr. Morecraft in a soft tone, "These are old mums. I can't guarantee they'll hold their color next year. For that reason, I don't want to sell them."

Mr. Morecraft immediately sensed he'd broken a nice customer's heart. She looked so sad.

"Fact is, Helena, I'm going to dig them up this afternoon and pile them up for the trash man when he comes early tomorrow morning. But I'll tell you what. You can drop by this evening and help yourself if you'd like. I won't charge any fee."

Helena appreciated the kind offer, but being a sweet, little, church-going lady, she just couldn't do it. It would be like stealing. It would bother her conscience. Helena shared her feelings that night with Dawn, her daughter.

Dawn's eyes lit up like jewels. No one ever accused Dawn of being greedy, yet she undeniably had a considerably lower conscience level than her mother.

After supper that evening Dawn phoned her friend Nita, suggesting they cruise the city on a nice evening drive. Nita loved such drives and readily agreed. It just so happened their cruise route passed by the Morecraft Mum Gardens.

Nita noticed the pile of throwaway mums laying

See **CODGER**, Page **8B**

LETTER LEADS TO CLASSIC MOLASSES COOKIE RECIPE



Special to The Prairie Press

Molasses cookies were Hedwig Irwin's signature creation and are what family members associate with their late grandmother.

Oxtail soup: the rest of the story

Connecting with people during this time of social distancing due to the corona virus pandemic has been a challenge for many. Several are using Face-Time, Zoom and other means to do virtual meetings with friends and family. Many of us are now going to church this way, or to the doctor.

Recently, I read that old-fashioned letter writing has come back, for which I am happy, as nothing is better than re-reading a letter, or note, sent by someone special, in my opinion. I have made some new connections in the past few weeks concerning my oxtail soup story that appeared in the April 4 issue of The Prairie Press. Here is an update with the rest of the story.

I received a very nice note from a former church member who moved to Lawrenceville. She explained how the article brought to mind recollections of eating oxtail vegetable soup with a dear, older friend in the Danville area. She wrote a lovely note, and it was especially nice to hear from her.

I also received a phone call from the Edgar County Locker and had a won-

derful visit with Pat Padgett concerning the article. Though our names sound very similar, this was the first time I ever had the opportunity to speak with Mr. Padgett. We found we had a good deal in common, besides oxtail soup, as he is familiar with the Effingham area where I was raised. We talked about meat and cooking, and he said to stop in as he had more to share with me. I hope to do that and maybe pick up something for grilling. We may have to wait to get the whole picture because of wearing our masks.

Now it's time for the rest of the story. A few days ago, I was thrilled to receive a call from Jim Irwin, of Michigan, concerning my article on oxtail soup. He said it was such a joy to receive the letter and article I sent to him. It was his grandmother Mrs. Donald Irwin of Grass Lake, Michigan, who truly inspired the article.

She was the lady who took the time in 1964 to write to June Patchett, my mother-in-law, thanking her for the recipe of oxtail soup, which June submitted to a Home Economics Teachers Cookbook. Apparently, Mrs. Irwin made the soup and loved it. A couple of friends encouraged me, as well as Gary Henry of The Prairie Press, to try to connect with this family, and I wrote a letter hoping I would get a reply.



RUTH PATCHETT
COOKING IN EDGAR COUNTY



Special to The Prairie Press

A 1964 letter by the late Hedwig Irwin sent Prairie Press columnist Ruth Patchett on a detective hunt for an oxtail soup recipe that opened connections to Irwin's descendants and a family-favorite molasses cookie recipe.

Fifty-six years is a long time, and I was not sure if anyone of the family still lived in the area. We all know how many family farms have disappeared over the years and luckily this was a sixth-generation farm family that is still there. Jim Irwin said he was amazed at the

See **PATCHETT**, Page **2B**

Put what is available to good use

Any time we have a changed circumstance that we did not choose, and sometimes when we did choose them, it is easier to notice the negative effects than positives.



JOHN YOUNGBLOOD
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

Most of us are more apt to complain about the negatives than to express gratitude for the positive. Certainly, there are plenty of negatives to notice in our current situation: Disrupted schedules and routines, educational processes hindered, social interactions curtailed, income lost for many and family relationships disrupted for some. All that without even mentioning those who have lost their lives, or the lives of loved ones, and the non-fatal, but often debilitating effects on health of the virus itself.

Indeed, are there any positives at all in this situation? As a believer in the God who is there (as opposed to one who is merely the product of someone's imagination or desire), I believe there are always positives going on, though we may not always be able to see them. In the current situation, there may not be many pluses, but I can think of one that is true for many people, though by no means all. It has to do with time.

Certain professions, medical people, first responders, some factory employees in critical fields are working extra shifts, or long shifts, but a great many people are laid off or on reduced hours. That in itself is sad and for some a very difficult situation, certainly not a positive. For those people however, as well as for many working regular

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Coronavirus question: what is the economic value of a human life?

As the coronavirus is surging in New York, Gov. Andrew Cuomo implemented a statewide lockdown.

"I want to be able to say to the people of New York, 'I did everything we could do, and if everything we do saves just one life, I'll be happy,'" said Cuomo.

Cuomo's statement and an opposing statement by Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick that sustaining the economy is more important than lives raise the question of what is the value of a single life?

It is often said human life is priceless. This is the romantic version, but not the reality. All lives are precious, but they are not priceless. They get priced all the time with cold, harsh, statistical science.

A life's value is a risk/reward benefit analysis done by medical and social scientists, along with insurance actuaries. They make the decisions which direct politicians' policy or executive orders, which usually go unnoticed until an economic catastrophe unmasks their work. There has always been a limit to how

much we are willing to spend to protect life and health.

President Jimmy Carter said, "Society's resources are vast, but they are not infinite,"

In chemistry class, we commonly quote the value of a human as the market value of the chemicals found in a person's body. The mix of elements to make a 175-pound person could be purchased for \$576 in pure form. The spark of life obviously makes a human worth more than the sum of one's chemical makeup. It is not a simple question, but it is important for decision making.

Depending on the society, the value placed on a life varies wildly. The value used by the United States for policy decisions is \$10 million.

It is important to have some understanding where this number comes from because over the next few weeks, there is going to be a lot of discussion concerning when it is worth risking people's lives and reopening the economy. To make informed decisions, we need to understand these life value decisions. The math

dates back only a few decades, but basically policy is rejected when the cost exceeds the value.

The government uses a method called the value of a statistical life to create a dollar figure. It is an estimate of the amount of money the public is

willing to spend to reduce the risk to save one life. There was an attempt to assign different values to different groups, but the political outcry led to every life being assigned the same statistical value for evaluation.

It started after the first Earth Day when safety regulations by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were being written. Safety was important, but there were limits on what society could afford to pay.

An early example was an

effort to require the trucking industry to install a bar on the back to prevent cars from sliding underneath trailers or a box van. In 1972, Nixon's task force put a life's worth at the equivalent of \$885,000 in 2020 dollars. The Department of Transportation rejected the regulation as not cost effective. In 1998, when the Department of Transportation's value of a life reached \$2.5 million, bars were mandated.

The value is assigned by a cold, pragmatic approach.

Price tags on human lives are all around. Civil courts, for-profit companies and regulatory agencies use the values of life as part of normal decision making. The World Health Organization (WHO) has a formula for governments that starts by dividing the annual Gross Domestic Production (GDP) of a nation per person. The WHO recommends paying for treatments that cost less than three times this figure for each year of good health. Above that level the treatment is not advised.

The U.S. per capita GDP is \$65,000, so a treatment

that costs less than \$195,000 for one year of good health is considered cost effective. This is for a year, but what about a lifetime? For a full life, there is a formula to calculate the Value of a Statistical Life (VSL).

To find that value, one approach is asking a sample of 100,000 people what they would pay to reduce the risk of dying by 1 in 100,000 over the next year, but no one is prepared to give a valid statistical number. The process actually used to determine VSL is less direct, because individuals are hard pressed to give a number, but they do vote with life choices.

Back in 1982, OSHA proposed labeling hazardous chemicals. The regulation was estimated to save 4,750 lives, which were then valued at \$300,000 for earning potential. To save 4,750 lives, all that was needed was adding warning labels. The math was 4,750 times 300,000 would save the economy \$1.4 billion, but printing and adding the labels with all expenses came up to \$2.6 billion.

OSHA questioned how can

labels not be worth it? They were still relying on life earning potential and there needed to be some number included for living a life. Vice President George H.W. Bush brought in new experts to assign a value to risk. A construction worker is paid more than a concession worker partly because of the extra risk.

They reviewed salaries for construction workers, nurses, coal miners, store stockers and others looking at the likelihood they might die on the job. In 1982, companies were paying an extra \$300 to \$400 a year for risk. Using 300 times 10,000 people gave a value of \$3 million. Today the calculation equates to \$10 million, but it is hard to remove emotion. Putting backup cameras in SUVs is not cost effective, but what is the math when one's own child is saved?

In 1918, America lost 700,000 lives to pandemic influenza. This time, by social distancing, President Trump said a million lives could be saved. Some say 2 million. Using 1 million lives valued at

See **SULLIVAN**, Page **2B**

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High CMS rating for Marshall nursing home

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

MARSHALL — Marshall Rehabilitation & Nursing was recently recognized as a Five-Star Overall Rated facility by the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS).

According to CMS, a rating of five stars means that quality is much above average. The rating is based on health in-

spections, staff and quality measures.

Amanda Yoder, administrator at Marshall Rehabilitation & Nursing, said the achievement is the result of teamwork and commitment to care by all of the facilities' employees.

"This was a team effort we can all be proud of," said Yoder.

PANDEMIC LIFE AT SEA



Special to The Prairie Press

Culinary Specialist Seaman Jordan Russell, from Kansas, Illinois, seasons chicken in the galley of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman in the Atlantic Ocean May 9. The Harry S. Truman Carrier Strike Group remains at sea in the Atlantic as a certified carrier strike group force ready for tasking in order to protect the crew from the risks posed by COVID-19, following their successful deployment to the U.S. 5th and 6th Fleet areas of operation. Keeping at sea allows the ship to maintain a high level of readiness during the global COVID-19 pandemic. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist

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PASTOR

FROM PAGE 1B

hours but with fewer options during off hours, there is a plus attached: Time not claimed by others.

Being creatures of habit, it is easy to obsess over loss of time one could be earning money. That is, in fact, a genuine problem, but one which is not solved by worry.

It is easy to complain about boredom because so many things are closed. A better approach is to use the time for positive things for which time was previously unavailable. Take care of some projects around the home if one can still afford the required materials.

For people of biblical faith, scripture encourages us to, "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

(2 Timothy 2:15 ESV)

Engage in a Bible study, or just read widely in scripture. Most people read a few verses at time as part of a devotional time. It is amazing the insights gained from reading whole chapters or even some of the New Testament books at one sitting. For those not drawn to books of faith, reading in general is positive, especially some of the generally acknowledged great books of our language and culture.

We have lost much in these recent days, let's not waste the time that some of us have gained.

(John Youngblood is pastor of New Beginnings Church at Paris. Email him at ybloodjohn@gmail.com or leave a message at (217) 463-3964. Pastor's Perspective is provided weekly by members of the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

PATCHETT

FROM PAGE 1B

similarities in our stories. His grandmother, Hedwig Maria Schmid, was born April 1, 1911, to German-speaking parents in the Jackson, Michigan, area. My mother-in-law June is also the child of German-speaking parents.

Hedwig became a teacher after attending Ypsilanti Normal (now Eastern Michigan University) and taught in several one-room schoolhouses and public schools. He said she became a pioneer in a special education program

in southeast Michigan. June Patchett was also an educator teaching for 38 years and while never in a one-room schoolhouse, she was certainly familiar with a small school setting.

His email mentioned the family farm was established in 1836, a year before Michigan achieved statehood. His grandparents, Hedwig and Donald, met at a country dance near the farm and were married in 1937 living on the then already 100-year-old farm and raising four children. He sent a picture of the farm taken when The American Pickers television show visited there for a 2018 episode. His grandparents were married for 62 years with Hedwig passing in January 2004.

He went on to say she was a wonderful Christian lady, hosting weekly Bible studies in her home. He said she loved gardening and bird watching, which were two other similarities June Patchett shared. Her grandson could not praise her highly enough and ended by saying she was held in very high esteem in everyone's memories.

His email and phone call were a thrill to me as much as it seemed to be for him and his family. It was so great to connect to someone I had only recently heard about, and it was evident by his profuse praise that Hedwig must have been an astounding person. She certainly made a lasting

GRANDMA HEDWIG IRWIN'S MOLASSES COOKIES

- Ingredients
- 1 cup brown sugar
 - 1 egg
 - ¼ cup molasses
 - ¾ cup shortening
 - 2 ¼ cups flour
 - 2 teaspoons baking soda
 - ¼ teaspoon of salt
 - ½ teaspoon of cloves
 - 1 teaspoon of ginger
 - 1 teaspoon of cinnamon

Mix together shortening, sugar, egg and molasses thor-

oughly. Blend together spices and flour, stir in and chill. Heat oven to 375. Roll dough into walnut size pieces and dip tops in sugar. Place balls on a greased cookie sheet and bake 10-12 minutes. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.



impression on her grandson and during these times of stress and strife to receive such a warm reminiscence of her really suggested to me what a fine person she was.

Of course, I could not end the story here. I asked him if there was a favorite recipe everyone in the family thought of when thinking about Grandma Hedwig. He said it had to be molasses cookies.

According to Jim Irwin, they were her signature cookie, and she stored them in a jar with a glass lid. He recalled the lid broke on the brown ceramic jar, probably because of overuse, and his grandfather made a wooden lid to replace it. He also recalled the story of Hedwig's oldest granddaughter Sharon, who when then very young, calling them glasses cookies.

These cookies are very tasty

when critiqued by the famous cookie connoisseur, Tom Patchett. Usually my husband, Tom, only wants me to make chocolate chip cookies but he said these molasses cookies were really good.

I used parchment paper instead of greasing the cookie sheet, and test baked one cookie first, as they will burn easily if the oven is not exactly correct. I needed to adjust my oven to 365 and make sure to only dip the top of the cookie in the sugar, or they will burn on the bottom.

Do stay tied to one another, even if not in person. We need to be open for new opportunities to perhaps collect a good recipe or make a new friend. Showing my age, just remember the line from the old Hill Street Blues television show, "Let's be careful out there."

SULLIVAN

FROM PAGE 1B

\$10 million equals \$10 trillion, which is half the U.S. GDP. To justify completely opening business, the economy would have to lose half the GDP by staying closed, and we are not even close.

There are tough decisions ahead like what is our toler-

ance for death? We cannot close the economy forever, but it is going to be hard for the public to deal with the facts of opening back up. We will see deaths from coronavirus.

At some point, reopening will be the right choice. Cuomo succinctly explained the dilemma, "The faster we reopen, the lower the economic cost. But the higher

the human cost ... That, my friends, is the decision we are really making."

(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 sullivan@shiloh1.us)

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How Willie Nelson helped build Farm Aid

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

By the mid-1980s American farmers were facing economic hardships not seen since the Great Depression. Droughts in 1980 and 1983 had wrought devastation in the Corn Belt, Midwest States and Northeast. Land values and farm product prices plummeted as loan interest rates soared, unfair lending practices flourished, and millions of people were forced from their land facing bankruptcy and foreclosure.

According to a study by the National Farm Medicine Center at the time, suicides among male farmers in the Upper Midwest was double the national average.

Willie Nelson, a country artist who grew up in rural Texas during the Great Depression, felt something needed to be done. Building on an idea from fellow music artist, Bob Dylan, Nelson began working on a plan that would feature something he knew better than anything else — music.

It was the 1985 Live Aid benefit that originally sparked the idea to hold the first Farm Aid concert event. Dylan suggested doing something similar to help American farmers while performing at Philadelphia's JFK Stadium during Live Aid. The off-the-cuff remark settled in Nelson's brain and grew into what became Farm Aid.

Unlike the one-shot gathering in response to famine in Africa, the Farm Aid gathering, which aimed to "raise awareness about the loss of family farms and to raise funds to keep families on their land," began what became a yearly occurrence stretching across four decades and raising \$57 million.

Enlisting the help of music artists Neil Young and John Mellencamp, along with Illinois governor Jim Thompson, Nelson set about organizing the first Farm Aid benefit concert Sept. 22, 1985, in Champaign, Ill. Then the largest combined rock and country event in America's history, it drew a crowd of almost 80,000 people and featured performances by Dylan, Young, Mellencamp, Bonnie Raitt, Billy Joel, B.B. King, Waylon Jennings, Loretta Lynn, Merle Haggard, Roy Orbison, Charley Pride, June Carter and Johnny Cash, among others. The first event raised \$7 million.

The plight of American farmers was now center stage, with Young going so far as to place a full-page ad in USA Today Oct. 4 with an open letter to President Ronald Reagan asking, "Will the family farm in America die as a result of your administration?" His aim was to not only raise awareness, but to help solve the problems by advocating change to farming laws coming out of Washington, D.C.

But for Nelson, more action and activism was still desperately needed.

"It didn't stop there," the "Georgia on My Mind"

See **NELSON**, Page 4B

Brilliance on the battlefield

Ulysses S. Grant went from ambivalent soldier to one of America's best military leaders

(Editor's note: "Grant," a three-night miniseries event, premieres Memorial Day at 8 p.m. on the History channel. Check local cable or satellite providers for the channel.)

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

In March 1864, Ulysses S. Grant went to Washington, D.C., to receive his commission from Abraham Lincoln as lieutenant general in command of all the Union armies.

After several years of frustration with a parade of unsuitable commanders, Lincoln had finally found the man to defeat Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia and end the Civil War. The choice was surprising to many who had

known Grant in former days. Ten years before, in April 1854, Captain Grant had submitted his resignation under a cloud.

In one of history's unexpected developments, the military profession Grant had always disliked, in the words of his biographer Bruce Catton, ultimately turned out to be the calling made for him.

How did an ambivalent soldier who was away from the Army for several years — and who had drifted during that interval from one civilian occupation to another in search of elusive success — end up leading a vast force to victory and saving the Union?

Grant's predecessors in command of the Union Army were far more accomplished in

military art and science. Winfield Scott, whose experience dated back to the War of 1812, had led the Army since 1841. George B. McClellan, who replaced the aging Scott early in the Civil War, was an able administrator who organized the Army of the Potomac.

In the 1850s, McClellan studied the Crimean War firsthand as a member of an official delegation of American observers. Henry W. Halleck, the author of "Elements of Military Art & Science," was regarded as a master theoretician.

Yet McClellan and Halleck both proved reluctant to take decisive action in the field. After the Battle of Shiloh, it took the latter almost a month to advance 20 miles south to attack

the vital Confederate railroad junction at Corinth, Miss.

Lincoln grew so frustrated with McClellan's inaction that he responded to the general's October 1862 request for more horses with an exasperated telegram: "I have just read your dispatch about sore tongued and fatigued [sic] horses. Will you pardon me for asking what the horses of your army have done since the battle of Antietam that fatigue anything?"

By contrast, Grant had never been an enthusiastic student of military art and science. Even his fiercely loyal lieutenant William T. Sherman doubted Grant's knowledge of grand strategy, and of books of science and history. He told a friend precisely that in

a March 1864 letter, in which he also concluded that Grant's triumph owed in large measure to his fundamental common-sense and to his chief characteristic, an unshakeable faith in victory. That faith was justified by a serendipitous combination of qualities that enabled Grant to become one of the most extraordinary military leaders in American history.

Grant didn't go in much for doctrine — but he brought a relentlessly aggressive approach to warfare. In his memoirs, he records an incident revealing his philosophy. In 1863, Union General William Rosecrans refused an order to advance to meet an enemy

See **GRANT**, Page 4B

LOVE LETTER DISCOVERED DECADES AFTER WAR



Connie Wieck/The Prairie Press

Connie Wieck of Marshall recently found a collection of family letters from World War II while helping her mother sort through belongings and prepare for a move. The letters were written by Wieck's grandmother Connie Maris to her husband Marvin Maris, an Army chaplain serving in the Pacific Theater.

War letter tells of peace, longing

BY CONNIE WIECK
corneliaw2000@hotmail.com

As my mom and I clear out things for her upcoming house move, I came across a rare find: Hundreds of World War 2 correspondence letters between my grandmother, Connie Maris, and her husband, Army Chaplain Marvin Maris, who was stationed in New Guinea and later the Philippines from 1943-45.

My grandmother spent part of the war years in Holland, Michigan, with her two children, Priscilla (my mother, then age 11) and Rolf (my uncle, age 5). She moved to Michigan from Camp McQuaide, Watsonville, Calif., after her husband was deployed. Officers' families were not allowed to live in military housing units after their service members left, so she was forced to find a new place to wait out the war.

She had several options but finally decided to sell the car, use the money to hop on the train with her two youngsters and head to her husband's hometown, Holland, Michigan. This put her closer to family, where Marvin's parents, Ebba and Harvey Maris, lived.

In Holland, she rented the first floor of a two-story bungalow whose owner, Jeanette, lived on the second floor.

Being a pastor's wife, she was extremely active in the Holland Methodist Church, where she directed the youth choir, led Christian seminars, served on numerous church committees, and participated in and organized church activities. In between all this, including raising two young children,

she sat herself down daily to write long, newsy letters to her overseas husband.

Among the many personal letters she sent from Holland came reports of those poignant moments-in-history, including Victory in Europe (V-E) Day, May 8, 1945.

In honor of the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, I am sharing my grandmother's reports to her husband of this special day those many years ago as Americans across the country celebrated the end of the war in Europe.

V-E DAY, MAY 8, 1945 TUESDAY

Dearest Chaplain Mine:
Well, the day is done and I'm sitting in bed, cozily garbed in my men's flannel PJs (which might not be worn out when you return!), trying to figure out the day's events.

At 8 a.m., we heard Truman's proclamation. He was fine. It was a deeply moving speech and very spiritual. Immediately following, we heard Churchill who talked over twice as long and said less! All day, we heard broadcasts from all over the world but Russia -- and this afternoon, King of England spoke. He had a trying time and his stuttering was almost audible. Tonight, we heard the lighting of the statue of Liberty -- the first time since we were at war -- Then I went to church.

We had a very nice service. It was quite formal and very reserved and quiet, a prayerful service, not a jubilee.

After service, I went with Jeanette to her sister's and had coffee and now here at home, in bed I am.



Special to The Prairie Press

Connie Maris wrote daily letters to her husband while he served as an Army chaplain during World War II. Her letter written the day Germany capitulated told of how people at home reacted to the news, her relief the war was winding down and a longing for her husband to return home.

Whilst listening to the radio, I washed curtains, vacuumed rugs and got supper of egg soufflé, pop overs and fruit salad, being how the stores are all closed.

Priscilla went to the movies and Rolf played around all day -- it didn't mean much to him except a day off from school.

We could wish the war in Asia over, too. The paper carried an article today that the governor of Michigan was asked to find more Army chaplains here. 300 more

See **LETTER**, Page 4B

Recalling those old jingles

When radio arrived on the scene in 1920 the first jingle type ad was for Wheaties,

the breakfast of champions.

In the 40s, we listened to the adventures of "Jack Armstrong, the All-American Boy."

Of course, my brother and I had to eat Wheaties, because if we didn't, we probably thought we would never make first string ballplayers.

We had another motive for eating cereal during the war because those boxes had airplane cut-out models on them, and we needed to have quite a fleet of P-40s, P-51s and a few Corsairs so we could defeat the pretend enemy. We had to have Cheerios, the little letter Os, and we sure got a kick out of Kix.

Rosie and I still eat some of the old cereals, but we don't much care for all the additives the companies have added to those old standard, so kids will eat them. I am not sure I ever want to eat a Boo-berry cereal or bother the leprechaun and eat his Lucky Charms.

I have noticed the cereal section at grocery stores goes about a half a mile, and it is hard to find a small box of Cheerios, Kix, Wheat Chex or Rice Krispies. Usually we must look three times to find those brands, and too many times they are in great big boxes. The fact is we only eat cereal when we get up after eight o'clock, and they get stale and yucky if we don't eat them up in a month or two.

Let's leave the cereal scene and go to some of the old ads on television. I never smoked, but some of the most enticing ads were for Lucky Strike, fine tobacco, which brought us the Jack Benny Show with moths in his billfold.

I knew several men who smoked Camel cigarettes,

See **STANLEY**, Page 4B



ROGER STANLEY
NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

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GRANT

FROM PAGE 3B

force while Grant was laying siege to Vicksburg, the key to controlling the Mississippi River.

Rosecrans claimed doing so would violate the military maxim not to fight two decisive battles at the same time. Grant was singularly unimpressed.

"If true," he observed, "the maxim was not applicable in this case. It would be bad to be defeated in two decisive battles fought the same day, but it would not be bad to win them."

Grant always favored activity and forward movement to standing still. Even in victory, he was frustrated by subordinates' failure to pursue the retreating enemy. When, in the summer of 1864, Grant informed the cautious Halleck, back in Washington, of his refusal to disengage Lee and withdraw troops to quell draft resistance in the North, Lincoln responded in language that encapsulated Grant's tenacious approach: "I have seen your despatch expressing your unwillingness to break your hold where you are. Neither am I willing. Hold

on with a bull-dog gripe [sic], and chew & choke, as much as possible."

Grant's refusal to be paralyzed by imagining what the enemy was doing owed to an epiphany early in the war when he was leading a regiment for the first time, in pursuit of Confederate Colonel Thomas Harris in Missouri.

"As we approached the brow of the hill from which it was expected we could see Harris' camp, and possibly find his men ready formed to meet us, my heart kept getting higher and higher until it felt to me as though it was in my throat," Grant recalls in his memoirs. But when he had the good fortune to find the camp abandoned, Grant's heart resumed its place.

He learned the vital lesson his adversary, "had been as much afraid of me as I had been of him... From that event to the close of the war, I never experienced trepidation upon confronting an enemy, though I always felt more or less anxiety."

In April 1862, during the bloody two-day Battle of Shiloh, Grant did not share his colleagues' bleak view. Sher-

man was demoralized by the first day's fighting, while Don Carlos Buell, who arrived with reinforcements in the midst of the battle, advised retreat. Grant refused.

In May 1864, after fighting to a costly stalemate in his first battle with Robert E. Lee, at the Wilderness, in Virginia, Grant surprised and delighted the Union Army of the Potomac by not retreating, as they had done so many times before under different commanders.

Sherman celebrated Grant's decision: "When Grant cried 'Forward!' after the battle of the Wilderness, I said: 'This is the grandest act of his life; now I feel that the rebellion will be crushed.' I wrote him, saying it was a bold order to give, and...it showed the mettle of which he was made."

What Sherman called Grant's simple faith in success proved infectious. His confidence and determination made others believe in themselves as well.

"When you have completed your best preparations, you go into battle without hesitation... no doubts, no reserve," Sherman wrote to Grant. "I tell you

that it was this that made us act with confidence. I knew wherever I was that you thought of me, and if I got in a tight place you would come — if alive."

Grant was no mystic — nor was he reckless. His confidence was rooted in an unswerving sense of purpose, an unflappable nature, an ability to delegate responsibility as opposed to micromanaging and knowledge gained by cool and careful observation over the years.

In the Mexican War, he studied two commanders in action: Winfield Scott and Zachary Taylor, whose nicknames — "Old Fuss and Feathers" and "Old Rough and Ready" — encapsulate their antithetical styles.

From Taylor, who always, "put his meaning so plainly there could be no mistaking it," Grant learned the importance of clear and direct communication.

It was in Mexico, while serving as regimental quartermaster and involving himself in as many battles as he could, Grant learned the decidedly unromantic aspects of war: the ingenuity required to feed and supply an army, the hazards of

poor camp sanitation, the value of different kinds of expertise and the unequivocal brutality of combat. In the last year of the Civil War, as casualties mounted and the horrors of trench warfare accumulated in the Battles of Cold Harbor and Petersburg, Grant remained fixed in his purpose to destroy Lee's army.

In addition to being a gifted writer, Grant was an expert listener. Faced with a new situation — as he was on arriving in the besieged city of Chattanooga in late 1863 — Grant sat, "as silent as the sphinx," while officers delivered their reports, according to an eyewitness. Then, after firing, "whole volleys of questions," he proceeded to write out a series of dispatches.

The biographer William McFeely explains the significance of this episode: Grant's "orders and telegrams...demonstrated a grasp of the whole of the Western Theater of the war. From the disjointed reports he had been given, he put together a coherent picture of the terrain of an area new to him and of the vast confused array of men who contended for it."

NELSON

FROM PAGE 3B

singer writes in his 2015 autobiography "It's a Long Story: My Life."

"The fate of the small farmer was a topic I couldn't ignore. More I read, more motivated I became to help publicize their plight," Nelson said.

The hardships endured by American farmers resonated deeply with Nelson who grew up poor in rural Texas. Brought up by his paternal grandparents, he helped raise hogs, tend vegetables and pick cotton, and was a member at a young age of the Future Farmers of America,

an organization with strong support in rural areas at the time.

Nelson and Young personally appealed to Congress three days prior to the first Farm Aid concert. But it was in 1987 that a massive campaign for farm credit law reform led to Congress passing the Agricultural Credit Act, saving thousands of family farms from foreclosure.

Alongside farmers, Nelson testified to Congress, saying, "If we abandon the farmer, we're abandoning the essential values that made America great."

In support of the new legislation, Nelson sent letters to nearly 90,000 family farm borrowers explaining where they could find financial and legal counsel.



Special to The Prairie Press
Marvin Maris served as a U.S. Army chaplain in the Pacific Theater during World War II. A trove of daily letters his wife wrote to him from the home front was recently uncovered in Marshall as his daughter was sorting possession in preparation for a move.

LETTER

FROM PAGE 3B

needed immediately. Well, I've no more chaplains to give to my country!!

Russian Molastof is to speak now. Stalin just announced the German capitulation. Molastof is speaking in Russian and I can't understand his. He is speaking to the SJ conference. They are going to translate it, I hope!

I just heard the translation — no promise of any help for us. I don't suppose we can expect any, can we?

It will be a greater day for me and us when VJ Day comes. Then it will be a year, I suppose, before you do get home. I'm keeping busy — chin up and time will go fast. We've been apart a year already.

All my love, Connie

My grandmother's reference to the Russian Molastof should actually be spelled Molotov. Vyacheslav Molotov, (b. 1890, d. 1986) was a Russian statesman and diplomat who was foreign minister and the major spokesman for the Soviet Union at Allied conferences during and immediately after WW II. The SJ conference mentioned in the letter refers to the Soviet-Japanese War conference.

(Editor's Note: Contributor Connie Wieck of Marshall, is a college English language teacher in Luzhou, China. Her one-month visit to family during her school's Chinese New Year holidays in January was extended indefinitely due to COVID-19 flight cancellations. In March, China temporarily suspended all foreigners' valid visas until further notice. She continues to wait for her return to China, where COVID-19 is now under control and colleges are re-opening for returning students. For more news from Wieck, check out connieinchina.org.)

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STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

but I don't know if they walked a mile for a pack of them, and I could never figure out how they got those camels in a package because of their big humps.

Marlboro men were always some kind of handsome cowboy. I guess that was who my brother and I tried to emulate when we rolled up grape leaves and tried to smoke them. We soon learned that only made us sick and not handsome cowboys.

Campbell's Soup song to the tune of "Horse and Carriage" told how soup and sandwich go together. The Jolly Green Giant had his "Ho, ho, ho" and angle-sliced green beans. We ate our own green beans and didn't get to have a "Ho, ho, ho" echoing in our garden.

Brylcreem hair dressing advertised, "a little dab will do ya," but I chose to use Vitalis until I got a flat-top haircut, and then I used Butch Wax. Armour Hot Dogs' jingle said, "Hot dogs, what kind of kids eat Armour hot dogs, fat kids, skinny kids, even kids with chicken-pox, get your Armour hot dogs. The dogs kids love to bite."

One of the commercials featured Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble for Winston cigarettes, and the little ditty sung by the voices of Fred and Barney was, "Winston tastes good like a cigarette should."

In some of the leading magazines of the 40s, I remember an ad for Gillette blue blades. Many times it featured a man with a five o'clock shadow who came to save the day.

Enter a pretty girl and her father who offer the hero a chance to clean up and shave using the blue blade. Then the girl stokes the man's face and says, "Oh, so clean and handsome."

I always used blue blades, and I wonder if that was what attracted Rosie.

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

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Stay ahead of mental health crisis

Specialists lay out guidelines to keep Americans mentally healthy, decrease likelihood of spike in suicides

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Mental health specialists are working now to bolster the resilience of Americans who are suffering from feelings of despair — in hopes of preventing increases in suicides among people who are under increased pressure during the coronavirus pandemic.

Time is of the essence, public health researchers say. Experience with past natural disasters, such as earthquakes and hurricanes, shows a rise in suicide often happens in the months after the immediate physical dangers of the disaster have passed.

A report jointly published last week by two foundations that support mental health issues estimates, unless steps are taken now, the increase in

deaths of despair from alcohol, drugs and suicide could increase by 75,000 as a result of COVID-19.

"Undeniably, policymakers must place a large focus on mitigating the effects of COVID," said Benjamin F. Miller, chief strategy officer of the Well Being Trust, which published the report in conjunction with the Robert Graham Center for Policy Studies in Family Medicine and Primary Care. "However, if the country continues to ignore the collateral damage — specifically our nation's mental health — we will not come out of this stronger."

Fortunately, there are ways to mitigate those risks now, said psychologists and suicide survivors. For example, they urge elected leaders to make it easier for people who are suf-

fering to get access to mental health care — whether or not they are employed.

The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention, for example, is now coordinating with other groups in a National Response to COVID-19. The campaign, co-led by the head of the National Institute of Mental Health and former Rep. Patrick J. Kennedy, aims to better coordinate and publicize mental health resources for those who are particularly vulnerable right now.

J, for example, is a 33-year-old wife, mother and social worker for whom mysterious illness is a trigger for suicidal thinking. A decade ago, a rare hormonal disease ravaged her body, and she spent years misdiagnosed. That experience nearly broke her emotionally

— and she attempted suicide twice.

The pandemic made that trauma vivid again when she came down with symptoms of COVID-19 but couldn't get access to testing or care.

"We're in rural Montana, so there's basically one place I can go," said J. But it was Good Friday, so the clinic was closed, and she wasn't sure where to get tested.

J was already laden with anxiety; she worried her hours as a social worker might be cut, leaving her counseling clients without help. (For professional reasons, J asked that reporters use only her first initial.)

"I'm dealing with all these new stressors, and there it is: For the first time in years now, I'm feeling suicidal myself."

J slept, letting the horrible,

familiar feelings recede. She later reached out to friends — a formula that works for her. Eventually, she tested negative for the virus.

But for many other people, the pandemic has changed some of their usual coping mechanisms.

"The normal avenues of help aren't necessarily there," says Dese'Rae Stage, a Philadelphia writer, photographer and suicide-prevention activist.

Stage is looking for a new therapist after hers stopped practicing recently, but is finding that many aren't taking new patients.

"It's already hard to find a therapist who does sliding scale payments or takes insurance," but the pandemic has made it even harder to find one, she said.

Stage and other survivors have other recommendations for people looking for help:

■ Connect online. See friends and family by Zoom or phone. Feeling understood and sharing feelings of pain can help alleviate it.

■ Adjust medications if necessary. Be sure a person is on the right medication and the right amount. Many psychiatrists are taking advantage of relaxed rules from insurers regarding telemedicine, so they are still able to meet remotely with patients and can adjust medication as needed during those appointments.

■ Seek teletherapy or group therapy. Teletherapy has seen massive growth for those who can find providers. Also, support groups like Alcoholics

See **MENTAL**, Page 6B

Well-being improved by gardening

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

A study by a team of researchers from the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom and the Royal Horticultural Society, a U.K. charity, has found that having access to a private garden improves people's health and well-being, if they actively make use of it.

The research, which appears in the journal *Landscape and Urban Planning*, shines a light on the value of private green space, as well as public green space. It also raises questions about the equity of access to these spaces.

The association between green spaces — open areas of land that have vegetation growing in them — and health benefits is well-documented.

For example, a recent meta-analysis in the journal *Environmental Research* found that, "[green space] exposure is associated with numerous health benefits in intervention and observational studies," which suggests, "a beneficial influence of [green space] on a wide range of health outcomes."

However, less research has focused on the role of access to and use of gardens for people's health and well-being.

Siân de Bell, of the University of Exeter Medical School and lead author of the present study, said, "[a] growing body of evidence points to the health and well-being benefits of access to green or coastal spaces. Our study is one of the largest to date to look at the benefits of gardens and gardening specifically. Our findings suggest that whilst being able to access an outdoor space, such as a garden or yard, is important, using that space is what really leads to benefits for health and well-being."

To conduct the study, de Bell and her team drew on data from the Monitor of Engagement with the Natural Environment survey. This survey involved a representative sample of almost 8,000 participants

See **GARDENING**, Page 5B



Special to The Prairie Press

After testing positive for COVID-19, Diana Berrent established Survivor Corps, a grassroots clearinghouse for COVID-19 survivors interested in donating their blood plasma to organizations developing therapies that might combat the disease.

COVID survivors' blood plasma sought

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.khn.org

Diana Berrent learned she tested positive for COVID-19 on a Wednesday in mid-March. Within a day, she received 30 emails from people urging her to donate blood.

Friends and acquaintances, aware of her diagnosis, passed along a pressing request from New York's Mount Sinai Health System, one of the first centers to seek plasma, a blood component, to be used in a therapy that might fight the deadly disease. Berrent, 45, said she immediately recognized the need for the precious plasma — and the demand that would follow.

"When I saw that email going around, I saw what was going to happen in the landscape," said Berrent, a photographer and mother of two who lives on Long Island.

She went on to found Survivor Corps, a grassroots clearinghouse that connects people who have recovered from COVID-19 with organizations eager to collect their blood.

"What I saw was going to emerge was a free market where survivors were a commodity," she said.

Nearly two months later, Berrent's prediction is coming true. The coronavirus has infected more than 1.2 million people in the U.S., and now government scientists, academic researchers and for-profit pharmaceutical firms all are scrambling for blood plasma from COVID-19 survivors in hopes of developing a range of potential treatments.

In Minnesota, a program coordinated by the Mayo Clinic has collected plasma from more than 12,000 COVID survi-

vors for transfusion into more than 7,000 gravely ill patients, the result of a massive public appeal led by government leaders and nonprofit groups like the Red Cross.

Meanwhile, for-profit companies that typically pay \$50 per donation of plasma used in other lifesaving therapies are advertising aggressively — and significantly bumping up their rates for COVID donors.

In Utah, John and Melanie Haering, who contracted COVID-19 aboard the ill-fated Diamond Princess cruise ship, received gift cards worth \$800 after making two donations apiece at a Takeda Pharmaceuticals BioLife Plasma Services center. BioLife runs several of the more than 800 paid-plasma collection sites in the U.S., part of an industry that produces plasma protein therapies used to treat rare, chronic conditions such as hemophilia and in medical emergencies.

"Given the urgency and importance of collecting convalescent plasma from the small population of recovered COVID-19 patients, BioLife is currently offering an added incentive for the first two donations from recovered COVID-19 patients," Takeda spokeswoman Julia Ellwanger said in an email.

The money was a nice surprise for the Haerings, though they said they were motivated more by the opportunity to prevent others from suffering.

"If we could help anybody, we'd go every day," said John Haering, 63, a retired railroad manager who spent two weeks in a hospital in Japan after testing positive for the virus.

Donors like Berrent and the Haerings are needed to supply the building blocks of potentially lifesaving treatments. Rich



Special to The Prairie Press

John and Melanie Haering contracted COVID-19 aboard the cruise ship Diamond Princess. BioLife, a paid plasma collection site, gave the Haerings gift cards totaling \$800 for donations of their blood plasma — to be used for possible therapy for those battling the disease.

with antibodies, convalescent plasma from COVID-19 patients is being tested as a possible therapy to promote recovery in people who are critically ill with the disease.

It's also being collected to create a concentrated antibody serum known as hyperimmune globulin that may prevent or halt infection in the future. Similar products are used to treat rabies and illnesses like infant botulism. If plasma from COVID-19 donors is shown to halt the disease, coming up with an antidote could offer companies the prospect

See **PLASMA**, Page 6B

VA tests residents, caretakers

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — Building on Governor Pritzker's efforts to expand testing capacity statewide and the administration's commitment to timely, responsible and transparent communication about COVID-19, the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) today provided updated test results for its long-term, skilled care veteran's homes in Anna, LaSalle, Manteno and Quincy.

Following guidance from the Illinois Department of Public and Health and in order to safeguard Illinois' military heroes, every resident and employee at the veterans' homes has been tested for COVID-19. To date:

■ Illinois Veterans' Home at Anna: Full-facility testing revealed 5 positive residents and 0 positive staff, with a handful still awaiting results.


■ Illinois Veterans' Home at LaSalle: A single resident tested positive earlier in May. The resident has since tested negative and subsequent testing revealed no additional positive residents and zero positive staff.

■ Illinois Veterans' Home at Manteno: In total, 30 residents and 19 employees have tested positive since April. All residents were tested over the last few days; positive residents and all residents they had direct contact with have been isolated. One of the residents who tested positive for COVID-19 has passed away. The resident had been on hospice since 2019 due to reasons other than COVID-19.

■ Illinois Veterans' Home at Quincy: There are no known positive residents or staff. The undated news released stated 475 tests were negative, with more residents and staff awaiting their results and additional testing of staff and contractors ongoing.

A spokesman for the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs said the health and wellbeing of Illinois'

See **VETERANS**, Page 6B



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MENTAL
 FROM PAGE 5B

Anonymous are meeting online. ■Make a safety plan. Discuss with family or partners specific measures they can take or not take when a person is in crisis. Lock up guns; store ammunition in a separate place. "I have friends who struggle with suicidal thoughts but who are generally pretty solid who are saying, 'I've had to put my guns away. I never have to put my guns away, but my guns are in a safe right now,'" Stage said. ■Develop a new routine. Quarantine has disrupted daily life, so developing new patterns that foster good sleep, healthy eating and exercise are helpful. This brings focus to the day and is helpfully distracting from thoughts of hopelessness and

anxiety. ■Seek financial help. If one has lost a job or is worried about paying bills, do what can be done to address that. Look into things like unemployment benefits, which have been increased by \$600 a week for those who lost jobs because of the pandemic. Some banks and landlords are giving breaks on late mortgages and rent; lenders will sometimes renegotiate terms of loans. Averting the public health crisis of increased suicide attempts is a big and complex challenge. The pandemic has touched off many risk factors all at once, including joblessness, addiction and profound isolation. Suicide experts have studied the effects of trauma, from hurricanes Katrina and Ike to the Great Recession, but this pandemic — with its glob-

al geographic and psychosocial reach — could be particularly sweeping, they say. "The two most replicated, robust factors linked to suicide are economic change — downturn — and social disconnection," said Roger McIntyre, professor of psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Those two factors are major hallmarks, he notes, of the COVID-19 pandemic. McIntyre and his team this week published online in the journal World Psychiatry their research estimate of how the current pandemic and its economic constraints could affect some people. "If, in fact, the unemployment rate is 10 to 20 percent, we came out at a staggering statistic of over 8,000 additional suicides over and above what would have been expected if COVID never came into our

lives," McIntyre told NPR. And of course that rate had already been climbing in recent years. So prevention advocates are doubling down. But addressing suicide is no simple task — it has complex roots. During the housing crisis and Great Recession a dozen years ago, suicides spiked, for example, but not for a single reason, said Joshua Gordon, director of the National Institute of Mental Health. Though taking one's own life is often linked to depression or other mental illness, that's not always the case. In looking at data about suicide attempts from those days, Gordon said, "You can see that it's not just about the eviction. It's not just about the foreclosure. Most of them have a range of five to 10 other significant

adverse events in their lives — many of them financial, but also personal and social — that raise one's risk." Gordon, and other mental health experts, advise people who are grieving or feeling alone should call someone and talk about what they are feeling. Even small steps like texting a friend know can have a positive impact. Anja Burcak, who is 25 and lives in Mobile, Ala., said she is managing her bipolar disorder through the pandemic by leaning on her online circle of friends. Many have survived suicide attempts themselves and are helping each other now. "People unite more," she said. "I know physically we literally cannot do that, but they might be calling people they haven't called in years."

GARDENING
 FROM PAGE 6B

from across England. Trained interviewers regularly met the participants at home and asked them a series of questions about their access to and use of outdoor space and their

general health and well-being. When analyzing the data, the team accounted for confounding factors that may relate to health, well-being and garden access. These included gender, socioeconomic status, employment status, marital status, the presence of children

in the household, home ownership and dog ownership. The team found that access to a private outdoor space — whether a garden, patio, or balcony — was associated with improved health and well-being. However, a significant factor was whether and how people used their private garden. The researchers found that people who both relaxed in their garden and did some gardening had improved health and well-being compared with those who did not use the space. Interestingly, the type of gar-

den to which people had access played a significant role in the health and well-being benefits they gained from garden use. Having access to a private outdoor space improved health and well-being more than having access to a communal space. The team speculates this may be because, in a private space, there is less chance of conflict with people who may wish to use the area differently. Having access to a private space allows a person to craft it in the way that suits them. Conversely, a communal garden that a management company runs for a block of flats,

for example, may not give the users of the garden permission to make any changes. As the authors note, the study was limited in this way, as the data it drew on were not detailed enough for the authors to understand fully why people gain health and well-being benefits from a private garden. For example, it may be that communal gardens produce similar benefits if a person has more control over crafting a part of it, or if they can contribute to collective decisions about its management. This data was not available to the researchers, however.

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PLASMA
 FROM PAGE 5B

of making millions of dollars. And there's the possibility of a third treatment, monoclonal antibody therapy, which would use antibody-producing cells from high-antibody donors to create lab-produced molecules to fight the disease. All three therapies are promising, but all three require human blood plasma, said Michael Busch, a professor of laboratory medicine at the University of California-San Francisco and director of the Vitalant Research Institute, one of the largest blood center-based transfusion medicine research programs in the U.S. "At some level, they're all competing with the regular

blood banks like mine," Busch said. Only a fraction of those infected with COVID-19 have recovered sufficiently to donate, though more are eligible every day. But as demand for donors has grown, so has the need to wrangle the supply, ensuring that competition for plasma doesn't undercut the larger mission, said Michael Joyner, who heads the Mayo Clinic program. "We're going to get it all worked out," he said. "It's in everybody's enlightened self-interest to do this in an intelligent way." To avoid what Joyner described as a range war for COVID-19 plasma, he's spearheading an effort that calls for unprecedented collaboration to distribute separate streams of plasma among producers of therapies in a global market estimated to reach \$35.5 billion by 2023. "It's like the oil market," he said. "You send oil that needs

one type of refining to one market and oil that needs another type of refining to another market." His plan — floated last month to a group that included representatives from philanthropic organizations along with executives from for-profit and nonprofit blood collectors — relies in part on blood plasma from up to 10,000 Hasidic women in New York City, where the Orthodox Jewish community has been hit hard by the disease. Tens of thousands of people have fallen ill with the virus in the city's Hasidic neighborhoods, and more than 700 have died. In recent weeks, thousands of men in the community who have recovered from COVID-19 have rushed to donate plasma. Chaim Lebovits, 45, who helped organize the effort, said the donations are an act of faith. "We have an obligation to protect and save lives," Lebovits said.

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VETERANS
 FROM PAGE 5B

veterans and the devoted staff who care for them is, and always will be, the top priority for the department. IDVA homes are working with state and local health officials to follow the latest medical guidance to combat the virus. To safeguard military veterans and IDVA employees, IDVA veterans' homes are performing health screenings of staff and residents,

maintaining social distancing practices, wearing face masks, using gloves and gowns when indicated and intensifying cleaning and disinfection protocols. All residents are encouraged to stay in their rooms and modified dining protocols are in place. The spokesman said staff members are vigilant for signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and ready to respond swiftly, appropriately and professionally to any potential cases.

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LEGALS

ADOPTION NOTICE – STATE OF ILLINOIS IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS EDGAR COUNTY PARIS, ILLINOIS

IN RE: THE ADOPTION OF MARLEY MARIE JUNE BAUGH and JULIAN ANDREW HORN BROOK, minors. No. 2020-AD-5 TO: ROGER D. BAUGH, JR. and MICHELLE HORN BROOK

Take notice that a Petition for Adoption was filed in the Circuit Court of Edgar County, Illinois, for the adoption of children named MARLEY MARIE JUNE BAUGH and JULIAN ANDREW HORN BROOK. Now, therefore, unless you, ROGER D. BAUGH, JR. and MICHELLE HORN BROOK, and all to whom it may concern, file your answer to the Petition in this cause of action or otherwise file your appearance therein, in said Circuit Court of Edgar County, in the Office of the Circuit Clerk, in the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, on or before the 13th day of June, 2020, a default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer in said Petition.

DATED this 28th day of April, 2020.

ANGELA R. BARRETT,
Circuit Clerk

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

The Edgar County Emergency Telephone System Board is accepting bids for Dispatch Workstations. Please contact the 9-1-1 Office at 217-465-9115 or 911@edgarcountyillinois.com for bid details. Bids will be

accepted until May 27, 2020

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS EDGAR COUNTY, PARIS, ILLINOIS NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE FILED 5/4/2020 10:16AM Anglea Barrett Circuit Clerk 5th Judicial Circuit Edgar County

CLAIMANTS, FIRST FARMERS BANK & TRUST, Plaintiff, v. Defendants JAMES R. PING, II, KRISTEN E. PING, UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD Case No. 2020CH

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to: UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, in the above-entitled cause of action, that a Complaint for Foreclosure and Other Relief has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Edgar County, by said Plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of certain mortgages conveying the premises legally described as follows:

The West Half of Lot No. 31 of Washington Alexander's Second Addition to the Town, now City of Paris, EXCEPT the West 5 feet of even width thereof. Together with the benefits of, and subject to the restrictions of, those certain covenants running with the land set out in that certain deed recorded in Volume 225 of Deeds, Page 162 of the Recorder's Office in and for Edgar County, Illinois. Common Address: 117 East Washington Street, Paris, Illinois 61944. Tax Identification No.: 09-18-01-401-043.

And which mortgage was made by James R. Ping, II and Kristen E. Ping and given to First Farmers Bank & Trust, formerly known as The Citizens National Bank of Paris as Mortgagee; to-wit: That certain Mortgage dated May 28, 2010 and recorded in Edgar County, IL on June 1, 2010 as Document No. 201000001102, that Summons was duly issued out of said court against you as provided by law, and that the said Complaint is now pending for foreclosure of said mortgages and for other relief. Now, therefore, unless you, James R. Ping, II, Kristen E. Ping, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants file your Appearance and Answer to the Complaint in said action in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Edgar County, Illinois (Chancery Division), on or before the 22nd day of June, 2020, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a judgment entered in accordance with the prayer for relief in said Complaint. Prepared by: Laura A. O'Donnell Bayliff, Harrigan, Cord, Maugans, & Cox, P.C. P.O. Box 2249, Kokomo, IN 46904-2249 Ph. (765) 459-3941 ANY

Advertisement for Bids

City of Paris
Owner
206 South Central Avenue
Paris, IL 61944

Separate sealed Bids for the construction of City of Paris - Tiger Senior Apartments Infrastructure Project, consisting of 1,281 SQ YD of Portland cement concrete pavement 8"; 528 Ton of Hot-mix asphalt IL9.5, N70, Portland cement concrete sidewalk, storm sewer construction, 6" PVC water main and associated appurtenances will be received by City of Paris at the office of City Clerk at 206 South Central Avenue, Paris, IL 61944 until 10:00 AM, (CST) June 8, 2020, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud.

Some of the project funding will be from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) revolving loan funds. Attention is called to the fact that the firm must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin and that all EEO Federal Section 3 and all other Federal, State and Local provisions shall apply. City of Paris reserve the right to reject any

or all proposals or to waive any informalities in the procurement process.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on May 26, 2020, 10:00 AM (Local Time) at Francis Associates, 330 North Central Avenue, Paris, IL 61944.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

City Hall, 206 South Central Avenue, Paris, IL 61944

Francis Associates, 330 North Central Avenue, Paris, IL 61944

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the Issuing Office, Francis Associates, located at 330 North Central Avenue, Paris, IL 61944 upon payment of \$ 100.00 (non-refundable) for each set.

Date May 9, 2020
Craig Smith, Mayor

State Of Illinois In The Circuit Court Of The Fifth Judicial Circuit Edgar County – In Probate In The Matter Of The Estate Of Elsie C. Allen, Deceased. No. 2020-P-17

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION CLAIMS

Notice is given of the death of ELSIE C. ALLEN, of Ridge Farm, Illinois, who died on April 23, 2020. Letters of Office as Independent Executor were issued on May 7, 2020 to MARK J. ALLEN, 515 Meadowglen Drive, Duncanville, Texas 75137 whose attorney is E. Robert Anderson of Anderson Law Offices, 1204 North Main Street, P.O. Box 10, Paris, Illinois 61944. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court at Edgar County, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before November 16, 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 Executor and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed.

Mark J. Allen,
Independent Executor

By: E. Robert Anderson

Anderson Law Offices
1204 North Main Street
P.O. Box 10
Paris, Illinois 61944-0010
alo@robandersonlaw.com
(217) 465-3535

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS EDGAR COUNTY, PARIS, ILLINOIS PROBATE DIVISION IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANNE JONES JOHNSON, Deceased

No. 2020-P-19
NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION - CLAIMS

Notice is given to creditors of the death of ANNE JONES JOHNSON of Paris, Edgar County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued to Laura A. Johnson of 610 Kenton Street, Paris, IL

61944, whose attorney is Janet L. Grove of Armstrong, Grove & Wawrzynek LLC, P.O. Box 1425, Mattoon, IL 61938. 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 Independent Executor, or both, on or before November 16, 2020, or if mailing or delivery of notice from the representative is required by Section 5/18-3 of the Probate Act, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred.

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KANSAS SCHOOLS GET ECCF GRANT



Special to The Prairie Press

A technology grant to purchase additional Chrome Books, computers and e-learning materials was recently awarded to the Kansas school system by the Edgar County Community Foundation. Accepting the \$6,931 grant is Cindy Spencer, Kansas school administrator, joined by ECCF Directors Matt Ehlers, left, and Susan Saxton, right. The ECCF views the grant as a way to support e-learning for the Kansas school system.

CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

neatly stacked at street's edge and said what a shame such beautiful flowers were being wasted. Dawn, of course, agreed. That might have ended the conversation, but Dawn just so happened to cruise by Morecraft's again a few minutes later. They stopped, opened the trunk and helped themselves. Dawn didn't think Mr. Morecraft would mind. After all, he had told her mother she could have them.

Still, a cloud of suspicion entered Dawn's mind as she filled the car's trunk with mums. Mr. Morecraft hadn't told her specifically to help herself. Nor had she bothered to ask permission. No one seemed to notice their presence in the neighborhood as they loaded the flowers, though. Or were they noticed? A car turned onto Kimble Street from Central headed their direction.

Dawn and Nita headed west, driving slowly. The oncoming car headed west, following. Dawn shuddered with cold shivers. She saw in the rearview mirror that it was black and white with a bubble-gum light bar — a police car.

The women turned north on Cherry Point. So did the

police car.

Dawn slowed, making sure to use signal lights when turning. The policeman emulated every turn she made, remaining about a block behind in distance. They conferred as they circled around the park with the eerie follower in tow. They decided to pull into the parking lot of the curb-service root beer joint. Wouldn't you know, the police car turned and parked directly beside them.

"Ma'am," the policeman said politely, standing by the driver's door, may I see your license, please?"

Dawn tried to conceal her nervousness as she handed her license to the officer. She also requested that Nita reach into the glove box and fetch registration and insurance cards. The officer noticed.

"There's been no accident, ma'am. I don't need your insurance card."

"Did I do something wrong, sir? I thought I was driving safely."

"Nothing wrong with your driving, Dawn." She swallowed a lump. Omigosh, he knows my name.

"I only want your name and address. By the way," he added, "who is your friend?"

"Her name is Nita. She's very nice and a good friend," Dawn

replied.

The officer smiled, said thanks, re-entered his patrol car and drove away.

Weeks turned into months before Nita and Dawn learned the story about their brush with the law. Her mother felt quite certain from Dawn's behavior that night that her daughter would immediately grab those mums before next morning. She called Mr. Morecraft. He certainly had no objections, but with Helena's consent he called the police simply out of orneriness.

It was a setup if ever there was one. In the end, everyone received what they wanted.

Mr. Morecraft rid himself of the mums with no extra trash fee. Helena, Nita and Dawn shared free mums, which were beautiful, a perfect color. They got lots of attention at the root beer joint, and the police officer enjoyed some good snickers watching them behave like ideal drivers, while sweating like guilty wrongdoers.

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

Chrisman High School announces year-end awards

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHRISMAN — Chrisman High School was not able to have the traditional end-of-year awards announcements, instead a virtual award program was used with principal Cole Huber creating a video and announcing student achievements.

District administrators remain hopeful a traditional, or somewhat modified, in-person graduation ceremony may be conducted later in the summer. The announcement of scholarship winners is delayed until that time.

Awards given by Huber on the video included:

Perfect Attendance:

Freshman — Alivia Brinkley, Hana Gillaspie, Jake Gillaspie, Devonte Hicks, William Peelman.

Sophomore — Maecy Johnson, Kendl Lemmon, Karson Lewsader, Kailey Phipps, Kendall Tevebaugh.

Juniors — Blake Barna, Haley Chaney, Jethro Dino, Hope Gillaspie, Lindsey Franz, Hannah Lunger, Robert Rollins.

Seniors — Gage DeWeese, Ashley Francis, Macey Keen, Abbey Mattingly, Hannah Mitchell.

Academic Letter/Bar Award for 3.5 honors or three consecutive times on the honor roll:

Freshman — Reese Anderson, Autumn Baker, Sequoyah Cook, Hana Gillaspie, Alivia Brinkley, Kaden Owen and William Peelman.

Sophomore — Franz Dino, Kaylee Keck, Kendl Lemmon, Karson Lewsader, Alexis McDaniels, Spencer Meinecke, John Phipps, Kailey Phipps, Linkon Snedeker, Kendall Tevebaugh, Megan Tischer, Hailey Valdes and Clara Wheeler.

Junior — Karlie Adams, Haley Chaney, Jethro Dino, Lindsey Franz, Hope Gillaspie, Hannah Lunger and Robert Rollins III.

Senior — Ryan Clouse, Ashley Francis, Abbey Mattingly, Hannah Mitchell, Addison Pickett, Adrian Porter and Sydney Quick.

Outstanding Young Citizens Award:

Gavin DeWeese and Sydney Quick.

Presidential Award for Outstanding Academic Excellence:

Sydney Quick and Addison Pickett.

Presidential Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement:

Phillip Warner, Mackenzie Campbell and Alexis Lewsader.

Illinois State Scholar:

Sydney Quick.

News Gazette Recognition:

Lindsey Franz.

Illinois Principal Association Recognition:

Alexis Lewsader and Phillip Warner.

High School Vermilion Valley Conference All-Academic Team:

Addison Pickett,

Hannah Mitchell and Ashley Francis.

Art Awards:

Yearbook — Ashley Francis, top ad seller; Haley Chaney, outstanding performance and Lindsey Franz, outstanding design.

Mentor Student Award — Abbey Mattingly.

Photography Award — Ryan Clouse.

Experimental Art Award — Jethro Dino.

Drawing & Painting Award — Ele Wilson.

Ceramics Award — Robbie Rollins and Lindsey Franz.

Independent Study Award — Abbey Mattingly and Addison Pickett.

Ag Awards:

Star Greenhand — Michael Mueller.

Outstanding Junior — Parker Brown.

Outstanding Officer — Alexis Lewsader.

Star Placement Award — Alexis Lewsader.

Star Farmer - Hope Gillaspie.

Blue & Gold Award — Landry Lorenzen.

Band Awards :

B&J Music Award — Luke Fender and Triston Lehmkuhl.

George Fisher Band Award — Landry Lorenzen and Logan Smith.

John Philip Sousa Award — Sydney Quick.

English Awards:

English 4 — Best Public Speaking Skills, Macey Keen; Most Improved Writer, Colleen Sayre; Highest Grade, Samantha Harper.

English 310 — Best Public Speaking Skills, Lindsey Franz; Most Improved Writer, Jethro Dino; Highest Grade, Hannah Lunger.

English 3 — Best Public Speaking Skills, Mitch Gobert; Most Improved Writer, Devian Clouse; Highest Grade, Lolita Flynn.

English 2 — Best Public Speaking Skills, John Phipps; Most Improved Writer, Wesley Rollins; Highest Grade, Franz Dino.

English 1 — Best Public Speaking Skills, Autumn Baker; Most Improved Writer, Michael Mueller; Highest Grade, Reese Anderson.

Top Student — Sydney Quick.

Family/Consumer Science Awards:

Resource Management Award — first semester, Sydney Quick; second semester, Abbey Mattingly and Ashley Francis.

Clothing & Textiles Award — Ryan Clouse.

Foods & Nutrition Award — Megan Tischer.

Co-Op — Gage Deweese and Gavin McClamroch.

Math Awards:

Foundations to Math — highest grade, Jake Gillaspie; best work ethic, Samantha Raimer; positive attitude, Weston Burgess.

Math 2 — highest grade, Sequoyah Cook and Reese

Anderson; best work ethic, Maecy Johnson and Alexis McDaniels; positive attitude, Peyton Reasor and Megan Tischer.

Transitional Math — highest grade, Porter Hale; best work ethic, Phillip Warner; positive attitude, Alexis Lewsader.

Physical Education Awards:

Sportsmanship Award — Linkon Snedeker and John Phipps.

Quarantine Awards — Kendl Lemmon and Haley Chaney.

Running Man Award — Colton Brazelton.

Most Push-Ups Award — Robbie Rollins.

Most Flexible Award — Reese Anderson.

Most Athletic Award — Eli Johnson.

Best Attitude Award — Addison Pickett.

Most Helpful Award — Adrian Porter.

Best Effort Award — Abbey Mattingly.

Best Sportsmanship Award — Logan Smith.

Science Awards:

Physical Science Award — John Phipps and Hailey Valdes.

Chemistry Award — Lexi Fancher and Robbie Rollins.

Biology Awards — Autumn Baker and Reese Anderson.

Microbiology Award — Hailey Valdes.

Environmental Biology Award — Kendl Lemmon.

Botany & Zoology Awards — Hailey Chaney.

Anatomy & Physiology Awards — Sydney Quick and Ashley Francis.

Rosalind Franklin Award — Hannah Lunger.

Red Cross Scholarship — Sydney Quick.

Social Science Awards:

Excellence in World History Award — Alivia Brinkley.

Excellence in Modern World History Award — Autumn Baker.

Excellence in American History Award — Kendall Tevebaugh.

Excellence in East Asian History Award — Phillip Warner.

Excellence in World Religions Award — Sydney Quick.

Excellence in Civics Award — Ashley Francis.

Excellence in Word Creation - Wesley Rollins.

Students of the Month:

September — Kendrew Greene.

October — Adrian Porter.

November — Alexis McDaniels.

December — John Phipps.

January — Autumn Baker.

February — Hana Gillaspie.

March — Porter Hale.

April — Robbie Rollins.

Student of the Year:

Robbie Rollins.

Class of 2020 Salutatorian:

Ashley Francis.

Class of 2020 Valedictorian:

Sydney Quick

MEMORIAL DAY

Drive Thru Lunch

REMEMBER & HONOR

Monday, May, 25th 11:30AM
Drive Thru ONLY
American Legion
Please use Main Entrance

All Edgar County Veterans and Spouses invited!
Hope to see you all there!

Hosted By The American Legion Ladies Auxiliary
Sponsored by Prospect Bank

FARM CREDIT DONATES TO FOOD BANKS



Special to The Prairie Press

Farm Credit Illinois announced a \$100,000 gift to be shared by the four Feeding Illinois food banks amid the strain of the COVID-19 crisis. \$50,000 of this supports the Eastern Illinois Foodbank and the gift will be matched with the agriculture community challenge "Harvest for Hunger" campaign by Steven and Betsy Mills of Monticello. Far left, Kelly Daly, senior vice president of Feeding Illinois, and Molly Delaney, vice president of development, accept a check from Aaron Johnson, Farm Credit Illinois president and CEO.

PROSPECT BANK
MEMBER FDIC