



CABOT CORPORATION'S TUSCOLA site donated school supplies to the Embarras River Basin Agency (ERBA) for the CSBC School Supply Program. School supplies go to eligible children attending Kindergarten through 12th grade. ERBA provides school supplies to families in need in the counties of Clark, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Jasper, Lawrence, and Richland. Abi Legesse, project engineer; and Connie Allen, sr. administrative coordinator, provided the donation on behalf of Cabot to Christina Wooley, FCDS, Outreach Worker. From left are Legesse, Wooley and Allen. Submitted photo.

Lake Land College holding open volleyball tryouts

Lake Land College will be holding open tryout sessions for the Laker volleyball team on Wednesday, Aug. 16, and Friday, Aug. 25. Both sessions will be held in the Laker Field House gymnasium from 12 noon to 2 p.m.

Lake Land students interested in joining the volleyball team are welcome to showcase their abilities at either tryout session. Students can register to attend the session of their choice at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc6hyqwVtVo7NH10iH8x-8hz4Fg0VHJdDGXz0CYq6b-4ndZA/viewform>. All students trying out are required to bring a current physical with them to the session they attend.

Anyone interested in trying out but unable to attend one of the scheduled sessions can contact Head Volleyball Coach Lainey Jackson by phone at 217-234-5296 or by email at ljackson7215@lakelandcollege.edu for alternate arrangements.

For more information, please contact Coach Jackson or Field House Administrative Assistant Meredith Perez by email at mperez2@lakelandcollege.edu or by phone at 217-234-5333.

Lake Land College Foundation to host Golf Classic

The Lake Land College Foundation will host its annual Golf Classic on Friday, Sept. 29, at the Mattoon Golf & Country Club. The golf outing will be played in the popular four-man scramble format, with registration and lunch for golfers beginning at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at 12 noon.

Golfers can register as a team of four or individually. Individual players are encouraged to sign up, as all players will be placed on a team. Entries for Friday's outing are limited to the first 144 golfers.

The entry fee includes lunch, 18-holes, cart and refreshments. All proceeds assist

the Lake Land College Foundation in building relationships that will support and enhance the educational opportunities and services to students through financial support from alumni and friends.

The outing is made possible by the support of the event's sponsors. Confirmed sponsors at this time are Consolidated Communications, Planning Design Studio, Martin Hood LLC, Patterson Technology, Prudential, Diamond Bros. Insurance, Heartland Dental, Sherri Branson - State Farm Insurance Agent, Grunloh Construction, Inc., IBEW 146, and SC3F Wealth Management.

Teams or individuals can sign up through the Lake Land College Foundation at lakelandcollege.edu/foundation/golf or by contacting Amanda Allen at 217-234-5376 or atucker1563@lakelandcollege.edu.

All mail entries should be sent to Lake Land College Foundation, 5001 Lake Land Blvd., Mattoon, IL 61938.

Trail

Continued from page 1

from Paxton to Centralia and the southern portion, which stretched all the way to Cairo in "Egypt." Wright refers to Southern Illinois as "Little Egypt," but there's some controversy as to when the word "little" was added. Purists point out that "Little Egypt" was the name of a famous belly dancer in the late 1800s and early 1900s.

Wright gives brief backgrounds to each town the Egyptian Trail went through, including Douglas County towns such as Tuscola and Arcola.

Maps illustrated in the book show where the trail went through. What was interesting to me was that many highways in Illinois had different names and symbols, such as the black diamond trail, Quincy Trail or the Bluegrass Road, to name a few. These highways came into fruition mostly through grassroots efforts from highway and trail organizations as the state government was dragging behind on updating the road infrastructure.

To round out the history of the trail, Wright looks to future projects, such as Route 45, 50, and 51, which are successor routes to the trail. The original

Egyptian Trail helped set the route of Interstate 57.

The contents of the book are well-balanced. If you are looking for a well-researched book, which backs up the historical facts with citations and presents the information with interesting characters, you have found it. Even if the history of Illinois road infrastructure isn't the most flashy subject, it provides an insight into an important aspect of people's lives in the early 20th century.

Published by Arcadia, the book is available online on Amazon, Barnes & Noble and elsewhere.

Illinois Supreme Court upholds assault weapon ban, but federal test remains

By JERRY NOWICKI

Capitol News Illinois

jnowicki@capitolnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD - The state's ban on high-powered weapons and high-capacity magazines passed a state constitutional test Friday as it awaits a potentially more daunting challenge on the federal stage.

In a split decision, the Democratically controlled Illinois Supreme Court ruled 4-3 that the law characterizing dozens of firearms as "assault weapons" and preventing their manufacture and sale in Illinois does not constitute "special legislation." Devices used to make guns fire more rapidly are also banned under the law.

The law remains in effect in Illinois despite other challenges at the federal level. Anyone who already owned one of the banned weapons prior to the law's Jan. 10 effective date will be able to keep it but will be required to register it with the Illinois State Police.

Friday's decision stems from a case brought by a group of plaintiffs led by state Rep. Dan Caulkins, R-Decatur, who argued in legal filings that the law arbitrarily treated certain classes of Illinois differently - namely law enforcement officers, certain security guards, active-duty military personnel, and people who already owned those weapons before the law took effect - by exempting them from portions of the ban.

Caulkins' attorneys argued that creating different classes for "similarly situated" Illinoisans was a violation of the equal protection clause in the state constitution.

Justice Elizabeth Rochford

wrote the majority opinion rejecting that argument.

"Plaintiffs are not similarly situated to the trained professionals," she wrote, with fellow Democrats Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis and Justices P. Scott Neville and Joy V. Cunningham concurring.

Rochford also addressed the argument pertaining to those who were "grandfathered in" to gun ownership by the law.

"To the extent plaintiffs claim they possess restricted items, they are not treated differently from the grandfathered individuals," she wrote. "To the extent plaintiffs claim they do not possess restricted items, they are dissimilar to the grandfathered individuals, who have a reliance interest in retaining them."

Gov. JB Pritzker, who signed the bill into law in January, issued a statement Friday calling it a "commonsense gun reform law to keep mass-killing machines off of our streets and out of our schools, malls, parks, and places of worship."

"Illinoisans deserve to feel safe in every corner of our state - whether they are attending a Fourth of July Parade or heading to work - and that's precisely what the Protect Illinois Communities Act accomplishes," Pritzker said in the statement.

One day earlier, however, Pritzker conceded that the pending federal case - which is widely expected to end up before the U.S. Supreme Court - will ultimately "trump whatever happens in our state courts."

Gun rights advocates like

Caulkins are hopeful that the U.S. Supreme Court - which has a 6-3 conservative majority - will take a more expansive view

of the Second Amendment. Just days before the Highland Park shooting last summer, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down a New York state law restricting the right to carry concealed firearms, holding that such restrictions must be consistent with the nation's "historical tradition" of firearm regulations.

The majority in Friday's opinion, however, noted Caulkins "waived" his right to a Second Amendment challenge in state court, as "plaintiffs explicitly and repeatedly disclaimed any such argument in the circuit court."

Republican Lisa Holder White wrote a separate dissenting opinion from O'Brien's, joined by Justice David K. Overstreet.

Holder White argued that the process through which the gun ban passed ran afoul of the state constitution and suggested the court should rethink its "enrolled bill doctrine" - a long-held premise granting legislative leaders wide latitude in determining whether the legislature followed proper procedures.

"When, as in this case, the work of the legislature directly impacts a fundamental right, which this court has said the right to keep and bear arms is, the people of Illinois deserve nothing less than the procedural requirements of the constitution be followed by their elected representatives and senators," Holder White wrote.

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Illinois Deer Donation Program hosting Food Pantry Summit

The Illinois Deer Donation Program is offering a Food Pantry Summit on Wednesday, Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. till 3 p.m. at the Lake Land College Foundation & Alumni Center in Mattoon. Extension will be offering training on food safety, the relationship of trauma in food, and food dignity. Sessions will include information about the Illinois Deer Donation Program and how to become a partnering pantry

to receive ground venison for your pantry guests. Food handlers training with certificate will be offered free of charge.

If your pantry wishes to partner with the Illinois Deer Donation Program, it is strongly encouraged for you or another pantry volunteer to attend this free training. Priority will be given to pantries that have completed the food pantry summit during venison distribution this upcoming

winter and spring. Register at go.illinois.edu/foodpantry-summit. Lunch is included.

The Illinois Deer Donation Program is funded in part by the Health Equity Achieved Together Project, a multi-disciplinary collaboration with University of Illinois Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education. Please contact Michelle Fombelle at mfombelle@illinois.edu with any questions.

2023 CLIFF KAUFFMAN MEMORIAL TRACTOR DRIVE



September 4, 2023

Registration starts at 6:30 AM

Drive kicks off at 8 AM

We will be leaving from Yoder's Kitchen, stopping for a mid-morning break, then ending with lunch at the Arthur Fire Station.

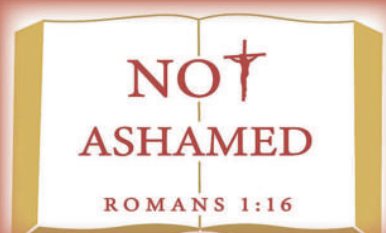
Please join us in Arthur on Monday, September 4th for an ~30-mile tractor drive in honor of Cliff. If you can't join the drive, we will have lunch tickets available to be purchased separately.

All proceeds will be going to the Down Syndrome Diagnosis Network and Central IL Down Syndrome Organization to help support kids with Down syndrome.

For more information, please check out the event on Facebook or email us at cliffkauffmantractordrive@gmail.com.

Kim Weber at 217.259.7195 or Kyle Kauffman at 217.219.3826

Sharing the Good News in a Bad News World



Saturday,
August 26 @9am
Tuscola Community
Building

Please join us for a one-day conference entitled Not Ashamed: Sharing the Good News in a Bad News World, held Saturday, August 26, 2023, 9:00am to 1:30pm (doors open at 8:30 am) at the Tuscola Community Building.

Come hear Pastor Adam Koontz, an engaging speaker and well-known podcaster, speak on the topic of A Hope and a Home: Proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel to Today's America.

Event attendance is free but limited. Complimentary lunch is included in the registration. This event is sponsored by Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tuscola, Illinois, and made possible in part by a grant from the Central Illinois District Church Extension Fund.



Speaker:
Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz

For additional information or to register by phone please call Immanuel Lutheran Church 217-253-4341 or

Register at:



<https://bit.ly/notashamed2023>