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February 28, 2025
Vol. 22, No. 6

The Prairie News

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FAITH AND THE OUTDOORS

KOZ comes to Toulon

Kids Outdoor Zone offers guidance

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Five local Toulon men have come together to kick-start a new outdoor-based Christian ministry for boys ages 8-18.

The name of the ministry organization is Kids Outdoor Zone – a national ministry started by T.J. Greaney, of South Austin, Texas, in 2009.

Men who are willing to participate in this ministry are trained via streaming video at the host church to be outdoor mentors. Training includes a 1½-hour section with the leaders and their wives and a five-



Local KOZ leaders are (left to right), Jim Roark, Don Turnbull, Al Curry, John Hauck and Mark Wilson. Submitted photo.

hour section with workbooks for the men. Upon completion, men are certified as KOZ Harvest Team Leaders.

Five Toulon men have stepped forward to sacrifice their time and

apply their skills: John Hauck, Jim Roark, Don Turnbull and Mark Wilson from Toulon Global Methodist Church and Al Curry of the Altona Lutheran Church.

Continued on Page 2

Stark Co. teacher earns ISBE award

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

WYOMING – Stark

County special education teacher Leslie Rennick has been selected as the 2025 Northwest Illinois Teacher of the Year by the Illinois State Board of Education.

Rennick, who is one of 13 finalists for Illinois Teacher of the Year, was recognized on Monday by the Stark County School Board with a Pride and Excellence award for the ISBE honor she received on Feb. 14. She teaches in Stark County Elementary School.

"I am very excited and very proud to represent Stark County," Rennick stated. "I'll be representing



Leslie Rennick holds her Pride and Excellence award at Monday's Stark County School Board meeting.

Stark County/Northwest Region at the Teacher of the Year reception March

Continued on Page 2

Galva schools hire counselor, football coach

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Henry-Stark County Health Department has hired Kyla Carlson to work as a new mental health counselor at the Galva Elementary School.

The school has set up an office for Carlson, who will offer counseling to students in both the elementary and junior-senior high school. The School Board heard at its meeting Monday that nine families are ready to start counseling.

"It will nice to have this here so families will not have to travel," Elementary School Principal Adam Norway said.

The board also approved the hiring

of Zach Anderson as high school football coach. A former all-conference offensive tackle for the Wildcats in 2008, Anderson lives and works in Galva. (Read more about Anderson on Page 12.)

The board also recognized Vicki Bates, the junior-senior high school secretary, for more than 20 years of service and stepping up to handle extra duties. Bates will retire at the end of this school year.

The board was given the 2025-26 school calendar to approve at its March board meeting. The first attendance day for students is Aug. 14.

Jake Gravitt was honored for taking 3rd place in the top 100 for boys trap shooting and Avery Dooley as

2nd place out of 100 students for girls in trap shooting.

The board approved the retirement of Michelle Mersman, as elementary P.E. teacher effective at the end of the 2027-28 school year, along with the following hirings for the 2024-25 school year:

- Gunner Spivey as high school assistant baseball coach.
- Meghan Weber, Dustin Weber, Brian Nance and Becky Wigant as high school softball volunteers.

The board went into closed session at the end of the meeting to discuss personnel, student disciplinary cases and litigation. There was no action.



At Monday's Galva School Board meeting, elementary student Paisley Dunn (center) was awarded a Wildcat Pride Award for the respect and help she gave to other students. Seniors Lily Wigant (left) and Maddie Bates (right) also received Wildcat Pride Honors for being Illinois State Scholars. Photo by Carol Townsend.

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KOZ: Get boys outside, away from screens

Continued from Page 1

The group of five will meet the third Saturday of each month in the Toulon Methodist Church north parking lot from 8:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Currently, March 15 and April 19 are scheduled. The group will supply a lunch and meetings will occur rain or shine. Responsibility for meeting will be shared among the five men, though they hope to have all five participate each month.

The ministry is open to anyone in the area and not just boys in Stark County. Boys with or without fathers are welcome to participate. The ministry also seeks men with specific outdoor skills who can take part in outdoor activities that they are willing to teach to boys.

According to KOZ organizers, 40% of boys in the U.S. do not have a father living at home.

“The average kid also spends 40 minutes a week outside and 70 hours in front of a screen,” KOZ re-

ports. These facts encourage “an unhealthy mental, physical and spiritual population among our boys today,” KOZ says.

To combat that, Wilson said that the majority of KOZ-related activities are held outdoors.

“Then we’ll have a scripture reading and discuss how that relates to that day’s activity,” Wilson said.

“Boys need to get outside,” Curry added. “And there’s a time for self-reflection by the boys. They can also put on a card anything they would like to privately interact with one of us – if they choose to do so.”

By including five men in the group, the hope is that boys will have a greater chance of finding someone with whom they can connect. Organizers also believe that word-of-mouth by the boys will encourage others to attend. The leaders will assess the effectiveness of their ministry as time passes.

Team leaders plan to inform Stark

County and the surrounding area about this ministry by meeting with various clubs, organizations and churches.

Activities planned include fishing, gun knowledge using BB guns, knife sharpening, archery, building and lighting a campfire, how to use an axe and other outdoor activities to be determined.

One of the stated goals of KOZ is to have boys develop internally and help guide them into manhood. They say that while previous generations had fathers or mentors who guided boys, today there is a lack of those individuals for boys to learn from.

To learn more about Kids Outdoor Zone or to participate please contact Curry (309) 883-1240, Hauck (309) 363-1901, Roark (309) 286-6551, Turnbull (309) 238-7250 or Mark Wilson (309) 238-7019.

Spring Open House
Saturday, March 8, 2025 • 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Flemish American Club • 313 N Burr Blvd, Kewanee
Come join us at our 17th annual craft and direct-sales vendor show. A lunch created by Eiler's Catering will be available for purchase. Here's your chance to check out what's new for Spring.
The participating vendors are:
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STARK: ACT testing begins April 2

Continued from Page 1

8.” In other business, Superintendent Brett Elliott said the district still owes a little over \$500,000 for the new gym and will determine what fund or funds will be used to pay off the remaining debt.

Elliott also said the school district has met with the teachers and their union representatives and are waiting to sign off on tentative numbers for a new contract.

Junior-Senior High School Principal Megan McGann reported that students at the high school will take a practice ACT test on March 5 and all students in grades 9-11 will complete the ACT/Pre-ACT testing on April 2.

McGann told the board that Bradford students will decide in the next few weeks what high school they will attend after their grade school promotion.

Elliott said spring break is April 14-21 with schools resuming April 22.

He stated that the school district had to make a \$50,000 payment for the new electric school bus and associated grant.

The board approved the 2025-26 school calendar and also awarded three-year bus leases for fiscal year 2026. The lease with Midwest Bus Sales is for one activity bus and also Midwest Transit Equipment for five 65-passenger buses.

A three-phase replacement of windows in the elementary school was approved, with Taylor Glass of Peoria selected for the \$34,500 contract. The first phase will start this spring.

The board voted 4-1 in favor of replacing the scoreboard in the Wyoming Athletic Complex with a cost not to exceed \$34,000. Elliott said there are electrical wiring issues with the underground wires at the gym. The new scoreboards would be wireless, hence eliminating the wiring issues.

President Ann Orwig cast the lone dissenting vote on the scoreboards, saying, “I’m not against the scoreboards, but I don’t feel that it is the right time for the expenditure.”


The board also heard that Stark County senior Lauren Best will be interviewed for a special by


WEEK-TV (25). Best has been nominated for a National Federation of State High School Associations Heart of the Arts Award.


Best and other students took over the school’s band/choir program after longtime director Angie Roark retired and her replacement quit three weeks into the 2023 school year. The school district had difficulty replacing that teacher due to teacher shortages.

After closed session, the board announced the retirement of clerical worker Vicki Nowlan and approved the following personnel items:

- Maternity leave for Grace McClure.
- Hiring Erin Hardigan as musical art director
- Hiring Kelsey Berchtold as high school softball assistant coach.
- Hiring Cassandra Williams as assistant cook.
- The resignation of Andrew Collins as 6th and 7th grade science teacher, assistant junior high football coach and 8th grade basketball coach.
- The resignation of Kara Dauck as a Pre-K instructor.

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Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Dinner is served at 6 p.m. • Live Auction starts at 7 p.m.

Dinner Tickets: \$25 EACH
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Tickets Available at:
SC Elementary School
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SC High School
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Tickets are not required to attend the live auction

Proceeds will support various needs in the district including the SCES Project Playground and Education Foundation scholarships and Teacher Grants.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

- 2-19 - Henry L. Alexander, Jr. - No valid registration.
- 2-23 - Renee B. Zakas - Driving 15-20 mph above the limit.
- 2-23 - Derek R. Johnson - Driving on a suspended license.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

2-18 - Nicole L. Lee, 32, of Kewanee was involved in a deer-related vehicle accident on Illinois Route 93 west of the Modena Blacktop. No injuries were reported but estimated damage to the vehicle was over \$1,500.

2-19 - Alexander H. Lewis Jr., Bryant, cited for driving without a valid registration. He was issued a court date to appear.

2-21 - Linda S. Fairbanks, 60, East Peoria, ticketed for speeding 71 mph in a 55 zone.

2-21 - Abdull H. Syed, 24, Peoria, cited for speeding 73 mph in a 55 zone.

2-21 - Carla J. Down, 61, Wyoming, ticketed for speeding 71 mph in a 55 zone.

2-22 - Malisa L. Roberts, 49, Sterling, cited for speeding 70 mph in a 55 zone and operating a vehicle on a suspended registration for non-insurance. She was released with a court date.

2-22 - Steven J. Earthely, 24, was arrested for domestic battery and transported to the Bureau County Jail. He was later released with a notice to appear.

2-22 - A complaint about a possible identity theft was reported by a Wyoming resident in the 400 block of S. Sixth St.

2-23 - Eric C. Moyer, 43, Sheffield, cited for driving on a suspended registration and issued a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-17 - While patrolling, an officer saw that a train had stopped and was blocking every crossing except SW 6th Ave. Officer assisted several motorists navigate through the open crossing. The train eventually moved along.

2-17 - to a verbal disturbance in the 700 block of NW 1st Ave.

2-17 - Rodolfo Zarate-Escobedo, 63, Kewanee, cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 200 block of SW 2nd Ave. He was released with a court date.

2-17 - Bobby Crawford, 53, Ke-



wanee, cited for improper use of registration and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 00 block of NE 2nd St.

2-18 - to the 200 block of NW 1st Ave. for a prowler/trespassing complaint. This case remains under investigation.

2-18 - Officer, along with Stark County Medic, were dispatched to a residence on SE 4th St. for a suicidal subject who had ingested a large number of pills. The subject was transported for evaluation and treatment.

2-18 - to a crossing-arm malfunction at the NE 6th Ave. railroad crossing. BNSF was contacted for repairs.

2-19 - to a residence on NW 3rd Ave. for a suicidal juvenile complaint. The subject was transported by ambulance for evaluation/treatment.

2-19 - to the 600 block of SW 2nd Ave. for a complaint involving a subject cutting down a large tree without a permit. The subject was not located at the time.

2-20 - to the 500 block of SE 1st St. for a complaint involving trespass to a motor vehicle. Nothing was reportedly missing.

2-20 - to the 600 block of S. Center Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was located in its own yard.

2-20 - to the Galva-Atkinson blacktop at Page Street for a disabled vehicle that was blocking traffic. The vehicle was towed.

2-20 - to the east edge of town to watch for a reckless driver who was reportedly coming toward Galva. The officer located the suspect vehicle, but did not observe any traffic violations.

2-20 - to the 00 block of SE 3rd Ave. for a burglary of motor vehicle complaint. This case remains under investigation.

2-21 - along with the fire department and Stark County Medic to an accident with injuries just east of

town on Route 34. Henry County handled the crash report.

2-21 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a dog-bite complaint. A juvenile was bitten by the family's own dog, resulting in minor injuries.

2-22 - to the 1000 block of NW 5th Ave. for a solicitor complaint. Two subjects were located without a permit. They were advised of the process.

2-22 - to the 300 block of SE 4th Ave. for an attempted-scam complaint.

2-22 - along with the fire department to the 00 block of NW 4th St. after receiving a complaint for a burning odor.

2-22 - Rahim Ali, 45, Galesburg, cited for speeding in the 300 block of SE 2nd St.

2-23 - to the Chester Street railroad crossing for an abandoned vehicle located near the tracks. A juvenile driver walked up and assisted the officer pushing the truck away from the tracks.

2-23 - to the east edge of Galva to watch for a reckless driving complaint. Officer located the vehicle and conducted a traffic stop.

2-23 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St., Derek Johnson, 36, Galva, was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was released with a court date.

2-23 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. to check the welfare of a subject screaming outside. The subject appeared to be having a mental-health crisis.

2-23 - to the 400 block of SE 3rd St. for a wild-animal complaint involving a bat in the residence. A wildlife removal company was contacted to respond.

2-23 - A 17-year-old juvenile from Kewanee was issued citations for disobeying a stop sign and speeding in the 100 block of SE 2nd St.

Property Transfers

2-18 - Patricia D. and Robert E. Rouse to Anthony Bumber and Vutha Eang - Pts Sect. 14-14-7 SE - 15255 N. Bradford Rd., Bradford - Consideration = \$330,000.

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Job Announcement
ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking a part-time Administrative Coordinator (20 hours per week). Duties include: serving as receptionist, bookkeeping, data entry, bill paying, preparing reports & publications, ordering supplies, day-to-day activities, assisting with events, and providing general clerical assistance to staff members, a board of directors, other agencies and landowners.

Qualifications: bookkeeping skills, PC/Mars and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook) experience preferred, web design and social media proficient, trustworthy, self-motivated, organized, detail oriented, ability to multitask, work independently in a team, have excellent interpersonal oral and written communication skills.

Employment contingent upon receiving a satisfactory United States Department of Agriculture background investigation.

Salary range commensurate with education and/or work experience. Opportunity for flexible schedule, some remote work possible. The Stark County SWCD is an equal opportunity employer. Mail cover letter and resume to:

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Attn: Hiring Committee
7419B State Route 17,
Toulon, IL 61483
Or email starkcountyswcd@gmail.com
Please submit by COB on March 14, 2025.

MOWING BIDS

Bids are now being accepted for the mowing and trimming of the complete grounds of the Village of Bradford Cemetery for the 2025 Mowing Season.

The trimming around the headstones should be done on the average of at least every other mowing and before Holidays. Proof of insurance is required, must be 18 years of age or older.

Bids should be submitted to:
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The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

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Weekly SUDOKU
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CryptoQuote
answer

Life is short, so don't waste time by hating a body that has been more than a gift.

— Jessamyn Stanley

Stark County Community Lenten Services 2025
(All 5:00 PM services will be followed by a soup supper)

March 5	Ash Wednesday	Wyoming Congregational Church	7 PM
March 9		First Baptist Church, Toulon	5 PM
March 16		Toulon Methodist Church	5 PM
March 23		Leet Methodist Church, Bradford	5 PM
March 30		First Congregational Church, Toulon	5 PM
April 6		Elmira United Presbyterian Church	5 PM
April 13		Wyoming Nazarene Church	5 PM
April 17	Maundy Thursday	Wyoming Methodist Church	7 PM
April 18	Good Friday	Elmira United Presbyterian	7 PM
April 20	Easter	Sunrise Paramount Theater, Wyoming	7 AM

GUEST VOICES



DOGE needs to continue, but gear down a bit

Some people have remarked that I drive slower at night than many others. That may well be true. It goes back to my father who really did not like to have to repair damage caused by his son.

Dinging the family car was one thing that could rapidly bring his wrath on my teenage head. Especially for avoidable accidents. He stressed do not overdrive your headlights. He wanted me to have enough time to react to any road hazard that occurred.

In DeWitt County, and especially where I live, deer have decided that the road is their private trail and cars will yield to them. If you see the deer, you can avoid the problem. It's a lesson I have taken to heart, even though I have hit a few deer that jumped in from the side.

Today President Trump wants to rapidly enact his political agenda. Striking while the iron is hot is another phrase that has great meaning in politics. Every media source out there is talking about how fast Trump is moving.

Pollster Frank Luntz was on CNN recently to discuss this issue. His comments were that Democrats as

well as Republicans were pleased with the actions taken by the Trump administration to curtail waste in government. Constituents may not like Trump's verbiage, but they strongly supported his actions.

Those comments are telling on the current political environment. Add to this the comments of Democratic strategist James Carville who is telling Democrats to back off and let Trump run his course until he messes up and you have an idea of where the nation is at.

Carville's comments essentially reflect my Dad's advice. Trump and Musk are in overdrive to cut anything that they might perceive as waste. Now, both Trump and Musk are businessmen who have terminated their fair share of employees and ventures. That is business. If you make a mistake and fire the wrong guy you can always bring him back or hire someone else. The problem with their approach is that we are dealing with government and not a business.

Yes, government can be served by implementing many business models, but government is not run for profit. Government is there to provide an infrastructure and safety for the greater community. Effi-

ciency and delivery of services is the key to government, not profit and loss models. The public wants roads that support the weight of business and they want safety that is secured by a strong military.

Recently, DOGE appears to be overdriving its headlights. They cut a lot of nuclear inspectors that supervise the military's nuclear ordinance. DOGE was also looking at cutting the training site for those who train to be air traffic controllers. We have to have our nuclear weapons secured and we certainly need trained air traffic controllers.

Also, soon to be reviewed by DOGE is the Pentagon and the Farm Bill. Will they find waste in both reviews? Absolutely. The key is to not throw the baby out with the bathwater. Cutting appears to be the goal at present and we forget the needs of the public for governmental services.

DOGE needs to continue as it appears to be the best means of eradicating waste. However, it may well benefit the nation if they drop down a gear or two so as to not overdrive their headlights and create a wreck.

Richard Koritz is an Illinois native and former DeWitt County State's Attorney

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GUEST VOICES

We're about to find out what federal cuts mean

During the final stages of building the world's first atomic bomb, scientists at the secret New Mexico research site worried that the initial test of their new weapon might ignite the atmosphere and wipe out every living thing.

The project's anxious physicists, however, considered it extremely unlikely and ultimately downplayed the possibility as a realistic threat but "not an unreasonable concern."

Farmers, ranchers, and rural communities are experiencing similar anxieties as the White House and Congressional Republicans rev up their efforts to slash federal spending. Unlike the nuclear pioneers, however, neither GOP group has produced quantifiable numbers to support their views.

Moreover, any voter with an internet connection can quickly disprove key claims the budgeteers are using to underwrite their claims.

For example, in the attention-grabbing Jan. 27 White House directive labeled Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan, and other Financial Assistance Programs, the Office of Management and Budget predicated its spending cuts on this hardworking phrase: "In the Fiscal Year 2024, of the nearly \$10 trillion that the Federal Government spent..."

There's a problem with that case-building opener; it's simply not true.

Indeed, "according to the June 2024 estimate by the Congressional Budget Office ... 'In fiscal 2024, the federal government spent \$6.9 trillion.'"

So 2024 spending by the federal government – as reported by the federal government – was about 30% smaller than what the administration's current budget office used to



Alan GUEBERT

justify its government-wide spending pause.

What happens when deep spending cuts and future government budgets are based on numbers that are at least 30% out of line with reality? We're about to find out.

In the meantime, mandated federal spending cuts are coming to rural America with or without the White House working with honest numbers.

For example, the University of Illinois recently reported its College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences received \$61 million in direct federal funding last year.

How does folding up federal programs at a Land Grant university's ag teaching and research umbrella affect that state's farmers and rural communities? We'll soon know.

Caught in the Washington, D.C., crossfire is the university's Soybean Innovation Lab that receives vital funding from the U.S. Agency for International Development, or USAID. That agency was one of the first targets for deep cuts and dramatic overhaul by the Trump White House team.

After USAID's mid-February gutting, Peter Goldsmith, the executive director of the Illinois soybean research facility, "announced the lab will shut down in April as (USAID) terminated its funding. ...Thirty soybean experts working in the local lab were let go last Friday."

What happens to those experts and their work – described as one of U.S. farmers' best tools to expand their markets globally—when it is dismantled without thought, understanding or appeal?

The United States' more than 500,000 soybean growers in nearly 30

states are about to find out.

And what about trade dependent American farmers; how will the recently advanced Trump trade policy of reciprocity – essentially a country-by-country, eye-for-an-eye mashup of arcane, trade-killing rules – reverse U.S. ag's fast-growing trade deficit?

Even more worrisome, can the pared back and still-being pared USDA handle today's fast-moving avian flu outbreak before the disease discovers a pathway to a COVID-like pandemic as the White House continues to cut, freeze or eliminate

funding and jobs at USDA testing facilities and National Institutes of Health research programs?

And what impact will Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the Trump Administration's newly approved secretary of health and human services, have in upcoming food debates as the boss over the Food and Drug Administration?

No one knows but we're about to find out.

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

MOWING BIDS

Bids are now being accepted for the mowing of the LaFayette Cemetery which includes the McClenahan Cemetery, south of LaFayette and the Himes Cemetery, north of LaFayette for a total of (3) Cemeteries.

Proof of insurance is required. Must be age 18 or older, Bids should be submitted to:
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The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

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The United States' more than 500,000 soybean growers in nearly 30

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Stark County Regular Van Schedule for March

Mon., March 3: Princeton	Thurs., March 6: Kewanee
Mon., March 10: Peoria	Thurs., March 13: Princeton
Mon., March 17: Peoria	Thurs., March 20: Kewanee
Mon., March 24: Peoria	Thurs., March 27: Kewanee
Mon., March 31: Princeton	

Please note: If local schools are closed due to bad weather, MSW will be closed and there will be no transports.

Pick up:
Bradford 8:40, Wyoming 8:55, Toulon 9:10; Depart from destination city at 2:30
Fees: People under age 60: \$10 except to Kewanee is \$6; People aged 60 & over: voluntary donation
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BRIEFS

Galva H.S. to perform 'Shrek the Musical'

GALVA – The Galva Drama Club will perform “Shrek the Musical” on March 7 and 8 at the Galva High School at 7 p.m.

The cast includes 20 actors ages 10 through 18 who will perform. The show is directed by Jillian Rodseth, with technology by Joe Angelo and music instruction by Whitney Fahner.

Bradford school board OKs 2025-26 calendar

BRADFORD – The Bradford School Board approved a 2025-26 school calendar at its meeting on Feb. 25.

First day for students to attend school will be Monday, Aug. 18. In 2025, there will be no school Sept. 1, Oct. 10-13, Nov. 26-28 and during Christmas break Dec. 22 through

Jan. 2.

The board also approved having 8th grade promotion on May 16 at 7 p.m. and changing its April meeting date to April 28 at 7 p.m.

Bradford's junior high girls basketball teams were recognized. The 7th grade team placed first in the conference, while the 8th graders were second in the conference and third in the league tournament.

Wyoming chamber will hold Bingo fundraiser

WYOMING – The Wyoming Chamber of Commerce is planning a Bingo Night fundraiser on March 29 at 6 p.m. at The Paramount Theater.

In addition to door prizes and a 50/50 raffle, participants can bring their own beverages and snacks.

Bingo cards cost \$10 for two cards and \$1 for each additional card. All proceeds will go to buying community S'mores tables that can be used for local festivals and events.

Prize donations are welcome. For more information, call Lori McCullough at (309) 312-1083.

The chamber also has a new Facebook page under the heading “Wyoming Illinois Chamber of Commerce.”

The next Chamber of Commerce meeting will be March 10 at noon.

Upcoming concerts coming to Bishop Hill

BISHOP HILL – The Creative Commons, 309 N. Bishop Hill St., has live music scheduled for this weekend.

On Saturday, March 1, Chloe Kimes and her band will perform. On Sunday, March 2, Ryanhood will perform. A potluck dinner proceeds both events at 6 p.m. with music following at 7. Suggested donations for both events is \$20-\$30. The events are open to guests of all ages.

Real ID deadline May 7 for domestic flights

By **JADE AUBREY**

Capitol News Illinois

With a deadline approaching for U.S. citizens to obtain Real IDs, Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias is urging Illinois residents to “Get Real.”

Real ID is a federally-standardized identification card that requires stricter proof of identity to obtain than the regular state driver's licenses or ID cards. All Drivers Services facilities in Illinois are issuing Real IDs, except for mobile units and express facilities.

Last May, Giannoulias' office launched the “Get Real Illinois” campaign to raise awareness about the requirements and deadline of the Real ID implementation. During a news conference Tuesday, he continued to urge Illinoisans to obtain the new ID soon, as a federal deadline approaches.

On May 7, state-issued driver's licenses will no longer be accepted as a valid form of identification for domestic flights or at certain federal facilities such as military bases or federal courthouses. Although U.S. citizens will need a Real ID to visit those facilities, they will not need a Real ID to fly domestically if they

have a valid passport.

A Real ID is signified by a gold star on the upper right corner of the ID card.

“We know for sure that as May 7 approaches, demand for Real ID drivers' licenses and state IDs will inevitably increase,” Giannoulias said.

He said the news conference aimed to “clear up confusion” over the technicalities of the Real ID.

“Since the new administration has taken over in D.C., we've seen an influx of people who are confused about what real ID means and think they need it as a form of identification,” Giannoulias said. “And our point that we're trying to hammer home today is that that's not the case. You do not need a Real ID to drive a vehicle.”

Other qualms about the new identification have arisen, including issues around gender identity and the likelihood of the May 7 deadline holding firm. Although Giannoulias didn't directly address the first issue, he said multiple times that Illinoisans should use their own discretion to decide if the Real ID is right for them.

In direct response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, Congress passed the REAL ID Act in 2005. The effec-


tive date of the law has been extended multiple times, most recently to 2025 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Now I get asked on a regular basis, is this real ID deadline for real this time,” Giannoulias said. “The one thing that's different this time around is that TSA just recently published a ‘final rule,’ rejecting the option for another extension and requiring the regulation to finally take effect.”

TSA's final rule, which they published on Jan. 13, 2025, stated the agency will begin enforcing the law on May 7, taking what they call a “phased enforcement approach” to implement enforcement until May 2027.

The Secretary of State's website has an interactive checklist where Illinoisans can find out what documents they need to obtain a Real ID. Required documents include proof of identity, proof of full Social Security number, and two documents providing proof of current address.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, non-partisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide.



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Farmers anxious about new Farm Bill

By **ASHLEY SORIANO**

Capitol News Illinois

The impacts of President Donald Trump's planned tariffs on allies and rivals are yet to be seen, but farmers in Illinois are bracing for their impact – even as they wait years for Congress to pass long-term federal spending legislation.

Fourth-generation Illinois farmer Rick Nelson feels that uncertainty keenly. He learned how to drive a tractor at 6 years old. By age 8, he was preparing the ground for planting.

"I became a 'tractor jack' at an early age," said Nelson, 72, who still operates his 2,500-acre family farm in Paxton.

Now in his final farming years before passing the farm to his son, the Nelson family is anxious about the road ahead this year.

The Nelsons' farm is one of nearly 71,000 registered farm operations in Illinois, the third-ranked state in the nation for agricultural exports, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

But the number of family-run farms is declining because the profit margins are slim and the industry is unpredictable, according to the Illinois Farm Bureau.

Farmers are biting their nails as they await a new Farm Bill – a piece of federal legislation that Congress theoretically passes every five years to set comprehensive agricultural programs and policies.

The bill expired in September 2023 and was extended through last year. Congress extended the 2018 version for a second time in December. That legislation, the American Relief Act, 2025, extended the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 through Sept. 30, 2025.

First enacted under President Franklin Roosevelt's



Rick Nelson, a fourth-generation farmer, operates this 2,500-acre family farm in Paxton, Illinois, shown in a 2023 photograph. Photo provided by Rick Nelson.

New Deal in 1933 to support struggling farmers and address Depression-era hunger, the Farm Bill allocates funding for crop insurance, disaster assistance and conservation programs for farmers. It also funds nutrition programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, also known as food stamps, and school lunch programs.

The Farm Bill didn't exist when Nelson's great-grandfather started their family farm in 1910, but it's become an essential part of farmers' financial planning process.

"When we do any kind of planning, we have to be looking out one, two, three, even five years ahead in terms of purchases or cash flow needs," Nelson said.

Another immediate concern is the impact already of the Trump administration's halting of USAID purchase of crops for foreign aid, which could hit Illinois farmers hard.

China could impose retaliatory tariffs like it did in 2018, which led to a significant decrease in soybean exports at the time.

This go-around could increase the cost of producing farm machinery and equipment.

"Farmers are working in the 2024 economy with a piece of legislation that was passed in 2018," Ryan Whitehouse, the Illinois Farm Bureau's director of national legislation, said in December. "And with everything that's happened to modernized bills."

"Congress, you know, they kicked the can down the road two times," Whitehouse said.

Lawmakers in Springfield have also expressed frustration at Congress' lack of an update to the Farm Bill.

"I think it's really unfortunate that the federal government is not doing their part right now," state Rep. Sonya Harper, D-Chicago, said. "That lends itself to hurting our farmer families, which we know the majority of them are in rural communities."

Harper, who chairs the House Agriculture and Conservation Committee, said the delays are "disrespectful to farm families."

The delay has caused budgeting pressure for

Nelson, who is considering upgrading an aging tractor to a newer, \$334,000 model.

"If I were trying to project ahead, am I going to try and replace that in 2025? Am I going to try and replace that 2026? I don't know where the safety net will be from the Farm Bill," Nelson said. "It's a politically driven decision in D.C."

Across more than 26 million acres covering 75% of the state's land, farmers produced \$10.8 billion in corn and \$8.2 billion in soybeans in 2023, according to the USDA.

Each year, the state's 274 million bushels of corn produce more ethanol than any other state, according to the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

Jim Niewold, a corn and soybean farmer in Loda, said he's frustrated with the Farm Bill's delay.

"Several years, or if not decades, most of it ends up getting delayed and put into these omnibus bills, and I wish they'd do it right," Niewold, 69, said.

Without solidified legislation, funding is in limbo.

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CITY OF GALVA WATER DEPT. NOTICE

On 12/2/24, the Galva City Council voted to end the "RED DOOR TAG" process for delinquent water bills. Beginning with the bills processing 5/1/2025, your second notice shut-off date is a true shut-off date. The City of Galva staff will no longer be placing red door tag notices at residences offering another 5 days to pay. Second notices will print on yellow paper and must be paid by the due date to avoid disconnection. If you cannot make the payment by the due date, you must call City Hall to make arrangements to pay in a reasonable amount of time. Failure to follow through on these arrangements will result in disconnection with no additional notice.

Once disconnection occurs, a \$100 reconnect fee will be added to your water account and must be paid to restore service.

We would like to remind everyone that when payment cannot be made on time, a call to City Hall with reasonable arrangements to pay will avoid disconnection and additional charges.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to call City Hall at 309-932-2555.

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF KIP C. SLEAFORD, Deceased
No. 2024 PR 17

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Kip C. Sleaford. Letters of Office were issued on February 13, 2025, to Trudy Sleaford as Independent Administrator whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before August 22, 2025. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider.

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Attorney for Executor
211 W. 2nd St.
Kewanee, IL 61443
(309) 852-5555
Published 2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25

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

ESTATE OF:
Bonnie J. Rogers,
No. 2025PR18
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Bonnie J. Rogers. Letters of Office were issued on February 7, 2025, to Chad Rogers as Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 7, 2025.

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with

limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Name Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
Address P.O. Box 165
City Galva, IL 61434
Phone(309) 932-2001
Email: everetr@barashlaw.com
Published 2/21, 2/28, 3/7/25

PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Valley in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday April 8, 2024, at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois at 6:30 PM for the transaction of miscellaneous business of Valley Township; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law come before the meeting.

Dated: February 28, 2025
Jodi Dienst
Valley Township Clerk
Published 2/28/25

Notice of Public Hearings on Road District Budget And Township Budget

Notice is hereby given that Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance meetings for Road Purposes of Valley Township, in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, and also for Town of Valley in said county, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2025, and ending March 31, 2026, will both be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Valley Town Hall, 15003 Township Road 300N, Wyoming, IL 61491, after March 13, 2025, by appointment only.

Notice is further given that public hearings on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 6:45 PM and 7:00 PM respectively, Tuesday, April 8, 2025 at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois and that action on these ordinances will take place immediately following.

The 7:00PM regularly scheduled April 10th, 2025 monthly meeting of Valley Township Board of Trustees to discuss regular business will be rescheduled to take place April 8, 2024

immediately following the budget hearings.

Dated: February 28, 2025
Jodi Dienst
Valley Township Clerk
309-230-8953
Published 2/28/25

Public Notice

The regular scheduled meetings of Valley Township Board of Trustees to conduct regular business of the township, to inspect and pay bills, and any such matters that shall come before the board for the fiscal year 2025-2026, will be held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings will be held at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois beginning at 7:00 PM.

Dated February 28, 2025
Jodi Dienst
Valley Township Clerk
Published 2/28/25

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

ESTATE OF:
Susan Somers Neal Rhode,
No. 2025PR24
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Susan Somers Neal Rhode. Letters of Office were issued on February 19, 2025, to Cary Schaub as Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 19, 2025.

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
Phone (309) 932-2001
Email: everetr@barashlaw.com
Published 2/28, 3/7, 3/14/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE

FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF:
Sandra D. Johnson
No. 2025PR25
Deceased

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES AND CLAIM NOTICE

To: Dan K. Richison, Heirs of Larry Richison, Deceased, AND UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of Sandra D. Johnson.

Notice is given to Dan K. Richison, Heirs of Larry Richison, Deceased, AND UNKNOWN HEIRS, who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on February 14, 2025 admitting the will to probate.

Letters of Office were issued on February 14, 2025 to Kraig Townsend as executor whose attorney is Barash & Everett, LLC, P.C., PO Box 165, Galva, IL 61434.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court Cambridge, Illinois, 61238 or with the representative, or both on or before August 14, 2025. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representatives and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21).

You also have the right under section 8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

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

Visit: <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Filings are to be made with: Henry County Circuit Clerk Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor

CLAIM NOTICE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT OF ILLINOIS – STARK COUNTY

In Re ESTATE OF LEO D. SECKMAN, Deceased. No. 2025PR1

NOTICE is given to creditors of the death of LEO D. SECKMAN, on January 23, 2025. Letters of Office were issued by the above entitled Court to DEBRA L. SHANE, of 9282 Township Road 550N, Wyoming, Illinois 61491, and DONALD K. SECKMAN, of 237 Jeb Stuart Drive, Wilmington, North Carolina 28412, as Executors, whose attorneys of record are WHITNEY & POTTS, LTD., 118 West Main Street, P. O. Box 368, Elmwood, Illinois, 61529-0368. Claims against the Estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's Office, Stark County Courthouse, Toulon, Illinois, or with the representatives or both on or before the 22nd day of August, 2025 or if mailing or delivery of a Notice from the representatives is required by Sec. 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that Notice. Every claim filed must be in writing and state sufficient information to notify the representative of the nature of the claim or other relief sought. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant to the representatives and to the attorney within ten (10) days after it has been filed and the claimant shall file with the Court, proof of any required mailing or delivery of copies.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>. DATED this 31st day of January, 2025.

DEBRA L. SHANE and DONALD K. SECKMAN, Executors of the Estate of LEO D. SECKMAN, Deceased.

ROBERT L. POTTS, Esq. WHITNEY & POTTS, LTD. Attorneys for Executors 118 West Main Street P. O. Box 368 Elmwood, IL 61529-0368 Telephone: (309) 742-3611 becky@whitneyandpotts.com Published 2/14, 2/21, 2/28/25

PO Box 165 Galva, IL 61434 Telephone: 309/932-2001 Email: everetr@barashlaw.com Published 2/28, 3/7, 3/14/25

Email: everetr@barashlaw.com Published 2/28, 3/7, 3/14/25

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

ESTATE OF:
Lana McDonough,
No. 2025PR20
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Lana McDonough. Letters of Office were issued on February 7, 2025, to Wanda K. Stahl as Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 20, 2025.

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
Phone (309) 932-2001
Email: everetr@barashlaw.com
Published 2/28, 3/7, 3/14/25

ESTATE OF:
Robert J. Gale,
No. 2025PR23
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Robert J. Gale. Letters of Office were issued on February 14, 2025, to Kraig R. Gale as Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 14, 2025.

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
Phone (309) 932-2001



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Pritzker rhetoric

Governor positions self at forefront of Trump opposition

By HANNAH MEISEL

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — A month into President Donald Trump's second term in the White House, Gov. JB Pritzker last week warned that the breakneck pace at which the Trump administration has been remaking federal policy could be a harbinger of something darker.

"It took the Nazis one month, three weeks, two days, eight hours and 40 minutes to dismantle a constitutional republic," the governor said near the end of his annual combined State of the State and Budget Address on Feb. 19.

Pritzker's speech to a packed Illinois House chamber marked the start of efforts to craft a state budget for the coming fiscal year. More than any budget or policy proposal, though, the governor used his annual address to take aim at Trump in a way other high-profile Democrats have largely shied away from: discussing the rise of Adolf Hitler.

"The seed that grew into a dictatorship in Europe a lifetime ago didn't arrive overnight," he said. "It started with everyday Germans mad about inflation and looking for someone to blame."

Pritzker, Illinois' third Jewish governor whose ancestors fled religious persecution in Ukraine in the

late 1800s, said he didn't "invoke the specter of Nazis lightly" but cited his work with survivors to help found the Illinois Holocaust Museum as basis for his warning.

"I'm watching with a foreboding dread what is happening in our country right now," he said. "The authoritarian playbook is laid bare here: They point to a group of people who don't look like you and tell you to blame them for your problems. I just have one question: What comes next?"

It's unclear whether Pritzker's fiery rhetoric will help pass the budget and legislative agenda he laid out. But it did garner him national attention, including on The Rachel Maddow Show.

That comes as speculation over the governor's political future as a presidential candidate may come to a head later this year as Pritzker decides whether to run for a third term as governor in 2026.

While some members of

the General Assembly's influential Latino and Black caucuses were less than thrilled with Pritzker's budget proposal, some in his own party praised the framework.

Reactions were mixed when it came to the governor invoking the rise of the Nazis in 1930s Germany. Many Democrats clapped when Pritzker urged learning from history to avoid repeating it.

To critics' ears, however, Pritzker's speech signaled he has his eye on the White House in 2028.

Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, warned that the governor's rhetoric may put Illinois squarely in the Trump administration's crosshairs.

"He is not going to be running against Donald Trump in 2028 and he needs to understand that as soon as possible, because there's a lot at risk for the state of Illinois by continuing to play the part of antagonist to the president of the United States," he said.

95 Rollie Krause
is turning 95 on March 9th!
Join the celebration by sending a card to: P.O. Box 40
Bishop Hill, IL 61419
Can he get 95 cards? You can help 😊

Answers on Page 3 Super Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Teenage witch played by Melissa Joan Hart
- 8 Breakwater embankment
- 15 Nintendo title
- 20 Germ-free
- 21 Singer with the 2018 hit "Boo'd Up"
- 22 Put up, as a building
- 23 Patti Smith
- 25 Flat, as cola
- 26 One of the two Pro Bowl gps.
- 27 Rankle
- 28 Notices
- 30 Hero type
- 31 Nina Simone
- 39 Napoli's nation
- 41 Alien-seeking proj.
- 42 City near Disney World
- 43 Manicure tool
- 46 Oxidizes
- 49 Put the kibosh on
- 50 Missy Elliott
- 53 Div. from Miss. to Mich.
- 56 Pre-CIA gp.
- 57 Ad featuring Smokey Bear, e.g.
- 58 "Science Guy" with multiple Emmys
- 59 Honorable
- 60 Busy airport
- 63 George Strait
- 69 World capital in the Andes
- 74 '60s war zone
- 75 2010-14 Mets member
- 76 Britney Spears
- 79 Plane ticket detail
- 80 Large musical disk
- 81 Encyc. unit
- 82 Tosses out of the game, for short
- 85 "Law & Order" spinoff, in brief
- 88 Busy insect
- 89 Bessie Smith
- 97 Plane ticket detail, for short
- 98 Malosso John
- 99 Namatos
- 100 Running
- 104 "This Is Life" journalist Lisa
- 106 Totally in favor of
- 107 Chuck Berry
- 112 "Casablanca" woman
- 113 "Dies —" (Latin hymn)
- 114 — Schwarz
- 115 Peculiar
- 118 Just making, with "out"
- 120 Liza Minnelli
- 127 Roaring cat crossbreed
- 128 Remove loose coverings from
- 129 "Tartuffe" playwright
- 130 Thick
- 131 Ancient Jewish ascetics
- 132 Slung mud at
- DOWN**
- 1 Very long tale
- 2 Dating from
- 3 Furniture pieces for lying or sitting
- 4 Tach abbr.
- 5 Judge Lance
- 6 Petty peevish
- 7 Have — on one's shoulder
- 8 "Black Panther" actor Andy
- 9 "Xanadu" gp.
- 10 Sitcom ET
- 11 '679" rapper Fetty —
- 12 Make laugh
- 13 Thin streets
- 14 "In this way"
- 15 Spanish for "month"
- 16 Skilled crafter
- 17 Go further in the book, say
- 18 Apple digital storage service
- 19 Verdi opera
- 24 Mess up
- 29 Hercules
- 32 Afflictions
- 33 Natural talent
- 34 Greet loudly
- 35 Architect Saarinen
- 36 Double — (Ono option)
- 37 Wife on "The Addams Family," casually
- 38 Big to-do (rum drinks)
- 39 Lowdown
- 40 Mai — (rum drink)
- 44 Track circuit
- 45 Mag staffers
- 47 Ex-Yankee Martinez
- 48 James Bond genre, in brief
- 51 Ox of Tibet
- 52 "Doggone It"
- 53 Punishment for a tube watcher
- 54 "Me neither"
- 55 Rival of Ben & Jerry's
- 59 Nibble (on)
- 60 Suspend
- 61 Scanned market ID
- 62 Busy insect
- 64 With one flat, musically
- 65 Brief snooze
- 66 Biotech-created food
- 67 Alop, in verse
- 68 Japanese salad green
- 69 Links gp. for women
- 70 Club for a 69-Down member
- 71 Small fortune
- 72 Letters of invitation?
- 73 American assn.
- 77 Margarine, quairly
- 78 Adobe
- 84 That girl
- 85 Large yellow bloom
- 86 Put the kibosh on
- 87 KGB's land
- 89 Parae "to be"
- 90 Native New Zealander
- 91 WWII battle town in France
- 92 Glue — (brand of adhesive in a tube)
- 93 Hog sound, e.g.
- 94 Tesla auto, e.g.
- 95 String necktie
- 96 Quiet stretch
- 97 Fuel gases
- 100 Off-track
- 101 New film type in the 1920s
- 102 What "G" is
- 103 Rotational force
- 105 Big blunders
- 108 Man-goat delish
- 109 Marsh plants
- 110 Capture
- 111 Campus buildings
- 116 Have the guts
- 117 Made blond, maybe
- 119 Test for college srs.
- 121 Prior to, in sonnets
- 122 Indian flatbread
- 123 Not closed, in verse
- 124 — pah band
- 125 Heady brew
- 126 Day, to Diego

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

Panel 1: "WAIT TILL YOUR FATHER GETS HOME, MISTER!"

Panel 2: "YOU ARE IN A WHOLE HEAP OF TROUBLE. JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE."

Panel 3: "I THOUGHT YOU WERE KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR SON! DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE DID?"

Panel 4: "WHY IS IT WHEN YOU DO SOMETHING WRONG I'M THE ONE WHO GETS IN MORE TROUBLE?"

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

Panel 1: "DO YOU LIKE DOVE CHOCOLATE?"

Panel 2: "I SURE DO!"

Panel 3: "...IT TASTES WAY BETTER THAN THEIR SOAP."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

Panel 1: "OH LOOK, THE RESORT OFFERS ZUMBA CLASS, WATER AEROBICS AND A FULL GYM FOR EXERCISING. THIS PLACE IS HYSTERICAL."

GRIM-BEAR IT

Panel 1: "I can't help it! I've been targeted by a marketing campaign!"

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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!

FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 3

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAR 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.

VLDX LJ JMCUW, JC ECV'W
ZTJWX WLOX NP MTWLYB T
NCEP WMTW MTJ NXXY OCUX
WMTY T BLDW,
— HXJJTOPY JWTVVXP

Trivia test

- TELEVISION: The show "Happy Days" is a spinoff of which older sitcom?
 - LITERATURE: Which author created the character Hercule Poirot?
 - U.S. PRESIDENTS: Where is Barack Obama's presidential library located?
 - GEOGRAPHY: What river forms part of the border between the United States and Mexico?
 - ASTRONOMY: Which planet in our solar system has the strongest gravitational field?
 - U.S. STATES: Which four states intersect at the Four Corners monument?
 - SCIENCE: What is anemophily?
 - MOVIES: How much does an Oscar award trophy weigh?
 - WEATHER: What is a haboob?
 - MEASUREMENTS: How many millimeters are in a meter?
- Answers**
- "Love, American Style."
 - Agatha Christie.
 - Chicago, Illinois.
 - The Rio Grande.
 - Jupiter.
 - Arizona, New Mexico, Utah and Colorado.
 - Pollination by the wind.
 - 8.5 pounds.
 - An intense dust storm.
 - 1,000.
- (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

TOP 10 MOVIES

- Captain America: Brave New World (PG-13)
 - Paddington in Peru (PG)
 - Heart Eyes (R)
 - Dog Man (PG)
 - Ne Zha 2 (NR)
 - Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)
 - Love Hurts (R)
 - One of Them Days (R)
 - Companion (R)
 - Chhaava (NR)
- (c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Toulon Methodist Church

229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
Phone (309) 286-2224
Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 286-2224 or (217) 778-1591
Toulon Sunday School 9:15 a.m., all ages & Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

LaFayette Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 17, P.O. Box 147, LaFayette, IL. 61449
Phone (309) 995-3371
Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 995-3371 or (217) 778-1591.
LaFayette Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

West Jersey United Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 78, West Jersey, IL. Rev. Pablo Marty
Phone (217) 425-5707
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Elmira United Presbyterian Church

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

The Gathering Church

Location: 105 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491
Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.
Mail: PO Box 322, Wyoming, IL 61491
email: info@thegathering.life
web: <https://www.thegathering.life/>
<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

(309) 286-4901
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Email fcctoulon@gmail.com
website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

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

First Baptist Church

"faith in truth"
211 NW 4th Ave GALVA
Main Service: Sun 10:30
Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor
(309) 932-2713 • GalvaBaptistChurch.com

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491
Rev. Shawna Marsh
Sunday School: 10:00, All ages
Sunday Worship: 11:00
Wednesday Night Fellowship & Prayer 5:30
Kids Club 309 5:15 checkin to 7:00 p.m.
Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

202 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
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: 4:30 p.m. Adult Discussion Group, 5:30 p.m.
Worship (in Luther Hall)
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship, 10 a.m. Children's Sunday School
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

Holy Trinity 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.
Rectory Phone: 309-852-5191
Fr. Cramer Phone: 574-329-9292

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.

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 Wyant 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

Anne Fisher

WEST JERSEY – Anne Fisher, 92, of West Jersey, passed away at 12:29 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 25, 2025, at her home, surrounded by loving family.

Born in Waukegan, Ill., on Oct. 25, 1932, she was the daughter of Oscar and Elizabeth (Slack) Bailey. On Sept. 9, 1950, she married Jack Fisher. He survives.

Further surviving are four children, Patricia Cruzan, James (Mary) Fisher, Kathleen (Dick) Clifford and Daniel (Didi) Fisher; daughter-in-law, Mindie Fisher; 12 grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a sister-in-law, Janet Bailey.

She was preceded in death by her parents; a son, Tony Fisher; two grandchildren, Kelsey Clifford and Laura Fisher; and three brothers, Col. Paul Owen, Will Alan and John Robert Bailey.

Anne was very involved at St. John's Catholic Church in Toulon until its closing. She later attended St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming, where she played the organ for many years. She was very involved with the Altar and Rosary Society and had an amateur radio license for over 50 years. Anne especially enjoyed being with all of her friends and family, including the two lovely ladies from Minnesota, Christine and Beth.

Her funeral mass will take place on Monday, March 3, 2025, at 11 a.m. at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. The Rev. John the Baptist Uwigaba will officiate. Burial will be private. Visitation will take place at church prior from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Stark County Food Pantry. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

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

Mary P. Moss

PRINCEVILLE – Mary Patricia "Tish" Moss, 77, of Princeville, passed away at 4:28 p.m. on Thurs-

day, Feb. 20, 2025, at her home.

Born in Kewanee on Aug. 1, 1947, she was the daughter of the late Thomas Kenneth and Virginia Harker Johnston. On July 6, 1968, she married Willard Edgar Moss Jr. He preceded her in death on Sept. 1, 2008.

Surviving are her three children, Tina (Tom) Whitehead of Lincoln, Colleen (Rob) Howerton of St. Charles, Mo., and Teri (Joe) Peterson of Princeville; four granddaughters, Shelby (Alyse) McHenry, Angel Simpson, Abby Howerton and Peyton Howerton; grandson, James Peterson; four siblings, Steve (Cheryl) Johnston and Sue (Kevin) Harmon, both of Wyoming, Carol Johnston of Chicago and Phyllis Getz of Arizona; two sisters-in-law, Victoria Johnston of Wyoming and Karen Johnston of Moline; and many nieces and nephews.

Aside from her parents and husband, she was preceded in death by a sister, Kathleen Charles; four brothers, Mike, Dennis, Tom (Linda) and John Johnston; and a brother-in-law, Clutch Getz.

Tish was employed as a time-keeper at LR Nelson/Bosch for many years. She was an avid James Patterson reader, a puzzle doer and fan of the Chicago Cubs and Bears. She enjoyed meeting with the girls of the Class of 1965 on a monthly basis, and, more than anything else, enjoyed being a grandmother. She was a member of St. Dominic Catholic Church.

Her funeral mass was to take place on Feb. 25, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. The Rev. Corey Kregiel was to officiate. Burial was to follow in St. Dominic Catholic Cemetery. Visitation was Feb. 24, 2025, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming with a rosary service.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

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

Ross S. Wyman

PEORIA – Reverend Ross S. Wyman, 80, of Peoria, formerly of Wyoming, passed away at 11:35 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 21, 2025, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital, surrounded by his loving family.

Born in Watertown, N.Y., on Nov. 26, 1944, he was the oldest son of the late Charles and Thelma (Montando) Wyman. On Dec. 30, 1978, he married Dorothy Keith; she survives.

Further surviving are two daughters, Michele (Darren) Huddleston of Peoria and Lisa (Robert) Duhs of Tri-ville; five grandchildren, Zachary (Alix) Hiatt, Tyler (Ashley) Hiatt, Alexandra (Todd)

Reay, Kayli Meier and Megan (Ryan) Mally; three great-grandchildren, Zander, Haven and Finley, with number four on the way; two brothers, Chuck (Cathy) Wyman of Rochester, N.Y., and Brett (Rose) Wyman of Calcium, N.Y.; and a sister-in-law, Esther Mangino of Arcade, N.Y.

Ross served in the U.S. Coast Guard and went on to complete his master's degree and seminary school. He served as a reverend for many years throughout Minnesota, New York, Maine, Ohio, Iowa and Illinois. He retired from working as pastor at the First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wyoming. He was a member of the Rotary Club and the Masonic Lodge.

Aside from his work in ministry, he enjoyed reading, riding his motorcycle, playing chess, having his daughter Lisa's pralines and spending time with his wife, as they did everything together.

A funeral service will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at 11 a.m. at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Wyoming. Pastor Rebecca Klemm will officiate. Visitation will take place at church from 10 a.m. until the time of service.

Memorial contributions can be made to the church. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences may be left for Ross' family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



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Moss



Wyman

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SPORTS: Rebels fall to A-Town in regional

Continued from Page 12
deficit to two points in the final seconds.

"I think the biggest thing was our mind-set going into the game," Stark County Coach Kane Mastin said about the close score. "They had just won the (LTC) tournament. There were a lot of expectations on their side and none on ours. I thought we'd just roll with that mentality.

"Our guys just continued to respond. Give credit to Abingdon — they play such a physical-style game. We just didn't have enough moments to add up to the point where we could get over the hump."

A-Town beat Stark County 71-39 in an LTC game Feb. 7. This time, Stark County was missing starting guard Ben Browning because of injury. Browning also didn't play in the Rebels' regular-season finale, a 39-32 loss Feb. 20 to Elmwood.

Connor Daum had a team-high 10 points.

Saner averaged 14 points per game his senior season, just behind junior Daum's 14.4. Saner led the Rebels in rebounds per game, at 7.8. Senior Dillon Steelman averaged a team-high 2.2 assists.

Mastin's first season as Stark County head coach included a long search to find an assistant and player issues regarding injuries, illness and discipline, among other things. Mastin even missed one game because of illness.

"The best way to describe our season was consistently inconsistent," he said. "I don't think we ever had two weeks in a row where we had the exact same schedule and exact same lineup."

• **Princeville boys** – Jake Williams had 24 points Monday as host Princeville, seeded second in its 1A Brimfield sub-sectional, beat No.

14 West Central 60-38 in a regional opener. Brady Day had 15 points, Tucker Sennett 14.

The Princes (24-8), who led West Central 30-15 at intermission, were to play No. 6 Monmouth United in a regional semifinal Wednesday at Biggsville.

In regular-season action, Abingdon-Avon beat host Princeville 45-30 on Feb. 19 to win the Lincoln Trail Conference tournament. A-Town held Princeville to only nine points over the second and third quarters.

"We were able to hang around for the first quarter but couldn't get much done after that," Princeville Coach Tait Sennett stated.

Tucker Sennett scored 13 for Princeville. Annawan beat Bureau Valley 58-48 for third place.

Plant propagation tips for beginners

By University of Illinois Extension
Many indoor gardeners quickly discover that one houseplant is rarely enough. A simple and cost-effective way to grow any collection is by propagating existing plants.

Propagation is the process of growing new plants from existing ones through seeds or vegetatively with plant parts.

The best time to propagate houseplants is March through April, but it can be done throughout the year.

When propagating, always use sterilized tools and containers in a clean space. A high-quality potting mix will provide adequate moisture-holding capacity and good drainage without allowing cuttings to dry out or rot.

Many plants will also develop roots in a container of water, changed out with fresh water every 3-5 days. Before starting, make sure any propagated plant material is healthy.

Tip cuttings are taken by selecting a healthy, 3- to 5-inch shoot with four to six leaves.

- With sharp pruners or snips, cut directly below a leaf node or where the leaf is attached to the stem.

- Remove any flowers or buds and the bottom two to four leaves.

- Insert the lower portion of the cutting into a container of moist potting soil.

Take several cuttings to increase the chance of one rooting and growing into a viable plant. Most houseplants can be propagated by tip cuttings.

Begonias and African violets are commonly propagated by leaf cuttings. This process includes one leaf blade and sometimes the petiole or leaf stalk. Using a sharp knife, slice horizontally across the main leaf vein and then lay the cutting flat on the soil with the vein side down. Roots will develop at the cut point along the vein.

Once cuttings have been planted or placed in their growing medium, cover the container with transparent plastic to increase the humidity around the plant while it is forming roots. The goal is to never let the rooting media dry out.

Place the cuttings in bright, indirect light. The plastic cover should be removed after the roots have developed. Some plants may form roots within days, while others may take several weeks. Cuttings can be dipped in rooting hormone powder before planting to improve root development.

For more on plant propagation, visit the Extension houseplants topic site extension.illinois.edu/houseplants.

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Notice to Stark County Voters

Early voting for the April 1st Consolidated Election will begin February 20th 2025 and end March 31st 2025 at the office of the Stark County Clerk 130 W. Main, Toulon.

Voting hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We will also be open for early voting on Saturday March 29th from 9 - noon.

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Prairie News Sports



Galva boys win regional opener

By **NICK VLAHOS**
For The Prairie News

For the second season in a row, Galva won its first game in the Class 1A boys basketball state tournament.

Blake Stahl had 29 points and 10 rebounds Monday night to lead the host Wildcats past Kewanee Wethersfield 63-39 in a Savanna Regional opener.

The victory sent Galva (22-7), the fourth seed in its Pecatonica sub-sectional, to a regional semifinal scheduled for Wednesday night at West Carroll against No. 5 Sterling Newman. The regional title game is set for 7 tonight (Feb. 28), also at West Carroll.

JP Sloan had 13 points and six assists for Galva, and teammate MJ Louck scored 11.

Galva defeated Wethersfield 77-45 in a Lincoln Trail Conference game on Feb. 11.

Last season, Galva defeated Peru St. Bede in the first round of the regional. The last time Galva won a regional championship was in 2002 in Class A.

• **Stark County boys** – Despite a game-high 25 points from Ross Saner, Stark County lost its 1A regional opener 55-52 at Abingdon-Avon. Stark County was seeded 13th in its Brimfield sub-sectional, A-Town third.

Saner scored 10 in the first quarter and as many in the fourth for the Rebels (9-20), who trailed 32-29 at halftime. A-Town increased its lead to 10, but Saner led a charge that cut the Stark County

Continued on Page 11

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Anderson hired as Galva FB coach

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Prairie News

GALVA – Zach Anderson has a straightforward goal as the new football coach at Galva High School.

“I was always told by the coaches when I played (at Galva) that we may not have been very good and we may not have won many games, but you knew you played Galva because we knew how to hit,” Anderson said. “That’s something I want to bring back more than anything.”

“I’m not saying we’re going to go out and win eight games our first year.

At the end of the day, it’s about going out and being competitive.”

The Galva School Board approved Anderson’s hiring at Monday’s meeting. He replaces Mark Jeffrey, who resigned after going 2-25 in three seasons, including an



Anderson

0-9 finish last year. Galva is 2-34 in four seasons of eight-man football.

“I’ve got nothing but respect for Mark Jeffrey,” Anderson said. “He’s tried to build the program as much as he could.”

Anderson has no high school football coaching experience, but has coached football at other levels and is currently the assistant high school basketball coach. He was born and raised in Galva and was an all-conference offensive tackle his senior year, when the Wildcats finished 1-8.


Anderson hopes increased turnout for the football program will help reverse several years of similar records for Galva.

“I’ve already got some interest from the basketball players,” said Anderson, who works at J Mac Metals in Galva. “I’m telling them to put some trust in me, come out and give me a year.”

He plans to hold an organizational meeting next month to gauge interest. Anderson also plans to add Mike Funke of Galva as one of his assistant coaches.

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