

Obituaries

Edward Hays

V I L L A GROVE — Edward Hays, formerly of Villa Grove, died April 2, 2019, in Winfield. He was 82 years old. A celebration of Ed's life was held Sunday, May 26,

from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Joines Funeral Home, Villa Grove, followed immediately by a short memorial service. Ed was a huge sports fan, and the family encouraged guests to wear attire from their favorite team.



Romans 8:31-39 Good News Translation (GNT)
 God's Love in Christ Jesus 31 In view of all this, what can we say? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 Certainly not God, who did not even keep back his own Son, but offered him for us all! He gave us his Son—will he not also freely give us all things? 33 Who will accuse God's chosen people? God himself declares them not guilty! 34 Who, then, will condemn them? Not Christ Jesus, who died, or rather, who was raised to life and is at the right side of God, pleading with him for us! 35 Who, then, can separate us from the love of Christ? Can trouble do it, or hardship or persecution or hunger or poverty or danger or death? 36 As the scripture says, "For your sake we are in danger of death at all times; we are treated like sheep that are going to be slaughtered." 37 No, in all these things we have complete victory through him who loved us! 38 For I am certain that nothing can separate us from his love: neither death nor life, neither angels nor other heavenly rulers or powers, neither the present nor the future, 39 neither the world above nor the world below—there is nothing in all creation that will ever be able to separate us from the love of God which is ours through Christ Jesus our Lord.

April Gold and Silver Spoon Awards

Gold and Silver Spoon Awards - A New Beginning
 By Aaron Patrick
 Congratulations to the following food establishments which received the Gold Spoon Award for excellence in training of Certified Food Protection Managers and Food Handler Staff at the required levels at all times for the month of April 2019: It'll Do Atwood, Sol Del Mar, Casey's-Atwood, East Prairie School, Mi Veracruz, J & Js Burgers and Beer, North Ward Grade School, Williams Café, Kaskaskia Country Club, Teresa's Too, Stumble In, Joe's Pizza, The Pantry,

Tuscola High School, Flesor's Candy Kitchen, Monical's Pizza-Arcola, and Yoder's Kitchen.
 Silver Spoon Awards were awarded to establishments with food preparation for excellence in training of Food Handler staff, and they are: Arcola Hispanic & American Grocery-Deli
 The Director, Lana Sanstrom, and I would welcome conversation about this program and other topics concerning the food program. We can be reached at 217-253-4137 or by email through our website, www.dchealthdept.org.

Capital Recap: cont'd from pg. 1

tion of affordable housing, and economic and community development projects.
 To pay for the state's share of those ventures, Pritzker has suggested raising nearly \$1.8 billion per year in new or higher taxes and fees. The largest of those would be doubling the state's motor fuels tax from 19 cents to 34 cents per gallon, a smaller increase than has been suggested in other proposals. That would generate an estimated \$560 million.
 Others include raising registration fees for both traditional and electric vehicles; doubling the tax on real estate transfers of nonresidential property from 50 cents to \$1 for each \$500 in market value; imposing a new tax of \$1 per ride on ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft; imposing a new 7 percent tax on cable, satellite and streaming services; raising

the state's liquor gallonage tax; adding a new tax on parking garage fees; removing the sales tax exemption on the value of traded-in property; and dedicating a portion of a proposed video gambling terminal tax increase to the capital plan.
IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT: Two Democratic state lawmakers joined a group of immigration rights advocates Wednesday, May 22, in calling for passage of a bill that would effectively make Illinois a "sanctuary state."
 Rep. Celina Villanueva, of Chicago, and Sen. Don Harmon, of Oak Park, said they are pushing for passage of a bill that would limit how much cooperation public agencies in Illinois can provide to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, in its efforts to enforce federal immigration laws.

"In a time when separating families has become synonymous with the U.S.-Mexico border, families in Illinois are also under the threat of separation due to ruthless, harmful and lawless immigration enforcement," Villanueva said during a Statehouse news conference.
 She specifically pointed to a program called the 287(g) program - named after a 1996 addition to the Immigration and Nationality Act - that authorizes ICE to contract with state and local law enforcement agencies, allowing designated officers to perform limited immigration law enforcement functions.
 "What they're trying to do is scare our families, our immigrant families, into not being able to report crimes that are happening in their communities, ... living in fear of going to work every day, taking their

kids to school, just living lives," Villanueva said.
 House Bill 1637, known as the "Keep Illinois Families Together Act," would prohibit local law enforcement agencies in Illinois from entering into agreements to enforce federal immigration laws.
 It would also prohibit law enforcement officials from asking anyone who has been arrested or detained about their citizenship or immigration status, or their place of birth. That prohibition also would apply to people who submit to questioning, crime victims, witnesses and any person who contacts law enforcement seeking assistance SNAP DECISION: The Illinois Senate on Friday, May 17, passed with a 48-1 vote a bill that would allow those who are elderly, disabled or homeless to use their Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits to purchase meals from restaurants.
 House Bill 3343, sponsored by Rep. Sonya M. Harper, D-Chicago, goes to Gov. J.B. Pritzker for his signature. The House passed the bill March 29.
 Known as the Restaurants Meal Program, the elderly and a spouse, disabled persons and those who are homeless have the option to purchase prepared meals with SNAP benefits. Those populations were selected because of the difficulties they may have when preparing meals.

Letter to the Editor

State lawmakers are pushing the legalization of "super weed." The 500-plus page bill (SB 7) that was introduced earlier this month in Springfield should greatly alarm parents and grandparents:
 -No cap on THC levels. This is the substance that gets users intoxicated. The marijuana of the 1960s and 1970s only contained 1-3% THC. Today, the levels are 20% or more. The Dutch government walked back their marijuana policy and now considers cannabis with 15% THC a hard drug and illegal.
 -High potency marijuana use is linked to increases in addiction, psychosis, schizophrenia and violence.
 -Home Grows. SB 7 allows adults to grow up to 5 mari-

juana plants in their home(s). What good is a community opt-out when neighbors are legally permitted to grow it? Moreover, who wants to live near pot cultivation centers?
 -Marijuana surplus. Cultivating excessive amounts of marijuana is not hypothetical. Conservatively, five plants could produce ten pounds of marijuana per year. That is more than 10,000 joints a year. No one can use that much marijuana. Where will the surplus go?
 There are many other reasons to oppose this policy. In short, legalization is just not worth the social costs to our families and communities.
 Sincerely,
 David E. Smith

Pet of the Week



Rosie is a female mixed breed dog. She may be part Pit Bull. She is a bit shy at first, but quickly warms up and is very friendly. She is available for adoption at the Douglas County Animal Shelter. Call 253-4921 for more information or to adopt Rosie.

ARTHUR AMISH COUNTRY ANNUAL JAM

Fri., MAY 31 and Sat., June 1
DOWNTOWN ARTHUR
 Arthur "Amish Country" ... an authentic destination

FRIDAY: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
 Merchants Sidewalk Sale
 Craft and Food Vendors

www.arthurillinois.us

Saturday Free hourly Strawberry themed giveaways at the Strawberry Tent Starting at 10 a.m.

Performing SAT., JUNE 1 "THE KICK" 11-1

SATURDAY:
 8 a.m. - Strawberry Social
 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Merchants Sidewalk Sale - Craft and Food Vendors - Purchase fresh strawberry pies and fresh strawberries by the quart
 SAT. JUNE 1 ONLY - Entertainment: "The Kick" 11-1 (Gazebo Parking Lot)

11 a.m. Kiddie Tractor Pull (registration starts at 10 a.m. - W. Illinois St.)
 11:30 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Bloodmobile, Community Blood Services of Illinois (Welcome Center)
 6:00 p.m. Strawberry Mini-Auction (Otto Center)

Downtown Arthur Market Flea Market Vendors E. Illinois St.

Kids ZONE Sat. ONLY 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Kiddie Tractor Pull (registration starts at 10 a.m. - W. Illinois St.)
 Pony Rides

Strawberry SOCIAL at Otto Center All day Saturday starting at 8 a.m.

Strawberry Pie Eating State Championship Sat., June 1 at 1 p.m. Sponsored by The Woodliff

Sponsored by the Arthur Area Association of Commerce

Villa Grove **BINGO** 6:30 pm- Early Bird 7:00 pm- Regular Bingo

Every Friday Night VFW post 2876

Bingo Lic# B1934 Pull Tab Lic# P-48

This Weeks Jackpots:
 Egg in a Basket Raffle \$2000
 Blackout Jackpot \$900

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Menus

Villa Grove Peace Meal June 3 - June 7
Monday: Salisbury Beef Pattie, Mashed Potatoes, Broccoli, Texas Toast, Peaches
Tuesday: Taco Salad w/ Toppings and Salsa, Peaches, Taco Chips, Pudding
Wednesday: Chicken Pot Pie, Creamy Cole Slaw, Biscuits, Warm Chunky Applesauce
Thursday: Ham and Beans, Copper Carrots, Cornbread, Gelatin w/ Fruit
Friday: Roasted Pork Loin, Frosted Sweet Potatoes, Seasoned Green Beans, Roll, Grapes
For Reservations Call at 832-9445
 Skim milk and desserts with no sugar added are available in many locations. Ask the Site Supervisor for information. Sometimes we need to substitute our menus. We still guarantee a nutritious meal. The Peace Meal Senior Nutrition Program suggests a donation of \$3.50 for each congregant and home delivered meal. No older person shall be denied a meal because of their inability to contribute towards the cost of the meal. We accept Illinois Link Card.