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March 22, 2024
Vol. 21, No. 8

The Prairie News

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Wyoming OKs measure to pump out wastewater plant

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
 For The Prairie News

WYOMING – Wyoming’s City Council heard a dire report about the wastewater treatment plant during its Tuesday meeting.

Alderman Jim Mercer reported on a critical situation at the city’s wastewater treatment plant, located west of town just off of Route 17.

“Things are full!” Mercer said.

Mercer said the plant has to be pumped out to restore functional-

ity.

“The looming problem we have right now is that the digesters are full, the ditch is full, the trickling pond is full and it has lost all ability to move (the sewage) around,” Mercer said.

“So, it’s going to be coming up here for resolution. Stewart Spreading came out and looked at what we had.”

The council passed a resolution authorizing the city to contract Stewart Spreading, Inc. of Sheri-

dan, Ill., to pump liquid biosolids from the wastewater treatment plant digester for \$25,000. According to the resolution, Stewart will pump “up to 150,000 gallons and potential volume over 150,000 gallons to be dewatered and transported to the landfill (at 13 cents per gallon.”

It is estimated that four to six semi-truck loads will need to be hauled to the Knox County landfill and charged the prevailing rate there.

The city will also seek a state permit, which could take up to three months to obtain, that will allow taking “waste to farm fields” for application by farmers who agree to accept the waste on their fields. Mercer said this “will save the city a lot of money.”

Mercer additionally said that he learned from Ham R/O Systems that the city’s new reverse-osmosis system is being built and should ship in April. Mercer said the system will take a few days

to install.

Local business owners Chad Patel of Hunt Brothers Pizza, Jenny Tillman of Curry’s Restaurant and Amy Stutzman on Spoon River Bowl addressed the council about food trucks entering and setting up in Wyoming. The owners said that food trucks take away customers from their businesses. The owners complained about a Toulon food truck that periodically sets up on

Continued on Page 2

School hiring

Stark County interviewing for new elementary principal

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
 For The Prairie News

WYOMING – Superintendent Brett Elliott told the Stark County School board Monday to be ready for another meeting soon.

Elliott said there are interviews scheduled this week with candidates for the elementary school principal position. He said his hope is to hold a special board meeting on Monday, March 25, for approval of a new principal.

“We held three focus groups last week with faculty, staff and a select parent panel to design a profile of our next elementary principal, which will help guide us through our search,” Elliott said.

Current Elementary Principal Jenna Bibb has accepted a position with the Cambridge school district to be their superintendent next school year.

Later in the evening, after a closed session, the board announced the resignation of Dustin Browning as head high school basket-



Mastin

LINCOLN DAY LUNCHEON



Pictured above Republican elected officials who attended the March 16, 2024, Lincoln Day Luncheon held in Toulon at the Bistro. From left to right are: Tom Howes, Bradford, Stark County board member, Jamie Schaffer, Wyoming Valley, Stark County board member, Austin King, Stark County State's Attorney, Paula Leezer, Stark County treasurer, Toulon mayor Larry Hollis, State Rep. Ryan Spain, Mike Bigger, Stark County GOP chair, Tim Yager, Geneseo, candidate for GOP nomination for State Senate in the 37th District, Judge Caroline Borden-Campion, Kippy Breeden, Henry County Board chair, State Rep. Travis Weaver, Mark Breeden, Kippy Breeden's husband, David Dyer, Black Hawk College board member, and Adam Wilson, Stark County board member. Photo by John A. Ballentine.



Pictured at right, from left to right, are Republicans Kippy Breeden, Henry County Board of Supervisors chair, Travis Weaver, Brimfield, State Representative, and Ryan Spain, Peoria, State Representative who were in attendance at the Lincoln Day Luncheon held at Toulon's Bistro. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

Orwig honored

Named to auctioneer hall of fame

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
 For The Prairie News

WEST JERSEY – West Jersey’s Joe Orwig was recently inducted into the Illinois State Auctioneers Association Hall of Fame.

The honor recognizes Orwig’s long membership and service to the organization.

“I have been in the association for 20-plus years. I’ve been committee chairs and have held every office. I’ve been president in 2011 and 2012 and was secretary-treasurer for 15 years,” Orwig said.

“It’s all about engagement and I’ve been pretty engaged in the association for the past 20 years.”

Orwig graduated from Toulon-LaFayette High School in 1982 and from Black Hawk East College in 1984 with an associate’s degree in science.

But it was a two-week auction school in North Carolina in 1982 that changed his life.

“It was the best thing that ever happened to me,” Orwig told AgriNews. “My favorite part (of an auction), you’ll have a 20-some-year-old lady, dressed to the nines, and you’ll have an old

Continued on Page 2



Orwig





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STARK: Gym bids opened for new gymnasium

Continued from Page 1

ball coach and the hiring of current assistant coach Kane Mastin as head high school boys' basketball coach for the 2024-25 school year.

Elliott reported that the new track project continues to progress toward an anticipated completion date of this summer. Concrete and fencing have been nearly completed this week. Asphalt work will begin in late April.

Bids for the new gymnasium were opened for all subcontractors and were up for approval Monday evening, according to CORE representative Dan Joos, of Peoria. Joos said that the biddings came just under the \$5 million budget.

Also, additional sound baffling will be installed in the gymnasium.

There is the possibility that \$500,000 could be transferred to the track project. Joos said the gym project has an early April start and expects an early 2025 completion date.

Elliott added that May 7 is Senior Honors Day, graduation is May 12 at 1 p.m., 8th grade promotion is May 15 at 6 p.m. and the last day of school is May 24, with an 11 a.m. student dismissal.

The board approved replacing a steam trap at the Junior High School, with Ruyle Mechanical Services Inc. of Peoria handling the work for an estimated \$6,527 as part of ongoing upgrades of the HVAC systems to boost efficiency of the boiler.

The board also approved a one-year renewal with Resource Sharing Alliance for approximately \$1,800.

Elliott said this would be the last year with Resource Sharing Alliance, because the group is raising its rates to \$7,500 the next year.

M&M Lawn Service was approved to maintain lawn care of the football field and surrounding properties at a rate of \$50/hour, an increase of \$5/hour over last year.

Also approved was a motion to post jobs for one summer technology support staff and one student technology support staff to assist with Chromebook updating and preparation for the new year.

Ashton Forstrom was approved as junior high girls basketball coach and the board also accepted the resignation of Karen Roberts on the kitchen staff.

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WYOMING: Spoon River Day July 27

Continued from Page 1

the Family Dollar/Dollar Tree business located on South Seventh Street.

The council was told by City Attorney Justin Raver that it cannot regulate the Toulon food truck because of a state statute and it is on private property.

Stutzman said she only had one customer on one of the occasions that the Toulon food truck was in Wyoming. Raver suggested that residents "vote with your money" and not patronize the food truck.

Jon Knoblauch addressed the council to discuss the Spoon River Day celebration on July 27. He said the

event will be at the Stark County Fairgrounds in conjunction with the Stark County 4H Junior Fair.

Knoblauch said a 5K run will be added to the Spoon River Day followed by a pancake breakfast. He said the celebration "will be mostly free of charge." The council later passed a resolution to donate \$1,000 to the event.

The council also approved hiring Giffin-Reeise Engineering, Inc. of Henry as city engineer, replacing the Farnsworth Group of Peoria. Farnsworth will finish its ongoing projects.

Both firms were asked for rate charges: Farns-

worth bills \$230 per hour while Giffin-Reeise charges \$175 per hour or \$125 per hour, depending on who is overseeing a project.

The council approved paying \$20,071 of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loan money to Leander Construction (\$6,756) and to Farnsworth (\$15,314) for work completed at the wastewater treatment plant.

The council also approved an \$8,500 Kubota lawn mower purchase from Princeville's German Bliss-Equipment and \$3,176 to reimburse Stahl Lumber-Ready Mix for a vacuum system.

ORWIG: Built auction center in 2016

Continued from Page 1

man in a pair of coveralls right next to her and they bid on the same thing,"

Orwig was born June 7, 1964, in Geneseo to parents Lester (who has passed) and Bertha, who lives at Toulon's Sunshine Village. He has two brothers, John and Jeff, and one sister, Jill.

Orwig has lived in several Illinois communities and his family moved to rural LaFayette in 1977.

Previously, Orwig has been a farm hand, worked for Toulon's Tom Pearson and Dave Mowers at their businesses and was a union carpenter for 11 years.

Orwig met wife Karin on a blind date in 2004 and they married Feb. 19, 2005 at the Botanical Garden at the Peoria Zoo.

They have lived on Illinois Route 78 near the Peoria-Stark County line since 1986. They have two children at home, Olivia and Nolan, while there are

five children grown and gone on their own.

In 2016, Orwig built the Orwig Auction and Event Center just east of Toulon on Grainbin Road. It serves as host to various events of the local communities and to online and live auctions.

Asked what people would be surprised to know about him, Orwig said, "I like to read a lot. No one knows that because I'm at home when reading."

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

- 2-25 - Randi L. Wilder - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.
- 3-7 - Eric J. Polich - Speeding 26-34 mph over limit.
- 3-8 - Zachary A. Simpson - Speeding 26-34 mph over limit.
- 3-8 - Carrie L. Castro - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.
- 3-13 - Devin A. Hamrick - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.
- 3-13 - Tyler N. Morrow - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.

Misdemeanors & Felonies

- 3-8 - Crimnal felony - Jessica D. Smith - False report of an offense.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

2-28 - A two-vehicle accident occurred on 500N at the intersection of 1400E. Drivers involved were a 17-year-old Wyoming teen and Frances E. Iles, 34, of Castleton. No injuries were reported, and no tickets were issued. The vehicle sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

3-3 - A single-vehicle accident occurred on 1700E, approximately a half-mile north of 00N. The driver was Glen Broker, 42, of Speer. According to the accident report, Broker was traveling south when he lost control of the vehicle, which crossed into the oncoming lane of traffic before leaving the road and rolling onto its side. No injuries were reported, and no tickets were issued. The vehicle sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

3-12 - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Illinois Route 93. The driver was Linda S. Emmons, 45, of Bradford. No injuries were reported but the vehicle sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

3-13 - A complaint about an abandoned vehicle was reported to authorities in Toulon, where the vehicle was parked in an alley between N. Miller and Franklin St. The vehicle was later towed to the sheriff's department's impound lot.

3-13 - Genaro Avila-Gayton, 27, LaFayette, was cited for speeding 73 mph in a 45 zone and for driving while his license was suspended.

3-13 - Pricsiliano Castaneda Jr. 29, Kewanee, was cited for driving an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a notice to appear.

3-14 - Joshua A. Feucht, 41, Princeville, was ticketed for an abandoned vehicle at the Toulon Ag View FS business that had no valid registration. Authorities had the vehicle towed from the private property and taken to the county impound lot.

3-15 - A 28-year-old Romeoville man attempted to elude officers from the Toulon Police Department. Richard Ortiz was taken into custody and charged with speeding 58 mph in a 40 zone, driving with no proof of vehicle insurance, possession of a controlled and or counterfeit substance(s), obstructing justice, possession of drug paraphernalia, resisting and or obstructing a peace officer, fleeing and or attempting to elude a police officer, driving on an expired registration and driving while his license was revoked. Ortiz was booked and transported to the Bureau County Jail.



3-15 - A juvenile battery complaint was received from the 500 block of W. Thomas St. in Toulon. The incident was investigated by the Toulon Police Department and the complainant later agreed not to press charges against a 15-year-old teen.

Galva Report Officer dispatched:

3-11 - to 600 block of SW 2nd Ave. to answer questions about an ordinance warning letter that had been received in the mail.

3-11 - Officer was notified about a repossession taking place in the 100 block of Commercial St. A vehicle was taken without incident.

3-11 - Officer spoke to a resident in the 800 block of NW 3rd Ave. about an ordinance violation letter they received in the mail.

3-11 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a subject outside yelling. The subject appeared to be having a mental-health crisis and agreed to go inside for the night.

3-12 - to the 600 block of NW 5th St. for a complaint involving a telephone scam.

3-12 - to the 00 block of NE 9th St. in reference to a lost cell phone complaint.

3-12 - to the 200 block of NE 4th St. for an illegal burning complaint. Officer was not able to locate anything burning.

3-12 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for an unknown complaint. Officer made contact with the complainant, who declined to speak to a Galva officer.

3-12 - to the 00 block of SW 2nd St. for a cellphone found in a parking lot. The phone was taken to the Galva Police Department.

3-13 - to assist the Galva-Bishop Hill fire departments, with a farm tractor fully engulfed in flames on 400 North near 1850 East.

3-13 - Officer spoke to a complainant on the phone about a 16-year-old child who ran away from home earlier in the day. The child was located at a friend's house.

3-13 - to the 300 block of SE 3rd St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog owner was warned about the Illinois leash law.

3-13 - to attend a forensic interview in reference to allegations of parental misconduct.

3-14 - to the 100 block of SE 1st St. for a loose-dog complaint. Officer was not able to locate the dog.

3-14 - to assist the Galesburg Police Departmetn attempt to locate a subject in reference to a retail theft in Galesburg. The subject was not located.

3-14 - Rodney Broadfield, 64, Toulon, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 200 block of SE 2nd St. He was released with a court date.

3-14 - Karl Branom, 37, Kewanee, cited for expired registration in the 700 block of W. Division St.

3-15 - to meet with a subject at the Galva Police Department to register them as a sex offender. The form was completed and emailed to Henry County for LEADS entry.

3-15 - While patrolling, the officer noticed a vehicle door standing open on a parked car in the 500 block of SW 4th St. The owner was notified.

3-15 - to the 300 block of SE 2nd Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was returned to its owner.

3-15 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 400 block of W. Division St., Myles Spring, 20, Brimfield, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a required court date.

3-15 - Jarrod Galli, 40, Neponset, cited for expired registration in the 200 block of Main St.

3-16 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 600 block of S. Center Ave., Devon Austin, 40, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date.

3-16 - to the 600 block of NW 1st St. for a traffic complaint. This incident was referred to the state's attorney's office for consideration.

3-16 - Ashley Morgan, 25, East Moline, vited for expired registration in the 700 block of W. Division St.

3-17 - to the 300 block of NE 9th St. for a burglary that had just occurred. Officer located the suspect and determined it was a misunderstanding. The complainant's husband had loaned the items to another subject and the wife was not aware.

3-17 - to the 1000 block of N. Center Ave. for a reckless-driving complaint. The subject was located and said he was lost. Directions were given to the Chicago area.

3-17 - to the 200 block of NE 2nd St. for an illegal-burning complaint. The subject was warned and the fire was put out.

3-17 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 100 block of SW 2nd St., Rebecca Muckey, 35, Galva, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended, for mandatory insurance violation and illegal transportation of alcohol by a driver. A passenger, Michael Bargar, 51, Galesburg, was also issued a citation for illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger. They were both released with pending court dates.

3-17 - Aiden Miller, 19, Kalamazoo, Mich., cited for speeding in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St.

Property Transfers

3-11 - James D. Cole II and Ruth L. Cole to James D. Cole II and Ruth L. Cole, Trustees - Pt Sect 35-12-5 SE and SW - Consideration = \$0.

3-14 - Sondie L. McDermott to Marvin D. McDermott - Pt 25-13-7 SW - Consideration = \$0.

Divorces

3-15 - Heather A. Glisan, Toulon and Todd R. Glisan, Wyoming.

3-19 - Ann L. Knoblauch and Jonathan P. Knoblauch, both of Wyoming.

NOTICE

Spring Cemetery Clean up week:

All grave blankets, artificial flowers, potted flowers, and all other plants are requested to be removed from the Galva Cemetery by Sunday, March 24, 2024 if relatives wish to save them.

No more flowers should be placed on the graves until after Thursday, March 28, 2024.

Galva Cemetery Board

Galva Park District

Get Ready for summer! April Pool Membership Special: Extra family members at no additional charge.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

INPJS	SCOWL	ALSO	LASH
METAL	IONIA	GAPS	EXPO
FALSE	ARREST	OHIO	ALEC
OWN	MOCK	TURTLE	NECK
ONENOTE	EAT	CELT	
FAUX	FINISH	WIJU	MOOSE
ARR	GRUEL	CROSS	CUT
COUNTER	FEIT	BILL	EPA
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SLOE	UTA	DUCHESS	
IMITATION	PEARL	TIE	
TOGA	ONCE	THATS	SUNREAL
CLOT	ETTU	NERDY	CIRCA
HERE	SOAP	AMASS	HOSED

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuote answer

It seems pointless to be quoted if one isn't going to be quotable ... it's better to be quotable than honest. — Tom Stoppard

The Prairie News

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- **Publisher** - Jeff Lampe
news@prairie-news.com
- **Advertising Manager** - Pam Wulf
ads@prairie-news.com
- **Ad and Graphic Designer** - Ken Black
graphics@prairie-news.com
- **Chief Correspondent** - John Ballentine
- **Bradford Correspondent** - Angie Stange
- **Galva Correspondent** - Carol Townsend

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On the road: New Zealand’s South Island

If an important part of your business is flying between the U.S. and New Zealand – like it is for Air New Zealand – you get pretty skilled at making the tedious, 13-hour flight from Los Angeles to Auckland go smoothly.

Part of it is the late-night departure from massive Los Angeles International; it all but ensures most passengers are ready for a quiet rest within an hour or so of boarding. Next, a lovely but heavy dinner of Kiwi lamb and red wine leadens the eyelids even more.

But the really clever part of the flight plan is landing in Auckland at 6 a.m., or an astonishing two and a half days ahead of when you departed. That means if you leave LA on Monday night, you land in Auckland at the crack of dawn Wednesday, well fed, somewhat rested, and 6,525 miles southwest of the continental U.S.

Don’t worry, though; you’ll get that lost day back when you return.

That’s if you return because even the small slice of New Zealand’s South Island our family group recently explored held more than enough sun-splashed mountains, glacial lakes, sprawling farms – or “stations” in local parlance – and welcoming people to make our 16 day-stay too brief.

Unlike most previous trips, however, we drove little (less than 500 miles in two weeks), stayed longer in places Kiwi friends had recommended, and cooked, grilled, and ate more local food because we stayed in rental homes.

Our tour began by leaving Auckland, on the North Island, just four hours and four strong coffees after we arrived. That flight took us to Queenstown, the pearl city of the South Island, deep in the Remarkables, the well-named mountain chain that dominates the Otago region. While the city’s shoreline of big Lake Wakatipu is easily walkable, its hills will challenge a fit pack mule.

After three days of acclimation to the late summer weather and the 19-hour time difference – 19 hours ahead of our native Midwest – we drove to Wanaka, a small city on the shores of another enormous lake and gateway to Mount Aspiring national park.

We made Wanaka our home for five nights to enjoy its deeply embraced outdoor culture and to spend time with friends who had long encouraged a visit. Our cadre hiked and mountain biked its trails, tramped to the top of a mid-lake island, and most afternoons simply soaked in its warm, summer sun with a local stout or sauvignon blanc. Wanaka is a “return someday” place.

Next we headed east to Lake Tekapo, another too-big-to-take-in mountain lake, for two days of strolling along its rocky shores. We weren’t alone; bus loads of tourists celebrating Lunar New Year snapped photos of local flora and fauna.

We soon embarked on the longest, slowest drive of the trip: Lake Tekapo to a remote house on an ocean-side, sheep and cattle station 90 minutes south of Christchurch, the South Island’s largest city. The jaw-dropping, cliffside drive of less than 200 miles took nearly five hours – with a lunch stop for local mussels.

The station was roughly 6,000 acres of the Banks peninsula, and home to 500 or so Angus beef cattle and almost 10 times that number of sheep. Its steep, mountainous terrain was partitioned into large paddocks for rotational grazing. The hoped-for profit, its calves and lambs, were ticketed for the expanding export market.

Well, not all of it. In three nights on the station, we savored its lamb twice.

A drive to the Christchurch airport, then a quick flight to Auckland put us back in New Zealand’s largest city for a night and urban exploration the following day. Then it was back on the big Air New Zealand bird for our return to Los Angeles where our lost day, a Tuesday, was waiting for us.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents, and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com.

Alan
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March 23, 2024 3 - 6 PM

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Potato Pierogi	Green Beans or Corn
Kraut	Dessert
	Bread

\$12.00 - Dine-in or Carry Out

Galva schools seeking local input for plan

By CAROL TOWNSEND
For The Prairie News
GALVA – Galva CUSD 224 is seeking feedback from the Galva community for the district’s new strategic plan.

Community members are asked to take a five-minute survey online at fsurvey.k12insight.com/r/M73fVd. Superintendent Joe Becker said at Monday’s board meeting that there is also a QR code for the survey.

In other business, the board approved a school calendar for the 2024-25 school year with the starting date of Aug. 16.

The board heard there is one upper elementary teaching position open for next school year and several interviews have been scheduled.

Spring break begins at 11:30 a.m. on March 28 and students return on April 8.

It was reported that the curriculum committee has been meeting and researching a new math program for the district.

Board Member Kaleena Conrad reported that the committee is down to three vendors who will give presentations.

Knox College has donated squat racks and is donating additional weight-room equipment to Galva. Also, 40 hurdles have been donated to the



Pictured are Wildcat Pride award winners at Monday’s Galva School Board meeting. From left to right: Grace Conrad, Teacher Susan Raley, Katie Clemons, John Gravitt, Avery Dooley, Angie McArthur, Band Director Joe Angelo and Music Teacher Whitney Fahner. Teachers were honored for outstanding achievement and dedication in education and exceptional performance and commitment to excellence the Wildcat Way. The students were recognized for exhibiting the Wildcat values of respect, honesty, responsibility, positivity and a commitment for success. Photo by Carol Townsend.

district. If anyone would like to donate more hurdles, they should contact Board President Andrew Larson.

IHSA Scholastic Bowl regionals and IESA sectionals will be contested in Galva.

The board heard that participation for spring sports is up, with 39.5% of the students participating and nine students participating in two sports.

The board also approved continued membership in the Illinois High School Association for 2024-25.

The following coaching assignments were approved for 2023-24:

- Brooke Jackson as high school assistant softball coach.
- Brian Nance as volunteer for high school softball.
- Brandon Hulstrom as volunteer for high school

baseball.

The following employment items were approved for 2024-25:

- Assignment of third-year probationary teacher, Emily Dulla to fourth-year probationary status.
- Assignment of second-

year probationary teacher Jennifer Maertens to third-year probationary.

- Assignment of first-year probationary teachers Melissa Ford, Charlie Gibbons, Kyle Schipper, Whitney Fahner to second-year probationary status.

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Goshen Township is now accepting mowing bids for the Township Building property, located on Rt. 17 West of Toulon.
Bids should be submitted to:
Goshen Township/Bids
104 Hodgson St.
LaFayette, IL 61449
Bid deadline is April 5, 2024
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AUCTIONS

To help settle some small estates a live public auction will be held at 7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon.

Live Public Auction
Saturday, March 23 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Items to be sold include: Case 3650 round baler w/ monitor, nice kicker bale wagon on good gear, Hesston 1120 mower conditioner, several hayracks of tools, 4 bottom trip plow, wire milk crates, Reelcraft retractable air hose reel w/ ½" hose, Delta belt/disc sander, pneumatic air guns, vehicle snowmobile dollies, Craftsman circular saws, electric foot controls, overhead extension ladder boat lift kit, Tool Shop cordless drill set, drywall lift, roto tiller, lawn mower lift, oak cupboard, lawn chairs, super single maple bed, small anvils, desk chairs, platform scale, wicker baskets, end tables, dressers, recliner, 2 man saw, railroad jack, Hiawatha ladies bike, copper boilers, 3 drawer commode, 400lb butcher block, old toys, glassware, Schwinn men's bike, cast iron pcs, old globe lamps, rocking chair, flat top trunks, Dazey butter churn, parlor table, pressed glass, Boyd's Bears, much more.

For pictures and updates please go to [auctionzip.com](https://www.auctionzip.com) or my facebook page.

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All bids must be turned into the Sheriff's Office, 130 W. Jefferson St., Toulon

by April 4, 2024

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To help settle my brother's estate a live public auction of real estate and personal property will be held at 19317 North Monica Princeville IL 61559

Real Estate and Personal Property Auction
Sunday, April 7th 2024 at 12:00 noon

Real Estate Open House: Sunday March 24 at 5 p.m.

Real Estate: Offering a 2 story frame home on a double lot in Monica. Home has vinyl siding newer replacement windows, good roof, breaker box, 2 outbuildings, septic field and 1260 square foot of living space. The home has 2 bedrooms, upstairs laundry, eat in kitchen, and large rooms. This home is in need of some attention and would make a great investment property or would be suitable for the first time buyer. If you can't make the open house please contact the auction company for a showing at your convenience.

Terms: This home will sell in as is condition with no warranties or guarantees of any kind. A \$2,500 non refundable earnest money deposit will be due at the conclusion of the auction with the balance being due on or around May 7, 2024. Taxes will be pro rated to the date of closing and possession will be given at that time. This home will sell subject to seller approval and all buyers will be expected to do their own due diligence before bidding on this property.

Personal Property to sell after the real estate includes: 2002 Ford F 350 Super Duty 4 door 4wd Triton V-10 with Brute tool boxes, flat bed, and recessed gooseneck hitch (truck has a transmission issue so will sell as is), long handle tools, car ramps, John Deere tractor umbrella, pop up tent, seed cleaner, air hose, gas cans, coolers, string trimmers, roto tiller, barn lanterns, Craftsman miter saw, tackle boxes, smokers, bikes, chain binders, tail gate seeder, John Deere mower deck, Wheel Horse C-175 lawn tractor, Case rear mount tiller, kitchen primitives, old toys, 12 gallon shop vac, figurines, glassware, 5 drawer dresser, library table, flat top trunk, cedar chest, old pictures, 4 drawer chest, vanity w/mirror, small kitchen appliances, LP records, board games, hall tree, other items too numerous to mention.

For pictures and updates please go to [auctionzip.com](https://www.auctionzip.com) or my facebook page. We accept cash, check, or credit card with a 3% convenience fee. A lunch stand and restrooms will be provided. We will run just one ring as this isn't a huge auction, come dressed for the weather as everything will be outside.

Estate of Robert Renken owner Keith Renken POA



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PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

The following Personal Property offered at Public Auction at the site located at

130 W. MILL Street, Kewanee, IL 61443
SATURDAY, MARCH 23rd at 10 a.m.

ANTIQUES: Three piece wooden luggage set, Step stool, Industrial Singer sewing machine, Mid Century Singer sewing machine, Black metal trunk, Pictures, Zenith Transoceanic Radio, American Standard High Grade Trumpet, Postcards, PBR coasters, Old paper, 1970's Cub programs, University of Illinois programs, Chicago Bear items, USS Battleship New Jersey BB-62 memorabilia, Doll clothes, Doll trunk, Doll dresser, Sport cards, Nancy Ann Story Book dolls, Canes including 1933 Worlds Fair cane, Matchbooks, Scrapbook, Wooden crates, Whips, Brass bells, Old dairy boxes, Other boxes, Military clothing including coats, shirts, hats and shoes, Galvanized tubs and buckets, Wooden bucket

KEWANEE COLLECTIBLES: Flags, Hog Days flags, Lloyds hats and free drink tokens, Old newspapers, Band Box store items, Kewanee Agriculture flags, Rare Hog Capital bow tie, Lutheran Church items, Kewanee VFW items, Old Wethersfield School lockers, Yearbooks, Wethersfield High School scrapbook

COLLECTIBLES: Arrowhead collection, Cartoon glasses, Elvis memorabilia, Baseball caps, Motorcycle skull caps and handkerchiefs, Yearbooks, U of I collectibles, Ceremonial sword, Pocket knives, CDs, DVDs, Cassettes, Records, Jewelry, Pocket watches, VFW items including uniforms, hats, flags, State of Illinois Flags, POW flag, Stereo equipment including NIB Yamaha Receiver, speakers, Large collection of patches, US Navy items, Rte. 66 sign, STOP sign, Like new USA Flag leather jacket, Belt buckles, Pepsi crates, Indian collectibles, Old Guitars and amplifiers, Matchbooks, Guitars and amplifiers

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Bradford T-Ball Signups
March 30th, 2024
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.
@ Bradford Fire House
(Enter on West side of Building)
For 3 to 6 year olds

There will be no charge for T-Ball this year.
Any questions or if you are unable to sign up at the above time, please call
Tom (238-3767)
or Deb (238-8489).



Cold winter nights just part of being a cattleman

By JEFF LAMPE
For Central Illinois Farmer

Up until 12 years ago, February through March meant lonely, cold nights for Lester “Les” Potts Jr. Almost every night during those months, he slept by the cow shed in his pickup, waiting for cows to deliver their calves.

If something went wrong, he was there. If deliveries went well, he was still there. Potts spent so many nights in his truck that he finally rigged an electric heater so he wouldn’t have to run the vehicle to keep warm.

Such is the life of a diehard cattleman like Potts, 80, who has spent his life raising registered Angus cattle in Knox County’s Elba Township. Les partners in the family cow-calf operation with his younger brother Bob Potts, 79, an Elmwood attorney who feeds heifers and calves every morning at his farm near Dahinda before heading to the Whitney & Potts Ltd. office in Elmwood.

As for the name of their Lynnbrook Farms operation, credit for that goes to their late mother, Hazel, who suggested her boys combine their middle names, Lynn and Brooks.

“My middle name is first,” Bob says with a wry smile.

And though they once “fought like the devil as kids,” according to Les, both brothers say their farming partnership has gone smoothly. It undoubtedly helps that both brothers love being around cattle.

“Seeing the baby calves on a green pasture with their mothers, running around on a hillside, is exhilarating,” Bob explains. “And there’s a sense of pride in producing good ones. It’s just a way of life.”

That’s been true for members of the Potts clan since 1858, when Henry and Julia Potts came to Knox County from Minnesota.



With young calves bellowing in the background, the Lynnbrook Farms crew (above) poses in Knox County. From left to right are David Lynn, Ethan Krans, Easton Beard, Lester “Les” Potts Jr. and his wife, Diane Potts. Other pictures on the page, clockwise from the top at right, show Lester “Pappy” Potts Sr.; Pappy feeding calves with his sons, Les and Bob; a young Bob showing a steer; a less-young Bob showing at a 4-H alumni event in 2022, and Pappy (left) at the reins with Skeet Blank (right).

Their home, now gone, was on a property where the Lynnbrook Farms herd roams.

After first renting land, Henry Potts purchased 58.7 acres in Section 5 of Elba Township for \$800 in 1859. He then bought another 80 acres in Section 8 of Elba Township in 1871 for \$800.

Two of Henry and Julia’s eight children, Walter and Frank, helped run the farm, while other siblings were involved in banking and business in Elmwood or raising families.

Unfortunately, Walter died in 1920 at age 53 from complications after falling off a horse-drawn cultivator.

That left Lester Sr., 12, to run the farm with his uncle, until Frank died in 1933.

Once he was on his own, Lester Sr. (better known as “Pappy”) started a herd of Angus in 1935 after buying a few cows in Mercer County. The operation grew steadily, with the first Angus registered in 1938. But cattle were not the sole focus on the farm, which at one point also included 300 ewes.



“Sheep got to be more of a nuisance,” Les says. “Because you never knew when a sheep was going to kick the bucket.”

After graduating from Williamsfield High School, Les went to Western Illinois University for part of a year and got straight A’s. But not for long. The cattle called him back.

“When it got to be spring, he said ‘I’ve got to go home,’” wife Diane recalls.

Les has served as farm manager over the years since and has steadily added to his role, handling much of the vet work and breeding. Les implemented an artificial-insemination program in 1964. “We used to have to pay a guy, but I figured why do that if I



can breed them,” he says.

Bob is more proficient at showing cattle, noting that Lynnbrook Farms has had two reserve grand champion bulls at the National Western Stock Show in Denver. The farm has also produced hundreds of other ribbon-winning cows, calves and bulls – many



showed by Potts children or grandchildren, whose pictures with cattle fill walls.

The Lynnbrook Farms breeding program got a big boost with the 1960 purchase of a special bull named WWF 51.

“He changed the whole pic-

Continued on CIF 2

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CATTLE: Top bull changed it all

Continued from CIF 1

ture,” Les says.

In 1962, WWF 51 went on to become grand champion bull at the National Angus Show in Tulsa, Okla., and at the Eastern National Show in Maryland. The following year, he won his class as a 2-year old at the National Western Stock Show.

Bob says their new bull fit perfectly into the changing mold of what Angus judges and buyers wanted at that time.

“Before him we had shorter, dumpier cattle,” Les says.

“He was longer,” Bob adds.

And his bloodline was very desirable, which is one reason Lynnbrook Farms once had the second-largest breeding herd of Angus cattle in Illinois.

Today the brothers’ herd of 200 cows has been passed by several in terms of size. But Les estimates they sell 70 bulls per year, with happy customers hailing from at least 20 states – from California to New York and many places in between. Lynnbrook also sells locker beef, mostly to John Powers at Elmwood Locker.

At the farm, cattle graze on about 100 acres of fertilized pasture and are fed



Easton Beard moves a calf at Lynnbrook Farms while the mother cow keeps a close watch on the proceedings.

corn silage and round bales of alfalfa grass hay. Les has fed gluten out of ethanol plants and even spent grain from son Matt’s Destihl Restaurant & Brew Works in Normal, but says “There’s too much water in it.”

Les also praises hired hands who have helped over the years, saving special kudos for David Lynn, who has been with Lynnbrook Farms since 1979, and Ethan Krans, who is in his 14th year.

Lynn introduced cameras to the operation, streaming images to cellphones so workers know if a cow or calf is having problems. This also allows Les to enjoy his “semi-retirement” by sleeping at home, instead of in a chilly truck.

Les and Diane – who spent 38 years teaching in Yates City and handles bookkeeping for Lynnbrook Farms – have two sons. Bob and wife Gayla have one son and three daughters. While the children were involved with the cattle business, none has run the operation – instead finding success in business, farming and raising families.

“We stuck around too long,” Bob jokes.

Moving forward, Bob’s grandson Easton Beard is a sixth generation of the Potts clan to be actively involved.

“I’m a lifer,” Easton says.

“All he wants to do is mess with the cattle,” Les says, a desire he certainly understands.

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Probiotics spreading to farm

By **NICK VLAHOS**
For Central Illinois Farmer
DAHINDA – Grant Strom’s family farm never will be confused with a golf course or a residential back yard.

But Strom believes an organic plant probiotic first developed for fairways and other green grass can help grow corn and soybeans more efficiently, too.

Strom uses and sells Holganix Bio 800-Plus. The product contains about 800 different species of soil microbes, fungi and bacteria. The agriculture product of Pennsylvania-based Holganix might sound like a science experiment gone awry, but according to Strom, those microscopic elements serve a big purpose.

“The point of it is to have a more balanced soil,” Strom said. “When you have good biological activity, you’re able to utilize more nutrients in the soil and reduce the amount of synthetic fertilizer you have to apply.”

An Elmwood resident,

Strom first started using the Holganix probiotic about four years ago. His family grows alfalfa, corn, beans and wheat on about 5,000 acres in Knox and Peoria counties. The main Strom spread is located between Dahinda and Williamsfield.

“At that time, Holganix was growing and they were looking for farmer-dealers throughout the Midwest who were not only interested in using the product but in trying to sell it,” Strom said.

Strom didn’t do much selling the first few years, which he considered a testing period. The probiotic works best when the soil temperature is 50 degrees or warmer. It can be used before planting in the spring and after harvest in the autumn, to boost the breakdown of crop residue.

“You want to really be breaking that stalk down in the fall, when it’s still warm,” Strom said. “It helps release the fertilizer from the stalk. Fungi is a major player in stalk and residue digestion.”

Eventually, the probiotic received a passing grade. Strom estimated about 40 central Illinois farms will use it this season. Most of those are within 20 miles

of the main Strom farm, which was host earlier this month to a conference where benefits of biologicals were part of the discourse.

Because it’s a living product, the Holganix probiotic must remain refrigerated until about four to six weeks before it’s applied, according to Strom.

Retail price is about \$20 an acre. Strom figures it pays for itself by saving money in other areas of his operation, including fertilizer use.

The probiotic is designed to help increase yields and reduce tillage, which also reduces carbon output. Strom believes carbon emissions will become an important topic in agriculture, particularly in relation to government policy.

“The biologicals industry is probably one of the fastest-growing spaces in the row-crop industry,” Strom said. “I’ve tried a lot of different products. This is one I feel is such a broad-spectrum product that can benefit farms in a lot of ways. It’s been a real opportunity for our farm.”



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Drones more common over farm fields

By MOLLY RICHESON
For Central Illinois Farmer
Drones zipping back and forth over agricultural fields are becoming more and more common as farmers opt to apply treatments from the sky in a new way.

And the market is only going to keep growing, according to Chad Gripp of Wyonet, whose Sweet-Water Technologies drone-application business is seeking to spray 1 million acres.

Gripp bought his first drone in January 2022 after learning the helicopter service he normally hired was going to be unable to spray 2,000 acres a client needed treated with fungicide.

Gripp said he was impressed with the size and power of the machine.

“I told the salesman the drone looked like it could pick me up and fly me across the street. He said it could,” Gripp recalled.

So he ordered another drone. And another. Things grew so quickly that Gripp create SweetWater Technologies, a company with 20 interns and a fleet of 12 drones with plans to double by next year.



New drones can hold up to 22 gallons.

Gripp said the drone application business is a good complement to his Gripp Custom Farming Corp., a full retail ag business that sells fertilizer and chemicals and does soil testing.

Similar growth is happening elsewhere. According to Fortune Business Insights, the global market for drone use in agriculture is expected to grow from \$4.98 billion in 2023 to \$18.22 billion by 2030.

“This industry is not going anywhere,” Gripp said. “We are planning to start franchising.”

No wonder other drone companies are popping up across the Midwest.

“The industry has exploded in the United States,” said Mark Black, co-owner of KT Precision Ag in South Roxana. “I’m proud to say we’re in the initial group of founders of drone spraying the in U.S. The best part about it is that it is a constantly evolving industry.”

Most spraying in Illinois is done from June 15 to Aug. 15 and is focused on fungicide.

While airplanes and helicopters can get more acres done in a day, they can also drift off target when applying. As compared to a

drone, there is also more potential to miss a target or to turn too early or too late.

Drones are gridded to a specific field, so they are never off target.

“We’re spraying 99-100% of the field in an aerial application where planes and helicopters, if they get into some technical terrain with highlines and hills, maybe their coverage is only 80-85%,” Gripp said.

So while hiring a drone company is not cheaper than a plane or helicopter service, there is a savings because the product is applied to more of the field.

And because they fly over the tops of fields, unlike ground-based spray rigs, drones avoid crop trampling that can cost a farmer anywhere from 2-6% of total yield.

Wind can be a limiting condition, but in most other weather the drone can still fly, even if the ground is wet.

The biggest commercial field-spraying drone on the market today holds 18 gallons of liquid. But capacities keep increasing. Next week a new drone will be on the market that can hold 22 gallons.

Liquid fertilizers should

be avoided due to their corrosive properties, and dry materials must be mixed prior to filling the spray tank, since no drones have agitators in their tanks. While in flight, agitation is irrelevant because your flight and spray time is only about 6-8 minutes, giving materials no time to settle.

All commercial drones have terrain radar and obstacle avoidance, so slopes in the terrain should be no challenge.

“Battery management is key,” Black said. “The primary drones on the market that utilize single batteries can be charged in about 12 minutes. Your larger drones now have better battery capabilities so that you can be back in the air without any downtime with at least three batteries.”

To be an aerial applicator and fly a drone under the Federal Aviation Administration’s Small UAS Rule (Part 107), one must obtain a remote pilot certification. To fly a drone that is over 55 pounds and to apply pesticides, one needs an FAA 107 pilot’s license and various other certifications for Illinois and for spraying pesticides.

Additionally, a pilot and spotter is required for each drone.

Drones themselves are auto-piloted. You can pre-install a mission into the drone and input how high you want it to fly, how much you want it to spray and how far you want it to go. The drone will automatically create a spray pattern in a grid and will return home once the field is completed, the battery is low, or the liquid is depleted.

To create a commercial drone business requires about \$150,000 upfront, Black said.

Jeff Lampe contributed to this story.



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USDA survey shows troubling trend of older farmers, fewer farms

Like much of the news anymore, the initial numbers from the 2022 Census of Agriculture were accurately reported, quickly downplayed – or even worse, ignored – by

most Big Ag groups and then just pushed aside by the rush of the next day’s news.
That’s a mistake, because the numbers released Feb. 13 by the U.S. Department

of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service show the rapid maturity and coming old age of U.S. agriculture.
And these numbers, like old soldiers, won’t just fade away. They’re real and consequential.
For example, according to NASS, the number of U.S. farms plunged by 142,000, or 7%, from 2017 to 2022. That is the largest drop in farm numbers over the last four ag census periods and the lowest total number of U.S. farms since 1850, back when the U.S. was a nation of just

31 states and four territories.
Equally shocking is the confounding fact that this slide happened at the same time Congress and the USDA were shoveling billions into programs to support farmers and ranchers.
According to a Feb. 20 report titled “Unsustainable: the State of the Farm Safety Net,” published by the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the federal government distributed \$142 billion through farm safety-net programs from 2017 to 2022.
The biggest bite over those five years was ad hoc spending, money not budgeted in any Farm Bill; it totaled \$67 billion.
Next came federal crop insurance, the principal revenue-supporting device in U.S. ag policy; it cost \$46 billion.
And pulling into third was commodity programs at \$29 billion.
How do you send \$142 billion in taxpayer dollars to farmers in five years and still end up with the fewest number of American farms in 172 years? The Census offers clues.

According to it, the only farm-size category that increased in numbers was farms operating 5,000 acres or more.
These biggies controlled 42% of all farmland in 2022. Additionally, 6% of farms with \$1 million-plus in annual sales owned 32% of U.S. farmland and generated 75% of all ag sales nationwide.
That ever-bigger bigness was matched by an ever-graying grayness. According to the Census, the average age of U.S. farmers jumped from 57.5 in 2017 to 58.1 in 2022.
More to the point, in 2017 one out of four U.S. farmers was 65 years old or older; in 2022, it was one out of three, or an increase of 12% in the ratio.
In the meantime, the number of farmers aged 35 to 65 dropped 9%.
In fairness, the number of farmers with less than 10 years’ experience – a group USDA calls “beginning farmers” – grew 11%, a pleasant surprise except for the rude fact that these “beginners” were an average 47.1 years old.
After reviewing the hard numbers, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack suggested that they prove the Biden Administration is on the right track in its call for a different model of agriculture that lends a big hand to small- and medium-sized farmers while continuing to support big farmers, too.
But there’s nothing different in that different model. In fact, the proposed – and still not done – 2023 Farm Bill contains no plan to cap program payments to the biggest of the bigs and offers no favoritism to the farms in the middle, smaller-sized farms that survive mostly through substantial off-farm income.
The facts are that our relentless drive to wring profit out of our nation’s soil, water and rural communities has built a highly productive, very fragile, top-down food structure that leans heavily on federal subsidies, environmental degradation and the slow liquidation of rural America.
That system isn’t sustainable – and neither are we – without change.



Alan GUEBERT

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents, and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com.



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Is A.I. the new weatherman?

By **RHIANNON BRANCH**
FarmWeek

Thanks to platforms like ChatGPT, farmers have access to artificial intelligence at their fingertips. While there are advantages to this new technology, it could pay to tap into a more reliable source when it comes to factors that influence important management decisions.

Take the weather, for example. It plays a role in numerous aspects of the farm, including planting dates, pest management and even marketing plans. Illinois State Climatologist Trent Ford told FarmWeek while AI is helping scientists become more efficient in analyzing climate data, it isn't as simple as a farmer asking ChatGPT when to plant.

"You can do that. It'll give you an answer. And it thinks the answer is right," Ford said. "But it probably won't be."

University of Illinois Extension recently hosted workshops in Marion, Sangamon and Winnebago counties to educate participants about online climate tools and provide hands-on instruction for agricultural related uses.

Duane Friend, University of Illinois climate specialist, told FarmWeek many

in the ag industry are unaware of available tools.

"I think a lot of times when they hear the phrase 'climate tools,' they think we're talking about tools that will tell them what's going on 10 years from now," he said. "All of these things we're talking about can be done within this growing season."

The workshop took a deep dive into easily accessible and free online tools like drought and freeze risk maps from Purdue University and soil temperature maps and growing degree day calculators from the Illinois State Water Survey.

"These tools are better refined than ChatGPT is," Ford said. "We have climate scientists who have experience working with data who are cultivating these tools, who are making it so that it's pulling in the best information. Whereas right now our AI tools just grab everything off the internet and anything that looks relevant based on the algorithm is thrown in. So there's a lot of quality control that's needed."

During the Grain and Feed Association of Illinois' annual convention, Senior Science Fellow for Nutrient Ag Solutions Eric Snodgrass echoed that

growers need to be savvy consumers of artificial intelligence.

"Putting this kind of power into the hands of people that don't know how to use it may allow them to draw conclusions based upon its output that are just not founded in real science or real understanding," he told FarmWeek.

Snodgrass urges growers not to abandon institutional knowledge.

"If you are already working with someone who historically has done a great job helping you market a crop, continue to lean heavily on those people," he said. "Then ask them if they are using ChatGPT and AI to enhance their abilities and does it make sense what they're doing?"

Nonetheless, Snodgrass and Ford both expressed excitement about how AI is revolutionizing weather-prediction techniques by processing data faster.

Ford expects to see expansion of AI-supported weather forecasting in the next decade. For now, he recommends producers confide in proven maps, calculators and other tools backed by trusted sources.

This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association.

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CENTRAL ILLINOIS FARMER • SPRING 2024

Farmers bracing for end of boom

For Central Illinois Farmer

After the three most profitable years in history, Illinois corn and soybean farmers are bracing for a slowdown. Prices have tanked. Demand from China and other importers has yet to catch up. And storage bins are full of last year’s unsold corn.

“Farmers know that there are more bad years than there are really good years,” agriculture economist Steve Irwin of the University of Illinois told The Center Square.

Put the downturn in context, he said.

“2024 to 2025 right now is looking like there will be some substantial losses, but we are coming off of a very high-profit period,” Irwin said.

Reserves built up over the past three years give farmers a substantial cushion, he said.

On the supply side, large South American crops will hit markets in the next few months. Here in the U.S., the acreage base for spring-planted grain crops is expected to remain large by historical standards, adding to the supply.

“Income outlook is negative for the immediate future, but things can change very fast depending on the weather,” Irwin said.

A significant hot dry summer could send grain prices shooting right back up, he said.

• **Shipping easier** – A drought that plagued the Mississippi River basin since 2022 and resulted in shipment delays and higher transportation costs is officially over, according to an article by Tammie Sloup of FarmWeek.

Low-water conditions began in the region in September 2022. The Army Corps of Engineers maintained 9-foot navigation, working with other industries to identify problem spots on the river.

But low water reduced the ability for barges to effectively navigate, driving up farmers’ transportation costs as they sought storage and marketing options.

• **Cons** – Jennifer Tirey, executive director of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, said finding a fix

for California’s Proposition 12 should be a top priority for farmers nationally.

Prop 12 prohibits sales in California of pork from livestock whose confinement does not meet certain minimum space rules. Most Illinois farmers won’t comply with Prop 12, according to Tirey.

Tirey is meeting with members of Illinois’ congressional delegation to ask for support for a federal solution in the next Farm Bill. The association is worried that, with Prop 12 being upheld by the Supreme Court, every state will set regulations.

• **Et cetera** – The Marquis Industrial Complex in Hennepin is moving forward with a soybean crush plant along the Illinois River. The plant is expected to crush 80 million bushels of soybeans per year and draw soybeans from within a 75-mile radius of the complex.

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CENTRAL ILLINOIS FARMER • SPRING 2024

BRIEFS

Toulon garbage rates to increase May 1

TOULON – Toulon City Hall announced Wednesday that Toulon residents should expect an increase in costs for garbage pickup.

Starting May 1st the rate is \$15.79 per month.

Celtic concerts coming to Bishop Hill in March

BISHOP HILL – In the spirit of the season of St. Patrick’s Day, Bishop Hill Creative Commons is hosting two upcoming concerts featuring Celtic music and performers from Ireland and Quebec.

On Sunday, March 24, Grosse Isle will perform and the featured artist on Monday, March 25, is JigJam.

Both shows will begin with a pot-luck dinner and social hour at 6p.m., with music starting at 7. Shows are open to all ages.

A \$20-\$30 donation is suggested, with 100% of proceeds going to the artists.

LME Library seeking families to join garden

PRINCEVILLE – Last year, the Lillie M. Evans Library received a \$20,000 Libraries Transforming Communities Accessible Small and Rural Communities grant to start an accessible community garden.

Funds were used to add an accessible sidewalk into the west garden and to start a community vegetable garden.

This year the library is looking for community members (families, individuals, service groups) to plant and maintain a space in the library’s garden. The garden includes six raised beds and two towers as well as 10 5-gallon containers and 20 3-gallon containers.

Participants can apply online at <http://bit.ly/GYO2024> or at the library. Commitments run from March to October.



The Bradford speech team played host to the BVEC Speech Contest on March 2. The Bradford team did well, with all members earning firsts or seconds. Pictured are, Back Row (left to right): Ian Cresto, Kevin Williams, Molly Wellman, Aaliyah Heathcoat, Jake Primo, Avery Johnston and Rylee Bowen. Front Row (l to r): Silas Smith, Erik Knobloch, Creighton Stahl, Cayden Guerry, Schuyler Garlisch, Grace Atteberry and Bailey McDermott. Photo by Becki Hoffert.

In addition, to regular garden meetings at 5:30 p.m. on the first Thursdays of every month, LME Library has several upcoming garden programs.

- March 21 – A presenter from University of Illinois Extension will discuss seed starting at 10 a.m.

- April 22 – To celebrate Earth Day, the library is having a Make & Take Seed Tape Craft for all ages from 5-7 p.m .

- April 23 – Master Gardener Patricia Melaik will present a program at 10 a.m. on starting a herb garden and cooking and preserving herbs.

Information on these and other events is online at lmelibrary.org and through the library’s social media. Or contact the LME Library at (309) 385-4540.

Air National Guard career showcase April 9

PEORIA – The 182nd Airlift Wing Recruiting team is scheduled to hold a career showcase for high school students at the Peoria Air National Guard base, 2416 S. Falcon Blvd., on April 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The event will showcase the Air National Guard and what it has to offer recruits, highlighting the different jobs and opportunities available

to Illinois youth.

The career showcase is open to any high school students interested in learning about the local military service. There will be opportunities to meet members of the 182nd, experience what the day-to-day operations around the airlift wing are like, learn about college-tuition assistance programs, learn about new enlistment bonuses of up to \$50,000 and take part in an interactive career fair in the hangar.

Illinois hunters harvest 370 bobcats in 2023-24

SPRINGFIELD – The 2023-24 Illinois bobcat season concluded Feb. 15 with 370 bobcats harvested by hunters and trappers.

A total of 214 (55%) of bobcats were taken by hunting, while trapping accounted for 40% of the harvest. Nineteen were salvaged by permit holders from circumstances such as roadkill.

Hunters and trappers in Jo Daviess County reported 19 bobcats – the most for any county this year.

Overall in Illinois, there were 7,000 bobcat lottery applicants in 2023 and 1,000 permits issued for the season.

The bobcat harvest from the 2022-2023 season was 367, with 16 salvaged.

Still a Cutie!



Happy Birthday
Melanie!

MOWING/TRIMMING BIDS

The Village of LaFayette is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the village park. Term will be for the 2024 season and should specify cost per time. Contractor must provide proof of insurance with written bid, and supply their own equipment.

Bids must be received by Monday, April 1, 2024.

Please mail bids to:Village of LaFayette
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MOWING BIDS

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Answers on Page 3

Super Crossword

PHONY-BALONEY

ACROSS

1 Wearing nightclothes, for short

6 Meanie's look

11 In addition

15 Eyelid hair

19 Steel, e.g.

20 Ancient Greek region

21 Empty spaces

22 World's fair

23 Illegal detention

25 Columbus is its capital

26 British actor Guinness

27 "Mind your — business!"

28 High, round collar not folding over on itself

31 Without any variety

35 Ingest

36 Boston NBA'er, for short

37 Paint job made to look like marble, wood, etc.

41 New Nintendo console of 2012

43 Big antlered beast

47 Opposite of dep., in an airport

48 Thin porridge

50 Saw against the main grain, as wood

52 Bit of money seized by a Secret Service agent

58 Ecol. monitor

59 Middays

60 Tiny arachnid

61 J. — Hoover

64 Like over-due birthday wishes

67 Bill & Ted went on one in a 1991 film

70 Wombs

71 Bible book after Prov.

74 Q-V linkup

75 "Spider-Man" director Sam

76 Wedlock not based on love

79 Cheer up

81 Burros, e.g.

82 — occasion (never)

83 Paris' river

84 Toronto-to-Montreal dir.

85 Prada or Fendi replica, maybe

91 "Beloved" novelist Toni

94 Buc, Bronco or Niner

95 Beatty of film

97 Cindy Brady player Susan

98 Former jets to the U.K.

101 Bit of non-needed body art

105 Sour plum

107 Stage star Hagen

109 Title for Kate Middleton

110 Component of a coated glass-bead bracelet, perhaps

117 Even score

118 Forum attire

119 In the past

120 Apt cry of disbelief for this puzzle

125 Coagulate

126 Rebuke from Caesar

127 Like a dweeb

128 About, before a date

129 At this place

130 Lather (up)

131 Gather up

132 Hoodwinked

DOWN

1 Global finance org.

2 Teacher's union, in brief

3 Old TV ministry init.

4 2002 "Friday the 13th" sequel

5 Whole lotta

6 Knightly title

7 Bulblike base of a stem

8 — cat (two-base game)

9 Neighbor of Minn. and Ill.

10 Jewish potato pancake

11 Relative of a guinea pig

12 Lion portrayer Bert

13 Feature of Betty Boop's hair

14 "— Mio"

15 Crude sheds

16 Car shaft

17 Project detail, for short

18 Sell at a pawnshop

24 Opponent

29 "I taut I — a puddy tail"

30 Shade trees

31 Flip — coin

32 DEA worker

33 Irish money

34 Bring about

38 Some flawed garments: Abbr.

39 Add-on to the end of a wd.

40 Bit of a bray

42 Most polar

44 Sea nymph

45 Sovereign

46 Letter two before iota

49 VIP vehicle

51 Margarine

53 Deprives of weapons

54 "Sorry, too busy"

55 Bodily digit

56 Big striped cat, in French

57 A/C output glys.

62 Landscape painter Asher Brown

63 Like low-quality eggs

64 City transport

65 Alcohol in liquor

66 Landlords or landladies

67 Empty

68 Having protruding hearing organs

69 Yang go-with

72 Sings gently

73 U.S. pres., militarily

77 Inquires

78 "Continue"

80 Architect Maya

83 Chiang Kai —

84 Broody rock genre

86 Investigate pryingly

87 Very loudly, in music

88 Miami loc.

89 Stud money

90 Old Storms and Trackers

92 Paraphrase

93 On Sunset Blvd., e.g.

96 Two, in Chile

99 Maintenance job on a car

100 Indy sponsor

102 Ballet outfit

103 Something very easy

104 Vegas casino

106 Some Siouan speakers

108 MetLife rival

110 Concern for a dermatologist

111 Concern for a dermatologist

112 Horror film lab assistant

113 Twice tetra-

114 "Past" cousin

115 — avis

116 Some old Fords

121 The "S" of GPS: Abbr.

122 Hosp. zones

123 Ideal serve

124 Young fella

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
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125																			

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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.

XS NPPIN OWXQSZPNN SW CP
KAWSPB XY WQP XNQ'S
VWXQV SW CP KAWSECZP ...
XS'N CPSSPT SW CP
KAWSECZP SGEQ GWQPNs.

— SWI NSWOOETB

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Trivia test

by Titi Rodriguez

- LITERATURE:** What is the name of the kingdom in 'The Princess Bride'?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** In British royalty, what is King Charles' family name?
- TELEVISION:** Which TV sitcom features Sheldon's catchphrase 'Bazinga!'?
- U.S. STATES:** Which U.S. state is home to the Awatovi Ruins, a national historic landmark?
- HISTORY:** According to a WWII government slogan, what sinks ships?
- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the name of the small principality that lies between Spain and France?
- ANATOMY:** Which part of the brain controls hunger?
- LANGUAGE:** The Latin word 'caput' refers to what part of the human anatomy?
- SCIENCE:** Which color has the longest wavelength in the visible spectrum?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary alcohol used in margaritas?

Answers


1. Florin.
2. Mountbatten-Windsor.
3. "The Big Bang Theory."
4. Arizona.
5. Loose lips.
6. Andorra.
7. Hypothalamus.
8. The head.
9. Red.
10. Tequila.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Kung Fu Panda 4 (PG)
2. Dune: Part Two (PG-13)
3. Imaginary (PG-13)
4. Cabirini (PG-13)
5. Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13)
6. Ordinary Angels (PG)
7. Madame Web (PG-13)
8. Migration (PG)
9. Yolo (PG-13)
10. The Chosen: \$4.E7 (NR)

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Toulon Methodist Church
229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
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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
"faith in truth"
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
Wednesday: 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 Wyonet 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

Donald L. Colvin
LaFAYETTE – Donald L. “Don” Colvin, 86, of LaFayette, died at 8:39 p.m., Sunday, March 17, 2024 at his home.
He was born Jan. 8, 1938, in Ottumwa, Iowa, the son of Lloyd and Marie (Mercer) Colvin. He married Laura L. Nygren on Aug. 22, 1964, in Ottumwa.
Survivors include his wife of LaFayette; his three sons, Casey (Sheri) Colvin of Blue Grass, Iowa, Jeff (Carrie) Colvin of South Beloit, Ill., and Chris Colvin of Princeville, Ill.; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents and a son, Kelly.
Don served his country in the U.S. Army from 1958-61. He worked as a salesman for various steel companies. He was a member of the LaFayette Methodist Church and a member of the Masonic Lodge, Elks Lodge, the Disabled American Veterans and the American Legion in Kewanee.
Cremation will be accorded and graveside services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 23, at LaFayette Cemetery with Rev. Glenn Corbly officiating. Military rites will be accorded by the Galva Fusiliers. Following the services a luncheon and time of fellowship will be held at 11:30 a.m. at the LaFayette Methodist Church.
Memorials may be directed to the LaFayette Methodist Church. Rux Funeral Home in Galva is in charge of arrangements.
This obituary may be viewed and private condolences left at www.rux-funeralhome.com.



Colvin

Eleanor Hanning
KEWANEE – Eleanor “Ellie” Hanning, 85, of Kewanee, died at 10:16 a.m., Thursday, March 14, 2024, at Courtyard Village in Kewanee surrounded by her family.
She was born May 24, 1938, in Kewanee, the daughter of Floyd and Catherine (Quinney) Ericson. Survivors include her four children, Sherrie (Chuck) Boyer of Washington, Ill., Terrie (Russ) Ehnle of Tremont, Ill., Marci (Larry) Horrie of Kewanee and Rob (Jill) Hanning of Bradford; a brother, Terry (Claire) Ericson of Ark.; eight grandchildren, Kristen (Ben) Briney, Lindsey (Austin) Wharram, Cody (Carly) Ehnle, Carly Ehnle, Connor (Alyssa) Ehnle, Tyler Horrie, Jordan (Logan) Smith and Paige Horrie; six great-grandchildren, Austin, Adelynn, Wyatt, Owen, Gia and Sully; and



Hanning

Donna J. Hanson
MONICA – Donna Jean Hanson, 95, of Peoria, formerly of Monica, passed away at 12:28 a.m. Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at Carle Health Proctor Hospital in Peoria.
Born on Sept. 26, 1928, in Knox County, Ill., she was the daughter of the late Dwight and Vivian (Nelson) Boyer. On Feb. 14, 1948, she married Wilfred E. Hanson at United Methodist Church in Cambridge, Ill. He preceded her in death on June 29, 2021.
She is survived by her son, Steve (Miriam) Hanson of Edelstein; two daughters, Deborah (Robert) Duckworth of Princeville and Lori (James) Cochran of Monica; seven grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.
She was also preceded in death by a brother, Donald Boyer; and two sisters, Audrey Wagher and Marilyn Hatch.
Donna worked as a bond underwriter for Auto-Owners Insurance for 17 years until her retirement in 1986. She kept busy and worked hard around the home, maintaining a large garden, canning and assisting her husband with odd jobs.
Donna was a helpful and caring neighbor, assisting those around her in need. She was a very involved member of the Monica United Methodist Church and enjoyed her time in their former happy hour



Hanson

Katina M. Hegwood
WYOMING – Katina Marie (Hewitt) Hegwood, 46, of Wyoming formerly of Bradford, passed away on March 17, 2024, surrounded by her loving family at OSF Richard L Owens Hospice and Home in Peoria.
Katina was born on April 26, 1977, in Kewanee, Ill., the daughter of William and Patricia (Craig) Hewitt. She was a 1995 graduate of Bradford High School. Katina married the love of her life, David “Dave” Hegwood on Oct. 26, 2007, in Stark County.
Most recently she worked at Stark County High School as a special education paraprofessional through the Henry-Stark co-op. Katina also coached junior high and high school volleyball at the school.
She truly enjoyed working with all of the students and coaching all the girls. Katina also enjoyed playing volleyball recreationally and loved a good game of euchre. Most of all, her greatest joy in life was taking care of her family and being a mom. She will truly be missed by all those who knew her and by her beloved dog, Batman.
Survivors include her husband of 16 years, Dave Hegwood of Wyoming; six children, David Hegwood II of Riverton, Ryan Bogner of Dahinda, Joseph “Joey” Hegwood, Charlotte Hegwood, Max Hegwood and Grace “Gracie” Hegwood all of Wyoming; her parents, William and Patricia Hewitt of Bradford; three siblings, Luke (Tara) Hewitt of Kewanee, Angie (Mike) Hart of Wyoming and Jenny (Mike) Cooper of Castleton; along with numerous nieces and nephews.
A memorial visitation will be held from 3 p.m. until time of service at 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 23, 2024, at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home in Bradford, with Reverend



Hegwood

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Senior leaders

Orwig, Hillier expected to lead Stark County softball

By **NICK VLAHOS**
and **PHIL JOHNSON**

For The Prairie News

A pair of seniors is expected to lead Stark County softball this season.

Rebels Coach Amy Wise cited catcher Olivia Orwig as the leader of their team’s defense and second baseman Payten Hillier as someone who has good game sense. They’ll try to help Stark County improve from its 7-20 record last season.

So will six returning juniors – sophomore catcher/outfielder Jocelynn Bush, outfielders Emily Demetreon and Kenna Newton, first baseman Katie Grinnell, shortstop Hailey Peterson and pitcher Aubri Stahl. Peterson is back from a season-ending injury last season.

“Emily and Kenna will dominate the outfield with their effort and leadership,” Wise stated. “Hailey ... is working hard on the left side of the field.”

Stark County also will be young, however, with nine freshmen. But two of them, Sophie Finnegan and Brooklynn Ostrowski, contributed immediately in the Rebels’ season opener March 13 against Monmouth-Roseville.

Ostrowski two-run homer and Finnegan’s two-run triple helped stake Stark County to a five-run first-inning lead. But M-R came back to win 14-9, thanks to a seven-run fifth that erased a 9-5 Stark County lead.

Stark County came back March 16 to tie Kewanee in the top of the seventh, but a run in the bottom of the inning gave the

hosts an 8-7 victory. On Tuesday, Stark County had only two hits in an 11-0, five-inning loss to Bureau Valley in a game rescheduled from Monday.

A game set for March 14 at Putnam County was postponed. No makeup date had been set. The Rebels were to play Wednesday against Abingdon-Avon.

Galva Softball – Requests for information from Galva Coach Brad Jackson and school administration went unfulfilled.

The Wildcats were to open March 14 against Monmouth-Roseville, but that game apparently was postponed.

SC Baseball – Stark County (2-4) lost to Farmington at home on Tuesday, 9-2. Charley Holmstrom was the hitting leader, going 2-for-2 with two triples and one RBI. Luke Rewerts hit a double.

The Rebels fell 25-11 at Roanoke-Benson on Saturday. SC was down 10-0 after two but fought back with four in the third and seven in the fourth. Then R-B kept scoring big with six in the third and nine in the fourth. Errors proved very costly for Stark County.

Charley Holstrom hit a home run and had two RBI. Ben Browning doubled to go with three RBI.

The Rebels won 11-5 at Putnam County last Thursday and collected 13 hits. Will Rumbold went 3-for-5 and drove in five, including finding spaces for three doubles. Browning recorded two RBI. Dillon Steelman also drove in two runs.

Connor Daum pitched five innings, giving

Continued from Page 19

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Community Garden

The LME Library is looking for local community members (families, individuals, service groups) to plant and maintain a space in our garden this year. We have a variety of containers available. Participants can apply online at bit.ly/GYO2024 or at the library. Commitments run Mar. - Oct. 2024.

Upcoming Garden Programs

- Monthly garden meetings - 1st Thursday of the month at 5:30p
- March 21 @ 10a Seed Starting
- April 22 @ 3p-5p Make & Take Seed Tape
- April 23 @ 10a Herb Gardening



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