

ABOUT US

The Prairie Press

Paris Beacon-News

SERVING EDGAR COUNTY SINCE 1848

Published by
Prairie Beacon, LLC

Nancy Roberts Zeman, publisher
Gary Henry, editor

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ABOUT US

Business office: 101 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944
Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Phone: 217-921-3216
Publisher: Nancy Roberts Zeman
Editor: Gary Henry
Contributors: Suzanne Williams, Ruth Patchett, Roger Stanley and Danny Briseno.
Sports: Jeff Chambers, Dan Dundas, Tim Hendershot
Photographers: Gary Henry, Adonna Bennett, Tina Jones, Christian Colvin, Cindy Spencer and Danny Briseno
Bookkeeper: Patti Garver/Evelyn Barnes
Advertising: Nancy Zeman/Cliff Macke
Ad Design: Jennifer Macke
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TALK BACK

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

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

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We invite our readers and the

LOCAL FORECAST NORMAL: High: 34 Low: 19

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TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
40 31 Prec: 30%	38 29 Prec: 0%	44 30 Prec: 0%	45 34 Prec: 0%	49 35 Prec: 0%	42 33 Prec: 30%	43 32 Prec: 0%



EVERETT LAU
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Paris Area Weather

TODAY — Mostly cloudy with highs near 40. A rain/snow mix is possible overnight.
SUNDAY — Decreasing clouds throughout the day with highs in the upper 30s.
MONDAY — Highs reach the middle 40s under mostly sunny skies.

ALMANAC
Paris through noon Tuesday.

Temperature
High/Low 34°/19°
Record High 62° in 1962
Record Low -13° in 2018

Precipitation
Month to date 0.00"
Normal month to date 0.18"
Year to date 0.00"
Normal year to date 0.18"

SUN AND MOON

	Sun Rise	Sun Set	Moon Rise	Moon Set
TODAY	7:12 a.m.	4:39 p.m.	8:23 p.m.	9:56 a.m.
SUNDAY	7:12 a.m.	4:39 p.m.	9:32 p.m.	10:29 a.m.
MONDAY	7:12 a.m.	4:40 p.m.	10:41 p.m.	10:59 a.m.
TUESDAY	7:12 a.m.	4:41 p.m.	11:50 p.m.	11:27 a.m.
WEDNESDAY	7:12 a.m.	4:42 p.m.	--	11:15 a.m.
THURSDAY	7:12 a.m.	4:43 p.m.	1:00 a.m.	12:24 p.m.
FRIDAY	7:11 a.m.	4:43 p.m.	2:12 a.m.	12:57 p.m.

IDES prepares new COVID relief

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES) announced today that it remains committed to implementing newly announced federal unemployment benefits and relief measures as quickly and effectively as possible. After nearly a week of delays, President Trump signed the omnibus spending bill, H.R. 133, on Sunday, December 27. IDES and state unemployment agencies nationwide await further U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) guidance to begin supporting claimants and are urging federal authorities to not create further hardship as a result of the president's inaction.
Claimants are encouraged to check the IDES website and social media platforms for additional updates. The Department will share additional

information as soon as it becomes available. Included in the bill were critical extensions to the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA), Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), and Extended Benefits (EB) programs, which technically expired on December 26 because of the delay in the presidential signature. Because of this delay, IDES and all other state unemployment agencies await guidance on how to move forward with continuing to accept and pay benefits under these programs.
In addition to guidance surrounding existing federal unemployment programs, this new legislation includes an option for states to implement the Mixed Earner Unemployment Compensation (MEUC) program. Illinois and IDES plan to adopt the MEUC program, which addresses mixed-income earners who have

self-employment income but are disqualified from receiving PUA because they are eligible to receive regular unemployment benefits. MEUC will mark the sixth federal unemployment program IDES has stood up this year. "The Department will do everything in its capacity to ensure claimants experience as seamless a transition as possible given that this new law contains changes to existing programs that all states must now work to implement" said IDES Acting Director Kristin Richards.
From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, IDES has stood up five brand new federal programs in record time, alongside numerous changes to existing programs to help claimants access benefits. Since March, IDES has paid out more than \$19 billion in benefits.

Four Seasons Gardening offering new webinars

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

URBANA — The University of Illinois Extension Four Seasons Gardening series returns for 2021 with three monthly webinars starting in January.
Fruit Tree Pruning, 1:30 p.m. Jan. 19: Pruning fruit trees in late winter is a necessary task to reap the greatest benefit and yield from trees. Horticulture educator Andrew Holsinger will present a variety of pruning techniques for apples and other fruit trees.
Therapeutic Value of Nature, 1:30 p.m. Feb. 16: Spending time in nature can help soothe and heal. Horticulture educator Mary M. Fischer will present research-based studies to support the healing powers of nature.
Adaptive Gardening, 1:30 p.m. March 9: The therapeutic benefits of gardening have been documented since ancient times, but there has been a recent upswing in the interest for therapeutic gardening and horticulture. Horticulture educator Chris Enroth discusses best practices for adapting gardens to accommodate age, mobility or other means. He will also share tips for the art of gardening at home or in institutions such as schools, assisted living facilities and others.
The webinars are free, but advance registration is required. Sign up online at go.illinois.edu/fourseasons. After registering, participants will receive an email with access information.

PLAN YOUR WEEK

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES REMAIN AVAILABLE

Human Resources Center remains open at the Paris and Marshall locations for mental health and substance use disorder treatment. In-person appointments are limited, but phone and video sessions are encouraged for the safety of the

community and staff. HRC is here to help in this difficult time.

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W: 8:00am – 5:00pm
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F: 8:00am – 1:00pm

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T: 8:00am – 7:00pm
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Fundraiser is going strong



Special to The Prairie Press

The \$10,000 match challenge in honor of the late Ned Jenison by his family in support of the Edgar County Community Fund's Forever Fund has been met but donations are still welcome, according to ECCF development director Warren Sperry. Pictured with Jenison, second from the right, are his three sons, Dr. Jim Jenison, Steve Jenison and Kevin Jenison. The picture was taken in the yard of the family home on West Court Street.

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The challenge match from the Jenison family in honor of community leader Ned Jenison, has been met with donations to the Edgar County Community Foundation (ECCF) and donation are still being accepted, according to ECCF Development Manager Warren Sperry.

Jenison, the former publisher and editor of the Paris Beacon-News, died Oct. 31 following a brief illness. His three sons — Kevin, Jim, and Steve and their families — issued the challenge match of \$10,000 to benefit the Forever Fund of the ECCF. Jenison was instrumental in the establishment of the fund and personified the fund's mission — "For Good, Forever, For Edgar County."

Those sending a memorial gift to the ECCF are helping sustain the Forever Fund and the mission of the foundation, Sperry said.

"The Forever Fund is the bedrock of the foundation, allowing the ECCF board of directors to provide long term, secure funding for the future of Edgar County and its citizens," said Sperry.

Nearly \$2,000 of the match was raised through a Facebook gift campaign for the 66th birthday of The Prairie Press publisher Nancy Zeman, who began her journalism career at the age of 16 with the Beacon-News.

"I consider Ned Jenison as an important mentor in my life," Zeman said. "His commitment to his community was an

example we should all follow. I simply wanted to honor the man who made such a difference in Edgar County."

Instead of retiring when the Beacon-News sold in 2006, Jenison rolled up his shirt sleeves and went to work calmly and methodically making Paris and Edgar County a better place to live, grow and raise children, Zeman noted.

"Supporting the Forever Fund will not only help our communities to move forward but continue the work Ned did. Supporting the Forever Fund will do just that," she said.

Sperry said memorial contributions in honor of Ned Jenison may be made by visiting the ECCF website at www.edgarcountyfoundation.org or by contacting Sperry or ECCF president Doug Hasler. Donors may also send contributions to P.O. Box 334, Paris, IL 61944.

IDOT kept things moving in 2020

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois Department of Transportation, under the leadership of Gov. JB Pritzker and Acting Illinois Transportation Secretary Omer Osman, met the challenges of COVID-19 in 2020, ensuring infrastructure stayed open and safe, keeping projects on schedule and delivering the first full year of the historic Rebuild Illinois capital program.

"This year tested our agency like no other in our history," Osman said. "I'm extremely proud of the role IDOT played during this pandemic to keep Illinois safe in 2020. Despite the challenges, the work we accomplished this past year will have a positive impact for generations to come."

Passed in 2019, Rebuild Illinois made possible approximately \$2.8 billion in improvements to 1,706 miles of highway and 128 bridges, as well as 228 additional safety improvements, in the 2020 fiscal year, the first full year of the bipartisan capital program.

Locally in Edgar County, the Rebuild Illinois funds are making an impact. Township general maintenance programs are expecting a 50% increase for 2021 as a result of the new program. Per state regulations, the county highway department cannot use Rebuild Illinois for general maintenance, rather, the purpose is to accomplish larger, stand-alone projects. The county board has authorized the use of Rebuild Illinois funds as a match toward the \$1 million guardrail upgrade in 2020, a \$3 million improvement to the Lower Terre Haute Road in 2022 and the \$1 million Camp Bridge project in 2024.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

At the governor's direction, IDOT remained open for business throughout the pandemic, with a special focus on the critical mission of maintaining a safe, reliable system of transportation for Illinois. Roads and bridges stayed open. Maintenance and operations staff remained on duty. Projects stayed on course, sustaining jobs and the local economy in many communities.

Rest areas, as usual, were open 24/7, doing their part to keep the nation's supply chain moving. Volunteer events were held at weigh stations to serve free boxed lunches to truckers to show the public's appreciation.

Operations personnel across the state delivered more than 2,700 pallets and packages of vital Personal Protective Equipment, which went to healthcare facilities, emergency management agencies, testing sites, veterans' homes, hospitals and other

state agencies in the fight against COVID-19.

HIGHWAYS AND BRIDGES

During the 2020 calendar year, IDOT completed more than 600 highway projects, ranging from minor resurfacings to interstate and bridge reconstructions.

A 7-mile stretch of Interstate 255 in the Metro East, one of the worst roads in the state, was rehabilitated ahead of schedule. The \$67 million project, one of the first under Rebuild Illinois, was completed cheaper, faster and safer by closing the work zone to all traffic for one construction season.

Happy New Year
As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.

Derrick L. Lorenzen
Financial Advisor
11773 Il Hwy 1
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THANK YOU

WE MADE IT! **CENTRAL STATE**

The first 300 Moderna COVID-19 vaccines have arrived in Edgar County at Horizon Health. Hospital and clinic employees and others listed as 1a in vaccine allocation received the vaccines. Thank you to Horizon Health and all healthcare workers for taking the first step to make us safer!

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Thank You

The **PARIS COMMUNITY NURSE ASSOCIATION** would like to THANK everyone who helped make this year's event a success! Although we were unable to hold our traditional food basket drive, you still came through and helped us make this year a bigger success than ever before. Your donations allowed us to provide support to more families in Edgar County than ever before.

THANK YOU
from the board of directors.

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Cases appear in Edgar County Circuit Court

BY SUZANNE WILLIAMS
swilliamsprairiepress@gmail.com

The following people appeared for the Dec. 21 criminal and traffic call in Edgar County Circuit Court:

IN CUSTODY

■Cody D. Craig, 36, Paris, appeared in custody for sentencing on his Class 2 felony burglary conviction and received 128 days in jail with credit for 128 days previously served, two years of probation, a \$1,000 fine, court costs and various state fees. Craig was also sentenced

for a Class 4 felony criminal trespassing to a residence conviction to 128 days in jail with credit for 128 days previously served, two years of probation to be served concurrently with the previous conviction, a \$500 fine, court costs and various state fees. He was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■Carl B. Kelly, 54, Brocton, was in custody. A hearing was scheduled on his motion to reduce his bond for a Class 3 possession of methamphetamine and two counts of a Class 4 felony aggravated driving un-

der the influence of alcohol charges.

In another matter, Kelly's unresolved charges of a Class 1 felony burglary, two counts of a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property, a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct were continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

■Tran R. Kleiner, 34, Danville, was in custody and was granted a personal recognizance bond. His unresolved charges of a Class 3 felony aggravated battery, a Class A misdemeanor battery and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct were continued for a pretrial conference. He was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■Caleb Means, no age or address provided, waived the preliminary hearing and pleaded guilty to a Class 2 felony possession of a stolen firearm, a Class 3 felony possession of a weapon by a convicted felon and a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance. He was advised extended-term sentencing is possible before a presentencing investigation was ordered. The matter was continued for the sentencing hearing. He was granted a personal recognizance bond and he was remanded to custody pending release processing.

■Vance E. Plew, 26, Paris, appeared in custody and was charged with two counts of a Class 4 felony domestic battery. He told the court he will

hire an attorney. The matter was continued for the preliminary hearing. Plew was remanded to custody pending posting of bond.

CHARGES

■Michael R. Coe, 42, Chrisman, was charged with a Class 4 felony aggravated driving while license revoked. The case went to the public defender, and the matter was continued for the preliminary hearing.

■Emilee D. Humphrey, 23, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property and a Class C misdemeanor disorderly conduct. She indicated she will hire a private attorney. The matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Steven A. Labaume, 29, Paris, was charged with two counts of a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of alcohol and a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Kirklan M. Livingston, 22, Paris, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license. He was assigned to the public defender. A first appearance with counsel was set.

■Dakoda A. Maloney, 22, Vermilion, was charged with a Class A misdemeanor criminal damage to property. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

■Matthew M. Morgan, 31, Paris, was presented with a pe-

tion to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor battery conviction. The public defender was appointed, and the matter was continued for a first appearance with counsel.

GUILTY PLEAS

■Vernon L. Fox, 47, Paris, entered a negotiated guilty plea to a Class 2 felony possession of methamphetamine charge. He was sentenced to three years in the Illinois Department of Corrections with credit for 40 days previously served, a \$700 fine, court costs and various state fees. The sentence was stayed until 2 p.m. Jan. 25 for an IDOC status hearing. In exchange for the guilty plea, the state dismissed a Class 1 felony possession of methamphetamine, a Class 4 felony possession of a controlled substance and a Class A misdemeanor fleeing from police charges.

■Dylan M. Voorhees, 28, Lafayette, Ind., pleaded guilty to a Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license charge. He was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge, a \$300 fine, court costs and various state fees.

In a second identical charge, Voorhees was sentenced to one year of conditional discharge to be served concurrently, a \$500 fine, court costs and various state fees.

NOT GUILTY PLEAS

■Nick R. Agan, 22, Charleston, pleaded not guilty with a jury trial demand to a Class A misdemeanor unlawful possession of cannabis

charge. The matter was continued for a pretrial conference.

■James R. Sewell II, 48, Martinsville, denied a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving on a revoked license conviction. A pretrial conference was scheduled.

OTHER MATTERS

■Kent D. Coburn, 57, Danville, learned the state's motion was granted to withdraw a petition to revoke his conditional discharge sentence for a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of drugs conviction.

■Frankie L. Doughty, no age provided, Clinton, Ind., was sentenced on a Class A misdemeanor driving under the influence of an intoxicating compound conviction to two years of court supervision, a \$750 fine, court costs and various state fees. He was ordered to obtain 75 hours of counseling.

■Jeanna M. Ramey, 39, Paris, was found to be in default of her payments and she failed to complete her community service work. The court imposed an 18-day jail sentence with work release attached to her Class A misdemeanor driving on a suspended license conviction.

WARRANTS

Warrants were ordered prepared when the following individuals failed to appear in court: Lindsey E. Board, 34, Paris; and Juan A. Cortez, 36, Springfield.



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OBITUARIES

JEFFREY FINCHER

LAFAYETTE, Ind. — Jeffrey E. "Jeff" Fincher, 62 of Lafayette, Ind., passed away unexpectedly Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, in his home.



FINCHER

A private family graveside service will be held in Paris. Soller-Baker Funeral Homes is in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Fincher was born on May 12, 1958, in Paris, the son of the late Howard E. and Florence J. Young Fincher.

Surviving are his sister, Missi (Shawn) Findley; nieces, Brittany (Brian) Feeney, Alicia (Guy) Walters and Erin (Theo) Stall; great-nieces, Parker Walters and Kieya Feeney;

great-nephews, Cooper Walters and Avery Stall; step great-niece, Jessica Feeney (Josh) Sterret; step great-nephew, Richard Feeney; and several cousins.

Mr. Fincher graduated from Paris High School in 1976 and played saxophone in the Paris Tigers Marching Band and the jazz band. He played in the 1972 Presidential Inauguration parade in Washington, D.C. He was a talented saxophone player and received invitations to special music schools.

After high school graduation, he attended Lakeland Community College in Mattoon and later moved to Indiana to be with his family.

Mr. Fincher led a simple life and was a man of few expressions but loved his family dearly. He always looked forward to a family get together

and always wanted to be a part of any family gathering. He could be found playing a game of HORSE outside with his nieces and enjoyed camping at Raccoon Lake with his family.

His memory was like no other. He never missed a birthday, holiday or celebration that allowed him a chance to see his nieces and great-nieces and great-nephews. He was proud of his three nieces, two great-nieces and two great-nephews.

He worked as a short order cook after moving to the Lafayette area. He never missed a home-cooked meal made by his sister or nieces. He loved to eat a juicy hamburger cooked on the grill by his brother-in-law.

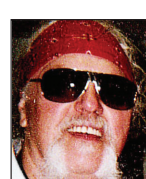
Mr. Fincher was an avid sports fan and could repeat statistics for most sports team. He watched any sports game but enjoyed Purdue games (basketball or football) the best.

Memorial donations may be made to Mental Health America and American Diabetes Association.

Online condolences at www.soller-baker.com.

DONALD COMSTOCK

Donald Lee Comstock, 68, of Paris, passed away at 6:21 p.m. Dec. 25, 2020, at Union



COMSTOCK

Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind. He was a coal miner and mechanic. In keeping with State of Illinois mandates due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, all services are private and limited to family only. Stewart and Carroll Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.

Mr. Comstock was born Dec. 18, 1952, in Paris, the son of the late Arthur and Betty Pinnell Comstock.

He is survived by his children, Donald (Lynne) Comstock Jr. of La Porte, Ind., Heather (Matt) Richards of McLeansboro, Heath (Nichole) Comstock of Paris, Jacob Comstock of Paris, Garrett Comstock of Marshall and Benjamin James "B.J." (Chelsea) Comstock of Martinsville; his siblings, Diane (Terry) Tapscott of Paris, Steve (Nita) Comstock of Paris and Mike Comstock of Paris; 21 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by a brother, Arnold Comstock.

Memorials may be made to the Edgar County Humane Society.

Online condolences at www.stewartandcarrollfuneralhome.com.



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SAMUEL ELLIS
 DANA, Ind. — Samuel J. "Sam" Ellis, 87, went home to be with his Lord Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020. He was a lifelong farmer and resident of the Quaker community. A graveside service was 2 p.m. EST Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Hopewell Cemetery. Overpeck-Gooch Funeral Home of Dana was in charge of the arrangements. For the health and safety of family and friends, masks and social distancing was required. Mr. Ellis was born Oct. 17, 1933, in Chrisman, the son of the late Richard and Blanche Hess Ellis. He married Joan L. Ellis June 26, 1976, and she survives. He is also survived by sons,



Bob (Susie) Ellis of Dana, Ind., and Roger (Pam) Ellis of Chrisman; daughter, Nancy Congleton of Durham, N.C.; grandchildren, Carly (Lance) Delp, Chad (Shannon) Ellis, Natalie (Brian) Sheehy, Justin "Zack" (Jessica) Congleton, Brant Congleton and Lucas Congleton; 10 great-grandchildren; sister, Helen (Jim) Johnson; brother, Phil (Joyce) Ellis; stepdaughter, Rene (Gene) Anderson of Clinton, Ind.; step-grandchildren, Nicole (Jeremy) Brown, Seth (Brooke) Rowe, Dan (Faith) Rowe and Dalton Rowe; 3 step-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, George Ellis; sister-in-law, Fay Ellis; son-in-law, Russ Congleton; and stepson, Ronnie Rowe. Mr. Ellis graduated from Newport High School in Newport, Ind., in 1951. He

joined the United States Army in June of 1953, completed his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and graduated with honors from Engineering School at Fort Belvoir, Va. He proudly served his country and often talked about all he learned during his military service and how those skills contributed to his farming success. He absolutely loved farming and one of his greatest joys was seeing four generations working together planting and harvesting their crop on the family-owned Quaker Point Farms. Well past his retirement, he was involved with the farm. He was an innovator; always thinking of ways to improve the operations. Some of the fondest memories of his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren are the hours spent riding with Sam in the farm machinery where they learned about his deep faith in God, his love

of family and his passion for farming. Mr. Ellis grew up in the Hopewell Friends Meeting in Quaker, near Dana, Ind., and later in his life became a member of Friends Chapel Church in Chrisman. He and his wife enjoyed time on the farm with family and friends as well as taking many trips together, making new friends on each adventure. The family acknowledges the staff of Pleasant Meadows Senior Living and Paris Community Hospital for their compassionate care and the kindness shown to the family. Memorial donations may be made to Pleasant Meadows Senior Living at 400 W. Washington Ave, Chrisman, Illinois 61924 and Horizon Health at 721 E Court Street, Paris, Illinois 61944. Online condolences at www.goochfuneralhome.com.

DENNIS KISPERT
 Dennis G. Kispert, 78, of Paris, passed away at 6:54 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, at Union Hospital, Terre Haute, Ind. He was a retired inspector for General Motors Central Foundry in Danville. Private burial is in Edgar Cemetery, Danville. Mr. Kispert was born Nov. 26, 1942, in Clinton, Ind., the son of the late Elwood and Bernice Dean Kispert. He married Frances Leeman Jan. 8, 1962, in Paris, and she survives. Other survivors include a son, Tony J. Kispert of Paris; a brother, Vernon (Jenny) Kispert of Clinton, Ind.; two grandchildren, Alyssa Cannon and Evan Kispert, both of Paris; and two great-grandchildren, Charlotte and Delilah Cannon. He was preceded in death by a son, Dennis Wayne Kispert; and a sister, Shirley Noblitt. Mr. Kispert was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He was a member of Cornerstone Baptist Church in Paris and UAW Union in Danville. He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and fishing. He enjoyed league bowling and baseball and coached for Paris Saints youth football for several years. Memorial donations may be made to Cornerstone Baptist Church.



JOHN CHRISMAS
 HOT SPRINGS, Ark. — John Edward Christmas, 95, of Paris, and formerly of Hot Springs Village, Ark., passed away 12:15 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at Paris Community Hospital. A graveside funeral service is 2 p.m. today, Jan. 2, in Cedar Vale Cemetery at Hot Springs. The CedarVale Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Christmas was born April 7, 1925, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, the son of the late Walter and Pearl Chris-



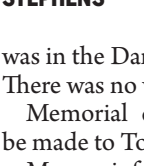
mas. He married Marilyn J. Grieb on June 14, 1952. She preceded him in death Feb. 11, 2015. He is survived by daughters, Judy (Jim) Latzke of Paris and Carol (Bruce) Brady of Hot Springs, Ark.; two granddaughters, Erin (Adam) Brady-Randle and Meghan (Justin) Thompson; one great-granddaughter, Chassitie Sheperd, and a great-grandchild on the way. He will also be missed by his beloved dog, Patti. He was preceded in death by five brothers and four sisters. Mr. Christmas served in the U.S. Army during World War II in the Big Red One- First Infantry Division, 26th Regiment-Blue Spider. He was in the third wave on D-Day invading Omaha Beach. After being honorably discharged from

the Army in 1945, he worked at Nosco, Inc., in Waukegan, as a carton die-maker until he retired. He was an avid fisherman, enjoying all the lakes in Hot Springs Village. He also enjoyed helping out his Nudo Lane neighbors in the village, where he lived for 30 years and was active in the Hot Springs Village Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10783. Mr. Christmas was a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Paris and formerly a long-time member of Christ Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village, Ark. Memorial donations may be made to Christ Lutheran Church in Hot Springs Village, Ark., or Grace Lutheran Church in Paris, or a charity of the donor's choice.

MARY PLEW
 CHAPEL HILL, Tenn. — Mary Louise Blair Plew, 74, of Chapel Hill, Tenn., and originally of Paris, died Sunday, Dec. 27, 2020, at her residence. Per her request, cremation is scheduled with a celebration of life service to be held at a later date in Illinois. Lawrence Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Chapel Hill, Tenn., is in charge of the arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the American Diabetes Association. More information at www.lawrencefuneral.net.

PATRICIA STANDAGE
 Patricia Kay Standage, 77, of Paris, passed away at 1:46 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, 2020, at her residence. No public service is planned. Private interment is at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorial donations may be made to the animal rescue or spay/neuter program of the donor's choice. More information and online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

BETTY STEPHENS
 MARSHALL — Betty K. Stephens, 80, of Marshall, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 22, 2020, at her home. A private service was Wednesday, Dec. 30, at Pearce Funeral Home. Inurnment was in the Darwin Cemetery. There was no visitation. Memorial donations may be made to Toys for Tots. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.



ALLEN VARNER
 Allen Clark "Bud" Varner, 83, of Paris, passed away at 7:50 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 24, 2020, at Paris Health & Rehab Center, following a COVID-19 diagnosis. Private interment in Edgar Cemetery is at a later date. Templeton Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. Mr. Varner was born Nov. 13, 1937, in Paris, the son of the late Walter Clark and Kathryn Pennington Varner. He married Delores T. "Jackie" Anthony on Sept. 15, 1973, in Chicago. She preceded him in death Feb. 6,



2000. Survivors include a brother, John A. (Linda) Piper of Paris; and four nieces and nephews, Ian Piper of Steamboat Springs, Colo., Chelsea Piper Clinite of Madison, Wis., Tony Tokar of Terre Haute, Ind., and Becky Tokar of Hartsville, Ind. He was preceded in death by his stepfather, John H. Piper; and a sister, Karen Berry. Mr. Varner was a veteran of the United States Marine Corps. He was kind to animals and loved caring for his many pets. The family encourages everyone to practice proper masking and social distancing. Memorial donations may be made to an animal rescue organization of the donor's choice. Online condolences at www.TempletonFuneralHome.com.

JAMES POORMAN
 MARSHALL — James Dee Poorman, 52, of Murray, KY., and formerly of Marshall, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2020, at his home. A walk-through visitation is from 3 to 6 p.m. today, Jan. 2, at Pearce Funeral Home. Burial is at a later date. Memorial donations may be made to the Heritage Shelter Care for Veterans at Hutsonville. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.



HELEN WERNZ
 MARSHALL — Helen J. Wernz, 90, of Marshall, passed away at 2:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 26, 2020, at Marshall Rehab and Nursing. A private service was 1 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 31, at Pearce Funeral Home, with the Rev. Daniel Smith officiating. Burial was in the Marshall Cemetery. A public walk-through visitation was from 11 a.m. until the service time Thursday at the funeral home. Memorial donations may be made to Clark County 4-H Foundation or Grace Lutheran Church. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.



Memorial donations may be made to Clark County 4-H Foundation or Grace Lutheran Church. More information and online condolences at www.pearcefuneralservices.com.

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Nobody seems to give a whit for Illinois

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University asked me to do some noodling about the future of Illinois. I have mentioned this to several friends. The responses — a roll of the eyes, a belly laugh, a retort that it is too late to do anything about Illinois. Nobody has responded that it is a good use of my time, needs to be done.

Few, it seems, give a whit about our state. Why might this be so?

In the late 19th Century, Illinois was the fastest growing state in the nation. Twenty-seven million from around the world were dazzled by the White City on Chicago's lakefront, the 1893 World Columbian Exposition. We had some swagger then, and maybe so up to the post-war period of my childhood, as synergies between city and fertile countryside made our state one of the richest. But now, we're in a funk.

There is no "Eyes of Texas Are Upon You" to rally us, to bring folks out of their chairs in unison and pride. There is real sense of statehood in Texas, which we lack, maybe because Illinois isn't a natural community. We are a state of regions: Chicago, of course; the 'burbs; southern Illinois; western Illinois; and so on. When traveling overseas, we aren't from Illinois, but more often from near Chicago. We're not alone. Many states share similar regional divisions, think of Tennessee, New York.

Illinois does have big problems: A dead-beat state government, drowning in deficits and debt. Illinois also has a reputation across the country as being one of the most corrupt states. All of which dampens interest in doing business here.

Yet Illinois has great strengths. "In each of the five critical Rs—roads, rails, runways, rivers and routers," boasts prominent Effingham entrepreneur Jim Schultz, "Illinois is in the top three among the 50 states."

In addition, Illinois has a strong system of public and private colleges and universities, especially vibrant at the graduate research institution level, critical to innovation and discovery in the future. For example, Marc Andresen and colleagues at the University of Illinois basically invented internet web browsing, central to everyday lives the world over.

And of course, Illinois is in the middle of the nation; our goods can reach much of the nation in a day's time. Our per capita personal income is also comfortably above the national average. If our economy were that of a nation, we would rank 19th or so in the world.

Based on this, we should have some swagger. But we don't.

In addition to beating on ourselves for so long about our negatives, a self-fulfilling prophecy, we simply have never — never-ever — thought about our future. I have scoured our history, and I cannot find a single illustration of Illinois ever having done any comprehensive, long-term thinking. There is, for sure, much thinking about metropolitan Chicago, but not about the state, which has different functions from local governments.

Maybe it's because we have always practiced meat-and-potatoes politics, where elected officials focus laser-like on simply getting to next year, and getting re-elected in two. We'll worry about the future when it arrives.

Long-term thinking about a positive future doesn't, of course, make it so. Yet such a process can build goal posts to shoot for, and measure our progress as we go. This is what the impressive former Gov. Mitch Daniels famously did in Indiana, with his dashboard of key indicators, to which he held his team accountable.

We have been in a funk so long, I think our problems in Illinois are basically psychological, even more than political. We need to rally ourselves around our strengths.

One small example: Have our Illinois arts and humanities councils hold a competition among our songwriters to come up with a catchy, upbeat tune about Illinois, one we can all hum along to. "By thy rivers gently flowing..." just doesn't cut it. Don't laugh—sparks of life, emotion and passion drive achievement.

Second, bring together the half dozen-plus fine think tanks at our public universities and in the nonprofit sector. Have their scholars gaze out the window and brood about the problems — and potential — of the future. Set up some goal posts.

Then, recruit champions for Illinois from the top rungs of business, labor, and civic life to lead us to some swagger, once again.

We are, after all, the Land of Lincoln. We have a lot to live up to.

(Jim Nowlan voted for the new Illinois income tax in 1969, as a freshman House member. A former senior fellow at the University of Illinois Institute of Government and Public Affairs, Nowlan has worked for three unindicted Illinois governors.)



JIM NOWLAN
ILLINOIS PERSPECTIVE

Optimistic New Year's

Efforts by community, essential workers give reason to hope for better days

As we waved goodbye to the dumpster fire that was 2020, there is reason to believe better days are ahead.

This week, the first Moderna vaccines made their way to Edgar County at Horizon Health. Employees rolled up their sleeves and received the vaccine — the beginning of putting the specter of COVID-19 behind us.

Horizon Health and the Edgar County Public Health Department have been on the front lines of fighting this pandemic since it began. We are lucky to have a health-care organization like Horizon Health in our city as well as in Marshall and Oakland. The employees at the ECPHD have been on the firing line during this year — and it hasn't been easy. Their primary consideration has been the public health of their family, friends and neighbors. They've had to make unpopular decisions all in the name of community health and safety.

Our schools have gone above and beyond. While many school

OUR VIEW

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

districts in Illinois are remote, our Edgar County schools have been primarily in-person learning. That is the testament to so many people from the superintendents, administrators, teachers, custodians and all staff members who accepted what needed to be done and found a new way to educate.

Time will tell how the pandemic affected our children's education — particularly those kindergarten and first graders who were just beginning to learn to read and learn letter sounds. Those skills are the foundation of their education. We are convinced our schools are doing the best they can with the challenges they are facing either in-person or in remote learning.

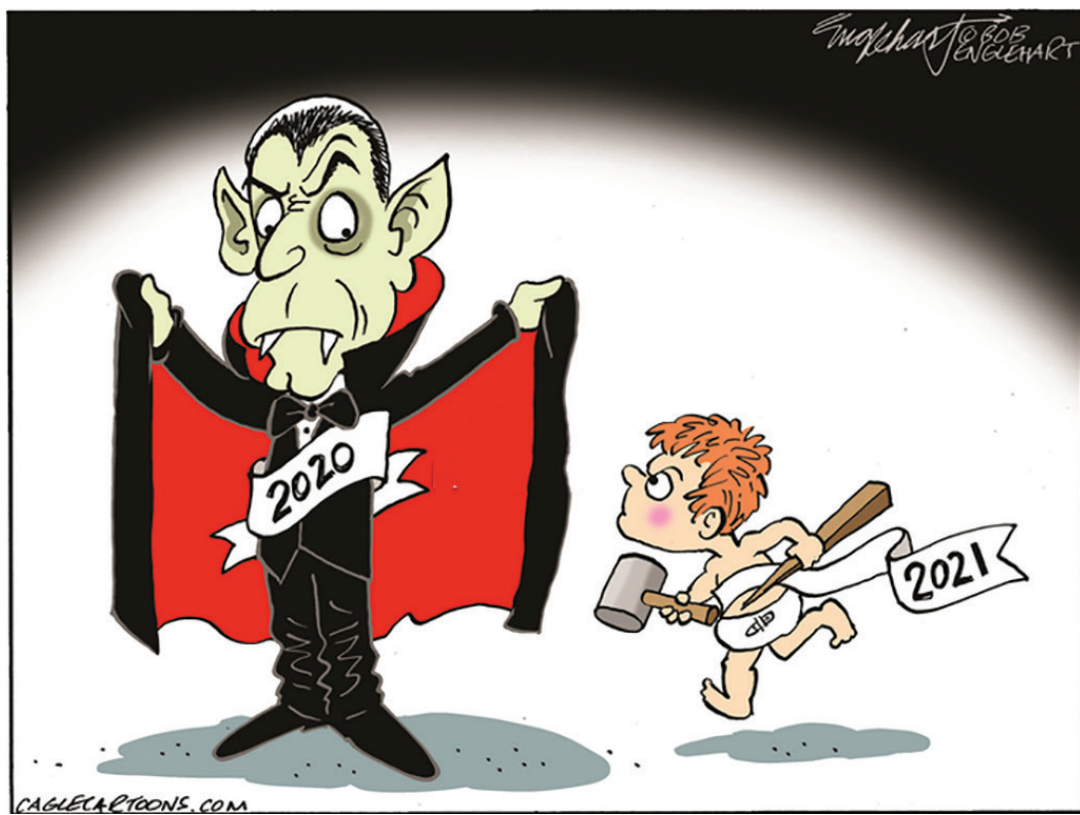
Our children are missing other opportunities in school — instrumental and vocal music, drama, after school clubs, enrichment

opportunities such as field trips to museums and our state capitol, as well as athletics.

As for 2021, we don't know if traditional high school graduations, proms, May Fete, band concerts and other milestone events for our children and our communities will be possible. Here's hoping the Paris Center of Fine Arts can once again open to a variety of shows, concerts and — next fall — another season of entertainment. We can't wait to see the Marching Tigers in a parade or see the Tri-County Titans score a touchdown or a Chrisman Cardinal player sink a basket.

We all must work together to get busy living. A critical part of making that happen is committing to roll our sleeves up for the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to us. Making that commitment is just not protecting ourselves but those around us.

Here's to moving forward in 2021 to a healthier and kinder Edgar County.



Hopes for 2021 will be fulfilled by us

COOK FOREST, Penn. — It has just finished snowing here, and the forest looks magical, draped in white. It takes on a silvery blue shine under the blue sky that emerged after the storm finished leaving its mark. The silence is soon broken by the crunching of snowshoes off in the distance.

Southwest of here, a handful of anglers fishing the drift of the Slippery Rock Creek breaks the silence of the surrounding forest. At Laurel Hill, it is the rustling of the leftover fall leaves, softened by age and weather, under the weight of hikers' boots.

Along the High Bridge, the snow that is piled on the towering old Western Maryland Railroad tracks that span the gorge over the Youghiogheny River fails to deter cross-country skiers along the Great Allegheny Passage trail as the swooshes of their skis are the only sounds for miles.

Sometimes, it is the small things that make the loudest sounds. Sometimes, it is the loudest things that make insignificant impacts. It is in the former where we can find peace, meaning and purpose. It is in the latter that we find confusion and

distrust. This old year is wearing down, and the new year beckons. In that span of time, all of us have lost something. Some of us have lost everything. None of us will ever be the same. That is the cut that hurts the most.

Americans, whether their families have been here for several generations or they just gained their citizenship, are fiercely aspirational. We thrive on being part of something bigger than ourselves, even if the big isn't that big. Americans are fiercely tied to traditions, community, faith, family and service, all of which are slivers of the defining moments of our lives and all of which have fallen in the wake of the pandemic.

As they have fallen, many have gone from fearing they might never come back to losing hope they ever will. It is a note we don't just end the year with, but it is a reality we begin the new year with.

The things we don't want to come back in 2021 that most assuredly will continue are the combative public rhetoric in our politics and the politics of the coronavirus. The other thing that will most assuredly and unfortunately come back will be the constant drum of fear and gloom. President-elect Joe Biden set the tone of his approach to leadership last week when he said the

darkest days in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic are ahead of us, not behind us, and he urged people to prepare themselves for the dark struggle.

His words hang out there, and many wonder what more do they want people to give up. How much more loss of treasure, community, family, liberty and livelihood are we supposed to give up? And how is it that we've allowed the government to continue to pick who the winners and losers are in these restrictions?

We've adapted all the ways we've been told to: Wearing masks in public, avoiding crowds, social distancing, frequent hand-washing, testing and quarantine rules. And you tell us the darkness we are in now is nothing compared with what we are about to face?

Americans need something to aspire to — a purpose or someone who will take us to a better place. If 2020 taught us anything, then it taught us that that journey upward will not come from a politician, nor will it come from the loudest voices, which means it will likely come from within us as a people. That might be the best news for 2021.

(Salena Zito is a Main Street national political journalist who offers insights on the American political system, the American public, and prominent political figures and leaders.)



SALENA ZITO
GUEST COLUMN

Too late now for a tax increase

What-if games are never quite accurate, but I don't think it's a stretch to say that Gov. JB Pritzker had the opportunity — and most probably, the votes — to balance the state budget with an income tax hike during 2019, his honeymoon year with the General Assembly.

Instead, the governor came into office and proposed what was essentially a pension payment holiday and other magic budgetary solutions.

I was told in early 2019 by a high-level administration figure with influence over the budget the Pritzker administration would not take the easy route of raising taxes and wanted to instead focus on the hard choices.

But hiking the flat tax to balance the budget ahead of a hoped-for 2020 change to the state constitution to allow for a graduated income tax was not the easy route. A pension holiday was the easiest route he could've possibly taken. There was nothing hard about that, except for convincing legislators that shorting the pension funds was the right thing to do.

Pritzker's budget was eventually saved by an unexpected tax receipt boost in the spring which eliminated the immediate need for a pension holiday, budget cuts or a new revenue infusion.

And then came 2020, the mother of all lousy years. The international pandemic has punched all

See MILLER, Page 7A



RICH MILLER
CAPITOL FAX

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VACCINE

FROM PAGE 1A

during the earlier phases. It is also the period in which children can be vaccinated if a pediatric vaccine is ready.

"The vaccine is only approved for adults at this time," said Terri Evans, ECPHD communicable disease nurse, adding the Moderna vaccine is for people 18 and older and the Pfizer vaccine is for those 16 and older. "There have been no studies of the vaccine on pregnant women or women who are breast feeding. Those women should consult with their physicians. I would definitely encourage anyone with concerns to talk to their doctor."

The lack of information about when more vaccine will arrive or when the next phases will start makes it difficult to provide dates so people can plan on getting vaccinated.

Dunn said the health department's website, www.ecphd.org, will be updated as the information becomes available. That information will be announced in The Prairie Press. The health department also has a hotline people can call, 217-294-2728, with questions about COVID-19.

"People should check the website, and if they have any questions, call the hotline," said Dunn. "We will be here to answer questions."

Evans confirmed the vaccine requires two doses. The Moderna vaccine uses two injections spaced 28 days apart, and the cycle for the Pfizer vaccine is 21 days.

Beck added that based on the best information avail-

able to the health department the intent is to make this a no-cost process. As she understands it, the vaccine is supposed to be available free to every American. The facility providing the injections may charge an administrative fee for doing so and the anticipation is health insurance will cover that cost and fees should be waived for those without health insurance.

"It is our understanding there is no charge at this time," said Beck, noting that could change in the future.

Authorized locations for obtaining the vaccine are still being determined. Dunn said Horizon Health will be the prime location for Edgar County. She does not anticipate at this time ECPHD will do inoculations. It is not known if pharmacies will be allowed to administer the vaccine as they do for flu and other medicines.

"It depends on when the vaccine is available and the number of people needing vaccinated," said Dunn. "We will continue to work with Horizon Health for the best outcome."

Evans expressed concern about the false information already circulating regarding the vaccines. One story she encountered asserts the vaccine causes fertility issues for women.

"There is nothing supporting that according to the American Academy of Family Physicians website," said Evans.

Reliable information about the vaccine can be found at modernatx.com and www.cdc.gov.

Getting the public in-

formed and vaccinated is a top priority for the local health department staff.

"We hope people vaccinate, and we can start turning things around," said Beck.

KEY THINGS TO UNDERSTAND ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINATION EFFORT

■ It may be well into 2021 before enough vaccine is ready for on-demand service. In the meantime, a phased-in process prioritizes which people get the vaccine first.

■ Edgar County is in Phase 1A for residents and staff at nursing homes and medical professionals. At press time, dates for the other phases had not been set.

■ Cost is not an obstacle.

■ Some side effects may accompany the inoculation. This is a normal sign the body is responding to build protection.

■ The vaccine does not carry a live virus and does not cause COVID-19 in those getting immunized.

■ People who have recovered from COVID-19 should be vaccinated as there are cases of some people getting reinfected.

■ The vaccines available are effective at preventing a person from contracting COVID-19.

■ It is a false claim the vaccine alters a person's DNA. The vaccine does not enter the cells where DNA is stored but works with the body's natural defenses to build immunity.

New COVID cases slow down

Deaths and hospitalizations up from last week

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

New COVID-19 cases have dropped since hitting a record high of 200 in one week between Dec. 12 and Dec. 18.

The Edgar County Public Health Department's website recorded 58 new cases between Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. The total is a combination of lab-confirmed and probable cases. People using the rapid tests are listed as probable because the Illinois Department of Public Health does not consider the rapid tests as accurate as the lab tests. People testing positive on a rapid test are still required to self-isolate, and the health department does contact tracing on them.

The week started with 12 people in the hospital on Dec. 24 and closed with 14 hospital cases on Dec. 31. Five additional deaths were reported in the same

time frame, bringing the total deaths in Edgar County to 42.

From a demographic standpoint, the county's oldest citizens bore the brunt of new lab-confirmed infections for the week. Women and men in the 70 and older category had a total of 12 new cases with six each for the women and men. Those aged in their 60s were the second biggest category. There were three cases of women in their 60s, and one male in his 60s.

The rest of the demographic breakdown is: females in their 20s, one new case; males in their 20s, one new case; females in their 30s, one new case; females in their 40s, one new case; males in their 40s, one new case; and males in their 50s, two new cases.

NECAS cancels board meeting

BY GARY HENRY
ghenry@prairiepress.net

CHRISMAN — The lack of a quorum prevented the Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service Board from meeting and conducting business Tuesday, Dec. 29.

Those present Tuesday night were board president Kevin Julian, Rodney Wolfe, Troy Eads and ambulance coordinator Jeremy Neal, but after waiting for more than 20 minutes for others to arrive, Julian declared a lack of a quorum and the inability to meet.

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MILLER

FROM PAGE 6A

states and local governments in the fiscal gut. But the lack of preparedness hit Illinois even harder.

The state's current revenue situation isn't that bad in comparison to last fiscal year, partly because the state income tax filing deadline was moved from April to July, which is in the current fiscal year.

But because the governor's Fair Tax failed, and because the current fiscal year's budget depended upon those new revenues plus a nearly \$5 billion federal bailout from the federal government, the state budget office last month projected a \$3.9 billion deficit for the current fiscal year, which is now almost half over.

The immediate deficit projection has been lowered by \$2 billion because the state is borrowing that money from the Federal Reserve, less than half the \$5 billion it was eligible to receive.

That borrowing leaves the state with a \$1.9 billion or so hole to fill by June 30, and Pritzker outlined \$711 million in unilateral cuts last week.

Seventy-five million of those reductions relies on an agreement with AFSCME, and the union appeared to reject the notion out of hand. Bruce Rauner's attempt to wipe AFSCME out of existence backfired so badly the union has been strengthened to the point where even

asking for minor concessions is beyond difficult.

The governor pointed to the failure of his Fair Tax proposal as a big reason for the need to make cuts, and AFSCME countered by saying it was also all-in on the graduated income tax. But while Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden lost Sangamon County to President Donald Trump by just 4.3 percentage points (way down from Trump's 9-point winning margin in 2016), the Fair Tax lost AFSCME's home-base county by a whopping 26 points.

Heckuva job.

We can't go back and change history, and it's often maddening to engage in the exercise. But, if the governor had just done the responsible thing in 2019 and used a flat tax hike to balance the budget when he could've drawn on an almost infinitely deep well of goodwill among his super-majority legislature, we wouldn't be in nearly this mess right now. And he could've then painted the 2020 constitutional amendment vote as a very real and substantial income tax cut for 97% of the populace instead of the few dollars he ended up promising.

Also, the governor said that he'll need the General Assembly's cooperation to make more cuts than the \$711 million he outlined. That's not totally true. Under Rauner, the vast majority of the state's budget was put on auto-pilot, either by statute or by judges. A

big chunk of that money falls under various consent decrees entered into by the state. The administration could attempt to change those consent decrees without any help from the legislature. But doing so would bring enormous heat on the governor because those consent decrees involve things like minimum funding and staffing levels for the state's care of children.

I'm only writing this now because when I laid out this very scenario in an early 2019 meeting with that high-level Pritzker person who has significant budget influence, I was laughed at and waved off with "We're not taking the easy way out with a tax increase, Rich."

(Rich Miller is the editor of the Capitol Fax blog and newsletter, which he has been publishing for more than 25 years. His email is capitolfax@gmail.com.)

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PARIS DISTRICT 95 ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, annually. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

PARIS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT	300 SOUTH EADS AVENUE	217-465-8448	8:00-4:00
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

Also by January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website@ www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2020

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	1,773,391	724,757	585,135	179,201	286,999	521,881	37,675	230,089	37,673
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
State Sources	3000	7,861,239	1,088,276	0	177,186	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	2,231,319	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		11,865,949	1,813,033	585,135	356,387	286,999	521,881	37,675	230,089	37,673
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		10,792,173	2,689,335	588,963	298,928	434,326	60,080		449,669	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances - July 1, 2019		2,549,269	2,915,771	0	749,817	339,383	734,612	37,274	177,391	40,153
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances June 30, 2020		3,623,045	2,039,469	-3,828	807,276	192,056	1,196,413	74,949	-42,189	77,826

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: 60,000 - \$89,999	Salary Range: \$90,000 and over
ALLEN, CANDICE; BARKER, KENDRA; BUCKLER, CAROL; DIXON, PEGGY; DOUGHAN, GARY; DRAKE, CATHY; DUDLEY, ELIZABETH; FAULK, VICKIE; GOODWIN, KELSEY; GRIMES, DENISE; HALEY, KAREN; HARDIE, HEATHER; HENDRICKSON, JESSICA; KENNEDY, REBECCA; MAGERS, MARY; MATTINGLY, MARIAN; MCMAHAN, JENNY; MCNULTY, CARRIE; MOODY, STEPHANIE; OGLE, PAMELA; PATRICK, PAGE; PATTEN, JAMES; PERRY, AMY; POYNTER, JANET; RODRICK, VALERIE; ROUSH, MELISSA; SEDLETZECK, MARY ANN; SLATER, JOANNE; SNYDER, MARY; STANLEY, GEORGE; THOMAS, JULIA; TRAVIOLI, MARCIA; TYLER, JANA; WHITAKER, JASON; WHITTINGTON, MARILYN; YANTIS, JESSICA	ALXANDER, KYLE; ARCHER, TABITHA; ARP, MILLIE; BOREN, JONATHON; BROUWER, SUZANNAH; DUDLEY, HANNAH; GARVER, JACOB; HIGGINS, CAYLA; KARGES, BRITTANY; LEHMAN, CHERIE; LOWRY, JOEL; LUDINGTON, JENNY; RICH, MARCIA; SANDERS, HALEY; STRADER, MAILEY; TEMPLES, KAITLIN; WHITE, REBECCA; WOODS, KIMBERLY	ALLEN, MICHELE; BARRETT, ELISABETH; BELL, AMANDA; BENNETT, FAITH; BLAIR, JESSICA; BROWN, ASHLEE; CAMP, KAATJE; CARY, DANIELLE, CARY, MELISSA; CEARLOCK, JAMY; CLARK, CHRISTINA; CLAWSON, ADAM; COOK, MICHELLE; CRAFFETS, DANA; CURL, KIM; EMBERTON, SHERYL; FARLEY, CHRISTINA; FESSANT, BRADLEY; FOOR, NEIL; HERNANDEZ, NATALIE; HOLLOWAY, NATALIE; JEFFRIES, KALEN, KEYS, LAURIE; LARSON, JAIME; MAYHUGH, JESSICA; MITCHELL, ANDREA; MUCHOW, ROBIN; NUGENT, SHAWN; REDMAN, TAYLOR; SCHMITT, STEPHANIE; SMITH, MONICA; SNEDEKER, TIFFANY; SOUTHWORTH, KOURTNEY; TARR, CREIGHTON; TARR, LUCY; WAGONER, JODY; WIRTH, ALISON; WOOTEN, MELYNDA	BARBEE, CYNTHIA; BROUWER, MICHAEL; BURCH, ANNETTE; CLAWSON, CHRISTINE; DOWNS, KIM; GATES, DANIEL; GORMAN, KARLA; GRANT, SHIELA; HANSON, RYAN; HIBSCHMAN, AMY; HOLLIS, ERIKA; KAHL, NANCY; PAYNE, AMY; SANDERS, NICHOLAS; SANDERS, TOBI; VAUGHN, EMILY; WIMSETT, MARIE; YOUNG, MELINDA, CARROLL MEGAN, SHAY, KYLE	LARSON, JEREMY

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 and over
ANDREWS, ELLYN; ARRASMITH, TRUDY; BALL, MICHELLE; BALL, SCOTT; BARNES, EVELYN; BLACK, LORRIE; BOYLL, DONICA; BRADFORD, RYAN; BRANAM, ASHLEY; CAMPBELL, AMY; COLLIER, ANNA; COLTER, POLLY; CRUNK, CONNOR; CRUNK, RANDY; DAVIS, SANDRA; DEAN, HEATHER; DECKARD, HILLARY; DOSCH, COLTON; EVITT, SHARON; FISCUS, RACHEL; FOOS, ANDREW; FORD, JESSICA; FORD, SEFTON; FRANCIS, TONYA; FREEZE, DARLA; FRISZ, MARY; FURRY, JANE; GARVER, PATRICIA; HADDIX, HOLLY; HADDIX, SHERYL; HALL, BRITTNEY; HAVERCROFT, KATHLEEN; HENNESS, LUKEN; HILL, AMY; HIRES, IVAN; HODGSON, BRIANNE; HOLLIS, SHELBY; HORSLEY, GEORGIA; HUDDLESON, CHASTA; JOHNSON, HEATHER; JUSTICE, KAREN; KERRICK, JAMES; KERRICK, KAREN; KEYS, JENNIFER; KING, HANNAH; LEBRUN, JESSE; LYNCH, MELISSA; MARLOW, LISA; MATTINGLY, PATRICK; MCCOLLOUGH, LISA, MELTON, DIANA; MICHELS, MELINDA; MIHALKO, CHERYL; MILLER, KAYLA; MILLER, SHAWNA; MOODY, JEFFREY; MORRIS, BETH, MORRIS, HUNTER, MORRIS, MICHAEL; MORRISON, CYNTHIA; NEWCOMER, TERESA; PERRY, CALEB; PORTER, KATHY; POWELL, ZARA; POWELL, RACHEL; RAPP, LESLIE; REED, CAPRICE, REED; RING, BETHANY; ROBERTS, REGINA; RODRICK, RODNEY; SIMPSON, VALERIE; STEWARD, JANICE; STEWART, DIANA; STUCK, MARNITA; SWITZER, MARY; TEDFORD, MELODY; TYLER, SHERI; USELMAN, JESSICA; VAUGHN, CRACE; WHITE, MELISSA; WILLIAMS, MEGAN; WILLOUGHBY, PATTI; WILSON, CYNTHIA; WISEMAN, RENATE; WRIGHT, PATRICIA	ASHLEY, DEBRA; BEAVEN, HAYDEN; BURNS, TARA; COLLIER, SARAH; DEBOER, SARA; DRAKE, LORI; FRENCH, VONDA; GOSNELL, WILLIAM; GRAVES, DEBORAH; HALE, DEBORAH; HENNESS, JENNIFER; HENSON, PATREASE; HIATT, ASHLEE; HIGGINBOTHAM, ABBIE; HOLLIS, JOSHUA; JOHNSON, KAYLA; JOHNSON, SANDI; KIRBY, ANNE; MCCOY, JANA; NEWLIN, DALLAS, REDMON, AUSTIN; REDMON, DYLAN; SANCHEZ, CHARLA; SUTTON, CONNIE; SUTTON-BURNS, VICTORIA	BELL, NATHAN; KELLER, SALLY; ROBERTS, MICK; THURMAN, JERRY	

Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
AALCO ATHLETIC EQUIPMENT	35,750	DISCIPLINE ASSOCIATES	15000	KAGAN PUBLISHING & PROF DEV	4,161	ROEHM REFRIGERATION	58,133
ACADIENCE LEARNING	8,093	DOUBLE BEE FENCE CO	45309	KIRCHNER BUILDING CENTER	2,540	ROGARDS	4,533
ACTION PEST CONTROL	11,015	e2e EXCHANGE LLC 3025		KOHL WHOLESAL	184,514	SAF T DOOR	2,899
AEP ENERGY	107,617	ENGIE REOURCES LLC	24535	LAKESHORE ELEMENTARY	6,804	SASED=MIDWEST PBIS NETWORK	6,010
ALLEN DISPLAY COMPANY	4,331	ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS	5229	LARSSON WOODYARD & HENSON LLP	15,115	SCANTRON CORPORATION	8,154
AMEREN ILLINOIS	24,377	ERNIE BOARD	9800	LESLIE COATINGS	41,900	SCHOLASTIC CLASSROOM MAGAZINES	3,157
AMERICAN OFFICE SERVICES	19,138	EXPLORE LEARNING REFLEX	7562	LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE	63,865	SCHOOL OUTFITTERS	15,114
AMERICAN PARKS COMPANY	21,078	FERGUSON FACILITIES SUPPLY	2960	LORENZE SUPPLY	19,238	SCRIPT	3,950
ANNA COLLIER	7,485	FEUTZ CONTRACTORS	195925	MARTIN'S	12,800	SHERATON CHICAGO HOTEL & TOWERS	3,753
APEX LEARNING	2,500	FOLLETT SCHOOL SOLUTIONS	3881	MARZANO RESOURCES LLC	11,400	SHI.COM	164,833
APPTEGY	13,200	FORECAST5 ANALYTICS	4000	MASCO PACKAGING & INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY	9,448	SIGNS PLUS SIGNS	36,472
AUNT MILLIES BAKERIES	3,514	FRANCIS ASSOCIATES2,632		MCGRAW HILL EDUCATION	57,700	SITONE	9,892
B & B FOOD DISTRIBUTORS	38,178	FRONTIER 27,704		MIDWEST RESTORATION	151,080	SMIDDYS CARPET	27,999
B & H PHOTO VIDEO	5,290	FRONTLINE EDUCATION	11,009	MIDWEST SCHOOL SHOWS	3,050	SPECIALIZED DATA SYSTEMS	4,930
BCBS OF IL	823,907	FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP	20,844	MIDWEST TRACK BUILDERS	194,775	SPORTSGRAPHICS	9,000
BEACON ATHLETICS	5,016	G & J CONSTRUCTION 31,835		MONICA GENTA LLC	2,800	STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	9,251
BELL TECHNOLOGIX	6,468	GARAVENTA USA	4,577	MOTIVATING SYSTEMS LLC	5,019	STEERED STRAIGHT	3,500
BENNETT ELECTRONIC SERVICE	247,334	GETZ FIRE EQUIPMENT CO	5,210	MSB TRANSPORTATION	206,691	STEVE WEISS MUSIC	2,885
BLDD ARCHITECTS	68,430	GOPHER SPORT	3,152	MYSTERY SCIENCE	4,990	STS EDUCATION	37,921
BRIAN SCHWARTZ	3,500	GT GRANDSTANDS	4,340	NAVIGATE PREPARED	8,400	STUDIES WEEKLY	30,988
BSN SPORTS LLC	5,996	HEALTH RESOURCE SERVICE MGMT	6,909	NEWSOLA INC	7,200	SUPREME RADIO COMMUNICATIONS	13,714
BUSHUE HUMAN RESOURCES	18,876	HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY	24,665	NEWWAVE COMMUNICATIONS	6,000	TEACHERS HEALTH INS SYSTEM	87,965
CARD SERVICES	194,078	HRC	3,778	NORTHERN TOOL & EQUIPMENT	8,019	TEACHING STRATEGIES	4,329
CENAGE LEARNING	52,528	IASB	21,408	ONP SIGNS	4,719	TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT REV FUND	2,599
CENTRAL RESTAURANT PRODUCTS	4,469	IDEAL ENVIRONMENTAL	2,585	OWEN MOTOR SPORTS INC	13,980	THE MUSIC SHOPPE	6,529
CENTRALIA HIGH SCHOOL	21,461	IL TEACHERS RETIREMENT	6,375	PACESETTER SPORTS	22,087	THE PARENT INSTITUTE	3,644
CITY OF PARIS	15,840	ILLINI FS	20,474	PARIS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL	12,384	THE PRAIRIE PRESS	4,537
CITY OF PARIS CORSSING GUARDS	16,200	ILLINOIS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION	3,256	PARIS COOPERATIVE HIGH SCHOOL	2,750,429	TODD'S TREE SERVICE	29,400
CITY OF PARIS WATER DEPT	26,371	ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY	3,430	PARIS FEED & ANIMAL HEALTH	17,839	TRANE US	3,478
COMMON GOAL SYSTEMS	48,178	IMPREST FUND	9,505	POOLS TRUE VALUE	3,105	TRS	425,926
CONTRACT PAPER GROUP	7,888	IMRF	205,050	PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY	35,204	TURFTEQ	6,463
CURRICULUM ASSOCIATES LLC	5,401	INDUSTRIAL SUPPLY	43,489	PRO ACOUSTICS	4,515	TYCO SIMPLEXGRINNELL	3,151
D I SUPPLY	10,333	INGRUM WASTE DISPOSAL	19,791	PRO PLAYER SUPPLY	2,738	ULINE	10,939
DALBEY DESIGNS	5,491	INSTRUCTURE	3,000	QUADIENT FINANCE USA	3,773	US BANK TRUST N.A.	589,963
DE LAGE LANDEN PUBLIC FINANCE	25,233	INTER-STATE STUDIO & PUB CO	5,834	QUILL CORPORATION	66,489	VARSITY SCOREBOARDS	11,493
DEERE & COMPANY	16,379	IXL LEARNING	43,740	RECORD A HIT ENTERTAINMENT	3,520	VERIZON WIRELESS	10,784
DETECTION SECURITY CO	4,470	JOES PIZZA	33246	REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION	11,613	WATTS COPY SYSTEMS	22,410
DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS	23,711	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	9335	RENAISSANCE LEARNING INC	20,198	YELLOW FOLDER	37,210
DIRT POOR LANDSCAPING	368,194	JOSTENS 2772		ROBBINS SCHWARTZ LTD	13,798	ZENITH INSURANCE COMPANY	29,273

YEAR

FROM PAGE 1A

personnel to monitor mask wearing by those entering the building. The new measures also banned visitors from entering with backpacks and phones as security issues.

Spread of the disease was initially slow with the weekly rate of new cases remaining low in the early phase of the local pandemic experience, but it continued to gain momentum over time. The first hospitalization of a county resident did not occur until late June or early July.

By late July, the Edgar County school districts were planning on a return to classroom teaching when school resumed in a few weeks. Those plans included a provision allowing continued remote learning for families whose parents did not want to risk their children's health by sending them back into the classroom.

Hope that Edgar County might be spared the ravages of other parts of the country experienced dimmed by the first week of September with the report two local residents died from COVID-19. The county was also placed on the state's warning list because of the rising number of cases accompanied by an increasing percentage of people testing positive.

COVID-19 prompted changes in the election. Edgar County Clerk and Recorder August Griffin was forced to search for a new polling place in September to serve Paris precincts 8, 9, 10 and 12 after the First United Methodist Church declined to continue serving due to concerns about letting people into the building. An expanded interest for voting by mail was another issue Griffin's office confronted. Nearly 1,100 requests for mail-in ballots were received by early September. Griffin reported after the election 8,251 people voted in Edgar County and 48% of those ballots were cast as either mail-in or early voting at the courthouse.

The Chrisman, Crestwood and Kansas School districts managed to complete the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year without a return to remote learning. High absenteeism due to students and faculty being sick or quarantined after contact tracing forced both Paris 95 and Shiloh to implement periods of remote learning, especially in December when local COVID-19 cases were rapidly escalating.

By November, it was common to set new weekly highs for new cases. The new positive case numbers for a single week broke 100 for the first time during the week between Nov. 12 and Nov. 20. A new record came about three weeks later with 171 new cases between Dec. 5 and Dec. 10. The following week set another record with 200 new cases between Dec. 12 and Dec. 18.

Also in late November, the rising number of cases in Edgar County and adjacent areas are putting a strain on local health care facilities. Paris Community Hospital opened a special COVID-19 unit to treat people when larger regional hospitals were unable to accept new patients. COVID-19 patients at Paris needed more care than was possible at home but did not require a ventilator.

The final week of the year brought the good news the COVID-19 vaccine was starting to arrive in the county. Nursing home residents and medical professional were first to get inoculated. A staged immunization was announced for others as more vaccine becomes available.

During the 26 weeks from the first local case until 2020 closed, 1,439 Edgar County residents were diagnosed with COVID-19 and 1,310 of those people were deemed as recovered. Unfortunately, the disease claimed 42 lives in the county as of Dec. 31.

BUSINESS NEWS

GSI started a \$10 million project in January to add a 150,000 square-foot expansion to the facility on state Route 133. When completed the expansion will add approximately 150 new jobs at the manufacturing plant. Part of the work involved the City of Paris receiving a \$904,200 Community Development Block Grant to move Stratton Drive to accommodate the expansion. Work on that project was ongoing at the end of the year.

Going into space became a



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Driven by high winds, a fire raced through standing corn north of the Horace Brocton Road Oct. 14. While this fire was burning, other fields were on fire at state Route 133 and in Grandview Township. Firefighters said they normally measure field fires by the acre not by the mile as occurred on this occasion.



File Photo/The Prairie Press

A Hampton Inn opened in late November in Paris, offering the community's first national hotel chain to visitors to Edgar County.

possibility for a Paris business. Aero-Gen-TEK was selected by SpaceX, a private space exploration company headed by entrepreneur Elon Musk, to fabricate four exhaust nozzles. If SpaceX is satisfied with the quality of the work, orders for nozzles to use on the company's Dragon command craft and Falcon rockets, and perhaps on craft destined for the ambitious Mars mission are a possibility in the future.

The Fizz Soda Shop & Eatery opened in May on Main Street. The drive-up facility created by Trisha Vitale offers a variety of standard and customized flavored drinks.

Another new business opened in Paris when Dee Burgin and his family converted a home on the lake to an upscale pet resort where people can board their pets while out of town. In addition to boarding, the facility offers professional grooming, doggie day care and an area where pet owners can come to conveniently bathe their animals.

Paris finally got a hotel with the opening of a Hampton Inn, part of the Hilton Worldwide Hotel Enterprise, in late November. The new hotel is a prototype for the Hampton Inn formula by incorporating long-term stay suites in addition to regular hotel rooms. Completion of the build was delayed by COVID-19 with shortages of building materials and some contractors having staff sick or quarantined.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS

In the Jan. 25 issue — The multi-year effort to bring the Chrisman wastewater treatment plant into compliance with Illinois Environmental Protection Agency regulations achieves substantial completion. While some work was left to finish, the revamped plant goes into service with a different treatment process and safeguards to keep excess water during heavy rains from overpowering the facility.

In the Jan. 25 issue — Paris High School makes the switch from having two interim principals to one full-time administrator. It was announced assistant principal Mark Cox was promoted to the principal's position starting July 1.

In the Jan. 25 issue — Paris Fire Captain Zack Janis was severely injured after falling through a floor during a structure fire. The back injury kept Janis off the job for several months, but he did return to duty.

In the Feb. 15 issue — A new adult education program through the Paris 95 School District has its first graduate. The program gives adults who did not graduate high school as teenagers the opportunity to complete course work and earn a diploma.

In the March 21 issue — Local voters say yes to referendum questions and approve paying more local taxes. A 1% safety tax was approved to address staffing needs for the Edgar County Sheriff's Department, issues at the jail and perhaps eventually a new jail. The safety

tax is a sales tax on some, but not all purchases, and is anticipated to generate \$1 million. Residents of Northern Edgar County approved the establishment of a special service area with an accompanying property tax to help fund ambulance service in Young America, Ross, Prairie, Brouillets Creek, Edgar and Shiloh townships.

In the April 11 issue — The Edgar County Board votes to partner with the Coles County Regional Planning Authority to seek a \$150,000 United States Department of Agriculture grant for funding a study of future needs at the Edgar County Jail. The county closed the jail Dec. 1, 2019, following an Illinois Department of Corrections inspection that concluded with a threat of legal action because of the county's continued failure to staff the facility with an adequate number of corrections officers. The county's insurance provider also announced it was no longer covering the jail due to policy and management concerns.

In the May 2 issue — The remains of Kimberly Mattingly, 29, Paris, were found in Effingham County after she was reported missing in April. Police arrested Christopher E. Glass, 36, and Aaron M. Kaiser, 37. A jury found Kaiser guilty of a Class 3 felony of concealing a homicidal death, and he is currently housed at the Graham Correctional Center serving an eight-year prison sentence. Glass, who remains in the Effingham County Jail, has not yet gone to trial.

In the June 6 issue — The City of Chrisman takes steps to control livestock. The new measure banned residents from keeping equine, bovine and swine within city limits. Residents, however, were allowed a maximum of three dogs, three cats, six fowl and three goats.

In the June 13 issue — The Edgar County Board acted to delay the date when property taxes were due and to defer when interest penalties applied in the effort to help residents facing economic difficulties because of the COVID-19 shut down and loss of work.

In the June 13 issue — Brocton Police Chief Ray Sollars receives a letter of commendation for coordinating the search that saved a woman's life. The Brocton resident was out of town when she had an allergic reaction that did not respond to her EpiPen. The woman's husband called Sollars when he was unsuccessful in providing a location to other emergency personnel.

Sollars coordinated a search using Edgar County 911, the Edgar County Sheriff's Department, Vigo County, Indiana, 911 and other Indiana emergency services. The couple was located between Shirkevillle and Libertyville, Ind.

In the June 20 issue — After extensive work inside the Edgar County Jail along with the hiring of new personnel and implementing improved training, Edgar County cleared the last hurdle in reopening the jail.

Insurance Program Managers Group authorized the

return of property and liability coverage at the jail. The ability to reopen the jail stopped the expense of housing local inmates in other facilities. Between Dec. 1, 2019, and May 31, the county spent \$149,336 to house people in other jails. That amount did not include time and transportation costs in taking prisoners out of county or hauling them back and forth for court appearances.

In the June 20 issue — The Chrisman City Council authorized changing the police chief position from part-time to full-time and eventually hired Tom Dolan as the new chief.

In the July 3 issue — The Kansas Police Department becomes the first law enforcement agency in Edgar County to adopt the BolaWrap, non-lethal restraining device. Police Chief Jeff Goodwin told village board members the new device does not cause pain or chemical irritation but is a quick way to subdue a non-compliant person from a safe distance.

The device propels an eight-foot cord that can tangle a suspect's feet or pin the arms against the torso. Goodwin said the binding is not so tight as to cause blood restriction, choking or breathing difficulties while giving officers time to move in with handcuffs.

He described the BolaWrap as a tool to use in situations where a firearm or baton may be excessive. He also anticipates the new device will reduce a need to resort to pepper spray and Tasers which cause pain.

In the July 11 issue — A heated Brocton village board meeting discussed concerns that plans for new water mains in half of the village utilized flush hydrants rather than standard fire hydrants. The matter was referred back to engineer Lee Beckman to determine if there was a way in the financing to change out the flush hydrants for fire hydrants. Subsequently, an additional \$48,000 loan was secured from the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development program to cover the additional expense for fire hydrants.

In the Aug. 1 issue — Edgar County is ahead of the game in emergency response. The Edgar County Emergency Telephone System (911) made the switch to Next Generation Dispatching with digital equipment capable of incorporating Geographical Information System (GIS) data to provide first responders with much more information about a location than just a physical address. Next Generation Dispatching is both a state and federal requirement, but all localities have not made the switch.

In the Aug. 8 issue — After some delays caused by material shortages as a result of the pandemic, repairs and upgrades are finished at the Edgar County Jail and inmates start coming back into the facility after being housed in other jails.

In the Aug. 15 issue — Long-time Paris City Council member Steve Kemper resigns after being arrested and charged with two Class 1 felonies and



File Photo/The Prairie Press

The Tri-County Lady Titans made it to the state tourney but fell short of the championship game. Bella Dudley drives in the semi-final game against Lanark Eastland, which Tri-County lost.



File Photo/The Prairie Press

The Paris Lady Tigers had an exceptional year going undefeated and losing only at the sectional semi-final game. The girls enjoyed a 34-1 season.



File Photo/The Prairie Press

Paris High School senior Hailey Temples had a special ride to her drive-up graduation, thanks to her father, Rick, who was more than happy to ferry her on his orange Harley-Davidson motorcycle. All Edgar County high schools modified the traditional graduation programs because of social distancing and crowd limitations due to COVID-19. Chrisman and Shiloh scheduled times for graduates and their families to be in the school and walk across the stage for a diploma and photos. Kansas moved the graduation to the city park to better accommodate social distancing and limited attendance to the event.

a Class 2 felony alleging sexual abuse of a minor. Kemper has not yet gone to trial.

In the Sept. 12 issue — Horizon Health opens a new Life Center building. The new building houses Horizon Health's Senior Care program and provides administrative offices and treatment space for the Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties.

In the Sept. 26 issue — Horizon Health announces another expansion at the campus on East Court Street with construction of a new, two-story, 32,000 square-foot building. Plans for the building are to move the family-practice providers to the first floor and hold the second floor empty for possible future expansion.

In the Oct. 10 issue — A fundraising campaign by Friends of Edgar County Law Enforcement generates \$60,000 to supply every police officer in Edgar County with improved body armor and a helmet.

In the Oct. 17 issue — Multiple field fires during a hot, dry and windy day during harvest damaged hundreds of acres of standing corn and soybeans. The fires covered such an extensive area that multiple fire departments in Edgar County and adjacent areas were engaged in stopping the blazes. Local firefighters said they had never seen anything like it, and the smoke was so intense it was picked up by weather radar in Indianapolis, Indiana.

In the Oct. 24 issue — A fatal apartment fire occurred in Paris. Larry Arrasmith, 54, died when a fire started in the kitchen of his apartment. The autopsy found the cause of death was a combination of thermal exposure, smoke inhalation and cardiac arrest. Evidence at the scene indicates Arrasmith was overcome and died while trying to get out of the apartment.

In the Oct. 31 issue — The

Paris City Council approves a new ordinance targeting unkempt properties by prohibiting the accumulation of material that presents a danger to the health and safety of residents by attracting vermin.

In the Nov. 7 issue — Contractors for Ameren are busy installing lines on the Illinois Rivers High-Voltage Transmission line crossing Southern Edgar County. Construction efforts were hampered by a legal challenge residents of the area mounted seeking to stop the line. The legal effort ended when the U.S. Supreme Court refused to take the case.

In the Nov. 7 issue — Only one local race was on the Nov. 3 ballot. First-time Republican candidate Russ Lawton defeated incumbent Edgar County Board Member John Chittick, who ran as an independent. Local voters gave overwhelming support for the re-election of President Donald Trump, who lost nationally by more than 7 million votes to Joe Biden.

Nov. 28 issue — The Edgar County Board declares a moratorium on accepting applications for wind farm developments to give the board time to replace an outdated ordinance.

Dec. 12 issue — A new fire engine for the Paris Fire Department is approved by the Paris City Council. Fire Chief Brian Gates located a demonstration model Alexis Fire Equipment was willing to sell at an almost \$200,000 savings.

Dec. 19 issue — In what is becoming an annual tradition, the Paris City Council abated \$700,000 in taxes for residents. The tax is attached to general obligation bonds the city sold for improvements to the water and sewer operations but revenue in those two departments continues to be sufficient to pay the bond debt through cash flow without the need for levying the tax.

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Illinois Department of Labor issues wage hike reminder

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois minimum wage increased to \$11 an hour Friday, Jan. 1, and The Illinois Department of Labor is encouraging employees to watch their paychecks to ensure that time worked in 2021 is paid at the new rate.

Governor JB Pritzker signed legislation into law in 2019 providing a path to a \$15 minimum wage by 2025. Minimum wage earners received two increases in 2020 reaching \$10 an hour on July 1. The minimum wage will continue

to increase an additional \$1 an hour each Jan. 1 until it reaches \$15 an hour in 2025.

Prior to the 2020 increases, the last time Illinois increased its minimum wage was more than a decade ago in 2010 when it was raised to \$8.25. Cook County has a higher minimum wage than the state, currently \$13 an hour. The current city of Chicago minimum wage is \$13.50 an hour for small employers (4 to 20 employees) and \$14 an hour for large employers (21 or more employees).

The new law maintains provisions for employers to count

gratuities to offset wages for workers such as food servers who regularly earn tips. Tipped employees may be paid 60 percent of the hourly minimum wage. These workers must still earn the minimum wage after receiving tips or the employer must make up the difference.

Workers who are under 18 years old and work fewer than 650 hours in a year will earn a minimum wage of \$8.50 per hour for 2021. The youth minimum wage rate will gradually rise to \$13 an hour by 2025.

All Illinois employers are

required to post the "Your Rights Under Illinois Employment Laws" in a conspicuous location on the premises of the employer where notices to employees are customarily posted. The color poster, which also covers other Illinois labor laws, can be found at: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Employers/Pages/posters.aspx>

Employees with problems regarding the minimum wage can file a complaint with IDOL at the following link: <https://www2.illinois.gov/idol/Pages/Complaints.aspx> or call 312-793-2800.

HORIZON

FROM PAGE 10A

slower-than-expected COVID vaccine rollout throughout the U.S.

Sheikh said officials from Operation Warp Speed, President Donald Trump's vaccine program, pledged the country would immunize 20 million people with the first of the two-dose vaccine in December. But the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that of more than 12.4 million doses distributed, just under 2.8 million have actually been administered.

The rollout has been disappointing, but Sheikh said he believes the situation will improve once the logistics are worked out.

"That's the million dollar question — how quickly we can get the vaccines where they need to go and get them administered," he said.

Sheikh expressed a personal opinion that anyone who opts to be vaccinated should receive it by summer.

"I think Moderna will move quicker than that because it

does not require special storage at a very low temperature," he said.

Sheikh is hopeful normal activities will eventually happen, but the key is for member of the public to be vaccinated.

"The thing we must key on at this point is that we have an effective vaccine, and it is getting closer to your doorstep," he observed.

As too how the vaccine will eventually be distributed to the general public, Sheikh and Spesard each said plans are already being discussed. Thursday, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio said the city will use schools, pop-up clinics and whatever it takes to administer 1 million vaccinations by the end of January.

"We need to go into mass vaccination mode, and we need to do it now," said de Blasio.

Although vaccinations are now occurring, Sheikh emphasized face masks and social distancing are here to stay or the time being.

"The last thing that will go away will be face masks," he said. "The key is for everyone to be vaccinated."



Special to The Prairie Press
Sara Spesard, family nurse practitioner and occupational health manager at Horizon Health, gives a thumbs up after receiving the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. She was the first Horizon Health employee to receive the vaccine Monday.

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Remember Karen Hand

Karen Warfel was her maiden name. I first met her in 1963 when she was a freshman at Eastern Illinois University. She was an elementary education major from Waukegan, a northern Chicago suburb.

I didn't like Chicago. Too much crime. Too much traffic. Too many people. Karen always laughed when I addressed her as a Chicago kid, claiming Waukegan as a separate place. I reckon it was a separate city, but it was in the Chicago metropolitan area. To me all metro suburbs were part of the big city. Still today, I have a strong dislike for Chicago.

In 1964 I, like Karen, was an Eastern student, 20 years old, about to graduate. I lived off campus with two of my fellow geography majors, Chuck Womack from eastern Kentucky, a graduate student working on his master's degree, and Chuck Hand, a junior. The three of us were good buddies. We thought the world of each other then and for many years afterward. Sadly, they have both preceded me in death. Now, in December 2020, so has Karen as a victim of COVID-19.

We three chums dated girlfriends. Campus dating, it was called. None of us owned a car, so we were forced to walk to Lincoln Hall, a girls' dorm, pick up our girls, then walk with them to campus events. We attended some musical concerts and several movies. Eastern provided a current popular movie every weekend at the campus theater for 15 cents per person — good movies. I remember "Exodus," "North to Alaska" and one or more James Bond 007 spy movies starring Sean Connery.

Following each movie we walked our dates to Walt's, a confectionary across

See **CODGER**, Page 7B



ALLEN ENLGEBRIGHT
OLD CODGER

PEANUTS HAVE UNEXPECTED, DELICIOUS USES



Special to The Prairie Press

Protein-packed, flavorful peanuts can compliment meats, or bulk up vegetarian and vegan meals like Vegan Peanut Butter Jackfruit Chili.

This New Year, go nuts

FAMILY FEATURES

Starting fresh with a new year is a chance to hit the reset button for many people, and all families can use this opportunity to rethink homemade meals while striving for nutritious and still delicious dishes. From snacks to the main course each evening, the options are nearly endless for planning a revamped menu with healthier ingredients.

Dinnertime can be a cinch with Peanut Butter Chicken, a simple dish that takes less than 20 minutes to make when busy evenings call for a quick solution. If a veggie-based option aligns better with a family's desires, try Veggie Sammies with Peanut Butter Satay Sauce or go full-on comfort food with Very Vegan

See **PEANUTS**, Page 2B

VEGGIE SAMMIES WITH PEANUT BUTTER SATAY SAUCE

Ingredients

- 4 tablespoons creamy peanut butter
- 3 tablespoons lime juice
- 2 tablespoons water
- 2 teaspoons hoisin sauce
- 2 teaspoons soy sauce
- 2 teaspoons sriracha
- 2 French baguette rolls (6 inches each)
- 1/2 cup cucumber, sliced
- 1/2 cup white onion, sliced into thin strips
- 1/2 cup red bell pepper, sliced into thin strips
- 1/2 cup purple cabbage
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro

In small bowl, combine peanut butter, lime juice, water, hoisin sauce, soy sauce and sriracha; mix well.

Spread sauce on both sides of each roll then layer with cucumber, onion and bell pepper. Top with cabbage and cilantro.



PEANUT BUTTER CHICKEN

Recipe courtesy of "Unsophisticook"

Ingredients

- Peanut Sauce:
 - 1/2 cup creamy natural peanut butter
 - 3 tablespoons sweet red chili sauce
 - 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
 - 1 tablespoon soy sauce
 - 1 tablespoon honey
 - 1/8-1/4 cup hot water (optional)
 - chopped unsalted roasted peanuts (optional)

Chicken:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil or avocado oil
- 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts, diced into 1-inch cubes

- 1 tablespoon soy sauce
- 3/4 cup peanut sauce
- cooked brown rice
- assorted bell peppers, sliced
- chopped unsalted roasted peanuts (optional)

To make peanut sauce: In small glass bowl, whisk peanut butter, sweet red chili sauce, apple cider vinegar, soy sauce and honey until blended smoothly.

Thin sauce with hot water to desired consistency. Garnish with chopped unsalted roasted peanuts, if desired.

To make chicken: In large skillet over medium-high heat, drizzle oil. Add diced chicken then pour soy sauce over top. Saute about 10-12 minutes until chicken is fully

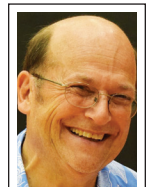
cooked.

Serve with peanut sauce, brown rice and colorful sliced veggies. Garnish with chopped unsalted roasted peanuts, if desired.



God values all of us

As we begin the New Year, I doubt there are very many of us who want to experience 2020 again. Health-wise, it has been perhaps the most perplexing and fearful time our nation, and our entire world, has experienced at least for more than a century, and some would argue longer than that.



JACK HOFFMAN
PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

We observe one another with distrust and even fear. Cynicism abounds. Gloom and doom threaten to drown us in a suffocating pit of despair. But wait, hold everything. Hope flickers in the thickening darkness. Before getting so depressed to think there is no way back, consider this.

In God's economy, the good news is that there are no non-essential human beings. No sir, not a one. In God's reality, each individual is a uniquely created image bearer of God. Every soul has intrinsic value. Every soul is loved, appreciated and sought after for eternal fellowship with the Father. No one is of lesser value than another. Everyone matters.

It is the testimony of God's word that whosoever will, may come. It is the record that God sent his son Jesus on a rescue mission, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

In the days ahead, take solace based upon the clear authority and teaching of the Bible that each of us are essential. Each person is so special and so loved by God that if

See **PASTOR**, Page 2B

The psychology of science deniers and conspiracy theories

The Earth is flat. Hollywood faked the moon landings. How can intelligent, well-read people defend these ideas? It comes from our social nature and need to be accepted. Social media algorithms perpetuate these beliefs by targeting us with news supporting our position and connecting us with a virtual group sharing the belief. We become programmed to deny and label as fake ideas counter to our closed group.

Science Denialism is the term for denying scientific findings and a prime example are the flat earthers who refuse to accept the Earth is round and orbits the sun. Despite verifiable facts, there is no hope of convincing them otherwise. It is equally difficult to change opinions on either side of the issues dividing us that include climate change, vaccine use and election results. They get labeled conspiracies and become fighting words.

Modern society is increasingly dependent on technology, and our choices have

an increasing impact on the environment around us at a time when policy decisions are becoming more critical for the world we leave behind. Sadly, debate and compromise are also becoming increasingly difficult. We are victims of our own communications technology. It is not used to elucidate viewpoints but to target only the views aligned with our social profile. It is not easy to get balanced viewpoints.

A successful participatory democracy requires we are aware of the events, understand their cause-effect relations and assess our own level of understanding before making a decision. Psychologists prove this is more difficult than we think. People's perception of what policies mean depends on social background, education and mostly the groups they associate with.

We are now immersed in decisions concerning a health pandemic, virus vaccinations, climate change issues and other complex policy decisions.

The Founding Fathers foresaw the importance of education and a free press to disseminate news. They failed to take into account the psychological blinders we all wear. We view the world from a biased position and resist change. Most of us lose that childhood sense of wonder. We outgrow the age of questioning why that every parent experiences while trying to answer a never ending series of questions from a toddler. Each answer generates another why. Sadly, most outgrow this and enter the Lake Wobegon world of Garrison Keillor where, "all children are above average." Whimsical but impossible since by definition half must be below and half must be above average. It is not possible for all to be above average.



TERRY SULLIVAN
ARMCHAIR SCIENCE

Psychologists call this the Dunning-Kruger Effect — a tendency to overestimate one's achievements and capabilities in relation to others. A bias where people overestimate their ability. The lowest performers on a task are most likely to overestimate their ability. Students asked how they did on a grammar test will respond with the bottom 10% believing they were at the 67th percentile level until they get their test back. When making decisions on important matters it is hard for us to know what we don't know.

That is just one barrier impacting all of us. It gets worse. We develop a belief system and internalize it to become part of our self-identity. Connections with our value system bring us contentment. Information counter to our beliefs creates a form of mental pain called cognitive dissonance. It makes us uncomfortable when there is a disparity between our beliefs and facts supporting another position. We are willing to

ease the tension by rejecting a truth and labeling it fake. The effort to rationalize serves to strengthen our existing belief. Solid facts are not enough to convert a non-believer or there would be no flat-earthers. It takes a shift in social setting and peer group because we are social animals.

The greatest influence for our core beliefs turns out to be the groups we identify with. We will reject facts, no matter how strong the proof, to remain connected with our identity groups. In psychology, this is social constructivism. Our understanding of the world is jointly constructed from shared assumptions forming the basis for our personal reality.

Fraternal organizations and gangs use initiation or orientation rituals to build a shared memory and feeling of membership. They construct a social identity and culture which becomes an overpowering group think. Common examples in life are the popular girl's clique in school or

Semper Fi for a Marine.

Social media targets this group identity and uses membership to influence beliefs. We will abandon friends to remain a member of a group. We've seen a parallel rise in our divided society as social-profiling and targeted messaging have become more efficient.

We accept that private groups and social media can be used by terrorists to recruit and radicalize. We are not as open to the same implications for groups like the Proud Boys, Antifa, anti-vaxers, anti-climate change and QAnon.

It appears the motive for the Nashville explosion was Anthony Warner's conspiracy theory belief that 5G cell phone systems will undermine democracy by foreign governments hiding code to spy on citizens. Like the Unabomber, he seems to be a loner, but right now law enforcement is doing a deep dive into his online social profile and the groups he followed looking for motive.

See **SULLIVAN**, Page 2B



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New Year's in the Civil War

BY TOM EMERY
tivilwar@yahoo.com

New Year's Eve and Day mark the traditional end of the holiday season and are celebrated by millions of Americans. But in the Civil War and other American conflicts, there was little cause for celebration as the calendar changed from one year to the next.

On the last day of 1862, thousands of Union and Confederate soldiers clashed in the first day of battle at Stones River, Tenn., one of the bloodiest engagements of the western theater. After a successful effort on Dec. 31, 1862, southern commander Braxton Bragg sent a telegraph during a respite on the following day proclaiming "God has granted us a Happy New Year."

Bragg's declaration proved premature, as the Federals responded on Jan. 2, 1863, to end the battle in a draw. Some 12,900 Yankees and 11,700 Confederates were lost in the two-day fight. Elsewhere in Tennessee that December 31, a small army of Federals handed a rare defeat to notorious Southern raider Nathan Bedford Forrest at the battle of Parkers Crossroads.

Though the Union enjoyed crucial victories at Gettysburg and Vicksburg in 1863, the end of that year brought scant pleasure. Near Vicksburg on Jan. 2, 1864, Stephen Rollins of the 95th Illinois Infantry lamented that "my heart sickens at the thought of our once happy country, now wrenched by civil feuds, and weltering in the blood of brothers."

Those on the home front also struggled for comfort. In North Carolina, Catherine Edmondston wrote in her diary on Jan. 1, 1863, of New Year's dinner and "a quiet chat over glove knitting." The menu included "goose, wild ducks (and the)...luxury of a Pudding." With a nod to food shortages, Edmondston added that "a dinner of four courses is...a rarity now-a-days, but New Year must have a face to welcome it."

Edmondston's celebration reflected the Southern cause. "We wound up the old year with all the customary honors, had our Egg Nog, and the attendant good wishes," she wrote as the man of the house wished the servants "Happy New Year, Good Luck, and death to the Yankees."

The press reflected the concerns of the day. Eight months into the conflict, the New York Times declared on Jan. 1, 1862, that "the darkest and gloomiest year in our country's history has passed away." As 1862 drew to a close, the Illinois State Register, in President Lincoln's hometown of Springfield, reported that "not a hearth in the land will be exempt from emotions the most sickening in reviewing this closing year 1862. Its record is blood red."

The final day of 1862 resulted in anticipation for some. On the eve of the Emancipation Proclamation, which became effective on Jan. 1, 1863, many blacks spent the day and evening awaiting their freedom. In their honor, Watch Night is still celebrated by some African-Americans across the country.

What's up with the ball?

Adolph Ochs, dropping the ball and how Times Square became New Year's Eve central

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

The biggest night of the year was quickly approaching, and Adolph S. Ochs needed to find new entertainment for his New Year's Eve party. For the previous three years, the New York Times publisher had set the skies above Manhattan ablaze with a fireworks show at midnight, launched from the roof of his newspaper's 25-story headquarters. The pyrotechnics were a hit with the 200,000 revelers who filled the junction around Broadway and 42nd Street — newly rechristened Times Square after its famous tenant — but the hot ash that rained down upon them concerned New York City officials so much that they banned the fireworks from ushering in

1908. Ochs wasn't one to be easily deterred. His flashy New Year's Eve bash had previously drawn crowds away from the traditional celebration in Lower Manhattan, where New Yorkers listened as the bells of Trinity Church rang in the new year. Yet without the fireworks show, Ochs needed a new spectacle to lure the masses to the hinterlands of Times Square for New Year's Eve.

The New York Times chief found the inspiration he needed at the Western Union Building downtown, where a metal ball three-and-a-half feet in diameter dropped from the pinnacle of the building to signify the time every weekday at noon. Nearby city dwellers peeked their heads out of

horse-drawn carriages and windows, craning their necks skyward as the sun reached its zenith. On the rare occasions the operation malfunctioned, it was the talk of the town and fodder for the newspapers.

The New York Times publisher decided to put his own spin on the city's beloved time ball to usher in 1908. As people poured out of theaters, restaurants and streetcars into Times Square Dec. 31, 1907, they gazed up to the top of the Times Tower and saw a dazzling orb made of wood and iron, illuminated with 100 electric light bulbs.

As the crowd counted down the final fleeting seconds of 1907, workers used ropes and pulleys to slowly lower the 700-pound ball down the flag-

pole crowning New York's second-tallest building. Unlike the Western Union Building's time ball and others like it, which signified the time at the moment the ball began to move, the sphere on top of the Times Tower marked the time when it completed its descent. When the ball reached the bottom of the flagpole, the number 1908 lit up on the skyscraper's parapet to signal the arrival of the new year.

The ball drop was greeted, according to the New York Times, with a "wild human hullabaloo of noise." People blew horns and rang cow bells. Motorists in their new automobiles honked their horns. On the Hudson River, steamships whistled, an appropriate reaction considering the nauti-

cal roots of the time ball itself.

Long before its starring role at the New Year's Eve celebration, the device was developed as a means for keeping precise time at sea, where it was critical for navigation and determining longitude. Port cities had used the firing of guns or ringing of bells to signify noontime, but such methods proved too inaccurate for sea captains recalibrating their marine chronometers. To provide a visual cue to ships in port, the first time balls were erected in Portsmouth, England, in 1829, and at the Royal Observatory in Greenwich, England, in 1833, at the time when Great Britain was the world's premier maritime power.

Typically perched at the
See EVE, Page 4B

NATION FOCUSES ON CONTENTIOUS ELECTION



Special to The Prairie Press
President Donald Trump, right, and Democratic Presidential candidate former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden participate in the final presidential debate at Belmont University in Nashville, Tenn., October 22, 2020.

2020: Tracking the year in events

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS
www.history.com

It was a year like no other. Amid the massive losses inflicted by a global pandemic, bitter political divisions and racial unrest that exploded into violence, glimmers of light shone through the darkness.

Frontline medical workers and those in other essential jobs risked their own safety to help others. Crowds of protesters took to the streets in a widespread outcry over systemic racism and injustice. And, by year's end, tens of millions of Americans cast their votes in a presidential election, mailing in ballots or heading to the polls in larger numbers than ever before in the nation's history.

COVID-19 CHANGED THE WORLD

On January 9, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that a cluster of mysterious pneumonia-like cases in Wuhan, China, in late 2019 might have been caused by a previously unidentified coronavirus. By the end of that month, cases of the new virus were confirmed in Thailand, Japan and the United States, among other countries, totaling 9,800 total cases and more than 200 deaths.

The respiratory disease caused by the novel coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2, got its own official name in mid-February: COVID-19, or CO for corona, VI for virus and D for disease. While a high percentage of those affected suffer mild cold- or flu-like symptoms — or even no symptoms — the disease causes severe illness in others, particularly elderly patients or those with pre-existing medical conditions.

On March 11, with Italy reporting more than 12,000 cases and 800 deaths and cases rising in the United States and elsewhere, the WHO officially declared



Who knew in 2020 there would be a shortage of toilet paper, paper towels and disinfectant sprays? Certainly not the manufacturers who were caught unprepared as Americans emptied shelves in big box stores, local grocery stores and retail outlets when the country shutdown on March 17. Other shortages included meat, poultry and face masks.

COVID-19 a pandemic. President Donald Trump, who initially downplayed the virus threat in the United States, declared a national emergency on March 13, unlocking billions of dollars in federal funding to fight the disease's spread.

By the end of that month, the United States had overtaken both China and Italy and led the world in the total number of known COVID-19 cases. Schools began closing, and many restaurants and other small businesses were forced to shut their doors for the foreseeable future. Cities and states across the country passed stay-at-home orders, even as frontline medical workers faced crippling shortages of the vital personal protective equipment (PPE) needed to mitigate transmission of the virus.

News of the pandemic's spread triggered a global recession, and Congress

passed a \$2.2 trillion stimulus package, the largest in U.S. history. By April some 6.6 million Americans had filed for unemployment. That month, the U.S. unemployment rate reached 14.7 percent, the highest since the Great Depression.

While social distancing, mask-wearing and other measures helped to lower the virus toll in some parts of the country by summer, rising case rates forced Texas, Florida, California and other states to postpone or halt reopening plans. By the fall, several world leaders had contracted COVID-19, including President Trump, who announced in early October that he and the first lady, Melania Trump, had tested positive, along with numerous White House staffers.

Through it all, the death toll mounted. Though Anthony Fauci, director of
See 2020, Page 4B

Unboxing a collection of boxes

Our household has saved boxes for years and years. We have dedicated a closet in one of our upstairs bedrooms, the official Fibber McGee closet. Daring to open the door poses the risk of getting covered by an avalanche of all kinds of boxes, large and small.



ROGER STANLEY

NOTES FROM THE PRAIRIE

A few years ago, it seemed we could never accumulate enough of the right size boxes to put presents in, especially when mailing stuff. We frequently mail packages to kids, grandkids and great-grandkids all over the United States. The last few months we have been accumulating boxes from Melaleuca orders, books of all kinds and needed items. This year we ordered a lot of Christmas presents using a catalog or via Amazon and e-mail orders. Since early December, we have also received many gift packages through the mail and other delivery services.

I guess we never let a good box go to waste, so we put them in the box closet. We also use a few boxes when starting fires in the fireplace and we store some of the smaller ones with the firewood on the back porch.

Rosie takes a lot of boxes that were delivered to our farm up to our bedroom so she can wrap Christmas presents. Mostly, she didn't have to dare open the McGee closet, and she used a lot of the boxes the presents came in. We had a Christmas present unwrapping party on Christmas Eve and after the presents were unwrapped, we had more boxes than ever because most of our family didn't especially want extra boxes to haul home.

Now we have the box closet full of boxes and the upstairs hall can barely be walked through. On our back porch, we have several boxes of corncobs and
See STANLEY, Page 4B

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EVE

FROM PAGE 3B

highest point of cities, these brightly colored globes were hoisted to the top of poles and then released at a precise time, usually at noon to mark mean solar time when the sun was directly overhead. The use of time balls spread to the United States in 1845, when one was placed atop the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C.

Time balls became even more prevalent after the advent of telegraphy, when naval observatories could signal current times to other cities.

"All port towns of any consequence erected time balls, mostly after the Civil War," said historian Alexis McCrossen, author of "Marking Modern Times: A History of Clocks, Watches, and Other Timekeepers in American Life."

Although the time ball may seem a primitive or unnecessary method of public time-keeping, given the long

history of clocks adorning churches and civic buildings, McCrossen said they were actually seen as modern symbols of precision.

"Any resident of an American city in the first decade of the 20th century would have known what a time ball was. You were a forward-looking place if you had one," she said.

Soon, timekeeping orbs began to appear in landlocked cities such as Crete, Nebraska. There were even suggestions to place one on top of the Washington Monument. At the time the ball drop was introduced in Times Square, time balls were still in use at prominent locations from the Executive Office Building next to the White House in Washington, D.C., to San Francisco's Ferry Building. The time ball in the nation's capital remained in use until 1936, when radio communications rendered it truly obsolete.

The time ball survived well into the 20th century in part because it offered a spectacle.

"It was exciting in the way the time ball in Times Square is exciting. There was something about anticipating and waiting for the ball to fall," McCrossen said. "I don't think the anticipation of bells ringing is the same as seeing an orb at the top of a pole. It's magnetic in a way."

The ball drop from the Times Tower quickly became a New Year's Eve tradition. It endured even after the New York Times moved into a new building around the corner in 1913, and has only been interrupted in 1942 and 1943, when New York City was under World War II dim-out restrictions due to German submarines lurking in the Atlantic Ocean. In those two years, organizers harkened back to the old Trinity Church tradition with the ringing of bells from sound trucks parked in Times Square.

The ball itself has been through numerous makeovers in the decades since its debut

— and is now in its seventh iteration. It was converted to iron in 1920 and aluminum in 1954. During the 1980s, the ball was dressed up as an apple for the "I Love New York" advertising campaign. In 1995, it became a glitter ball worthy of Studio 54 when it was covered with 10,000 rhinestones. For the dawn of the millennium, organizers crafted the largest crystal ball in the world. In 2007, LED lighting was added to allow the geodesic sphere composed of 2,688 Waterford Crystal triangles to change colors and patterns like a kaleidoscope.

More than a century after the first ball drop, the job of lowering the six-ton sparkling orb is now computerized and timed to an atomic clock to ensure that it completes its descent precisely at midnight — much to the delight of the 1 million people in Times Square who welcome the arrival of the future through a signal from the past.

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2020

FROM PAGE 3B

the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, warned in March the United States could see between 100,000 and 200,000 deaths, the actual number by year's end reached more than 300,000. Worldwide, more than 1.6 million people died from COVID-19 in 2020, with total confirmed cases topping 70 million.

Hope surfaced in November, when several drug makers announced the development and testing of vaccines over 90 percent effective. After the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use authorization, the first health care workers received vaccine doses by mid-December. Residents of U.S. nursing homes, who suffered a large share of the deaths from the virus, were also prioritized, while the majority of Americans were not expected to receive the vaccine until spring 2021 or later.

peachment charges:

Trump became only the third U.S. president in history to have been impeached by the House of Representatives and tried in the Senate, which voted to acquit him in February. The two impeachment charges, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, stemmed from Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate the son of Vice President Joe Biden, then one of a number of candidates vying for the Democratic presidential nomination.

Mike Pence in an election that saw record numbers of people voting early and by mail. Both candidates received more votes than any other U.S. presidential candidate in history, with Trump receiving more than 74 million votes and Biden more than 81 million.

for the first time since World War II. Though several U.S. pro sports leagues, including the NBA, WNBA and NHL, were able to operate successfully by observing strict quarantine and social distancing measures, others saw many games postponed or canceled as players tested positive for COVID-19.

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Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg died:

News of Ginsburg's death from complications of pancreatic cancer at the age of 87 devastated many Americans who saw her as a liberal icon and champion of women's rights. It also sparked a partisan battle over President Trump's nomination of her successor, Amy Coney Barrett, who was confirmed despite bitter Democratic opposition just days before the 2020 presidential election.

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George Floyd's death sparked global protests:

On May 25, George Floyd was arrested by police in Minneapolis for allegedly using a counterfeit bill. Video footage showed one of the officers kneeling on Floyd's neck as he was pinned on the ground, saying over and over that he couldn't breathe. In the weeks that followed, outrage over Floyd's murder and support for the Black Lives Matter movement fueled mass protests against systemic racism and police violence in more than 2,000 U.S. cities and 60 countries around the globe. By early June, some 62,000 National Guard troops had been deployed in 30 states, and more than 4,400 people had been arrested in connection with the protests.

SpaceX began a new era of spaceflight:

For all those searching for a new planet to call home, the year brought at least a bit of good news. SpaceX, the company founded by billionaire Elon Musk to fulfill his dream of colonizing Mars, launched NASA astronauts into orbit for the first time since the U.S. government retired the space shuttle program in 2011. SpaceX regularly transports cargo to the International Space Station, and in 2020 became the first private enterprise ever to launch astronauts there.

POLITICS AND WORLD EVENTS

The Senate acquitted President Donald Trump of im-

peachment charges:

Trump became only the third U.S. president in history to have been impeached by the House of Representatives and tried in the Senate, which voted to acquit him in February. The two impeachment charges, abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, stemmed from Trump's efforts to get Ukraine to investigate the son of Vice President Joe Biden, then one of a number of candidates vying for the Democratic presidential nomination.

COVID-19 shut down the Summer Olympics:

The Summer Olympics, scheduled to take place in Tokyo, Japan, were rescheduled to July-August 2021, forcing thousands of athletes around the world to put their dreams on hold for another year. The grass-court tennis championships at Wimbledon, England, were canceled

Brushfires devastated Australia:

The year began with news of the devastating brushfires in Australia raging since December 2019. By the time they were put out in February, the fires had burned some 46 million acres of land, killed 34 people and killed or displaced nearly 3 billion animals.

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STANLEY

FROM PAGE 3B

several boxes and containers for occasionally used items. We are glad to have the cobs to start fireplace fires. The squirrels have provided the cobs for us by eating the ear corn we put on feeders for them.

In our storage room, we also have some extra boxes besides the ones we bring down from the attic holding our Christmas decorations. I believe we have 16 boxes of decorations. We also have several boxes of seldom used stuff stored in that

room. In our bedroom, we still have the big plastic container with Christmas wrapping material along with about 10 various boxes that weren't used for gifts.

If we save all the boxes again, we can start our own big box store. I think we will get tired of kicking boxes around sometime after the first of the new year and celebrate by having our box-fireworks instead of firecrackers and fireworks. I really think when we get started sorting boxes and cleaning our closets we will have to index how many tiny boxes we have,

how many shoe boxes we have, how many small-short boxes we have, how many small boxes we have, how many medium boxes we have, how many medium-large boxes we have, how many large boxes we have and how many extra-large boxes we have.

They definitely come in all sizes, large and small, but how many do we keep and what for? I guess we will have to think outside the box.

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

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Mental strategies for shaky times

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

The more chaotic things get, the harder it is for people with clinical anxiety and/or depression to make sound decisions and to learn from their mistakes. On a positive note, overly anxious and depressed people's judgment can improve if they focus on what they get right, instead of what they get wrong, suggests a new UC Berkeley study.

The findings, published Dec. 22 in the journal *eLife*, are particularly salient in the face of a COVID-19 surge that demands tactical and agile thinking to avoid illness and even death.

UC Berkeley researchers tested the probabilistic decision-making skills of more than 300 adults, including people with major depressive disorder and generalized anxiety disorder. In probabilistic decision making, people, often without being aware of it, use the posi-

tive or negative results of their previous actions to inform their current decisions.

The researchers found that study participants whose symptoms intersect with both anxiety and depression — such as worrying a lot, feeling unmotivated or not feeling good about themselves or about the future — had the most trouble adjusting to changes when performing a computerized task that simulated a volatile or rapidly changing environment.

Conversely, emotionally resilient study participants, with few, if any, symptoms of anxiety and depression, learned more quickly to adjust to changing conditions based on the actions they had previously taken to achieve the best available outcomes.

"When everything keeps changing rapidly, and you get a bad outcome from a decision you make, you might fixate on what you did wrong, which is often the case with clinically

anxious or depressed people," said study senior author Sonia Bishop, a professor of neuroscience at UC Berkeley. "Conversely, emotionally resilient people tend to focus on what gave them a good outcome, and in many real-world situations that might be key to learning to make good decisions."

That doesn't mean people with clinical anxiety and depression are doomed to a life of bad decisions, Bishop said. For example, individualized treatments, such as cognitive behavior therapy, could improve both decision-making skills and confidence by focusing on past successes, instead of failures, she noted.

The study expands on Bishop's 2015 study, which found that people with high levels of anxiety made more mistakes when tasked with making decisions during computerized assignments that simulated both stable and rapidly changing environments. Conversely,

non-anxious study participants quickly adjusted to the changing patterns in the task.

For this latest study, Bishop and her team looked at whether people with depression would also struggle to make sound decisions in volatile environments and whether this would hold true when challenged with different versions of the task.

"We wanted to see if this weakness was unique to people with anxiety, or if it also presented in people with depression, which often goes hand in hand with anxiety," Bishop said. "We also sought to find out if the problem was a general one or specific to learning about potential reward or potential threat."

The first experiment involved 86 men and women aged between 18 and 50. The group included people diagnosed with generalized anxiety disorder, major depressive disorder, people who showed symptoms of anxiety or de-

pression, but had no formal diagnoses of these disorders, and people with neither anxiety nor depression.

In a laboratory setting, study participants played a game on a computer screen in which they repeatedly chose between two shapes — a circle and a square. One shape, if selected, would deliver a mild to moderate electrical shock, and another would deliver a monetary prize. The probability of a shape delivering a reward or a shock was predictable at some points in the task, and volatile in others. Participants with high levels of symptoms common to depression and anxiety had trouble keeping pace with these changes.

In the second experiment, 147 U.S. adults, with varying degrees of anxiety and depression were recruited via Amazon's Mechanical Turk crowdsourcing marketplace and given the same task remotely. This time, they chose between red and yellow squares on a

screen. They still received monetary rewards, but instead of being penalized with electric shocks, they lost money.

The results echoed those of the in-laboratory outcomes. Overall, having symptoms common to both anxiety and depression predicted who would struggle most with making sound decisions in the face of changing circumstances, regardless of whether they were rewarded or punished for getting things right or wrong, compared to their emotionally resilient counterparts.

"We found that people who are emotionally resilient are good at latching on to the best course of action when the world is changing fast," Bishop said. "People with anxiety and depression, on the other hand, are less able to adapt to these changes. Our results suggest they might benefit from cognitive therapies that redirect their attention to positive, rather than negative, outcomes."

Vaccine rollout is indeed a 'nightmare'

WASHINGTON — Even before there was a vaccine, some seasoned doctors and public health experts warned, Cassandra-like, that its distribution would be a logistical nightmare.

After Week 1 of the rollout, nightmare sounds like an apt description.

Dozens of states say they didn't receive nearly the number of promised doses. Pfizer says millions of doses sat in its storerooms, because no one from President Donald Trump's Operation Warp Speed task force told them where to ship them. A number of states have few sites that can handle the ultra-cold storage required for the Pfizer product, so, for example, front-line workers in Georgia have had to travel 40 minutes to get a shot. At some hospitals, residents treating COVID patients protested they had not received the vaccine while administrators did, even though they work from home and don't treat patients.

The potential for more chaos is high. Vivek Murthy, named as the next surgeon general under President-elect Joe Biden, said this week the Trump administration's prediction — that the general population would get the vaccine in April — was realistic only if everything went smoothly. He instead predicted wide distribution by summer or fall.

The Trump administration had expressed confidence the rollout would be smooth, because it was being overseen by a four-star general, Gustave Perna, an expert in logistics.

See ROSENTHAL, Page 6B

Congress curbs surprise bills

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

Most Americans tell pollsters they're worried about being able to afford an unexpected medical bill.

On Monday, Dec. 21, Congress passed a bill to allay some of those fears. The measure is included in a nearly 5,600-page package providing coronavirus economic relief and government funding for the rest of the fiscal year.

Specifically, the legislation addresses those charges that result from a long-running practice in which out-of-network medical providers — from doctors to air ambulance companies — send insured Americans surprise bills, sometimes for tens of thousands of dollars.

The legislation itself was a bit of a surprise, coming after two years of debate that featured high-stakes lobbying by all who stood to gain or lose: hospitals, insurers, patient advocacy groups, physicians, air ambulance companies and private equity firms, which own a growing number of doctor practices. A similar effort failed at the last minute a year ago after intense pressure from a range of interests, including those private equity groups.

This time around, no group got everything it wanted. Lawmakers compromised — mainly over how to determine how much providers will ultimately be paid for their services.

"No law is perfect," said Zack Cooper, an associate professor of public health and economics at Yale who studies health care pricing. "But it fundamentally protects patients from being balance-billed," he said, referring to out-of-network medical providers billing patients for amounts their insurer did not cover. "That's a remarkable achievement."

The bottom line: Patients may still be surprised by the high cost of health care overall. But they will now be protected against unexpected bills from out-of-network providers.

Here's a rundown on what this legislation means for consumers:

FEWER SURPRISE BILLS

Starting in 2022, when the law goes into effect, consumers won't get balance bills when they seek emergency care, when they are transported by an air ambulance or when they receive non-emergency care at an in-network hospital but are unknowingly treated by an out-of-network physician or laboratory.

Patients will pay only the deductibles and copayment amounts they would under the in-network terms of their insurance plans.

Medical providers won't be allowed to hold patients responsible for the difference between those amounts and the higher fees they might like to charge. In-



Special to The Prairie Press

Air ambulances can save lives, but they can also often result in surprise medical bills. A new law passed Dec. 21 by Congress as part of the COVID relief package limits charges for out-of-network doctors and services.

An Unwelcome Surprise
Surprise Medical Bills — Here's how they may happen.

"Is my doctor in-network?"
A patient in need of care checks to see whether her providers and facility (e.g., clinic or hospital) are in-network.

"I'm covered, right?!"
It appears her providers are in-network, so she's confident her insurance will cover her treatment.

The Fine Print
Sometimes, providers who work in a clinic or hospital refuse to participate in that facility's network. So patients are often unaware they may receive care from an out-of-network specialist — say, a radiologist or anesthesiologist — at an in-network facility.

Solutions

- ✓ Require any out-of-network provider to provide written notification before scheduling treatment.
- ✓ Place a limit on what out-of-network providers can charge patients and plans.

stead, those providers will have to work out with insurers acceptable payments. For the uninsured, for whom everything is out of network, the bill requires the secretary of Health and Human Services to create a provider-patient bill dispute resolution process.

AN OPTION FOR CONSUMERS

In some cases, physicians can balance-bill their patients, but they must get consent in advance.

This part of the bill is aimed at patients who want to see an out-of-network physician, perhaps a surgeon or

obstetrician recommended by a friend.

In those cases, physicians must provide a cost estimate and get patient consent at least 72 hours before treatment. For shorter-turnaround situations, the bill requires that patients receive the consent information the day the appointment is made.

PAYMENT NEGOTIATIONS

While lawmakers agreed that patients will be held harmless, the real fight was over how to decide what amounts providers would be paid by insurers.

See SURPRISES, Page 6B

2020 wasn't all COVID

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

COVID-19 was the dominant — but not the only — health policy story of 2020.

In this special year-in-review episode of KHN's "What the Health?" podcast, panelists looked back at some of the biggest non-coronavirus stories. Those included Supreme Court cases on the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid work requirements and abortion, as well as a year-end surprise ending to the surprise bill saga.

The podcast panelists were Julie Rovner of KHN, Joanne Kenen of Politico, Anna Edney of Bloomberg News and Sarah Karlin-Smith of Pink Sheet.

Among the takeaways from the podcast:

■ The coronavirus pandemic strengthened the hand of ACA supporters, even as the Trump administration sought to get the Supreme Court to overturn the federal health law.

■ Preliminary enrollment numbers released by federal officials last week suggest that more people were taking advantage of the option to buy coverage for 2021 through the ACA marketplaces than for 2020.

■ The ACA's Medicaid expansion had a bit of a roller-coaster ride this year. The Trump administration continued its support of state plans that require many adults to prove they are working in order to continue their coverage. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear a challenge to that policy.

■ Concerns are beginning to grow in Washington about the near-term prospect of the Medicare trust fund going insolvent. That can likely be fixed only with a remedy adopted by Congress, and that may not happen unless lawmakers feel a crisis is very near.

■ The Trump administration has sought to bring down drug out-of-pocket expenses for Medicare beneficiaries. Among those initiatives is a demonstration project to lower the cost of insulin.

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ROSENTHAL
 FROM PAGE 5B

But it turns out that getting fuel, tanks and tents into war-torn mountainous Afghanistan is in many ways simpler than passing out a vaccine in our privatized, profit-focused and highly fragmented medical system.

Perna apologized this week, saying he wanted to take personal responsibility. It's really mostly not his fault.

Throughout the COVID pandemic, the U.S. health care system has shown that it is not built for a coordinated pandemic response (among many other things). States took wildly different COVID prevention measures, individual hospitals varied in their ability to face this kind of national disaster, and there were huge regional disparities in test

availability — with a slow ramp-up in availability due, at least in some part, because no payment or billing mechanism was established.

Why should vaccine distribution be any different?

In World War II, toymakers were conscripted to make needed military hardware airplane parts and commercial shipyards to make military transport vessels.

The Trump administration has been averse to invoking the Defense Production Act, which could help speed and coordinate the process of vaccine manufacture and distribution.

On Tuesday, it indicated it might do so, but only to help Pfizer obtain raw materials that are in short supply, so the drugmaker can produce — and sell — more vaccines in the United States.

Instead of a central health-directed strategy, we have multiple companies competing to capture their financial piece of the pandemic health care pie, each with its patent-protected product as well as its own supply chain and shipping methods.

Add to this bedlam the current decision-tree governing distribution: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has made official recommendations about who should get the vaccine first — but throughout the pandemic, many states have felt free to ignore the agency's suggestions.

Instead, Operation Warp Speed allocated initial doses to the states, depending on population. From there, an inscrutable mix of state officials, public health agencies and lobbyists seem to be determining where the vaccine should go. In some states, counties requested an allotment from

the state, and then they tried to accommodate requests from hospitals, which made their individual algorithms for how to dole out the precious cargo. Once it became clear there wasn't enough vaccine to go around, each entity made its own adjustments.

Some doses are being shipped by FedEx or UPS. But Pfizer — which did not fully participate in Operation Warp Speed — is shipping much of the vaccine itself. In nursing homes, some vaccines will be delivered and administered by employees of CVS and Walgreens, though issues of staffing and consent remain there.

The Moderna vaccine, rolling out this week, will be packaged by the pharmaceutical services provider Catalent in Bloomington, Ind., and then sent to McKesson, a large pharmaceutical logistics and distribution outfit. It has offices in places like Memphis, Tennessee and Louisville, which are near air hubs for FedEx and UPS, which will ship them out.

Is your head spinning yet?

Looking forward, basic questions remain for 2021: How will essential workers at some risk (transit workers, teachers, grocery store employees) know when it's their turn? (And it will matter which city you work in.) What about people with chronic illness — and then everyone else? And who administers the vaccine — doctors or the local drugstore?

In Belgium, where many hospitals and doctors are private but work within a significant central organization, residents will get an invitation letter when it's their turn. In Britain, the National Joint Committee on Vaccination has settled on a priority list

for vaccinations — those over 80, those who live or work in nursing homes, and health care workers at high risk. The National Health Service will let everyone else know when it's your turn to get the vaccine from the government-run health system.

In the United States, I dread a mad scramble — as in, "Did you hear the CVS on P Street got a shipment?" But this time, it's not toilet paper.

Combine this vision of disorder with the nation's high death toll, and it's not surprising that there is intense jockeying and lobbying — by schools, unions, even people with different types of preexisting diseases — over who should get the vaccine first, second and third.

It's hard to wait your turn in a country where there are 200,000 new cases and as many as 2,000 new daily COVID deaths — a tragic per capita order of magnitude higher than in many other developed countries.

So kudos and thanks to the science and the scientists who made the vaccine in record time. I'll eagerly hold out my arm — so I can see the family and friends and colleagues I've missed all these months. If only I can figure out when I'm eligible, and where to go to get it.

(*Elisabeth Rosenthal is the editor-in-chief of Kaiser Health News — khn.org. She previously worked 22 years as a correspondent at the New York Times, where she covered a variety of beats from healthcare to environment to reporter in the Beijing bureau. She is a graduate of Stanford University and Harvard Medical School and briefly practiced medicine in a New York City emergency room before converting to journalism.*)

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*Service availability and access/coverage on the AT&T network is not available everywhere and at all times. Fall Button™ does not detect 100% of falls. If able, users should always push their help button when they need assistance. Fall Button™ is not intended to replace a caregiver for users dealing with serious health issues. Current GPS location may not always be available in every situation. MobileHelp is a registered trademark and Fall Button is a trademark of MobileHelp. Patented technology. MobileHelp is an FDA registered company. MHP-06631A

SURPRISES
 FROM PAGE 5B

Some groups — including hospitals and physicians — opposed any kind of benchmark or standard to which all bills would be held. On the other side, insurers, employers and consumer groups argued for a benchmark,

warning that, without one, providers would angle for much higher payments.

The legislation carves out some middle ground.

It gives insurers and providers 30 days to try to negotiate payment of out-of-network bills. If that fails, the claims would go through an independent dispute resolution

process with an arbitrator, who would have the final say.

The bill does not specify a benchmark, but it bars physicians and hospitals from using their billed charges during arbitration. Such charges are generally far higher than negotiated rates and bear little or no relation to the actual cost of providing the care.

January Calendar

★ ★ ★ ★ 2021 ★ ★ ★ ★
 This month's guide for Staying Healthy.

Paris Community Hospital
 721 East Court Street
 Paris, IL 61944
 (217) 465-4141

Paris Clinic
 727 East Court Street
 Paris, IL 61944
 (217) 465-8411

Chrisman Clinic
 112 West Madison Ave.
 Chrisman, IL 61924
 (217) 269-2394

Oakland Clinic
 5 South Walnut Street
 Oakland, IL 61943
 (217) 346-2353

Senior Care
 745 East Court Street
 Paris, IL 61944
 (217) 466-4170

EZ Care Paris
 1 Phipps Lane
 Paris, IL 61944
 (217) 463-4340

EZ Care Marshall
 1602 N. IL Hwy 1
 Marshall, IL 62441
 (217) 826-3299

NAL Health Clinic
 1 Phipps Lane
 Paris, IL 61944
 (217) 463-4901

Visiting Specialists

Specialty	Provider	Jan. Dates	Phone
Cardiology	Dr. Namburi	—	812-242-3225
Cardiology	Dr. Nasser	—	812-232-8164
Cardiology	Dr. Shatagopam	—	812-242-3175
Cardiology	Dr. Wiarda	6, 20	217-258-5900
Gastroenterology	Alicia Sledge	18, 26	217-465-8411
Nephrology	Dr. Jeevan	5, 14, 15, 22	812-232-8716
Neurology	Dr. Garg	5, 6, 7, 8	217-466-4046
Neurology	Dr. Tazudeen	5, 12, 19, 26	217-431-8400
Oncology	Dr. Huh	7	812-232-1418
Oncology	Dr. Patel	7, 14, 21, 28	217-466-4690
Ophthalmology	Dr. Satar	4	812-385-2225
Pulmonology	Dr. Halees	13, 27	217-383-3190
Peds Pulmonology	Dr. Davison	8	217-466-4661
Rheumatology	Dr. Rasheed	6, 20	217-466-4690
Urology	Dr. Yang	5, 12, 19, 26	217-466-4661
Vascular Care	Christie Clinic	18	217-366-2670

Employed Providers

Cardiology Donna Kerns, FNP	Dr. Bajaj (Oakland) Dr. Fore Kristina Gabbard, FNP (Chrisman) Debbie Griffin, FNP Danielle Ireland, FNP (Chrisman)	NAL Health Clinic Paige Wampler, FNP
Dermatology Angela Hamilton, FNP Joy Williams, FNP	Dr. Kumar Kayla Miller, FNP Charlene Moore, FNP Kayla Ogle, FNP Dr. Sheikh Samantha Volstorf, FNP	Nursing Home Care Dr. Gorasiya Amanda Talamantes, FNP
Endocrinology Dr. Rico Karen Smith, FNP		Occupational Health Sara Spesard, FNP Crystal White, FNP
EZ Care Lori Carpenter, FNP Josh Childress, FNP Carrie Cunningham, FNP Kevin Hair, FNP Kacey McGuire, FNP Michelle Miller, FNP Mallory Simonton, FNP Matt Woodruff, PA	General Surgery Dr. Cozacov Dr. Li	Orthopedics Angela Hamilton, FNP Dr. Harish (spine) Dr. Wheeler
Family Practice Casey Anderson, FNP (Oakland)	Gynecology Susan Arp, FNP Dr. Horvat Dr. Menchaca	Pain Management Adam Schneider, CRNA
	Hospitalist Dr. Gorasiya Dr. Kumar Jennifer Likens, FNP	Podiatry/Wound Care Dr. Holloway Dr. Wojnicki
		Urogynecology Dr. Menchaca

Governor Pritzker announces reduced co-pays for parents in CCAP

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

CHICAGO — Following the recent launch of a new initiative to direct additional funds to support childcare providers in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), Governor JB Pritzker this week announced parents in the program will pay a maximum of \$1.25 in monthly co-pays. CCAP provides low-income families with access to high-quality childcare

throughout Illinois and the reduced rates will provide financial relief to families across the state as Illinois continues to feel the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The lower rates are applicable in January and February 2021. "Our lives are full of so many unknowns right now – and childcare service providers and working parents know that all too well," said Governor JB Pritzker. "That's why my administration is stepping in to

help the providers and families enrolled in the state's Child Care Assistance Program secure a little more stability and flexibility just as we did in the spring. To lift some of the burden on parents, the parent co-pay for all families in the program will be reduced to just \$1.25 per month in the first two months of the new year." Support for eligible families includes paying for all eligible days of childcare regardless of the child's attendance. These

changes are effective for December, January and February. As of last month, 98,000 children were enrolled in CCAP. "I would like to sincerely thank Governor Pritzker for his ongoing support for families in our childcare program. The temporary reduction in the co-pay for the families across the state will be an enormous relief while so many are working to rebuild during COVID-19," said Illi-

nois Department of Human Services (IDHS) Secretary Grace Hou. Earlier this year, the Pritzker administration provided \$270 million in relief funding to child care providers across the state as part of Illinois' Business Interruption Grant Program, the largest business-relief program in the nation. The state is dedicating an additional \$20 million in funding from the CARES Act to provide aid to additional

providers in Illinois. IDHS' Office of Child Care administers the Child Care Program to provide low-income, working families with access to quality, affordable childcare that allows them to continue working and contributes to the healthy, emotional and social development of the child. Families can stay connected with the program on the Child Care Assistance Program Facebook or at the IDHS website.

Puzzles

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

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!

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!

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

ANSWER:

Sisters to host virtual 'A Good Book and a Glass of Wine'

SPECIAL TO THE PRAIRIE PRESS

ST. MARY OF THE WOODS, Ind. — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods will host a virtual event, "A Good Book and a Glass of Wine," scheduled to begin Jan. 20 and continue on Jan. 27, Feb. 3 and Feb. 10. Times are 6:30-8 p.m. (EST), for each evening.

Participants will discuss "Abounding in Kindness," by Elizabeth A. Johnson, a well-known theologian with knowledge from the early Church mothers and fathers to the present time. Johnson is a Distinguished Professor Emerita of Theology at Fordham University and a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, N.Y.

Sister Jan Craven, host of the virtual programs, said topics of discussion will include God, Jesus, the Spirit, wisdom, creation and justice.

"Elizabeth A. Johnson is widely regarded as among the most influential and creative Catholic theologians in the world – particularly for her contributions in bringing a feminist perspective to the central themes of Christian

faith," Craven said. "From a question of belief itself, to the mysteries of God, Jesus Christ, and the work of the Holy Spirit, a central theme for Johnson is the overflowing compassion of the living God, engaged with the struggles and suffering of the world."

Johnson is the author of 10 books, numerous scholarly essays, contributed chapters to edited books and written for popular journals. In addition to 15 honorary doctorates, Johnson is a recipient of the John Courtney Murray Award for distinguished achievement in theology.

All planning to attend the virtual book discussions are encouraged to purchase a copy of the book in advance of the program.

Cost to attend the virtual program is \$25 is for all four sessions but does not include the book. The registration deadline is Jan. 16, and a virtual link will be sent to those registered.

For more information, visit Events.SistersofProvidence.org, or contact Providence Spirituality & Conference Center at 812-535-2952 or email provctr@spsmw.org.

CODGER

FROM PAGE 1B

from Lincoln Hall. Walt's served good cheeseburger combos, good milk shakes, also. We guys exchanged humorous stories, much to the delight of the girls. Chuck Hand had been introduced to Karen Warfel. They hit it off like magic, opting to date steadily for a couple of years before getting married.

We walked our girls back to their dorm afterwards, closing the evenings with hugs and kisses. I was known as a peck kisser, always planting a quick little peck on my girl.

Karen advised me that girls appreciated more than just a good night peck, so for the first time I began to plant enduring kisses, followed by a deep breath, then succeeding with repeated long kisses. Without question, that's how most couples kissed, a good way to kiss. That's why the location was termed the passion pit. Needless to say, these moments were my first memories of Karen. She was a nice girl, and according to her Chuck, a good kisser, the sugar-coated kind.

One of my fondest recollections of Karen during her first year of marriage occurred in a small trailer in Toledo where she and Chuck lived before moving to Paris. I was single at

the time. I called and told them I would stop in and see them one evening. Chuck planned our supper.

"I'll fry hamburger steaks," he told her. "Big Al cooks the best sliced fried potatoes you can eat, so we'll give him that honor. All you have to do, Honey, is heat up a can of pork and beans."

That's what we did. Chuck's hamburger steaks were skillfully prepared. My fried potatoes were par excellence. The only effort required of Karen was to simply warm a pan of beans, but wouldn't you know, she scorched them. They tasted tolerable, but barely. Poor Karen. Chuck and I reminded her of that fiasco many times through the years. Speaking of reminding, we played many pinochle games as married couples. Karen played just to be sociable. We had to remind her time after time that it was her turn to play. There's one of those types in every crowd, isn't there?

Her recent passing down in Florida was certainly saddening. Like all of her close friends, my wife and I will have an empty place in our lives when we think of Karen.

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

CROSSWORD

- Across**
- Recurring TV show
 - Throws out
 - Iberian Peninsula microstate
 - Gossip
 - Atomic #20
 - Ivy League institution
 - Of I
 - "He Is ___!": Scripture excerpt
 - Musical genre
 - Heavy cavalry sword
 - Ancient Olympic Site
 - Satisfies
 - Popular flower
 - Shared services center
 - Drain
 - A way to attack
 - Urban Transit Authority
 - Spiritual leader
 - Postponed
 - N. American plant with edible purple-black berries
 - Gazes unpleasantly
 - Gets up
 - Capital of Ukraine
 - Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - Golf score
 - Superhigh frequency
 - Swiss river
 - Felons
 - Succulent plants
 - Soluble ribonucleic acid
 - Deliberately setting fire to
 - Infamous singer Zadora
 - Anwar __, Egyptian statesman
 - Influential sports mag
 - Aromatic Mediterranean plant
 - Sixth note of a major scale
 - Unit of explosive power
 - Large watertight chamber
 - Popular street
 - A way of watering

	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						

- Clues down**
- Mollusks
 - , _ denotes past
 - Anchor ropes
 - Large Middle Eastern country
 - To make a mistake
 - Ancient governor
 - Extents
 - Chinese surname
 - NYC subway "residents"
 - Essential oil used as perfume
 - A way to treat injuries (abbr.)
 - Session
 - Units of land areas
 - Goes over once more
 - Where wrestlers work
 - Italian islanders
 - Avenue
 - __ Adams, U.S. founding father
 - Rest with legs bent
 - Type of flour
 - The Golden State (abbr.)
 - More (Spanish)
 - Stinging, winged insect
 - The use of irony to mock
 - Arsenals
 - Pouch
 - 22nd letter of the
 - Greek alphabet
 - Violent seizure of property
 - Restrict
 - Something comparable to another
 - Punishment device made from stems
 - Soul and calypso songs
 - Formerly OSS
 - Athabaskan language
 - __ bene: observe carefully
 - Six (Spanish)
 - Read-only memory
 - Chinese philosophical principle
 - American conglomerate
 - Tin



	S	E	R	I	E	S		S	C	R	A	P	S			
A	N	D	O	R	R	A		C	H	A	T	T	E	R		
C	A		D	A	R	T		M	O	U	T	H		M	E	
R	I	S	E	N		R	A	P		S	A	B	E	R		
E	L	I	S		S	A	T	E	S		R	O	S	E		
S	S	C		S	A	P		S	I	C		U	T	A		
S	A	L	A	L												
A	R	I	S	E	S											
R	M	A		P	A	R				S	H	F		A	A	R
C	O	N	S		C	A	C	T	I		S	R	N	A		
A	R	S	O	N		P	I	A		S	A	D	A	T		
S	I		C	O	R	I		A	N	D	E	R		L	A	
M	E	G	A	T	O	N				C	A	I	S	S	O	N
	S	E	S	A	M	E				H	O	S	I	N	G	

PCHS ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2020

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2019 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, annually. Individuals wanting to review this Annual Statement of Affairs should contact:

Paris Cooperative High School	14040 E 1200th Rd., Paris, IL	217-466-1175	8:00 am-4:00pm
<i>School District/Joint Agreement Name</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Office Hours</i>

Also by **January 15, annually** the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2020, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website@ www.isbe.net.

SUMMARY: The following is the Annual Statement of Affairs Summary that is required to be published by the school district/joint agreement for the past fiscal year.

Statement of Operations as of June 30, 2020

		Educational	Operations & Maintenance	Debt Services	Transportation	Municipal Retirement/Social Security	Capital Projects	Working Cash	Tort	Fire Prevention & Safety
Local Sources	1000	3,437,077	568,108	0	82,650	165,643	0	0	155,000	0
Flow-Through Receipts/Revenues from One District to Another District	2000	0	0		0	0				
State Sources	3000	185,333	0	0	131	0	0	0	0	0
Federal Sources	4000	71,002	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Direct Receipts/Revenues		3,693,412	568,108	0	82,781	165,643	0	0	155,000	0
Total Direct Disbursements/Expenditures		3,520,224	540,261	0	67,582	118,221	32,316		154,877	0
Other Sources/Uses of Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Beginning Fund Balances - July 1, 2019		323,630	30,792	0	10,500	-4,419	32,316	0	8,808	0
Other Changes in Fund Balances		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balances June 30, 2020		496,818	58,639	0	25,699	43,003	0	0	8,931	0

SALARY SCHEDULE OF GROSS PAYMENTS FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL AND NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

GROSS PAYMENT FOR CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 - \$89,999	Salary Range: \$90,000 and over
AYDT, JAMES; BUCKLER, CAROL; CREECH, MARY ANN; DRAKE, CATHY; ELLIOTT, SANDRA; GATES, DANIEL; GOODWIN, KELSEY; HARDIE, HEATHER; HUMRICHIOUS, JAMES; KELSHEIMER, JULIA; KEYS, JENNIFER; MCNULTY, CARRIE; MILLS, KIRSTIN; MOODY, STEPHANIE; NAVARRETE, JESSICA; NUGENT, SHAWN; OGLE, PAMELA; PATRICK, PAGE; PATTEN, JAMES; PINKSTON, CHRISTY; PINKSTON, IRVIN; POYNTER, JANET; PROPST, L. ANGELA; RANDOLPH, ROBERT; ROUSH, MELISSA; SCURLOCK, CULLEN; TERRELL, MARLENE; TINGLEY, DAVID; TYLER, JANA; WESTON, JANET; WHITAKER, JASON; WHITE, CHRIS; WILSON, CYNTHIA	BIRCHFIELD, TAYLOR; BRINKLEY, CHASE; HENDRICKSON, JESSICA; HOLLIS, LINDSEY; MCDERMOTT, LAUREN; NELSON, DANIEL; RIGDON, BESSIE; SHAY, NICOLLE; SIMMONS, JOHN; TARR, CREIGHTON; WILKIE, MATTHEW	AYDT, STEFAN; BENNETT, KRISTY; BLOCK, BRETT; BOYARS, ROBERTS; COLLIER, NANCY; DUNDAS, DANIEL; GARZOLINI-SKELTON, STACI; HEWITT, LINDSEY; HIBSCHMAN, KEVIN; HUTCHINGS, KYRA; JONES, CAROL; KEYS, SHEILA; PHEGLEY, CARRIEANN; PITTENGER, TAMMY; POWERS, RENAE; PRUIETT, KEVIN; SEATON, HEATHER; SMITH, JODY; STALLINGS, JORDAN; STALLINGS, MARYANN; THOMAS, ROGER; TINGLEY, MELISSA; WILSON, JAMI	BAILEY, LORRAINE; BARNES, JEFFERY; COX, MARK; GOODWIN, DARIN; HAPP, DOUGLAS	

GROSS PAYMENT FOR NON-CERTIFICATED PERSONNEL

Salary Range: Less Than \$25,000	Salary Range: \$25,000 - \$39,999	Salary Range: \$40,000 - \$59,999	Salary Range: \$60,000 and over
ARRASMITH, TRUDY; BELL, NATHAN; CALHOUN, JOHN; CASAD, ZACH; COLLINS, JESSICA; DANIELS, BETHANY; DAVIS, STEVEN; DORJAHN, TUCKER; DOSCH, COLTON; FURGESON, KELLI; GANN, CHAD; GORDON, PAULA; HANSEN, NATHAN; HILL, AMY; HORSLEY, GEORGIA; IKE, MONICA; KEYS, CHRIS; KRIEGER, MARIA; LANDSAW, CANDACE; LANDSAW, CHARLES; LYNCH, BARBARA; MATHIS, MEGAN; MORRIS, HUNTER; MULLENIX, LINDA; RIGDON, MELODY; ROBERTS, VANETTA; SAPP, LONNIE; SMITH, SHEILA; STUCK, MARNITA; TAPSCOTT, DIANE		CLODFELDER, JEREMY; GRANT, KEVIN	KNOEPFEL, JOANNA; SULLIVAN, MARK

Payments over \$2,500, excluding wages and salaries.

Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount	Person, Firm, or Corporation	Aggregate Amount
ALCO OVERHEAD DOORS	3,858	IMRF	74412	STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY	3,235
ALLREDS FLOOR SERVICE	6,950	INGRUM WASTE DISPOSAL	7662	STATE NATIONAL INSURANCE CO	29,087
AMAZON	18,543	JOES PIZZA	10467	SYSCO CENTRAL ILLINOIS	25,413
AMEREN ILLINOIS	6,500	JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL	4733	TBM BUILDING SERVICES	109,340
AREA-WIDE TECHNOLOGIES	13,500	JOHNSTONE SUPPLY	2550	TEAMWORX ENTERPRISES LLC	21,250
B & B FOOD DISTRIBUTORS	8,244	JOSTENS	5813	T.H.I.S.	42,883
BCBS OF IL	403,606	KOHL WHOLESALE	33146	TRS	217,270
BSN SPORTS	9,659	LANKSTER & GORE SEPTIC SERVICE	4466	TURNITIN LLC	2,743
CARDINAL LOT CLEANING	24,996	LARSSON WOODYARD & HENSON LLP	7500	VWR INTL LLC	5,378
CENGAGE LEARNING	7,047	LORENZ SUPPLY CO	4418	WALMART BUSINESS	3,004
CITY OF PARIS WATER DEPT	13,342	LORIS PENS & NEEDLES	4640	WATTS COPY SYSTEMS	8,363
CONNOR CO	3,199	MCC NETWORK SERVICES LLC	5580	ZIMMERLY	10,199
CONTRACT PAPER GROUP	5,692	MeTEOR EDUCATION	6334		
D I SUPPLY	4,990	MILLER TRACY BRAUN	7229		
DE LAGE LANDEN PUBLIC FINANCE	6,348	MSB TRANSPORTATION	50087		
EASTERN ILLINOIS EDUCATION	13,749	NASCO	4010		
ENERSTAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE	119,135	NEURORESTORATIVE	91855		
ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL SOLUTIONS	6,935	PARIS SCHOOL DIST 95	32370		
FLINN SCIENTIFIC	3,577	PAUL RICKETTS	5927		
FOCUS SCHOOL SOFTWARE	5,919	PIONEER	2741		
FRONTIER	11,463	PRAIRIE FARMS DAIRY	7987		
GETZ FIRE EQUIPMENT CO	5,304	QUILL	3210		
GOVCONNECTION INC	85,195	REGIONAL OFFICE OF ED	5935		
GRAINGER	3,218	RIDDELL ALL AMERICAN	3,954		
HUDL	2,500	RP LUMBER	4,770		
ILLINI FS	15002	SCHOLASTIC RISK MANAGEMENT SVCS	56,993		
ILLINOIS VIRTUAL SCHOOL	14400	SPECIALIZED DATA SYSTEMS	5,200		

CALLIE BABER AUCTION CO.
232 West Wood Street
Upcoming On-Line ONLY Auction
HRC #2
Wed. December 30 - Wed. January 13
Bidding begins to close at 6 p.m. (IL)
Maintenance materials, contracting, plumbing, electrical tools & more!
Go to calliebaber.hibid.com to register
Always taking consignments! Give us a call!
"Have Fun, Save Money, Make Money, Shop Auctions!"
Callie 217.822.3304
Shelly 217.808.0527

BUSINESS SERVICES

Alco Overhead Doors
Service on all types of garage doors. New door sales. Residential & commercial
217-346-2808

Affordable House Leveling Foundation & Crawl Space Basements
Insured
References
217-690-7882

ROBERTS TREE SERVICE
Fall/Winter Sale. Insured, Free estimates.
Firewood for sale; \$60.00 truck load delivered
217-251-1800

Triple T Recycling
aluminum copper batteries and all other metal. Mon-Fri 9-? Saturday walk in. Any questions call 217-251-5028 or come by 701 Cherry Point Rd. Pick up Available.

LONGARM QUILTING
fast turnaround time.
6 years experience.
Call 217-822-5340

HELP WANTED

Milk Specialties hiring for Packaging Operators.
Starting pay \$14 hr.
Vacation and paid holidays
Medical, dental, vision, life insurance, 401k company match
Apply online
www.milkspecialties.com/careers
or visit at 1977 S Central Ave.

HOUSING FOR RENT

2 & 3 Bdrm. Mobile Home
gas, electric, water, can be included in rent, dep. Washer & dryer and AC may be included also.
217-463-8800, leave msg.

APARTMENTS

Freshly renovated 1 and 2 BR apts. Water & trash included. Great location! No pets.
217-264-9634

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE: Flexbike (ultra) in good condition with booklet. Also looking to buy a small treadmill. Call 217-294-7986

FOR SALE: Forced Air Propane Heater, 125,000 BTU with 10 ft 10" hose. Good condition. Call 217-251-1124

Need Cash!!! Now buying complete household estates, iron wheels, barn items, old gas pumps, porcelain signs, crocks, guns, tools, quilts, antique cars and trucks, in and around the Paris, IL Area.
Call Paul at 618-838-1454

LEGALS

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ILLINOIS
EDGAR COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF
JAMES F. BENNETT,
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of JAMES F. BENNETT. Letters of Office were issued on December 8, 2020 to Glenda Milam, 120 Allenwood, Paris, IL 61944, as Executor whose attorney is FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.), 129 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, 61944, or with

the representative, or both, on or before June 19, 2021 and any claim not filed within the applicable period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Glenda Milam
Executor

FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.)
129 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944
Phone: 217/ 465-4196
FAX: 217/ 466-1213

CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIFTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, ILLINOIS
EDGAR COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF DOROTHY PEMBOR,
Deceased

No. 20209-P-56

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of DOROTHY PEMBOR. Letters of Office were issued on DECEMBER 8, 2020, to JANINE CROSS, 107 Prairie, P.O. Box 392, Ogden, IL 61859, as Executor whose attorney is FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.), 129 N. Central Ave., Paris, IL 61944.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Circuit Clerk of the Court at the Edgar County Courthouse, Paris, Illinois, 61944, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 19, 2021 and any claim not filed within the applicable period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

JANINE CROSS
Executor

FRUIN & KASH (Richard M. Kash, Jr.)
129 N. Central Ave.
Paris, IL 61944
Phone: 217/ 465-4196
FAX: 217/ 466-1213

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on December 11, 2020, 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:

PURE PARIS

Located at: 130 N MAIN ST, PARIS
Owner(s): MONA L. TAYLOR
Dated: December 11, 2020

August H. Griffin
Edgar County Clerk

UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT #2
OF SARGENT/EMBARRASS TOWNSHIPS IN DOUGLAS/EDGAR COUNTIES, STATE OF ILLINOIS

REQUEST FOR BIDS UDD #2021-1

UNION DRAINAGE DISTRICT #2 IS SOLICITING A REQUEST FOR BIDS FOR REPAIRING APPROXIMATELY 5,200 FEET OF 24" DUAL WALL DRAINAGE DISTRICT TILE (EXISTING TILE TO BE TIED IN IF FOUND). THIS PROJECT WILL INCLUDE A ROAD CROSSING, SIGNIFICANT BACKFILL, AND A ROUNDED BOTTOM. THIS INVITATION IS EXTENDED TO ALL QUALIFIED VENDORS WHO CAN PROVIDE THE SERVICES

REQUIRED. PROJECT SHALL BE COMPLETED BY DEC 31, 2021 UNLESS IMPRACTACABLE BY WEATHER CONDITIONS. ALL RESPONSES MUST BE RECEIVED AT THE LISTED ADDRESS HEREINBELOW, NO LATER THAN JAN 15, 2021.

ALL INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

LUKE WILLIAMS
2650 E CR 475N
BROCTON, ILLINOIS 61917
PHONE # 217-218-0049 OR
CROSSMAN LAW OFFICE
217-543-3336.

LUKE WILLIAMS Commissioner
JOEL CHEATHAM Commissioner

BILL COFFEY Commissioner

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

IN THE INTEREST OF A.S., a Minor
2020-JA-21

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

To Brandon Brown, Respondent
Father, address unknown
Any or All Unknown Fathers

Take notice that on the 15th day of October, 2020, a Petition for Adjudication of Wardship was 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 A.S., 2020-JA-21. In the courtroom of Judge Matthew Sullivan, Courtroom #1, Edgar County Courthouse, 115 W. Court Street Paris, Illinois, on the 5th day of January, 2021, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing on the Petition for Adjudication of Wardship 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 the Notice of 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 the party's address of record with the court, when he is not represented by an attorney.

Dated this 23rd day of

December, 2020

Angela R. Barrett
Clerk of the Circuit Court

LIEN NOTICE

Storage Express will hold public auctions ending on **January 20, 2021**, to satisfy liens held on delinquent accounts located at the below properties and ending at the assigned times. The auction is an online auction conducted at www.storage-treasures.com.

610 E Jasper St, Paris, IL @ 9:30 AM CST
FRANKSCHULTZ 309-183
JEROME BOARD 309-060
MICHAEL LILES 309-031
ERICADAWSON 309-003

VILLAGE OF METCALF ORDINANCE NO. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE

BE IT ORDAINED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Metcalf, in Edgar County, Illinois.

SECTION I

The Village of Metcalf pursuant to 65 LCS 5/11-76-1 and 65 ILCS 5/11-76-2 have determined that the three parcels of real estate listed in Section II below are no longer necessary, appropriate, required for the use of, profitable to or for the best interests of the Village of Metcalf.

SECTION II

Parcel #1: Part of Lot #12 in, north of the RR, which is situated in Village of Metcalf, Edgar County, Illinois. An irregular lot of 6250 square feet. Parcel #15-02-34-285-006

Commonly referred to as 209 Central, Metcalf, IL 61940.

Parcel #2: Lots 99, 100 and 101 of the original town, now Village of Metcalf, situated in the County of Edgar and State of Illinois. An irregular lot of 18750 square feet. Parcel 15-02-34-281-009

Commonly referred to as 119 Prairie St., Metcalf, IL 61940

Parcel #3: Lots 185, 186 and 187 in John A. Metcalf's Second Addition to the Village of Metcalf, situated in the County of Edgar and State of Illinois. An Irregular lot of 18750 square feet. Parcel #15-02-34-232-006

Commonly referred to as 512 N. Central, Metcalf, IL 61940.

SECTION III

The property shall be used in compliance with all local ordinances and State laws and regulations.

SECTION IV

Sealed bids for the purchase of the real estate shall be considered and opened at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Village of Metcalf on February 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Metcalf Village Hall at 316 Central Street, Metcalf, IL 61940, subject to the following

conditions:

Printed copies of the bidding documents may be obtained from the Village of Metcalf by calling or texting Trustee Elmer Snoko at 217-822-0552, upon the payment of a non-refundable fee of \$5.00 for each set. Checks for Bidding Documents shall be payable to the Village of Metcalf. The Village of Metcalf will not be responsible for full or partial sets of Bidding Documents obtained from sources other than the Village of Metcalf.

Bids will be received for each separate parcel as indicated in the bidding documents.

The Village of Metcalf may accept the high bid or any other bid determined to be in the best interest of the Village of Metcalf and may reject any and all bids.

SECTION V

This ordinance is effective immediately upon its passage and approval.

I offer the foregoing Ordinance and move that it be adopted by the Board.

[Signature]
Trustee

I second the foregoing Ordinance.
Trustee

I declare the foregoing AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS REAL ESTATE was passed by 3% of the corporate authorities and approved by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Metcalf, Edgar County, Illinois, on December 28, 2020.

[Signature]
Mayor

Seal

Attest:
[Signature]
Village Clerk



YOUR NEWS
Just the way you like it.
In print. Online. On-the-go.
The Prairie Press 101 N. Central Ave., Paris 217-921-3216

Owner Occupied Tax Exemption ELIGIBILITY

* NOTE TO SENIOR CITIZENS - if you are 65 years old and you have filed the Homestead Exemption with the Supervisor of Assessment's Office, you will automatically get the Owner Occupied Tax Exemption. You do not need to mail this form.

- Do you own and/or buying the dwelling in which you reside?
 - If you own more than one dwelling - this will apply only to the one which you reside.
 - If you are buying on contract each year - you should turn in a copy of the contract or memorandum for contract, that states the seller, buyer, and legal description, to the Supervisor of Assessment's Office at 111 N. Central, Paris in order for the exemption to apply.
- Did you live there on or before January 1, 2021?

If you able to answer yes to the above questions, you should complete the form below.

(PEASE PRINT)

I, _____, have ownership in _____ the dwelling that I reside located _____

_____, _____

(City) (Township)

I hereby apply for the exemption granted under section 19.23-1A of Section 103 of the "Revenue Act of 1939" of the Illinois State Statutes. This property is identified by the 12 digit property number on my tax bill which is: _____

Written Signature _____
Address _____
Date _____

PARIS TOWNSHIP resident mail by FEBRUARY 1, 2021 to:
Lugene Crippes Joines Paris Township Assessor
204 Ten Broeck Street, Paris, IL 61944
* If you do not live in Paris Township - send this to the Township Assessor in the Township in which you reside in order to get this exemption.

----- CUT FORM ON BLACK BORDER -----

Do you have **CASH** in your closet?

Turn those unwanted items into cash. Sell them in the Classifieds! They may be just the thing someone else is looking for.

The Prairie Press Paris Beacon-News
101 N. Central Ave., Paris • 217-921-3216

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\$43,254
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\$48,475

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\$21,998

2014 Ford F-150 XLT 4X4
\$24,499

2018 Ford Escape Titanium 4WD
\$23,550

2017 Ford Focus Titanium
\$14,200

FOR SALES SEE
Aarin Lien & Tom Wilson
765-832-3564
jacksoncars.com
335 So. 3rd St.
Clinton, IN

Pandemic, social unrest, statehouse scandals top 2020 stories

Budget, leadership changes, Black Caucus agenda are on tap for 2021

BY JERRY NOWICKI, PETER HANCOCK, SARAH MANSUR AND RAYMON TRONCOSO
news@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD – It was a year like no other, and one most Americans would just as soon forget, but 2020 is sure to last in the history books as one of the most tumultuous in modern history.

It was a year when face masks and hand sanitizer became ubiquitous items of everyday life and when major sporting events that many Americans use to mark the passage of time were canceled or delayed.

It was also a year marked by racial and social unrest following the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and other Black Americans at the hands of police. And it was a year of economic catastrophe that brought about some of the highest unemployment rates the nation has seen.

For Illinois, the year seemed to begin on a hopeful note. The state was running a budget surplus for the first time in many years. By February, unemployment had fallen to an all-time low.

But things were about to

change amid a backdrop of pandemic and government corruption scandals that rocked the foundation of power of the nation's longest-serving state legislative leader.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

On Jan. 24, a Chicago woman who had just returned home from Wuhan, China, where the COVID-19 pandemic originated, tested positive for the disease. A few days later, her husband tested positive as well, marking the first known instance of person-to-person spread in the U.S.

On March 9, Gov. JB Pritzker declared a statewide disaster and quickly began invoking his emergency powers with a series of executive orders including closure of K-12 schools to in-person learning and a statewide stay-at-home order that brought much of the state's economy to a grinding halt.

By year's end, COVID-19 had claimed the lives of more than 16,000 Illinoisans as the rapid distribution of a pair of vaccines marked new hope that the beginning of the end of the pandemic was near.

MADIGAN SCANDAL

After more than three decades as one of the most powerful men in the state, Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan faced an uncertain political future as 2020 neared its end.

His future as speaker and Democratic Party of Illinois chairman was first put in doubt on July 17 when officials at utility giant Commonwealth Edison admitted in court to a yearslong bribery scheme in which they sought to buy favor with Madigan – the latest in a series of bombshell investigatory revelations that have centered on Democratic state politicians since 2019.

The case sparked an internal House investigation in which Republicans sought to oust him from office, but that effort was thwarted when

Democrats on the investigating committee – all Madigan loyalists – voted against recommending a disciplinary charge.

Madigan himself has not been charged criminally and has denied any wrongdoing.

But at least 19 members of the House Democratic caucus have said they will not vote to re-elect him as speaker, which would mean he is well short of the 60 votes needed to win another term.

No one else has yet emerged as a viable contender for the office, however, so it is unclear what will happen when lawmakers reconvene in Springfield in January to choose a speaker for the 102nd General Assembly.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

While there is some uncertainty about whether Madigan will serve as speaker next year, a leadership change would make House Republican Leader Jim Durkin the General Assembly's most tenured leader.

Durkin, who hails from Western Springs, has been House minority leader since 2013. That caucus indicated it will back him again in January after a brief challenge from Rep. Tony McCombie, from Savanna, who eventually backed Durkin.

While 2020 began with a leadership change on the Democratic side in the Senate, it ended with a change in Republican leadership in that chamber.

After former Senate President John Cullerton announced plans to retire in 2019 after 11 years, Sens. Kimberly Lightford, from Maywood, and Don Harmon, from Oak Park, emerged as top contenders to fill the remainder of Cullerton's two-year term.

Ultimately, Harmon secured majority support from the Democratic caucus and was elected on Jan. 19 following several hours of behind-the-scenes negotiations. Harmon's fellow Democrats indicated earlier this month they would

back him for another two-year term come January.

Senate Minority Leader Bill Brady, from Bloomington, announced in early November his plans to step down from Republican leadership in the Senate after three years, and members of the caucus chose Sen. Dan McConchie, from Hawthorn Woods, as his replacement. McConchie has served in the chamber since 2016.

The new year will also see challengers emerge for governor and other state constitutional officers, as candidates have already begun to announce their intentions for a statewide run.

LOOKING AHEAD

Despite the pandemic, Illinois voters went to the polls in record numbers in 2020, opting for Democrat Joseph Biden over incumbent Donald Trump by a 58-41 percent margin.

Nearly 6.1 million ballots were cast in the November election – the largest number recorded in Illinois – after state lawmakers passed a measure greatly expanding access to mail balloting for the 2020 general election in response to the pandemic.

Democrats lost one seat in the state House to hold a 73-45 supermajority but gained a seat in the state Senate to hold a 41-18 supermajority.

Republicans scored some big wins by defeating Gov. JB Pritzker's proposed constitutional amendment to allow a graduated income tax and by ousting Supreme Court Justice Thomas Kilbride, setting up a GOP effort to take a one-seat majority on the high court in 2022.

Legislatively in 2021, Pritzker and the General Assembly are facing a \$3.9 billion revenue shortfall, due largely to the financial impact of COVID-19 and the failure of the graduated income tax, and they are bracing for difficult choices to cut spending, raise revenue or some combination of both.

Pritzker has proposed \$700 million in spending cuts as a first step to address the budget holes.

His administration also announced plans to borrow \$2 billion through a federal program to cover revenue losses and unforeseen COVID-19 expenses for the current fiscal year, but other difficult budget decisions loom in 2021.

The state's two main storylines of 2020 – scandal and pandemic – have also contributed to the derailing of a potential massive overhaul of the state's energy landscape. The Clean Energy Jobs Act and other energy reforms could be near the top of the agenda when lawmakers return for a 2021 session as well.

BLACK CAUCUS AGENDA

Initiatives of the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus will also be at the top of the state government agenda in 2021 following a tumultuous 2020.

The agenda, aimed at ending systemic racism in Illinois, comes amid the backdrop of massive protests against police brutality and racial inequality, as well as the COVID-19 pandemic that disproportionately infected and killed Black and Latino Americans.

The agenda is split among four pillars of policy: criminal justice reform, violence and police accountability; education and workforce development; economic access, equity and opportunity; and health care and human services.

From September to October, the Black Caucus held more than 100 hours of hearings to inform potential legislation, some of which caucus leader Kimberly Lightford said will be brought for January's lame duck session before the swearing-in of new lawmakers.

The effort was partially in response to prolonged social unrest following the May 25 death of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis Police officer knelt on his neck for over 9 minutes. Protests

began the next day in Minneapolis and quickly spread to cities across the country.

That unrest led Gov. Pritzker to deploy the Illinois National Guard to Chicago on May 31 after a weekend of large-scale protests devolved into violence in some areas.

Meanwhile, Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx drew national attention for dropping charges for minor and non-violent offenses for hundreds of protestors, and President Trump engaged in high-profile disputes of rhetoric with Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Gov. Pritzker over the deployment of federal authorities to Illinois to clamp down on protests. While widescale intervention was avoided, some federal officers were deployed to aid ongoing law enforcement efforts to combat gun and drug crimes.

Ultimately, the protests which lasted from May until early November became the largest in U.S. history with an estimated 15 to 26 million participants across the country, with more protests taking place worldwide.

MARIJUANA LICENSING

In 2019, the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act legalized the sale and use of recreational marijuana in Illinois, and in the legalization's first year, sales were expected to reach \$1 billion, yielding more than \$100 million in state and local tax revenue.

There's plenty of room for those numbers to grow, as at the start of 2020 the state had issued only 30 licenses for recreational dispensaries to firms that were already licensed as medical dispensaries.

Despite the promise that 75 new licenses would be awarded to social equity applicants in an effort to diversify the industry, the pandemic and a number of lawsuits delayed the process. While no additional licenses were awarded in 2020, the state won a lawsuit in November that could allow the program to move forward in 2021.

EXPECT MORE, GET MORE

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Hurry and enter today!



Most Pawpular

Pet Photo Contest

1st Place: Pet sWAG Bag

Full of goodies from local merchants!

Email a picture of your pet to contest@prairiepress.net or mail a picture with the attached form to **PET CONTEST**

The Prairie Press
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Paris, IL 61944

One entry per person

Pictures of all pets will be published in the Saturday, January 30 edition of the *The Prairie Press*

Deadline for Entries is January 16th

PET'S NAME: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



The Prairie Press