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Friday
 April 2, 2021
 Vol. 19, No. 9

The Prairie News

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A PUNGENT SMELL OF SPRING



The peak of skunk mating season in Illinois means that more of the black-and-white critters are on the move right now – and found dead along roads. Photo by Gretchen Steele.

Skunks afoot

Breeding season wanderlust leads to more road kills

By GRETCHEN STEELE

For The Weekly Post

Those of us of a certain age and odd musical tastes may find ourselves humming this tune from Loudon Wainwright III more frequently these days.

Crossin' the highway late last night

He shoulda looked left and he shoulda looked right.

He didn't see the station wagon car.

The skunk got squashed and there you are.

You got your

Dead skunk in the middle of the road

Stinkin' to high heaven

Take a whiff on me, that ain't no rose

Roll up yer window and hold

your nose.

You don't have to look, and you don't have to see.

'Cause you can feel it in your olfactory.

There's actually a good reason why suddenly it seems like skunks are showing up everywhere and anywhere – especially squished on the roads. It is peak mating season for skunks in Illinois right now!

Just like deer during rut – when love is in the air, their usual good sense can take a back seat that ends in a splat. At least skunks generally only stink up your vehicle instead of causing thousands of dollars of damage.

The poor skunk – not ever high on anyone's list of a creature you want hanging around,

and so often maligned – really is a pretty nifty little creature and quite fun to observe trundling around (from a safe distance of course!)

But rabies! I can hear the cries. While skunks can carry rabies, Illinois Department of Public Health Rabies surveillance data for 2006-20 shows not a single skunk listed.

Yes, folks tend to scurry away from a skunk, and may even be disturbed when they see skunks, but it's important to remember that skunks are an important part of the ecosystem. They help control populations of insects and grubs. As long as they are not approaching people, they do not pose much

Continued on Page 2

Woman dies in collision

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

WEST JERSEY – A fatal crash involving a semi tractor-trailer and a small SUV took the life of a Springfield woman at Illinois Route 78 and the West Jersey Blacktop (Sharkey Highway) at approximately 7 a.m. Monday morning, March 29.

According to the Stark County Sheriff's Office press release, the semi with trailer was headed south bound on Route 78 when an east-bound Toyota RAV 4 traveling on the West Jersey Blacktop collided with the trailer at the intersection. The SUV came to a stop in the ditch south of the intersection approximately 200 feet away.

Jessica P. Recinos, 32, of Spring-

field was driving the RAV 4 and was pronounced deceased at the scene at 7:20 a.m.

The semi-truck driver, John R. Frantzen, 61, of Kewanee, was transported from the scene to St. Luke Hospital, in Kewanee, by the Stark County Ambulance Service. The owner of the semi is Praxair Distribution, Inc. of Ankeny, Iowa.

The Illinois State Police performed a reconstruction of the crash Monday at the request of the Stark County Sheriff's Office. More information will be released as it becomes available. The Stark County Ambulance Service, Toulon Fire Company, Stark County Sheriff's Office and the Illinois State Police responded.

Mock wins FFA award

By The Prairie News

GALVA – David Mock, of Galva, was recently selected as the State FFA Proficiency Winner in Beef Production Placement. David is a member of the Galva FFA Chapter of the Illinois Association FFA.

Illinois FFA recognizes students in 50 different areas based on their work-based learning. FFA members who demonstrate outstanding agricultural skills and competencies through record keeping, leadership, and scholastic achievement may be considered for this award.

David was selected as the State Winner by a committee of agriculture teachers knowledgeable in this work-based area. David is the son of Jim and Miriam Mock.

Receiving this honor now makes

David eligible to compete in the National FFA Awards Selection process in July. David was previously chosen as the chapter, section and district awardee in this area.

David has been involved in the following other agriculture education and FFA activities: competing in Agronomy, Land Use, Forestry, and Vet Science CDE's, Ag Business Management and Public Speaking LDE's, Beef Production Placement, Landscape Placement and Ag Sales Supervised Agricultural experiences and is currently serving as the Galva Chapter FFA Treasurer. Trisha Main is the agriculture teacher and FFA Advisor at Galva Jr/Sr High School.

David will receive plaques for his accomplishments. These plaques are made possible by gifts by individuals, businesses, corporations and organizations through the Illinois Foundation FFA.



Mock

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April 12th - 17th: SHRED WEEK

April 19th - 24th: TEACH KIDS TO SAVE WEEK

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April 26th - 30th: SHOP LOCAL WEEK

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Member FDIC

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Saturday, April 3

Promptly at 10:00 a.m.

4 Age Groups

- K and under
- 1st and 2nd Grades
- 3rd and 4th Grades
- 5th and 6th Grades



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In case of rain, egg hunt will be at Toulon Fire House.



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Data shows decline in hospitality jobs

By **SARAH MANSUR**
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Hospitality jobs in Illinois have declined nearly 52 percent since the pandemic began, according to new data, as lawsuits continue against the governor’s orders to close nonessential businesses.

While leisure and hospitality jobs were hit the hardest, the number of small businesses open in Illinois overall has fallen by about 36.5 percent, as of March 20, compared to last Jan., based on data compiled by Opportunity Insights, a nonprofit group at Harvard University.

Opportunity Insights’ data shows a significant number of closures following the governor’s stay-at-home order. The percentage of small business closures in Illinois was about 5 percent in early March 2020, and reached more than 42

percent on March 29, according to the data.

The decline in Illinois’ small businesses is similar to the national trend for the same time period.

The data also shows that small business revenue overall in Illinois fell by nearly 28 percent from Jan. 2020 to March 20. The amount of total revenue from hospitality and leisure businesses specifically saw a 57.9 percent decrease in that time period.

Nationwide, small businesses overall experienced a 24 percent decrease in revenues.

As the first COVID-19 cases were reported last March, Gov. JB Pritzker issued his first stay at home order March 20, ordering nonessential businesses like restaurants and some retail stores — to close. The order was extended through the end of May, with some

restrictions on in-person dining in bars and restaurants lifted in June.

In mid-May, a group of individuals and businesses sued Pritzker in federal district court in Chicago. They argued Pritzker’s executive orders violated the ‘takings’ clause of the 5th Amendment, and violated their rights to due process.

Last week, a federal judge dismissed the case. Judge Franklin U. Valderrama found the businesses’ claims were barred by the 11th Amendment, which provides general immunity to states from lawsuits by individuals. Because state officials, like Pritzker, who are sued in their official capacities are considered the “state,” Valderrama ruled that Pritzker is protected from the lawsuit’s claims under the 11th Amendment.

SKUNKS: Eat plenty of grubs and insects

Continued from Page 1

of a threat.

Skunks aren’t terribly picky about their habitat. They are frequently found along edges near water sources. Other places you may encounter a skunk include woodlands, along fencerows and in agricultural areas. Let us not forget that the stinky buggers are also quite at home in urban environments, such as parks, bike and walking paths, backyards, cemeteries and golf courses.

Where do they live and den up? Skunks will take up residence in abandoned groundhog, muskrat, fox, or badger burrows in cold weather, and also use stumps, buildings, or rock or brushpiles as den sites.

So look around that woodpile in the spring – it may hold more than firewood!

According to University of Illinois Extension, “In Illinois, skunks are protected as furbearers. In urban areas, skunks that are causing property damage or that pose a public health threat may be removed if an animal removal permit is issued by an IDNR District Wildlife Biologist. Skunk populations are controlled by many factors including the availability of food, water, shelter, and breeding sites. Their numbers are kept in check by predators, hunters and trappers, and motor vehicles.”

That’s all well and good until Fido has a stinky experience with



Willie squares off with a skunk. Photo by Gretchen Steele.

the skunk that just trundled across your path. I’m not sure there’s much worse than a dog dripping skunk spray, especially if you have to put said smelly canine in your vehicle or share a campsite with them.

Here’s a tried-and-true recipe for de-skunking your pet, or your person. Please note, it does contain peroxide, so it can have a slight bleaching effect on fur, hair and clothing.

Mix one quart of 3 percent hydrogen peroxide solution, one-quarter cup baking soda and one teaspoon liquid soap. Do not add water. Just use this as you would shampoo, soap, or in the laundry.

This time of year, when my old Willie dog and I are out hunting mushrooms and collecting spring

plants, (since I seem to have a dog that is sure any skunk is his next best friend) I carry a smaller bottle of the solution in the Dog First Aid kit. A quick lather up of Willie and rinse off in a creek, pond, or at a water hydrant can make the trip home infinitely better.

Here’s hoping you don’t have a stinky encounter. If you do, get the spray off skin, pets and clothing as soon as possible. Skunks generally aren’t aggressive and only spray if they feel threatened. So just give them a little room and let them trundle off on their merry way and all should be well as they grub and root along clearing out lots of pests and insects.

“Dead skunk in the middle of the road, stinkin’ to high heaven, take a whiff on me, that ain’t no rose.”

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations and Ordinance violations

- 3-20-21 – David D. DeWolfe - Driving on a suspended license and improper passing in a no pass zone.
- 3-27-21 – Natasha S. Dearing - Driving 11-14 mph above limit.
- 3-27-21 – Gary W. Bradley - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.
- 3-28-21 – Dennis C. Reiter, Jr. - Improper passing in a no pass zone.
- 3-24-21 – Kevin J. Spicer - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.



Felonies & Misdemeanors

- 2-28-21 – Criminal misdemeanor - Kenneth Gurnsey - Violation of an order of protection.
- 3-7-21 – Criminal misdemeanor - Kenneth Gurnsey - Violation of an order of protection.
- 3-20-21 – Criminal felony - Cassel O. Taylor - Home invasion/cause injury, domestic battery, criminal trespass to a residence and battery.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

- 3-20-21 – A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Route 78 approximately a half mile north of 400N. The driver involved was identified as Andrew J. Newman, 41, of Pekin. The driver was traveling south when a deer hit the front and side of the 2015 Chevy Silverado pickup truck on the driver's side, which caused the airbags to deploy. No injuries were reported, but the vehicle sustained over \$1,500 in damages.
- 3-20-21 – Colton J. Potter, 29, Wyoming, was arrested for domestic battery. He was also found wanted on a Henry County warrant. He was later released with a notice to appear in court.
- 3-26-21 – Lucas R. Berg, 23, Wyoming, was arrested for improper vehicle lighting with only one headlight, driving while his license was suspended, and for operating an uninsured vehicle. He posted \$250 cash bond and was released with a court date to appear.
- 3-27-21 – Steven L. Ewing, of rural LaFayette reported a break-in at his rural property. The incident remains under investigation.
- 3-28-21 – An employee at the Toulon Tap reported property damage following a disturbance at the business.

Galva Report

- Officer dispatched:**
- 3-22-21 – to the 500 block of NW 1st Street for an attempted unemployment scam by telephone.
- 3-22 – to the 500 block of SW 3rd Street for a 911 hangup call. It was determined to be a juvenile playing with a phone.
- 3-23 – to the 900 block of SE 6th Street in reference to a 911 call that

- plotted in this area. There were no emergencies found and it was believed to be plotting at the cell phone tower nearby.
- 3-23 – to speak with a subject about retrieving items being held in the Galva evidence room after their case was disposed of.
- 3-23 – to a residence on SE 2nd Ave. to check the welfare of a resident. They were fine.
- 3-23 – to the intersection of SE 4th Street and SE 4th Ave. for a stop sign and post that were knocked down by an unknown vehicle. The Street Department was advised.
- 3-23 – to the east side of town for a reckless driving complaint that occurred between Kewanee and Galva. Officer was not able to locate the suspect vehicle.
- 3-23 – along with Stark County Medic to a Galva residence for a medical emergency involving possible withdrawals.
- 3-23 – to the 500 block of SE 2nd Street for a loose dog complaint. The owner was notified and picked up the dog.
- 3-23 – to the intersection of Wallace Street and SW 2nd Street to retrieve items that apparently fell off an unknown vehicle.
- 3-24 – to check on a suspicious vehicle in the 100 block of SE 6th Street. A subject was sleeping in the car and was asked to move along.
- 3-24 – to assist Henry County with a car vs. deer collision several miles north of town.
- 3-24 – to the 1300 block of SE 2nd Street for a trespassing complaint. As a result, Susan Wyant, 69, Galva, was issued a notice to appear for criminal trespass to real property.
- 3-24 – to the area of James B. Young Road and North Center Ave. for a loose dog complaint. Officer checked the area but was unable to locate.
- 3-24 – to the 100 block of Market Street for counterfeit currency that was tendered as payment.
- 3-25 – to the 400 block of SW 5th Ave. to assist a citizen who had questions about an IP address.
- 3-25 – to meet with a parent at Wiley Park about an ongoing bullying complaint that had been occurring.
- 3-25 – to the 300 block of SE 1st Street in reference to a landlord/tenant dispute.

- 3-25 – to check on a subject who was overdue to return home after work in Galva. The subject was located and was fine.
- 3-26 – to the 800 block of NE 3rd Street for an aggressive, loose dog. The dog returned home.
- 3-26 – along with the Fire Department and Stark County Medic to a house fire in the 500 block of NE 1st Street.
- 3-26 – to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. to remove an unwanted subject.
- 3-27 – to a residence on NW 3rd Ave. for a welfare check. A resident had apparently rolled over onto their phone and sent out an emergency signal. They were fine.
- 3-27 – to the 00 block of SW 2nd Street for a motorist assist involving a subject who locked themselves out of their car. Tarleton's Service Inc. also responded and was able to get in.
- 3-27 – to assist Knox County with a single vehicle rollover accident on North Knox Road and East Knox Road, southeast of town.
- 3-28 – to the west end of town for a reckless driving complaint that had occurred on Route 34.
- 3-28 – to check on a piece of rubber roofing that had blown off a roof in the 300 block of Front Street and was lying on several power wires. Ameren was notified about the situation.
- 3-24 – Ron Bombliss, 62, Galva, was issued citations for not having functioning taillights and for not having a rear bumper in the 600 block of SE 2nd Street.

Property Transfers

- 3-22-21 – Sheriff of Stark County to Wesley Schott - Original Town of Toulon - Pt 3 lots 8 & 9 - 200 N. Washington Street, Toulon - Consideration = \$0.00.
- 3-22-21 – Christine A. and Jeffrey P. Appenheimer to Christine A. and Jeffrey P. Appenheimer - Pts 23-13-6 SE - 10637 Grain Bin Road, Wyoming - Consideration = \$0.00.
- 3-22-21 – Sheriff of Stark County to Community Loan Servicing, LLC - Sect 19-13-6 SW - 319 W. Jefferson Street, Toulon. Consideration = \$0.00.
- 3-22-21 – Sheriff of Stark County to BankUnited NA - Pts 24-13-5 SE - 201 Oak Ridge Road, Toulon. - Consideration = \$0.00.
- 3-26-21 – Phyllis A. and Scotty L. Menold to Jeffrey L. Potter - Pts 30-12-7 NW - 12413 South Valley Road, Princeville.
- 3-26-21 – Kimble Family limited Partnership to Myron and Wilma Oen, Trustees - Pt 10-14-7 NE, Pt 10-14-7 SE, Pt 14-14-7 NW, and Pt 15-14-7 NE - Consideration = \$2,295,000.00.

Marriages

- 3-25-21 – Paul Curtis Adams, Toulon, and Carrie Ann Richardson, Toulon.

NOTICE

City of Wyoming is accepting applications for **Summertime Helpers** in the **Public Works Department**.
 Must be 18 years of age with a valid Driver's License.
 Responsibilities will include performing manual labor activities and a variety of construction and maintenance as needed and/or required by the Superintendent.
 Please pick up an application at **Wyoming City Hall located at 108 E. Williams Street**.
Hours are Monday - Friday 7:30 to noon and 12:30 until 4:00 p.m.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

— Super Crossword —

Answers

E	M	I	R	S	H	A	T	P	E	G	G	A	R	B	G	A	H						
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— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

CryptoQuote
 answer

The path to my fixed purpose is laid with iron rails, whereon my soul is grooved to run.

— Herman Melville

Notice to Stark County Voters

Early voting for the 2021 Consolidated Election begins February 25th and ends April 5th at the office of the Stark County Clerk 130 W. Main, Toulon. Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:30-4:30. In addition, the office will be open Saturday, April 3rd from 9-12 p.m. for early voting.

Heather L. Hollis
 Stark County Election Authority

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The Prairie News

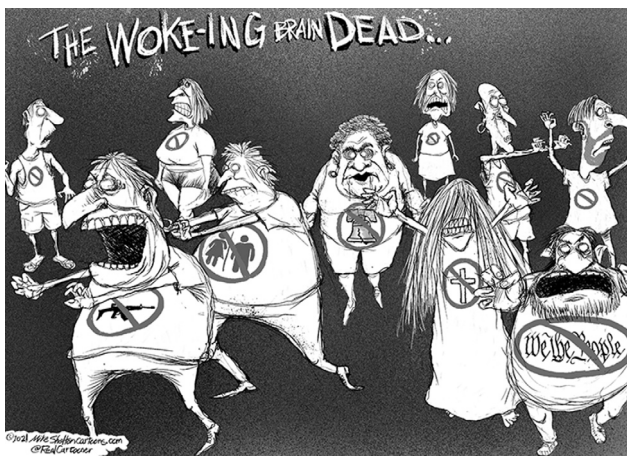
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GUEST VOICES



Of lost numbers, a stolen sign & Godzilla

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering the problems of the U.S. postal service.

Quick. Tell me the phone number of your children. Girlfriend? Me too. No idea. Once upon a time, I could rattle off phone numbers like a ticker tape. If a girl gave me a number, I memorized it, quick, (since it only happened once). Not any more. Everything is stored in the little computers we carry. What happens when the computer falls in the lake? Panic, unless you back the info up to some "cloud," which costs extra. Meanwhile, phone numbers from my best friends in high school still jangle through my head. And Dad has had the same number for 50 years, so that helps. But try to find a number for someone these days. There's no



Jeff LAMPE

phone book worth reading. Nope, overall, we have become too reliant on another form of "communication" technology that, in the end, only isolates us even more from others.

There's a \$100 reward for anyone with information leading to an arrest in the case of **Bob Tannock's** missing **Donald Trump** sign. Tannock, an Elmwood electrician, said the sign was stolen from his home on Saturday. Call him at (309) 303-2412. ... Princeville reporter **Collin Fairfield** says his former Princes classmate **Curly Smith** survived a second brush with a violent tornado. Smith was in Washington when that city was battered in 2013 and now lives in Newnan, Ga., hit by an EF4 twister last Friday. ... While searching for my cell phone recently, I heard giggling in the other room. There was the youngest boy, laughing as he peered at my missing phone. He was watching the original 1963 **Godzilla** vs. **King Kong** movie, the one where "scientists" use yellow balloons to

float Kong out to Mount Fuji to fight Godzilla. I never liked that one, but not because it was embarrassingly bad, as it seems now. What bothered me was the implausibility of Kong beating Godzilla. Radioactive dinosaur? Sure, that's believable. Giant gorilla beating up that monster? No way. ... So it is with skepticism that the boy and I will go see the latest Kong vs. Godzilla on the big screen at Elmwood's Palace Theatre. They better get it right this time.

Parting shot: My wife and I are in it for the long haul, but sometimes we look at each other and think, "Oh boy." Like when she left a piece of glass off the front porch light. See, she doesn't like that light to be on at night. I do. With the glass gone, sparrows built a nest in the fixture and now I can't turn the light on, for fear of burning the house down. And I can't remove the nest, because the sparrows are some of my best friends. Devious, she is.

Contact Jeff Lampe at (309) 231-6040 or jeff@wklypost.com

Birthday thoughts and the power of Zest

Time for more complaining. I'm not the only one, I know, but I have seen so many "Law & Order Special Victim Unit" reruns that Mariska and I are On a "Mar" and "Mar" name basis.

And in all the rerun basketball games the boys (men) are wearing short shorts and showing their talent and their legs (for shame!).

Coming up in March many of the former stars have evidently been reborn as they are once again starring in a series (wish I knew their secret).

This important information that follows is inconsequential to 99.9 percent of readers but to the .1 percent who might be interested: I read somewhere that putting a bar of soap in between your bed sheets would help leg aches disappear at nights. So, I put a bar of Zest in my bed. Rick asked if I even had leg

aches - I said not since I was much younger - however I have had no leg aches, lions, tigers or bears either in my bed. Who knows the power of Zest? The Shadow knows!

My family, Rick and Gina Barto, Randy and Sharon McCullough, Dianne and Dennie Packee, Lori McCullough and Chris Cozad all took me for a lunch at Cernos and we had lots of laughs with many tales being told. On the way out we ran into old friends Vick and Darrel Lambert from Bradford. As we parted, my March birthday was discussed and I have started receiving wishes and surprises.

Recently, I received a birthday virtual visit from "Murtaugh" from The Outlander on the computer via Lori and Chris. Needless to say, I was shocked and thrilled. I have replayed the video umpteen times. Dianne and Dennie prepaid for a permanent in a March. Randy and Sharon sent Estee Lauder products that I couldn't find locally. Rick and Gina brought me a humongous box of Hershey candy for Valentine's

Day - also a humongous Valentine card. I guess the size covers both holidays. Besides they are all taking this old woman out to lunch and right before her second Covid shot. Happy Birthday!

The day before my birthday I had a really crappy day:

1. Starting with catching my wheelchair on a light cord and crashing a table lamp so hard the shade bounced into another room.
 2. Dropping a 32-ounce can of tomato sauce all over the floor, stove, kitchen cabinet and chair, garbage can and me! No spaghetti tonight.
 3. Removed foot stirrups from wheelchair and thus ran over both feet with wheels leaving 3 blackened toes and 1 dramatically shortened large toenail.
 4. Lost what I had typed for this article and had to retype and worse-rethink and remember!
- Let's hope tomorrow brings no more problems.

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GUEST VOICES

Ethanol maker exemplifies big ag problems

On March 1, Nebraska's attorney general threw the book at AltEn, alleging the 24-million-gallon-per-year ethanol maker near Mead spent most of the last five years making an environmental mess of its bio-fuels plant and the surrounding rural community.

In a 97-page civil complaint, the state detailed 18 "causes of action" against AltEn ranging from "operating a solid waste management facility" – AltEn now is "storing" an estimated "84,000 tons of distiller's grain onsite" that contain "elevated concentrations of pesticides" – to "discharge of a pollutant into waters of the state without a permit."



Alan GUEBERT

As explained here last month, the allegations stem from AltEn's unique ethanol business: in a sales pitch to potential customers last summer it explained that it was "processing 600,000 to 900,000 pounds of treated seed into ethanol daily," according to the Lincoln (Neb.) Journal Star.

That ethanol feedstock – treated agricultural seed instead the usual farm-raised corn – "created tens of thousands of tons of pesticide-contaminated byproduct" that the plant tried to rid itself of in, what the state now alleges, manners both legal and illegal.

The state's lengthy, date-filled complaint also serves a second, if unintended, function: it documents just how neglectful Nebraska regulatory officials were in their duty to protect citizens and natural resources from the type of calamity

now hitting AltEn's rural neighbors.

For example, according to the complaint, on "February 14, 2013, AltEn stated 'Grain (mainly corn) will continue to be the primary raw material and the facility will keep the ability to produce wet distiller's grain and solubles... for animal feed'"

Two paragraphs later, however, the state confesses it "discovered in 2015 that AltEn was using discarded seed corn that had been treated with pesticides as its feedstock ... however, [it] did not know until 2018 that the byproducts from AltEn's ethanol production could contain measurable residues of pesticides."

Even after what turned out to be a deadly, three-year lag to connect the environmental dots, the state still didn't act until May 2019 when the state's Department of Agriculture, reported the Journal Star, ordered AltEn to "cease applying the solid byproduct" of the treated seed as "a soil conditioner."

Simultaneously, the state "issued the company a notice of violation that it was operating a solid waste management facility" – by storing the now-unusable ethanol byproduct – "without a permit."

And yet the plant continued to operate even, according to the complaint, as AltEn officials did little to comply to state demands that it address growing problems with nearly every system in the Mead facility – growing piles of tainted byproducts, excessive wastewater drainage, leaking lagoons and incomplete records.

Equally remarkable, the complaint doesn't explain who AltEn is and, therefore, whom the state of Nebraska is charging with 18 different "causes of action." It does note

that "Defendant AltEn, LLC, is a Kansas limited liability company" and "is registered as a foreign limited liability company in Nebraska."

Also, while the complaint lists the amount of civil fines (many are \$10,000 per day) AltEn could be liable for, it doesn't explain how the fines might be assessed or when they begin.

Equally important to many in the surrounding community is who will pay cleanup costs if the owners of AltEn declare bankruptcy and walk away from the troubled plant.

Al Davis, a rancher, former Nebraska state senator, and now a lobbyist for the Sierra Club hears that question whenever the name AltEn comes up in conversation.

"It's absolutely criminal what's happened in Mead," he said in a March 22 telephone interview. "People have been complaining about the plant since 2017 and nothing was done."

The state confirms that fact, too: almost half of the 80 or so AltEn visits by state environmental inspectors since 2015 occurred in January and February 2021.

All of which seem to point to a growing, implied understanding between most state governments and Big Agbiz: If we rarely check to see if the cows are still in the barn, don't worry about fixing the barn door.

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Parrott appointed to ICBA Education Committee

TOULON – The Independent Community Bankers of America (ICBA) announce that local community banker Douglas E. Parrott, President/CEO of State Bank of Toulon, will serve on ICBA’s Education Committee. ICBA is a voice for community banks.

“I am honored to represent our industry and share my experiences as a community banker and civic leader to help ICBA communicate the positive story of community

banking,” Parrott said. “Community banks are trusted relationship-based lenders, invested in the success of their customers and the economic prosperity of their community.”

In addition to helping shape and advocate ICBA’s national policy positions and programs, Parrott’s duties include engaging in grassroots activities in Illinois to promote pro-community bank policies and serving as a liaison between community banks and ICBA staff and leadership

in Washington, D.C.

“Parrott is a dedicated community banker who is highly respected in his community and by his industry peers,” ICBA Chairman Robert M. Fisher said. “We are delighted Doug has accepted this appointment and generously volunteered his time and professional talents in pursuit of creating an environment where community banks, and the communities they serve, continue to flourish.”

BRIEFS

Health departments offer second vaccine dose

The Henry and Stark County Health Department and the Henry County Office of Emergency have opened registration for an April 7, second-dose only COVID-19 Drive Thru Vaccine Clinic.

Those eligible to participate are individuals who have received their first doses of COVID-19 vaccine from previous Henry and Stark County Health Department and OEM clinics. This registration and these clinics are only for those seeking their second COVID-19 shot. People should always get their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine from the same provider that gave them their first dose to guarantee they are getting the same vaccine.

Participants should schedule second doses at clinics which are being held 28-42 days after administration of the first dose.”

To reserve your second dose for the April 7 Drive-Thru Clinic, the Health Department and OEM ask people to go to henrystarkhealth.com and complete an online, second dose only, “COVID-19 Vaccine Clinic Registration Form.”

Aging agency sponsors Wyoming ‘coffee clutch’

WYOMING – The Central Illinois Agency on Aging is planning a new activity for Senior Citizens in Stark



Rep. Cheri Bustos (D-Rock Island) visited the Henry and Stark County Health Department on March 24 and spent time at a Drive Thru COVID vaccination site at Black Hawk College East.

County. On Monday, April 12, an opportunity for socialization will be available at the Paramount Theatre in Wyoming.

The event is called a Coffee Clutch and will provide a venue for gathering, various activities and refreshments, including coffee, games, prizes and – of course – time for conversation. There is no cost. The time is from 10 a.m. to noon.

Seniors of Stark County are encouraged to take advantage of this event. The Agency is interested in extending its services to rural areas.

Since many meal sites are still shut down, this event will provide an opportunity for the public to come together. All regulations as

proscribed by the State Agency will be enforced. Masks and social distancing will be required.

College honors

McKinna Molln, of Toulon was named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester of 2020-21 at Illinois Wesleyan University. Molln is a senior majoring in nursing.

Bishop Hill hosts volunteer fair

Bishop Hill will host a volunteer fair on April 10, from 1-3 p.m. Participants are invited to join with representatives from five organizations to learn more about volunteer opportunities in historic Bishop Hill.


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Historical Society breaks ground on addition

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Stark County Illinois Historical Society recently celebrated the groundbreaking of a new addition to its historical society museum in Toulon.

By popular vote, a new logo has also been created for the SCIHS. The new design celebrates the county's historical agricultural heritage. New members to the group are always welcome. Memberships are available for \$50 per year or \$250 for a lifetime membership.



Pictured during a recent Stark County Illinois Historical Society groundbreaking are, Front Row (left to right): Julie Kenney, Jeanne Ryan, Sam Rice, Karen Krans, County Board Members Kari Bush, Tom House, Tim McMillen, Al Curry and Karmella Reining. Second Row (l to r): Greg Moutoux, Carol Rice, Michele Hendrick, Angie Day, Don Schmidt, Michael Baumann, and Jim and Diana Winslow.

The SCIHS would like to send a special thank you to Bob Wilkinson, Carl Ryan, Addison Ryan and

Glen Filley for picking up donations from Midwest Ag Museum. SCIHS meets the 4th Monday of

every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Toulon Public Library. The public is welcome.

Bradford to host morel mushroom auction

By ANGIE STANGE

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – Bradford will be host for the Annual Morel Mushroom Festival and Auction on Saturday May 8.

Organizer Duke Frisby approached the Bradford Village Board about the possibility of hosting the event. The festival has been held in various locations throughout Stark County, however, this is the first time that Bradford will be hosting.

Flyers have been posted and are circulating throughout the area concerning the upcoming event. Rain or shine, the event will take place at Elsie Hodges Park in Bradford.

Attendees are asked to follow CDC recommen-



Brian Mallery displays his hard-found mushrooms during the 2017 Morel Mushroom Auction.

dations. Activities will begin at 9 a.m. with the Morel Mushroom Auction at 2 p.m.

Those wishing to have a booth are to contact Wendy Moodie at (309) 238-0200, Angie Courtway (309) 370-5041 or John Cler at (309) 238-1555.

The cost of a 10x10 space is \$25 in advance or

\$30 on the day of the event. The vendor space payments are nonrefundable and checks are to be made out to the Village of Bradford.

Vendors are not allowed to sell morels at their booths. Additional flyers and information are available at Bradford Village Hall. Auctioneer, Duke Frisby, can be contacted at

(309) 883-3057 or at dukefrisby@hotmail.com.

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Assault weapons ban reaches top state court

By SARAH MANSUR

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Legal challenges against a ban on assault weapons in suburban Deerfield have reached the state’s highest court.

Guns Save Life Inc., the Second Amendment Foundation and Illinois State Rifle Association sued Deerfield shortly after the village amended its assault weapon ordinances in June 2018 to ban the civilian use of assault weapons and large capacity magazines.

The groups argued that the ban violated amendments to the Concealed Carry Act and FOID Card Act that govern the processes for certain municipalities to impose limits on gun ownership beyond state laws.

When state lawmakers amended the FOID Card Act in 2013, they added a provision that allowed municipalities with a population of at least 25,000 to adopt stricter gun laws if the municipality passed an ordinance regulating gun ownership within 10 days of the law becoming effective on July 9, 2013.

Deerfield passed a new ordinance on July 1, 2013, that regulated the storage and transportation of assault weapons.

The gun rights groups maintained the amendments to the FOID Card Act should be interpreted as preempting the authority of local municipalities to pass gun ordinances that are more restrictive than state laws.

The judge hearing the cases consolidated the lawsuits.

In 2019, the Lake County trial judge ruled in favor of the gun rights groups by finding that the FOID Card Act amendment in 2013 intended to create a 10-day window for municipalities to “ban ownership or possession of assault weapons,” the judge found.

Since Deerfield only passed an ordinance in 2013 to regulate the storage and transportation of assault weapons, the village “lost its opportunity to do” the judge ruled.

The ruling permanently blocked Deerfield from enforcing its assault weapon and large capacity magazine ban.

Deerfield appealed this decision to the 2nd District Appellate Court.

In Dec. 2020, a majority of the appellate court reversed the trial judge’s decision and found Deerfield’s assault weapon ban did not violate the FOID Card Act.

The majority decided that, in amending the FOID Card Act in 2013, “the legislature created a hybrid balance of regulatory power between the State and local governments,” where certain municipalities could “concurrently regulate assault weapons and others would not,” the appellate court’s 43-page opinion states.

“Deerfield preserved its power to regulate assault weapons concurrently with the State when it enacted its 2013 ordinance. The legislature explicitly declared that [municipalities with at least 25,000

residents] that preserved their power to regulate assault weapons concurrently with the State could amend their ordinances,” the opinion states. “Because Deerfield had the power to regulate assault weapons concurrently with the State, it was Deerfield’s prerogative to ban such weapons, and there were no time limitations for doing so.”

In order to show the General Assembly’s intent, the appellate court’s opinion includes a question that then-state Sen. Kwame Raoul asked of the bill’s sponsor, “Can a municipality or home rule unit that has enacted a regulation or ordinance either before or within ten days of the effective date that regulates assault weapons amend that regulation or ordinance in the future?”

To the question, the bill’s sponsor responded, “Yes.”

The appellate court also ruled that the village’s ban on large capacity magazines, to the extent it regulated handgun ammunition, violated the FOID Card Act.

The gun rights groups filed a petition with the Illinois Supreme Court that asked the court to hear their case.

Last week, the Supreme Court accepted the consolidated cases, which are appealing the appellate court ruling from December 2020.

Officials from the village of Deerfield did not respond to a request for comment.

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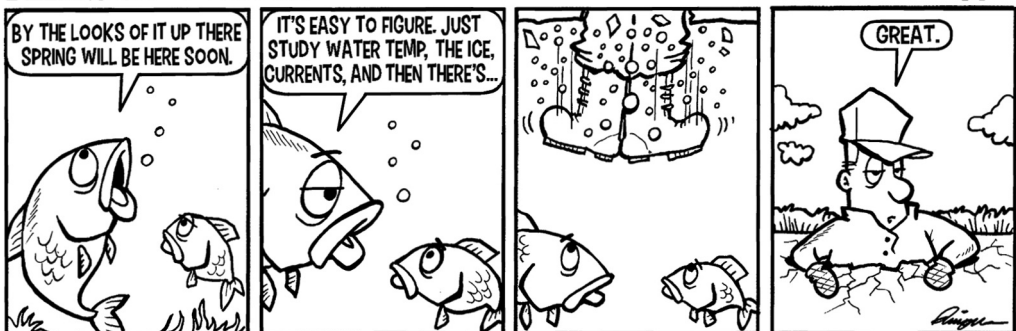
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EASTER/RESURRECTION
SUNDAY

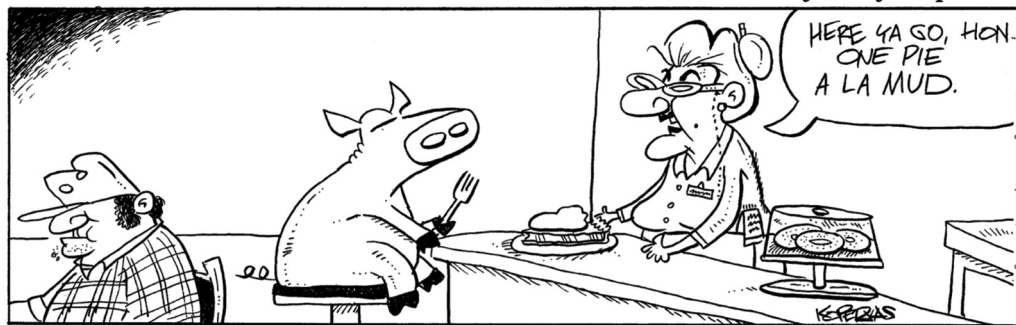
- Sunrise Service @ 7 a.m.
- (Light) Breakfast @ 8 a.m.
- Sunday School @ 9:15 a.m.
- Worship Service @ 10:30 a.m.

Amber Waves



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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ANSWERS ON PAGE 3

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
 is **LONGFELLOW**

One letter stands for another. In this sample, **A** is used for the three L's, **X** for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

GN PORZC ZGM RGMTOEGP
 YNFTUR BZG RYRO IR LOECCRG
 NG CXR VFRZ, CXNTPX UZGA
 CXROR IR LXN XZYR COERM EC.
 — XROUZG URFYEFFR

? Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: The poem "O Captain! My Captain!" was written after the death of which president?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the weight of a U.S. quarter?
3. MOVIES: What was the name of the skyscraper in the drama "Die Hard"?
4. TELEVISION: What city was the setting for the sitcom "Mork and Mindy"?
5. SCIENCE: What is the study of knowledge, reality and existence called?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are male blue crabs called?
7. GEOGRAPHY: What is the highest point in Japan?
8. FOOD & DRINK: The acai berry is native to which continent?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the "Winnie-the-Pooh" book series for children?
10. MEASUREMENTS: What is an angstrom?

- Answers**
1. Abraham Lincoln
 2. 0.2 ounces
 3. Nakatomi Plaza
 4. Boulder, Colorado
 5. Philosophy
 6. Jimmies
 7. Mount Fuji
 8. South America
 9. A.A. Milne
 10. One ten-billionth of a meter, used to measure very small distances
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TOP 10

- ### VIDEOS ON DEMAND
1. Raya and the Last Dragon (PG)
 2. Tom & Jerry (PG)
 3. Chaos Walking (PG-13)
 4. Boogie (R)
 5. The Croods: A New Age (PG)
 6. Jathi Ratnalu (NR)
 7. The Marksman (PG-13)
 8. The Father (PG-13)
 9. The Little Things (R)
 10. Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13)
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OBITUARIES

Katherine F. Clague

KEWANEE – Katherine F. “Kate” Clague, 80, of Kewanee, died March 25, 2021, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Funeral services were March 30 at Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee.

She was born March 18, 1941, in Kewanee, the daughter of Donald Harry and Dorothy (Simmons) Clague. Kate graduated from LaFayette High School.

Survivors include her children; Lisa (Mark) Washburn of Kewanee, John (Stacey) Morrell of Erie, Amy (Howard) Ross of Ames, Iowa, Brad (Jennifer) DeWolfe of Oneida, Elizabeth DeWolfe of Arlington Heights, Sherri (Paul) Lee of Florida, Tammy DeWolfe (Sherri Tonish) of Colorado and Rick (Sem Phal) DeWolfe of Colorado, a brother, Bill (Chris) Clague of Kewanee, three sisters; Charlotte Chamberlain of Toulon, Virginia Cameron of Abingdon and Ada (Randy) Orwig of Galesburg, 26 grandchildren and several great grandchildren.

Joseph F. Fleitz, III

WYOMING – Joseph Francis Fleitz, III, 73, of Wyoming, formerly of Lacon, passed away at 10 a.m. Monday, March 29, 2021, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

Joseph was born Aug. 21, 1947, to Joseph Francis, Jr. and Helen Mae (Shepherd) Fleitz. He married Kathleen Ann Holland on Dec. 19, 1992 in Wyoming. He was preceded in death by his sister, Mary Fleitz; and both parents.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen of Wyoming; two sons, Joseph “Jay”

Fleitz, IV of Temple Terrace, Fla. and Matthew Thomas Holland-Fleitz of Dunlap; six grandchildren, Gresham, Bronwyn, Quinlan, Emilia, River and Noah; one sister, Veronica Detrick of Mays Landing, New Jersey; and three brothers, John Fleitz of Lilburn, Georgia, Thomas Fleitz of Dover, Del., and Louis Fleitz of England.

Joseph was a U.S. Air Force veteran. He worked at the U.S. Air Force in administration and personnel for 26.5 years, and retired as captain. He was an avid movie watcher, who enjoyed trivia and history.

There are no public services at this time. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Unity Point Health Home Care or OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home.

Condolences can be left online at haskellfuneral.com.

E. Suzanne McGovern

TOULON – E. Suzanne “Sue” McGovern, 81, of Toulon, mother of a Galva woman, died March 29, 2021, in OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

She was born Nov. 1, 1939, in Galesburg, the daughter of Raymond A. and Gladys I. (Pallister) Marvel. She married James Joseph McGovern on Oct. 3, 1959, in Galesburg. He preceded her in death Sept. 17, 2006 after nearly 47 years of marriage.

She is survived by seven children, Ann (Mark) Pedersen of Wheaton,

Julia Stone of Peoria, Rita Burrows of Galva, Janet (Robert) Stoffel of Indianapolis, Ind., Patrick McGovern of Ashford, Ala., Mark McGovern of Galesburg, and James (Sandra) McGovern Jr. of Ishpeming, Mich.; and six grandchildren. In addition to her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents.

Sue was raised and educated in Galesburg, where she was a member of the First United Methodist Church and graduated from Galesburg High School in 1957. She then attended Western Illinois University for one year and graduated from the American Institute of Commerce in Davenport, Iowa in 1959. Sue had lived in Galesburg, rural Maquon and Elmwood.

She held various work positions, including at Uniform-ly Perfect in Peoria. Sue enjoyed collecting antiques.

Visitation will be 1-2 p.m. Friday, April 2, 2021, at Hinchliff-Pearson-West Funeral Directors and Cremation Services Galesburg Chapel. A funeral service will follow at 2 p.m., with Rev. Vince Rohn officiating. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. Due to guidelines associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, social distancing and facemasks will be required with limited occupancy.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Spoon River Valley Scenic Drive, P.O. Box 525, Canton, IL 61520 or OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home, 8630 N. Illinois Route 91, Peoria, IL 61615. Online condolences may be made at www.h-p-w.com.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Toulon United Methodist Church

Rev. Leon D. Pomeroy
229 W. Main St., Toulon
PO Box 538
(812) 698-9294
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m., All Ages.
Sunday. Worship: 10:30 am
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Toulon United Methodist Church

Elmira United Presbyterian Church

Rev. Art Blegen
7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483
(309) 896-3481
Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.
<https://www.facebook.com/Elmirachurch1852>

The Gathering Church

Location: The Ely Barn
2403 Township Rd. 100 N., Toulon, IL 61483
40°59'24" N 89°56'20"W
Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.
Mail: PO Box 322
Wyoming, IL 61491
info@thegathering.life
<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

Guest Speaker
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon
309-286-7340 Leave Message.
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. in-person or
watch us live at <https://facebook.com/fcttoulon>

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Josh Ryner
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434
(309) 932-3733
Service Time 10 a.m.

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Congratulations
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on completing the National Registry Exam for Emergency Medical Technician and getting a job with Stark County Ambulance Service. Allysa is the daughter of Renee Wagner and granddaughter of Marie Webber of Bradford.
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Beyond the expected

Troop 150 & Pack 150 of Toulon & Pack 142 of Wyoming will be conducting their annual Scouting for Food
in Toulon
Saturday, April 10
9 a.m. to Noon
Non-perishable foods, paper products, etc. will be collected for the Stark County Food Pantry. If contactless pickup is desired, please leave non-perishable items in a bag outside of your door.

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EASTER CHURCH SERVICE
Sunday, April 4th - 9 AM

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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF PATSY J. HOCKENBURY, Deceased, No. 2021P3 WILL NOTICE AND CLAIM NOTICE-INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION Notice is given of the death of PATSY J. HOCKENBURY, who died January 23, 2021. Letters of office were issued on March 5, 2021, to CRYSTAL D. OUART of 220 W. 13th Street, Kewanee, Illinois 61443, as independent representative, whose attorneys are Michael Evans Law Offices, 101 West Williams Street, P.O. Box 186, Wyoming, Illinois 61491. Notice is given to all interested parties who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on March 5, 2021, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in section 6-21 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under section 8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate. Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court, Probate Division, Stark County Courthouse, 130 W. Main Street, Toulon, Illinois 61483, or with the representative, or both, on or before (a) September 16, 2021, or 6 months from the first

date of publication, whichever date is later, or (b) if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by the provisions of Section 18-3 of the Probate Act, as amended, then the date stated in that notice, whichever date is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date or dates is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the Representative AND to the Attorneys within 10 days after it has been filed. The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under § 28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk of the court. You may obtain a copy of a form of a petition to terminate independent administration from the clerk of the court at the above address or from the attorneys at the address below. E-filing is not mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/serviceproviders.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/g/ethelp.asp. Dated this 16th day of March, 2021. MICHAEL EVANS LAW OFFICES Attorneys for the Independent Executor 101 West Williams Street, P.O. Box 186 Wyoming, Illinois 61491 Tel: (309) 397-2907 Email: mevans@melawgroup.com Published 3/26, 4/2, 4/9/21

*** IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of WILLIAM H. SWATOS, JR., Deceased - No. 2021-P-41 Notice is given of the death of WILLIAM H. SWATOS, JR. Letters of Independent Executor were issued on March 5, 2021 to Giles S. Swatos, of 9116 Cypresswood Circle, Tampa, FL 33647, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Jordan J. Newell, Massie & Quick, 115 NW 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Henry County Circuit Clerk, Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed with that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed. Massie & Quick, LLC Attorneys for the Estate 115 West Northwest Third Avenue Galva IL 61434 Telephone: (309) 932-2168 Published 3/19, 3/26, 4/2/21 *** IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS Estate of ROSEMARY A. ENTAS., Deceased - No. 2021-P-10 Notice is given of the death of ROSEMARY A. ENTAS. Letters of Independent Executor were issued on January 13, 2021, to Thomas Entas, of 6265 E 2370 St., Kewanee, IL 61443, Elizabeth Bisschop, of 8775 E 2700 St., Kewanee, IL 61443, Charles Entas, of 6908 E 2000 St., Kewanee, IL 61443 and Ann Stodgel, of 217

NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434 as Independent Co-Executors, whose attorney is Michael E. Massie, of Massie & Quick, 115 NW 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Henry County Circuit Clerk, Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed with that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed. Massie & Quick, LLC Attorneys for the Estate 115 West Northwest Third Avenue Galva IL 61434 Telephone: (309) 932-2168 Published 3/19, 3/26, 4/2/21 *** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LYNN TOWNSHIP BUDGET NOTICE is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Township of LYNN, in the County of Knox, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at LYNN TOWN HALL, 2727 Illinois Route 17, Galva, Lynn Township, Knox County, Illinois, from and after 9:00 A. M., the 11th day of April, 2021. NOTICE is further hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:30 P. M., the 11th day of May, 2021, at the LYNN TOWN HALL, in Lynn Township, Knox County, Illinois, and that final action on this Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at the

meeting to be held following the Hearing. DATED this 9th day of March, 2021. TIM THULINE, Lynn Township Clerk Published 4/2/21 *** NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON LYNN TOWNSHIP BUDGET NOTICE is hereby given that a tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Road Purposes of the Township of LYNN, in the County of Knox, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2021 and ending March 31, 2022, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection LYNN TOWN HALL, 2727 Illinois Route 17, Galva, Lynn Township, Knox County, Illinois, from and after 9:00 A. M., the 11th day of April, 2021. NOTICE is further hereby given that a PUBLIC HEARING on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinance will be held at 7:40 P. M., the 11th day of May, 2021, at the LYNN TOWN HALL, in Lynn Township, Knox County, Illinois, and that final action on this Ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at the Public Hearing. DATED this 9th day of March, 2021. TIM THULINE, Lynn Township Clerk Published 4/2/21 *** ANNUAL TOWN MEETING Notice is hereby given to the legal residents of the Town of Essex in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7 o'clock p.m.

on said day at Essex Township Building and a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting, and especially to consider and decide the following general business. Dated at Essex Township, this 2nd day of April, 2021. Philip Daum, Town Clerk Published 4/2/21 *** ELECTION NOTICE Notice is hereby given that a meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at the Bradford Public Library, 111 South Peoria Street, Bradford, IL 61421. The purpose is to elect one individual to serve on the Board of Directors for Tri-County Opportunities Council, a Community Action Agency, in representation of those experiencing low-income in the Stark County service area. At this time, Stark County will elect one (1) representative. To be eligible to vote in this caucus election the voter must be an adult resident of Stark County and the family income must not exceed the income criteria established by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) to determine low income families eligible to be served by Tri-County Opportunities Council. Affidavits of eligibility will be available for signature. Kenneth Krogulski Chairperson Board of Directors Tri-County Opportunities Council Published 4/2/21

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more. Small jobs welcome! Call me at (309) 995-3364, LaFayette.

FOR SALE

- GRASS HAY: No rain, on wagons, \$4 bale, (309) 635-4575.
• 17.69 ACRES on Hallock Hollow Road, Edelstein. Perfect for deer hunters. 10 acres possibly tillable. Government set-aside ground right now. Call (309) 249-4781.

HELP WANTED

- WANTED TO HIRE: Full-time diesel mechanic for small fleet. We offer health/vision insurance and simple IRA. Call John 309-368-1027.
• HELP WANTED: Petroleum Transport driver, local hauls, home daily. Preferably 2 years work experience with tanker hazmat endorsement. We offer health/vision insurance, paid vacation and simple IRA. Must have clean DMV. Call (309) 879-2221.
• WANTED TO HIRE: Dump truck driver, experienced in hauling rock, lime, etc. Must have clean DMV. We offer health/vision insurance and simple IRA. Call (309) 879-2221.
• HELP WANTED: Nutrien Ag Solutions, Princeville, is seeking a temporary full-time Administrative Assistant for the upcoming Spring 2021 season. This position does have the possibility to become permanent. This person will perform office duties as-

signed to them including, answering phones, filing, product receivers, etc. Please contact Jeff Gehrig at (309) 385-2178 for more information.

• HELP WANTED: Spoon River Valley Farms is looking for a full-time farm hand. All duties that apply to a corn and soybean operation will be required. Some of these duties are planting, harvesting, hauling grain and general maintenance around a shop and grain facility. Experience and a Class A CDL are needed but not required. Spoon River has medical insurance and a retirement plan in place. If you have questions or would like to set up an interview contact Nick at (309) 712-5468.

WANTED

• JUNK CARS: Highest price paid for junk cars. Call (309) 932-8220. Will pick up.

NOTICE

FIRST Baptist Church of Wyoming Food Distribution Center is open Sundays only 2:30-4:30 p.m. at WyHi Community Center, 401 N. Galena Ave., Wyoming. Elderly and disabled persons call (309) 695-5116 for delivery. Bring boxes.

THANK YOU

• FREE THANK YOU notes in this space, call (309) 286-2185 or email ads@prairie-news.com.

Advertisement for Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services featuring a Super Crossword puzzle. The puzzle includes clues for across and down words, such as 'Past artifact', 'Steal the scene from Chicago', 'Kagan of justice', etc. The crossword grid is provided with numbered starting points for each clue.

Advertisement for The Prairie News subscription. It features the newspaper's logo and a large promotional offer: 'GET YOUR LOCAL NEWS FOR JUST \$50 PER YEAR CALL 286-2185 TO SUBSCRIBE!'.

Rebels fall at Marquette

Miscues, run defense both factors in 37-8 road loss

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

OTTAWA – With six starters sidelined by COVID-19, the margin for error was slim last Friday in a road football game at Lincoln Trail Conference newcomer Ottawa Marquette.

The Rebels (0-2, 0-2 LTC) made a few too many errors in a 37-8 loss. Plus, Stark County didn't stop the run well enough, yielding 305 yards on the ground.

Even so, outside the first and fourth quarter, there were bright spots for Stark County, which held its own in the middle two quarters.

"The first quarter just felt like an avalanche," Stark County Coach Jade Noard said. "They had a punt return for a touch-down, another long punt return and an interception. We just couldn't get out of the first quarter."

"Overall, I was pretty pleased with how our kids competed. Execution cost us from really having a shot, I thought."

Indeed, before the quarter was over, Marquette (1-1, 1-1) led 22-0 on a 15-yard touchdown run by Hunter O'Dell, a 41-yard punt return by Logan Nelson and a 31-yard run by Tom Durdan, set up by an interception that gave Marquette the ball at the Stark County 36-yard line.

But after that rocky first 12 minutes, Stark County's young crew settled down and began moving the ball on the ground. Backup running back Raiden Porter had several productive carries during a 10-minute drive that ate up most of the second quarter, including an 8-yard scoring run with 1:48 left before halftime.

Porter, who normally plays wide receiver, finished with 111 rushing yards on 25 carries.

"Really, in the second and third quarter we controlled things," Noard said. "When we had that long drive, we really tried to

slow the pace of the game down and run the ball, because we wanted to keep the ball in our hands."

Two plays after the Stark County scoring drive, Keagan Newton came up with an interception to give the Rebels the ball at Marquette's 40-yard line. But after driving to the 16, an interception in the end zone ended that threat.

The Rebels then got the ball to open the third quarter and mounted a long drive that stalled at the Marquette 18-yard line on a failed fourth-and-one run with 3:25 left in the quarter.

"If we can punch either of those in, I like where we're at," Noard said. "We didn't."

Marquette then mounted two scoring drives in the final quarter to wrap up the victory. Overall, Marquette finished with an average of 11.3 yards per carry against Stark County, whose linebacking corps was still missing several starters due to COVID contact tracing.

"We just didn't make the plays we needed to in the open field," Noard said. "We were subbing some with some kids that don't have a ton of experience."

A bright spot on defense was the play of Christian Brady, a junior lineman who led the team with six tackles.

"He did a really nice job for us," Noard said.

More good news came heading into Thursday's home game vs. Mid-County. Stark County returned six starters for that contest, including running back/linebacker Jack Meinders, wideout/linebacker Brenden Gibler, wideout/defensive back Cole Regan, 6-foot-4 lineman Matthew McCauley and wideout/linebacker Camren Watson.

"Those are all players that will see quite a bit of time," Noard said. "It's been nice"

Continued on Page 11

Stark Co. VB loses at Ridgewood

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

CAMBRIDGE – The Stark County girls volleyball team dropped a two-game match at Ridgewood last Saturday, 25-13, 25-13.

Marley Hillan led the Lady Rebels (1-4) with seven digs, five kills and two blocks. Kelsey Berchtold also had four blocks for Stark County.

The Lady Rebels had Wednesday's home match with United cancelled, but

were to play Thursday at ROWVA and Monday at Williamsfield.

Galva posted its first win of the volleyball season on Tuesday in Oneida, topping ROWVA 25-22, 25-15.

Williamsfield defeated Galva on March 24 by a score of 25-19 and 25-14. Gonzalez put up eight assists and seven digs, Hunt had seven digs and Angelina Adame had eight kills.

Galva will be at Princeville on Tuesday and at Midland on Wednesday.

BLACK HAWK COLLEGE DESERVES THE BEST - VOTE APRIL 6 FOR FRITZ LARSEN • KIM STEVENS • JEFFREY SWAN

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Fritz Larsen

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- Past president of the Illinois Community College Trustees Association;
- Continues to represent the Black Hawk College District on both state and national trustee committees;
- Graduate of Black Hawk College in Moline and Western Illinois University;
- Program manager for Command Strategic Initiatives at the Joint Munitions Command, US Department of the Army, Rock Island Arsenal.



Kim Stevens

- Owns Stevens Veterinary Clinic in Galva, where she attended high school;
- Graduate of Black Hawk College East Campus and
- The University of Illinois.
- In 2010 Kim received her DVM degree from the UI College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Past president of both the Agri-Business Club Alumni for East Campus and the Mississippi Valley Veterinary Medical Association.



Jeffrey Swan

- Public Safety Manager for the Metropolitan Airport Authority of Rock Island County; In this role, he works with a team of 12 officers and 9 dispatchers to implement programs, procedures and practices to maintain the safety and security of passengers, employees, airport tenants and the general public.
- Swan has taken numerous courses from Black Hawk College;
- Attended the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois, and
- Holds a bachelor's degree in fire science from Columbia Southern University

Fritz Larsen:

If re-elected, I plan to work within the college, with business and the various chamber of commerce to identify skill gaps and to create vocational training opportunities and certificate programs. For many, these type certificate programs can provide the difference between high and low paying jobs, and being able to attract and retain quality business opportunities.

I pledge to maintain BHC as an

accessible, affordable and inclusive educational vehicle to all citizens in Community College District 503, whether they are seeking a certificate, an associate's degree, and/or plan to transfer to a 4-year institution.

Dr. Kim Stevens:

I will strive to make the focus of both campuses on what needs should be met in the surrounding communities. Our focus needs to be what we can do for each current BHC student, each

potential student and the communities in which we are located. First and foremost, we need to develop a strategy to get students back in the classroom for in-person instruction.

Chief Jeffrey Swan:

My objectives include ensuring that Black Hawk offers the latest in technology programs, while keeping the College affordable to all.

Fritz, Kim and Jeffrey are enthusiastically endorsed by Friends of Black Hawk College, a district-wide citizens group of boosters of Black Hawk.

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