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August 2, 2024  
Vol. 21, No. 27

# The Prairie News

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## Society of Growth supports local communities

By PAYTON LETKO

For The Prairie News

WYOMING – A new non-profit organization that recently opened its doors here aims to bridge gaps in community services and foster sustainable growth in Stark County and the surrounding area.

The Society of Growth, located at 101 W. Williams St., was founded in November 2023 by Samantha McAvoy and Kim Dahl to connect various services and organizations and to address social determinants of health and other underlying issues that can cause individuals to struggle.

“We aim to see all the surrounding factors and help people, whether it’s trauma, poor health or lack of education,” said McAvoy, CEO of an organization that plans to serve residents of Stark, Putnam and Marshall counties.

McAvoy, wife of Josh and mother of four, has a master’s degree in the science of applied behavior analysis and brings a wealth of experience from her background as a former principal, project director and behavior specialist. She said her passion for understanding human behavior and improving community processes drives her commitment to this

new organization.

“The processes that work and affect communities inspired me to improve them through grant funding and problem-solving,” McAvoy said.

Dahl, a Wyoming native, finance guru, and chief operating officer, has a deep-rooted passion for non-profit work. As the youngest of five children, Dahl witnessed firsthand community collaboration from her parents.

Dahl’s eight years of work in emergency medical services highlighted the lack of resources available to people in

*Continued on Page 8*



The Society of Growth had a ribbon-cutting ceremony at its Wyoming office on May 16.

## UNDERGROUND ASSASSIN

### Moles tough on lawns and earthworms

If your lawn adjoins a woodland, prairie or other undeveloped area, it has probably been invaded by *Scalopus aquaticus*, the dreaded Eastern mole. If this critter hasn’t torn up your yard yet, just you wait.



Ron DIETER

If it happens, or rather when it happens, you’ll no doubt head to the internet for an easy, quick fix. There you’re likely to run across articles touting all the wonderful benefits of having moles in your lawn. They spin yarns about how these wonderful little creatures devour great gobs of grubs and big batches of beetles. Some even claim the furry little fellows are effective soil aerators. Isn’t



Moles can eat half their body weight in worms each day. Photo courtesy of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

that precious.

Don’t you believe it. Sure, they will dine on Japanese beetle grubs and other subterranean species. But the real truth is moles much prefer munching on our valuable earthworms. In fact one “harmless” little mole will devour nearly half its body weight in earthworms daily. That’s not good for the gardener or for the worms either, for that matter.

Moles kill earthworms by biting them behind the head. How can they tell one end of a worm from the other? Anyway, they haul the worms back to their pantry for later dining. Researchers have found mole food chambers stuffed with more than 400 earthworms. Holy Moley!

Earthworms are essential for a  
*Continued on Page 2*

## Trial delayed

Boland murder trial moved to Aug. 19

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

PEORIA – The trial of a Peoria man accused last year of killing a Princeville woman was supposed to have begun Monday. For at least seven reasons, it didn’t.

Now, Walter Artis Jr. is scheduled to stand trial Aug. 19 for the murder of Alexis Boland.



Artis

The delay Peoria County Chief Circuit Judge Katherine Gorman granted Monday – reluctantly, she said – is to give defense attorney Chandra Justice more time to review additional discovery evidence she received July 26.

Among the evidence prosecutors handed over

were seven body-camera videos, according to Justice. Written reports from three law-enforcement agencies also were released.

The body-cam footage depicts the arrest of Artis, near a gasoline station in Morton. Artis, 28, was apprehended April 14, 2023, a few hours after he was accused of shooting 22-year-old Boland at the Brighton Woods apartment complex in Dunlap. Boland died two days later.

Prosecutors and a witness allege Artis forced his way into the Brighton Woods apartment, pulled out a handgun and fired multiple shots at Boland.

The newly released evidence left Justice unprepared for trial, she said.

Gorman said she trusted the most recent discovery-evidence release was the final one.

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# MOLES: Trapping offers best form of control

*Continued from Page 1*  
healthy lawn. They are masters at reducing thatch, that layer of dead and living plant material that builds up on the soil surface of a lawn. If thatch gets too thick, it prevents moisture from reaching the soil and encourages shallow grass-root growth. When lawns are fertilized, grass grows faster than clippings can be broken down and a buildup of thatch results.

The Greek philosopher Aristotle called earthworms "intestines of the earth," and for good reason. They break up thatch material, digest it and return nutrients to the soil. In doing so, they mix soil into the thatch, increasing the microbial activity necessary for decomposition. As they tunnel through soil, they create pathways for air and water.

If pesticides must be applied to a lawn to control grubs, be sure the chemical is non-toxic to earthworms. Most earthworms are slow growers and have low reproductive rates. It takes a long time for populations to re-establish after a toxic pesticide has been applied.

I've been told by some folks that they treated their grass for grubs in order to starve out the moles, but the critters continued to plow up the yard. "Why is that?" they ask. I'm will-

ing to bet that their lawn-care company correctly applied a chemical toxic to grubs but relatively harmless to earthworms, the moles' preferred diet. On the other hand, had the mole damage ceased after the lawn was treated, it could be that the applied chemical killed not only the grubs but the earthworm population as well. Of course it's also possible the mole simply died or moved on to wormier pastures.

So if chemicals are not the answer, how do you eliminate moles from your lawn? I've checked with the extension folks at four different universities, including Illinois. All of their advice boils down to trapping. I know from experience that trapping requires diligence and persistence. It's a real pain, but the joy of finding a mole's carcass is beyond measure.

Some gardeners say certain plants will repel moles when planted as the border between the woods or meadow and the lawn. Daffodils, castor bean plant and mole plant (*Euphorbia lathyris*) are most often mentioned. Of the three, only daffodils are perennial. Marigolds are listed, but I know they don't work.

Moles are solitary animals and very territorial. They will fight to the death any other mole that wanders into their tunnels. Females have one litter of three or four young per year in the spring. By summer, mom kicks them out to go find a home of their own. This means that usually if you trap a mole in a particular run this time of year, there won't be another in that same run.

Currently you can trap moles in Illinois without a permit. The University of Minnesota Extension website has detailed instructions on how to set a harpoon-style mole trap. It's worth a look. Visit [extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/how-to-trap-moles](http://extension.umn.edu/planting-and-growing-guides/how-to-trap-moles).

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**Notice of Proposed Property Tax Increase for Toulon Public Library District**

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Toulon Public Library District for 2024 will be held on August 12, 2025 at 7P.M. at the library, 617 E. Jefferson St. Toulon IL 61483. Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Michael Baumann, Librarian, 617 E. Jefferson St. Toulon 309-286-5791.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for 2023 were \$285,877.23  
The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$335,000. This represents a 17.18% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2023 were \$0.  
The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 are \$0. This represents a 0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for 2023 were \$285,877.23. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2024 are \$335,000. This represents a 17.18% increase over the previous year.

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## PUBLIC RECORD

### Traffic Citations

7-23 - Micah R. Davis - Driving 15-20 mph above the limit.  
7-26 - Malik K. Jordan - Driving 15-20 mph above the limit.

### Misdemeanors/Felonies

6-24 - Criminal felony - Todd A. Stenger - Possession of methamphetamine.

### Incidents & Accidents

#### Stark County

7-20 - At 11:45 p.m. on July 20, Michael S. Purdy of Castleton was driving a 2007 Chevrolet Silverado pickup north on Illinois Route 40 near Santa Fe Road when the vehicle struck a deer that emerged from the west. Purdy reported no injuries. The deer was killed, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

7-22 - Allison R. Jagers, 26, Bradford, cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

7-22 - Michelle L. McCauley, 33, Bradford, ticketed for driving while her license was suspended. She was released with a court date to appear.

7-23 - Danelle L. Watson, 54, Henry, ticketed for speeding 74 mph in a 55 zone.

7-23 - Lori A. Piper, 61, Henry, cited for speeding 74 mph in a 55 zone.

7-23 - Timothy P. Jensen, 36, De-Witt, Iowa, cited for speeding 74 mph in a 55 zone.

7-24 - Ephraim Y. Khing, 38, Peoria, cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55 zone.

7-24 - James D. Stutler, 40, Kewanee, cited for driving on a suspended registration due to mandatory insurance and driving an uninsured vehicle. His vehicle was impounded. He was released with a court date.

7-24 - According to an accident report, Gary D. Bent, 61, backed into a parked vehicle on Old School Road in Toulon with a 2019 Chevy Tahoe squad car. Estimated damage to the vehicles was over \$1,500.

7-25 - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Illinois Route 91 approximately a quarter of a mile south of 1200N. Driver Heidi J. Dyken, 42, of Toulon reported no injuries, but estimated damage to the vehicle was over \$1,500.

7-25 - Alicean I. Egelston, 58, Wyoming, issued a notice to appear on a charge involving a dog bite.

7-25 - An abandoned vehicle was located near the Stark and Knox County lines. The 1999 Volvo was towed to the impound lot.

7-25 - Raphyll L. Jordan, 42, Kewanee, cited for speeding 61 mph in a 55 zone, driving with a suspended license and possession of cannabis over 100 grams but less than 500 grams. Jordan was released with a court dater.

7-27 - Joshua R. Petty, 44, Toulon, cited for illegal use of an electronic communication device and driving a vehicle with no insurance. He was issued a court date.

### Correction

In the July 26 issue of The Prairie News, the Stark County Sheriff's Office provided incorrect information that David F. Prindiville, 50, Toulon was ticketed for speeding 55 mph in a 40-mph zone. Jacob R. Prindiville, 25, Toulon received the citation.

7-27 - William D. Hoerr, 31, Wyoming, cited for speeding 102 mph in a 55 zone and issued a court date.

7-27 - Richard J. DeSchepper, 58, Altona, cited for speeding 77 mph in a 55 zone.

### Galva Report

#### Officer dispatched:

7-22 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd St. for a city ordinance violation. A resident was burning on a non-burn day. The fire was extinguished.

7-23 - to the 200 block of SE 1st St. for a wire hanging low and caught in a tree. Frontier was contacted for repairs to the phone line.

7-23 - While patrolling in the 400 block of SE 2nd St., an officer was flagged down and handed an Illinois driver's instructional permit. Officer recognized the owner and the permit was returned.

7-23 - to the 400 block of SE 1st St. for a 911 call involving a lot of screaming. As a result, Lucas Gustafson, 38, Galva, was arrested for domestic battery. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

7-23 - Tony Porter, 48, Kewanee, cited for speeding in the 800 block of N. Center Ave.

7-24 - While patrolling, officer saw a solicitor going door-to-door in the 100 block of NE 4th St. The subject did not have a solicitor's permit and was referred to City Hall.

7-25 - to the 00 block of SW 9th Ave. for a solicitor complaint. The subject did not have the required permit and was referred to City Hall.

7-25 - to the 900 block of SE 6th St. for a disorderly conduct-telephone harassment complaint.

7-26 - to the 600 block of NW 7th Ave. to deliver a message about a wallet that had been located.

7-26 - to the 800 block of NW 1st Ave. for a solicitor complaint. Officer was not able to locate the subject.

7-26 - to the 600 block of SE 2nd St. for a forgery complaint.

7-26 - to assist a subject that had a dead battery on their electric wheelchair in the 300 block of Market St.

7-26 - to the 300 block of N. Center Ave for a solicitor complaint. Subject was referred to City Hall for a permit.

7-26 - to the 100 block of SE 2nd St. for a reckless-driving complaint.

7-26 - to the 900 block of W. Division St. for a disorderly conduct complaint.

7-26 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd St. for a verbal domestic dispute.

7-27 - along with the fire department to the 500 block of SE Industrial Ave. for a vehicle fire.

7-27 - to a residence on NW 7th Ave. for a complaint involving inappropriate photos that were sent.

7-27 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. to remove an unwanted subject.

7-27 - to the 800 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a burning complaint.

7-27 - to the 100 block of SE 4th Ave. for a civil property dispute.

7-28 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd Ave. to remove an unwanted subject.

7-28 - along with the fire department to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for an activated fire alarm. A faulty smoke detector was considered to be the source.

7-28 - Samantha Schaefer, 43, Galvesburg, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

### Property Transfers

7-15 - Lowell W. and Rose A. McKirgan to Paula Hoadley - Vg of LaFayette Block 15 Lots 1 and 2 - 200 Madison St., LaFayette - Consideration = \$52,000.

7-17 - Diane J. and Stephen R. Winslow to Diane J. and Stephen R. Winslow, Trustees - Sect. Pt 14-14-6 SW and NW, Pt 18-14-6 SE, Pt 19-14-6 SE, Pt 20-14-6 SW and SE, Pt 21-14-6 NE, SE and SW, Pt 24-14-6 NE and Pt 30-14-6 NE - Consideration = \$0.

7-17 - Joshua R. Leezer, Ind. Rep. and Thomas R. Leezer, Estate to Cindy J. Pfanz - Culbertson's Western Add'n - Pt Block 2 Lot 4 - 404 N. Elm St., Toulon - Consideration = \$125,000.

7-18 - Linda J. Dukey and Susan A. Ford-Adams to Julia Sterr and Seth T. King - Gene Good Subdivision - Lots 12 and 13 - 106 W. Grove St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$127,000.

7-18 - James L. and Margaret A. Debord to Debord Properties, LLC - Pts Plus Ease Sect. 36-13-6 SW - 112 and 114 E. Williams St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$80,000.

7-19 - Diann M. and Richard D. Bush, Trustees to Diann M. and Richard D. Bush, Trustees - Pts Sect 7-12-7 SW - Consideration = \$0.

7-19 - Linda S. Hall to David T. and Marque M. Johnston - Giles C. Dana's Add'n Block 10 Lot 4 - Pt Sect 1-12-6 NW - 308 E. Smith St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$150,000.

7-22 - George W. Sales to Zerla Properties, LLC. - Pt Section 28-14-6 SW and Pt Section 33-14-6 NW - Consideration = \$844,000.

7-24 - Holly L. Gillam to Chad E. Gillam - Wm. F. Thomas Add'n - Block 6 Lot 10 - 107 W. Butler St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$0.

7-24 - Suelly M. Flatman, Estate and Tiffany Ann Furan, Ind. Admin. to Joseph and Shelby Conway - Pt 23-12-5 NW - 2802 Twp Rd. 400 E, Toulon - Consideration = \$190,000.

### Marriages

7-26 - Betsy Ann Wilkinson of Chillicothe and Andrew Erik Rocke of Neenah, Wis.

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## The Prairie News

The Prairie News is published every Friday (except one week in July and Dec. 27) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529.

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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



## Of the drive to be Olympian & ugly energy

Rambling through central Illinois, warning everyone that “Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire” is terrible, even by monster-movie standards.

The Olympics has an attraction all its own, both for television viewers and for competitors it seduces with dreams of medals. And some dreams are more calculated than others.

During a previous gig with the Peoria Journal Star, I interviewed **Vic Wunderle** of Mason City. Wunderle won a team gold and an individual silver medal in 2000 at the Sydney Games and competed in the 2004 and 2008 Olympiads.

I was struck by many things while interviewing Wunderle. He was an amazing shot with his recurve bow and had been trained from a young age by his father, Terry, to become a champion. At that time, he also had a girlfriend named **Joy Fahrenkrog**, who gave up a career in rowing to



**Jeff LAMPE**

### Olympic Humility

Harold Osborn, an Illinois athlete in the 1924 Paris Olympics

won two gold medals, and yet his two daughters

insist that he never required their praise.

So we celebrate his humility, as well as his ability.

— Dave Lampe

become an archer. Was it because of some great love for archery, I asked?

Nope. Fahrenkrog had always dreamed of competing in the Olympics. At first, she thought rowing would get her to the international sports stage. That did not pan out.

So she did some research and decided archery was one of the easiest paths to the Olympics. Almost overnight, she became an archer. I was stunned to hear her admit it, but impressed by her desire to win a medal

— something that never happened.

This is not to imply that becoming an Olympic archer is easy, though being a decathlete or boxer is surely more difficult. It’s just interesting to ponder how many competitors we are watching who made life changes for a chance at glory that comes once every four years.

Living with electricity will always require tradeoffs. For years, we put up with coal plants polluting the air and water because coal was (and still is) readily available. Now we are closing coal plants and encouraging the spread of solar panels and windmills. This may be a wise decision, though I can envision a day when people say, “What were we thinking?” Whether that happens or not, we do need to stop calling this “green energy.” What is “green” about a landscape littered with solar panels and towering windmills? Call it what it is: Ugly energy. Yes, coal plants are ugly, but because of their efficiency, we didn’t need one in every backyard.

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

### VICTORIA, IL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

The following very nice 3 bedroom brick ranch home, Model A car, RR items, antiques, coins and primitives will be sold at live public auction, on **Sunday Sept. 22nd, 2024 at 12:00 NOON (R.E. sells first)**

**NOTE:** See pictures and full ads online at [www.folgersauctionservice.com](http://www.folgersauctionservice.com). See the full ad of personal property online and in papers soon.

**REAL ESTATE:** This 1935 sq. ft. house sits on a .44 acre shaded lot in Victoria, IL. The main level of this home contains 3 bedrooms, a full sized bath, an open kitchen and dining room area, a nice sized living room and ample closet space. The attached garage area has been transformed into an extra family room with a separate patio entrance. The dry basement is full and partially finished with another bathroom included. There is a wood burning fireplace in the basement. The house has been improved with a new whole house Generac generator, a 2 yr. old roof, 2009 furnace/central air and a 3 yr. old water heater. The windows are almost all new with just a couple left to replace. The house is structurally sound but in need of updating. With some cosmetic TLC, this would be a beautiful family home in the Rowva School District. An **OPEN HOUSE** will be held on Tuesday August 20th from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Contact Folger's Auction Service for further viewing options.

**TERMS:** A non-refundable 10% deposit is due on auction day with the balance due in approx. 30 days at closing. This is an As-is auction. A valid purchase agreement will be signed day of sale.

**FULL AD** contains a one owner 1931 Model A Tudor Sedan w/ good body, original title, old RR items, primitives, coins, old advertising and much more.

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**Correctional Deputy**  
The Henry County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for Correctional Deputy until August 30th, 2024 by 4:00 p.m.  
We accept lateral transfers that have Basic Correctional Officer certification. We can honor up to 10 years of prior service for those that meet the criteria.  
The Henry County Sheriff's Office has excellent benefits include health, dental & life insurance for employee, paid holidays, paid vacation, starting salary \$48,360.00 with anniversary and contractual raises, and IMRF pension (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Applications and additional information may be obtained from the Henry County Sheriff's Office @ 311 W Center St Cambridge, IL or by calling 309-937-3902, or download an application from: henrycty.com (Sheriff's Office, then to Employment) Henry County is an E.O.E. The written test information will be provided at a later time.  
**DESCRIPTION & INFORMATION**  
Correctional Deputy  
- Must have a Valid Drivers License  
- Illinois Basic Correctional Officer certification is preferred, but not required  
- Starting Salary \$48,360.00 (as of December 2024 +2.5% \$49,566.40)  
- Uniforms furnished  
- Benefits include health, dental & life insurance, paid holidays & vacation  
- Must be available to go to schooling which is provided by Henry County  
- Life & Health insurance provided for employee (family insurance available @ cost to employee)  
- Assist the public (in person & over the phone)  
- Report writing  
- Transport / Supervise inmates  
- Required to do other necessary departmental tasks  
- Be at least 18 years of age and have a high school diploma  
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**BRIEFS**

**Wyoming seeks input, support for park grant**

WYOMING – The City of Wyoming is seeking input and support in its attempt to apply for a state grant for development of Thomas Park.

Wyoming is seeking an Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development grant through the Department of Natural Resources and asks residents to attend an Aug. 6 meeting at the Paramount Theater at 6 p.m. to show support.

The city is also soliciting input for the park from residents on its Facebook page.

**First Choice has open house in Toulon Aug. 2**

TOULON – The Stark County Health Department and its new First Choice Healthcare Clinic in Toulon



New queens were crowned last week during the Stark County Fair Queen Pageant. From left to right are Junior Miss Stark County Lilly Gillespie, Miss Stark County Hailey Peterson and Little Miss Stark County Hadley Forstrom.

will hold an open house today, Aug. 2, from 2-5 p.m. at 120 E. Court St.

Local residents, community part-

ners and county officials can meet the staff, tour the health department and clinic, enjoy refreshments and sign up for door prizes.

In addition, the clinic offers free adult (18 years+) tetanus booster shots and blood pressure checks. Free shots will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

There will also be walk-in, school-ready exam clinics on Aug. 12 from 12-6 p.m. at the Toulon clinic.

**Et cetera**

• TOULON – Anyone interested in enrolling children in Pre-K at Stark County Elementary School must have their child screened prior to starting. Screenings will be scheduled for next week on Aug. 7. Please email ahamilton@stark100.com to schedule an appointment.

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Guests are asked to bring lawn chairs/blankets. Food vendors are available.  
 FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO [www.galvamusic.com](http://www.galvamusic.com)

# Old Settlers Days

Annual event starts today in Toulon

By The Prairie News

**Toulon** – A busy weekend of meeting up with friends and enjoying summer starts today with the return of the Old Settlers Days.

Retired educator Fred Sams is the 2024 Badge Honoree and will take part in the parade on Saturday at 2 p.m. Sams will also give his honoree speech on Sunday during the 10 a.m. OSA meeting.

Old Settlers Days opens today, Aug. 2, with a 4:30 p.m. fish fry at the Toulon American Legion, followed by a kiddie tractor pull at 5 p.m. and the OSA Queen Pageant at 6 p.m.

Activities continue Saturday, Aug. 3, starting with the Indian Creek 5K run at 8 a.m. The day also features a craft show and flea market, a 3-on-3 basketball tournament, a cruise-in from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., a quilt show at Toulon Methodist Church, kids events, a parade starting at 2 p.m., bingo from 7-8 p.m. and live

music, including the Electric Tomato at RBAR at 3 p.m. and Written Warning on the main stage at 8 p.m.

The Stark County Historical Society will also be open on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will offer various hands-on activities for children and a free craft project to take home.



Sams

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**Upcoming Events:**  
**Sat. Aug 3rd**  
Blueberry and Peaches Breakfast 8am-Noon (plain pancakes available upon request)  
**Sat. Aug 10th**  
Blueberry and Peaches Breakfast 8am-Noon (plain pancakes available upon request)  
**Sat. Aug 12th**  
Sunflower Fields Open Daily 10am-4pm  
**Sat. Aug 17th**  
Sunflower S'mores and More Adult Night 6pm-9pm (limited # of tickets available--must purchase ahead of time)

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**Toulon Old Settlers 2024**

Schedule of Events  
**FRIDAY, AUGUST 2nd, 2024**

- 4:30 p.m. Toulon American Legion Fish Fry
- 5:00 p.m. Toulon Lions Club Kiddie Tractor Pull (City Park)
- 6:00 p.m. OSA Queen Pageant (Main Stage)
- 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. Beer Garden Open

Following pageant - Band - "After Hours" and Fireworks at the High School

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 3rd, 2024**

- 8:00 a.m. Indian Creek 5K Run
- 8:30 a.m. 3 on 3 tournament (City Park)
- 9:00 a.m. Kids Fun Run
- 9:00 a.m. Craft Show and Flea Market (Courtyard)
- 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Stark County Illinois Historical Society Complex OPEN (Last Tour at Noon)
- 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Quilt Show (Toulon Methodist Church)
- 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Stark County Genealogical Society OPEN
- 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Cruise in Car Show
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lions Club Pork Chops
- 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Unique Twist (Balloon Man) (Courtyard)
- 2:00 p.m. Kiddie Parade followed by Main Parade
- 2:30 p.m. - ? That Kid Place (Foam Cannon / sensory museum) (State Bank of Toulon Drive Through parking lot)
- 3:00 p.m. "The Electric Tomato" (RBAR)
- 5:30 p.m. Marshall - Putnam - Stark Show Choir (Main Stage)
- 6:00 p.m. Beer Tent OPENS
- 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. BINGO (Beer Tent)
- 8 p.m. "Written Warning" Band on Main Stage

**Fred Sams**  
2024 OSA Badge Honoree

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 2024**

- 10:00 a.m. OSA Meeting (Coffee, Donuts, Badge Honoree Speech)
- 10:30 a.m. Church Services

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# SOCIETY OF GROWTH: Offers various services

*Continued from Page 1*  
 need.

"People want positive change but often don't know how to achieve it. SoG is wrapping its arms around community members and services so they can get what they need," Dahl said.

The Society of Growth offers an impressive array of services designed to

meet the diverse needs of the community. These include, but are not limited to:

- Teaching CPR classes.
- Distributing fentanyl test strips and Narcan.
- Offering Narcotics Anonymous meetings and Smart Recovery. Meetings are held Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. at The Society of Growth building in

Wyoming.

• Partnering with other nonprofits such as Freedom House and Maitri to offer domestic-abuse support, clinical services and peer support.

• Collaborating with Lean On Me Advocacy to support students with Individualized Education Programs, plans that describe the special education instruction, support, and services students with disabilities are legally entitled to receive.

• Partnering with the Henry/Stark Health Department to offer medication-assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol use disorders.

The Society of Growth's recent expansion to Wyoming marks the beginning of a broader outreach strategy. "Our services are available to anyone in need, regardless of their location," McAvoy emphasized.

The organization is actively applying for grants, such as the competitive COSSUP Grant, to further enhance their offerings. Additionally, the organization hopes to foster partnerships through the SDH Alliance and to bring together sectors like law enforcement, education and community volunteers to collaborate on various projects.

Information about The Society of Growth is available on its Facebook page, its soon-to-be-launched website ([www.societyof-growth.org](http://www.societyof-growth.org)) and on a Spotify podcast called "The Society Connect." The organization can also be reached at (309) 648-4431 or via email at [contact@societyof-growth.org](mailto:contact@societyof-growth.org).

Donations are accepted at: The Society of Growth; P.O. Box 22; Wyoming, IL 61491.

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**TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**  
**MARSHALL, PUTNAM, STARK COUNTY**  
**PROBATION DISTRICT**



**Job Title: District Probation Officer**  
 (Primary Duties in Putnam County)  
**Closing Date: August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

**Minimum Qualifications:** A bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university, preferably with major coursework in criminal justice, psychology, sociology, social work, or related social sciences.

**Duties:** To serve the court by monitoring and supervising a caseload of offenders, juveniles and adults; perform a variety of fieldwork such as conducting home visits and referring offenders to appropriate community agencies; work closely with the State's Attorney's Office, the Sheriff's Department and jail, all City Police Departments, the Courts, community agencies and treatment programs; complete written reports and notices required by State statute and to file such reports with the Circuit Clerk as required by statute; appear in Court and testify as needed. Maintain thorough and accurate records of all case activities; collect urine/saliva samples for drug testing; perform duties as assigned per an on-call schedule to handle after-hour calls, and/or emergencies; and to perform other duties as directed, including those mandated by the Illinois Compiled Statutes.

**Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:** Requires the ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing; requires knowledge of psychology, substance abuse, and other areas of mental and physical problems to identify human needs and make appropriate referrals; requires excellent organizational and time management skills; requires ability to work well with a wide array of people, including offenders and their families, victims of crime, co-workers, court personnel, and law enforcement as well as members of the community.  
 Starting Salary: \$42,000 with benefits

**Special Requirements:** Must be a U.S. Citizen; must be a resident of the State of Illinois within ninety (90) days of appointment; must be on the employment eligibility list maintained by the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts must have a valid Illinois motor vehicle operator's license.

Interested persons must submit a cover letter and resume to the Chief Probation Officer  
 122 N. Prairie St. Lacon, IL 61540 or email to [probation@marshallcountyillinois.gov](mailto:probation@marshallcountyillinois.gov) as well as submit a state application for Probation/Court Services Employment per the application instructions on the website:  
<http://illinoiscourts.gov/Administrative/forms/Probation/Employment>

**Putnam County is an Equal Opportunity Employer**





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:fcctoulon@gmail.com)  
website: [firstcongregationaltoulon.org](http://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  
Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor  
(309) 932-2713 • [GalvaBaptistChurch.com](mailto: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**  
204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491  
(309) 695-4091  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
Check us out on Facebook

**First Congregational Church 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](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)  
[www.ToulonBaptist.com](http://www.ToulonBaptist.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:preachinghope@gmail.com)  
[galvafirst@gmail.com](mailto:galvafirst@gmail.com)  
Sunday Worship: 9:00

**Holy Trinity Polish National Catholic Church**  
Father John Cramer  
716 N. Tremont, Kewanee, IL  
Mass - Sat. at 5 p.m., Sun. at 9 a.m., Mon. - Thurs. at 9 a.m.

**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](mailto: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](http://www.theoakscommunitychurch.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch](https://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 Wyand Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421  
Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.  
Rev Dan Wright  
309-897-8113 309-507-1626  
[thewrights62@hotmail.com](mailto:thewrights62@hotmail.com)

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## OBITUARIES

### Lynn E. Travis

GALVA – Lynn E. Travis of Galva, a loving child of God, died peacefully at home on July 30, 2024, after years of lung issues. She was born April 1, 1953, in Kewanee, the third child of Glenn and Agnes Luymes. She was preceded in death by both parents.



Travis

Lynn graduated from Galva High School in 1971 and Illinois State University in 1975. She married Steve Nelson in 1975 and later divorced. In 1990 she met and married Rev. Chet Travis.

Lynn worked for 29 years as an English teacher and guidance counselor at Williamsfield High School, Charleston High School, Chatham Glenwood Junior High School and Fisher Junior-Senior High School. She is survived by her husband,

Chet Travis, siblings; Keith Luymes of Galva, Nancy McClay of Knoxville and Carol (Peter) King of Basalt, Colo., stepchildren, Joshua (Megan) Travis of Oconomowoc, Wis. and Sara (Angel) Migwans of Hobart, Ind.; one granddaughter, Abby Travis of LaCrosse, Wis.; and several nieces and nephews.

Lynn was very active in the United Methodist Church, especially in choir, missions and as a teacher. She was also active in PEO and a strong supporter of many environmental, human rights and hunger organizations. Lynn helped start or reorganize food pantries in three communities. She was an officer for the United Methodist Women, on the local, district, conference and jurisdictional levels.

A visitation will take place from 5-7 p.m., on Friday, Aug. 2, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva. The funeral service will take place at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 3, at the Galva First United Methodist Church with Rev.

Rebecca Gearhart officiating. The burial will be in Galva Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Galva Public Library, the Galva Park District, the First United Methodist Church, or Cunningham Children's Home.

### Francis A. Maertens

GALVA – Francis A. Maertens, 87, of Galva, died at 11:29 a.m., Tuesday, July 30, 2024, at his home. Arrangements are pending at Rux Funeral Home in Galva.

### James W. Wilson

PRINCEVILLE – James Woodrow "Woody" Wilson, 63, of Princeville, died on July 23, 2024, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria.

Surviving are his wife, Lisa, of Princeville; his daughter, Jamey Wilson of Princeville; two stepsons; his stepmother, Kathleen Wilson of Chillicothe; three sisters; and two brothers. A graveside service will be at 1 p.m. on Aug. 8, 2024, at the Chillicothe City Cemetery.

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Nicole Reed – Funeral Director/Pre-Need Agent/Celebrant  
Cassandra Springborn – Funeral Director

*Card of Thanks*  
**Patricia Sherman Family and Friends**  
Thank you for your many expressions of love and sympathy during the loss of our loved one Anita. "There is a road along which each must go. It leads beyond the hills of time, into the sunset glow. But only for a little while our loved ones leave our sight, for just beyond the hills, they wait in God's eternal light"  
Many Blessings and Thanks  
Patricia Sherman Family and Friends

Providing peace of mind for you and your family

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## GARAGE SALES

- Estate Sale - Aug. 2 and 3 - 25801 N. 800 Ave., Kewanee, IL**  
Estate Sale: Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 25801 N. 800 Ave., Kewanee, IL. Gas stove, crafts, sewing machines, household, tools, bird cage, bookends, lots of misc.
- Indoor Estate/Rummage Sale - Aug. 2 and 3 - 21822 ST. Rt 78**  
Indoor Estate/Rummage Sale 21822 ST Rt 78, (one mile north of Laura, across from Arends Orchard) August 2 & 3, 8AM-4PM Harley Gear including clothes, helmets, rain gear, leather. Tools, yard equipment and hunting items. Costume jewelry, women's clothing & shoes (size S-XL). Christmas & Halloween décor. China, Crystal, serving pieces, high-end Home décor, collectables, and other miscellaneous items.
- Garage Sale - Aug. 8, 9 and 10 506 North Galena Ave., Wyoming.**  
Garage Sale: Thursday, Aug. 8, 5 to 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 9, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 10, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 506 North Galena Ave., Wyoming. Lots and lots of craft items, wreaths and silk flowers, brand new shoes, size 8 SAS and Skecher, purses, lots of clothes with tags small and medium, coats, set of dishes, pans, glassware, bedspread, much more good stuff! Cheap prices!
- Large Yard Sale - Aug. 23 and 24 - 389 W. Chestnut, Canton**  
Large Antique and Primitive Yard Sale. Friday, August 23 & Saturday, August 24. 389 W. Chestnut, Canton. Jeannie Overcash. Rain date following Friday and Saturday (Aug 30 and 31).

# GALVA: Seeking to build on 10-win season

*Continued from Page 12* of teacher training, authorized by Brett Elliott, the district superintendent.

"I jokingly brought it up to Brett and he said, 'Put together a proposal and make it worth our while,'" Mastin said. "It is a business trip."

A pleasure trip Mastin made in late June to the United Kingdom helped truncate part of the Rebels' summer. Mastin planned the trip last November, well before he replaced Dusty Browning as head coach. Browning resigned after the end of the 2023-24 season, in which Stark County finished 19-13.

This summer, Stark County played only five varsity games – against Bureau Valley, Bushnell-Prairie City, Midland, Princeville and ROWVA-Williamsfield.

"The nice thing is the kids next year are all kids who have played under me

before at the JV level," Mastin said. "It would be a lot more difficult if I had been hired in a completely new district and didn't know these kids and go into November like a fresh, new relationship."

"I think that will help ameliorate the process a little bit, but it's certainly not ideal."

Stark County lost key seniors, including Matthew Bowser and Luke Rewerts. But the Rebels return a solid core. It includes incoming seniors Chris Barnwell, Ross Saner and Dillon Steelman and juniors Ben Browning and Connor Daum.

Others who made good summertime impressions, according to Mastin, included incoming sophomores Tanner Bishop and Connor Down (one of Rewerts' cousins) and junior Justin Warner.

• **Galva** – Another team whose summer was short-

ened was Galva. Gymnasium remodeling kept the Wildcats off their home court for a month, Coach Jake McClintic said.

The main event for Galva was the Monmouth College shootout in mid-June. Galva lost four of five games, but two were one-pointers. The victory, in the Wildcats' third game, also came by a point – over Illini Bluffs, which has advanced to the past two Class 1A Jacksonville Supersectionals.

"We struggled a little bit, just because of the lack of gym time we had at the beginning of the summer," McClintic said. "(But) the kids came out and just played basketball, which was nice. They had been too tight the first two games, but the third game

they finally loosened up and played."

Incoming junior J.P. Sloan took a few steps forward this summer by driving more often to the basket than relying on 3-point shots, according to McClintic. Six-foot-two sophomore Reid Harris' switch from guard to the post also has borne fruit.

Overall, even a limited summer gave McClintic hope that the upcoming season will continue Galva's upward trend.

After winning two games in 2022-23, the Wildcats went 10-21 last season with only three seniors.

"We've been pretty young the past two years," McClintic said. "This year, it'll be nice to have a seasoned team ready to play varsity basketball."

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**FURNITURE AND HOUSEHOLD:** King size bed with matching dresser, Chairs, end tables, Lamps, Pictures and frames, Patio table and chairs, 2 window air conditioners, 68" X 32" Kenmore upright freezer, Maytag upright freezer Lots of kitchen ware, glassware, pots and pans, skillets, small appliances, Kitchen Aid mixer, Ninja Air cooker, Pet kennel, Wicker patio furniture, Dining room hutch, Graco Baby pack and go, Potable TV, Portable DVD player, Workout equipment including Treadmill, Schwinn Airdyne Cardio Glide machine, Century punching bag, Char-Broil grill, 2 girls bikes, several animal cages, Propane deep fryer, plus much moreOLS: Craftsman 6" table saw, 12" Delta planer, Delta edger, 10" miter saw on stand, Makita 1 1/2" hammer drill with core and regular bits, Metal and wood band saws, Oxygen and acetylene torch set tank with turbo torch, 16 speed drill press, Plunge router plus other routers, Hydraulic Knock out set, 3 rollers on wheels, Steel and wood storage racks, 32 ft. aluminum ladder, 8 ft fiberglass step ladder, Electric boxes and electric supplies, No. 10 drop cords, Lots of miscellaneous tools including pipe wrenches, hammers, sockets, open end wrenches, 1/2" -2" pipe threaders, 1/2", 3/4", and 1" pipe benders, copper tubing, and fittings, sand paper, drills and drill bits, Dovetail maker, Iron wheel seed cart, carpenters table on wheels, Canvas painters tarp, 2 wheel refrigerator cart, 2 belt sanders, 2 expandable painters planks, nail gun, old vacuum pump, Hydraulic floor jack, wooden office chair, Poulon 20" chain saw, Hitachi 16" chain saw, Large selection of wood clamps, Lots of cherry wood rough sawed 1 1/8" thick, wainscoting, plus much more!!

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# The Prairie News Sports

## Summer basketball update

### New Stark County coach attending camp in Italy

By The Prairie News

Kane Mastin has been a world traveler this summer. But the first-year Stark County boys basketball head coach believes his most recent journey will reap benefits back home.

Mastin is in Italy this week, at a camp British basketball coach/author Alex Sarama is conducting. Sarama advocates what's known as a constraints-led, scientific-based approach to basketball. The bottom-up perspective emphasizes players finding their own ways of achieving outcomes within prescribed limits.

"Instead of teaching specific plays and sets, it's all about controlling the environment so (players) can come to these natural processes on their own," Mastin said. "It's very much about exploration and letting the kids find the answers for them-

selves instead of waiting to be told what to do."

When Mastin discovered Sarama's theories, it represented a "Eureka!" moment. In 15 years of coaching, Mastin said he could count on one hand how often he drew up the perfect end-of-game play and it worked. But within constraints, a player can create a more-instinctive last-second winning shot.

"I'm definitely trying to present basketball in a different light than what is to be considered the traditional approach," said Mastin, a former Stark County assistant. "The kids seem pretty receptive."



The Sarama camp is in Roseto degli Abruzzi, located along the Adriatic Sea about 2½ hours northeast of Rome. Stark County is picking up part of the tab as part

*Continued on Page 11*

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