

Obituaries

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gela, Neal and Nelson Harris; 14 great-grandchildren and 4 great-great-grandchildren.

Charlie was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, John, Virgil and Eldon Harris; sister, Maxine; grandchildren, Francesca Harris and Jay Ash.

Patrice "Patti" L. Howell

Patrice "Patti" L. Howell 65, of Mt. Zion, passed away at 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 6, 2021, in Decatur Memorial Hospital, Decatur.

A private family funeral service will be held at Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mt. Zion. Burial will be in the Mt. Zion Township Cemetery. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at dawson-wikoff.com.

Patti was born May 23, 1955, in Harvey, IL the daughter of Paul and Bonnie (Lauderback) Wood. She retired from UPS. Patti married Randy Howell on January 13, 1973. She was a member of Second Church of God and had a great love for her family.

Surviving are her husband: Randy of Mt. Zion; father Paul Wood of Kingman, AZ; daughter; Bridget Harrison (Brad Tucker) of Mt. Zion; sons: Brian Howell (Susanne) of Murten, Switzerland, and Brandon Howell (Lindsey) of Decatur; brother: James Wood of Brooklyn Park, MN; sister: Lori Lowe (Albert) of Nancy, KY; grandchildren: Dakota Harrison, Dalton Harrison, Noa Lynn Howell, Marius Howell, Marlow Minnes, and August Howell.

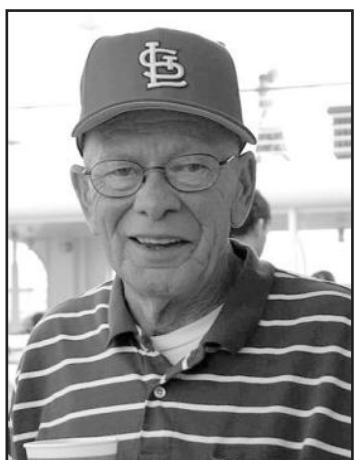
Patti was preceded in death by her mother.

Delbert Burl Kingston

Delbert Burl Kingston, 87 of Decatur, passed away on January 3, 2021 at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur. As was Delbert's wish, his body was cremated. A private memorial gathering will be held at a later date. Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mt. Zion is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorials may be made to The Decatur Park District Foundation/Scovill Park Zoo (Attn: Jill Applebee, 620 East Riverside Ave, Decatur, IL 62521), or to a charity of the donor's choice. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.dawson-wikoff.com.

Delbert was born February 21, 1933 in "Dugout", near Shelbyville, IL, the son of Elmer and Doris Blancett Kingston. Delbert graduated from Shelbyville High School and Sparks Business College. He served in the US Army. Delbert was employed by Archer Daniels Midland Company for 42 years, retiring from the corporate office as Director of Purchasing. As the "Mayor of Ivy Lane", Delbert enjoyed spending time outside, usually mowing his grass and those of his neighbors. He was an avid St. Louis Cardinal fan, and a long-time member of Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church. He was a tremendous influence on his daughters, instilling his unrelenting work ethic, teaching them the importance of doing the right thing, and treating others with kindness and respect. He was known for his creativity, generosity, sense of humor, and practical jokes. He enjoyed summer vacations to Minocqua, Wisconsin and the Lake of the Ozarks. We couldn't have picked a better father.

Surviving are Delbert's daughters: Lori (Brad) Shuler, Linda (Ken) Pipkins, of St. Charles, MO; and Lisa (Becky Marsh) Nesler of Chesterfield, MO; brother Aubrey (Helen) Kingston of Decatur, and Sister-in-law Linda Kingston of Shelbyville; grandchildren: Anna and Emma Shuler, Jack and Ada Pipkins, Lynn (Derek) Throneburg, Lisa (Brad) Shotts, and Andrew and Ben Nesler, four great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. Delbert was preceded in death by his parents, brothers: James (infant), Wayne, Elmer Jr., and Wilbur; sisters: Zelma Riley and Rosie Taylor, and son-in-law Scott Nesler. Delbert's daughters would like to thank faithful family, friends, and the neighbors of Ivy Lane for their constant support and friendship, and the ER staff at St. Mary's Hospital for their wonderful, compassionate care.



Elmer "Bill" William Kurr

Elmer "Bill" William Kurr passed away December 21, 2020 in Las Vegas, Nevada due to COVID 19.

Elmer was born August 26, 1937 in Bement, Illinois to the late John and Gracie Kurr.

Elmer was a long time resident in Las Vegas (50 years). After getting out of the U.S. Army in 1958 Elmer moved to Las Vegas and pursued a career as a Master Plumber. Elmer was a 50 year member of Masonic Lodge and Blue Lodge.

He is survived by his wife, Annette Kurr; sisters Francis M. Kurr and Susie Scrimager; brother-in-law Clifford Scrimager; brother John W. Kurr and sister-in-law Carol Kurr; and other family members that still live in Illinois.



John Jordan

John Jordan, 46 of Mattoon, passed away at 1:00 A.M. on January 2, 2021 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon.

Visitation will be held from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 9, 2021 at the Mt. Zion General Baptist Church, 654 CR 1320 North, Sullivan, IL. Funeral services will be held at 1:00 P.M. following the visitation. Jeremy Harminson will officiate. Burial will follow in the Mt. Zion Church Cemetery. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

John was born on October 17, 1974 in Mattoon, IL. He was a son of Joseph Roger and Karen Sue (Dodd) Jordan.

He is survived by four children, Felicia Jordan, Zack Jordan, Colton Jordan and Hannah Jordan all of Missouri, his father, Roger Jordan of Charleston, five siblings, Joe Jordan and his wife Melissa of Charleston, Chad Jordan and his wife Jamie of Mattoon, Amy Lewis and her husband Chad Hickey of Greenup, Ashley Little and her husband David of California and Katawna Jordan of Charleston, and his special aunt Judy Pauley of Mattoon.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Karen Sue Jordan and son, Hank Waylon Jordan.

John loved to Cook and touched the lives of many people.



Dolores "Deanie" Rich

Dolores "Deanie" Rich, 89, of Mattoon, passed away at 2:15 A.M. on Sunday, January 3, 2021 at Brookstone Estates of Mattoon.

Graveside service were held at 2:00 P.M. on Friday, January 8, 2021 in the Arcola Cemetery. Dr. John Calio will officiate. The Edwards Funeral Home is assisting with arrangements.

Deanie was born on December 30, 1931 in Arcola, IL. She was a daughter of Elmer Clarence and Lena Lenora (Williams) Bergfield. She married Thomas Huxley Rich on May 26, 1978 in Tuscola. He passed away on August 30, 2006.

Deanie is survived by four sons, Glenn Good and his wife Debra of Champaign, Rick Good of Arcola, Dennis Landreth and his wife Mary of Burleson, TX, Ken Landreth and his wife Kathy of Monticello; one daughter, Teresa Cherry and her husband Bill of Arcola; three stepsons, Stan Landreth and his wife Debbie of Greenup, Darrell Rich and his wife Bea of Fayetteville, GA, and Kirk Rich of Urbana; 11 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and a sister-in-law, Phyllis Bergfield of Arcola.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband, Tom, a granddaughter, Amy Landreth, two brothers, Lowell Bergfield and his wife Ruth and Lloyd Bergfield.

She was a member of the First Southern Baptist Church of Mattoon.

Deanie retired from Home Construction of Mattoon, in 1993 and from Homes Plus as a realtor in Mattoon in 1996.

She enjoyed playing cards and bowling. She was a big Yatzee fan and enjoyed playing Hand and Foot at Brookstone.

In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to the First



Southern Baptist Church in Mattoon or the Free Methodist Church in Arcola.

Alice Faye Spain

Alice Faye Spain 72, of Mt. Zion, passed away at 11:26 p.m., Tuesday, January 5, 2021, in St. Mary's Hospital, Decatur.

A private family service will be held at Dawson & Wikoff Funeral Home, Mt. Zion. Burial will be in Point Pleasant Cemetery, Long Creek. Memorials may be made to the American Lung Association. Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at dawson-wikoff.com.

Alice was born March 12, 1948, in Martinsville, IL the daughter of Harold and Ada (Cown) Goble. She married Donald Spain on August 17, 1974. He preceded her in death on July 4, 2019. Alice was a very dedicated mother and wife. She enjoyed cooking, doing crafts and tending to her flowers in the yard. She was an avid reader.

Surviving are her sons: Tony Spain (Jennifer) of Bloomington, Matthew Spain (Jessica) of Decatur, Josh Spain of Bloomington, and R.J. Spain of Mt. Zion; sister: Nancy Glosser (Ken) of Decatur; sisters-in-law: Kay Goble of Ft. Myers, FL and Jane Goble of Ft. Myers, FL; granddaughters: Sydney Spain and Samantha Spain both of Bloomington; five step-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Alice was preceded in death by her husband, parents, brothers: Marion Goble, Harry Goble, and Irvin Goble, and her sister: Mary Belle Jackson.



Martha Carolin Usnick

Martha Carolin Usnick, 80, of Amarillo, TX, passed away peacefully in the presence of family members on Saturday, November 28, 2020.

Martha was born near Arthur, Illinois on December 12, 1939, a daughter of the late Albert E. and Polly Herschberger Schlabach. She was the youngest of four children, with two older brothers and one older sister. In 1956 she moved to Colorado to live with her sister, Lydia.

On July 5, 1959, she met and married Frank Usnick in Colorado, to whom she would be married for the next 61 years. He preceded her in death in May 2020.

They moved frequently in the early years, ending up in Amarillo, TX in 1966. Frank and Martha had two sons, Frank Edward Usnick II and Mark Christopher Usnick. Martha worked as a bookkeeper for Miller Radiator in Amarillo. In 1989, Frank was transferred to Albuquerque, NM. In 2019, they moved back to Amarillo to be closer to family. She passed away there, in the home of her youngest son, Mark.

Martha and Frank quickly started a family after marrying, a decision she never regretted. Her husband and two boys were her passion. Being a wife and mother gave Martha the most satisfaction. When her boys were in school, she was involved in PTA, fundraisers, and the boys' activities. The Usnick home also became a gathering place for friends of the boys as they grew up. This was mainly because of Martha. She always made the friends feel welcome with the way she treated them - she was always making snacks and desserts that the kids all loved. Her affection and attention weren't just for the boys. Although it was not her favorite thing, she made many motorcycle trips with her cycle-loving husband. She and Frank loved taking trips to the mountains of New Mexico and Colorado. Doing things with, and for, her family and friends always made her smile. Martha served the Lord with great conviction, as a mother and wife. She and Frank were life long members of First Baptist Church in Amarillo and Martha served in leadership for the Baptist Women's and Christian Women's Clubs of Albuquerque.

She is survived by her two sons, Mark Usnick, and wife, Samantha, of Amarillo, TX, and Frank Usnick II, and wife, Beth, of Plano, TX, as well as two of her siblings, Leland A. Schlabach of Sun City West, Arizona and Lydia Marie Tester of Hesston, Kansas. She also leaves behind three grandchildren: Frank Usnick III, of Houston, TX, Ben Usnick, of College Station, TX, and Christine Hennig, of Midlothian, TX., and her first great grandchild, Jason Wade Hennig, and many cousins of the Arthur area.

Martha was preceded in death by her parents, infant twin sisters and one brother LeRoy A. Schlabach.



IHSA Update Following Meeting With IDPH

Illinois High School Association (IHSA) Executive Director Craig Anderson, members of the IHSA staff, and Illinois Elementary School Association (IESA) staff members met virtually with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz, and IDPH Chief of Staff Justin DeWitt on the evening of January 6, 2021.

"We appreciate the dialogue with state leadership and believe it is crucial that it continue moving for-

ward," said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. "We understand that the state faces shifting priorities as it continues to fight the pandemic, while also beginning the distribution of the vaccine. There was no expectation that a single meeting would resolve all our questions. However, we believe that collaboration with state officials is vital for the IHSA to be able to develop an informed plan for the 300,000-plus student-athletes and over 800 high schools that encom-

pass the Association."

IHSA and IESA leadership used the meeting to reintroduce recommended mitigations from the IHSA Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC), as well as to seek understanding on any preliminary insight IDPH may have related to the return of interscholastic sports. The IHSA also asked IDPH leadership

to review the risk levels of all remaining sports, with consideration for lowering some sports from their current risk levels.

"We believe that there is both data and science that validates the idea that we can safely conduct sports," said Anderson. "We have seen it work in other states and believe it can in Illinois if we utilize the mitigations provided by IDPH

and the IHSA SMAC. Students are already leaving or participating out-of-state on weekends. We believe that competing for their high school remains the safest venue for participation."

All IHSA sports remain on pause at the moment. Low risk sports may not begin until the state returns to Phase 4 in the All Sports Policy. The IHSA Board of Directors are scheduled to meet again on January 13.

"Our Board of Directors is going to have difficult decisions to make regarding

the seasons' for medium- and high-risk sports very soon," said Anderson. "With no specific IDPH timeline or statistical benchmarks established for the return of sports and the calendar shrinking, putting together a puzzle that allows for all sports to be played becomes increasingly improbable. We continue to urge all residents of our state to be diligent in their efforts to adhere to safety guidelines, as a lower positivity rate remains the key to athletics returning."

