

In the know



## WILDCATS SLASH THE TIGERS

Paris and Vermillion catfight on the court, Paris narrowly loses with a final score of 60-53.

**SPORTS, 9A**

## A legend-dairy national holiday

Today is National Milk Day, so pull up a slab of cheese and read about humanity's love affair with lactose.

**C'EST LA VIE, 1B**

## Religious groups sue for refugees

A federal judge will hear arguments against the executive order allowing state, local leaders to ban refugee resettlement.

**GRACE, 5B**



## Dentist generous to community

Elmer Jones served Paris as a dentist for 63 years, and paid his success forward to the community.

**HISTORY, 3B**

## Disturbing email reveals coverup

A 2012 message between lobbyist McClain and Quinn staffer asks protection for employee who covered up ghost employees, sexual assault.

**STATE, 12B**

## Facebook stance on ads lukewarm

Facebook opts not to fact-check targetted political ads, but will allow users to avoid some of them.

**COMMERCE, 7B**

## TODAY'S WEATHER

H 55 L 25

Flood warning in effect. **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, January 11, 2020**

# Chrisman talks premiums

Chrisman renews insurance, solidifies changes to confusing vacation time regulations

**BY GARY HENRY**  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

**CHRISMAN** – The City of Chrisman will see a slight increase in the commercial insurance premium this year.

Lucas Knight of Knight Insurance updated city council members about the insurance package during the city meeting Monday, Jan. 6.

"I bid it out every year," said Knight.

He added the coverage is staying with the same provider as last year, even though another company offered a price that was \$200 less. According to Knight, the lower bid did not match the coverage provided by the successful bidder.

The total bid package of \$20,480 is \$494 more than was paid for 2019 coverage.

Knight said part of the in-

crease is due to an automatic change.

"Buildings go up 3 percent every year," he said.

The other driver was the addition of a new Ford F-450 truck to the city's fleet.

Some features of the policy include \$31 million blanket coverage for buildings to allow for full replacement. Earthquake damage is also covered with a \$50,000 deductible.

"There is no flood insurance, because we are not in a flood plain," said Knight.

He stressed something that is helping Chrisman get favorable rates is the city has not had any big losses since 2017.

"Keep that up, please," he said. "That helps quite a bit."

Before leaving, Knight passed on a message from

the insurance company. The city was asked to put yellow caution tape around the pavilion structure at Centennial Park. The building is in bad shape, and it is scheduled for replacement.

The council approved the insurance coverage at the price quoted by Knight.

In another action item, the council accepted the resignation of sewer superintendent Lawrence Richey and decided to advertise for a laborer to fill the position with a condition of employment the new hire must start working toward a Class 4 license.

Commissioner Thad Crispin informed the others the city's bucket truck is again out of operation.

"An OSHA inspector looked at the truck and there was a crack in the bucket. He

stopped the inspection," said Crispin.

Hydraulic issues and mechanical problems plagued the truck during 2019.

Crispin's suggestion was to purchase a set of pallet forks for \$1,000 from the Chrisman Farm Center. The forks are useable on the city's loader tractor. Another expenditure of approximately \$600 to \$700 will acquire a safety basket for use with the loader forks.

He acknowledged the forks and basket arrangement will likely not go as high as the boom of the bucket truck, while adding the height should be sufficient for most jobs. He said if more height is needed for a task, suitable equipment can be rented.

"It is not worth putting

more money into that old truck," said Crispin.

The council approved his suggestion and instructed him to proceed.

Commissioner Brian Had-dix presented a plan to bore under Washington Street at the location of the sanitary sewer lift station at a cost of \$1,500. He explained it is necessary to get the controls for the lift station out of the pit and to an above ground site since city workers are no longer permitted to enter the pit alone.

"Nobody has been in there to check the controls since OSHA was here," said Had-dix. "Someone used to do that daily to check the controls and record the data."

Council members saw it as a necessary expense.

See **CHRISMAN, Page 8A**

## LONGTIME LAWYER LOOKS BACK ON LIFE, CAREER



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**With retirement approaching and as he prepares to close his Frisse and Brewster Law Firm, Dave Frisse considers himself a lucky lawyer, because he had enjoyable and long relations with many clients and the opportunity to know and associate with so many good lawyers in the area.**

# Frisse takes down his shingle

After four decades, lawyer ready for retirement and more time with family

**BY GARY HENRY**  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

From an early age, Dave Frisse knew what he wanted to do in life and after a career that has brought success, pioneered new approaches and gained notice by his peers, it is time to retire.

As Frisse remembers it, at the age of four he wanted to go to Notre Dame and become a lawyer. His grandfather may have had some subtle influence on the career choice.

"My grandfather was hooked on 'Perry Mason,'" Frisse said, recalling as a child watching the TV show with his grandfather and being intrigued by how Mason used legal thinking to resolve complex cases.

With his law practice winding down, Frisse is looking forward to the next phase of life. He said now is the time to make the transition.

See **FRISSE, Page 8A**



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**Youthful loves never go away but they may lie dormant for a while. As a youth, Dave Frisse played piano and trumpet and taught himself guitar in high school. He played in rock bands throughout high school and college but put music aside in law school on the assumption he had to be an adult. A few years ago he rekindled his love and the end result was the Dave Frisse Band. The band will play later this month at Lot 51 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars as part of Frisse's retirement celebration.**

# Brocton community center still needs work

\$10,500 insurance claims help with repairs, mayor favors a delayed reopening

**BY GARY HENRY**  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

**BROCTON** – The discovery of termites, water infiltration, mold and structural damage in 2019 at the Brocton community center prompted the village board to close the structure and purchase and remodel another building in town to serve as the village hall.

Village trustee Debby Porter reported during the Wednesday, Jan. 8, village board meeting that Brocton has received \$10,500 for insurance claims related to repairs of the community center, which is located in the village park. She asked if it is possible to reopen the building for public use now that repairs have been made, although work still needs done to the west wall.

"The restrooms are fixed, and that was one of the bigger issues," said Porter. "The kitchen is in good condition."

Village mayor Dennis Cary said the contractor doing the repairs believes it will be spring before his schedule is free to tackle the west wall, which has nearly as serious problems as the east wall before that part of the building was repaired.

It is Cary's understanding that about 20 feet on each end of the west wall needs replaced. He added giving the conditions found in the east wall there is a good chance mold exists within the west wall.

He favored delaying opening the building for public use until the repair project is finished.

"It (the community center) is a designated heating and cooling center," said Porter. "We will have to open it if activated. We can't avoid that."

Cary agreed an emergency

See **BROCTON, Page 8A**

**As of January 1, 2020 The Prairie Press became a paid subscription paper.**

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# The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

SERVING EDGAR COUNTY SINCE 1848

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Have you got a news tip? Call us at 217-921-3216, email us at [nzeman@prairiepress.net](mailto:nzeman@prairiepress.net) or [ghenry@prairiepress.net](mailto: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.

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](mailto:nzeman@prairiepress.net).

If you spot a factual error, let us know that, too.

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We invite our readers and the

LOCAL FORECAST

NORMAL: High: 34 Low: 18

More weather: go to [www.prairiepress.net](http://www.prairiepress.net) and click on weather.

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
55 25 Prec: 100%	39 31 Prec: 0%	47 37 Prec: 0%	54 36 Prec: 20%	49 17 Prec: 30%	28 13 Prec: 0%	33 29 Prec: 20%

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

**FLOOD WATCH** remains in effect for Edgar and surrounding counties until 3 p.m. Saturday.

**TODAY** — Cloudy and breezy with rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. Temperatures fall through the afternoon with a few snowflakes possible late in the day.

**SUNDAY** — Partly sunny and colder — but closer to average — with highs in the upper 30s.

**MONDAY** — Upper 40s and mostly sunny.

**ALMANAC**  
Paris through noon Tuesday.

**Temperature**  
High/Low ..... 34°/18°  
Record High ..... 57° in 2013  
Record Low ..... -15° in 1977

**Precipitation**  
Month to date ..... 1.07"  
Normal month to date ..... 0.92"  
Year to date ..... 1.07"  
Normal year to date ..... 0.92"

**SUN AND MOON**

	Sun Rise	Set	Moon Rise	Set
<b>TODAY</b>	7:11 a.m.	4:46 p.m.	5:54 p.m.	8:00 a.m.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	7:11 a.m.	4:47 p.m.	7:06 p.m.	8:48 a.m.
<b>MONDAY</b>	7:11 a.m.	4:49 p.m.	8:19 p.m.	9:29 a.m.
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:10 a.m.	4:50 p.m.	9:31 p.m.	10:05 a.m.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	7:10 a.m.	4:51 p.m.	10:42 p.m.	10:37 a.m.
<b>THURSDAY</b>	7:09 a.m.	4:52 p.m.	11:52 p.m.	11:08 a.m.
<b>FRIDAY</b>	7:09 a.m.	4:53 p.m.	--	11:38 a.m.

**EVERETT LAU**

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Paris Area Weather

## PLAN YOUR WEEK

### TODAY

**RETREAT FOR MOTHERS OF SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN**  
A retreat for mothers of special needs children is Jan. 25-26 at Villa Maris Retreat Center, Lake Springfield. The retreat provides an opportunity to relax, enjoy activities and network with other mothers of special needs children. The \$50 fee covers meals and lodging. More information about the event or for help obtaining financial assistance to attend contact Mary Smith [mk-smith@wiu.edu](mailto:mk-smith@wiu.edu). The deadline to register is Jan. 11.

**SUNDAY**

**FREE EAR ACUPUNCTURE**  
The Maple Center is offering free ear acupuncture noon-4 p.m. Jan. 12 in the Larry P. Fleschner Memorial classroom, Suite 400. Participants must be at least 18 years old. Sessions are approximately 30-45 minutes long. It is suggested those wanting to participate schedule a time. More information is available by calling 812-234-8733.

**MONDAY**

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

**MAKING TIME TO DREAM**  
Tiffany Mack, community

### DON'T MISS

**LEARN TO BE A MASTER BUILDER, JAN. 24-MAR. 20**  
Learning lab at the Terre Haute Children's Museum returns with an emphasis on the building trades. Children between kindergarten and fourth grade can participate in the Master Builders Series. They will practice their building skills in this five course series that focuses on engineering, science and creativity. By being a problem-solver, they will utilize simple machines, make things fly, keep items afloat and rocket into space. Each session tackles two engineering challenges, engages in the design process and ends with a badge commemorating their achievements. Session dates and topics include: Jan. 24 or 25, Crazy Construction; Feb. 7 or 8, Come Fly with Me; Feb. 21 or 22, Everything Lego; March 5 or 6, The Great Cookie Boat Disaster; March 19 or 20, The Rovers & Rockets Race. Learning Lab is a series of drop-off programs presented in a classroom style. The series is linked together by a general theme, but each session is designed to stand alone, so a child can attend as many sessions as desired. All sessions begin at 9 a.m. and finish at noon. Registration is now open and a limited number of spaces are available. Register for the whole series or for just a few at <https://thchildrensmuseum.com/learninglab/>. Scholarships are available. Holly Hudson at [hhudson@terrehautechildrensmuseum.com](mailto:hhudson@terrehautechildrensmuseum.com) or (812) 235-5548 ext. 227 can answer questions.

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

development educator for the University of Illinois Extension, is teaching a six-class course about how to actively visualize personal and professional lives and creating strategies about how to realize those dreams. Classes are 5-6 p.m. Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 24, March 9 and March 23 at the Marshall Public Library.

**AARP TAX ASSISTANCE**  
AARP volunteers trained in tax preparation are available at the Marshall Public Library to

help those 50, and older, who cannot afford a tax preparation service. This is a free service but it does require an appointment to meet with a volunteer for the confidential help. Tax preparation begins Feb. 4 and continues through April 16. Appointments will be taken starting Jan. 13. Call the library at 217-826-2535 to make an appointment and for information about all documents required.

### TUESDAY

## Vernon Newman Family Farm Auction

Paris & Symmes Townships, Edgar County

**515.06 +/- Acres in 8 tracts**

**Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**10:00 AM at Edgar County 4-H Building - Paris, Illinois**

Additional details available at [Busey.com](http://Busey.com)  
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# Twigg is set to compete at Springfield



Special to The Prairie Press  
**Teresa Twigg, 2019 Miss Edgar County Fair, ventures to Springfield next week for the 2020 Miss Illinois County Fair competition. She will compete against 72 other county fair queens in events such as evening gown, swimsuit, speech and interview for the crown.**

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Miss Edgar County Fair Teresa Twigg is in Springfield next week for the annual Miss Illinois County Fair competition.

Twigg, accompanied by a official delegation from Edgar County, has a hectic four days after arriving at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center Thursday, Jan. 16. Practice for the competing queens begins at 1 p.m. Thursday and continues until 9:30 p.m.

During that 8.5-hour time span, photo sessions for the official photos in swimsuit and evening gowns occur as well starting to learn the production number for the banquet. A pizza party closes the evening giving the young women an opportunity to relax and a chance to get acquainted.

Friday, Jan. 17, has an early start with interviews and more production number rehearsals. Twigg is schedule for the morning rehearsals and will interview in front of a panel of five judges for approximately 4 minutes in the afternoon. Pageant activities for the contestants conclude at 5:30 p.m.

Competitive events go into full swing Saturday, Jan. 18, starting at 8 p.m. The morning preliminaries have all of the queens participating in the grand march. Twigg competes in the evening preliminary starting at 7 p.m. At that time, she will be evaluated for stage presence in an evening gown, beauty and physique wearing a swimsuit and give a one-minute speech.

She will be back on stage at the end of the evening when all of the contestants participate in a grand march wearing

the clothing used during the speech portion of the event.

Sunday, Jan. 19, features another 8 a.m. start with a breakfast in honor of the reigning queen Alexi Bladel from the Winnebago County Fair. The evening banquet opens with all 73 county fair queens in the opening production number. That is followed by the announcement of the top 15 finalists as well as non-finalist awards for stage presence, beauty and physique, speech and interview. Competition renews for the 15 finalists with another round of evening gown, swimsuit and speech events.

After each queen delivers her speech, she will be asked three pop-up questions.

The tension of the evening ceases with the announcement of the 2020 Miss Illinois

County Fair along with the first, second, third and fourth runners up. The final event of the pageant is a reception for the queens.

Twigg is the daughter of Josephine Vitale Twigg of Paris and Barry Twigg of Marshall. She is a 2016 graduate of Paris High School and attends Indiana State University as an education major.

Her entourage to Springfield includes Tracy Quinn-Porter, local pageant director; former Miss Edgar County Queens Jessica Gardner, Kierstyn Allen who will serve as chaperone and Taylor Dunn who is in charge of hair and makeup; her mother, sisters, friends and other family, plus several Edgar County Fair Board members and other former Edgar County Fair Queens.



## Thank You

to the following donors who made Memorial's 2019 Holiday Bazaar a success!

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Jane's Bath Body and Balm	Mallory Shewey
Taco Bell	& Cindy Mathis
Wendy's	Loretta Keen
Domino's Pizza	Peggy Hornbrook

## Accident sends Brocton woman to hospital

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

PESOTUM – Illinois State Police at District 10 report a two-car crash sent a Brocton woman to the hospital Tuesday, Jan. 7.

According to the report, the accident occurred at 6:49 p.m. on U.S. Route 36 at the intersection of state

Route 130, near Camargo.

Police said Nancy K. Michaels, 42, Brocton was driving a 2008 Dodge Avenger east on 36. Also traveling east on 36 was Bruce J. Tate, 56, Tuscola in a 2001 GMC Yukon. Tate was in front of Michaels and slowed to make the turn onto Route 130.

The ISP reports states Michaels failed to slow in response to the turning vehicle and rear ended Tate's Yukon.

Both drivers were wearing seat belts and were transported to area hospitals with non-life threatening injuries. Michaels was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid a crash.

## Conservation cropping seminars announced

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHAMPAIGN – The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is hosting three conservation cropping seminars: Jan. 21, at the Double Tree Hotel, Mt. Vernon; Jan. 22, at the Double Tree Hotel, Bloomington and Jan. 23 at the Hickory Grove Confer-

ence Center, Rochelle.

The conferences review the most recent evidence and research from Illinois about the use of cover crops. Illinois farmers will discuss their results and the benefits of cover cropping.

According to the NCRS, Illinois farmers lag behind their counterparts in Iowa and Indiana in the use of cov-

er crops and continue to follow outdated thinking from the 1970s that tilling warms up the soil for planting when it actually destroys the living soil biology needed for fertile ground.

The cost to attend a seminar is \$20 and that includes lunch. Register at <http://www.ccsacd.com/ConservationCroppingSeminars/>.

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# Cases appearing in Edgar County Circuit Court

## COURT

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS  
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

Individuals appearing before the bench for the Jan. 2 criminal and traffic call in Edgar County Circuit Court included:

### IN CUSTODY

■Ernest E. Boyd, 46, Rock Island, appeared in custody. Boyd's unresolved Class 2 felony possession of child photography by a sex offender and a Class 4 felony grooming charges were continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Angela D. Eslinger, 37, Vermilion, appeared in custody and denied a petition to re-

voke her conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery conviction. Despite objection by the state, Eslinger was granted a personal recognizance bond and was ordered to abstain from consuming alcohol or illicit drugs. She was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■John Cody Hollingsworth, 27, Paris, appeared in custody. His unresolved charges of a Class 2 felony aggravated domestic battery, a Class 4 felony aggravated driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound, a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs and a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery were continued for a pretrial conference.

He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Tracy E. Luster, 49, Brocton, appeared in custody and was charged with a Class A misdemeanor violating a bail bond. The public defender was appointed and Luster pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand. Bond was set at \$1,500 and he was ordered to have no contact with the apparent victim. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference. Luster was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Ronald Parker, 18, Paris, appeared in custody. He told the court he will hire a private attorney for his unresolved Class X felony armed robbery, a Class A misdemeanor aggravated assault and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a weapon charges. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference, and Parker was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Clayton S. Rhoads, 19, Paris, appeared in custody and his unresolved charges of a Class 1 felony residential burglary, a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor theft along with a petition to revoke his probation sentence for a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery conviction were continued for a pretrial conference.

In another matter, a preliminary hearing for Rhoads' Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe charges was held. Probable cause was determined and he pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand.

The matter was continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Blake B. Sawyer, 32, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 2 felony aggravated domestic battery, a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing and a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery charges. Bond was reduced to \$10,000 from the original bond of \$20,000 with a specific order he is to have no contact with the apparent victim or the victim's residence. Sawyer was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Austin D. Toler, 32, Paris, appeared in custody. His charges of a Class X felony armed robbery and three counts of a Class 2 felony robbery were continued for the preliminary hearing. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

### CHARGES

■David M. Beaver, 37, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor criminal trespassing. The public defender was appointed and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Barbara Gallagher, 32, Paris, was charged with a Class 3 felony aggravated battery and a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery. The case went to the public defender and continued for the preliminary hearing.

■James D. Hoge, 73, Paris, was charged and pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor battery charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

ence.

■Bailey T. Timmer, 23, Paris, was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine. The public defender was appointed. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Jacob E. White, 34, Terre Haute, Ind., was charged with a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine, a Class A misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia and a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. He told the court he will hire an attorney. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

### GUILTY PLEAS

■Cayden S. Petticrew, 19, Paris, pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor resisting a police officer. He was sentenced to four days in jail with good conduct credit to apply, one year of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees.

■Megan L. Smith, 27, Paris, pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor domestic battery. She was sentenced to four days in jail with good conduct credit to apply with credit for two days previously served, one year of conditional discharge, a \$400 fine, court costs and various state fees. She was also ordered to obtain counseling per an evaluation and to have no contact with the apparent victim.

### NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■Roger D. Baugh Jr., 36, Paris, was present for the preliminary hearing. Probable cause was founded to formally

charge him with three counts of a Class 2 felony burglary, a Class 3 felony possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor possession of a hypodermic syringe. He pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand and the public defender was appointed per his request. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■Benjamin B. Boddy, 19, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand following his preliminary hearing to a Class 3 felony criminal damage to government property and a Class A misdemeanor reckless driving charges. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

■Kimberly L. Hall, 45, Paris, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class 4 felony theft charge. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

### OTHER MATTERS

■Howard P. Kiser III, 45, Villa Grove, filed a petition to rescind statutory summary suspension to contest the mandatory suspension of his driver's license for his unresolved Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs charge. The motion to rescind was granted. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

### WARRANTS

Warrants were ordered when the following individuals failed to answer the court call: Kylee J. Beaven, 32, Paris; Ryan Jelks, 35, Urbana; James R. Sewell, 47, Martinsville; Vern A. Stone, 54, Shirkieville, Ind.; and Lasha M. Hillyer Watson, 34, Paris.

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## Pritzker administration releases cannabis applications

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) has opened the application process for Cannabis Infuser, Transporter and Craft Grower Licenses, including for social equity applicants. The applications are available on the Department's website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/agr/plants/pages/adult-use-cannabis.aspx>.

IDOA will begin accepting completed applications on

Feb. 14 and all Cannabis Infuser, Transporter and Craft Grower applications must be submitted by 5 p.m. March 16.

Those who qualify as social equity applicants will receive additional points on their application and are eligible to receive technical assistance, grants, low-interest loans and fee reductions and waivers.

"The Department of Agriculture is committed to implementing the most equity-centric adult-use cannabis law in the nation," said John Sullivan, Director of IDOA. "We take

seriously the responsibilities placed on the department and look forward to the opportunities this new industry provides for Illinois."

In coordination with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, IDOA will be hosting informational workshops across the state to answer questions and assist applicants. Additional information about the timing and location of workshops will be available in the coming weeks.

"These craft grower, infuser and transporter licenses are vital to the success of Illinois' emerging cannabis industry," said Jeff Cox, Bureau Chief of Medicinal Plants at IDOA. "We will ensure each of these licenses is selected through a fair, unbiased and anonymous

process."

The non-refundable application fee for all licenses is \$5,000; Social Equity Applicants may be eligible for a fee waiver if they meet certain income and ownership limits, in which case the application fee is \$2,500. If selected, a Craft Grower will pay an annual licensing fee of \$40,000, a Transporter will pay an annual license fee of \$10,000 and an Infuser will pay an annual licensing fee of \$5,000. All licensing fees are reduced by 50 percent for Social Equity applicants.

For 2020, IDOA may issue up to 40 Craft Grower licenses, 40 Infuser licenses and an unlimited number of Transporter licenses.

Licenses will be awarded to applicants by July 1.

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

## Employees have right to time off

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — In Illinois, most full-time workers are legally entitled to time off each calendar week.

The One Day Rest in Seven Act (ODRISA) provides employees with a minimum of 24 hours of rest in each calendar week and a meal period of 20 minutes for every 7.5-hour shift beginning no later than five hours after the start of the shift. The law does not apply to part-time workers.

"While there are some exceptions to this law, most full-time workers have the right to meal breaks and a day

of rest each calendar week," said Michael Kleinik, director of the Illinois Department of Labor. "Workers can voluntarily choose to work more, but workers who believe they are improperly being denied time off should contact our office for assistance."

The law defines a calendar week as seven consecutive 24-hour periods starting at 12:01 a.m. Sunday morning and ending at midnight the following Saturday. Under this law, employers may ask IDOL for exceptions to the act by applying for permits to work employees the seventh day.

## OBITUARIES

### DORIS LEE

CASEY — Doris J. Raney Lee, 93, of Casey, passed away at 8:50 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, at Harrison's Crossing, Terre Haute, Ind.

A funeral service was 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Markwell

Funeral Home, with the Rev. Gary Fairchild officiating. Burial followed in the Casey Cumberland Cemetery. Visitation was from 4 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Casey United Methodist Church or Casey Library Building Fund.

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

### JOHN SULLIVAN

Following cremation, a Mass of Christian Burial for John W. Sullivan, 91, was celebrated at 11 a.m., Friday, Jan. 10, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with the Revs. Valery Burusu and Aloysius

Okey Ndeanaefo as concelebrants. Burial is in St. Mary's Cemetery. Visitation is from 10 a.m. until the Mass Friday in the gathering space of the church. Mr. Sullivan passed away Jan. 2, and a full obituary appeared in the Jan. 4 issue of The Prairie Press. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

More OBITUARIES, Page 5

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**LEE ROY STEWART**  
ORANGE, Calif. – Lee Roy Stewart, 88, passed away Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, from complications of a fractured hip at UCI Medical Center, Orange, Calif. He was a retired teacher.  
Services in California are today, Jan. 11, in the United Methodist Church, Garden Grove, Calif. A local funeral service is 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 18, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home. Burial, with military honors by American Legion Post 211, follows in Forsythe Cemetery. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time Jan. 18 at the funeral home.



**MARGARET THOMPSON**  
Margaret Ellen Thompson, 95, of Chrisman, passed away at 3:44 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, at Pleasant Meadows Senior Living in Chrisman. She was retired after 25 years as a teller with the First National Bank of Chrisman.  
A service celebrating her life is 11 a.m. today, Jan. 11, at Templeton Funeral Home in Paris. Burial follows in Woodland Cemetery at Chrisman. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time today at the funeral home.  
Mrs. Thompson was born July 2, 1924, in Stoddard County, Missouri, the daughter of the late Earl and Reba Long Scott. She married Roy Everett Thompson July 22, 1942, in Missouri. He preceded her in death Jan. 1, 1961.  
Survivors include three children, Judy Mattis of Danville, Gary (Elizabeth) Thompson of San Antonio, Texas; and



THOMPSON

**TODD EDWARDS**  
CASEY – Todd Charles Edwards, 56 of Westfield, passed away at 4:03 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020, at his home.  
A funeral service is 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, at Markwell Funeral Home, with the Rev. Eddie Hammond officiating. Burial follows in the Bean Cemetery, Martinsville. Visitation is from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the funeral home.  
More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).



EDWARDS

**KIMBERLY WALLACE**  
MARSHALL – Kimberly Jean Wallace, 51, of Tulsa, Okla., passed away at 6:56 p.m. Dec. 19, 2019, at St. John's Hospital, Tulsa.  
A memorial service celebrating her life is 2 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at Pearce Funeral Home. Visitation is from 1 p.m. until the service time Tuesday at the funeral home.  
Memorial donations may be made to Mrs. Rickman's Closet or the Marshall Public Library.  
More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).



WALLACE

Mr. Stewart was born Oct. 12, 1931, near Redmon, the son of the late Fred L. and Lillian Barr Stewart. He was the youngest of four children. He married Anna Mae Forsythe March 30, 1952.  
He is survived by his loving wife of 67 years, Anna Mae; sister-in-law, Bettie Forsythe; many nieces and nephews; and special friends, Randy, Mike and Scott Hudson.  
He was preceded in death by his sisters Ilene and Violet; brother Dale; nephew Darrell Beard; and brother-in-law Harold Forsythe.  
Mr. Stewart graduated in the 1949 class at Paris High School. After working in a factory, he enlisted in the Navy and had his basic training at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, in 1952. He

Janice DePlanty of Mount Vernon; two sisters, Alice O'Neal of Dallas, Texas, and Martha Jean Warner of Marshall; eight grandchildren, David (Tina) Cahill and Craig Cahill both of San Antonio, Carla (Jason Allen) Cahill of Danville, Rachel (Mike) Gomez of Miami, Fla., Jacqueline Thompson of Austin, Texas, Jim (Debbie) DePlanty of Odin, Jeff (Stephanie) DePlanty of Clayton, Mo., and Jason DePlanty of Salem; nine great-grandchildren, Bailey Cahill, Brandee Modgling, Maisie Cahill, Ainslie Cahill, Finn Cahill, Will Deplanty, Quinn DePlanty, Sebastian Gomez and Diego Gomez; and several nieces and nephews.  
She was preceded in death by five brothers and two sisters.  
Mrs. Thompson was a longtime member of Chrisman United Methodist Church and a member of the Chrisman American Legion Auxiliary.  
Memorial donations may be made to Chrisman United Methodist Women.  
Online condolences at [www.TempletonFuneralHome.com](http://www.TempletonFuneralHome.com).

**MAGGIE CONNELLY**  
CASEY – Margaret "Maggie" Connelly, 83, of Casey, passed away at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7, 2020, at Heartland Nursing Center.  
A celebration of life is 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 19, at the First Baptist Church, with Pastors Brock Ashley and Jon McDonald officiating. Markwell Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.  
Memorial donations may be made Shriners Hospital for Children, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Greater Indiana Chapter "Team Caiden" or Multiple Sclerosis Association of America.  
More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).



CONNELLY

**JOSEPHINE CLINE**  
MARSHALL – Rachel Josephine Cline, 93, of Marshall, and formerly of West Union, passed away Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, at Marshall Rehabilitation and Nursing.  
A graveside service is 2 p.m. Friday, Jan. 10, at the Harrison Cemetery, West Union. Pearce Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.  
More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).

was then assigned to the USS Toledo in Fox Division (Fire Control) where he continued until his release. The ship and crew was sent to Korea three different times during the Korean Conflict.  
After his Navy discharge, he went to college in Long Beach, Calif., and graduated with a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Arts, and later received his Masters Degree. He was a member of Epsilon Tau Fraternity.  
During his 31-year tenure at Los Altos High School in Hacienda Heights, he taught driver's training, graphic arts and photography. He and his students photographed all of the football games, plus worked on the school annual. One of his students became a photographer on cruise ships.  
After his retirement in 1994, he was very involved with his

**CARROLL ROBERTSON**  
MARTINSVILLE – Carroll Max Robertson, 81, passed away Saturday, Jan. 4, 2020, at Blessing Hospital, Quincy.  
A service in honor of his life was 11 a.m. Thursday, Jan. 9, at the Martinsville First Christian Church. Burial followed in the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery. Pearce Funeral Home of Marshall was in charge of the arrangements.  
Memorial donations may be made to the Mt. Pleasant Cemetery Association, the Martinsville First Christian Church or Faith Journey Church of Quincy.  
More information and online condolences at [www.pearcefuneralservices.com](http://www.pearcefuneralservices.com).



ROBERTSON



**HAROLD SANDIFORD**  
CASEY – Harold Wayne Sandiford, 69, of rural Casey, passed away at 8:41 a.m. Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at his home.  
A funeral service is 10 a.m. today, Jan. 11, at Markwell Funeral Home, with Pastor Kenneth "Bud" Wade and Brother Matthew B. Sandiford officiating. Burial follows at the Partlow Cemetery, with graveside military rites by Casey Veterans of Foreign Wars and Martinsville American Legion. Visitation is from 9 a.m. until the service time today at the funeral home.  
More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).



SANDIFORD



**INFANT BECKHAM VOLTSORF**  
Beckham Cru Volstorf, son of Andrew Volstorf and Pilar Guerrero, failed to survive birth Friday, Dec. 13, 2019, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind.  
Private services were 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 8, at Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home, with Bro. Nate Alexander officiating. Private burial is in Edgar Cemetery.  
Online condolences at [www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com).



USS Toledo reunions, loved attending them, taking pictures for them and silk screening T-shirts for his shipmates. He enjoyed maintaining his yard and traveling.  
To characterize Mr. Stewart, he was a loving husband, son, brother and uncle, always ready to help friends and neighbors. He was a longtime member of the United Methodist Church in Garden Grove, Calif.  
The family appreciates the excellent care he received in UCI, the ICU team, a special nurse, Seth Trevett, and the hospice team; also his care givers Amy and Ruby.  
Memorial donations may be made to UCI Medical Center Research or the charity of the donor's choice.  
Online condolences at [www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com](http://www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com).

**PHYLLIS WRIGHT**  
OAKLAND – Phyllis Ann Wright, 68, of Brocton, passed away Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, after a courageous battle with cancer.  
A funeral service is 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11, at Krabel Funeral Home. Burial follows at Payne Cemetery. Visitation is from 1 p.m. until the service time Saturday at the funeral home.  
Ms. Wright was born Dec. 17, 1951, at Paris, the daughter of Richard Allen Wright Sr. and Doris Irene Ogden.  
She is survived by her mother and her brother, Richard Wright of Brocton.  
She was preceded in death by her father.  
Ms. Wright was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, and worked as a manager at an employment agency. She will be dearly missed by her friends and family.  
Online condolences at [www.krabelfuneralhome.com](http://www.krabelfuneralhome.com).

**ALICE FAIRHURST**  
TERRE HAUTE, Ind. – Alice Butler Fairhurst, 90, of Terre Haute, Ind., passed away Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, after a long and happy life. She spent her 25-year career teaching at Crestwood School in Paris.  
A private family burial was Tuesday, Jan. 7, in Oak Hill Cemetery, Riley, Ind. The Callahan & Hughes Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.  
Mrs. Fairhurst was born Feb. 1, 1929, at Terre Haute, the daughter of Verne Butler and Geneva Marratta Fairhurst.  
Survivors include her three daughters, Ann (Marc) Fairhurst, Susan (Henry) Hughes and Jill (Greg) Hall; three grandchildren, Landrum, Lindsey and Benjamin Clay; and three great-grandchildren.  
Mrs. Fairhurst was a graduate of Wiley High School and received a bachelor's degree in education from Indiana State University. She was very active in PEO and Chi Omega alumni activities. Spending time with her family was her greatest joy.  
Online condolences at [www.callahanandhughes.com](http://www.callahanandhughes.com).



FAIRHURST

**GUS BLAIR**  
James William "Gus" Blair, 68, of Paris, passed away at 11:55 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at Paris Healthcare Center. He was retired after many years as an employee of Feutz Contractors and other area construction companies.  
Services celebrating his life are 11 a.m. Monday, Jan. 13, at Templeton Funeral Home, with the Rev. Rodger Allen officiating. Burial follows in Edgar Cemetery. Visitation is from 2 to 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 12, at the funeral home.  
Mr. Blair was born Jan. 7, 1951, at Paris, the son of the late John R. Blair Jr. and Bettie Cook Blair.  
Survivors include a brother, J. Steve (Jane) Blair of Paris; two nephews, Brian (Jessica) Blair and Scott Blair (Billie Jean Quinn) and their families; as well as a number of cousins, extended family members and friends.

**STEPHEN GLENDENNING**  
MARTINSVILLE – Stephen Samuel Glendenning, 61, of Martinsville, passed away at 1:18 p.m. Monday, Jan. 6, 2020, at his home.  
A memorial service is 1 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13,



GLENDENNING

Mr. Blair was a 1969 graduate of Paris High School. He was a member of the Edgar County Sportsman's Club and the National Rifle Association and was a staunch Second Amendment advocate. He was a voracious reader and history enthusiast and an avid collector of antique fishing gear, books and blacksmith equipment. He was proud to have traced his ancestry back to 13th century Germany, England and Scotland. He will be remembered as a private but witty person, a walking history encyclopedia of sorts who enjoyed good conversation and the occasional political banter.  
Memorial donations may be made to Paris Carnegie Public Library or to the Edgar County Humane Association.  
Online condolences at [www.TempletonFuneralHome.com](http://www.TempletonFuneralHome.com).

at Greenwell Funeral Home, with Danelle Jackson officiating. Burial follows Ridgeland Cemetery. Visitation is from 11 a.m. until the service time Monday at the funeral home.  
Memorial donations may be made to CEAD Council in Charleston.  
More information and online condolences at [www.markwellfuneralhome.com](http://www.markwellfuneralhome.com).

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We're all lobbyists, but what can we do about them?

Remember as a teen devising a strategy to convince the old man to use the family car to go on a date Saturday night? That is lobbying, trying to get something that is wanted. We're all lobbyists.

In big cities, state capitols, and D.C., the groups we all belong to pay money to specialists (lobbyists) to push for what they want. Society looks down on lobbyists, as likely corrupt somehow. It isn't the lobbying that is corrupt; it's the money that is a commodity used by groups and their lobbyists that can be corrupting. The temptation of money can induce people to trade something, possibly even a vote, for money. Money is power and, as Lord Acton famously suggested, power ultimately corrupts.

At present in Illinois, the federal government is investigating a number of Illinois politicians for possibly making unearned personal gain at public expense. The focus is on public electric utility ComEd. House Speaker Mike Madigan held the giant electric utility in a political vice grip at a period the company was desperate to save its nuclear plants and increase consumer rates.

ComEd gave lots of good jobs to lobbyists and former legislators, possibly in return for favorable treatment on rates and the saving of its nuclear power plants, worth hundreds of millions of dollars to the giant company. Some time ago, an insider friend of mine wondered out loud to his friend Speaker Mike Madigan about the propriety of so many legislators becoming well-paid lobbyists after they stepped down from public office. Madigan replied, "Jimmy (not his real name), what else will they do? These are the best jobs they will ever have."

It's the money, stupid. When I was a backbench legislator half a century ago, there were no regulations about campaign contributions and lobbying expenditures. There was an old observation then about money and votes, maybe true: If a lawmaker's suit jacket side-pocket flaps were out, he wouldn't take any money, but if they were in, and greenbacks could easily be slipped in, he was open for business. And lots of flaps were in.

As a result of years-long efforts by good government advocates such as Cindy Canary, Kent Redfield and others, Illinois now has some of the most detailed campaign and lobbying disclosure requirements in the nation. Campaign committees must file detailed quarterly reports of their receipts and expenditures. Lobbyists are also limited, for example, to \$75 per day per legislator for dining after session days, all of which is reported, down to the penny.

This sunshine constrains, but apparently doesn't eliminate, the temptation to seek personal gain from politics. Since 1976, about when we started imposing regulations and limitations, 2,000 people in Illinois have been convicted of public corruption, one of the worst records among the states. As many of us scribblers have written, Illinois appears to have a culture of corruption. That is, if the opportunity exists to get the youngster's DUI fixed, or to get some inside help passing a tough state licensure exam, many of us tend to take advantage of the opportunity. And money is generally involved in the transaction somewhere along the way. I'm also confident many of us contribute money to elected officials as an insurance policy that could prove beneficial when we might later need some help dealing with government.

How do we reduce further the role of money and of insider dealing in Illinois politics? One of my insider friends says any such effort is ridiculous: "It's like kids trying to stop the flow of a creek. The water will ultimately find another route downstream."

Others, however, came up with these suggestions, which seem reasonable to me:

■ Prohibit former legislators, legislative staffers and executive branch officials from registering as paid lobbyists for two years after leaving state government. (By the way, this should be done in the federal government as well, where up to half of former congressmen stay in D.C. to become lobbyists. There is a weak prohibition now in D.C., easily evaded.)

If people seek public office thinking they can use their experience to feather their nests later, democracy is badly tainted.

■ Prohibit campaign fundraisers in

See NOWLAN, Page 7A

See NOWLAN, Page 7A

Seeing the good and bad in people

Recent events are, as usual, a glimpse into the see-saw nature of humanity

It has been an interesting week. Good news came at the end of last week when volunteers with the Salvation Army were doing a final count of kettle donations and found a gold coin wrapped in a piece of paper. That annual gift came down to the wire and Salvation Army volunteer John Wright said those involved were beginning to wonder if the mysterious donor had perhaps died, or moved, since the 2018 Red Kettle Campaign.

It is a multi-year tradition in Paris that at least one gold coin is deposited in the kettles. It is not known who the donor is or when or where the coin will be dropped, but it is an exciting moment for those involved with the fundraising activity to find it.

We regard the anonymous leaving of the coin an affirmation of being human. Here is an individual, or perhaps multiple individuals working together since we don't know, with some means and desirous of helping others without seeking credit or public notice for the generosity or even the ability to use the gift as a tax deduction.

To whoever donates the gold coins

OUR VIEW

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

each year, thank you. It is a grand gesture that makes many of us compare that quiet generosity against our Ebenezer Scrooge tendencies.

Local attorney Dave Frisse is retiring and our conversation with him earlier in the week reaffirms something that has been said in this space so many times before – the community is turning a corner. As a longtime observer and participant in community activities, Frisse also sees the change.

Frisse explained he witnessed the passing of the entrepreneurial class that drove the local economy during the 1950s through the 1970s. A nationwide economic turndown in the 1980s hit the county hard, and locally population declined, people got poorer and with that came a community attitude that mediocre was OK and perhaps all we deserved.

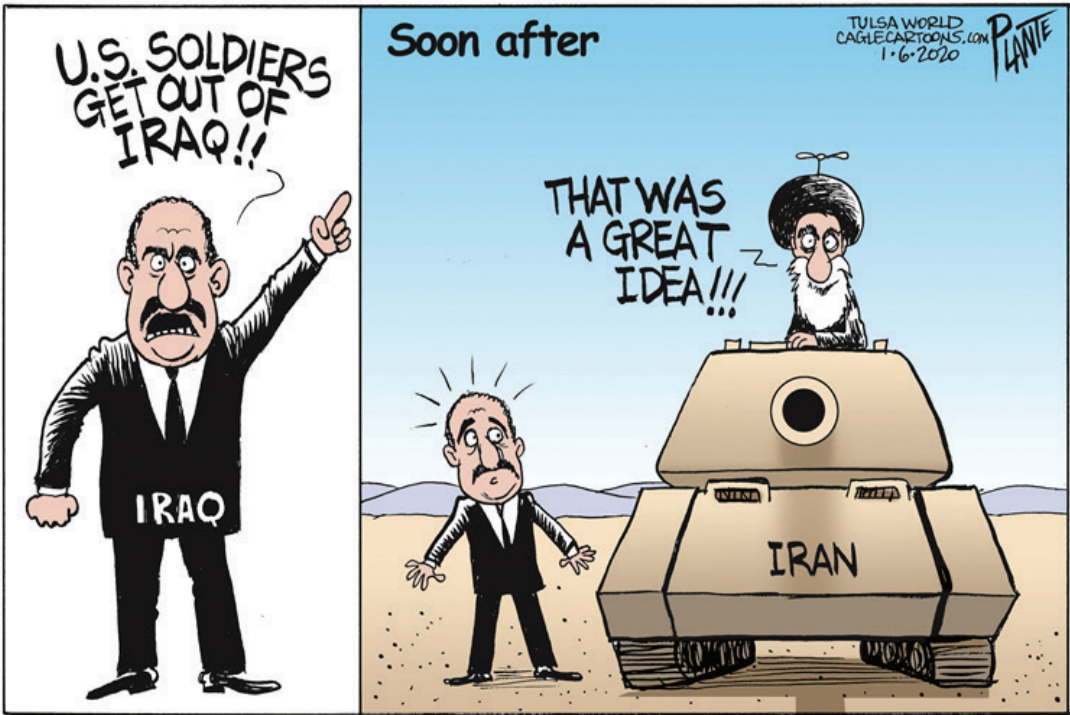
He is encouraged by the young people starting businesses, making Paris their home and looking for ways to improve the community. We are, too, and join with Frisse in saying

mediocre is not good enough.

On a more disturbing note is news out of Springfield that an uncovered email by powerful lobbyist Michael McCain revealed an attempt to use his influence to protect a state worker facing disciplinary action because the person kept silent about ghost employees and a rape that allegedly occurred in Champaign County. This is an abhorrent example of how depraved some people can be. The idea that party loyalty that helps hides crimes, especially a violent act, is worthy of protection cannot stand.

We expect some people to claim this is an example of Democratic politics in Illinois that wouldn't happen if Republicans were in control. Not true. Those of us who watch the news feeds know that Republican controlled states have their own scandals. This is not about political parties being either good or bad, it is about people falling under the dark side of power and refusing to do the right thing.

We join the legislators of both parties who are demanding an investigation with perhaps a special prosecutor. This cannot be swept under the rug or ignored until it goes away.



Was the Soleimani killing a policy success?

There's an old story — apocryphal, as the best stories always seem to be — that Richard Nixon asked Chinese premier Zhou Enlai what he thought about the French Revolution, and Zhou said, "It's too soon to tell." At first blush, the minicrisis between Iran and the United States appears to have ended well for the U.S., but it may be too soon to tell.

On the positive side of the ledger, Trump's action rid the world of an effective terror master. Qassem Soleimani, head of the Quds (Jerusalem) force, was instrumental in creating Hezbollah, which has been responsible for attacks around the globe and has specifically targeted the United States and Israel. Hezbollah was behind the 1983 bombings of the U.S. embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, as well as the embassy annex the following year. They kidnapped CIA station chief William Buckley and tortured him to death. In 1985, Hezbollah hijacked a TWA airliner and killed a U.S. Navy diver, dropping his body onto the airport tarmac.

The Quds force also supports Sunni terrorists like Hamas and al-Qaida (though it fought ISIS) and has carried out multiple terror attacks against Israel. During the Iraq War, Soleimani was credited with developing the IEDs that took the lives of at

least 600 Americans. U.S. General David Petraeus recounted a message he once received from the terror leader: "Gen. Petraeus, you should know that I, Qassem Soleimani, control the policy for Iran with respect to Iraq, Lebanon, Gaza and Afghanistan." He didn't mention Yemen, as that war came a bit later, but Iran was behind the Houthis as well.

Most devastating, in terms of body count, has been Soleimani's participation in the Syrian civil war on behalf of Bashar al-Assad. That bloodbath has taken the lives of more than 500,000 Syrians and displaced more than 11 million more (6 million internally and 5.6 million external refugees).

Soleimani's death is likely to be a short-term setback for Iran's imperial ambitions. Also on the positive side of the ledger is the fact that Iran was reduced to lying to the Iranian people about its retaliation. Rather than risk killing Americans and thereby inviting further conflict, Iran chose to fire (misfire?) missiles at a couple of Iraqi bases while claiming on state media that 80 Americans had died. That was about as clear a climbdown as possible in an international crisis.

On the negative side of the ledger, Iran has now withdrawn from abiding by the limitations of the nuclear agreement, and whatever the flaws of that pact (I strenuously opposed it), it was still better to have Iran in compliance than not. Nor would it be crazy for Iran to conclude, after this humiliation at America's hands, that nuclear weapons are more desirable than

ever. Further, if our goal was to weaken internal support for the Iranian regime, we may not have succeeded. A month ago, Iran's cities were rocked by mass protests over the government's decision to raise gasoline prices by 300 percent. Up to 600 protesters were killed and as many as 7,000 arrested. Now, we have triggered a nationalistic reflex, and the streets are thronged by mourners for the martyr Soleimani.

It was not necessarily in our interest to have alienated Iraqis to the point where a resolution was passed in parliament demanding the withdrawal of all U.S. forces. While it's true the Kurds and Sunnis did not participate in that nonbinding vote, it is nevertheless some measure of the animosity we've engendered. Nor was the situation improved by presidential tweets threatening severe sanctions on Iraq. It would be Iran's fondest wish for America to leave — or even better — to be chased out of Iraq.

If we know anything about the clerics in Tehran, it's that they nurse long grudges, and they are happy to take revenge on innocent civilians as well as military targets. In 1988, the U.S. destroyed half of the Iranian navy in Operation Praying Mantis. Eight years later, Hezbollah detonated a bomb at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia, which housed American Marines. Twenty were killed and nearly 500 wounded.

After Israel assassinated an Iranian nuclear scientist, Iran's

See CHAREN, Page 7A

The Godfather could teach Trump a lesson about Iran

Before Donald Trump began to slur his words and concoct fake verbs like "tolerize," he declared on Wednesday, Jan. 8, that, "as long as I'm president of the United States, Iran will never be allowed to have a nuclear weapon ... Their pursuit of nuclear weapons threatens the civilized world. We'll never let that happen."

Great. If that's what he wants, perhaps he'd take a deal that among other things compelled Iran to cut its uranium-enriching centrifuges by nearly 75 percent until the late 2020s and submit to ongoing international inspections.

Oh wait, those were the terms of the historic nuclear deal that Trump tore up two years ago because it had one fundamental problem: It was a signature achievement for Barack Obama. So of course it had to go. Obama had embraced the credo best expressed in Godfather II by Michael Corleone: "Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer." If Trump was not a husk of a human ruled by petty pique, he would understand the wisdom of entrapping a foe via international engagement. But because he's so hung up on Obama, and so personally weak, he had

See POLMAN, Page 7A



DICK POLMAN  
GUEST COLUMN

HAVE YOUR SAY

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YOUR VIEW

# In response to letters and policy changes

Editor, The Prairie Press:  
I will try three subjects today, for none of them is worth 500 words on its own.

First up is Ms. Griffin's letter to the editor that appeared in the January 4 edition of The Prairie Press. She asserts that we need to, "forgive those who oppose us." However, not knowing me personally, my forgiveness has been complete over my 77 years on this Earth. I have no rancor toward her. Also urged is to, "rule out contempt toward those not of our persuasion." She should read her previous letters she has written, then reread mine. Who has the contempt? "Good and decent citizen again?" To whom is she speaking? Physician, heal thyself.

Mr. Griffin is next for his letter claiming the economy is not as good as conservatives claim. By what metric does he use? Unemployment – it is down for every single demographic measured. More money in our pockets? Even liberals have to admit that at least 80 percent of American profited from that bill. When \$1 trillion have been repatriated from overseas, it seems the economy is chugging along well. In his echo chamber, Mr. Griffin seems to be parroting the Democratic line that anything Donald Trump has accomplished must be bad. Wake up and smell the music of economic sweet aroma.

Third in this screed is the true impact of the 2018 election in Illinois. Democrats have passed over 250 laws that harm ordinary Illinoisians. JB Pritzker promised a progressive agenda and he has delivered. Now we have the most liberal abortion state of all the 50 – 51 if you include D.C.

Also we are blessed with the legalization of recreational marijuana. Other states have tried this, only to see an increase in driving fatalities.

But the state trumpets that the first day sales of weed topped \$3 million, enriching the state's coffers. Edgar County may jump on the pot bandwagon, because if we don't, we miss out on revenue.

A graduated income tax is on the ballot this fall, for that is what Pritzker wanted and he got it. However, if history is any guide, not only will the higher earners be hit, but gradually the taxes on the lower income households will also be raised.

And of course, there are the fees now demanded. License stickers go from \$101 per year up to \$151. If you want to pull a small trailer behind your vehicle, that fee goes up from \$18 per year to \$118. Each class level will see that bump. Electric car fees raise from \$35 every other year to \$248 per year. Trailers to pull your boat will also see a \$100 raise. These fees will be borne by upper income classes, but will hit hardest on those in the lower echelon of wage earners.

Democrats, you asked for it, so I hope you are enjoying it. As the old Democratic adage: if it moves, tax it; if it breathes, tax it; if it exists, tax it.

Russ Wittmer  
Paris

## Thank you to our generous patriots

Editor, The Prairie Press:

I would like to acknowledge each and every one of the patriots that organized, installed and took the time out of their busy lives to assemble such a wonderful Military Branch flag display at the Hume Honor roll Memorial. May God bless you all.

Jay Schumacher  
Hume

## POLMAN

FROM PAGE 6A

to flex what he thinks is strength.

His disastrous decision to tear up the nuclear deal has ramped up the dangerous tensions that presently plague us.

"The logic of Tehran's response is straightforward and utterly predictable: If the United States wants to make life difficult for Iran, its leaders will demonstrate that they can make life difficult for the United States too," explained Stephen Walt, one of our smartest foreign affairs experts. "It wouldn't take more than a shred of strategic thinking to anticipate Iran's response and recognize that unilateral pressure was not going to work."

But Trump, lacking a shred of strategic thought, apparently couldn't fathom the possibility that Iran would refuse to knuckle under, that instead it would lash out. The result is the current tit-for-tat violence that could trigger a war.

That's why Obama's embrace of the Corleone credo made perfect sense. Alas, Trump's impulsive instinct is to destroy every last vestige of Obama's work – as evidenced Wednesday by his oft-repeated false accusation that Obama funded terrorism. Calling the nuclear deal foolish Trump said, the Iranians, "were given \$150 billion ... The missiles fired last night at us and our allies were paid for with the funds made available by the last administration."

In truth, the actual amount was reportedly closer to \$50 billion and, contrary to Trump's insinuation, it was not American taxpayer money. It was Iran's money that had been frozen until the signing of the nuclear deal in 2013. Nor does Trump have any proof the sums owed to Iran

were specifically spent to manufacture the missiles Iran had launched. What he said Wednesday, in his latest attempt to smear his predecessor's achievement, was just the usual stew of lies and bellicosity.

I was reminded of a conversation I had in 2015 with Ami Ayalon, a former director of Israel's domestic security service. Ayalon was visiting Philadelphia, at a time when candidate Trump was attacking Obama's nuclear deal. Ayalon told me Trump was being foolish: "To kill the deal is to kill American leadership in the Middle East. Their assumption that we should simply reject this deal, and that we could then go back and negotiate a better deal? This is nonsense. This can only be heard from a person who does not understand anything about Iran."

Nor, of course, does Trump understand anything about democracy. His spinners went to Capitol Hill Wednesday, ostensibly to explain why he was right to assassinate Qasem Soleimani, but mostly to tell Republican senators they should not dissent or debate the warrior-in-chief's decisions. Which prompted a conservative Republican senator, Utah's Mike Lee, to blow a gasket in front of the press corps:

"(It) was probably the worst briefing I've seen at least on a military issue in the nine years I've served in the United States Senate," Lee complained. "I find it insulting and I find it demeaning to the Constitution of the United States. It's un-American. It's unconstitutional. And it's wrong."

Leave it to Trump to shred every remnant of the Corleone credo. As evidenced Wednesday, he can't even keep his friends close.

(Dick Polman, a veteran national political columnist based in Philadelphia and a Writer in Residence at the University of Pennsylvania, writes at [DickPolman.net](http://DickPolman.net). Email him at [dickpolman7@gmail.com](mailto:dickpolman7@gmail.com))

## NOWLAN

FROM PAGE 6A

Springfield for the period of one week preceding the start of a legislative session and until adjournment.

■ Prohibit direct campaign contributions by corporations, businesses and unions, as the federal government does.

■ Prohibit lawmakers and their campaign committees from soliciting campaign contributions during legislative session periods, to eliminate any

appearances of possible dealing.

We're all lobbyists, and there's nothing improper about it. It's the increasing amounts of money sloshing around, creating temptation, that needs to be regulated somehow.

(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.)

## CHAREN

FROM PAGE 6A

retaliation took the form of targeting Israeli tourists in Bulgaria, and Israeli diplomats in Georgia, India and Thailand. Frequently, Iran disclaims responsibility, as it did regarding the 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires.

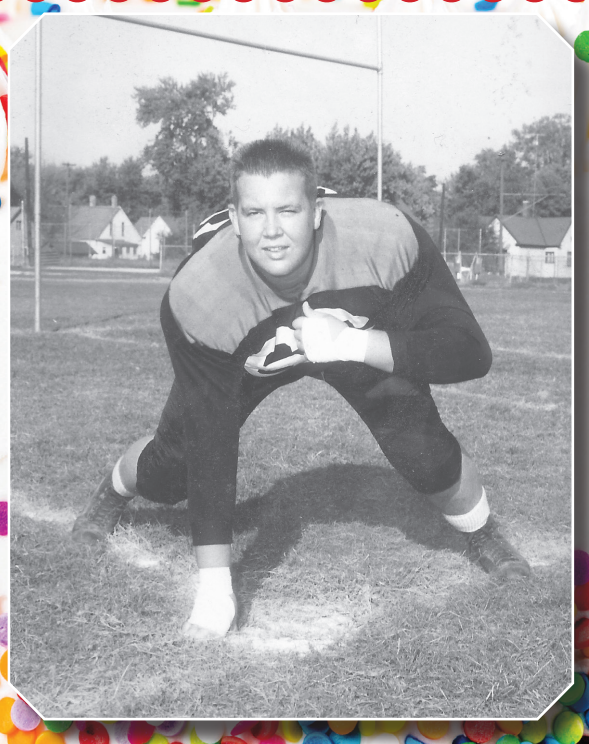
For good or ill, it is

unlikely that this chapter is closed.

(Mona Charen is a columnist and a political analyst. She is a senior fellow at the Ethics and Public Policy Center.)

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# New at the library

## SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The following items were added to the Paris Library's collection during December.

### FICTION

Poppy Redfern and the Midnight Murders – Tessa Arlen  
Robert B. Parker's Angel Eyes (large print) – Ace Atkins  
Beating About the Bush – M.C. Beaton  
Trace of Evil – Alice Blanchard  
Christmas with a Cowboy – Carolyn Brown  
Code of Honor – Tom Clancy (Marc Cameron)  
Contention and Other Frontier Stories (large print) – Robin Cook  
Genesis (large print) – Noel Street – Richard Paul Evans  
Harley Merlin and the Secret Coven #1 – Bella Forrest  
Harley Merlin and the Mystery Twins #2 – Bella Forrest  
Harley Merlin and the Stolen Magicals #3 – Bella Forrest  
Guilty Not Guilty – Felix Francis  
Swimming for Sunlight – Allie Larkin  
Just Watch Me – Jeff Lind-say

Tracking Game – Margaret Mizushima  
A House Divided – Jonathan F. Putnam  
The Rise of the Magicks (large print) – Nora Roberts  
Say You're Sorry – Karen Rose  
Freedom Lessons – Eileen Harrison Sanchez  
The Poppy Wife – Caroline Scott  
The Network – L. C. Shaw  
Holding on to Nothing – Elizabeth Chiles Shelburne

### NONFICTION

DIY Watercolor Flowers – Marie Boudon  
Freezer-Friendly Dump Dinners – Erin Chase  
Before and After – Judy Christie and Lisa Wingate  
I Wanted Fries With That – Amy Fish  
A Bookshop in Berlin – Francoise Frenkel  
The Last Ocean – Nicci Gerrard  
Vegan Everything – Nadine Horn & Jorg Mayer  
Disney's Land – Richard Snow  
Whole Farm Management from Start-Up to Sustainability – Gary Stephenson

# MASONS PUT ON PLAY TO BENEFIT FAITH IN ACTION



Special to The Prairie Press

The Valley of Danville Scottish Rite Masons presented the play "December's Rose" at the Paris Masonic Temple Dec. 27 as part of a soup supper. The event was well attended by Masons and the public and monetary donations are going to Paris Faith in Action. Cast members are working or retired Masons who put in tireless hours rehearsing for this entertainment and are: Worshipful Master Seth Cabot...Mitchell I. Saret of Charleston; Brother and Squire Flack, Sean P. McBride, 33rd Degree of Danville; Brother Sammy Brewster, C. James Hegg, MSA of Covington, Ind.; Brother James Lucas, Bradford W. Cronk, 33rd Degree of Champaign; Secretary Slater, Denver R. Phelps, MSA of Ogden; Treasurer Jones, Donald H. Goupil of Robinson; Chaplain Dr. Wells, Jerry H. Askren, 33rd Degree of Danville; Senior Warden Tate, Robert A. Gill of Oakwood; Past Master Fletcher, Richard A. Thompson, MSA, 33rd Degree of Hoopeston; Past Master Pike, Charles H. Felkamp Jr., 33rd Degree of Casey; Brother John Vernon, Mark A. Dailey of Paris; Junior Deacon, Michael H. Quick of Chrisman; Junior Warden/Master of Ceremonies, Brian L. Pettice, 33rd Degree of Alvin; Director, Sean P. McBride, 33rd Degree of Danville; Technical Assistant/Make-up, Richard A. Thompson, MSA, 33rd Degree of Hoopeston.

# CHRISMAN

FROM PAGE 1A

The biggest part of the evening was given over to inconsistencies in the employee handbook regarding carry-over for vacations, sick days and comp time. Various ideas were bandied about how much vacation carryover to allow or if employees should be paid for any unused vacation time. Haddix had a simple solution. "I just say use it or lose it," said Haddix. The others concurred and the plan is to approve changes to the handbook specifying how much annual vacation time employees get, based on length of service to the city, and failure to use it all during the calendar year means the unused time is sacrificed and will not carry over and continue to build year after year. Comp time was another sticky matter. City employees who work on the streets, water system and sewer plant

get overtime when it is necessary to work beyond a normal week. Commissioner Tyler Alexander said the clerical workers in the office are not eligible for overtime hours, but they are required to attend city council meetings. He advocated allowing the clerical workers to accumulate comp time up to a maximum of 60 hours since they are not paid to attend the meetings. It was also suggested to grant comp time to new city works supervisor Thad Arrasmith for the time he attends city council meetings. Other times when Arrasmith must work after hours for emergencies will count toward overtime pay. Alexander agreed to write the discussion points raised during the meeting for review and possible approval during the Jan. 21 city meeting.

# BROCTON

FROM PAGE 1A

situation is different than letting people use the building for typical activities like reunions and parties. In new business, the trustees authorized Cary and village treasurer Cheryl Gill to sign documents related to a USDA Rural Development block grant seeking funds to replace the water mains in town. Gill will be the grant manager for making the online reports tied to the project. New water mains are needed in the village because city workers are constantly trying to find the source of a leak that is losing thousands of gallons of treated water every month. "We've have had Rural Water to town many times and they located several leaks," said Cary, while acknowledging the monthly loss continues. He assured residents the city employees are continuing to work with a plumber and representative from Rural Water to fix the problem. A new water plant operator was introduced. Jake Johnson is the water superintendent for Ashmore in Coles County and he has agreed to perform similar duties for the Brocton

water plant. A proposal from Prospect Bank gave the trustees pause for concern. Cary and Gill explained the village has two certificates of deposit with Prospect that are near maturity, and they want renew them at a higher rate. To do so, Prospect requested a resolution by the village board to do so. As Gill understands the process, failure to pass the resolution means the CDs cannot be renewed at a higher interest rate, but will rollover as an instrument earning no interest. There was some brief discussion about taking the money to another bank, but trustee Richard Grice disagreed. "Things can't always be about the money," said Grice. "We've got to support having that bank in town." Final consensus among village board members was the bank's request for a resolution was unusual, and something they had never encountered, but it created no foreseeable detriment to the community. The resolution passed to renew the two CDs at a higher rate with Prospect Bank.



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

The law was always Dave Frisse's passion as well as avocation but he also cultivated many other diverse interests such as a fascination with Napoleon and the Grand Canyon. The geological wonder also led him into collecting, in a small way, art related to the Grand Canyon. He said one goal of his upcoming retirement is to show his wife some more parts of the planet.

# FRISSE

FROM PAGE 1A

"When you turn 70 you are as close to 90 as you are 50," said Frisse. "It is still fun and interesting, but I don't have the energy to invest in keeping up with the law. I want more time with my grandkids. I'd like to show my wife some more of the planet." A native of Highland, his early-life bucket list was checked off with graduation from Notre Dame and earning a law degree from St. Louis University School of Law. His first years as a lawyer were spent with the Illinois Attorney General from 1974-1979 and his final two years with that office were as head of the Revenue Litigation Division. "Our client was the Department of Revenue and we handled litigation in the 95 counties outside of Cook and the Collar Counties," he said. Most of the work dealt with discrepancies between the user tax and the occupation tax that fell broadly under the category of a state sales tax. According to Frisse, Illinois does not have a true sales tax. What exists is a much more complex system where people pay a use tax when buying merchandise from a vendor. The merchant in turn applies the tax collected on sold goods as a credit against the occupation tax that is the tax on the business. Sales tax was the state's most important source of revenue at that time. "The Illinois income tax was new then," Frisse said. He enjoyed the work but after a period of time desired a change. "I grew up in a small town, and I wanted to be a small town lawyer," said Frisse. The search for a new job included placing an ad in the

Illinois Bar Association Journal that got the attention of Massey, Anderson and Gibson – a firm in small town Paris. The response from the law firm was enigmatic. "They said I wasn't what they were looking for, but my background was interesting," he said. Anyway, Massey, Anderson and Gibson tendered an offer and Frisse moved to Paris June 14, 1979. "That was my first day in Paris, and I spent my first night in the Pinnell Motel," said Frisse. Senior partner Raymond Massey was preparing to retire and the other attorneys in the firm were not quite sure where Frisse fit into the scheme. As a law firm in a small town, the work involved a broad approach without a lot of specialization and Frisse did various tasks, including serving as a public defender. Circumstances dictated his course. "Congress passed a new bankruptcy law, and the other guys didn't want to learn it," said Frisse. "The economy went to hell in the '80s and all of the builders in town and a lot of farmers went bankrupt. I was more of a bank lawyer than anything." Something else that happened opened his eyes to the need for looking deeper at issues instead of practicing formulaic law. His parents asked him to prepare their will. "I didn't know an estate plan from a banana," said Frisse. The first step was asking more experienced lawyers in the firm for advice and was told to use a form. That didn't work out so well. Frisse recalls his father calling and talking through clenched teeth about the result. An accountant had reviewed the will and found weaknesses that could cause future problems for the estate.

That was about the time Massey, Anderson and Gibson was approaching a point it either had to grow or dissolve, and it made the most sense for an amicable dissolution with each attorney developing a new practice. The sting of failing his parents pointed Frisse in a new direction. He hired an expert to tutor him in probate law. "I'd rather be one of those guys that knows a subject than a dilettante," he said. A variety of related business experiences and forming a partnership with attorney Rick Brewster, who was also a CPA, showed both men there had to be a better way to estate planning than expecting the client to come in knowing everything in advance and the lawyer just drawing up the documents. "Everybody I know has seen a family fight (over estates)," said Frisse. The goal of Frisse and Brewster was to avoid such situations by offering free seminars on estate planning and consultations before a client made a commitment to spend any money with the firm. The approach worked so well Frisse frequently traveled to Florida to teach law seminars, and he was tapped to contribute material for two books. He explained the practice of estate law led to business and farm planning as well when people were looking for ways to protect assets in the transition to another generation. "It's not about how much, it's about what it means to you," he said. He added people mistakenly assume estate planning is only for the wealthy to shelter assets against death taxes. "That is not the biggest threat because most people will never get to that \$11 million threshold," said Frisse. "People need to plan for long-

term care and nursing home costs and how to protect against that." The Frisse & Brewster approach required clients to confront hard questions about the practical aspects of planning such as who was best qualified to serve as an executor, how assets should be divided and if it was necessary to protect those assets against future threats or squandering. He also brought some philosophy into the process and asked clients to think about if the things they did to develop material wealth improved the world and enhanced the family or was it simply about getting things. The answer to that frequently shaped how the estate worked. Frisse will miss the relationships built with clients, many of which evolved over years, and he will also miss the intellectual challenge of the law. "The job of the lawyer is to take rules that are often inconsistent and illogical and help clients navigate through them," Frisse said. Paris will remain his home in retirement because he anticipates exciting things on the horizon for the community. "For a long time, I was bummed about Paris," he said. "I watched as the entrepreneurial class passed on. People got more conservative and the community got more poor. There was an acceptance of mediocrity." With young people starting businesses and investing in the community, the hospital foundation looking to have more involvement and PEDCO's continued efforts, it seems to Frisse things will continue getting better. "We've got some really smart people running around here," he said.

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The Prairie Press

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# City League returns to action

BY CINDY WILSON  
Cwilson81@frontier.com

The second half of the Paris City Season has begun and spectators were treated to three barnburners in one afternoon.

## BEARS 42, LIONS 9

In the first game of the afternoon the Bears were just too much for the Lions to handle as they quickly jumped out to a 16-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. Both teams managed to add four points to the scoreboard during the second quarter. After returning to the court during the third, the Bears outscored the Lions by eight points and managed to do the same during the fourth, thus adding another win to their stats.

The Bears had several team members contributing to the win but leading the pack was Gabriel Roush with nine and Conner Little with eight. Right behind was Parker Sanders with seven. Charlie Ford and Nathan Fonner were good for six points each. Finishing the scoring with two points each were Chris Gann, Brody Stults and Eyan Keys.

Mack Kuglin led the Lions with four points and Brody Quinn followed with three. Faith Smith had a bucket for two.

## HAWKS 20, EAGLES 19

The second game of the afternoon kept one on their toes as the Hawks took a win with a battle. From the start it was a close game as the Hawks led the Eagles 6-4 at the end of the first quarter. The Eagles pumped it a bit in the second and at half managed to lead the Hawks 12-10. The third quarter belonged to the Eagles as they outscored their opponent 5-3 increasing their lead 17-13. But things took a turn in the fourth and the Eagles only added two points to the books, while the Hawks connected with seven points and that was just enough to capture a 20-19 win.

Madox Hutchings led the Hawks with eight points. Gavin Reed added five along with Emma Kramer and her three. Alivyah Lankster and Brody Bishop finished with two each.

Eagles' players Lane Tesson, Carson Throneburg and Wyatt Quick led their team with four points each. Logan Gerberding had a bucket and a free throw for three. Holden Henderson and Mason Barrett rounded up the scoring with a bucket each.

## CARDS 15, COLTS 14

Another close contest to heat up the gym on a Sunday afternoon was the match between the Cardinals and Colts.

The first half of the game pretty much summed up the play as at the end of the

# Lady Titans corral Rams

BY TIM HENDERSHOT  
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

OAKLAND – Tri-County girls hoops was back in action Monday, Jan. 6, with a home game against the Shelbyville Rams.

For the first 16 minutes, it looked like it was going to be a tougher than expected game against the young Rams. Early foul troubles for Tri-County helped Shelbyville stay in the game before a strong second half surge by the Titans eventually led the hosts to a 65-33 win.

The first eight minutes saw the Titans jump out to a 10-1 lead on the strength of a full-court defense forcing early turnovers leading to transition points. That same defense also led to early foul troubles. Tayler Barry committed three quick fouls in the early going, forcing her to

the bench.

Shelbyville took advantage with some strong passing and quick decisions to go on an 8-4 run to end the quarter and cut the Tri-County lead to just 14-9. The Rams' momentum continued early in the second quarter with five quick points to suddenly tie the contest at 14-14, but that was where Bella Dudley went to work scoring 12 of the Titans' 21 points. Shelbyville was stymied and scored only seven more points during the frame. The first half ended with the Titans taking a 35-21 lead into the locker room.

Barry was back in action for the third quarter where she grabbed a couple of steals and scored six of the Titans' 15 points, all without getting another foul call. Kaylenn Hunt played inside using the glass to get four points,

and the Tri-County defense clamped down holding the Rams to just three field goals. The Titans had a 50-28 lead going into the final eight minutes.

It was all over for the Rams in the final stanza as the Shelbyville players ran out of gas. The Rams scored one field goal and went 3 of 4 from the free throw line for just five points. Kaylin Williams, who had early foul trouble in the first half, gave Tri-County a boost getting to the free throw line making 3 of 4 as part of her five points, and Melia Eskew added four as Tri-County scored 15 to polish off the 65-33 win.

Tri-County was 27 of 66 overall for 40.9 percent and 6 of 11 from the charity stripe for 54.5 percent. One hiccup in the game was holding on

See **TITANS**, Page 10A



Cindy Spencer/The Prairie Press

**Tayler Barry drives a play for Tri-County during a game with the Shelbyville Rams. Foul trouble in the first quarter forced Barry to sit most the first half, but she returned to play in the second half.**

## TIGERS PUT UP A VALIANT FIGHT AGAINST THE WILDCATS



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

**Mason Hutchings, left, works the ball away from a South Vermillion player during the Jan. 7 game at Paris High School.**

# Paris falls to South Vermillion

BY DAN DUNDAS  
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

The Paris Tigers had another chance to pull off a comeback from behind fourth quarter win, but fell just short to the visiting South Vermillion Wildcats 60-53 Tuesday, Jan. 7.

Paris Head Coach Chase Brinkley likes how the team's attitude has grown throughout the season.

"Offensively we weren't very aggressive getting to the paint and using our size advantage in the low post throughout the night," he said. "We don't necessarily have a vocal leader on this team which is fine, as long as they are being good teammates and being coachable, and competing."

Paris tried to take advantage of South Vermillion's lack of size by starting Jared Bowers alongside JR Brinkerhoff. Mason Hutchings and Jude Sullivan helped with Paris' offense in the opening quarter, alternating with drives to the basket for scores. The Wildcats matched them with their own drives and free throws, and both teams nearly stalemated to a 13-12 duel for Paris going into the second.

Even after Hutchings departed, Conor Breneman nailed a big three pointer followed on the next possession

by one from Zack Farnham, pushing Paris up 19-15. Each team missed some easy fast break opportunities, and some Paris players struggled from the line, going two of eight for the quarter. The Wildcats got back-to-back threes with two minutes left, before the Tigers finally pushed the Wildcats into the double-bonus in a foul heavy first half.

Tied at 25, the third quarter cruised by rather quickly due to a lack of fouls, and both sides again played to a near tie. The Wildcats began to separate themselves, getting a rare dunk from their center, and a big three pointer to go up 36-29, leading to a Paris timeout.

When play resumed, Garrett King stepped up with a fast-break floater, and after a South Vermillion basket, Sullivan put in a three-pointer. King closed down the scoring for the quarter, almost appearing as a free safety out of nowhere, intercepting a long pass and taking it in himself, leaving Paris down only 38-36.

The Tigers struggled offensively in the fourth quarter, while the Wildcats took advantage of some three-point foul plays to extend their lead to nearly double-digits. Paris got some more baskets from Hutchings, as he continued his strong offensive night. After Zack



Adonna Bennett/The Prairie Press

**Paris player JR Brinkerhoff drives around a South Vermillion defender during the Tuesday, Jan. 7 game.**

Farnham hit a three to make it 54-48 Wildcats, Hutchings hit a pullup three pointer to force a South Vermillion timeout at the :33 second mark, down 56-51. A three-point attempt by Sullivan to cut the lead did not go down,

See **PARIS BOYS**, Page 10A

# Lady Tigers keep the wins rolling in

Tigers trample Bridgeport 75-25 in conference play

BY JEFF CHAMBERS  
prairiepresssports@gmail.com

BRIDGEPORT — In their second-consecutive Little Illini Conference game featuring a varsity-only matchup, the Paris Lady Tigers traveled to Red Hill Thursday, Jan. 9, and took care of business with a 75-25 victory.

The win improves the Tigers' record to 21-0 overall and 5-0 in the LIC. Red Hill falls to 2-6 overall and 0-5 in the conference.

The Tigers' #1-ranking in Class 2A in the state comes with a bullseye. Paris is now every opposing team's Super Bowl. That was evident Thursday night as the Tigers got off to an unusually slow start.

At the end of the first quarter, the visitors held a slim 13-8 lead. Even at the half, the Tigers held just a 28-17 lead over the last-place team in the conference.

As per usual adjustments were made, fires were lit and the Lady Tigers stormed out of the locker room and scored 47 points in the second half while holding the Lady Salukis to just eight total points.

Sarah Isaf led the way with 17 points and nine rebounds, just missing out on a double-double. Karington Krabel did achieve that feat with 13 points and 11 boards. Jenna Gates scorched the nets from long-range as she knocked down three 3-pointers on her way to 11 points, while also passing out five assists. Katelyn Littleton was once again the spark off the bench as she has completely thrived in her sixth-lady role. She scored 11 points in the contest. Madysyn

See **PARIS GIRLS**, Page 10A

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## PARIS GIRLS

FROM PAGE 9A

Rigdon, Trinity Tingley and Kendra Young had seven points apiece, with Rigdon also contributing three steals. Emma Henderson scored two to round out the Tigers' scoring.

The girls have a much needed three-day rest before hosting Effingham Monday, Jan. 13.

### PARIS 75, CASEY 23

Playing their first team as the number one ranked team in the latest Associated Press poll, the Lady Tigers proved to the Casey-Westfield Lady

Warriors they are the real deal.

In a game played at Ernie Eveland Gym on Tuesday, Jan. 6, the Tigers made quick work of their Little Illini Conference opponent, winning 75-23. With the win, the Tigers move to 20-0 on the season and 4-0 in the LIC. Casey falls to 3-12 overall, and 2-1 in conference play.

In the initial AP poll in December, the Lady Tigers failed to make an appearance. With tournament titles in their own North American Lighting Thanksgiving Tournament and the Charleston Holiday Tournament, along with a pair of wins over eighth-ranked Teutopolis, and a win at the PAWS Shootout against Breese Mater Dei, the Tigers were one of four teams to go from

unranked to ranked. Paris received four of a possible 11 first-place votes.

On Tuesday night the Tigers made themselves at home at Eveland Gym, scorching the nets from distance with 11 three-point baskets in the game. At the end of the first quarter, the Tigers led the Warriors 25-9, increasing that lead to 52-17 at the half.

Karrington Krabel led the Tigers in scoring with 18 points on the evening, followed by Katelyn Littleton with 16 points off the bench.

Littleton knocked down four three-point buckets in the game. Sarah Isaf and Madyson Rigdon had 10 points each, with Rigdon adding six steals to her stat line. Jenna Gates and Kendra Young had eight points apiece, with Gates adding five assists and Young pull-

ing down seven rebounds in the game. Trinity Tingley had five points and six assists to round out the scoring for the Lady Tigers.

### PARIS 52, BREESE 41

BREESE- The Paris Lady Tigers took part in the 2nd Annual PAWS Shootout Jan. 4 at Breese Central High School and were faced with the task of taking on a hometown team.

As has been the case all season long the Tigers used ferocious defense to force Breese Mater Dei into 22 turnovers en route to a 52-41 win. At the time of the game, Mater Dei was ranked #9 in the MaxPreps IHSA Class 2A rankings. The Lady Tigers were #2.

After jumping to a 15-8 lead at the end of the first

period, something happened in the second quarter that had not happened in quite some time for this Lady Tigers team. The girls were outscored in the frame by the score of 14-9, and the score was 24-22 Tigers at intermission. Sarah Isaf started out hot for the Tigers scoring eight points in the first eight minutes of the game but was held scoreless in the second period. It appeared she would easily surpass the 23-point mark that was the shootout record to that point.

Coach Dave Tingley pushed the right buttons in the locker room at the half as he normally does and the Lady Tigers stormed to a 19-4 scoring run in the third quarter to hold a 43-26 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

Mater Dei did not go qui-

etly however and cut that lead to six points at one point. The Tigers spread the court and only attempted three shots from the field in the period and scored all nine of their points from the free-throw line.

Jenna Gates led the scoring for the Tigers as she poured in a game-high 14 points. She was a perfect five-for-five from the line in the decisive fourth quarter. Isaf — who was named the player of the game — finished with 13 points in the contest. These two seniors each made three three-pointers. Karrington Krabel added 10 points, Madyson Rigdon had six points, four rebounds, and four steals, Katelyn Littleton made five-of-six from the free-throw line to finish with five points, and Kelsie Cramp-ton added four.

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## PARIS BOYS

FROM PAGE 9A

and the Tigers fouled the rest of way as South Vermillion made free throws to finish the game.

Regardless of the outcome, even with the up and down focus, Brinkley understands a season is a long process.

"We have to find a way to start games with the same amount of energy that we have

been finishing with," he said. "I was pleased with the attitude we had compared to other games. Our guys are starting to buy into the way we want to do things."

He added, "An example of that would be Mason Hutchings, who even though he got into early foul trouble, he stayed active and locked in on the bench, and it's not surprising shots started to fall when he went back in."

Brinkley said the team is getting better and rode a five-game winning streak, but the season has continuing challenges.

"We've got Casey coming in and they have Dakota Livingston, who is maybe the best player in our league," said Brinkley.

Coverage of the Friday, Jan. 10, Paris-Casey game will appear in the Jan. 18 of The Prairie Press.



Adonna Bennet/The Prairie Press

**Tigers' Jude Sullivan tries to get a shot off against a determined South Vermillion defender. The Tigers lost the home game Jan. 7 by a score of 60-53.**

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## TITANS

FROM PAGE 9A

to the basketball, players committing 18 turnovers. Dudley led all scorers with 21 points



Cindy Spencer/The Prairie Press

**Tri-County's Melia Eskew moves the ball and eyes to floor preparing to set up a play during the Jan. 6 game against Shelbyville at Oakland.**

## Lady Titans overpower Chargers, win 54-34

BY TIM HENDERSHOT

Sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

CHAMPAIGN—Tri-County Titans girls basketball was on the road Thursday, Jan. 9, for a non-conference contest against the Champaign Centennial Chargers.

Junior guard Tayler Barry was unable to play because of illness but the rest of the Titans more than made up for her absence with a 33-19 half-time lead and pull away 54-34 win.

Freshman Kaylin Williams had one of her best games to date leading all scorers with 18 points and grabbed seven rebounds. Bella Dudley added 15 and Melia Eskew contributed seven points, eight steals and five assists. Kaylenn Hunt finished with six and Lillie Cox added eight in the win.

The Titans (14-5, 3-0 Lincoln Prairie) host the Salt Fork Storm today, Jan. 11, at Oakland. Tip time is noon at Oakland High School.

## CITY LEAGUE

FROM PAGE 9A

first quarter the score was tied at 4 and was still tied at 6 when the half sounded. The third quarter Cardinal player, Carter Eastham, managed to hit a couple of buckets while the Colts had only a lone bucket giving the Cards a 10-8 lead. Play was really intense during the fourth and Carter Crippes hit a bucket and three free throws for the Cards. Not be undone, the Colts sunk a couple of free throws adding six to the board but not enough to call it a win.

Carter Crippes led the Cards with seven points. Carter Eastham had six and Benton Wilson ended with a bucket.

The Colts were led by Owen Jones with three buckets. Skyler Sweet added four points to the books. Gage Wright and Dylan Flores called it a day with two points each.

### TIGERS 24, PANTHERS 20

The final game of the afternoon was another thriller and the Tigers handed the Panthers their first loss of the season.

First quarter play had the

Tigers leading 7-6. The Tigers got a big boost from Levi Bartley during the second as he chalked up eight points on the board and at half the Tigers held a 16-10 lead. After the half, the Panthers returned ready to play some ball and at the end of the third it was a tie game with 16 each. Fourth quarter had a great deal of free throws being shot but the Panthers failed to capitalize on the opportunity of seven attempts. The Tigers added eight to the board holding the Panthers to only four. Tigers won 24-20.

The Tigers were led by Levi Bartley with eight points. Garret Rigdon added five, and Brayden Rogers and Brody Whitaker had four each. Macy Bicknell put in a bucket and Will Dudley had a single free throw.

Sean Dunn and Dawson Rogers shared top scoring for the Panthers with six points each. Nathan Delashmit added four points to the afternoon. Kipton Bradford had a free throw and a bucket, while Carter Delashmit had a free throw.

Fans looking for some good basketball are encouraged to visit Eveland Gym on Sundays and support these teams. Games start at 12:45.

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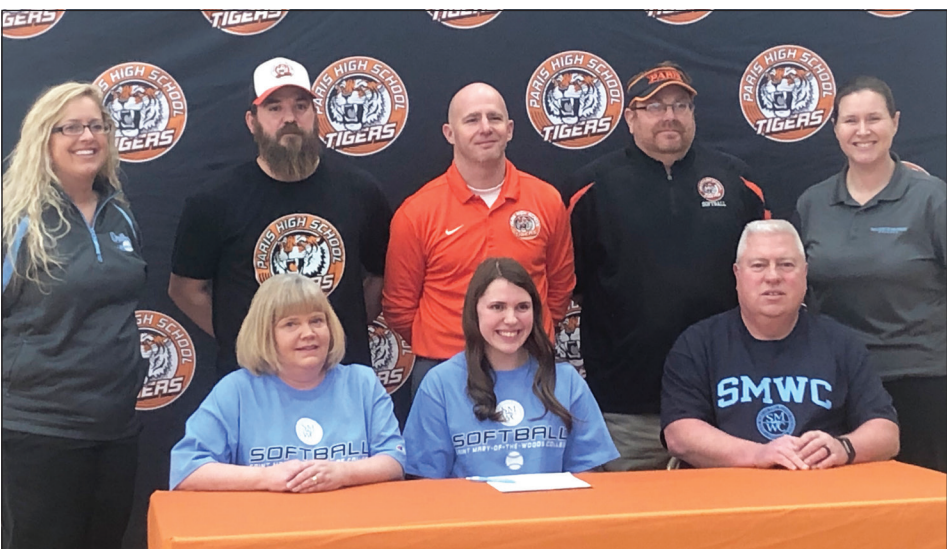
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## PARIS SENIOR SIGNS WITH SOFTBALL TEAM



Special To The Prairie Press  
Paris High School senior Katrina Strow, seated center, has signed a letter of intent to play softball for St. Mary-Of-The-Woods College.

## MCLAIN AND POLLOCK MAKE ALL-TOURNEY



Cindy Spencer/The Prairie Press  
These Tri-County Titans were named to the All-Tourney Team for the Tri-County Holiday Tournament. Left is Cole McClain and right is Mitch Pollock, who was also named the MVP for the tournament.

## Fourth quarter hurts as Titans lose 66-57

BY TIM HENDERSHOT  
sportsfan122774@yahoo.com

KANSAS — Lincoln Prairie Conference play started Tuesday, Jan. 7, for Tri-County boys basketball with the Titans hosting the Cumberland Pirates.

The Titans, coming off a second place finish in their own holiday tournament, were looking to start the trek in a new league with a win. The Pirates came into the contest having lost two straight, but having played in three tournaments already during the season with mixed results. After a hard fought battle through three quarters, it was mental mistakes along with poor free throw shooting that did-in the Titans and the Pirates pulled away to take a 66-57 win.

Cumberland went to the paint in the first quarter and pounded the ball inside scoring six of the Pirates 17 points for the frame. The Titans tried to counter with dribble penetration in the form of Cole McClain scoring seven of Tri-County's 14 points. Cumberland took a 17-14 lead after the first eight minutes.

The Pirates continued inside play scoring six more points, and got a combined seven points from the other players in the frame. Tri-County's senior duo of Mitch Pollock and Kenzal Lloyd found a rhythm combining for 13 of the Titans 17 points (Lloyd had 7 and Pollock had 6). That surge helped the Titans grab a slim 31-30 lead going into the break.

Quarter three saw both teams come out blazing as McClain and Pollock kept driving inside and finding the shooting lane. They had a combined 17 of the Titans 22 points, with McClain getting the bulk of the points with nine. Cumberland's hot shooting from multiple players racked up 24 points in the quarter, and the Pirates went into the fourth quarter with a slim 54-52 lead.

The final stanza was tough for Tri-County. The Titans missed the first three shots and never recovered, scoring only two field goals for five points. Meanwhile, the Pirates capitalized at the free throw line going six of seven as part of a 12-point frame and a nine-point win. Tri-County was 24 of 56 overall for 42.9 percent, but really struggled at the charity stripe going 3 of 12 for 25 percent. The duo of McClain and Pollock led the way with 16 points each with Kenzal Lloyd and Jack Armstrong each adding nine points.

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# Paris snatches nail-biting victory over Unity Rockets

BY DAN DUNDAS  
dandundas82@gmail.com

The Paris boys looked to start off their 2020 year in top fashion and did so with a big comeback from behind fourth quarter victory over the visiting Tolono Unity Rockets Jan. 4, by the score of 49-47.

"It shows we don't quit and we can finish," said head coach Chase Brinkley. "I'm proud of our execution, and that was a real fun game and it's even better when the crowd is in it and helps us along."

Coy Landrum got the start for the Tigers, and his energy was infectious right away. He forced a jump ball, and a lunging out-of-bounds save eventually ended up in the hands of Jude Sullivan for an opening three.

"Coy played some big minutes because he plays very hard and he simply gets things done on both ends," Brinkley said. "It shows that hard work pays off."

Both teams exchanged some missed shots but Tolono came back with free throws. Paris got quick baskets from a nice back cut from Landrum and Sullivan drove a layup to go up 8-7, with over two minutes left. Zack Farnham bumped the lead to 11-7 with an in-bounds three, before Unity tied it at the quarter.

The Tigers didn't score well in the second quarter. Garrett King had a steal for a layup. Thanks to some turnovers from the Tigers, Tolono had a 13-2 run spanning from late in the first to three minutes left in the second, putting Tolono up 25-16 at the half.

"We turned the ball over in the second quarter and got sloppy and it hurt us, and got passive," said Brinkley. "We wanted to spread the floor out on offense in the second half and that helped us get back into the game"

The Tigers were unable to dent Tolono's lead in the third. Landrum got Paris some baskets early, followed by a nice pick and roll between Mason Hutchings and JR Brinkerhoff, and a fast break steal from Hutchings. Tolono Unity countered with a three pointer

and two floaters from the baseline.

Tolono held the ball purposefully for the last minute of the quarter, and the Tigers were up to the task defensively, forcing a five-second possession rule and drawing cheers from the crowd at the 10-second mark.

Down 23-35, Paris got burst of offense to get back into the game starting the final quarter. Preston Porter drained three, followed by a Dustin Creech jump hook and another Farnham three, on near consecutive possessions. Unity then went on a 6-0 run, to make it 41-31 in their favor with over three minutes left.

Sullivan took over the late quarter, getting a three-point foul play, then hitting a big three pointer at the 1:20 mark to make it 43-38 Tolono with 1:20 left.

Paris began using fouls while Unity was in one and one bonus, and King took advantage, scoring a layup down court off a missed free throw. The Rockets made another set of free throws, but Sullivan nailed a deep

three yet again to cut the score to 45-43 with 40 seconds left.

The crowd continued supporting the home team by making plenty of noise as Tolono missed two double-bonus free throws, but got the offensive rebound. The Rockets were fouled and split their next two attempts.

Down 46-43, Paris pushed the ball down court, where Sullivan attempted a three that missed, but Landrum scooped it up to cut it to 46-45 with 23 seconds on the clock.

Unity missed an attempt, and Hutchings found King in the corner for a three pointer to finally take the lead 48-47. Tolono had a poor possession with 10 seconds left on the clock, and Hutchings stole the ball off a trap. He split his free throws with one second left, and Tolono missed a final heave.

The leading Tiger scorers were Jude Sullivan with 15, Coy Landrum with 8 and Garrett King with 7.

Paris hosts South Vermilion on Tuesday, Jan. 7.

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## DUDLEY, BARRY HOIST THEIR TROPHIES



Cindy Spencer/The Prairie Press

Tri-County Titans players Bella Dudley, left, and Tayler Barry, right, display their trophies as members of the All-Tournament Team for the Charleston Christmas Tournament.

## Carter out with sprained ankle

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bulls expect center Wendell Carter Jr. to miss four to six weeks because of a sprained right ankle.

Carter rolled his ankle going for a layup when he landed on Mavericks center Dwight Pow-

ell's foot in the third quarter of Monday's loss at Dallas. The Bulls said Thursday, Jan. 9, an MRI confirmed the sprain.

Carter is averaging 11.7 points and 9.9 rebounds in his second season. A thumb injury that required surgery limited the Duke product to 44 games as a rookie after he

was drafted with the No. 7 overall pick.

The Bulls also said a follow-up MRI showed forward Otto Porter Jr.'s broken left foot is healing. Averaging 11.2 points in nine games, he has been sidelined since he was hurt against Atlanta on Nov. 6.

## HUTCHINGS ACCEPTED TO ALL-TOURNEY



Cindy Spencer/The Prairie Press

Mason Hutchings, of the Paris Tigers, accepts his award after being named to the All-Tourney Team for the Tri-County Holiday Tournament.

## Mayo volleyball splits games

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Mayo volleyball was in action Thursday, Jan. 7, against Charleston with mixed results.

The seventh grade team

won in three sets, 25-21, 25-21 and 25-19.

The eighth grade team lost in two sets 25-18 and 25-16.

It was a similar story for the Tuesday, Jan. 7, game against Westville.

The seventh grade team won two sets and lost one with scores of 26-24, 10-25 and 16-25.

The eighth grade team lost in three sets 25-22, 15-25 and 6-25.

## Mayo boys beat Chrisman, 45-17

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The Mayo boys basketball game Thursday, Jan. 9, against Chrisman was a one-sided shootout, with Mayo taking the victory at 45-17.

Redbird players Ty King and Ethan Hess shared the honor for high scorer with 14

points each. Payton Lankster posted 7, Christian Miller 4, Brody Sanders 2, Kalvin Rigdon 2 and Ethan Curl 2.

MAYO 52, CUMBERLAND 16

The Mayo boys basketball team came away with a decisive victory Tuesday, Jan. 7, by beating Cumberland 52-

16. High scorer for the local Redbirds was Ethan Hess at 19 points. Others making it into the scorebook were: Payton Lankster, 8; Ethan Curl, 6; Parker Underwood, 5; Kalvin Rigdon, 5; Christian Miller, 4; Ty King, 3; and Will Moody, 2.

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# Coaching Aussie basketball

I wrote this story in my journal in 1972 – 48 years ago. Just dragged it out and blew off the dust. Keep in mind basketball isn't a major sport in Australia. It's hot in summer and mild in winter, so no indoor gyms. Basketball, like every other sport, is strictly outdoors. Also, there is no daily PE course. No classes on Wednesday afternoons – just sports. Every teacher supervises a sports team of some sort.

You learn to coach over there in phases. Road games and home games have their differences.

For road games, upon arrival at the host school with your ball players, you immediately organize a coordinated effort involving everyone to search for a teacher who can tell you where to change clothes and where to play basketball. After using up to 25 minutes of precious time accomplishing nothing, you organize a second effort to regroup the various littleurchins of your own group, which takes another five minutes. Then you begin asking kids – every kid you see – and after about 15 to 16 queries, you're finally directed to the dressing room and outdoor basketball court. That's phase one.

Upon arrival at the host basketball court you begin phase two, which is trying to figure out how to get a game started. You soon discover the haggardly group of onlookers that has followed your group out there is your opposing team. They explain they have no ball and no coach, but are expecting something of the sort at any time. For 10 minutes everyone muddles around and shivers in the chilly outdoors until some lady teacher finally arrives with a clipboard stuffed full of loose papers, and introduces herself as the coach. Now you think you're making progress. But you spend an additional five minutes answering some of her questions, such as how

See **CODGER**, Page **9B**



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## MILK HAS BEEN A STAPLE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Linda Hart-Murphy serves her homemade goat's milk ice cream following the goat show at the 2016 4-H Fair. Today is National Milk Day and humans have been keeping milk producing animals like goats, sheep, cattle, camels, donkeys and even horses since the late Stone Age.

# Milk Day: celebrating dairy

BY GARY HENRY  
ghenry@prairiepress.net

Today, Jan. 11, is not for the lactose intolerant because it is National Milk Day.

Dairy has an interesting connection to human development. Like all mammals, humans are born with the ability to digest milk produced by the mother's breast but that goes away after weaning because lactase, the enzyme needed to digest lactose in milk, ceases production. Despite the popular image of cats hungrily lapping up cow's milk and purring contentedly afterward, the truth is adult cats generally don't digest milk well, and it can make them sick.

For untold generations, humans thrived on mother's milk as infants but were lactose intolerant thereafter. That is still the condition for a large part of the world's population, especially in Asia and Africa.

The people in Northern Europe and people living in North America, with Northern European ancestry are different. Many of them never cease lactase production and are able to consume large amounts of dairy products without any discomfort.

Geneticists have determined a population of Neolithic pastoralists living about 7,500 years ago somewhere in Central Europe, or the Central Balkans,

### COTTAGE CHEESE PIE

Perhaps not the first thing to come to mind when one thinks of a pie, but cottage cheese pie appears to have originated during the 1950s or 1960s. It is a rich, custard type of pie that has the added benefit of being a source of protein.

Ingredients  
16 ounces of cottage cheese  
2 tablespoons of flour  
¾ cups granulated sugar  
2 eggs, well beaten  
Grated rind of one lemon  
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice  
an eighth teaspoon of salt  
¼ teaspoon vanilla extract  
Ground nutmeg  
Unbaked pie shell

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a medium bowl, mix all ingredients except the nutmeg. Mixing can be done by hand. A blender may also be used to obtain a smooth and fluffy filling. Pour the mixture into the pie shell and sprinkle the top with nutmeg to taste. Bake for one hour and let cool for about five minutes before cutting. It is best served warm.



underwent an evolutionary change when the gene controlling lactase production failed to shut off in one or more individuals. For people raising cattle, goats or sheep, this proved a highly desirable trait because it gave them access to a nutritious food source.

Nutritionists and others who study the science of food consider milk a staple food, meaning with its nine essential

nutrients it can support life without any help from the other food groups, but that makes for a dull diet. Other staple foods include sourdough bread, chicken eggs, red beans and beer.

A slightly different gene mutation selecting for the lactase enzyme also developed among some pastoral groups in Asia and Africa but apparently did not

See **MILK**, Page **2B**

# Vaping has become a public health crisis in record time

Illinois is leading the nation, in a category we don't want to be known for.

During 2019 there were 2,409 hospitalizations and 52 deaths nationally related to lung damage from vaping and all happened between August and December. Illinois accounted for five deaths and more than 200 hospitalizations making it number one in the nation. The lung damage is classified as Electronic Vaping Associated Lung Injury (EVALI).

Vaping is especially popular among young adults as the preferred method of nicotine delivery and anyone connected with schools, will confirm it is reaching crisis levels in middle and high schools. Vaping refers to taking a small quantity of liquid containing nicotine or THC and vaporizing it into steam with heat and inhaling. Vape is the slang term for e-cigarettes.

Until recently using e-cigarettes as a nicotine source was endorsed by the FDA. It was promoted to help smokers wean themselves off cigarettes. Smoking a cigarette burns the tobacco releasing oils, tars and soot particles that are inhaled into the lungs where the tars and soot build up causing lung damage over decades.

Vaping is promoted as water vapor and the active chemical is turned to steam

and inhaled. The recent rash EVALI damage was a surprise and not understood until late fall. How could a water steam with nicotine in it destroy lungs in just weeks? By testing and comparison of users the medical community found a pattern.

All vaping is hard on lungs, but the rapid destruction is connected to THC, or marijuana-infused vape juice, cut with vitamin E acetate. There are instances where just a couple of tanks of vape have sent healthy adolescents to the hospital with an acute form of pneumonia.

A review of basic lung anatomy helps to understand the EVALI problem. Lungs are the workhorse of the respiratory system. Every body cell needs oxygen for energy. The lungs capture and deliver oxygen to the cells. Hemoglobin in red blood cells carries the oxygen.

Inside the lungs there is an exchange happening with carbon dioxide being expelled and fresh oxygen absorbed to replenish the hemoglobin's oxygen load for the next trip out to the body cells. Oxygen in the blood has a pressure that varies from 75-100 mm Hg. In the normal range, blood is 95-99 percent oxygen saturated. When the lungs don't supply enough oxygen and the level stays below 90 percent, cells in the body

begin to die. The lungs may not supply enough oxygen due to asthma, heart failure, emphysema, pneumonia, sleep apnea and similar lung limiters.

The respiratory system starts with the nose or mouth inhaling fresh air. The first treatment is to warm air to body temperature, add water vapors to humidify, and it's important to filter out dust and particulate matter. This is best accomplished in the nose. The nasal passages warm the air, humidify it and small hairs begin filtering out particles.

As the air continues on it moves down the trachea or windpipe. The flap of skin in the back of the throat called the epiglottis closes to keep food from entering the trachea but allows air to continue down into the lungs through a system called the bronchial tube pipes. Bronchial tubes are lined with tiny hairs called cilia. These short muscular hairs wave in a rhythm to sweep foreign matter such as grain dust or smoke particles back up and out. They cycle together like a stadium audience doing the wave. Even food particles that



TERRY SULLIVAN  
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

went down the wrong pipe can be carried back up and out. Phlegm congestion from a cold or flu can be hacked up through the hard work of the cilia.

Air continues down the bronchial pathways through channels repeatedly branching into smaller and smaller passages. There are tens of thousands of tiny air passages leading to the actual lung tissue. Lung tissue consists of tiny air sacs called alveoli attached to a membrane of connecting tissue that stretches to inflate and deflate. Each alveoli is only the diameter of a pencil lead, and they're grouped in bunches like grapes to completely cover the inside of the lung with about 600 million of the tiny balloons. Spread out they would cover a tennis court so they provide the huge surface area needed for air exchange.

The heart pumps oxygen-poor blood into the lungs through a series of small blood vessels with a capillary at each alveolus. Inhaled air is held in there long enough for oxygen to absorb into the blood and carbon dioxide to be released back out. The circulatory system collects the freshly oxygenated blood into larger arteries where it's pumped out to all the cells of the body. The lungs then exhale the now oxygen-de-

pleted air and inhale fresh air to start again.

An adult male's lungs hold about six quarts of air. Each breath takes in and expels approximately a quart of air, which we do 12 to 20 times a minute. Those working in dirty conditions will eventually overload the lungs self-cleaning capacity. Farmer's lung is damage from grain dust and mold coating the alveoli surface making them no longer able to exchange oxygen. The same is true for a coal miner's black lung. The soot and tars in cigarette smoke coat the alveoli with damage building up over time.

The surprise with vaping is how fast the lungs can be damaged. Vape juices can have candy/fruit flavors and the vapors from the tank are smooth, not harsh. The little battery-powered vaporizer is often a Juul but that's analogous to calling facial tissue Kleenex. Juul is the brand name for a device especially popular with teens.

By collecting lung tissue fluids from hundreds of vape users and comparing to those hospitalized a trend emerged. More than 80 percent of those hospitalized and essentially all the deaths are connected to vaping THC juice cut with vitamin E acetate. Vitamin E makes the vape fluid thicker and users associate it with being more potent.

# Compost is the way to go to boost soil quality

If a New Year's resolution is to move toward more organic-based fertility for the soil and therefore the way one gardens, here is some information that might help. Garden writers, me included, consistently recommend adding organic matter to soil for all sorts of reasons. The following additives are organic because they derive from living or once-living organisms or their waste.

Compost is first on the list of soil amendments, for good reason. Compost adds beneficial fungi and bacteria along with protein needed by micro- and macro organisms living in the soil. It helps heavy clay soil drain faster while also allowing light sandy soil to retain moisture. Pretty amazing isn't it?

Compost is made from leaves, garden waste and vegetative kitchen scraps. Making it at home is recycling what many consider waste. Buying it can be expensive. It will never burn plants, but also doesn't provide much fertilizer directly to plants. Its main use is to improve the fertility of the soil, which in turn benefits the plants growing in that soil.

Composted manure has varying degrees of fertility depending on the type of animal producing it. If something high in nitrogen is needed, choose horse or chicken manure. Need something milder? Try llama beans or rabbit manure. Composted manure is easier to find and cheaper than yard waste or commercial compost. It is also good for both the soil structure and the micro-herd living in the soil.

Manures should always be composted before being spread on the garden,

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JAN PHIPPS  
MASTER GARDENER



**MILK**  
FROM PAGE 1B

experience the widespread success seen with the northern European population. For a long time, the thinking was the gene was favored because it prevented starvation, but that is less accepted today. The pastoralists with the gene evolution existed alongside other populations, without the lactase enzyme, that were also

thriving. What the gene did was allow people to directly consume milk. Keeping milk producing domesticated animals predates the evolutionary change. The early days of dairy production probably did not involve drinking milk. Pottery shards from nearly 8,000 years ago in present day Romania and Hungary test positive for traces of milk protein

It is most likely the milk was valued for the other food substances made from it such as butter, yogurt, kefir and cheese. All of these products are much lower in lactose and easier to digest. Even lactose intolerant people can generally consume some of these products without any consequences. Cheese is such an old food that we don't know when or where or how it originated. It is theorized making cheese was discovered shortly after sheep were domesticated 8,000 years ago. It was certainly an important food source. Egyptian hieroglyphics depict cheese making, and cheese was known throughout the Roman Empire. It wasn't the type of cheese used today and was probably made fresh daily to avoid preservation problems.

The Romans may have preferred converting milk to cheese but ancient documents indicate the Germanic tribes and the Celts were prodigious milk drinkers. Milk is not only part of the Northern European diet as a beverage and as cheese, it is an integral part in the preparation of many dishes from soup to dessert. So celebrate today with a glass of milk, a milkshake, a grilled cheese sandwich (just don't use American cheese since it is not real cheese), eggnog, a bourbon milk punch cocktail or any number of milk-based foods.

Ingredients  
2 ounces of bourbon  
3 ounces of whole milk  
1 ounce of simple syrup  
2 dashes of vanilla extract

Put all ingredients into a shaker with ice and shake until chilled. Strain into a rocks glass. Grated nutmeg makes a great topper.

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**Kansas pre-school roundup is Feb. 20**

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

KANSAS – A free developmental screening and kindergarten registration for students in the Kansas school district is Feb. 20. The annual event sponsored by the school district and Project H.E.L.P. (Helping Educate Little People) is a preschool assessment of children from birth to age five. It gives parents information regarding how a child is developing in the areas of speech, language, concepts and motor skills. Vision and hearing tests are included. Screenings last approximately one hour and signed permission by a parent/guardian is required. All testing is done at the school and parents may call Angela Haynes, 948-5174, to schedule an appointment, although walk-ins are welcome. Pre-registration for the 2020-2021 kindergarten class is possible at the screening. Registration requires a certified copy of the child's birth certificate and the child's Social Security number.

**Horizon Health hosts weight loss session**

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

A brief informational session regarding Horizon Health's Medical Weight Loss Clinic is 5:15 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, at the Paris Clinic. The free event includes taste testing of actual foods used in the weight loss program and a question-and-answer session. Additionally, a number of promotions will be offered that evening: ■Everyone who attends the event will be entered into a drawing for either a half-price consultation or a free box of food. ■Individuals who attend the seminar and bring a guest will receive 25 percent off the consultation fee. ■Individuals who bring a guest that enrolls (including payment of their fee), will receive either a half-price consultation or a free box of food. The Medical Weight Loss Clinic utilizes a medical-

**CRESTWOOD GEOGRAPHY BEE COMPETITION**

Special to The Prairie Press

These students recently competed in the Crestwood Geography Bee and the school champions advance to an online state test to find a winner for the national competition and a chance to win scholarships and a trip to the Galapagos Islands. Pictured are, front row, left to right, Paislee Lorenzen, Madge Keys, Briar Good, Jonah Williams, Paisley Reed, Storm Miller, Ian Hoult, Sara Staley and Tessa Hubbell; second row, left to right, Kelsey Johnson, Paedyn Keys, Cash Kuglin, Connor Little and Jacob Harper; third row, left to right, Payton Beaver, geography bee champion Jay Peterson, Cooper Keys, Kylee Kleptz, Hailey Yantis, Carter Eastham and Silas Crippen; and back row, left to right, third place winner Bryce McGrath, Wyatt Parrish, second place winner Jase Adkison, Robert Wells, Kaine Decker, Connor Washburn, Mazie Mae Hawkins, Samantha Kindred, Sean Dunn.

**TOPS meets**

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

TOPS #IL. 2318 met Tuesday, Jan. 7, with 14 members weighing in and 12 members attending the meeting. Jayne Peters was recognized as the TOPS weekly loser, and Janice Stevens' program was "Breaking Eating Habits." TOPS #IL. 2318 meets every Tuesday in the basement of The Presbyterian Church. Weigh in is 5:45-6:50 p.m., and the meeting starts at 7 p.m. For more information, call 217-808-0078 or 217-822-0953.

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**PHIPPS**  
FROM PAGE 1B

especially edible crops, because of the possibility of human pathogens, E. coli being chief among the dangers. Be aware, manure from grazing animals will contain weed seeds. Organic-based fertilizers derive from various manufacturing processes. They also supply protein to organisms in the soil, but don't have as much effect on soil structure as compost. Some examples are bone meal, blood meal, alfalfa meal, corn gluten meal, milorganite and fish emulsions. Plants take longer to reap the benefit from organic-based fertilizers than synthetic ones, so plan accordingly. Because of their slow release properties, they are excellent for incorporating into the development of a new bed. As with synthetic fertilizers, organic-based ones can cause harm if overused. Read and follow the recommendations on the package. Cover crops improve the soil structure and add organic matter. Some cover crops can help break up compacted soil, and others are ornamental. Cover crops are time consuming and must be removed or turned under before they go to seed, at which point they become a weed. I hope reviewing these pros and cons of organic-based soil fertility choices helps readers plan for gardening in 2020. The University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Edgar County is a source for answering other gardening questions. (Jan Phipps is a master gardener and a member of the University of Illinois Extension Master Gardeners of Edgar County. Email her at janphipps@gmail.com.)

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## Lewis, Clark confronted astonishing wildlife

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS  
www.history.com

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark are known as trailblazing explorers of the American West, not pioneering scientists. But during their 8,000-mile journey from Missouri to the Pacific Ocean and back between 1804-1806, Lewis and Clark discovered 122 animal species, including iconic American animals like the grizzly bear, coyote, prairie dog and pronghorn.

In his Sept. 7, 1804, journal entry, Clark describes a village of small animals discovered in Boyd County, Nebraska. The men found a sloping hillside containing, “great numbers of holes on top of which these little animals Set erect make a Whistling noise and whin alarmed Step into their hole.”

There was some disagreement over what to name the curious creatures. Lewis called them barking squirrels while Clark referred to them as ground rats or burrowing squirrels. It was Sergeant John Ordway, an Army volunteer, who first called them prairie dogs.

On Sept. 14, 1804, near Chamberlain, S.D., one of the men killed a large white hare whose long, donkey-like ears inspired the name jackass rabbit, later shortened to jack rabbit. In his journal, Lewis marveled at the jack rabbit’s flexible ears, which the animal could, “dilate and throw... forward, or contract and fold... back at pleasure.” He observed the jack rabbit could leap 18 to 20 feet in a single bound.

On the very same day near the mouth of Ball Creek in South Dakota, Clark shot a what he called a “Buck Goat” of an intriguing species of deer. In his journal, Lewis described the striking animal as having forked horns or prongs and its, “brains of the back of his head.” Consulting his eight-volume A New and Complete Dictionary of Arts and Sciences, published in 1764 by W. Owen, Lewis concluded that, “he is more like the Antelope or Gazelle of Africa than any other Species of Goat.”

In fact, the pronghorn is neither goat, antelope or deer, and belongs to its own family, Antilocapridae.

The mournful wails and yelps of coyotes followed Lewis and Clark to the Pacific and back, but the team shot and identified the first of this new species on September 18, 1804, near Chamberlain, S.D., and Clark called it a, “Prairie Wolff”

Not all of Lewis and Clark’s animal encounters were so calm and collected.

“One of my favorite moments is when Lewis is all alone at the Great Falls in Montana,” said Buckley. “In a 24-hour period, he’s nearly bitten by a rattle-snake, attacked by a wol-verine, charged by a bison and eaten by a grizzly bear. That night, in his journal he says, ‘The entire animal kingdom has conspired against me!’”

# CIA tried to quell UFO panic

The government used science and media to avert public hysteria during the 1950s-60s

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS  
www.history.com

In January 1953, the fledgling Central Intelligence Agency had a thorny situation on its hands. Reports of UFO sightings were mushrooming around the country. Press accounts were fanning public fascination—and concern. So the CIA convened a group of scientists to investigate whether these unknown phenomena in the sky represented a national security threat.

But there was something else.

At a time when growing Cold War anxiety about the Soviets ranged from psychological warfare to wholesale nuclear annihilation, the U.S. government worried about the prospect of a growing national hysteria. In the previous year, UFOs had begun to figure

prominently in the public conversation. Popular magazine LIFE magazine published a story in April 1952 titled “Have We Visitors from Space?” that promised to offer, “scientific evidence that there is a real case for interplanetary saucers.”

In July that year, newspaper headlines around the country blared reports of flying saucers swarming Washington, D.C. Between March and June that year, the number of UFO sightings officially reported to the U.S. Air Force jumped from 23 to 148. Given all the attention UFOs were getting, the CIA decided it needed a national policy for, “what should be told the public regarding the phenomenon, in order to minimize risk of panic,” according to government documents.

To this end, the CIA’s Office of Scientific Intelligence

collaborated with Howard Percy Robertson, a professor of mathematical physics at the California Institute of Technology, to gather a panel of nonmilitary scientists. The Robertson panel met for a few days in January 1953 to review Air Force records about UFO sightings going back to 1947.

Project Blue Book, which started in 1952, was the latest iteration of the Air Force’s UFO investigative teams. After interviewing project members Captain Edward J. Ruppelt and astronomer J. Allen Hynek, the panel concluded that many sightings Blue Book had tracked were, in fact, explainable. For example, after reviewing film taken of a UFO sighting near Great Falls, Mont., on August 15, 1950, the panel concluded what the film actually showed was sunlight

reflecting off the surface of two Air Force interceptor jets.

The panel did actually see a potential threat related to this phenomena — but it wasn’t saucers and little green men.

“It was the public itself,” said John Greenewald Jr., founder of The Black Vault, an online archive of government documents. He noted there was concern, “that the general public, with their panic and hysteria, could overwhelm the resources of the U.S. government,” in a time of crisis.

The CIA also seems to have feared foreign interference, said Nick Pope, who worked for the U.K. Ministry of Defense’s UFO program from 1991 to 1994—specifically, that, “the Soviets would find a way to use the huge level of public interest in UFOs to somehow manipulate, to cause panic; which then

could be used to undermine national cohesiveness.” The Robertson report—which the CIA didn’t release publicly until 1975—hints at this, suggesting, mass hysteria over UFOs could lead to, “greater vulnerability to possible enemy psychological warfare.”

To address these potential vulnerabilities, the panel suggested education programs to debunk UFO sightings and teach the public how to identify certain phenomena. Scientists on the panel suggested teaching people with articles, TV shows and movies—even proposing the Walt Disney corporation could help produce them.

“Such a program should tend to reduce the current gullibility of the public and... their susceptibility to clever hostile

See **UFO**, Page **4B**

## JONES WAS A FIXTURE ON THE PARIS SQUARE



Special to The Prairie Press

An image of Paris from the early 1900s shows the location of Dr. E.E. Jones's dentist office on the southeast corner of the square. He occupied space on the second story of the building from 1889 until his 1949 retirement. The caption under the photo indicates other interesting details in the image.

# Early dentist left his mark

BY ROGER STANLEY  
rogerstanley769@yahoo.com

Elmer E. Jones was born on a farm near Monticello, Oct. 27, 1863. His parents were Triplett Lochardt Jones and Nancy Lee Savage Jones, who was a first cousin of Robert E. Lee.

He eventually went to Indianapolis College of Dentistry and graduated in 1886. Twelve

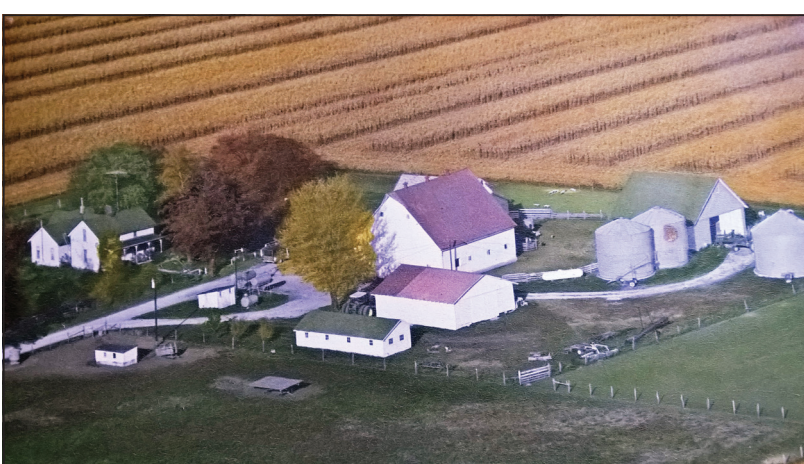
days later he opened a dentist office in Veedersburg, Indiana, but moved to Paris in 1889 to become a partner with dentist Howard Ball.

Jones made a return trip to Veedersburg Aug. 30, 1891, to marry local resident Emma Lebo. He made her acquaintance earlier, but apparently chose not to marry until he was an established dentist. They had one son, Raymond, who made his home in Terra Haute, Indiana, as an adult.

The Jones/Ball dentistry partnership continued until 1896 when Ball died. The office was located on the southeast corner of the square, and it was on the second floor above Weiler’s drug store.

Jones kept his practice there until he retired in 1949 after suffering a stroke. He passed away in 1954 after serving for 63 years as a very competent dentist.

According to the writings of H. P. Tyman, an editor for a Paris newspaper, Jones spent 130,000 hours of his life in the dentist office by 1943, and he never missed a day until he had two eye surger-



Special to The Prairie Press

This picture from harvest time 1975 shows the main farmstead owned by E. E. Jones, north of Paris in Edgar Township. All of the buildings are now gone, and it is just bare farm land

ies.

Jones ended up owning the farm at Monticello and a productive farm eight miles north of Paris in Edgar Township. The 360-acre farm near Paris was known for its production and was situated on prime farmland in Edgar County. He did everything he could to make it a profitable farm and a great place to live for the Stanley family.

Away from his professional career and his farming interests, Jones was prominent in Masonry as worshipful master of the Paris Lodge 268 and as a commander of the No. 27 Palestine of Knights Templar. He helped establish the Paris Chamber of Commerce in 1892 and served as treasurer for more than 30

years. He also was a charter member of the Edgar County Children’s home in 1893 along with James E. Parrish, Owen S. Jones, John C. Palmer, Mrs. Verde Dundas, Mrs. Charlotte Rives and Mrs. LeNora Hannah. Jones was also the treasurer of the Odd Fellow Benefit Association of Edgar County for more than a quarter of a century.

Doing his patriotic and civic duty he voted every time up to 1949 for 16 presidential candidates starting with his vote for James G. Blaine in 1884.

It is amazing to follow the life of this man because, I knew him personally. He was the landowner for three generations of Stanleys.

See **JONES**, Page **4B**

## The rest of the Jones story

When I was searching for historical writing material in October, I came across a picture that showed East Court Street of Paris at the turn of the century. In the picture was a sign, E. E. Jones Dentist, and I knew that had to be the building we went to for farm business with Dr. Jones.

You just never know when you get that little inkling you need to make a copy. This story caught me off guard because I thought I was writing about something else, but that story just didn’t fly. The Jones story made its way forward and at least it was interesting to me and had an interesting bit about the history of Paris and Edgar County.

What made the Jones farm special was just the way things were done in a smooth performing operation involving the hard-working farmer and an innovative landlord. The tenant and the owner had a vision of how to use new practices in the ever-changing farm scene.

The owner and farmer knew something had to change when the wind started blowing away all our fall plowed ground. So our landlord didn’t complain when we started chisel plowing cornstalks and left the bean stubble till spring and only worked it once. After I became a landowner I even changed to no-till.

In the 1960s, our owner saw the benefit of grain bins instead of corncribs so he provided the funds and Dad and I built the bins. He also knew the marketing of grain could be also enhanced

See **STANLEY**, Page **4B**



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

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## Beginning genealogy classes

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

TERRE HAUTE, Ind. – The Wabash Valley Genealogy Society (WVGS) is offering a series of classes to help individuals begin their family history quest.

Meeting dates are: Feb. 18, 25, March 3, 10, 17 and 24. All classes are 6-8 p.m. and held in the lower level conference rooms in the Vigo County Public Library.

The classes are designed for a broad audience. Anyone new to genealogy and family history research will get a good foundation on how to work on genealogy. For those experienced in genealogy, these classes provide an excellent refresher course in core research principals. There will also be instruction on how to do advanced research.

The class fee includes all materials, a one-year free membership in the Wabash Valley Genealogy Society, and a year's subscription to the WVGS newsletter, "Wabash Valley Generations." Costs are: \$25 for a single non-WVGS member with the newsletter sent by email; \$35.00 for two non-WVGS members; \$10.00 for a single WVGS member; and \$15.00 for two WVGS members at the same household or address. An additional fee of \$2 is charged to those using PayPal.

Class size is limited to 30.

Contact Pat Rogers at mrsgenealogy44@gmail.com to register or go online at www.inwvgs.org and register through PayPal.

## STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

by not having to wait for a shelling crew when the weather was right. Jones also saw that our houses were comfortable to live in and made several improvements in them and made the barns easier to clean by putting in concrete floors and water systems. It was kind of mutual we wanted to be successful venture.

The owners of the farms and the farmers began looking around to see if they could improve their methods, and they read magazines and went to meetings that helped by listening to others. If a farmer in the neighborhood tried something new, there were always the naysayers and the that's righters. Anyhow we have finally gotten to where we are today and the labor is so much different and the planning and the financing have dramatically changed some for the better and some for the worse.

One fall in the 1960s our landlord who was now Raymond Jones, stopped by the field where my dad and I were shelling corn. I was driving a J. D. 55 combine with a two-row corn head and Dad was hauling in with 60 J. D. and a side delivery wagon.

Dad stopped and talked to Jones who insisted we keep harvesting while he and his wife enjoyed watching from the roadside. It just so happened Dad had figured out a way for us to unload on the go. At that time, it wasn't being done very often as the combine usually stopped and unloaded on the ends. There weren't any big quick unloading wagons.

We had the field broke up in lands and so every time I

made two rounds I had a tank full and Dad caught me in the middle of the field. By the time we got to the end he circled back and waited to catch me on the next round, which filled the wagon.

Dad ran a quarter-mile and dumped the corn at the bin auger and came back before I had the hopper full again. When we first did that operation my dad told me to control the speed I was going to load the wagon evenly and that whole afternoon we didn't lose one grain of corn.

Raymond Jones stayed watching us for more than two hours. I guess we were putting on a show they appreciated. He just kept waving his arms around and around for us to keep going when Dad drove past him.

It is so much easier to farm when the owner enjoys what the farmer is doing, and we always looked forward to improving the way we did things. Maybe we were some of the first that started something that has come a long way when we see monster machines that just keep moving and monster wagons that move more grain in an hour than we could move in a day.

We also could only harvest that way when the field and bins were close, and we weren't in real long rows. Alas, the old Jones farmstead is gone, and it is just bare dirt now.

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

## UFO

FROM PAGE 3B

propaganda," the report noted.

Did the government actually implement such programs? Leslie Kean, author of "UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go on the Record," points to one likely example: a television special put on by Walter Cronkite in 1966 called "UFO: Friend, Foe or Fantasy?"

"We have a record that one of the people on the Robertson panel wrote a letter to another person who was on the Robertson panel," says Kean, "and said...that he, quote, 'helped organize the CBS TV show around the Robertson panel conclusions.'" Just as the panel had suggested, the program focused on debunking UFO sightings.

Between 1966 and 1968, the government called for another, lengthier scientific inquiry into Project Blue Book led by physicist Edward U. Condon. Though the CIA had some involvement with the Condon Committee, it was commissioned by the U.S. Air Force and conducted by scientists at the University of Colorado, and its report was immediately available to the public. Like the Robertson panel, it concluded UFOs posed no threat to the U.S., and that most sightings could be easily explained. In addition, it suggested the Air Force end Project Blue Book's investigations into UFOs—which it did in 1969.

Many people who study UFO sightings have suggested the government never really allowed the Robertson panel, the Condon Committee or even Project Blue Book to review the most sensitive UFO sightings, incidents that may have contained classified

information.

One of the main pieces of evidence for this is a 1969 memo signed by Brigadier General Carroll H. Bolender suggesting the Air Force hadn't shared all UFO sightings with Project Blue Book and would continue to investigate sightings that could present a national security threat after the project ended. Today, the Navy tracks sightings of unidentified aerial phenomena, or UAPs.

Critics have also suggested the real goal of the Robertson panel, the Condon Committee and/or Project Blue Book was never to identify what was really going on with UFO sightings, but simply to assuage public concern about them.

If true, this would not necessarily mean the government had information about extraterrestrials it wanted to conceal. In some cases, the government may have been trying to cover up its own activities.

Since Project Blue Book's end, the CIA has admitted that more than half of the UFO reports the government received in the late 1950s and into the '60s were related to secret U-2 and OXCART spy flights by the U.S. government.

Because the government didn't want the public to know about these clandestine flights, members of Project Blue Book often, "explained away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions," writes Gerald K. Haines, a historian for the CIA's National Reconnaissance Office.

In 2014, the CIA smugly tweeted about the ruse: "Remember reports of unusual activity in the skies in the '50s? That was us."

## JONES

FROM PAGE 3B

Jones owned the ground my granddad George Stanley and uncle George F. Stanley farmed near Monticello, and I have been on the farm where Jones was born.

When my granddad George Stanley started farming the 360 acres near Paris, the Stanley family lived in two houses on that farm. In fact, I was born in one of those houses that Jones provided for us. Later as my dad, John A. Stanley, lived at the main farmstead, I remember visiting Jones at his office on the southeast corner of the square.

My brother and I followed Dad and Mom up a long dark flight of stairs that opened into a waiting room which had a frosted window on the west side. I don't remember any secretary so Dad politely knocked on the door and a bald-headed man in a white jacket answered his summons and led us inside.

He was Dr. E. E. Jones, and he led us by a dental chair and all the trappings required for a dentist at that time and opened a door to a back office. I always thought that was kind of scary and was glad to get to a more comfortable feeling room. He and my dad talked farming business after he asked how we two boys were and if we stayed out of trouble.

Some times my dad or Jones signed a check or two, but the dentist always asked what he needed to do to help with the farm. He shook hands with all of us and wished us farewell and then we faced the machines in the dental parlor and made our escape.

I didn't realize how good it was to farm for the Jones family until I farmed for his son and his wife, Raymond and Lillian Jones. All of the Jones's were real landowners, who cared for their tenants, and we in return tried to be real farmers, who cared for the farm of those particularly good landowners.

Jones wisely used the money he earned as a dentist and not only did great things for the people of Edgar County, but he put together 360 acres that provided a living for his tenant farmers for more than 85 years.

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# ‘Don’t lose hope,’ Pope tells diplomats

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

VATICAN CITY (RNS) — In a lengthy speech to ambassadors at the Vatican Thursday, Jan. 9, Pope Francis laid out his international agenda for the new year by addressing mounting concerns about the situation in Iran, the impact of climate change in Australia and the necessary steps to ensure peace.

“Sadly, the new year does not seem to be marked by encouraging signs, as much as by heightened tensions and acts of violence,” the pope acknowledged. “Precisely in light of these situations, we cannot give up hope. And hope requires courage. It means acknowledging that evil, suffering and death will not have the last word, and that even the most complex questions can and must be faced and resolved.”

Francis spoke in the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace to the representatives of the 183 states that hold international relations with the Holy See. This speech,

which he delivers every year, is a highly anticipated event in the Vatican since it highlights the international issues the pope will likely prioritize.

The year 2020 did not start off promisingly, according to George Poulides, the Cyprus ambassador to the Holy See and the dean of the diplomatic corps, who in his introductory speech warned that, “nationalism and particularism are becoming more assertive,” in the context, “of a third world war that is being fought piecemeal.”

Pope Francis called the heightening tensions between Iran and the United States a troubling development that not only might endanger the rebuilding prospects in Iraq, but also set, “the groundwork for a vaster conflict that all of us would want to avert.”

“I therefore renew my appeal that all the interested parties avoid an escalation of the conflict and keep alive the flame of dialogue and self-restraint, in full respect of international law,” he said, echoing the plea

for peace he delivered on Monday.

The pope also mentioned the situation in Israel, into which political observers fear the U.S. and Iran conflict risks boiling over. Mentioning his joint appeal with the king of Morocco, Mohammed VI, in March of last year, Francis emphasized the need for Jerusalem to be, “a symbolic place of encounter and peaceful coexistence.”

“(I) reiterate the urgent need for the whole international community to reconfirm, with courage and sincerity, and in respect for international law, its commitment to support the Israeli-Palestinian peace process,” he said.

He criticized the pall of silence that has fallen over the war in Syria, confirming the Vatican’s support for peace-making efforts and thanking the neighboring countries of Jordan and Lebanon for taking on the lion’s share of refugees.

Francis also mentioned the document he co-signed last

year with the grand imam of Al-Azhar, Ahmed al-Tayeb, promoting fraternity and unity between Christians and Muslims. The pope stressed the importance of religious freedom and the need to eliminate the term “minorities,” which he said, “engenders feelings of isolation and inferiority, and paves the way for hostility and discord, discriminating between citizens on the basis of their religious affiliation.”

The fires that have destroyed a massive portion of wildlife and forests in Australia were also on the pontiff’s mind.

“I would like to assure the Australian people, especially the victims and all those in the areas devastated by the fires, of my closeness and my prayers,” he said.

Francis called once more for an ecological conversion, observing that its urgency, “seems not to have been grasped by international politics,” insisting the response from those in power, “remains very weak and a source of grave concerns.”

He quoted the failure to find effective solutions at the United Nations’ meeting on climate change, COP 25, as an example of the lack of willingness by nations to seriously address the issue. Francis also mentioned the Vatican’s efforts in this field borne from the Synod on the Amazon Region last October.

He warned against reducing care for the environment to an elitist concern, stating that young people have been at the forefront of the environmental battle.

Young people are key to promoting a stable and lasting peace through dialogue and education, the pope said. For this reason, Francis will be attending and promoting a global event in May, Reinventing the Global Compact on Education, to promote intergenerational dialogue, which he said has, “sadly been lacking in recent years.”

“It was very interesting to hear the Pope sketching his vision of this year’s planned Global Education Compact,”

said Hungary’s ambassador to the Holy See, Eduard von Habsburg, in a message to Religion News Service after the meeting with the pope.

“As a father of six I am especially thankful that he mentioned that the first, and most important, place for education is the family,” he added.

“Education is not limited to school and university classrooms,” Francis said. “It is principally ensured by strengthening and reinforcing the primary right of the family to educate, and the right of churches and social communities to support and assist families in raising their children.”

The ill treatment of the elderly and abortion, especially in the context of Europe’s demographic winter, are examples of the lack of intergenerational solidarity, according to the pope.

The pope did not neglect to mention the great deal of harm Catholic clergy have inflicted, especially on the young, See **POPE**, Page **6B**

## We are never alone

Often as I travel in my car I listen to the radio. The other day I was doing just that, and an old song came on that just stuck in my head.

Isn’t it annoying when a song gets stuck in the mind

and keeps replaying over and over again? No matter how good it is, a song eventually begins to drive one crazy. The song that kept running through my head was, “I Gotta Be Me,” by Sammy Davis Jr.

In this song Sammy sings, “I’ll go it alone, that’s how it must be; I can’t be right for somebody else if I’m not right for me.”

This part of the song just kept playing over and over in my head and I began to think how sad it is that anyone ever thinks they are all alone. I know there are people who feel that way, maybe some people who are reading this letter today, but still it makes me sad.

When we feel all alone hope is replaced by despair, and we don’t feel the love that is available to us each and every day. Love that God wants us to feel.

As Christians we know that God loves us and is with us always, but at times when the things of this world beat us down, it is not easy to remember that. We get down so low we begin to think we are all alone and the loneliness and despair it makes us feel can cause us to turn away from all those who love us. At times, it even causes us to turn away from God.

If readers know someone who is feeling lost and alone, spend some time with that person. Let them know that you love them, and that God loves them. If a person is feeling lost and alone, call a friend, go see a family member or give me a call. And whatever you do remember that God loves you and is always with you.

Jesus said, “I am with you always.” Count on God’s love and you will never, “Go it alone.”

God Bless.  
(The Rev. Joe Tomich is pastor at Paris First United Methodist Church. Email him at [jtomich@yahoo.com](mailto:jtomich@yahoo.com). Pastor’s Perspective is provided by the Paris Ministerial Fellowship.)

## SHOW OF SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES IN DIVIDED COUNTY



Residents in support of continued refugee resettlement hold signs at a meeting in Bismarck, N.D., Dec. 9, 2019. Several church leaders urged Burleigh County not to be the nation’s first to refuse new refugees since President Donald Trump ordered that states and counties should have the power to do so. (AP Photo/James MacPherson)

## Most states will admit refugees

Federal judge hearing the lawsuit against controversial resettlement order

BY EMILY MCFARLAN MILLER  
[www.religiousnews.com](http://www.religiousnews.com)

(RNS) — A federal judge in Maryland heard arguments Wednesday, Jan. 8, in a lawsuit by three faith-based organizations against the U.S. government over a recent executive order allowing state and local officials to block refugee resettlement.

In the complaint filed in November, HIAS (founded as the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society), Church World Service and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service argue President Donald Trump’s executive order violates federal law and inhibits their ability to practice their faith by resettling refugees.

The organizations also have asked for an injunction to temporarily stop the order requiring state and local officials to give written consent in advance for refugees to be resettled in their jurisdictions — even as most states already have agreed to admit refugees.

A ruling on that request is expected by Jan. 17, according to LIRS.

“In the last few weeks it’s been really heartening to see that a positive, unintended consequence of the illegal executive order is that states and communities have almost universally stood up and welcomed the stranger,” said Krish O’Mara Vignarajah, president and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. “As a faith-based organization, we are so inspired to see communities across the country mobilizing around the biblical mandate to welcome the stranger.”

Vignarajah said afterward she also was encouraged by Judge Peter J. Messitte’s questions during the hearing.

“It was very clear that he spent some time in advance of the hearing today



Syrians who were displaced by the Turkish military operation in northeastern Syria wait to receive tents and aid supplies at the Bardarash refugee camp, north of Mosul, Iraq, Oct. 17, 2019. (AP Photo/Hussein Malla)

giving this thoughtful, but also a kind of expeditious consideration, and we’re really grateful because what hangs in the balance is the lives of the most vulnerable communities,” she said.

The lawsuit is a first for Church World Service, noted Jen Smyers, director of policy and advocacy for CWS’ immigration and refugee program. It may not be the last.

“Litigation is something new for us, but probably something that we will have to continue to resort to if the administration insists on continuing to dismantle the refugee resettlement program,” Smyers said.

So far, at least 40 governors and 85 mayors, city councils and counties have given written consent for refugees to be resettled in their jurisdictions, by LIRS’ count.

CWS has offices in three states — Texas, Florida and Georgia — that have not yet agreed in writing, Smyers said, though she is hopeful they will.

LIRS, CWS and other refugee resettlement agencies have been working to educate and obtain that permission from communities that have welcomed refugees in the past. The agencies also have been working with members of Congress to rebuild the bipartisan support the refugee resettlement program historically has had, according to Smyers.

North Dakota’s Burleigh County made headlines last month when its county commission narrowly voted to admit up to 25 refugees after signaling it would be the first to ban them under Trump’s executive order. The county had received 24 refugees in the previous fiscal year.

Meantime, Minnesota’s Beltrami County voted this week not to give its consent, making it the first county board in Minnesota and one of few nationwide to shut out refugees. The vote was largely symbolic, as no refugees have settled in the county for at least five years, according to the Star Tribune.

## Finding God at the Coffee House

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

ST. MARY-OF-THE-WOODS, Ind. — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind., are sponsoring a series of God at the Coffee House workshops Feb. 4, 11 and 18 in the Providence Hall Large Parlor. Each workshop is 7-9 p.m. and they are designed for people between the ages of 19-39.

“Our team wanted to focus on this particular age group,” said Sister Jan Craven, workshop facilitator. “It seems we hardly have anything age specific, and I wanted to really get this age group out here to the Woods.”

She emphasized the workshops are suitable for people of all faiths and explore questions surrounding God, mystery, belief and deeper questions of life.

“That is what these workshops are all about: Different viewpoints,” said Craven. “Nature is a great teacher of diversity, and I think diversity of opinions and viewpoints are very welcome. We can agree to disagree and still be civil.” See **WORKSHOP**, Page **6B**

## GRACE NOTES

### FEB. 5-6 ART AND SOUL CREATION GUILD

The Art and Soul Creation Guild sponsored by the Sisters of Providence meets 9:30-11:30 a.m. Feb. 5 and 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 6 and the topic is “Art by Surprise – Session One.” Guild membership is required to attend and membership is possible by calling Jeanne Frost, 812-535-2592 or [jfrost@spsmw.org](mailto:jfrost@spsmw.org). The annual membership fee is \$30 and there is \$5 per session cost to attend. The guild is open to all regardless of art expertise.

### FEB. 9 TEA TASTING

All tea lovers are invited to join the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods for the upcoming Sundays at the Woods: Tea Tasting. The event is 1:30-3:30 p.m., Feb. 9, in the Foley Room at Providence Spirituality & Conference Center and provides the opportunity to learn more about tea and where it is grown worldwide. Those attending will learn the art of brewing and sample at least six different teas. The cost is \$10, which includes tea and crumpets, and the registration deadline is Feb. 4. Register online at [Events.Sistersof-Providence.org](http://Events.Sistersof-Providence.org) or by calling 812-535-2952 or emailing [jfrost@spsmw.org](mailto:jfrost@spsmw.org).



# POPE

FROM PAGE 5B

through acts of abuse and violence, once more stating the Vatican's determination to ensure the protection of children in the footsteps of last year's gathering of bishops at the Vatican on this topic.

"The Holy See has renewed its commitment to bring to light abuses already committed and to ensure the protection of minors through a wide range of norms for dealing with such cases in accordance with canon law and in cooperation with civil authorities on the local and international level," he said.

According to the pope, today's epochal change calls for an educational village where everyone joins efforts to form and support human relationships, especially for young people.

Inequality, injustice and endemic corruption are at the heart of the political upheaval that has torn apart many countries in South America, according to Francis, who cited Venezuela in particular. In African countries, the pope reported a mix of positive and negative politics. While the countries of Madagascar, Mozambique and Mauritius, which he visited last year, represent models of inclusivity and dialogue, others in the rest of the continent continue to suffer due to war and violence.

He also voiced his hope to visit the troubled country of South Sudan during the course of the year. Francis hosted a meeting at the Vatican between the opposing leaders of Sudan in April, where he famously knelt to kiss their feet in a plea for peace. The event was co-hosted by Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby of Canterbury and the former moderator of the Church of Scotland.

"The pope's continued encouragement will be vital in helping South Sudan's leaders build trust and allow them to establish a new government," said Sally Axworthy, the British ambassador to the Holy See, in an email to RNS on Thursday.

"The Pope's concern about conflicts, including those that are at risk of being forgotten, is much appreciated. We look



Special to The Prairie Press

**A Vatican Swiss Guard stands at attention as Pope Francis delivers his speech during an audience with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, on the occasion of the traditional exchange of New Year greetings at the Vatican, Jan. 9. (Remo Casilli/Pool photo Via AP)**

forward to working with the Holy See in the year ahead on conflict resolution," she wrote.

Concerning Europe, the pope called member states to resolve the frozen conflicts in the western Balkans and in Georgia, insisting that, "dialogue – not arms – is the essential way to resolve disputes."

More importantly, he insisted the European Union return to the principles of charity and peace that inspired it, especially in light of the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, which he said is a reminder of the dangers of focusing on division rather than unity.

"The fire at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris showed how even what seems so solid can be fragile and easily destroyed," he said. "The damage suffered by an edifice that is not only precious to Catholics but important for all of France and the whole of humanity has revived the question of Europe's historical and cultural values, and its deeper roots."

The divided and war-torn global reality has contributed to a growing number of internally and externally displaced people, who often fall prey to human traffickers. This modern-day slavery and immigration have been at the heart of this pontificate and will likely remain a top priority.

"It is increasingly urgent that all states accept responsibility for finding lasting solutions," Francis said. "For its part, the Holy See looks with great hope to the efforts being made by many countries to share the burden of resettling refugees, in particular those fleeing from

humanitarian emergencies, and to provide them with a secure place in which to live, education and possibilities for employment and reunion with their families."

In honor of the 75th anniversary since the founding of the United Nations, where the Vatican has a permanent observer, Pope Francis called for a reform of the international organization to better reflect the present geopolitical context.

During his trip to Japan last year, Francis experienced firsthand the damage that war can inflict on a nation and its people when he visited the sites of the nuclear bomb attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. As he did then, Francis called the possession and use of nuclear weapons immoral.

"The time has come for political leaders to realize that a safer world comes about not by the deterrent possession of powerful means of mass destruction, but rather by the patient efforts of men and women of goodwill who devote themselves concretely, each in his or her own field, to building a world of peace, solidarity and mutual respect," he said.

The pope's final words were about the role and importance of women.

"It is my hope that the invaluable role of women in society may be increasingly acknowledged worldwide and that all forms of injustice, discrimination and violence against women come to an end," he said.

## Iranian cultural sites include landmarks important to Jews and Christians, too

**YONAT SHIMRON**  
www.religiousnews.com

(RNS) — When President Donald Trump tweeted about the possibility of retaliatory strikes on 52 Iranian sites, including some that are important to the Iranian culture, the world reacted with alarm.

Strikes on cultural sites are considered illegal — some would even say a war crime. The U.S. is a signatory to several international agreements, including the 1954 Hague Convention, which calls on warring parties to protect cultural property.

Trump's own defense secretary, Mark Esper, followed up Monday, Jan. 6, by saying the United States would not target Iranian cultural sites, should

Tehran retaliate for America's targeted killing of Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani last week.

Scholars say it's important to distinguish today's Iranian leadership from the rich legacy of Persian culture, which predates the rise of Shiite theocracy, Islam and even monotheism.

Iran is part of the cradle of civilization, the place where civilization is understood to have emerged. Its history goes back at least 2,000 years before the rise of Islam. The country, which is about twice the size of Texas, has many religious sites important to Jews and Christians, too.

"It has very significant sites for the Zoroastrian religion, Jewish and Christian communities, and of course Muslims,"

said Omid Safi, professor of Asian and Middle Eastern studies at Duke University. Safi grew up in Iran until the age of 15, and he studies Persian mystical literature.

Many pointed out that Iran has 22 cultural UNESCO World Heritage Sites. But in addition, a number of its religious landmarks continue to function as places of worship and pilgrimage.

"They're not just cordoned off but are woven into the fabric of everyday life," said Seema Golestaneh, assistant professor of Middle East studies at Cornell University.

Golestaneh compared the threat of attacking these sites to threatening to bomb Notre Dame or the Sistine Chapel.

## CHINESE DANCING GROUP AT CHRISMAN



Special to The Prairie Press

**The Chinese Dancing Group from Champaign will be the special guests and entertainment for a Chinese New Year Celebration Feb. 1 at the Chrisman United Methodist Church. An authentic Chinese dinner is served at 5 p.m. with a menu of fresh vegetable and rice medley, crunchy chicken and fresh broccoli with soy and red wine sauce, ginger glazed pork with green beans and Chinese sesame and fortune cookies. The dancers perform at 6 p.m., and the event is a fundraiser for church's bell tower project. For more information, contact Carole Yaw @ 217-269-2470, Wanda Winans @ 217-251-7889 or Tish Nelson @ 309-657-0919.**

### WORKSHOP

FROM PAGE 5B

while learning to respect others' viewpoints that are different from our own. I believe it can be very inspiring to see how

others think outside our own little worlds."

According to Craven, young people have great ideas to offer the world and God at The Coffee House is a way to hear that brilliance.

There is no cost to attend the workshops. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

For more information, visit Events.SistersofProvidence.org, call 812-535-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.


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# Facebook again declines to limit targeting

**BY BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Facebook has decided not to limit how political ads can be targeted to specific groups of people, as its main digital-ad rival Google did in November to fight misinformation. Neither will it ban political ads outright, as Twitter did last October. And it still won't fact check them, as it's faced pressure to do.

Instead, it is announcing much more limited transparency features that aim to

give users slightly more control over how many political ads they see and to make its online library of political ads easier to use.

These steps appear unlikely to assuage critics — including some of the company's rank and file employees — who say Facebook has too much power and not enough limits when it comes to its effects on elections and democracy itself.

Since last fall, Facebook has insisted that it won't fact-check political ads, a move

that critics say gives politicians license to lie in ads that can't be easily monitored by outsiders. CEO Mark Zuckerberg has repeatedly argued political speech is important and Facebook doesn't want to interfere with it.

Google, the digital ads leader, is limiting political-ad targeting to broad categories such as sex, age and postal code.

Facebook said in a blog post Thursday, Jan. 9, it considered limiting the targeting of political ads. But the social

network said it learned about their importance for reaching key audiences after conducting outreach with political campaigns from both U.S. parties, political groups and nonprofits.

The company said it was guided by the principle that, "people should be able to hear from those who wish to lead them, warts and all, and that what they say should be scrutinized and debated in public."

Facebook does plan to let users choose to see fewer

political and social-issue ads, although it won't let people exclude them entirely. It's also going to let people choose whether or not to see ads, political or otherwise, from advertisers targeting them using their contact details such as email address or phone number.

The company is also tweaking its ad library so people can search for exact phrases and to limit their search results using filters such as ad-audience size, dates and regions reached.

Facebook's ad library currently lets anyone find out how much was spent on an ad, how many times it was seen, and the age, gender and location of the people who saw it.

The transparency changes will go into effect over the next three months in the U.S. and other countries where Facebook puts the paid-for ads by disclaimers on political ads. The political-ad controls won't roll out in the U.S. until early summer; the company will eventually expand them to other regions.

## Video store alternatives do exist

Now that Paris's Family Video is closed, some families may be looking for a new source of movies for lazy days spent inside or nights around the TV. Luckily, thanks to the Internet, more



**BRADEN CHITTICK**  
GUEST COLUMN

options exist than one could ever want or need. Unluckily, there are also more options than ever to sort through. So here's a brief guide on different alternatives

The Library: Our own Carnegie Library has a small selection of movies, but the movies in the collection are usually good and appeal to a wide audience. The librarians also take suggestions on what to buy, and the whole selection is free to use with a library card.

Netflix: This is easily the biggest service by number of users, and with good reason. If a person wants to watch something, or perhaps a certain genre, but isn't too concerned about exactly which film, Netflix is perfect. The platform has a broad, rotating collection of TV shows and movies which means something suitable is available even if it is not exactly what one was seeking. The fee is \$7.99 per month with an option to pay more so additional people can watch at the same time on the streaming service.

Hulu: Those wanting Netflix but with fewer TV shows and more movies will find Hulu is a good fit. Hulu offers some Disney-owned content, specifically shows and movies made by Fox. The downside is that, unlike most paid services, removing ads costs extra. If one wants shorter watch times, like just a movie, the ads are a nice excuse to get snacks, but the ads get frustrating when trying to binge watch TV episodes. The monthly fee is \$5.99, or \$11.99 to delete the ads.

Amazon Prime: This one is confusing, think of it more like buying a cable package than a normal streaming company. If one already has Prime for the free shipping, access to all of Amazon's original series

See **CHITTICK**, Page **8B**

## BANK DEMOLITION CONTINUES, MASSIVE VAULT REMOVED



Gary Henry/The Prairie Press

**Workers from Neal Machinery Erectors supervise the lowering of part of the vault from the former Citizens National Bank. The structure, which appeared to be the vault door, was eventually loaded onto a flatbed trailer and hauled away. The former bank site on the south side of the Paris square is being razed to make way for a construction project by the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).**

## Man saves California's oldest weekly newspaper from closure

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

DOWNIEVILLE, Calif. (AP) — A retiree has canceled an around-the-world trip to save California's oldest weekly newspaper, which was set to shut down when its editor retires this month.

The paper began in 1853 as a twice-per-month publication; its claim to fame is that Mark Twain once wrote there under his real name, Sam Clemens. He was there hiding out from authorities in Nevada, where he had accepted a challenge to a duel after dueling was outlawed, according to Don Russell, 70, the current publisher who is

retiring.

Carl Butz, 71, says he is taking over the Mountain Messenger, which is based out of his hometown of Downieville and covers two rural counties northeast of Sacramento. Terms of the deal were not immediately disclosed.

"I've been a widower for three years and this is a new chapter in my life," Butz, who lives in an off-the-grid cabin, told SFGate. "What am I going to do? Go on another trip around the world? Instead, I'm doing something good for the community, and I feel good about it."

Known around the area

as the "Mountain Mess," the paper covers school board meetings, federal land use and other issues.

Russell, the Mountain Messenger's editor-publisher, told The Los Angeles Times he is planning to retire soon and had spent the past year trying to sell the paper but hadn't received any offers.

Russell became co-owner of the paper in the early 1990s. The Jan. 16 edition will be his last in his current role but he said he plans to continue his association with the paper after he takes a vacation with his wife.

"It's the absolute best thing I could have hoped for," he

said. "I get to do the stuff I like to do and not have to do the stuff I don't like to do."

A retired independent software consultant, Butz plans to run the weekly as a nonprofit and do some writing and editing. He will rely on volunteers to help fill the paper. He's already found a woman who wants to cover the Board of Supervisors meetings, he said.

As newspapers shut down nationwide, Butz said he is happy to keep the Mountain Messenger going.

"There's just been this rash of these things across the country; you lose the community," Butz said.

## Stocks open higher on Wall Street ahead of China trade deal

**SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS**

NEW YORK (AP) — Stocks opened broadly higher Thursday, Jan. 9, on Wall Street as traders welcomed news that China's top trade official will head to Washington next week to sign a preliminary trade deal.

Global stock markets and oil prices also edged up Thursday as anxiety over potential U.S.-Iranian armed conflict eased.

Indexes in London and

Frankfurt rose after Tokyo closed more than 2 percent higher. Shanghai and Hong Kong also advanced, while Wall Street futures pointed to gains on the open.

Markets had largely fallen on Wednesday after Iran launched missiles at bases housing Americans in Iraq in retaliation for the killing of an Iranian general. Anxiety subsided after reports indicated no Americans were killed and President Donald Trump said

Iran appears to be standing down.

The lack of casualties, "gave the markets more confidence that the Iranians had instigated little more than the intention to make a public show of force mainly to save face at home," said analyst Stephen Innes of AxiTrader.

In Europe, London's FTSE 100 gained 0.5 percent to 7,612 and Frankfurt's DAX rose 1.1 percent to 13,467. France's CAC 40 added 0.2

percent to 6,045.

On Wall Street, futures for the benchmark S&P 500 and Dow Jones Industrial Average were up nearly 0.3 percent.

In Asia, Tokyo's Nikkei 225 powered ahead 2.3 percent to 23,739.87 and Hong Kong's Hang Seng rose 1.7 percent to 28,561.00. The Shanghai Composite Index added 0.9 percent to 3,094.88.

Seoul's Kospi rose 1.6 percent to 2,186.45 and Sydney's

See **STOCKS**, Page **8B**

## To boost economy, fight chronic disease

To understand the health of an economy, look at the health of those who participate in it.

About six in 10 U.S. adults have at least one chronic disease, such as diabetes, cancer or heart disease. These conditions, also called noncommunicable diseases, are expected to collectively cost the country \$95 trillion by 2050.

We can avoid this multitrillion-dollar tax if we shift our focus from just treating these diseases to also preventing them from taking root in the first place.



**GENE HUANG**  
GUEST COLUMN

See **HUANG**, Page **8B**

# Important discussions start HERE.

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# Kohl's, J.C. Penney report 2019 holiday sales declines

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

NEW YORK (AP) — Mall-based retailers J.C. Penney, Kohl's and Victoria's Secret parent company reported sales declines for the holiday season, underscoring continued challenges ahead from online rivals and other low-price competitors.

The sales releases, issued Thursday, Jan. 9, come one day after Macy's reported a small decline in holiday sales, though it was better than what investors feared. J.C. Penney reports sales at stores opened at least a year

dropped 7.5 percent for the November and December period. Adjusted results, including the impact of the chain's exit from major appliances and furniture at its stores, decreased 5.3 percent. Kohl's posted a 0.2 percent decline.

At L Brands, which operates Victoria's Secret and Bath & Body Works, the figure dropped 3 percent. The company also cut its fourth-quarter profit outlook, saying it expects to report earnings per share of \$1.85. It had previously anticipated said \$2 per share in the quarter.

The weak results come as overall retail sales are expected to have increased for the holidays, boosted by a strong economy. However, the divide between the winners and losers is widening. Discounters, feeling pressure from online behemoth Amazon, have been speeding up their deliveries and sprucing up their assortments. Stores like T.J. Maxx, which offer deep discounts on coveted brands, also have been resonating with shoppers. But mall-based retailers have been too slow to react to the increasing competition.

## CHITTICK

FROM PAGE 7B

is included. To watch something else requires paying extra for channels like HBO, Showtime and even NBA League. The selection is huge, but it gets expensive to gain access for all of it. I recommend getting Amazon prime if a person likes prestige TV with programs such as “Chernobyl,” “Game of Thrones,” “The Wire” and then include HBO, Showtime, Starz or Cinemax depending on which option best suits personal taste. Amazon Prime at \$12.99 monthly gets access to Amazon original series and free shipping on some items through the shopping side of Amazon. Additional channels rotate in price and add to the expense.

Disney+: Disney owns a lot. To name a few: Pixar, Marvel, Fox, Hulu, Lucasfilm, ABC and ESPN, as well as the studio's own movies. That said, unless somebody is a big Star Wars fan or a parent,

I don't believe Disney+ is worth the money. Having an entire streaming service built around one company leaves most of what's up there feeling kind of the same. A monthly fee of \$6.99 gets the basic service, \$12.99 adds ESPN+ and Hulu.

The Weird Ones: There are a thousand smaller, more specific streaming services. I can't name them all, but here's a list of some of the most popular. Crackle, Tubi TV and Shout Factory TV are free services with ads. Crackle has Sony movies and shows, and Tubi TV and Shout Factory have large selections with a little bit for everyone.

Warner Archive (\$9.99), Tribeca Shortlist (\$4.99), and Film Struck (\$6.99 or \$10.99 to add the Criterion Collection) are services with somewhat narrower selections of classic or acclaimed movies. Warner Archive and Film Struck are better for older classics, whereas Tribeca Shortlist has newer prestige movies.

If a free option is more appealing, Archive.org is a free service with scores of black-and-white classics, but it's temperamental and tends to take a long time to load.

Lastly, if one falls into the category of people who rent “Halloween” or “The Evil Bong” every week, Shudder offers a massive selection of horror movies, but only horror movies. The monthly fee is \$4.75

I really enjoyed Family Video, and I would take having it back over any of these services. But, one of the advantages of streaming is it can be shared. Most services will let three or four screens use the same account at the same time. So with a little coordination friends and family can find something to suit everybody's taste.

(Paris native Braden Chittick is a student at the University of Evansville where he studies creative writing. He is also a big movie fan and lends his talents to The Prairie Press when needed.)

## HUANG

FROM PAGE 7B

Chronic diseases take a staggering toll on the economy. The direct costs are obvious as most people with chronic conditions manage treatment for years and make regular visits to their doctor.

The indirect costs of chronic diseases are even bigger. They can reduce productivity at the office or force people to miss work entirely. Chronic conditions can also compel workers to retire early, resulting in years of lost income.

In the United States, heart disease and stroke deprive

our healthcare system of \$199 billion each year and result in \$131 billion in lost workplace productivity. Diabetes saps \$237 billion from our healthcare system and employers each year.

By contrast, a healthy population boosts a nation's economic performance. Adding one year to life expectancy increases GDP per capita by 4 percent, according to an analysis by the World Health Organization.

Preventing chronic disease is a simple way to improve the health of an entire population and improve that population's economic prospects.

Even the simplest investments in prevention pay off over time. By one estimate, investing \$10 per person per year in community-based programs that encourage people to exercise, eat better and avoid smoking could yield \$16 billion in annual medical cost savings within five years.

In other words, we'd get back \$5.60 for every dollar invested in a program like this one — a more than five-fold return.

Improving access to healthy foods could prevent people from developing heart disease or diabetes. The benefits of healthy eating could save the United States \$114.5 billion each year, according to one study.

Fortunately, there are community-based programs that have successfully helped people beat back chronic diseases, but we need to reach more communities.

Take the yearlong Diabetes Prevention Program the YMCA offers at more than

200 locations nationwide. Participants in this program work with coaches to lose up to 7 percent of their body weight and commit to 150 minutes of physical activity each week. These simple changes have proven to reduce the number of new type 2 diabetes cases by up to 71 percent in people 60 and older.

Abbott and its foundation the Abbott Fund have launched a series of partnerships called “Future Well” initiatives to fight chronic disease. These partnerships include Future Well Communities, which targets underlying social and economic barriers to good health in Stockton, Calif., and Future Well Kids, which helps instill healthy habits in kids aged 10-13.

The latter program brings groups of volunteers to schools in eight states to empower kids to take charge of their health through small changes, like planning healthy meals, setting fitness goals and parsing good nutrition advice from misinformation and health fads.

If we can build healthier communities and instill healthy habits in our children, they'll have a better chance of warding off chronic diseases in adulthood and reaching their full potential.

Chronic diseases are a major threat to our economy. Preventing them is key to securing a prosperous future.

(Gene Huang, Ph.D., is vice president, chief economist at Abbott. This piece originally ran in the “International Business Times” and was submitted to The Prairie Press as a guest column.)

## STOCKS

FROM PAGE 7B

S&P-ASX 200 added 0.8 percent to 6,874.20. India's Sensex rose 1.4 percent to 41,409.69.

Trump said he would add economic sanctions on Iran but the United States is, “ready to embrace peace with all who seek it.”

Oil prices rebounded Thursday after first surging on news of the Iranian attack and then falling back once tensions appeared to be easing.

Benchmark U.S. crude gained 43 cents to \$60.04 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Ex-

change. On Wednesday, the contract fell \$3.09 to settle at \$59.61. It traded as high as \$65.65 following the missile attack.

Brent crude, used to price international oils, advanced 24 cents to \$65.68 per barrel in London. It fell \$2.83 the previous session to \$65.44.

Gold had a similar whipsaw day. It climbed as high as \$1,604.20 per ounce to a seven-year high before falling back. On Thursday it was down \$8.20 at \$1,552.

In currency trading, the dollar gained to 109.36 yen from Wednesday's 109.08 yen. The euro advanced to \$1.1114 from \$1.1105.



# CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

many players are on a basketball team, what do the forwards do, where are the guards supposed to play, etc.

Now, at last, you're ready for phase three – the game itself. That is, you're ready after another five-minute delay while you send some rabbit-footed young urchin back into the schoolhouse to find a whistle.

Phase three is the real game. Of course, you can't coach too effectively because you are also officiating. But you marvel

proudly at the sturdy zone defense your team plays while the five opponents simultaneously bring the ball down the court and argue impetuously about such important matters as who should be the guards and who should be the forwards, and who is the captain and what the limit of his authority should be.

The chief concern of your team, of course, is determining how to shoot into the wind – whether it's a crosswind, tailwind, or headwind – and how to allow for the floppy backboard and loose rim. What are

time outs like? You might call a time out or two and caution your team to always shoot from the left side because the rim is tilted 40 degrees to the left, and not to shoot too hard, because the rim might break and then there would be no goal at which to shoot.

At halftime you talk over some strategy with your team, pointing out some of the mistakes, and reminding the players they'll be going the opposite direction, which means more wind tests, rim and backboard inspections, etc.

Halftime is a good time to

put your two substitutes in the game, so you search frantically for the two boys who were with the team earlier but have mysteriously disappeared.

After sending out a couple of couriers to search for the lost stars, you find that the two lads were mucking around on an adjoining playground, probably having taken a basketball from some little blokes and shooting on another court. Either that or they've spied some nice-looking "birds" (girls) playing netball (volleyball) and they've moved over beside the netball court for closer scruti-

ny. Anyway, once they get the message that they are wanted back at the basketball court, they come on the dead run.

The basketballs are really dandies – pure rubber, made in Shanghai, China. If for some reason you can't go first-class, then you can usually borrow a striped-colored basketball from one of the kids.

At game's end, you beam with admiration at your players as they mob the scorekeeper to find out who won. It doesn't matter how many times you've posted them on the score during the game, it doesn't matter if they've led throughout the contest, they don't find out who wins until the end of the game. And if it's your team that wins, then they're a proud group of boys, and you pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

As home team coach, the sequence of events is a little different. Your team is on the playing court very early and you have several Shanghais for them in warm-up drills to keep busy while waiting for the opposition. When it's five minutes past game time the opponents show up with a middle-aged-man coach, who, quite naturally, has a clipboard stuffed full of loose papers (I don't know why he carries it; must be for the sake of impression). That's phase one.

Phase two begins when the opponents come dribbling out of the dressing room and take to the court for a few warm-up shots preparatory to the start of the game. As coach, you courteously ask the opposing coach if he would like to referee half the game. He not only refuses, but shows his own courtesy by handing you his stuffed clipboard and asks if one of your substitutes can keep score while you referee.

You try to hand it back and explain that there's nothing to keeping score.

"Just watch me as I referee," you say, "and I'll tell you when

to add two points and when to add one point."

"But I can't keep score," he protests. "I'm sorry, but I just don't know how."

Phase three marks the beginning of the game. You referee. The other coach goes over to the nearby court and watches an exciting girls game, looking back over his shoulder toward you occasionally to make sure your game doesn't terminate and his players accidentally leave him.

You beam with pride as your team dominates the other team by a score of 15 to 5 the first half. But you mutter bewilderingly as the opposition outscores your team 10 – 0 the second half. By this time it's obvious the team with the tailwind scores the most, and if you're unfortunate enough to be facing the headwinds the second half, there isn't much you can do.

As referee, you hesitate to call too many fouls. This is because there are no free throws for non-shooting fouls. The team with the ball merely throws it from out of bounds again. Act-of-shooting fouls, of course, draw two shots (unless the field goal counts – then no free throw is awarded), but you even hesitate to call those, because it's a rarity if any player ever makes a free throw, considering the Shanghais, the rim, the board and the wind.

Consequently, Aussie players are sticky-fingered grabbers on defense and bulldog drivers on offense.

At the end of the home-court game, you allow the players to perform their ritual mobbing the scorer, of course. Then you blow the whistle to signal the other coach the game is over. After all this, you pat yourself on the back for a job well done.

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

## Puzzles

CROSSWORD ANSWERS ON PAGE 9B

# SUDOKU

	7	8	6					
3			2					5
			8				6	4
	9	3						
				4			1	2
							7	
9				1	7			
					8	2	9	
4				3				

Level: Advanced

### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

7	9	8	2	3	6	1	9	4
1	6	2	8	9	4	5	3	7
9	3	4	7	1	5	2	8	6
6	7	3	5	8	1	4	2	9
2	1	9	6	4	3	7	5	8
8	4	5	9	2	7	3	6	1
4	9	7	3	5	8	6	1	2
5	8	6	1	9	2	7	3	4
3	2	1	4	9	6	8	7	5

ANSWER:

### Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

## Shimkus announces final Valentines for Heroes

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

MARYVILLE – As he enters his last year in office, Rep. John Shimkus (R-15th District) is wrapping up a number of traditions including his Valentines for Heroes program.

"Since its beginning in 2008, Valentines for Heroes has continued to grow, year after year," Shimkus said. "It has gotten to the point where people can't wait to get started. We begin to get calls immediately after the New Year, wanting to know when we will be collecting. The answer is now."

The congressman's district offices are collecting valentines for distribution throughout the region to veterans and active-duty military men and women. They may be dropped off or mailed by Feb. 7 at:

■15 Professional Park

Drive, Maryville, IL 62062;

■City Hall, Room 12, 110

East Locust Street, Harrisburg, IL 62946; or

■201 North Vermilion Street, Suite 325, Danville, IL 61832.

All valentines are reviewed for appropriate content before being distributed. In order to be accepted, they must be signed with first names only, should not include last names or addresses and cannot be directed to a specific person or those of a specific faith. Because many will go to hospitals, candy and glitter are not allowed.

Also Valentines should not be placed in envelopes.

Constituents may call the congressman's Maryville Office at (618) 288-7190 with any questions about the program.

## Census takers are needed

### SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

MARSHALL – The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for help to complete the 2020 census.

Every 10 years, as required by the U.S. Constitution, a tabulation of residents is taken. The result provides vital information needed to determine congressional districts and the distribution of federal programs within states.

The data influences choices made about which roads are

fixed, where schools are built and businesses opened, what medical services are offered and more.

All census jobs are temporary, with the largest number of positions being the category of census taker. Pay rates vary by area.

A representative from the census office will be available at the Marshall Public Library to answer questions from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Jan. 20, 21, 22 and Jan. 24. The hours are 4-6 p.m. Jan. 23.

## CROSSWORD

### Across

- "The Whale" constellation
- Curve
- Damon of "Good Will Hunting"
- Express
- \_\_\_ vera
- "O" in old radio lingo
- Selecting by vote again
- Arm bone
- "Frasier" actress Gilpin
- Carafe size
- Caribbean and others
- Uniform shade
- Like some mushrooms
- Current
- Dorm room staple
- Which person?
- Genealogy
- Command
- Debtor's note
- Ace
- Death on the Nile cause, perhaps
- Anger
- Low-grade wool
- Danger
- Charlotte-to-Raleigh dir.
- Edema
- Good as new
- Fine coating of oxide on metal
- A-list
- Sandler of "Big Daddy"
- Categorize
- Chic-\_\_\_ Mountains in Quebec
- Home to some Mongolian nomads
- Calcium carbonate deposited by water
- \_\_\_-bodied
- Anger, with "up"
- Overhangs
- At no time, poetically

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14						15					16			
17						18					19			
20						21					22			
			23	24					25	26				
27	28	29					30	31						
32				33		34				35			36	37
38				39				40	41			42		
43			44			45	46					47		
		48			49				50		51			
52	53						54	55						
56						57	58				59	60	61	62
63						64					65			
66						67					68			
69						70					71			

70. Its motto is "Lux et veritas"

71. Shift, e.g.

### Down

- Business firm, abbrev.
- Fencing sword
- Ticket info, maybe
- Dissimilar
- "Comprende?"
- Fabric dyeing method
- Snob
- \_\_\_ of the above
- Extent
- More drab and colorless
- Robust (hyph.)

- Employing variations in pitch
- Bait
- Hue and cry
- Whaling spear
- Tiny bead of liquid
- Move through water
- 10 C-notes
- King Aurthur's knights (2 wds)
- Boris Godunov, for one
- "My bad!"
- Coastal raptor
- Cattail, e.g.

- Comparison
- Dirtier
- Examine
- Slight
- Sweet liquid collected by bees
- Heathen
- Building block
- Bank
- "Mi chiamano Mimi," e.g.
- Bee structure
- Aces, sometimes
- British tax
- Cabernet, e.g.

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13					
C	E	T	U	S		B	E	N	D		M	A	T	T					
14	O	P	I	N	E		15	A	L	O	E		16	O	B	O	E		
17	R	E	E	L	E		18	C	T	I	N	G		19	U	L	N	A	
20	P	E	R	I		21	L	I	T	E	R		22	S	E	A	S		
					23	K	H	A	K	I		25	E	D	I	B	L	E	
27	28	29					30	S	T	E	R	E	O						
32	W	H	O			33	R	O	O	T	S		35	O	R	D	E	R	
38	I	O	U			39	P	R	O		40	A	S	P		42	I	R	E
43	M	U	N		44	G	O		45	P	E	R	I	L		47	E	N	E
			48			49	D	R	O	P	S		50	M	E	N	D	E	D
52	53								54	55									
56	A	D	A	M		57	L	A	B	E	L		59	C	H	O	C		
63	G	O	B	I		64	T	R	A	V	E		65	R	T	I	N	E	
66	A	B	L	E		67	R	I	L	E		68	E	A	V	E	S		
69	N	E	E	R		70	Y	A	L	E		71	D	R	E	S	S		



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Official notice is hereby that the 102nd Annual Meeting of the Edgar County Farm Bureau® will be held at the Edgar County Farm Bureau Building in Paris, Illinois, at 12:30 P.M. on Saturday, February 1st, 2020. The purpose of this meeting is to give reports, elect officers, and elect representatives on the Board of Directors for the townships of Edgar, Grandview, Hunter, Paris, and Prairie.

Submitted by Whitney Warner, Secretary

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LEGALS

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on DECEMBER 23, 2019 a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Edgar County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post office address of all of the persons owning, conducting, and transacting the business known as:

COPPER KETTLE LOGISTICS

**LOCATED AT: 712 E. MADISON, CHRISMAN, IL 61924**

**OWNER(S): RONALD L. JOHNSON**

DATED: DECEMBER 23, 2019

August H. Griffin  
Edgar County Clerk

PUBLICATION NOTICE OF COURT DATE FOR REQUEST FOR NAME CHANGE (ADULT)

There will be a court date on my Request to change my name from:

**JUDY KAY VERE'**

To the new name of:

**JUDY KAY STARK**

The court date will be held:

on March 11, 2020 at 9:00am at 115 West court Paris, IL Edgar County in Courtroom # 1

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

**IN THE INTEREST OF**  
H. K., a minor 2017-JA-2  
A. J., a minor 2017-JA-4  
J. K., a minor 2017-JA-5

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

To: Kacie Krabel, Respondent Mother, believed to be deceased: Stephen Jones, Respondent Father, 204 Mack Street, Georgetown, IL 61846  
Any or All Unknown Fathers

Take notice that on the 1st day of May, 2017 Petitions for Neglect were filed under the Juvenile Court Act by the Edgar County State's Attorney, in the Circuit

Court of Edgar County, Paris, Illinois entitled: In the Interest of H. K., 17-JA-2, In the interest of A.J., 17-JA-4, and in the Interest of J. K., 17-JA-5. Further, Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights were filed in the same matters on the 24th day of September, 2019 and that in the courtroom of Judge Matthew Sullivan, Courtroom #1, Edgar County Courthouse, 115 W. Court Street Paris, Illinois, on the 28th day of January, 2020, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing on the Petitions for Termination of Parental Rights will be held. NOW, THEREFORE, unless you and All Whom It May Concern file your answer to the Petition in this action or otherwise file your appearance herein in the hearing on said date and at said hour and show cause against the Petition, the allegations of the Petition may stand admitted against you and an Order or Judgment by Default may be entered against you for the relief asked in the Petition. You must also know that upon service of this Notice by Publication, you will not be entitled to further written or publication notice of proceedings in this case, except as required by Supreme Court Rule 11, which provides that notice is to be sent through regular mail to the attorney of record of a party or to a party's address of record with the court, when he is not represented by an attorney.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2020

Angela R. Barrett  
Clerk of the Circuit Court

**Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Intent to Request a Release of Funds**

**January 11, 2020**

**City of Paris  
206 South Central  
Paris, Illinois 61944**

**(217) 465-7601**

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Paris, Illinois

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about January 29, 2020 the City of Paris will submit a request to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for the release of funds under Community Development Block Grant Funds under Section 104(h) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended to undertake an economic development project known as the AGCO GSI Warehouse Expansion Project. The project includes the Company's construction of a 150,000 square foot warehouse and the proposed acquisition of a 27-acre site to the immediate west of Stratton Drive and the existing manufacturing facility. The expansion is dependent on the approval of funding requests for necessary infrastructure improvements. The infrastructure improvements necessary for the project include the relocation of Stratton Drive approximately 700 feet to the west; and then the construction of approximately

900 feet of roadway north from a new entrance on IL 133 and then 600 feet east to meet the existing roadway at the northern boundary of the current AGCO GSI property. The project also requires construction of approximately 2,000 feet of 12-inch water main, construction of approximately 1,200 feet of 4-inch sanitary sewer force main and storm sewer improvements. Estimated CDBG funding for the infrastructure improvements is \$904,200. The Company investment for the expansion is estimated at \$8.6 million. The project will create 50 full-time permanent jobs.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Paris has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Paris City Hall, 206 South Central, Paris, Illinois and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:30 A.M to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City Administrator, City Hall, 206 South Central, Paris, IL 61944. All comments received by January 29, 2020 will be considered by the City of Paris prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Paris certifies to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity that Craig Smith in his capacity as Mayor, City of Paris, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Paris to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

The Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Paris's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Paris; (b) the City of Paris has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity or

(d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity at 500 East Monroe, Springfield, Illinois 62701 at Potential objectors should contact the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Craig Smith  
Mayor, City of Paris, Illinois

Prime office/retail location on the square. Recently occupied by Sweet Vintage - and they outgrew the location.



Call Tom Hebermehl at 808-1203 for further information.



The Equity is an Agricultural Cooperative with 18 locations, serving 37 counties in Illinois and Indiana and is looking for self-motivated individuals to join our team. The Equity is a full-service cooperative offering a complete line of supplies and services for farm and residential customers. The Equity was founded in 1919 and now has more than 400 full-time employee and offers a great benefits package.

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**Facilities Maintenance** – requirements: ability to troubleshoot electrical, mechanical and pneumatic issues; interacts effectively with management, maintain and repair company owned equipment and facilities; facilitate & manage repair projects; other duties as assigned.  
**Feed Delivery** – requirements: possess a CDL class A license; load feed trucks, deliver bulk feed, assist feed production when needed; other duties as assigned.

**Marshall, IL positions:**  
**Custom Applicator** – requirements: possess a CDL class A license; apply fertilizer and ag products through custom application equipment; blending, mixing, delivering, loading and unloading of ag products; scout field for weed and insect problems; take soil samples; other duties as assigned.  
**Agronomy Operations** – requirements: obtain a class A CDL; blending, mixing, delivering, loading and unloading of ag products; repair & maintain fleet; other duties as assigned  
**Agronomy Sales** – requirements: Bachelor's degree in Ag or related field preferred; obtain CCA certification; obtain class A CDL; consulting with growers & making recommendations; develop sales programs; other duties as assigned.  
For more information on the positions or to apply go to [www.theequity.com/careers](http://www.theequity.com/careers) or send resumes to [apply.careers@theequity.com](mailto:apply.careers@theequity.com) or stop in one of our 18 locations.



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## SEED MONEY WILL HELP SARAH BUSH LINCOLN BUY DENTAL HYGIENE BUS FOR KIDS



Special to The Prairie Press

**A \$15,000 donation provides seed money for Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation to buy a new dental bus for traveling across the region to provide preventative and restorative care and dental hygiene education to underserved children up to age 18. More donations are needed as outfitting the bus is expected to cost \$600,000. Pictured left to right are SBL Health Foundation Director Amy Card, Mobile Miracles Committee member Noelle Cope, donors Jenny and Gary Swearingen, and SBL VP Operations Kim Uphoff.**

# State panel looks for isolation room answers

Report reveals teachers abuse schools' isolation rooms, especially for disabled students

BY JERRY NOWICKI  
Capitol News Illinois  
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Legislators and advocates began discussions Tuesday, Jan. 7, of what action the state can take to counteract the overuse of physical restraint and forced isolation of students in Illinois schools, particularly those serving students with special needs.

At a joint Illinois Senate and House committee hearing in Chicago, several of those who spoke credited revelations unearthed by a Chicago Tribune and ProPublica investigation published in November for the increased interest in the topic.

That investigation showed there were more than 20,000 documented incidents of isola-

tion used in the state from the start of the 2017-2018 school year through December 2018.

"The students, most of them with disabilities, scratch the windows or tear at the padded walls. They throw their bodies against locked doors. They wet their pants. Some children spend hours inside these rooms, missing class time. Through it all, adults stay outside the door, writing down what happens," according to the report.

In Illinois, it is legal to isolate students if they pose a safety threat to themselves or others, the report found, but the practice is used far more than in such situations.

"Children were sent to isolation after refusing to do classwork, for swearing, for spilling milk, for throwing Legos. School employees use isolated timeout for convenience, out of frustration or as punishment, sometimes referring to it as 'serving time,'" according to the report.

The report also found that

while schools must document isolation instances, that documentation often goes unread, and the Illinois State Board of Education had not collected any data on the practice at the time the article was published.

The investigation prompted ISBE to initiate emergency rules banning the use of isolated seclusion in any educational entity serving public school students in Illinois in November. A news release at the time said ISBE would begin collecting data to "increase accountability and transparency for all instances of timeout and physical restraint. The board proposed permanent rules in December.

At the committee hearing Tuesday, Amanda Elliott, co-director of legislative affairs at ISBE, said the emergency rules allowed ISBE to collect data on the use of seclusion and restraint in prior years. She said ISBE is reviewing the data for violations, which would prompt investigations and potential disciplinary action. She

said nine investigations are pending as a result.

She said sanctions resulting from violations could result in licensure suspension, professional development requirements or even criminal charges for individuals. For schools, recognition status could be affected, which would impact funding, she said.

Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, however, questioned how schools are self-reporting that data and suggested it would likely be incomplete.

Advocates at the meeting urged greater oversight from ISBE, increased training requirements and opportunities for school staffs, and greater resources for providing an adequate number of staff, particularly social workers.

"We hear these devastating stories and then we come here to take action and it's the same three things that we need, though. We need training, we need oversight and we need resources to help our teachers," said state Sen. Jennifer

Bertino-Tarrant, a Shorewood Democrat and chair of the Senate Education Committee.

Illinois Federation of Teachers President Daniel Montgomery said unless there is a real sea change of how educators are trained, change will be difficult to implement. He said a simple 8-hour course would be nowhere near sufficient, and he urged systemic, sustained training requirements.

Other stakeholders pointed out the isolation room practices documented in the investigation were already illegal, but there were no enforcement mechanisms in place to punish school districts for using them.

Rep. Sue Scherer, a Democrat from Decatur, said the state would have to make a firm commitment to funding of these training programs in order to effect change. Otherwise, without training, she said, the state is basically throwing teachers to the wolves.

Advocates also agreed policy changes were not aimed at support or de-escalation rooms

where students with sensory issues can willfully go with social workers or support staff.

Rep. Jonathan Carroll, a Northbrook Democrat, is sponsoring a bill to ban the practice of seclusion, which is defined as, "a discipline management practice or behavior management technique in which a student is confined in an enclosed space that is designed solely to seclude a person, regardless of space or dimension, whether it is a box, a closet, a room, or any other specially designated locked or unlocked space."

He said the matter was personal to him, as he said he was physically restrained and placed in such a room as a child.

"It was horrible that we treat children with special needs the same way we treat our most hardened criminals, and this is something that needs to stop now, and this is something that we have to stop both as a legislative body and as a state," he said.

# House bill would add risks of sexting to sex ed. curriculum

Students would learn legal, personal consequences to digitally sharing sexual content

BY BEN ORNER  
Capitol News Illinois  
borner@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Sex education in Illinois middle and high schools would be required to include a discussion on sexting if a bill introduced in the state House of Representatives becomes law.

House Bill 4007, introduced by Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, would require sex education curriculum in

grades 6-12 to include material on the legal and social risks of sharing sexually explicit images, messages and videos.

"This is something that a lot of our students are dealing with and are partaking in without really understanding what the consequences could be," West said.

Issues surrounding sexting

that would be required in curriculum include long-term consequences, bullying and harassment, resisting peer pressure and using the Internet safely. Lessons would also have to highlight school and community officials who students can reach out to with a problem.

"There's no telling what our children are doing on their phones," West said, "So instead of trying to intrude into their privacy, let's just make sure they're educated on even the things that make us adults uncomfortable."

The bill defines sexting as "sending, sharing, receiving, or forwarding a sexually explicit or sexually suggestive image, video, or text message by a digital or electronic device, including, but not limited to, a mobile or cellular telephone or a computer."

Illinois would become only the second state to require teaching about sexting in sex education, according to Jennifer Driver, vice president of policy at the nonprofit Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States, which advocates for modern and comprehensive sex education.

New Jersey's law, signed in 2018, requires schools to teach the social, emotional, and legal consequences of sexting.

The Los Angeles Unified School District, America's sec-

ond-largest, added the risks and consequences of sexting to its curriculum in 2015.

Driver says including sexting in sex education is a smart response to a growing practice.

"Young people generally think short term, in the immediate, and so providing the education before it becomes punitive ... is a very responsible way to address sexting," she said.

A 2018 study of 110,000 teenagers published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found 15 percent had sent sexts and 27 percent had received them. Twelve percent also admitted to sending a sext of someone else without their consent.

Sexting between minors is illegal in 25 states including Illinois, according to a 2018 analysis by the Cyberbullying Research Center. Illinois law forbids minors from sharing sexual images and videos of themselves via any electronic method, such as texting, social media and smartphone apps. The penalty is usually community service or counseling.

Illinois is one of 24 states plus the District of Columbia that require sex education. School codes require sex education lessons in Illinois to be age-appropriate, evidence-based and medically accurate. Parents have the option to take their children out of class if they object to the material.

"It is my hope that schools will be understanding of this because this is one thing that we really can't control," West said.

Ben Schwarm, deputy ex-

ecutive director of the Illinois Association of School Boards, predicts his organization will oppose the bill once it is assigned to a committee.

"We oppose all new curricular mandates. It has just really grown out of control," he said.

Schwarm calls the bill unnecessary because school codes already mandate instruction on related topics like Internet safety and cyberbullying.

West, however, said he does not believe it would be an unnecessary mandate.

"We're just simply saying we need to acknowledge the elephant that's in the room," he said.

West said sexting has already come up among a group of middle school boys he mentors.

"I'm telling them the ramifications to it and telling them how, though you may feel that this is pretty cool now, it can be detrimental later," he said. "But that's just with six boys that I mentor. There's a lot more out there that may not be getting that same kind of guidance."

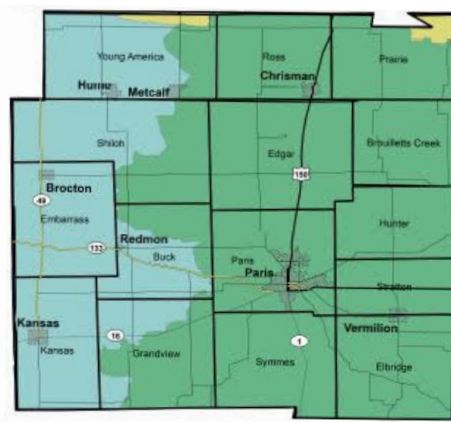
Driver said she agrees that sex education should meet young people where they are.

"I think very much how we're trying to keep up with technology, we need to be keeping up with sex education at the same time so that one doesn't happen without the other," she said.

West introduced the bill in December and is reaching out to fellow lawmakers from both sides of the aisle for support as the General Assembly prepares for its 2020 session beginning Jan. 28.

## EMBARRAS RIVER WATERSHED FARMER MEETING

### Edgar County



**Watersheds:**  
Embarras  
Middle Wabash-Busserron  
Middle Wabash-Little Vermilion

**Township names are italicized.  
Town names are bolded.**

### Do you farm or own ground in the Embarras River Watershed?

We want your input to identify resource concerns and solutions in the watershed to aid with an update of the 2011 Embarras Watershed Plan.

What to expect: Group discussions of your water quality concerns, and the opportunity to identify locations for voluntary conservation practice implementation in the watershed.

When: Thursday, January 23, 2020 from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. (lunch provided)

Where: Edgar County Farm Bureau - 210 W. Washington Street, Paris, IL 61944

Who: Farmers and landowners in the Embarras River Watershed in Edgar County

Register online at [extension.illinois.edu/cefi](http://extension.illinois.edu/cefi) or call Jennifer Woodyard (University of Illinois Extension) at 217-347-7773; Tara Hopkins (Edgar County Soil and Water) at 217-465-5325; or Wvatt Williamson (Edgar County Farm Bureau) at 217-465-8511

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# Tax task force presents its findings

Draft report calls for consolidating schools, upping state share of education fund, reforming property tax

BY PETER HANCOCK  
Capitol News Illinois  
phancock@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — A task force formed to study ways to reduce property tax burden on Illinois residents is calling for consolidation of school districts and other local units of government and a boost in the state's share of funding for K-12 education.

Those and other recommendations are part of a draft report circulated among the 88-member Property Tax Relief Task Force that state lawmakers formed during the 2019 session. A final report is expected to be released before the 2020 legislative session begins Jan. 28.

The bill creating the task force was part of a package of legislation also including a proposed constitutional amendment to allow for a graduated income tax. And while the draft report does not mention the proposed amendment, which will appear on the November general election ballot, Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker has said he wants at least some of the new income tax revenue to be used for property tax relief if voters approve the amendment.

Rising property taxes have been a political flash point in Illinois for many years. The current system dates back to a 1901 Illinois Supreme Court decision that overturned the tax levying method that was used until that time, according to the draft report.

The report notes, however, that property ownership today

is no longer the indicator of wealth and ability to pay that it was in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It also states the current system is full of special exemptions for select groups of property owners — including Tax Increment Financing districts, or TIFs, that have the effect of shifting the tax burden on to other property owners.

The document also notes that local governments in Illinois — school districts in particular — rely more heavily on property tax revenue than in other states. Local property taxes account for two-thirds of all funding for public schools in Illinois, while state funding accounts for only about 26 percent.

"Today's reliance on property taxes underscores how broken the system of funding local government services has become," the report states. "Too many units of government rely too heavily on property taxes, which are predicated on the value of something that is most often unrelated to the owners' ability to pay."

The report argues the property tax system should be reformed on several levels, including how property values are determined, consolidating townships and other local units of government and reducing or eliminating some property tax exemptions.

But addressing the issue of education funding would likely have the biggest impact because school taxes make up the bulk of most people's property tax bills.

Rep. Sam Yingling, D-Grays-

lake, one of eight co-chairs of the task force, said in an interview that one way to increase the state's share of school funding would be to expand the state's sales tax base to cover certain services not currently taxed. He added that also allows the state to reduce its sales tax rate.

The report also notes that one task force member, Chicago Democratic Rep. Mary Flowers, who co-chaired the subcommittee on social and economic disparities, "recommends the removal of school districts from the property tax system so that the State of Illinois has sole funding responsibility for K-12 schools."

Illinois also has an unusual system of organizing public schools, with 850 individual districts. Of those, more than 300 serve only grades K-8 and nearly 100 serve only high school students. The remainder are known as unit districts that serve all grades from K-12.

"Each of these has administrative staff and combining them into unified school districts will result in efficiencies of scale," the draft report states. "The degree and scope of savings will vary from district to district and from school to school, but in parts of the state, merger will make great financial sense, and without raising concerns about geographic dislocation for students."

Rep. Stephanie Kifowit, an Oswego Democrat who served as co-chair of the task force's school funding subcommittee, said in an interview she agrees with the need for school district

consolidation.

"When you talk about school funding and single purpose districts such as K-8 or high school districts, the residents have to know that they are essentially being almost double-taxed versus a unit district," she said.

By way of example, Kifowit shared a photograph she took of a constituent's property tax bill. The bill was for a home in Park Forest, a village south of Chicago in Cook County. The home was valued at just over \$128,000 and the tax bill was for more than \$13,000. That included more than \$7,000 levied by two school districts. The task force was originally supposed to deliver its final report to the governor and General Assembly by Dec. 31, but Yingling said members felt it was important to get feedback on the draft from all four legislative caucuses — Republicans and Democrats in the state House and Senate.

Once the final report is released, its recommendations will be drafted into legislation for the General Assembly to consider this year.

"It's gonna take longer than one session in one year to fix but I think this is a great first step in the right direction," Kifowit said. "And I think that we can have a common sense solution for to really work to lower property taxes for our residents."

But not everyone on the task force was pleased with the draft report.

"As a current draft, the final report is nothing more than a collection of thoughts with

no real recommendations, put together by only a handful of people," Rep. Joe Sosnowski, R-Rockford, said in a statement. "There was no actual discussion or debate at the committee level on this report. This grossly oversized task force was created in a deal with the Governor to convince reluctant legislators to support an income tax increase being placed on the ballot, apparently to provide them with political cover. Instead of bringing us closer to achieving meaningful and lasting property tax relief for Illinois families, this draft report is a complete disaster that fails to live up to its intended purpose."

Illinois House Republicans on Wednesday, Jan. 8, blasted a draft final report from the special Property Tax Relief Task Force that lawmakers formed last year. They said the panel's Democratic majority summarily rejected dozens of proposals from Republicans.

"Following the release of their draft within the last week, we once again see [House Democrats] refuse to be serious ... at a time when our citizens are so desperate and wanting for change in state government," House GOP Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, said during a news conference in Chicago.

Among the Republican proposals not discussed in the draft report, according to Rep. Deanne Mazzochi, of Elmhurst, was cutting pension benefits for new employees of local governments and school districts and capping pensions for school administrators.

"We propose capping administrator pensions so that they can't exceed the average household income in the state of Illinois, because administrative pensions are going absolutely crazy and driving costs up," she said. "None of these were up for debate or up for consideration."

Yingling disagreed. He said Illinois did reduce pension benefits for new employees in 2010 when it adopted the Tier 2 pension plan. But he added federal law requires that in workplaces that offer pension benefits in lieu of Social Security, the benefits must be at least as generous as what Social Security provides.

He also noted the state now offers the option of opting out of the pension plan in favor of a 401(k)-style savings plan and that it is also offering buyouts of future benefits.

In response to the charges that House Republican ideas weren't considered, Yingling said the draft report was sent to all four legislative caucuses — Republicans and Democrats in the House and Senate — for their suggested edits, but that the House Republicans so far have not responded.

"The four caucuses were going to take the draft report back to their caucuses for edits, either additions or subtractions," he said. "And then we never heard back from the House Republicans, and as far as I'm concerned we're still waiting for their edits. They have apparently chosen to go this route instead. ... So, we're still waiting on the House Republicans."

## LEGISLATORS WANT RAPE ALLEGATION INVESTIGATED



Special to The Prairie Press

Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker Thursday, Jan. 9, the Illinois Office of Executive Inspector General is investigating a 2012 email from a powerful Statehouse insider that alluded to a possible cover-up of a "rape in Champaign" and other crimes.

## Protection sought in coverup

BY JERRY NOWICKI  
Capitol News Illinois  
jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Lawmakers from both parties are calling for an investigation of a 2012 email exchange between a government insider and then-Gov. Pat Quinn's staff regarding a possible cover-up of rape and other criminal activity.

The bombshell report was published Tuesday, Jan. 7, by Chicago National Public Radio affiliate WBEZ-FM detailing emails from former Commonwealth Edison lobbyist Michael McClain and Quinn's staff. WBEZ reported that McClain — a close confidant of Illinois Democratic House Speaker Michael Madigan — sought leniency for a state worker facing disciplinary action, calling the employee a good compliance person.

"He has kept his mouth shut on Jones' ghost workers, the rape in Champaign and other items. He is loyal to the administration," McClain said of the employee, according to an email obtained by WBEZ via an open records request.

No further information about the alleged cover-ups was revealed in the email exchange, and the disciplinary hearing that prompted McClain to email the administration was apparently postponed. McClain responded to the news at the time with an email noting nothing happens accidentally.

"It's not clear what [the employee] was accused of or if he ever faced disciplinary action by the state," wrote Tony Arnold and Dave McKinney, the authors of the WBEZ report. "The agency he worked for at that time would not say. And officials rejected a request from WBEZ for records of any reprimands he may have received, citing a law blocking the release of such records that are more than four years old."

Lawmakers and advocates responded to the report swiftly.

Former Democratic Gov. Quinn told WBEZ he had not heard of any of the allegations before their report, Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced Thursday the Illinois Inspector General's office has opened an investigation.

"The governor was appalled and disgusted by these allegations, and his expectation is that all state employees will meet the highest ethical standards for their conduct, and anyone who does not meet that standard will be disciplined to the full extent of the law," his office said in a statement.

WBEZ reported the employee in question now has a \$40-an-hour consulting contract with the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board and worked for Pritzker's 2018 campaign as a political consultant. The campaign told WBEZ it had no knowledge of the emails.

The Illinois Senate Women's Caucus, among others, called for a criminal investigation.

"That email is horrifying. If anyone

has any information about this crime, please contact authorities," said Sen. Linda Holmes, an Aurora Democrat and co-chair of the caucus. "Sexual assault will not be tolerated. We need to get to the bottom of this and hold people accountable."

Sen. Sue Rezin, a Morris Republican who also co-chairs the caucus, agreed.

"I am stunned and disturbed that keeping quiet about a rape was so casually offered up as proof of loyalty. This needs to be investigated thoroughly, and anyone who helped cover it up needs to face the consequences," she said.

House Republican Leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, called the report, "one of the most disturbing and shocking set of facts," he's ever seen and called for accountability.

"What society allows that to happen?" he said Wednesday at an unrelated Chicago news conference. "It's extremely disturbing, but it casts a shadow upon Springfield that has been brought upon by the power brokers that have existed down there for the past many decades who have controlled the legislative process and the passage of bills."

WBEZ has also reported that a wide-ranging federal probe, one that has led to FBI raids of several Statehouse insiders, is investigating allegations that ComEd hired politically-connected consultants in exchange for favorable actions in Springfield. McClain's home in Quincy was raided by investigators in July.

## Utility companies chafe at customer paybacks

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SPRINGFIELD — Two of the state's largest electric utilities owe their customers a combined \$543 million in refunds, according to state regulators, but there is sharp disagreement over how much time the companies should have to pay it back.

At issue for Ameren Illinois and Commonwealth Edison, also known as ComEd, is money they collected to pay future tax bills before federal tax cuts taking effect in 2018 lowered those anticipated rates.

When the corporate tax rate was slashed from 35 percent to 21 percent, both companies found themselves holding onto large surpluses, known as excess deferred income taxes, or EDIT.

For ComEd, which serves 4 million customers in Chicago and northern Illinois, the excess amounted to \$385 million. For Ameren, which serves about 1.2 million customers in central Illinois and the Metro East area, it amounted to \$158 million.

In a pair of rulings last year, the Illinois Commerce Commission, which regulates public utilities, said ComEd could pay off its EDIT over 38 years and Ameren could pay off its bill over 35 years. But on Monday, Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul announced he is asking the ICC to reconsider that decision and shorten the payout period to just five years.

"Consumers paid public utility rates to ComEd and Ameren reflecting the higher federal tax rate, and now that the federal tax rate has lowered, fairness dictates that consumers should get that money back," Raoul said in a news release. "Allowing an unreasonable refund period of close to 40 years nearly guarantees many customers will never get their fair share of the refunds."

The issue has to do with how utility rates are set and regulated. Essentially, companies are allowed to recover their cost of providing service and make

a reasonable rate of return, or profit. The cost of service includes such things as the cost of building and operating power plants and transmission lines. It also includes the cost of taxes owed to various levels of government.

When a company builds a plant, it recovers that cost over the expected useful life of the plant, typically around 40 years.

In their cases before the ICC, ComEd and Ameren acknowledged the tax law change reduces their cost of service, but they argued the duty to return the excess deferred tax money they collected should be spread out over the life of their facilities so that both current and future ratepayers will be treated evenly.

But it also means customers will see a reduction in their bills of only a few pennies per month instead of a few dollars, according to Jim Chilsen, spokesman for the Citizens Utility Board, a nonprofit entity established by the state to represent residential and small-business customers in utility rate cases.

In testimony before the ICC, both Raoul's office and CUB argued future customers are not entitled to the benefit of a refund because they aren't the ones who paid the higher-than-necessary rates. They also argued the longer payout period will mean that many customers who were charged higher rates prior to the change in tax law will never see their full refund.

CUB argued in favor of a seven-year payout schedule while Raoul's office argued for five years.

"We completely agree that it's only right that ComEd and Ameren consumers get their money back over a more reasonable time period," Chilsen said in an email statement. "Making customers wait decades to get their money means that a significant number of those customers won't be able to enjoy their full refund. That's not right, that's not fair."