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February 16, 2024
Vol. 21, No. 3

The Prairie News

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Toulon streets discussed, sewer project to start next week

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Toulon City Council approved a plan to refurbish Elm Street during its monthly meeting on Feb. 12.

Justin Reeise, the city engineer from Giffin Engineering, said that Motor Fuel Tax funds would pay for the refurbishment of Elm Street, which is in poor condition. The estimated cost is \$70,000 to reconstruct the street.

The council approved spending up to \$80,000 for this project.

The council also heard that the East Turner Avenue sewer project will start next week, according to city employees. This project, which involves moving and replacing a sewer line, has been scheduled for months and preliminary steps have already been completed.

The city will put out for bid the garbage collection contract that expires this April. Ads will be placed for contractors to bid on. The recycling contract with Eagle Enterprises expires in April also. Eagle has indicated that it wants to extend the contract by one year. Mayor Larry Hollis said that he would contact the company to discuss the extension.

Only one bid was received to mow the cemetery this year. That was from Bock's Lawn Care for \$29,897. The council approved this bid.

The city has received a permit regarding the construction of a new water tower storage tank. The new tower will be built north of the current water tower storage tank on North Franklin Street.

The new tank will increase the city's storage capacity to 200,000 gallons of water. The present tank holds 60,000 gallons of water.

Hometown Consulting represented by Cole McDaniel and Matt Fick presented a preliminary strategy to economically build up Toulon. The consultants discussed baseline data and a future vision for Toulon. They also said they would like for economic development committees to be formed.

Hometown representatives will return in April to provide another presentation.

Mitch Hulsey submitted a bid of \$17,000 to construct a metal railing of 200 feet for the city's baseball diamonds, which was approved by the council.

The council also voted to approve...
Continued on Page 2

HEGWOOD FUNDRAISER



Students and staff members in the Stark County schools and members from throughout the community have banded together in recent months to raise money for and send encouragement to teacher Katina Hegwood, who is battling leukemia. The culmination of the school's "Hairy for Hegwood" fundraiser came at halftime of the boys basketball senior night game on Feb. 9. Fans took to the floor to cheer for Hegwood (above) and her family members were presented a check for more than \$21,000 (right).



For more details on the fundraiser, turn to Page 3 of the Rebel Reporter inside this edition.

Wind-farm worries

New incentives filling developers' sails

I've been scanning the public notices in The Weekly Post for the past few months watching for any notices regarding the construction of an industrial wind farm here in northwest Peoria County.

Three meteorological towers installed in the area have been gathering data since late 2021. Assuming the data is favorable, it's just a matter of time before those of us living nearby will be dodging cement trucks and tractor-trailers hauling massive cranes and turbine components.

The U.S. government maintains a wind-turbine database that shows the location, height, size and other data of every turbine in the nation. It's easily accessed online.

According to the database, there are 73,352 wind turbines in the U.S. Texas has the greatest number, 18,552. Illinois ranks sixth with 3,622 towers overlooking our prairie state.

Construction of new wind farms slowed to a trickle in the past couple of years. Wind-farm developers in the U.S. were stifled by the headwinds of skyrocketing inflation and interest rates. Those factors plus the government's phase-out of federal tax credits left new projects on the drawing board and brought new construction to a halt. Funny how when the federal dollars dried up, construction stopped dead in its tracks, but I digress.

Thanks to the generosity of President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act, your tax dollars are putting new wind in developers' sails. It has taken a couple of years for the industry to figure out...
Continued on Page 2



Ron DIETER



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WIND PROJECT: Turbine blades create issues

Continued from Page 1
 out how to navigate the complex regulations in the IRA to make the most of the new tax credits. Now they've got the wind at their back and projects that were on hold are on the launching pad.

While developers enjoy the windfall, some folks in the shadow of proposed wind farms are no big fans of the big fans. They feel an ill wind blowing and worry about their property values. A study published in "Energy Policy" may ease their minds. It found that the value of properties located within a one-mile radius of a proposed wind farm dropped an average of eleven percent compared to properties three to five miles further away.

But not to worry. That difference in values disappears a few years after the wind project is up and running, researchers say. Some folks might quibble with that, asking themselves if a home with a wind turbine a mile away would be worth more if the turbine wasn't there.

Environmentalists have their

own concerns about wind farms. They worry about the effect of wind turbines on wildlife, especially birds. According to Germany's Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union, wind farms knock more than 100,000 birds out of the sky each year. That sounds like a lot, but Germany has more than 28,000 turbines spinning in the breeze. The NBCU also points out that for every little bird battered by turbine blades, more than six hundred are devoured by Germany's domestic cats. That's right. Sixty million birds a year fall prey to Germany's cats.

Although property values and wildlife safety are a big concern, the biggest headwind facing the industry is recycling. Most parts of a wind turbine are recyclable. The tower is steel and the components behind the blades- copper, electronics and gearing- are all recyclable. The problem is the blades.

Turbine blades are made of a blend of fiberglass and resins. It would be great if worn-out blades could be recycled into new ones,

but with these materials it's not chemically possible. Instead, some recyclers grind up the worn-out blades and incorporate them into cement, an expensive process. Currently, the least expensive way to dispose of used blades is to haul them to a landfill for burial or to burn them.

Landfill operators are reluctant to accept turbine blades because they take up an enormous amount of landfill volume. To save space, a landfill operator in the state of Wyoming cuts them into thirds and inserts the sections inside each other before burying them.

Soon, blades made of special epoxies and fiberglass will be available that can be recycled and used to make new blades. Such technology will come just in time. A great number of turbines in the US are reaching the end of their useful life. Researchers tell us we'll have over 700,000 tons of blades to deal with over the next 20 years.

<p>NEW LISTING!</p>  <p>312 E Gale St Williamsfield \$84,900 4 bedroom/ 2 bath, Large lot</p>	<p>PENDING!</p>  <p>1116 Cambridge Rd. Kewanee \$38,000 2 bedroom/ 1 bath, 2-car attached garage & barn</p>
<p>SOLD BY DEBBIE!</p>  <p>214 NE 6th Ave Galva. \$103,000 3 bedroom / 2 bath</p>	<p>SOLD BY DEBBIE!</p>  <p>111 NW 2nd St Galva \$55,500 4 bedroom/ 1 bath</p>
<p>PENDING!</p>  <p>817 N Center Ave Galva - \$119,900. Corner lot / private backyard, Updated 2-bedroom duplex, Oversized 2-car detached garage.</p>	<p>PENDING!</p>  <p>104 N Main Ave Wyoming \$119,900 4 bedroom/ 2 bath, New Roof, New electrical- 200 Amp.</p>
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<p>PENDING!</p>  <p>505 SW 5th Ave., Galva \$95,000 4 bedrooms/ 2 bath, 2-car attached garage.</p>	

TOULON: Pay ordinance tabled

Continued from Page 1
 prove a \$250 donation to the Stark County 4H Equine Speed Show and a bid of \$1,932 from Moore

Tires was accepted to replace two tires on the city's backhoe. Ordinance Number 755 was again tabled by the

council to be acted on next month. The ordinance details how much Toulon's secretary and treasurer are paid. Currently these positions are paid \$66.67 per council meeting and the mayor wants that raised to \$75 per meeting. The council held a closed executive session meeting after the regular meeting to discuss employee personnel.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

1-13 - A two-vehicle accident that also involved injury to a pedestrian occurred on Route 40 and 800N. The vehicle drivers involved were identified as Bruce Swan, 63, Kewanee and Ryan P. Somers, 31, of Freeport.

According to the accident report, from the Stark County Sheriff's Office, the road conditions were icy and snowy with nearly white-out weather conditions at the time of the crash.

Swan was reportedly traveling north on Route 40 when he struck Somers vehicle which caused the chain reaction and struck a pedestrian identified as Jesse D. Planter, 25, of Tremont. Both vehicles came to rest in the ditch. It was further noted that a semi-truck was also identified as stopped in the road. Neither vehicle driver was injured but Planter did sustain injuries and was transported by ambulance to the hospital.

2-8 - A 44-year-old Toulon man reported that he had been the victim of a battery incident. The Stark County Sheriff's Office investigated the incident and arrested Charles D. Slightom Jr., 41, Toulon, and charged him with battery. Slightom was later released with a court date to appear.

2-9 - A battery complaint was received from a Henry resident from the 200 block of South Henderson Street in Toulon. Authorities took statements from the complainants involved and the incident remains under investigation.

2-10 - Andrew W. Szparkowski, 32, Toulon, was arrested for criminal trespass. He was cited and released with a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-5 - to the 300 block of SW 6th Ave. for a complaint involving a dog bite to a child. The injury was considered very minor.

2-5 - to meet with a resident at the Galva Police Department to discuss options for a child who has been acting out at home.

2-5 - to the 100 block of NE 7th St. to make contact for Knox County in reference to a hit-and-run accident that occurred earlier in Galzburg. Contact was made.

2-5 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a verbal domestic dispute. As a result, Bryan Folker, 64, Galva, was arrested on a Warren County warrant for failing to appear on traffic charges. He was released with a



required court date.

2-5 - to check the welfare of a motorist who was stopped in the 300 block of NW 6th Ave.

2-6 - to the 200 block of SE 7th Ave. for a battery complaint after resident was reportedly attacked inside his residence overnight. This remains under investigation.

2-6 - to meet with a resident at the Galva Police Department who requested complaint forms and freedom of information request forms.

2-6 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for dozens of phone complaints involving a variety of complaints. As the result, John Kurzeja, 43, Galva, was arrested for disorderly conduct-false reporting to a public service agency. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

2-6 - to the 00 block of SE 6th St. for a 911 hangup call. It was determined to be a child playing with the phone.

2-7 - to the 00 block of SW 2nd St. to remove an unwanted subject.

2-7 - to the 200 block of Front St. for a property exchange.

2-8 - to the 100 block of SW 7th St. for a 911 open line call that plotted there. The officer was not able to locate anyone needing assistance.

2-8 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a welfare check. The subject was fine.

2-8 - Officer spoke to a resident by telephone about a harassment issue with family members.

2-8 - Officer was notified about a vehicle repossession that was taking place in the 600 block of NW 5th Ave.

2-9 - to the east edge of town for a reckless-driving complaint. The officer spoke to the driver and advised him of the complaint. No signs of impairment were detected.

2-9 - to meet with a resident at the Galva Police Department to answer questions about a neighborhood concern.

2-9 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. for a civil standby to retrieve

property.

2-9 - to the 100 block of NE 9th St. for a loose and aggressive dog. Officer was not able to locate the dog.

2-9 - to the 800 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a battery complaint.

2-10 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St., Leroy Broussard, 23, Henderson, Ill., was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a required court date.

2-10 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 300 block of SW 1st Ave., Madelin DeJesus, 48, Galva, was arrested for improper use of registration and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a required court date.

2-10 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a report of a female yelling for help. Officer was not able to locate.

2-10 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a suicidal subject. The subject was taken by ambulance for evaluation/treatment.

2-11 - to the 800 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a complaint involving a dog bite.

2-11 - to the 300 block of SE 2nd St. for a loose dog complaint.

2-11 - along with the Galva Fire Department several miles west of town for a report involving power lines arcing.

2-11 - to a residence on NE 3rd St. for a welfare check on a child.

2-11 - to the 1100 block of SE 2nd St. for a traffic complaint involving a car swerving. Officer was not able to locate.

2-11 - Hailey Castenada, 26, Kewanee, was issued a citation for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

Property Transfers

2-5 - Michael C. Compton to Patricia G. Compton - Pts Plus Ease. Sect 35-12-5 NE and SE - Consideration = \$0.

2-5 - Brittani and Cyle Davis to Tori Robertson - Original Town of Wyoming - Block 10 Lots 5 and 6 - 200 W. Smith St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$85,000.

2-7 - Alfredo R. and Rita S. Perez to Roselene Loritan - Foster's Add'n - Block C Lot 11 - 120 1st St., Bradford - Consideration = \$7,000.

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Answer

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4	6	7	3	5	2	9	8	1

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- Socrates

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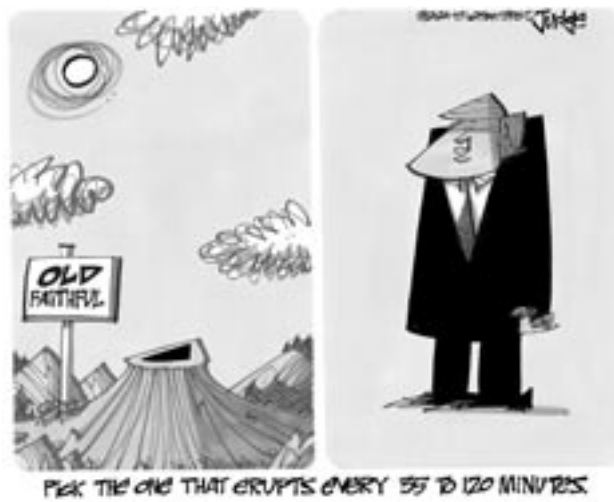
The Prairie News is published every Friday (except July 21 and Dec. 29) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529.

- **Publisher** - Jeff Lampe
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The Prairie News is located at 101 West Main Street, PO Box 240, Toulon, Illinois 61483. Office hours are Mon. to Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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GUEST VOICES



Newspaper industry may force retirement

Recently, a retired friend asked if I planned to retire anytime soon. It was the right question. While I have considered retirement, I explained, I have no real plans – soon or otherwise – to do so.

But, I added, “The choice may not be up to me because I’m in a profession that might retire on me.”

It’s no joke. In the last year alone, two newspapers that had long published this weekly effort closed and two others quit printing it – after nearly 25 years – due to bone-deep budget cuts.

That’s just the state of today’s newspapers. According to research at Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism, 360 U.S. newspapers closed from the start of the COVID 19 pandemic through mid-2022.

If that shutdown rate continued through this January, roughly another 150 have closed since. Which means nearly 3,000 newspapers, one-fourth of all U.S. newspapers, have closed since 2005.

That clobbering has made print journalists nearly as rare as coal miners. According to the Pew Research Center, the number of people employed by U.S. newspapers dropped from 71,000 in 2008 to 31,000 in 2020. That freefall was just slightly better than coal mining that, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, lost 46,000 jobs since 2012.

We inky wretches aren’t the only

word shakers quaking. Digital and print magazine editors are keeping their heads low in their office cubicles, too.

For example, wrote Ezra Klein in the Jan. 21 New York Times, in the last few months “Sports Illustrated has just laid off most of its staff,” and web news giants BuzzFeed and Jezebel closed while HuffPo, Vice and FiveThirtyEight pared back staff and reach.

And all continue to lose readers, advertising and revenue. The only thing all forms of journalism seems good at nowadays is bleeding money. Ideas to stem the flow are many, varied and cheap; actual solutions are rare, hard and costly.

A decade ago the best one appeared to be white-knight billionaires wanting to own trophy pieces of American journalism. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (Washington Post), biotech investor Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong (Los Angeles Times) and software mogul Marc Benioff (Time) spent a collective \$940 million to acquire their shiny jewels.

By mid-January 2024, though, those Midases were taking a pasting, too. According to the Times, the three had poured hundreds of millions more into their inky ratholes before putting their checkbooks back into their pockets.

Even newspaper royalty isn’t immune. On Feb. 1, Rupert Murdoch’s Wall Street Journal laid off 20 journalists in its Washington, D.C., bureau.

“Wealth doesn’t insulate an owner from the serious challenges plaguing many media companies,” one long-time observer told the Times, “and it turns out being a billionaire

isn’t a predictor for solving those problems.”

The problem is particularly acute in rural America, noted Northwestern’s Nov. 16, 2023 “The State of Local News” Report.

“Residents in more than half of U.S. counties have no, or very limited, access to a reliable local news source – either print, digital or broadcast,” it explained. Moreover, “There are 204 counties without any local news outlet and 1,562 counties served with only one remaining local news source, invariably a weekly newspaper.”

And new digital alternatives – regardless of professionalism or earnestness – aren’t a universal solution because “many digital start-ups have trouble gaining enough subscribers and funding to achieve long-term sustainability,” the report adds.

That doesn’t mean newspapers can’t make the move to digital; many have and more are headed that way. A year ago, the report noted, “42 of the largest 100 newspapers (delivered) a print edition six or fewer times a week” and 11 of those “largest dailies publish in printed form only one or two times a week.”

That future – less ink, more electrons, and fewer journalists – appears as irreversible as my age.

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GUEST VOICES



Of early blooms, pole vaults & floor mops

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering how **Usher** sold 75 million records.

• • •

Recent warm weather sure has been nice after that frigid snap, but it's also cause for concern. My indicator plant for early flowering is a big star magnolia bush on the west side of our house. Gauging by the magnolia's slightly opened buds, there will be some flower damage, but it doesn't look too bad, yet. If we get many more 60-degree days followed by the inevitable frosts to come, there could be real impact on early spring bloomers. ... Many parents dream of children someday earning Division I scholarships for sports. In all but a very few cases, those are pipe dreams. Stark County grad **Lindley Johnston** is one such athlete, having taken her abundant track skills to Murray State. And Brimfield pole vaulter **Mya Strahm** is another of those rare elite athletes – a junior who has already earned an Illinois state title and runner-up medal and has committed to attend the Univer-



Jeff
LAMPE

sity of Tennessee to compete in track and field. What's it take to go D-1? A few months ago during an indoor practice, Strahm cleared 13 feet, 7 inches – a state record for Illinois girls prep track.

• • •

As another basketball season nears an end, I'm left with one unanswered question: What happened to mopping the court during breaks in the game? Do players no longer sweat? Did COVID eliminate the need for floor-cleaning? Is there a new magic floor wax that dissolves dust and hair, two of the many slip-inducing substances found on the hardwood? Seriously, when is the last time you saw somebody mop a floor at a prep game, even after blood, sweat or tears dripped onto the surface? ... Don't get me wrong about the Super Bowl halftime show. Usher is a skilled roller skater and dancer. And maybe it was just the sound quality that was poor. But Usher is no **Prince**.

• • •

Given that Super Bowls have been more painful than enjoyable of late, I've sought other ways to pass Super Sunday. That's how Acorn Sunday was born. Actually, the timing is right to take acorns out of the refrigerator, place them in a south-facing window and get a jumpstart

on spring. So last Sunday was spent filling 90 pots with peat moss and perlite to accommodate a much-reduced crop (when not cursing the Chiefs). The acorn cutback is due to a carryover of 90 trees from last year. When bringing acorns out of the fridge, you never know what you'll encounter. But with 29 of 31 chestnuts showing roots and plenty of oak acorns ready to hatch, I was pleased ... right until overtime ended.

• • •

Read somewhere that about 1 in 10 fathers experience depression after their baby's birth. Well, speaking from experience, I can tell you that number soars to 10 in 10 before the child is full grown. ... Things I'd like to see: a beer-drinking contest in heaven between **Andre the Giant** and **Bill Rucks**, the first 7-footer in University of Illinois basketball history. Those big men drank beer out of pitchers, not glasses. And don't quote me a German song about no beer in heaven. No way **God** would allow that. ... Parting shot: Remind me to share the story of a Chicago-based associate who catches monster rats with a fishing rod, treble hook and peanut-butter-filled doughballs.

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

Trenton Cemetery deserves a nod from Masters

Edgar Lee Masters has got some nerve. I believe that, due to his "Spoon River Anthology," a good many people are under the mistaken impression that the Spoon River Valley exists only in Fulton County, Illinois.

Quite the contrary. The Spoon River also flows through the pastoral lands of Knox County. I can testify to that fact, because my mother's people, and I, were born and raised there.

We have a cemetery on a hill as well – known as Spoon River Hill to the locals, since it overlooks The Mighty Spoon.

It's actually called Trenton Cemetery, after the nearby-but-no-longer-existing settlement of Trenton Corners.

Among the souls who lie sleeping in this serene location are personalities just as colorful as those described by Masters in his 1915 collection of poems.

There are, for instance, my maternal grandma, Ethel Smith Brooks Harmison Daniel. And Grandpa Cleve Brooks. I've written about Grandma and Grandpa Brooks in my first book, "My Guardian Angel and Beating the Reaper with Songs and Stories of Forgottonia."

Grandma was a fierce woman who buried two husbands and chased one off for womanizing. In her 70s. She raised five children during the Great Depression, dug coal out of a hillside to heat her home and delivered her second child at home, with only her 2-year-old as midwife.

Her mother was Swedish, so she had some Viking in her. My mother used to say "She was a redhead," so you can infer her temperament. More to the point, the stories I wrote about Grandma were titled "Grandma Wields Her Axe" and "Grandma Grabs The Shotgun and Men Scatter."

Grandma only had a fifth-grade education, but she had a clear understanding of dramatic visual imagery. And her approach to conflict resolution may have been extreme, but when you're raising five children during the Great Depression

and your husband is a hunter, trapper and bootlegger with a fondness for drink and a sketchy bunch of friends, you have to keep him focused.

There are other fascinating figures in our Knox County cemetery on a hill, including Grandma and Grandpa's youngest child and only boy, my uncle Gale, also a hunter, trapper and fisherman, and World War II hero and POW at the age of 18.

And of course, Trenton is now home to one of the most legendary of Knox County Spoon River figures – an outdoorsman extraordinaire, dean of the deer room, the Catfish King; spinner of yarns; master of the green felt, 52-card deck and smoke-filled room; Billtown baseball hall-of-famer, whose sweet wife is his (and my) Williamsfield classmate: Terry "T-Bone" Farquer.

I hope to have the opportunity to share more of these extraordinary lives with you in a future issue.

Randy Sollenberger is a self-published author who lives in Macomb but was born and raised around Williamsfield.



Randy
SOLLENBERGER

ELITE LARGE LIVE FARM AUCTION OF JD TRACTORS, COMBINE, EQUIPMENT, SEMIS, TRUCKS AND MORE

The following amazing farm auction of clean, well maintained items, will be sold on location at 24227 Barrett Rd. Elmwood, IL 61529 (travel west 2 miles from the junction of Rt. 150 and 78, then turn south on 23500 W 2.8 miles to 13900 N Bennett Rd., then west .5 miles to sale site), on

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 24th, 2024 AT 10 A.M.

NOTE: This is a very condensed ad. See pictures and full ad online at www.folgersauctionservice.com and LIKE US ON FACEBOOK. Tractors and larger equipment will be sold at approx. 11:00 a.m. Preview on Wed. Feb. 14th at 9:00 a.m.

TRACTORS: More details and serial #s online—2012 JD 8335R FWA w/1477 hrs., exc. Michelin front and rear tires, front and rear duals, 8 front wts., big hydraulic pump, guidance ready, front susp., no def., bought new—2007 JD 8430 FWA w/3442 hrs., good Michelin fronts and dual rear tires, front/rear wts., LED lights, new hood, no Def., one owner—hood for a 8430—1979 JD 4440 w/7844 hrs., new interior, quad range, AC good—1975 JD 4430 w/12123 hrs. (less than 100 on complete overhaul), new tires, quad range, no cab—1974 IH 1066, all original, no cab, parade ready, tach reads 514 hrs.—2 Star Fire 3000 globes—JD 2630 display monitor.

EQUIPMENT/TRUCKS: 2014 JD S670 combine 2056 engine, 1285 rotor hrs., 520/85R-42 dual fronts, 600/70R-28 rear tires, single point hook up, Mauer Tip up, Contour Master, good cond.—2021 MacDon FD130 30' head, less than 1000 acres, off of 5670 combine, bought new—JD 608C 8 row corn head w/header control, 2 yrs. on new chains, knives and plates—EZ Trail 672 head mover—EZ Trail 880 head mover—2014 JD 1790 16-31 row planter, 20/20 monitor, air lift trash whippers, markers, delta force, liquid fert., extra alternator mounted on, combos on corn, rear camera, bought new—2006 Unverferth 9250 auger cart, roll tarp, good augers, good tires, rear camera, bought new—SEMIS: Nice 1998 Kenworth W900 semi w/670,180 miles, C-12 CAT engine, 13 speed, wet kit, new rears, new batteries, good looking interior, AC, 2 nd owner—nice 1996 Kenworth W900 semi w/692,806 miles, CAT 3406 engine, 18 speed, good tires, new batteries, wet kit, extra chrome package, good working order, 2nd owner—2004 Timpte 42' hopper bottom, good roll tarp, good tires—2009 Timpte 40' hopper bottom, electric roll tarp, good tires—1984 Wilson 40' hopper bottom, tarp, spring ride tires—1979 Schien 28' alum. dump trailer w/leaf springs, good cond.—2008 Ford F250 diesel Super Duty Stroke truck w/195,268 miles—1996 Ford XLT250 4 x 4 pickup, 110,664 miles, 360 motor, 9' flat bed—

CAMPER: 2002 34' Jayco Designer Series Hitchhiker II 5 th wheel camper trailer w/3 slide outs—2400 Great Plains 24' Turbo Till, rebuilt bearings and blades, stars and rolling baskets—JD 2210 field cultivator, 36', new knock-off sweeps, 3 bar tine harrow—Case IH 496 30' disc, exc. blades—Yetter 3541 40' rotary hoe, 3 pt. hitch, bought new, used on 500 acres—Glencoe 12' 4 ripper, spring loaded shanks and 5 chisel points, like new Remlinger 5 bar spike tooth harrow—Bush Hog 12815 15' Batwing 1000 PTO, new blades, exc. cond., bought new—Travis Hitch Doc SC2000 double tote seed tender, Honda motor, bought new—Good McFarline 30' and 40' 8 bar harrows—like new Land Pride 5' 3 pt. seeder, less than 10 acres—10' box scraper w/cylinder—JD 148 loader—Mayrath 31' 8" auger, 540 PTO like new—Mayrath 60' 10" auger w/swing out hopper, hyd. lift—four M & W gravity wagons—Parker 200B gravity wagon—Schulte 7' snow blower—10' cultmulcher—12' Bear Cat cultmulcher—3 1000 gallon diesel fuel tanks w/110 volt pumps—500 gallon diesel fuel tank w/110v. electric pump on tandem axle trailer—Farm Kem 65 gallon Def. tank w/110v. pump—JD 6 row 30" cultivator—1000 gallon stainless nurse tank, good gear—2" transfer pump w/Honda engine—18' harrowgator—older Case 12' disc chisel—IH 720 6 bottom plow—JD 1450 5 bottom plow—Land Pride 6' finishing mower—Keen Kutter 5' disc—3 pt. 2 bottom plow—Jeep Wrangler alum. wheels w/Cooper tires—16' livestock trailer w/exc. wood floor—3 STORY DAIRY BARN 40'X60' disassembled with the wood marked for reassembly, 2x10s, 2x12s, beams up to 60' long, stored inside—Walnut kiln dried slab lumber.

TRACTOR PARTS AND MISC.: New set of Samson 13.6-28 rear tires w/new tubes—Goodyear 13.6-38 rear tires, 50% tread—Goodyear 18.4-38 clamp on duals—JD quick hitch—3 JD flat front wts.—JD filters—JD B 3 pt. hitch—770 liquid insecticide planter tanks—good Brock 1 1/2 HP bin fan—Stihl FS 45 gas weed eater—Stihl MS 261 chain saw—Honda Black Max BHP 7000-8750 volt generator—like new Schumacher charger—3 JD liquifire snowmobiles, not running—JD Spotfire snowmobile, not running—elect. winch, heavy duty log chains, tools, scrap iron, so much more.

ANTIQUES: wagon wheels—old pull type potato plow—nice apple butter copper plow—barn rope—primitives, Replica dinner bell—misc..

OTHERS WILL SELL: 2013 IH semi w/480,000 miles, 10 speed, 30% good front super single rear tires, new dash and tach, new radiator, clutch, trans. and steer axle in last 2 yrs.—2008 Wilson 41' hopper bottom, good tires, spring ride, elect. tarp, DWH500—2 DMI model D400A side dump gravity wagons.

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Saturday, February 24, 2024
 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
 Goshen Township Building
 3986 IL-17, Toulon, IL 61483



BBC FAMILY BINGO!!
 Saturday, February 17
 2 - 4 pm
 Bradford Firehouse

Suggested donation of \$5 for 2 bingo cards. Bring your own snacks. Water will be provided. All are welcome!
 Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Don't forget
Saturday, March 2nd for adults
 Bingo at the Legion
 doors open at 5 - bingo starts at 6
 ~ bring your own snacks
 ~ \$10 suggested donation

UNRESERVED LARRIE LINDEN ESTATE AUCTION
 THURSDAY, MARCH 7, 2024 | 11:00 AM



OPEN HOUSE: THURS., FEBRUARY 29 | 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
 BRADFORD, ILLINOIS

HIGHLIGHTS: 2013 Case IH 280 Magnum MFWD tractor, 1,386 hrs; 2015 Case IH 235 Magnum MFWD tractor, 1,955 hrs; 2016 Case IH 6140 2wd combine, 784 eng./503 sep. hrs; Geringhoff NS630 6 row 30" corn head; MacDon FD130 30' Flex Draper head; Unverferth 630 gravity wagon; Brent 557 gravity wagon; Brent 544 gravity wagon; (3) Brent 440 gravity wagon; Case IH 1200 12 row 30" planter; Travis HSC2200 2-box seed tender; International 5100 13' grain drill; Case IH 335 28' vertical tillage tool; Case IH 200 Tigermate 32' field cultivator; Case IH 530B 5-shank disk ripper; McFarlane HDL-132-44 32' harrow; 2004 Chevrolet 2500HD 4WD pickup, 62,702 miles; 2020 BigTex 20' tilt deck trailer; 1997 CornPro 16' livestock trailer; Hardi Navigator 4000 pull-type sprayer; Ag Chem 2,000-gal nurse tank; Woods BB840 84" 3-pt rotary mower; GEI 1004 10' box blade

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BRIEFS

Bradford youth earns rank as Eagle Scout

BRADFORD – Connor Scott, son of Tim and Andrea Scott of Bradford was celebrated at an Eagle Scout ceremony held at Bunker Hill Church in Buda on Jan. 21.

Connor, who attends Bureau Valley High School, earned the rank of Eagle Scout after many years of scouting, camping and hiking. He logged many community hours along the way and part of that was his final project as a Scout.

Connor's chosen project was to develop and build a collection box for retired American flags to be kept at the Bradford American Legion. He had to develop a plan for building the collection box, get approval from Scout Council and American Legion Post 445, and gather supplies to build and paint it.

He also raised funds to cover costs of the box and lead members of his Troop in completing the task. Connor asked for donations to complete his project and any funds raised above his costs were donated to the Legion to fund part of their remodel project.

To make the flag drop off more convenient, the red, white, and blue collection box will be located just outside of the west door of the Bradford Legion, except during the winter months.

At the Eagle Scout ceremony, Scoutmaster Ron Scott, Assistant Scoutmaster Debi Johnson, and former Scoutmaster Tom Ashby all spoke in front of the crowd telling of Connor's leadership, and how he always conducts himself as a Scout should.

– Angie Stange

College honors

• Abigail Jones of Galva was



Pictured above is Connor Scott of Bradford, who recently earned his rank of Eagle Scout. Also pictured is the flag retirement drop-off box he completed as a community service project, which has been installed at the Bradford American Legion Post 445.



Pictured above, Tenth Circuit Court Chief Judge Kate Gorman (at left) is shown swearing in new Stark County Circuit Court Judge Caroline Borden Campion (at right) Tuesday morning Feb. 13, 2024 at the Stark County Courthouse. The ceremony was witnessed by approximately 20 to 25 judges active and retired, plus many witnesses.



Pictured above, Borden Campion spoke after her swearing in and thanked everyone who has been a part of her legal career.

named to the St. Ambrose University fall 2023 Dean's list (3.5 gpa or better).

Galva Freedom Fest holding soup supper

GALVA – Galva Freedom Fest will hold their 6th annual soup and chili supper on Sunday, March 3, from 4-6:30 p.m. at the Galva

American Legion. The menu includes freedom fest chili, chicken noodle and cheesy potato bacon soups, choice of pie and a drink. Call to order for pick-up during the event at (309) 932-3520.

The cost is a donation which goes to put on the July 4 fireworks each year in Galva.

– Carol Townsend

ROTO-ROOTER
 (309) 343-6913

EVERYONE WELCOME!
Heartland Private School's Annual Chili/Soup Supper and Book Fair
 Friday, March 1, 2024
 5 - 7 p. m.
 Heartland Private School, Castleton



Suggested Cost: Donation
 Menu: Chili • Chili Mac • Potato Soup
 Homemade Bread • Cheese & Crackers
 Veggies & Dip • Homemade Desserts

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Stark Co. Board discusses illegal aliens

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**
For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Stark County Board met Tuesday for its scheduled monthly meeting and passed a resolution to re-appoint Dale Jackson and Jim Robison to three-year terms to the county planning commission.

Also passed was a resolution concerning past closed session meeting minutes of the county board. The board voted to keep these minutes closed.

An ordinance and resolution were passed that provides a public transportation agreement between Marshall and Stark Counties. The agreement is utilized primarily for transporting senior citizens to grocery stores and to medical appointments.

The county highway department report was presented by road/bridge committee member Robin Nowlan. County engineer Judd Giffin was absent. Nowlan said the county's new road grader has had problems, but that those were resolved, as were problems with county highway trucks.

A special meeting was to be scheduled to pass this year's Motor Fuel Tax resolution for the county and for local townships. The special meeting was originally posted on the Stark County website (www.starkcountyillinois.gov) for Feb. 15, but is being rescheduled for next week.

A finance report was discussed that was submitted by County Treasurer Paula Leezer. Board Chair Kari Bush expressed concern to Sheriff Steven Sloan about more than 100 hours of overtime paid for jail dispatchers. Sloan said the overtime was due to "people being sick."

In his report, Sheriff Sloan said that the new E911 building is looking good and progressing toward a completion date

this spring. The new radio tower is scheduled to be built and put in place soon.

Discussion was held about Stark County being a non-sanctuary county to deter illegal aliens from moving into the county. Office of Emergency Management Chief Deputy Director Ryan Cameron encouraged the board not to pass a resolution banning illegal aliens from being bussed into the county, because it could hinder the county from receiving state funding.

Cameron said that if illegal aliens are dropped off in the county, law-enforcement officials should be notified. He said those officials will contact the Office of Emergency Management to deal with any illegal personnel.

The board decided at this time that it would not develop and pass a resolution designating Stark County as a non-sanctuary county.

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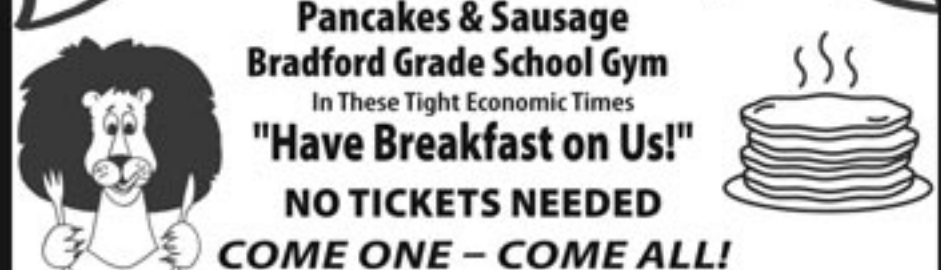


Bradford Lions Club 2024 Benefit

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES
8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday February 18
Pancakes & Sausage
Bradford Grade School Gym
In These Tight Economic Times
"Have Breakfast on Us!"
NO TICKETS NEEDED
COME ONE – COME ALL!

The Bradford Lions wish to thank our loyal supporters of 50+ years!
For Information Call Dennis Hickey at 493-5311 or any Lions Club Member
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You're Invited!

AG OUTLOOK MEETING

March 1st 2024
Registration starts at 8:00am

Midland Golf Course
3536 Midland Rd, Kewanee, IL
(Formerly Kewanee Dunes)

COMPLIMENTARY BREAKFAST FOR ATTENDEES; 9:00 AM MEETING START

RSVP by February 23rd
Please call Tammy Main at State Bank of Toulon 309.286.2861 or the Stark County Farm Bureau Office 309.288.7481 to reserve your spot today!

Event Speakers

- Matt Reardon - Senior Atmospheric Scientist - Nutrien Ag Solutions
- Andy Shissler - President - S&W Trading

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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 ESTATE OF ROGER D. JACOBSON, Deceased
 No. 2024 PR 13

CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Roger D. Jacobson. Letters of Office were issued on January 29, 2024, to Steven D. Jacobson as Independent Representative whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 8, 2024. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now 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/service-providers.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/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC

Attorney for Executor
 211 W. 2nd St.
 Kewanee, IL 61443
 (309) 852-5555
 Published 2/2, 2/9, 2/16/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF: SANDRA E. VERDICK, Deceased

No. 2024PR16

CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Sandra E. Verdick. Letters of Office were issued on February 1, 2024, to Douglas Livingston as Independent Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 9, 2024.

Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have

trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
 Barash & Everett, LLC
 Attorney for Executor
 P.O. Box 165
 Galva, IL 61434
 Phone (309) 932-2001
everett@barashlaw.com
 Published 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF: KAREN REDMAN, Deceased)

No. 2024PR17

CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Karen Redman. Letters of Office were issued on February 6, 2024, to Darci Montoya as Independent Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 9, 2024.

Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with

an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
 Published 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

COMMUNITY STATE BANK, Plaintiff, IN CHANCERY

vs.

Case No. 2023 FC 47
 TIMOTHY M. MANNON, FRANK C. MANNON, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTHCARE AND FAMILY SERVICES, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF COURT SALE

[Code Civ. Proc. §15-1507]
 PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure entered by the court in the above entitled cause, the property hereinafter-described, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is:

Ben Nelson, Vice President
 Community State Bank

409 Tenney Street
 P.O. Box 549
 Kewanee, IL. 61443
 309-853-8182

2. The common address is: 3815 Elmwood Avenue, Kewanee, IL 61443

3. The legal description of the real estate is: Lot Number Nine (9) of Block Number Three (3), in Elmwood Addition to the City of Kewanee, in the County of Henry and State of Illinois

4. Description of Improvements: None

5. The real estate may not be inspected prior to sale unless arrangements are made.

6. The date and time of the sale is: 5 March 19, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

7. The sale will be conducted by the Henry County Sheriff at: The first floor of the old wing of the Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, IL

8. The terms of the sale are: This is an "as is" sale for "cash". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds at time of sale with balance to be paid, by certified funds, in full within 24 hours from the time of sale upon delivery of possession and warranty deed. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Real estate taxes to be prorated to date of closing. Any statements made at time of sale will supersede any previously advertised or announced.

9. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and easements and restrictions of record.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If you are the mortgagor (homeowner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with Section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.
 Published 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/24

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Friday, February 9, 2024, a

certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stark County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as HK TRUCKING AND EXCAVATING located at 332 Enterprise Dr. Bradford, IL 61421
 Dated this 9th day of February 2024.

/s/ Heather Hollis
 County Clerk

No. 2023ASN-11745
 Published 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/24

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Estate of CHERYL K. BINGAMAN, deceased

No. 2024PR3

Notice is given of the death of CHERYL K. BINGAMAN. Letters of Office-Independent Executor were issued on January 8, 2024 to Edward R. Fliege, of 406 N. Vail Street, Geneseo IL 61254, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Michael E. Massie, of Massie & Quick, 1 15 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 representatives, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed within 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 Estate 1 15 Northwest Third Avenue Galva, IL 61434
 Telephone: (309) 932-2168
 Published 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/24

ASSUMED NAME PUBLICATION NOTICE

Public Notice is hereby given that on Friday, February 9, 2024, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stark County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as FLETCHER'S HARD TARGET GUN AND AMMUNITION SUPPLY located at 10345 TOWNSHIP RD 71 N. PRINCEVILLE, IL 61559.
 Dated this 9th day of February 2024.

/s/ Heather Hollis
 County Clerk

No. 2023ASN-11746
 Published 2/16, 2/23, 3/1/24



The Prairie News

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2023 MISSION: OUR MISSION IS HELPING PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE
 This report is published to tell everyone about the work of SCCS, Inc. and associated groups.

- To recognize all persons who contribute time and energy toward our common purposes
- To honor persons and groups who contribute money and goods.
- To inform everyone how time and goods were applied to our mission.
- To ask for continued support by prayer, act and word...that we may continue to respond to God's call to care for our neighbors.

Board of Directors:
 Art Nutzhorn (President) Mike Finnegan (Treasurer), Bonnie Schmidt (Acting Secretary/Director of Food Pantry), Peggy Gray (director of Resource House), Mike Breese, Doug Blunier, Jim Graves & Diane Graves, Jennifer Nutzhorn (Board Members at Large).

Stark County Community Services, Inc. has been around since 1992 but we began helping people in the early 1980s. The growth of service agencies has come about because of the need of people in our county. Thanks to many volunteers and their dedication, families who felt lost are now breathing a little easier. We are a Not-For-Profit corporation registered with the Federal Revenue Service as a 501-C-3 agency. One hundred percent (100%) of dollars received go to fulfill our mission: **helping people help people.**

Stark County Community Services, Inc. Is the umbrella corporation under which several agencies operate. Included in these are the Resource House and Stark County Emergency Food Pantry.

It is our goal to continue God's work as best we can and make a difference in people's lives. We thank you for your support and faith this year.

Stark County Community Services, Inc. Board of Directors

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

<p>STARK COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY 322 S. Downend St., Toulon, IL 61483 • 309-286-6611</p> <p>INCOME:</p> <p>DONATIONS \$22,043.81 (Cash/Food/Grants)</p> <p>EXPENSES:</p> <p>Food Purchased & Operational Expense \$32,517.19 (Rent/Utilities/Office Supplies/Phone)</p> <p>HOUSEHOLDS SERVED: 547</p>	<p>RESOURCE HOUSE 102 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491 • 309-695-5660</p> <p>STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. P. O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483</p> <p>INCOME: \$17,825.00</p> <p>TOTAL EXPENSE: \$28,884.96</p> <p>130 Requests – 340 People Served.</p>	<p>PREGNANCY RESOURCE CENTER 322 S. Downend St., Toulon, IL 61483 • 309-238-1615</p> <p>INCOME: \$1,917.16 EXPENSES: \$1,458.21 DISCONTINUED: Oct. 2023</p> <p>STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC. P.O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483</p> <p>INCOME: \$4,800.00 TOTAL EXPENSE: 6,241.00</p>
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WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND GENEROUS GIFTS MORE THAN EVER. Please send your tax deductible gifts to
Stark County Community Services, Inc., P. O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483.
Please specify if you want your gift to go to a specific ministry, otherwise we will direct it to the greatest need. Thank you!

Groups seek court review of gun ban

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – In a long-expected move, national gun rights organizations are asking the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Illinois' ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines.

In separate petitions filed Monday, the Colorado-based National Association for Gun Rights and the Nevada-based Firearms Policy Coalition asked the nation's high court to reverse a decision of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals.

That court ruled 2-1 in November not to issue a temporary injunction against the law, finding that rights guaranteed under the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution are not absolute.

The gun rights groups were among the lead plaintiffs in two of the many federal lawsuits that have been filed beginning almost immediately after state lawmakers passed the ban in January 2023.

The ban came in reaction to numerous mass shootings around the country in which gunmen used high-power, rapid-fire rifles with large capacity magazines.

Among those was a 2022 mass shooting at a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park that left seven people dead and dozens more injured and

traumatized.

The National Association for Gun Rights backed a suit originally filed in the Northern District of Illinois challenging both the statewide ban and a local assault weapons ban enacted by the city of Naperville.

In February 2023, a federal judge in that case refused to grant a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the law pending the outcome of a trial in the case.

The Firearms Policy Coalition backed a separate suit in the Southern District of Illinois that also had support from the Illinois State Rifle Association and the Second Amendment Foundation.

A judge there granted a preliminary injunction to

block enforcement of the law, saying the ban likely violated the Second Amendment.

Both of those cases, along with others, were part of a consolidated appeal before a three-judge panel of the 7th Circuit, which ruled 2-1 in November not to block enforcement of the law.

Another petition seeking to overturn an assault weapons ban in Maryland was filed Feb. 9. The court has not yet announced whether it will hear any of the appeals.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

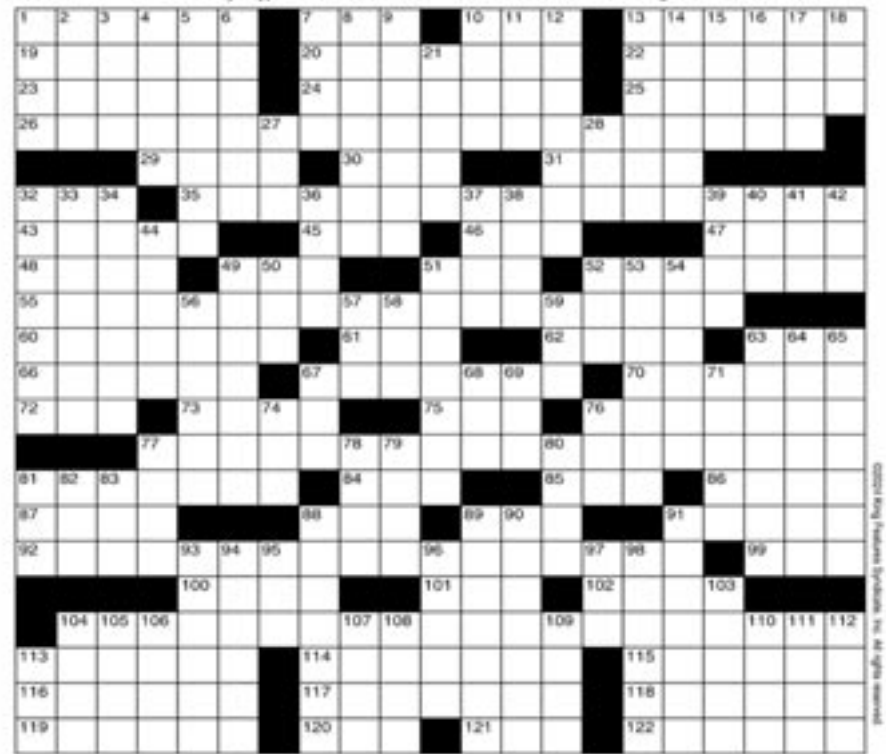
Sponsor the Crossword Puzzle Call (309) 741-9790

Answers on Page 3

Super Crossword

FOURTH-ESTATE FANTASY

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not quite first-rate
- 7 "Patience — virtue"
- 10 Car tankful
- 13 Collie of TV
- 19 Cattle farm of the West
- 20 Trumpet blast
- 22 Singer and actor Frankie
- 23 When it's 12:00 p.m.
- 24 Element #3
- 25 Japanese city that hosted the 1998 Olympics
- 26 Start of a riddle
- 29 Japanese buckwheat noodle
- 30 Dr. Seuss' Sam —
- 31 Arno, — amas, —
- 32 "Addams Family" cousin
- 35 Riddle, part 2
- 43 Faint smell
- 45 Foldout bed
- 46 Co-workers of MDs
- 47 Stalactite site
- 48 Florence's river
- 49 Total amount
- 51 "Scram!"
- 52 Minecraft and StarCraft, e.g.
- 55 Riddle, part 3
- 60 Brief promos
- 61 Triops' place
- 62 Pop's Celine
- 63 See 58-Down
- 66 Bullfighter
- 67 Riddle, part 4
- 70 Put a new front on, as a building
- 72 Unbroken
- 73 Recognized
- 75 With 59-Down, brand of frozen potatoes
- 76 Famously feisty fish
- 77 Riddle, part 5
- 81 Oval shape
- 84 Dejected
- 85 "Who am — judge?"
- 86 Secret writing
- 87 Postal pieces
- 88 Detectives like TV's Magnum, for short
- 89 Karachi's nation: Abbr.
- 91 Very long time periods
- 92 End of the riddle
- 99 Disloyal type
- 99 Impulsive desire
- 101 Illusionist
- 102 Like planted seeds
- 104 Riddle's answer
- 113 Enter very quickly
- 114 Novelist Caldwell
- 115 Common gauge for toy trains
- 116 "Despite that ..."
- 117 Gets smaller
- 118 "Happy Days" actress Ross
- 119 Burks on ships
- 120 Mil. ranker
- 121 Gym pad
- 122 Hole to receive a lace
- 9 Lure for insect
- 44 Bob of choreography
- 49 Tahitian skirts
- 50 Package delivery co.
- 51 Carpentry material for some cabinets
- 52 Chi follower
- 53 Spicy Spanish pork sausage
- 54 Taxonomic subdivisions
- 56 Become lively
- 57 Cheer yell
- 58 With 63-Across, for the time being
- 59 See 75-Across
- 63 Oven used to bake naan
- 64 Spicy anteaater
- 65 Most unkind situation
- 67 Conservation org. with a panda logo
- 68 Pooch's yap
- 69 Big blue body
- 71 Genre of many sitcoms
- 74 Wide shoe spec
- 76 Mining shaft
- 77 Higher ground?
- 78 "You wish"
- 79 Condé — skirts
- 80 User-edited website
- 81 Rescue squad VIP
- 82 " — d-dah"
- 83 False story
- 88 Projecting curves on saddles
- 89 By the day
- 90 Huffington of HuffPost
- 91 So to speak
- 93 Wise-acting
- 94 Thick-skinned critter
- 95 Day, in Chile
- 96 Studly guys being
- 97 Abbr. on a bad check
- 98 End a vacation
- 103 Mother-of-pearl
- 104 Surfing need
- 105 Cake finisher
- 106 Holy Week's time
- 107 Eldest of the Brady boys
- 108 Helper: Abbr.
- 109 For fear that
- 110 Half a train track
- 111 — gin fizz spec
- 112 Camp shelter
- 113 Yank's rival



Craft-Vendor Show

Saturday, February 24, 2024
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Kewanee American Legion Post 31
1509 Railroad Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443

Friends of the Animals are hosting our Annual Craft/Vendor Show. All funds raised will be used to help assist families in financial need to help pay their vet bills. (money paid directly to the Vet.)

Please come join us for shopping with vendors such as Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Papparazzi, BV Jewelry Designs, Tupperware, Purple Owl, Glass by Sue, Mee to Youee and Scentsy just to name a few. Come have breakfast and lunch with us, we will be having a special drawing for the Faber Family donations from Tim Bryner Chainsaw Carving and Little Valley Crafts. Plus raffle baskets donated by, Sauk Trail Animal Hosp., PNB, 7 Sisters, Kew Park District, SBT, NAPA, Tastefully Simple, just to name a few

Amber Waves



The Spats



Just Like Cats & Dogs



GRIN & BEAR IT



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

AXYLSAAXR 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.

G BT HFX PGEXEH TBO BIGUX,
KWJ G VOWP WOX HFGOY, BON
HFBH GE HFBH G VOWP
OWHFGOY,
— EWMJBHXE

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Trivia test

by FIS Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which popular Netflix series features groups of teens nicknamed "Kooks" and "Pogues"?
- HISTORY: When did Facebook launch?
- MUSIC: Which pop music singer had hits with songs like "Changes" and "Let's Dance"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What country possesses the Isle of Wight?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of peacocks called?
- AD SLOGANS: Which company's advertising slogan is "the ultimate driving machine"?
- LANGUAGE: What is the Latin phrase often shortened to "i.e."?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the name of the maze that confined the Minotaur?
- MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "Mischief. Mayhem. Soap."?
- LITERATURE: Shakespeare is believed to have written approximately how many plays?

TOP 10 MOVIES

- Argyle (PG-13)
- The Chosen: S4:E1 NR
- The Beekeeper (R)
- Wonka (PG)
- Migration (PG)
- Mean Girls (PG-13)
- Anyone But You (R)
- American Fiction (R)
- Poor Things (R)
- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13)

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CHURCH DIRECTORY

Toulon Methodist Church

229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
Phone (309) 286-2224

Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 286-2224 or (217) 778-1591
Toulon Sunday School 9:15 a.m., all ages & Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

LaFayette Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 17, P.O. Box 147, LaFayette, IL. 61449
Phone (309) 995-3371

Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 995-3371 or (217) 778-1591.
LaFayette Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

West Jersey United Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 78, West Jersey, IL. Rev. Pablo Marty
Phone (217) 425-5707

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

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: 105 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491
Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.

Mail: PO Box 322, Wyoming, IL 61491
email: info@thegathering.life

web: <https://www.thegathering.life/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

(309) 286-4901
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Email fcctoulon@gmail.com

website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434
(309) 932-3733

Service Time 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church

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211 NW 4th Ave GALVA

Main Service: Sun 10:30

New Preacher! Bryan Griem

(309) 932-2713 • GalvaBaptistChurch.com

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491

309-695-4523 leave message

Sunday School: 10:00, All ages

Sunday Worship: 11:00

Wednesday Night TBD

Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church of Christ

Pastor Ross Wyman

204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491
(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational UCC of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon
(309) 286-4611

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m.

Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday Kid's Club 5:30-7 p.m.

Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Email: pastor@toulonbaptist.com

www.ToulonBaptist.com

www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon

Call us for Salvation Army Assistance

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
16883 State Route 17, PO Box 158 - Wyoming, IL 61491

allsaintsil.com

Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL

Casual, family friendly

Rev. Katie Gallagher

Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Worship (in Luther Hall)

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

Contact: messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com

1-309-932-3346

Facebook: Messiah Lutheran—Galva, IL

Galva First United Methodist Church

Rev. Rebecca Gearhart

214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434

(309) 932-2460

preachinghope@gmail.com

galvafirst@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 9:00

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Pastor Rebecca Klemm

302 North Main Street PO Box 287 Wyoming, IL, 61491-0287.

309-606-9027

Email: WyomingUMCPastor@gmail.com

Service is held at 10:30 Sunday morning.

The Oaks Community Church

1868 Congregational Road, Dahinda, IL

(309) 879-2042

Pastor Marty Briney and Pastor Dean Lane

Worship Service 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Website www.theoakscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch

Bradford Leet United Methodist Church

Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church

Leet UMC 118 E. Main St., Bradford, IL 61421

Services on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Boyd's Grove UMC 1976 Wyandot Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421

Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Rev Dan Wright

309-897-8113

309-507-1626

thewrights62@hotmail.com

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OBITUARIES

Benjamin R. Howes

BETTENDORF – Benjamin R. Howes, 32, of Bettendorf, Iowa, died Friday, Feb. 2, 2024, at his home.

Benjamin was born Feb. 5, 1991, in Princeton, the son of Bob and Carol (Jacobs) Howes. He married Sarah Cannon on Feb. 9, 2019, in Bettendorf.

Benjamin was a 2014 graduate of St. Ambrose University and was employed at John Deere. He loved music, dirt bikes, playing the drums and watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and Los Angeles Lakers. He also loved spending time at his family cabin in Wisconsin.

He is survived by his wife, Sarah Howes, of Bettendorf; his parents, Bob and Carol Howes, of Walnut; two sisters, Abbey (Jeremy VanLan-duit) Howes of Tampico and Sarah Howes of Wyandot; one brother, Beau (Nicole) Howes of Holly Ridge, N.C.; maternal grandmother, Marjorie Jacobs of Walnut; and his paternal grandparents, Doug (Mary) Hansen of Walnut and Tom Howes of Bradford.

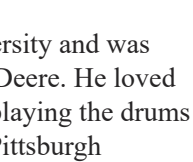
He was preceded in death by his maternal grandfather, Albert Jacobs; his aunt, Ruth Howes-Palacios; and his good friend, Johnny Pogliano.

A visitation was to be held on Thursday, Feb. 8, 2024, from 5–7 p.m. at the Garland Funeral Home in Walnut. A graveside service was to be on Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. at Walnut Cemetery with Reverend Philip Fischhaber officiating.

A memorial has been established.

Online condolences may be sent to www.garlandfuneralhomes.com.

Howes



Patricia A. Robbins

DUNLAP – Patricia Ann Robbins, 86, of Dunlap, passed away on Monday, Feb. 12, 2024.

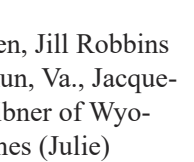
She was born on Aug. 6, 1937, in Peoria, to the late Ivan and Margaret (Hargadine) Ruse. On Dec. 7, 1957, she married Lloyd Wendell Robbins in Peoria. He preceded her in death on July 20, 2003.

Survivors include three children, Jill Robbins Rosen of Broad Run, Va., Jacqueline (Richard) Deibner of Wyoming, Ill., and James (Julie) Robbins of Great Mills, Md.; nine grandchildren, Brian Arthur (Christianna) Coss, Daniel Lee Coss, Christaan Lloyd Deibner, Lindsey Edwin (Kristi) Deibner, Travis McKensie (Brittney) Deibner, Wesleyan Richard (Nola) Deibner, Katherine Margaret (Alex) Moss, Jacob Lloyd Robbins and Joshua James Robbins; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Pat graduated in 1955 from Wyoming Community High School. She was active in the FHA, Drama and Wy-Hi Booster Clubs. She was the art editor and played clarinet in the band.

Patricia worked as a secretary for Rennick Law Offices before marrying her high-school sweetheart in 1957. Following marriage, she dedicated herself to caring for her family and managing the family farm she inherited from her late parents. Together, she and Lloyd enjoyed traveling and being part of their communities in both Texas and Tennessee where they were active in the HOAs and the establishment of the volunteer fire

Robbins



department.

After Lloyd's death, she moved to Dunlap, Ill., to be near family. She enjoyed being involved with others, visiting her family and was active as the vice president of the Fields of Hickory Grove Condo Association for many years.

Her funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 19, 2024, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Rev. Glenn Corbly will officiate. Burial will follow at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in rural Wyoming.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Penn Township Cemetery Fund.

Condolences may be left for Patricia's family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Nancy A. Puskar

KEWANEE – Nancy Ann Puskar, 74, of Kewanee, died Feb. 8, 2024, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

She was born on Aug. 25, 1949, in Springfield. She married Leo "Sonny" Puskar Jr. on Dec. 19, 1969, in Toulon and he preceded her in death on Aug. 1, 2007.

She is survived by two sons, Leo Puskar III and James (Valerie) Puskar, both of Kewanee; two daughters, Sherry (Reuben) Israel of Rockford and Michelle Puskar of Kewanee; four grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter on the way.

Nancy was a graduate of Toulon High School and Black Hawk East. She had worked at Excel Leather Factory and was also a homemaker.

Cremation will be accorded and graveside services will be held at Pleasant View Cemetery at a later date.

Rux Funeral Home is assisting the family with arrangements.



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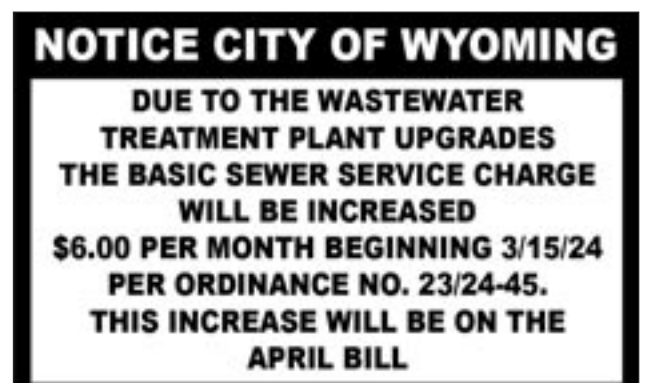
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Veronica Haskell, Certified Funeral Celebrant/Licensed Pre-Need Agent
Nicole Reed, Funeral Director/Licensed Pre-Need Agent/
Certified Funeral Celebrant



TURNING 65?
Or Need help with your Medicare Supplement?
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30 yrs Experience
309/695/2244



NOTICE CITY OF WYOMING
DUE TO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADES THE BASIC SEWER SERVICE CHARGE WILL BE INCREASED
\$6.00 PER MONTH BEGINNING 3/15/24 PER ORDINANCE NO. 23/24-45.
THIS INCREASE WILL BE ON THE APRIL BILL



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PEKIN INSURANCE

IHSA adding girls flag football as sport in fall

The Illinois High School Association announced Wednesday that girls flag football will be the latest sport to debut an IHSA State Series.

The IHSA will conduct its inaugural postseason this fall, culminating with girls flag football state finals Oct. 11-12.

So far, more than 100 schools have committed to participate in the inaugural season of girls flag football. The IHSA says nearly 40 other schools have said they anticipate fielding a team in 2025.

“The addition of girls flag football furthers the IHSA mission of creating participation opportunities for high school students in Illinois,” said IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson. “The sport has experienced significant growth in a short amount of time, and our member schools are excited to see it become an IHSA sport.”

“The Chicago Public Schools Athletic Administration and the Chicago Bears both deserve significant praise for their grassroots efforts in shepherding and supporting the growth of girls flag football in Illinois.”

The IHSA Board of Directors approved the girls flag football state



Lane Tech won a Chicago Public League flag football championship in 2023 at the Chicago Bears' Halas Hall. Photo courtesy of the IHSA.

series during its regularly scheduled meeting on Feb. 4. The IHSA will offer a State Series in 40 total sports and activities in 2024-25, in addition to its Wheelchair Basketball Tournament, Unified games via its partnership with Special Olympics, and Athletes with Disabilities divisions in multiple sports.

“It is important for the IHSA to continue to adapt to the interests of our students and schools,” said Dan Tully, the principal at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles and president of the IHSA board. “Girls flag football is somewhat unprecedented in terms of its growth and timeline for

achieving an IHSA State Series. We are enthusiastic about how much has been accomplished in such a short amount of time, and expect that participation will continue to increase in the years ahead.”

Girls flag football joins a growing list of sports and activities that have recently conducted its inaugural IHSA state series, including girls wrestling (2022), Esports (2022), boys and girls lacrosse (2018) and competitive dance (2013).

The CPL conducted a postseason tourney in 2021, which was won by Back of the Yards High School. The CPL and Chicago Bears then joined together to host a state championship event at Halas Hall in 2022 and 2023, with Willowbrook and Lane Tech high schools winning state championships, respectively.

An IHSA advisory committee has met twice previously and will look to finalize the rulebook and structure of the state series at upcoming meetings. The IHSA will also create a request for proposals in order to find sites interested in hosting the state finals. Individuals interested in becoming officials can begin licensing on May 1, 2024.

SPORTS: Galva, Stark Co. girls lose in regionals

Continued from Page 12
a home game at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 19 against 10th-seeded Peru St. Bede.

Regional semifinals are Feb. 21 and the title game is Feb. 23, all at Wethersfield. Lanark Eastland is the top seed in the sub-sectional.

Galva Girls – Galva (5-20) lost to Monmouth United on Feb. 10 in the first-round of postseason play. Playing at United in the quarterfinals of the Class 1A Annawan Regional, Galva lost 40-20.

Prior to that, Galva had ended its regular season with a 38-37 overtime win at home against Orion.

Ava Strom had five of her team-

high 25 points in overtime. Galva also got six points from Addison Yepsen.

Stark County Girls – The Lady Rebels (3-26) lost to Elmwood in the first-round of postseason play, 54-18. The game was part of the Class 1A Princeville Regional, but was played at Elmwood.

Kenna Newton led Stark County with seven points, Payten Hillier added five and Sophie Finnegan scored four.

Elsewhere – LTC girls teams put on a strong showing in early rounds of regional action.

At Princeville on Monday, Kewa-

nee Wethersfield beat Elmwood, 42-36. Elmwood was without three of its top seven players from earlier this year, when the Lady Trojans won 50-30 vs. Wethersfield on Nov. 25. Huffman led Wethersfield with 15 points, all on 3-pointers, and Kennady Anderson scored all 10 of her points in the fourth quarter, including four key free throws to close out the win after Elmwood got to within 38-26 with 1:29 remaining. ... Also at Princeville, Abingdon-Avon upset top-seed West Central, 57-37. ... And Annawan rolled through its semifinal at home, topping Ridgewood, 72-39.

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Early voting for the March 19th 2024 Primary Election will begin February 8th and end March 18th
at the office of the Stark County Clerk
130 W. Main, Toulon. Voting hours are
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Emotional evening

Rebels win at culmination of Hegwood fundraiser

By **NICK VLAHOS** and **JEFF LAMPE**

For The Prairie News

Stark County led to begin the fourth quarter Tuesday night, but host Abingdon-Avon eked out a 43-42 Lincoln Trail Conference boys basketball victory.

The Rebels (18-11, 8-2 LTC) broke from a 23-23 halftime tie and were ahead 32-29 after three quarters. But they weren't able to break open the game, according to Stark County Coach Dusty Browning. His team missed a last-second shot.

Ross Saner had 11 points for Stark County, and Matthew Bowser scored 10.

On Feb. 9, Stark County ended its regular-season home schedule on a more positive note all the way around.

The Rebels beat Monmouth United 57-30 in the culmination of a fundraiser for Stark County teacher and coach Katina Hegwood, who is battling cancer. The effort raised more than \$21,000, which was presented to Hegwood's family in the form of an oversized check.

"There was a big crowd at the game on an already emotional night," Browning stated. "I was worried that it was going to be an early factor, but we played very well from the start and the game was really never in doubt."

Stark County led 33-11 at intermission of that LTC game. Luke Rewerts and Saner each had 11 points overall, and Connor Wagenbach scored 10.

United also is the Stark County opponent in its Class 1A regional opener, set for 6 p.m. Feb. 19 in Toulon. The Rebels are seeded fifth in their Abingdon sub-sectional and are assigned to a regional at Williamsfield. United is the 11th seed.



Senior Luke Rewerts (left) poses with Stark County Coach Dusty Browning after topping the 1,000-point mark for his basketball career during a Jan. 27 game.

Regional semifinals and the championship game are Feb. 21 and 23, respectively, all at Billtown.

Stark County ended the regular season Thursday night with an LTC game at Princeville, which is the top seed in the sub-sectional.

Galva Boys – Heading into its regular-season finale Thursday night at home against Kewanee Wethersfield, Galva lost its previous two LTC games.



Knoxville defeated Galva 56-45 on Tuesday night. The Wildcats (8-20, 1-9) also lost Feb. 9 to league-leading Mercer County, 63-35. Blake Stahl had 22 points for Galva. A nonconference game scheduled for Monday night at DePue was canceled.

Galva received the ninth seed in its Class 1A Hanover sub-sectional and was assigned to the Wethersfield Regional. The Wildcats open their postseason with

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