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The Prairie News

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Ripple at Wyoming water plant

Plant operator resigns

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

WYOMING – The Wyoming City Council learned Tuesday that there has been a shakeup in the city water plant.

Plant operator Kurt Downie, of Hennepin, submitted a letter of resignation to Wyoming Mayor Jim Mercer to be able to work at other sites. The search for a new Class A water plant operator has commenced.

Chris Schaefer, of Pekin, started last month as the new licensed wastewater plant operator. Also, Brian Edwards, of Wyoming, was hired as a wastewater plant employee, starting July 28.

Mercer said houses will be targeted for demolition as the Wyoming nuisance program continues. Final notice letters for nuisance

Continued on Page 2

SOLAR COASTER RIDE

Skies are not as sunny for solar-energy providers due to changes in tax credits by the Trump Administration and Congress.

Repeal of tax credit slams solar

By **ANDREW ADAMS**
Capitol News Illinois

President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans earlier this month curtailed federal tax incentives for the solar energy industry and for individuals and companies that purchase solar panels.

The move sent shock-

waves through the industry nationwide, pulling key incentives for major projects and residential rooftop solar alike.

But in Illinois, members of the industry say state policy gives a bit of cover. While they have seen a wave of business before Biden-era tax breaks sun-

set, solar companies are left with uncertainty in the long-term.

Others fear Trump’s actions will drive up prices by slowing the pace of renewables entering the market as fossil fuels exit for economic reasons.

The pending plan that

Continued on Page 5

Issues tower over Toulon

City engineer reports bad news for pending projects

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

TOULON – The dog days of summer arrived in mid-July at a Toulon City Council meeting Monday night.

“I have a number of things to report and most of them are not good news,” said City Engineer Justin Reeise, who presented three topics concerning pending activity on Toulon’s proposed elevated water tank, an Open Space Lands Acquisition & Development grant and Motor Fuel Tax projects.

The city received one bid for the elevated water tank project that was \$1 million over the estimated cost. Reeise wants to rebid the project. All of the contractors want Ameren to relocate nearby electrical lines, a process Reeise said would take six to eight months.

Reeise also wants to order construction materials that he believes will take six to eight months to arrive. In addition, contractors have concerns about the new tower’s

Continued on Page 2

Inside

• The Stark County Junior Fair starts July 24. **Page 9**

NEW NO. 1 IN GALVA

The Galva Fire Department bought this new 2025 Toyne fire truck from Dingles Fire Company of Amboy for nearly \$500,000. The truck has a five-man cab, 1,200-gallon tank and 1,250-gallon pump. Chief Nate Byers said the truck was purchased with savings and donations. Photo by Carol Townsend.

New radio system for Henry County

For The Prairie News

Henry County first responders can now communicate via a much-improved radio system.

As of July 14, all Henry County law-enforcement agencies and emergency communication centers were to transition to the STARCOM21 radio network. The new system replaces the county’s conventional VHF radio system, which was limited in reliability, clarity, and coverage – especially in rural

areas and within structures.

By moving to the STARCOM21 network, Henry County law enforcement gains:

- Countywide and statewide interoperability with other public-safety agencies.
- Secure, digital communications with improved audio.
- Enhanced signal coverage.
- Priority access during large-scale emergencies.

Among the agencies making the change are the Galva Police

Department, the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, the Henry County Board and Administration, the Black Hawk College Police Department and the Woodhull Police Department. The Kewanee Police Department made the change in 2023.

Funding for the project was through the Henry County Public Safety Sales Tax passed in 2018 and 911 Surcharge Funds, ensuring no additional tax or fee burden was placed on residents.

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TOULON: No bids received for trio of projects

Continued from Page 1

foundation.

The OSLAD grant has three projects listed – new playground equipment, basketball court rehabilitation and splash-pad construction. All three are at Toulon’s city park. No bids were received for these projects. Reeise called several contractors and the only response he received

was for the splash pad. That contractor wants more time to submit a bid.

Third, Toulon’s MFT projects for repaving or oiling and chipping city streets is at a standstill for both the 2024 and 2025 MFT plans. Reeise explained, as he did last month, that the Illinois Department of Transportation has concerns about Toulon’s 2024 MFT plan. The 2025 plan cannot be approved until the 2024 plan is approved.

In the meantime, the council approved transferring \$28,426 from the general fund to the MFT fund to cover future costs. If the 2024 MFT is approved, then the 2025 MFT can be

approved in the fall to allow for asphalt work on some streets.

In other business, the council approved a budget ordinance for \$1,570,400 and a \$2,500 donation for the Old Settlers’ Association celebration Aug. 1-3.

- The council indicated its displeasure with Hometown Consulting, which Toulon has paid \$7,500 quarterly, or \$30,000 a year. Hometown is scheduled for a presentation at next month’s meeting. Some council members are ready to discontinue services.
- Toulon Police Chief Gary Bent is retiring and Mayor Larry Hollis appointed Toulon’s Ron

Salisbury as the new chief. The council approved paying Salisbury \$29 per hour.

- The council passed an expenditure not to exceed \$13,700 to repair the alarm system at the water plant.

A warning system to notify residents of water problems such as boil orders will be on next month’s agenda for approval.

- A \$1,300 quote from Saw-N-Logs to remove a dead tree on South Franklin Street was approved. Also approved was a \$7,700 quote from Roto-Rooter to run a new water line from the main under Washington Street to the street in front of 211 W. Thomas St.

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Indie Rock National Anthem: Aric Burhorn Celtic Rock

www.galvamusic.com

WYOMING: New website up soon

Continued from Page 1

properties have been mailed to violators.

The city will soon have a new website (cityofwyomingil.gov). Alpha Omega of Monmouth will be paid \$5,892 to build and maintain the website. Mercer’s email will be wyomingmayor@cityofwyomingil.gov. Contact city hall for other addresses.

The council passed five measures under new business, with the first an appropriation ordinance for 2025-26 for \$1,617,000. Mercer said the city has a very tight budget and Council member Dan Hardman added it is due mainly to last year’s wastewater-plant expenditures that have drained funds.

Second, the council approved a resolution authorizing the purchase of a 2019 Dodge Ram 4500 dump truck with 9,000 miles for \$60,000. The city’s current dump truck has mechanical problems. The city will sell it by sealed bids.

Third, the council approved the excavation and replacement of a damaged storm sewer pipe east and north of the Wyoming Veterinarian Service on West Williams Street. Streitmatter Land Improvement will be hired for \$17,480.

The council also passed an ordinance implementing a municipal 1% grocery retailers tax for Wyoming. Illinois will no longer impose this tax and has left adoption of the tax up to municipalities. There is no tax increase because this only changes who is collecting the tax money.

The final item approved was a resolution to donate \$2,000 to the Wyoming Chamber of Commerce car show scheduled for Aug. 20. The money is targeted for purchasing food ingredients by 111 Taco, Hunt Brothers Pizza and Curry’s Pizza. These businesses will prepare food for the car show participants.

Finally, Economic Development Director Denny Rewerts informed the council that preliminary discussion is underway with the Wyoming Farm Services manager about installing two gasoline and two diesel fuel pumps at that location.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents
Stark County

7-3 - The Stark County Sheriff’s Department and emergency personnel responded to a vehicle/bicycle accident on U.S. Route 40 south of 1700N. Vehicle driver Janice K. Agnich, 75, Bradford, was traveling north on Route 40 and approached a bicyclist, Burke L. Flynt, 64, address not available, who was also traveling in the northbound lane. According to the accident report, Agnich merged into the southbound lane to pass. Flynt’s bicycle reportedly also drifted left and was struck by the vehicle’s passenger side mirror. Flynt was life-flighted to a Peoria area hospital. No other injuries were reported.

7-5 - Andre J. Gerts, 23, Kewanee, was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle.

7-5 - Austin K. Charlet, 31, Kewanee, was cited for driving on an expired registration.

7-7 - Nelsana M. Webber, Bradford, reported criminal damage to property. She reported that her newly poured concrete was damaged when an unidentified individual spilled an unknown substance on it.

7-8 - Melissa J. Odea, 43, Hanna City, was ticketed for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

7-9 - Jocelyn C. Robinson, 40, Peoria, was cited for speeding 89 mph in a 55 zone.

7-10 - Kyle D. Smith, 29, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

7-10 - Shawn B. Ensley, 44, Toulon, was cited for driving on a suspended vehicle registration due to mandatory insurance. His vehicle was impounded.

7-10 - Matthue H. Rikken, 49, Princeville, was cited for disobeying a stop sign, driving on invalid driver’s license, illegal transportation of alcohol by a driver and driving without vehicle insurance. His vehicle was impounded.

7-11 - Nolan C. Cone, 24, Kewanee, was ticketed for driving under the influence, driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content over .08, improper lane usage and speeding 70 mph in a 55 zone. His vehicle was impounded.

7-12 - Robert S. Stankowski, 57, LaFayette, was cited for disobeying



a traffic control device.
7-13 - Kyle J. Bird, 22, Princeville, was cited for failure to wear a seat belt by a driver.
7-13 - Tanaysha M. McDaniel, 24, Bartonville, was ticketed for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone and for driving an uninsured vehicle.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

7-7 - to the 300 block of NW 4th Ave. for an obstruction in the street. It was determined to be a power transformer that fell off a utility truck. Ameren picked it up.

7-7 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. to speak with a resident about a missing cat.

7-7 - Jason Shafer, 48, Kewanee was cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

7-8 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a citizen who appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

7-8 - to the 600 block of SE 2nd St. for an illegal-burning complaint. Officer spoke with a resident, who was burning furniture. The fire was extinguished.

7-8 - to a residence in the 800 block of NE 3rd Ave. for a city ordinance violation of having a swimming pool without a fence or barrier.

7-8 - to a residence in the 200 block of SE 1st Ave. for a city ordinance violation for having a swimming pool without a fence or barrier.

7-8 - to the 200 block of NW 4th St. for a child custody exchange.

7-8 - to the 700 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a two-vehicle accident with damage only.

7-8 - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for a loose-dog complaint.

7-9 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. for a city ordinance violation involving an unlicensed vehicle. A door hanger was left.

7-9 - to the 400 block of North Center Ave. to assist Bureau County locate a subject who drove off without paying for fuel in Princeton.

7-10 - to the 300 block of Swank St. for a solicitation complaint. The subject was located and referred to City Hall.

7-10 - to the 200 block of NW 4th St. for a child-custody dispute.

7-11 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of Commercial St., William Schultz, 76, Chicago, was arrested for driving while license revoked, operating an uninsured vehicle and operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a required court date.

7-11 - to the 300 block of SE 6th St. for a loose-dog complaint.

7-12 - to the 400 block of SE 1st St. for a tree down in the roadway. The Street Department was contacted for removal.

7-12 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a subject who appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

Property Transfers

7-7 - Dale A. and Sandra J. Stoller to Penny L. Schierer - Fair Acres Subdivision, Section 1 - Lot 19 - 210 N. 3rd St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$143,000.

7-7 - Marilyn Kay Seckman to Michelle L. Jones - Culbertson’s Western Add’n - Block 1 Lot 8 - 418 W. Clinton St., Toulon - Consideration = \$136,000.

7-8 - Charles E. and Karen E. Curry to Brenda M. and John Paul Macke - Henderson and Whitaker’s Add’n - Pt Block 25 Lots 3, 4, 7 and Vacated alley - 206 N. Olive, Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

7-8 - Brandi L. Rockwell to Robert L. Poore - John Culbertson’s Eastern Add’n - Pts. Lot 3 - 414 E. Jefferson St., Toulon - Consideration = \$66,000.

7-10 - Fawn Meadows, LLC to MSM AG, LLC - Pt. 34-12-6 NW - Consideration = \$130, 589.

7-11 - Marvin D. Smith, Jr. to Garl L. and Rachel M. Lee - Castleton Pt. Block 2 Lots 11 and 12 - 205 Sherman St., Castleton - Consideration = \$0.

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• Garage/Man Shop Sale, Edelstein - 822 West Singing Woods Road, Edelstein. August 8 & 9 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Outdoor glider chair, Aluminum patio table with 6 chairs, umbrella and covers for all, Mulching mower, 20" cast aluminum, Child's bed portable guard rail, Bathroom vanity tan sink and faucet, Christmas decorations, Misc CFL light bulbs, Cookware, Assorted housewares, Vintage glassware, Snake plants, and so much more!

SOLAR: Still time to qualify for tax credits

Continued from Page 1
Trump signed into law on July 4 will end several decades-old tax incentive programs between now and 2027. Those programs, which offer credits for rooftop solar systems and investment in large-scale projects, were expanded under the Inflation Reduction Act, a major initiative of former President Joe Biden.

Trump followed the bill signing with a July 7 executive order aimed at quickly ending any subsidies for “expensive and unreliable energy sources like wind and solar.”

Between the spending bill and the executive order, the federal government will also stop offering a tax credit for the manufacture of wind power components and instead offer a similar subsidy to the coal used in steel production.

The new law also denies incentives to any projects that are owned by certain foreign entities or use a significant amount of supplies from those entities, like the Chinese government and its affiliated businesses.

This is particularly difficult for battery storage and solar projects, which often rely on minerals and components mined in or manufactured in China.

This leaves many consumer advocates and energy experts looking to Illinois to further insulate the industry, which is a key part of how the state plans to replace fossil fuel-generated electricity with carbon-free sources by 2045 as required by state law.

Energy price increase

The bill will likely result in higher energy prices across the country, according to an analysis from the REPEAT Project, a joint research effort by Stanford Professor Jesse Jenkins’ Princeton Lab and Evolved Energy Research.

A separate analysis from think tank Energy Innovation, whose CEO was a senior Biden advisor involved in drafting climate change-related legislation, links the cost increases to a reduction in the number of renewable power plants that will be built under the new law.

This will affect electricity capacity markets directly as well as increase the wholesale price of natural gas due to the power sector’s increased reliance on it. Federal data indicates natural gas is currently used for about 17.3% of all electricity generation in Illinois.

Estimates of the scale of the electric bill cost increase for a typical household vary. REPEAT pegs

the increase at \$280 per household per year by 2035 nationwide. Energy Innovation’s model suggests \$170 annual increase by 2035 and \$180 in Illinois.

Industry ‘uncertainty’

Jon Carson, the managing partner at Trajectory Energy Partners, said the law is another part of the “solar coaster” – an industry euphemism about the ups and downs of solar tax credits. This part of the coaster, Carson said, will result in less investment. “This change in law and the uncertainty from the president’s executive order, it just means that less projects are going to get built in the short term,” Carson said.

Carson, a longtime campaign and White House staffer under former President Barack Obama, founded Trajectory Energy Partners in 2017.

“We fundamentally believe that this is a real bump in the road for solar, it’s a bump in the road for individual projects, but that ultimately the United States needs more power, and it’s going to come from wind, solar and battery storage,” he said, referencing technologies Trump is against.

Others in the industry have raised flags that the “bump in the road” may be more obtrusive for some companies.

The investment tax credit that’s ending under the new law offers a credit of 30% of project costs, with an optional 10% on top of that if a project meets certain labor standards. A similar tax credit exists for both residential and commercial projects.

Brian Haug, president of Oak Brook-based Continental Energy Solutions, said the credit is a “critical” part of Continental’s business model.

“The investment tax credit is a perfect tool that we use to make these projects financially interesting for larger companies,” Haug said.

Continental works on microgrids, rooftop solar and battery storage projects for commercial and industrial customers and claims to be the largest solar installer in the state.

Solar installation companies, customers and individuals still have time to qualify for tax credits at the higher, Biden-era rates. Eligible projects must commence construction within the next 12 months or be placed in service by the end of 2027, almost a decade ahead of what was outlined in the IRA.

The rapid sunset has resulted in a short-term boom in requests for solar

projects, according to Windfree Solar CEO Eric Heineman, whose Chicago-based company installs solar for commercial and residential projects.

“We don’t know how it’s going to impact us in the long term. What we know in the short term is that we know we have buyers who have been dragging their feet, they’ve got proposals for years with us, and now they’re just coming out of the woodwork,” Heineman said. “They’re signing up left and right.”

But even for projects started today, there’s not a guarantee they will receive any tax benefits from the federal government. Trump’s executive order signaled that his administration could revise guidance on what counts as the “beginning of construction.”

Illinois’ renewable haven

Illinois has increasingly subsidized the solar industry in recent years, most notably through the 2021 Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, or CEJA. That state law significantly expanded programs like Illinois Shines and Illinois Solar for All, which provide incentives to individuals and solar developers.

At a campaign stop while the Trump-backed spending plan was being considered in Congress earlier this month, Gov. JB Pritzker said Illinois’ policy wouldn’t be affected by the feds’ repeal of Inflation Reduction Act tax credits.

Industry experts credit the state’s policies generally, and CEJA specifically, for positioning the

Illinois solar industry well as Trump’s policies threaten solar broadly.

Heineman, who was former Gov. Pat Quinn’s director of sustainability, pointed to the state’s solar renewable energy credit, or SREC, programs as a driving factor.

“Our sales are our revenue. Sales are driven by SRECs. If we don’t have revenue, we go out of business,” Heineman said.

Heineman estimated that a typical solar project takes three years to pay for itself with current incentives. After the federal credit is repealed, it might take five years. Without state incentives, though, it could be as much as 10 years.

Less Rosy

Despite the overall positive sentiments from the renewable energy industry and environmental lobby, the state has failed to live up to the promises it made in the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, according to a report from the state’s auditor general.

That audit report, released last week, found that the state’s Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity failed to properly implement requirements for at least four jobs or workforce programs outlined in CEJA, including ones aimed at finding jobs for people returning from prison and to help communities disproportionately affected by climate change.

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

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341 Willard Street, Kewanee, IL 61443
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ANTIQUES: Beautiful oak cabinet with glass doors, pair of oak pedestal end tables, Antique cedar chest, Oak dry sink, blue canning jars, galvanized tub, enamel ware, metal lawn chair, ice cream parlor chairs, 5 gallon butter crock with lid, Matching antique metal picnic basket and jug, Wood egg crate, primitive kitchen tools, 1940's license plates, Antique bicycle, US training gas mask, 1/2 gal crocks, tin Christmas sleigh, Pyrex mixing bowls, old mixing bowls, vintage coke rug, Pink depression glass, Vintage tablecloths, quilts, Hull vase, Pepsi tin tray, Beam's Choice decanters, Stetson hat with original box, Cast Iron Kettle

FURNITURE: Love seat, kitchen table and chairs, oak coffee table, Beautiful cherry wood glass display cabinet 6' tall, Dressers, twin bed, full size bed, Wood rocking chair, 2 upholstered side chairs, leather love seat recliner, bookcase, Handi Care lift chair

HOUSEHOLD AND MISCELLANEOUS: Noritake Biltmore dishes, Silverplate pieces, wall décor, Pots and pans, Misc. glass, collectibles, small kitchen appliances, Shop vac, wheel barrow, Lawn spreader, Stand fan, Yard tools, Battery charger, 7' fiberglass ladder, wood step ladders, housewares, bench grinder, Handicap equipment, Chair lift for steps

GUNS AND COINS: Hopkins double action pistol, Antique pistol dated 1887, Marksman Repeater BB gun/ 177 caliber. lots of rolled coins from pennies to half dollars!!

Ralph Anglin – Seller
Kevin Anglin POA of Estate
Attorney for Seller Barash &Everett LLC
211 W. Second St. Kewanee, Illinois 309-852-5555

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KEWANEE, IL REAL ESTATE AUCTION

The following nice large 2-story home will be sold at public auction located at 112 S Vine St. Kewanee, IL., on
SATURDAY AUGUST 23rd, 2025 AT 11 A.M.

REAL ESTATE DETAILS: This attractive 2-story home has amazing craftsmanship, original wood floors and trim, an open spindled staircase and many other historic features. The main level includes a glassed 4 seasons room, workshop/porch area, an updated kitchen with open dining room, parlor and living room areas, a back utility room and a full bath. The open staircase leads upstairs to another full bath and 4 nice large bedrooms w/closet areas. The basement is full and dry, with separate rooms providing many storage areas. There is another full bath added to the basement. The furnace and central air are in good working order and under 10 yrs. old. Although the house is in a nice area of town, there are multiple security systems both wired internally and internet ready wireless. Nice appliances will be included with the house. In the backyard sits an older lg. brick shop w/cement flooring. The shop has 2 sections measuring 20'x30' and 21'x18' that connect. There is a 9'x7' overhead door w/remote and another 8'x7' overhead door. There is a hanging gas heater and an ant. wood stove installed for heat. The shop is in need of a new roof. The house will remain partially furnished and those items will be inherited by the buyer. No remaining personal property will be auctioned. This is a wonderful opportunity to own a beautiful family home.

TERMS: A non-refundable 5,000.00 deposit will be required on auction day with the balance to be pd. in full in approx. 30 days. This is an AS-IS auction. A valid purchase agreement will be signed day of sale. No credit cards are accepted for real estate or earnest money. An OPEN HOUSE will be held on Thursday July 31st, 2025 from 4:30-5:30 p.m. See pictures and full ads online at

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Attorney for Seller—Barash & Everett—Kewanee, IL

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Saturday, August 2

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Saturday, August 9

Peach and Blueberry Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m. - noon

Saturday, August 16

Sunflower Fields Open 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Daily

Saturday, August 16

Sunflower Breakfast with

Butterfly & Lady Bug release 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Friday, August 25

Sunflower S'mores and More Adult Night 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

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Chuck Bos: (309) 945-8177

BRIEFS

Genealogical Society has stories from past

TOULON – The Stark County Genealogical Society will share three more “stories of Stark County’s past in the words of those who lived it” on Saturday, July 26, at 1:30 p.m. at the Toulon Public Library community room.

Recorded in 2019, Dorothy Schmidt and Jim Nowlan will discuss in their own descriptive ways about their early years around Toulon. Hear about molasses production on the Ap-penheimer farm and the local news-paper business in Stark County. And catch up with Ron Wallace at Old Settlers in 2019. The public is wel-come to attend.

Brass and Celtic music comes to Galva July 20

GALVA – The Galva Arts Council welcomes Brass Queens and Blame Not the Bard to the area this Sun-day, as part of the 2025 Levitt AMP Galva Music Series.

The free concert series continues every Sunday through Aug. 3 at Wiley Park in Galva. All concerts feature two acts per night, begin-ning at 6 p.m. and ending around 8:30 p.m.

Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets comfort-able for lawn seating. Food and non-food vendors will be onsite. Guests are also welcome to bring outside food. Street parking is available around the park and sur-rounding areas, but parking is not allowed inside park grounds. Handicap-accessible parking is now

The third Annual Panther Open was held at Hidden Lake Golf Club in Sheffield on Saturday, July 12. The 2025 outing had its largest turnout to date, with over 40 players raising \$2,800 for the Bradford High School Alumni Scholarship Fund. Alumni interested in contributing to the fund may do so by mailing a check payable to the BHS Memorial Fund to: Bradford Bank-ing Center, Peoples National Bank of Kewanee, 179 W. Main St., P.O. Box 39, Bradford, Ill., 61421.

available in the northwest corner of the park, with designated unloading zone with golf cart shuttle service offered.

Visitors driving golf carts or UTVs are asked to keep their ve-hicles at the perimeter of the au-dience to prevent blocking view and for the safety of audience members.

OSF holds blessing for new maternity care van

PEORIA – OSF HealthCare, in partnership with Meridian Health Plan of Illinois, Inc., held a blessing event for its new OSF OnCall Con-nect pregnancy and postpartum mo-bile unit on July 15.

Meridian and the Centene Founda-tion, the philanthropic arm of Cen-tene Corporation, awarded a \$1.5 million grant to OSF HealthCare over three years for the expansion of its OSF OnCall Connect pregnancy and postpartum program.

The grant provided a new mobile maternity care van to help deliver

care to women who might otherwise have difficulty accessing pregnancy and postpartum support in the city of Peoria and other central Illinois com-munities in Bureau, Henry, Knox, La-Salle, Marshall, Peoria, Putnam and Woodford counties.

Health department worker wins award

Henry and Stark County Health De-partment employee Candis Gradert recently received the honor of Home-care Aide of the Year from the Illinois Association of Community Care Pro-gram Homecare Providers.

Each year, IACCPHP recognizes Mary I. Hill Homecare Aide of the Year recipients for outstanding ability and dedication in providing in-home service to elderly adults.

As a trained and certified lead homecare assistant, Gradert visits area residents in their homes and helps with domestic and personal care. For information on homecare, call (309) 852-0492.

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Case study shows updating drain tiles improves yield

By ANITA WILKINSON
University of Illinois Extension

Central Illinois crop production began mid-1800s as settlers started draining the swampy prairie land. They were not able to grow crops due to excess water in the soils. As drainage tile installation methods improved, more and more land was drained. Over time, however, original drainage systems can deteriorate and new drainage technologies can offer added benefit.

University of Illinois Extension farm business management and marketing educator Kevin Brooks is working on a farm drainage case study research project to help farmers and landowners make informed decisions on potential improvements to their aging drainage systems.

“If a field has excess water, we know plant roots are going to be effected and thus so will the potential yield,” Brooks explained. “In this case study, I looked at data from nine farm fields, examining yield results before and after new tiles were installed (both large main tiles and the smaller lateral tiles) and comparing the case study farms against county averages.”

The data comparison shows the study farms have substantially improved yields.

“Corn averaged over 10 percent higher yields during the first three years following the drainage improvements,” Brooks said. “However, the fourth year resulted in improvements from 20 to 35% on corn. In the end, it appears that corn yield improvements are more substantial when higher levels of management are added to the equation, including more minute improvements to drainage and possibly tillage methods to improve soil health.

“We will be studying this project over time to achieve more concrete conclusions. We weren’t expecting this large of an increase. What is apparent is drainage can have a big positive impact on profitability.”

The results were checked against nearby fields. Though soybean yield improvements were slightly less dramatic, soybean yields in controlled check soybean fields didn’t show as much consistency.

“The research continues as I analyze 25 years of yield data, as well as take into account the data we will get on future crop pro-

duction,” Brooks continued. “Other variables that come into play in a research study like this one include rainfall patterns and the timing of planting.

“We also need to dive more deeply into the local effect on area soybean fields not located in the watershed drained by the tile.”

The results of the initial

case study are similar to recent findings by Purdue University with significant yield improvement in corn and lesser impact in soybeans. The ongoing study will help landowners and farmers make informed decisions on investing in drainage tile in Fulton, Mason, Peoria and Tazewell counties.



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Stark County Genealogical Society presents:



Stories of Stark County's Past
In the Words of Those Who Lived It

Featuring interviews with
Dorothy Schmidt, Ron Wallace and Jim Nowlan
recorded in 2019.



Come join us! The public is always welcome.

Saturday, July 26 at 1:30 PM
Toulon Public Library Community Room
617 E. Main Street Toulon, IL



Toulon Old Settlers Days

Cruise In & Car Show

Cars, Trucks, Semi and Tractors are all welcome!!



August 2, 2025
10am - 2pm

State Bank of Toulon & South Franklin St
Toulon

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SUMMER BREAK

The Prairie News

Will not publish a newspaper July 25.
Our offices will be CLOSED July 21 - 25.
Normal office hours will resume on Monday, July 28
We will publish an August 1 edition.

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FUN IN THE SUN

OSA 2025



FRIDAY AUGUST 1ST, 2025

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 "KILLER RIFFS" - and FIREWORKS at High School

SATURDAY AUGUST 2ND, 2025

8:00 A.M. INDIAN CREEK 5K RUN

8:30 A.M. SIGN - IN FOR 3 ON 3 TOURNAMENT - TOURNAMENT STARTS @ 9 AM

9:00 A.M. KIDS FUN RUN

9:00 A.M. CRAFT SHOW AND FLEA MARKET (COURTYARD)

9:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. CARICATURE ARTIST AT THE TOULON CITY PARK

9:30 A.M.-1 P.M. STARK COUNTY ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY COMPLEX OPEN (TOURS AT 9:30 AND 11:00 A.M.)

10 A.M. - 3 P.M. STARK COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OPEN

9 A.M. - 3 P.M. QUILT EXHIBIT (TOULON METHODIST CHURCH)

10 A.M. - 2 P.M. CRUISE IN CAR SHOW

11 A.M. - 1 P.M. LIONS CLUB PORK CHOPS

2:00 P.M. KIDDIE PARADE

2:30 P.M. FOLLOWED BY MAIN PARADE

3:00 P.M. MK PARTIES (FEATURING TRACKLESS TRAIN, PUTT PUTT GOLF

6:00 P.M. FOAM AND BUBBLES) - TOULON CITY PARK

7:30 P.M. THE "ELECTRIC TOMATO" AT RBAR

FAMILY BINGO AT THE BEER TENT!!!! BEER TENT OPEN

"BALDERDASH" BAND ON MAIN STAGE

SUNDAY AUGUST 3RD, 2025

10:00 A.M. OSA MEETING (COFFEE, DONUTS, BADGE HONOREE SPEECH)

10:30 A.M. CHURCH SERVICES



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

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

Reverend David Graham
(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
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Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL
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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 Wyanet Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421
Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.
Rev Dan Wright
309-897-8113 309-507-1626
thewright62@hotmail.com

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OBITUARIES

Janet L. Ballentine

TOULON – Janet L. Ballentine, of Toulon, Ill., passed away on Saturday, July 12, 2025. She was born in Kewanee, the daughter of Russell H. McPheeters and Aldine M. Beard. She married Gary A. Ballentine on Feb. 20, 1976, in Kewanee. He survives.

Janet is also survived by four children, Rodney (Carol) Kendall and Ronald (DeAnn) Kendall, both of Kewanee, Mark Ballentine of Normal, Ill., and Lori (Kevin) Ogborn, Metamora, Ill.; four grandchildren, Shawn Kendall, Joshua (Page) Kendall, Zach Harmon and Dalton Ogborn; three great-grandchildren; sister, Vicki (Mike) Mower; and two nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents.

Janet was a homemaker. She loved being at home and watching television.

Janet’s family would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Hospice Compassus and especially the three angels who helped with such compassion and care, Chelsey, Nina and Amanda, for they are truly angels.

There will be no services according to Janet’s wishes. Please leave an on-line condolence for Janet’s family at www.golnickschuenemanfh.com.

Joel E. Gray

TOULON – Joel Eugene Gray (also known as Papa, Daddio, or the Gravy Train), 72, passed away on July 12, 2025, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. His health started to deteriorate after being continually disappointed by his Dallas Cowboys.

He was born on April 23, 1953, in Peoria to Robert and Mary Helen (Brown) Gray. He graduated from Wyoming High School, class of 1971, and pursued further education at Black Hawk College before farming full-time with his father and brother on the family farm. He married Mary Canaday on Aug. 28, 1987.

Joe was active in the Wyoming Tractor Pull Association for many years – first as a puller himself, cheering on friends, and later assisting with planning and logistics. He was a proud member of the Sons of the American Legion. In his later years, he enjoyed woodworking in his free time, crafting household



Ballentine



Gray

items for his home, his wife and his daughters.

Throughout his life, he farmed on his own family land in Stark County, in Texas for a short time, and ultimately joined Shafer Farms. He was hardworking, kind and a quiet animal lover. He found fulfillment in spending time with “the shop guys,” even up until the day before his passing.

But most of all, he loved his family – spending time on the boat, visiting Oregon, watching wildlife (especially the possums) with his wife, seeing his grandchildren grow and never missing life’s big moments. His daughters were supported through everything from oil changes to dance competitions, weddings and babies.

He was preceded in death by his parents. He is survived and deeply missed by his wife, Mary Canaday-Gray of Toulon; his older brother, Jim Gray of Wyoming; his godson, Matthew Johnston of Wyoming; two daughters, Robin (Devin) Ford of Toulon and Marissa (Riley) Gray of Portland, Ore.; and three grandchildren: Emerson, Lincoln and Graycen Ford.

Joe was a man of few words but always ready for a laugh and a beer. In his honor, family, friends, and others were invited to Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming on Thursday, July 17, from 3-5 p.m. for a visitation. All were invited to the Wyoming American Legion Post 91 immediately following the visitation to celebrate his life and lasting memory.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Joe E. Gray Memorial Family Fund c/o Speer Bank, to support his grandchildren and honor Joe’s legacy. Condolences may be left for Joel’s family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Geraldine A. Meaker

WYOMING – Geraldine Anne (Jerry) Meaker, 94, formerly of Wyoming, Ill., passed away on Wednesday, July 2, 2025, at Independence Village in Peoria, Ill., her home for the last six years. She was born June 2, 1931, in Peoria, a daughter of the late Orville and Ethel Poland.

Geraldine married Willard Meaker,

on April 9, 1950, in Wyoming. He preceded her in death. Also preceding her in death was her son Douglas Meaker and daughter-in-law Terri Meaker. She is survived by two daughters, Cynthia Lynn (Lon) Furness and Kelly (Randy) Kendle; two sons, Willard Paul (Marie) Meaker, Kevin (Mary) Meaker; 20 grandchildren; and many great grandchildren, with one more on the way soon.

Geraldine was a homemaker. Together, she and Willard loved to travel and play cards. She also loved to bake, crochet and especially to read. Geraldine was a long-time member of First Baptist Church of Wyoming, volunteering in their food pantry for many years. She was also a 52-year member of the Wyoming American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 91.

We will miss her terribly but know that it was her time. We appreciate the fine people at Independence Village who took such good care of her and who cried with us during the last few difficult days.

A memorial service will be scheduled at a later date. Memorial contributions may be sent to the First Baptist Church of Wyoming Food Pantry.

Michael B. Colgan

BRADFORD – Michael Bryan Colgan, 63, of Bradford, passed away on July 1, 2025, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria following complications from heart issues.

Mike was the son of James Robert Colgan and Virginia Mae (Muir) Colgan. He was preceded in death by his mother, Virginia, and his grandparents, Hobart and Mary Louise Muir, and Francis “Hank” and Lucille Colgan.

He is survived by his father, James Robert; his brother, Mitchell (Kathleen) Colgan; his sister, Kelly (Charles) Puent; and several nieces and nephews.

Born on June 28, 1962, in Peoria, Mike was a 1980 graduate of Bradford High School. As a senior athlete, he was honored with the Ron Barks Award for football and track. He went on to attend Eastern Illinois University, where he earned his degree in economics.

Funeral services were July 11.

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• **BAD BOY BUGGY:** 2011 Bad Boy XTO electric-powered ATV. \$2,200. Call (309) 231-6040.

• **Utility posts** for sale, range from 8 ft. to 20 ft. Call (309) 525-5302.

LOST

• **REWARD:** Imperial wheel cover lost on Rt. 93, 300+ yards east of Bradford American Legion, southside of highway, \$50 reward if found undamaged. Call 630-258-3628.

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Stark County Jr. Fair returns July 24

WYOMING – The Stark County Junior Fair returns to the Wyoming fairgrounds starts Thursday, July 24, and runs through July 28.

Schedule of Events
Tuesday, July 22
5 p.m. - Fair set up starts.

6 p.m. - Family hot dog roast, followed by the semi-annual Fair Board meeting.

Thursday, July 24
6 p.m. - Stark County Fair Queen Pageant.

Friday, July 25
7 a.m. - Swine weigh in.
9 a.m. - PeeWee swine showmanship, Jr. Fair swine show, 4-H swine show
5:30 p.m. - SCFB pedal pull.

Saturday, July 26
8 a.m. - General projects check in, with 4H Judging first, then Jr. Fair office open for speed show at 10 a.m.
11 a.m. - Stark County speed show with goat and sheep weigh.

1 p.m. - PeeWee goat/sheep showmanship, Jr. Fair goat and sheep show and 4-H Goat and sheep show

3 p.m. - PeeWee poultry showmanship and show.
3:30 p.m. - PeeWee rab-



Pictured at left is Kellen Wall, winner of the first Kaden Wall Showmanship Award, with his champion heifer at the 2021 4-H fair. At right is Annette Harris and her horse Dixie placed second in a pole racing event at the third annual Stark County Speed Show in 2021. Photo by Collin Fairfield.

bit showmanship and rabbits and rodents show.

Sunday, July 27
8 a.m. - beef weigh in.
10 a.m. - PeeWee cattle showmanship and Bucket calf and dairy show.
11 a.m. - Jr. Fair beef show and 4-H beef show.

Monday, July 28
9 a.m. - Horse and pony show.

5:30 p.m. - General project check-out.
6:30 p.m. - 4-H awards ceremony and Jr. Fair awards ceremony.

7 p.m. - Stark County Sale of Champions.

Wednesday, July 31
6 p.m. - fair clean up.
General projects must be picked up and Jr. Fair premium checks issued after clean up.

Robert L. Potts
Stephanie F. Schmieg
Ashlee E. Stabler

Areas of Practice:

- Wills, Trusts & Powers of Attorney
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Bid Notice

The Village of LaFayette is seeking Sealed Bids for the purchase of the Library building (parcel #03-18-420-003) and adjoining Lot (parcel #03-18-420-001). Minimum \$6000 Bid.

For specific details, please call **Dean Rosebecke** at (309) 238-3600
Bid should be submitted to:
Village of LaFayette
PO Box 116
LaFayette, IL 61449
Bid Deadline is Aug. 1, 2025

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THANK YOU

I would like at this time to thank all the businesses and private donations for helping provide money so we could continue to put on the 2025 Fireworks Show for our community. Other thank you's go out to the Wyoming Fire Protection District, Stark County Ambulance, Stark County Dist. #100, Brittingham Trailer Sales and Buzz and Tawny Melton. A special thank you to the crew that helped us set up and shoot. Also a special thank you to Amanda and Eugenia Bickett for your continued dedication.

~ Fireworks Chairman David Bickett

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LEGAL ADS

ORDINANCE NO. 25-3
ANNUAL BUDGET AND APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING THE FIRST DAY OF JULY, 2025 AND ENDING THE 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 2026

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees of the Toulon Public Library District, of the Counties of Stark and Knox, State of Illinois, has prepared or caused to be prepared a tentative form of the Annual Budget and Appropriation for said Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026 and the same has been conveniently available for public inspection for at least thirty (30) days prior to final action thereon; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held as to such Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance on July 14, 2025, notice of which was given at least thirty (30) days prior thereto by publishing notice thereof in the PRAIRIE NEWS, a newspaper of general circulation in the Toulon Public Library District; and

WHEREAS, all other legal requirements have been duly complied with by the Board of Trustees of the Toulon Public Library District;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE TOULON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT, IN THE COUNTIES OF STARK AND KNOX, STATE OF ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1: That the following sums, or so much thereof as by law may be authorized, be and the same are hereby budgeted, set aside and appropriated for the specified Library Purposes for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026; and the objects and purposes for which said appropriations are made, and the amounts thereby appropriated for such purposes are as follows; to wit:

FOR CORPORATE PURPOSES: [75 ILCS 16/35-5]
Bank of Yates City beginning balance July 1, 2023 \$30,580.06

1. For salaries	\$ 200,000.00
2. For library materials	\$ 25,000.00
3. For computers/equipment/furniture	\$ 15,000.00
4. For office/library expenses	\$ 20,000.00
5. For postage	\$ 1,100.00
6. For utilities/maintenance	\$ 15,000.00
7. For programming/training	\$ 20,000.00
8. For legal fees	\$ 2,000.00
9. Contingency	\$ 5,000.00
10. Miscellaneous Expenses	\$ 5,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 308,100.00
1. Social Security Taxes	\$ 16,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 16,000.00

7711):
1. Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund \$ 16,000.00
TOTAL **\$ 16,000.00**
FOR AUDIT PURPOSES: [75 ILCS 16/30-45 AND 50 ILCS 310/91]:
1. Contractual Services-Audit \$ 4,000.00
TOTAL **\$ 4,000.00**
FROM LIABILITY, WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE:
[745 ILCS 10/9-107]:
1. Insurance \$ 12,000.00
2. Treasurer's Bond \$ 1,000.00
3. Contractual Fees and Legal Fees \$ 4,500.00
4. Workers' Compensation Insurance \$ 3,000.00
5. Risk Management/Loss Control \$ 50,000.00
6. Unemployment Insurance \$ 2,500.00
TOTAL **\$ 73,000.00**
FOR BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND: [75 ILCS 16/35-5]:
1. Building/Equipment Repair and Maintenance Costs \$ 18,000.00
2. Contingency \$ 2,000.00
TOTAL **\$ 20,000.00**
FOR SPECIAL RESERVE FUND: 75 ILCS 16/40-50:
1. Building Fund \$ 15,500.00
2. Contingency \$ 500.00
TOTAL **\$ 16,000.00**
FOR THE PURPOSE OF A WORKING CASH FUND: [75 ILCS 16/35-35]:
1. For Working Cash Fund \$ 9,889.84
TOTAL **\$ 9,889.84**

Section 2: Appropriated for the foregoing expenses from the following estimate of revenues, by source, anticipated to be received by the Library District in the fiscal year::

Projected cash on hand July 1, 2025	\$ 12,300.00
From the Special Reserve Fund	\$ 37,900.00
From the Working Cash Fund	\$ 9,889.84
Miscellaneous gifts and donations	\$ 20,000.00
Income of interest	\$ 5,000.00
Special purpose grants - Per Capita	\$ 10,000.00
Photocopy, cards, fax, and miscellaneous	\$ 15,000.00
Corporate Personal Property Replacement Tax	\$ 1,500.00
Tax for General Corporate Library purposes	\$ 240,000.00
Tax for Social Security purposes	\$ 15,000.00
Tax for Ill. Municipal Retirement Fund	\$ 14,000.00
Tax for Audit purposes	\$ 3,000.00
Tax for Liability and Insurance	\$ 61,900.00
Tax for Maintenance purposes	\$ 17,500.00
Expected cash on hand June 30, 2026	\$ 0

Section 3: Any unexpended balances in the General Library

Fund, and Maintenance Fund appropriations will be deposited into the Special Reserve Fund pursuant to a plan in accordance with Article 40 of Chapter 75, Illinois Compiled Statutes.

Section 4: The Secretary of the Toulon Public Library District is hereby authorized and directed to have this Ordinance published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within this library district.

Section 5: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication as provided by law.

Passed by the Board of Trustees of the Toulon Public Library District and approved by the President this 14th day of July, 2025.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF TOULON PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT
By: Cheryl Hurst, Its President

ATTEST: Roberta Cinnamon, Secretary

STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS.
COUNTY OF STARK)

CERTIFICATE
I, Roberta Cinnamon, do hereby certify that I am the duly appointed, qualified and now acting Secretary of the Toulon Public Library District in the County of Stark and State of Illinois; that attached hereto is a true and correct copy of the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance No. 25-3 for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026

I further certify that the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance was duly passed by the Board of Trustees of said Library District at a meeting thereof held on the 14th day of July, 2025; that said Ordinance was duly passed by yea and nay vote thereon with at least a majority of all the Board of Trustees having voted yea on the adoption and passage thereof and approved in accordance with the laws of the State of Illinois pursuant to the notice and publication thereof as required by law.

I further certify that said Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance contains an estimate of revenues, by sources, anticipated to be received by the Toulon Public Library District in the fiscal year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have signed my name in my official capacity as the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the Toulon Public Library District, at Toulon, Illinois this 14th day of July, 2025.

Roberta Cinnamon
Secretary, Toulon Public Library District

Published 7/18/25

Super Crossword **AMERICAN CINEMA**

ACROSS

1 Gender-inclusive pronoun phrase
8 Recording on a cassette
14 Drab military wear
20 Jostled, in a way
21 Fill with love
22 Wear away
23 1967 Nicolas Cage crime comedy
25 Evening party
26 Second-string sports squad
27 Screw up
28 Reversed Fr. woman
30 Singer Anita
31 "Absolutely!"
32 1991 Denzel Washington drama
39 Certain Slav
40 Novelist Gay
41 "Help!" asss
42 1999 Russell Crowe comedy-drama
47 Tango move
49 Actor Linden
52 Wear away
53 Cribbage pins
54 Voluntarily

56 Messy sort
57 Executive mix
59 1961 Elvis Presley romantic comedy
61 Take an ax to
62 Amigo
63 Got close to
66 Ronstadt
67 1978
Maggie Smith comedy
71 Pretend to be
74 Pontificated
75 "—, Minister"
76 37-Down container
79 1984 Harry Dean Stanton road movie
82 Maple fluids
84 Jesting Jay
85 Tablelands
86 Org. looking for aliens
88 Deserve
89 Ecot. or biot.
90 Film bomb
91 2004 Olsen twins teen comedy
95 "General" on a Chinese menu
97 Even (with)

99 Fleming and McKellen
100 1991 River Phoenix drama
105 Morning times, in brief
108 — avia
109 Dusting cloth
110 Talking— (lectures)
111 Smack the baseball hard
113 Flaxen-haired woman
115 Fictitious college
whose name would be fitting for this puzzle
121 Apple media player
122 Quiz show lodder
123 Designed to fit most people
124 Argon and radon
125 Shiny fabrics
126 Ingredient in emollients

DOWN

1 Well-seasoned, in a way
2 Fill with joy
3 Some theater awards
4 Parks who stayed put
5 Pool contest
6 Pullet, e.g. heroine
7 Slips past carefully
8 Naturalist
9 DiFranco of song
10 La —, Bolivia
11 "I believe," to a leader
12 Prefix with profit
13 Holds firmly
14 DJ Casey
15 "Watchmen" network
16 Melodious
17 Reality TV family name
18 Paragon
19 "Adios!"
24 Skitt, to Cato
29 Mary a '60s T-shirt abbr.
33 Sale bin
34 Antlered deer
35 Get lippy with
36 Sort
37 Soup veggie
38 Road paving materials
39 Wild guess

42 Net fabric
43 Harvard rival
44 Pack away
45 Germane
46 "li Traviata"
48 German "I"
50 Caustic liquid
51 Sister of Luke
54 Amigos
55 Tor's injury
57 Körner of film
58 Director Roth
59 Soft cheese
60 Brings about
62elayed
64 Epochs
65 Wee colonist
67 Reality star Jenner, familiarly
68 Actor Jamie
69 Sports arbiter
70 TeleTax org.
71 Downloads for Devices
72 Class taken after trig
73 Like turncoats
76 Land of Lima
77 Tending to the matter
78 Levish love (on)
80 Fraternity "T"
81 Writer Welty
83 Inhaled stuff
84 Eye part
86 Smack hard
87 Literary Jane
88 Studies as a secondary focus
91 Like salons' mil. branch
92 Ecot. monitor
93 South Korean compact car
94 — joggg
96 "— Way" (Proust novel volume)
98 Dark periods
100 Head honcho
101 Cressant port
102 Part of UPI
103 "—, my pleasure!"
104 "Cock-a-doodle—!"
105 "—, to fetch — of water"
106 Address
Gaynor or McCall
107 Artist Jan
112 "You never had — good!"
114 Bad grade
116 — pro nobis
117 Ignited
118 VII occupied
119 Yang's partner
120 Genetic ID

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Jurassic World: Rebirth (PG-13)

2. F1: The Movie(PG-13)

3. How to Train Your Dragon (PG)

4. Elio (PG)

5. 28 Years Later (R)

6. M3GAN 2.0 (PG-13)

7. Lilo & Stitch (PG)

8. Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning (PG-13)

9. Materialists (R)

10. This Is Spinal Tap (R)

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

EWYB HZPHOZ RKZ WD

DVZYDB-NKJZ WYR WTZY'D

GXTKZR XYDKO DIZB'TZ

FZJZYDB-NKJZ.

— GZYCWEKY NTWYMOKY

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1. TELEVISION: In the show "Ted Lasso," what does the sign over the locker room doorway say?

2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many words are dogs believed to understand, on average?

3. U.S. STATES: Which two states don't observe Daylight Savings Time?

4. LITERATURE: In the "Harry Potter" book series, how many balls are used in a Quidditch match?

5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which company owns car makers Porsche and Audi?

6. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to Lake Como?

7. MOVIES: What are the names of Cinderella's stepsisters?

8. ACRONYMS: What does the computer acronym DOS stand f or?

9. MEDICAL: What is the condition called solar erythema?

10. PSYCHOLOGY: Someone suffering from alektorophobia is terrified by what?

Answers

1. "Believe."

2. Dogs generally know an average of 89 words and phrases, but the number can range from 15 to 215.

3. Hawaii and Arizona.

4. Four balls of three different types (the Quaffle, two Bludgers and the Golden Snitch).

5. Volkswagen AG.

6. Italy.

7. Anastasia and Drizella.

8. Disk Operating System.

9. Sunburn.

10. Chickens.

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Super Crossword

Answers

HE	OR	SHE		T	A	P	I	N	G		K	H	A	K	I	S						
E	L	B	O	W	E	D		E	N	A	M	O	R		A	B	R	A	D	E		
R	A	I	S	I	N	G		A	R	I	Z	O	N	A		S	O	I	R	E		
B	T	E	A	M		E	R	R			S	T	E		O	D	A	Y				
Y	E	S		M	I	S	S	I	S	S	I	P	P	I	M	A	S	A	L	A		
			S	E	R	B			T	A	L	E	S	E		S	O	S				
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y		A	L	A	S	K	A		D	I	P		H	A	L	
E	A	T	A	T			P	E	G	S		B	Y	C	H	O	I	C	E			
S	L	O	B		V	E	T	O			B	L	U	E		H	A	W	A	I	I	
H	E	W		P	A	L		N	E	A	R	E	D		L	I	N	D	A			
			C	A	L	I	F	O	R	N	I	A	S		S	U	I	T	E			
A	C	T	A	S			O	R	A	T	E	D		M	R	S		P	O	D		
P	A	R	I	S		T	E	X	A	S		S	A	P	S		L	E	N	O		
P	L	A	T	E	A	U	X		S	E	T	I		M	E	R	I	T				
S	C	I		D		D		N	E	W	Y	O	R	K		M	I	N	U	T	E	
		T	S	O		O	N	A	P	A	R			I	A	N	S					
M	Y	O	W	N		P	R	I	V	A	T	E	I	D	A	H	O		A	M	S	
R	A	R	A		R	A	G			T	O	S		R	I	P	I	T				
B	L	O	N	D	E		H	O	L	L	Y		W	O	O	D		S	T	A	T	E
I	T						T	R	I	V	I	A				U	N	I	S	I	Z	E
G	A	S	S	E	S		S	A	T	I	N	S		L	A	N	O	L	I	N		

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuote

answer

Many people die at twenty-five and aren't buried until they're seventy-five.

— Benjamin Franklin

We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion

Approved bill provides farmers’ tax certainty

By TAMMIE SLOUP
FarmWeek

The recently signed federal budget reconciliation bill includes key safety net and tax provisions that help farmers, but the legislation doesn’t replace a comprehensive five-year farm bill.

President Donald Trump signed the nearly 900-page bill into law on July 4. Hundreds of provisions are included in the legislation, including updates to key commodity risk management programs.

The funding for farm bill programs is good news for farmers. However, ag groups, including Illinois Farm Bureau, have stressed the inclusion does not replace a five-year farm bill. The ag industry continues to operate under the 2018 farm bill.

“This bill addresses key Illinois Farm Bureau priorities, including permanent tax provisions and updates to parts of the farm bill – both critically important to Illinois farm families who’ve been navigating a tough ag economy for several years,” IFB President Brian Duncan said. “There’s still work to be done. Several key items could not be included in the reconciliation budget bill due to the Senate rules.”

Hard lines were drawn between the two parties, specifically concerning cuts to Medicaid and an overhaul of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Farm provisions

The bill includes enhancements to the farm safety net with up to \$66 billion provided over 10 years. These provisions include raising

reference prices and commodity loan rates to better reflect today’s higher costs and market conditions.

Crop insurance programs would see about \$6.3 billion in increased spending over 10 years. Beginning farmers also will receive additional premium assistance. The bill also updates the federal crop insurance program to allow farmers to purchase the Supplemental Coverage Option while enrolled in Agricultural Risk Coverage. Historically, SCO was available to only those enrolled in Price Loss Coverage.

Payment limits would increase from \$125,000 to \$155,000 for individuals, and then the payment limit would increase based on an inflation index. The bill also removes income caps for farmers or entities that draw 75% or more of their income from agriculture or forestry.

The bill also has provisions to allow USDA to enroll up to 30 million new acres based on the production history of that ground.

In conservation, the bill takes back up to \$16 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act and rolls those funds into the 10-year budgets for USDA’s main conservation programs.

Other provisions would double funding for USDA trade promotion programs.

Many farm bill programs could not be included in reconciliation because they are policy, not budgetary.

Tax provisions

The 45Z credit was one of the few IRA incentives spared in the reconciliation bill, which terminates or phases out many of the IRA’s credits established under the Biden Adminis-

tration. The bill extends the 45Z, or clean fuel production credit, from 2027 to 2029, and prevents the use of foreign feedstocks outside of the U.S., Canada and Mexico. However, the bill lowers the value of the tax credit for sustainable aviation fuels.

In relation to the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, farmers and rural businesses will continue to receive tax parity to their corporate counterparts through a permanent Section 199A deduction. The bill makes permanent a 20% deduction for qualified business income for smaller businesses.

In addition to payment limitation increases, the bill creates new exemptions from the limitations to any qualified pass-through entities. For the nearly 98% of family farms that operate as sole proprietorships, partnerships or S corporations, USDA’s Economic Research Service estimates that 199A may be the most impactful tax provision.

The legislation also reinstates 100% bonus depreciation from 2025-30 and increases the Section 179 deduction for smaller businesses to \$2.5 million.

The bill increases the estate tax exemption to \$15 million for single tax filers and \$30 million for married couples starting in 2026.

For individuals, the bill also increases the standard income deduction as well as the child tax credit for couples and exempts taxes on tips for people through 2028.

This story was distributed through a co-operative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.

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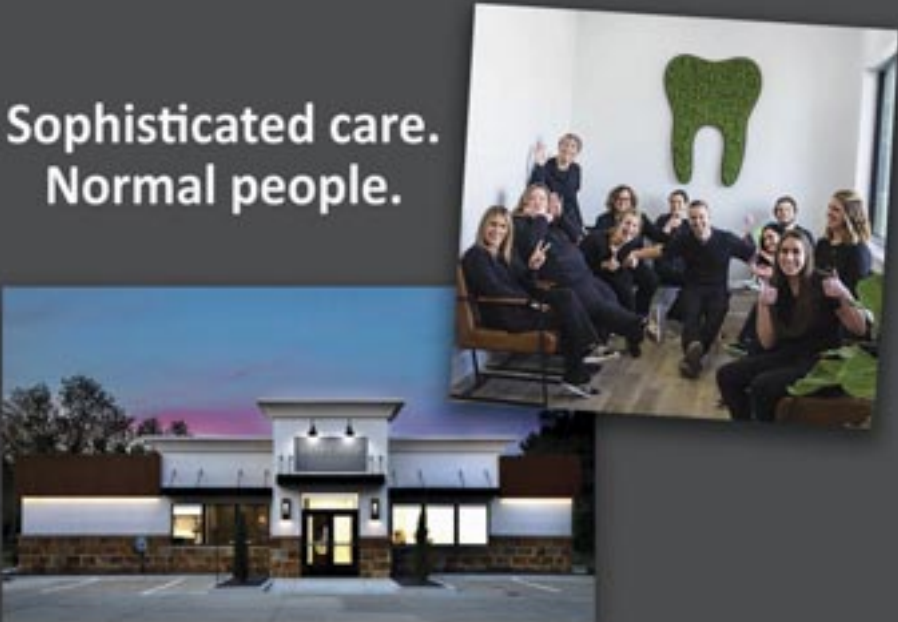
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PANCAKE BREAKFAST - VENDORS - BOUNCE HOUSES
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JULY 26TH
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SAVE even more with **DOUBLE AD WEDNESDAY!**

Shop last week's Ad & this week's for **DOUBLE** the deals only on WEDNESDAYS!

Kewanee, IL
Ad prices good **July 16 - 23**

2-DAYS ONLY Friday & Saturday July 18-19



4⁹⁷ lb



99¢ lb



3⁹⁷ ea



2⁹⁷ ea



9⁹⁷



2⁷⁷

State Street Poultry Breaded Chicken
32 oz, Assorted Varieties

4⁹⁷

Lucky 7 Sale



6⁷⁷ lb



77¢



2⁹⁷ lb

Meat



2⁴⁷ lb



5⁹⁷ lb



2⁹⁷ lb



SAVE even more with **DOUBLE AD WEDNESDAY!**

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Kewanee, IL



Shop the **Dot.**

Produce



1⁹⁷ ea



97¢ lb



1⁷⁷ lb



6⁷⁷



4⁷⁷



3⁹⁷

Double Ad Wednesdays. Double the Savings.



7⁴⁷



3⁹⁷



3⁹⁷



11⁹⁷

We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion