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Vol. 22, No. 2

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SCCI addressing housing shortage, economic issues

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

Jon Knoblauch references Dunlap frequently when he talks about economic development in Stark County.

Once a quiet town in Peoria County, Dunlap has boomed over the past 30 years as Peorians moved north in search of a new school district and new homes. Knoblauch sees the chance for something similar in Stark County, even if on a smaller scale.

"You can look at Dunlap and see what they have done. It started with the school system and it turned into a housing boom," said Knoblauch, Pres-



Signs in Toulon tout development opportunities in a new subdivision there.

ident at BO/GAR Enterprises, Inc. of Wyoming and a vocal member of the Stark Council for Continuous Improvement.

The way Knoblauch views it, Stark County has made major improvements to its school facilities. Like Dunlap, it has direct access to the popular Rock Island Trail. Among the things Stark County lacks, Knoblauch says, is

enough housing – a message he relayed to the Stark County Board last week during its monthly meeting.

Knoblauch and Stark County School Superintendent Brett Elliott made a presentation to the board and asked for funding to support SCCI's efforts. The board plans to consider that request at its next meeting on Feb. 10.

"My biggest thing I keep bringing up is our housing shortage," Knoblauch said. "We don't have the housing market to support people."

A recent survey by the University of Illinois Cooperative Extension backs up that claim, as does a scan of Realtor.com show-

Town Hall meeting Tuesday in Wyoming

WYOMING – State Sens. Neil Anderson and Li Arellano Jr., along with State Rep. Travis Weaver and Stark County leaders, will host a countywide Stark County Town Hall on Tuesday, Jan. 27, at 6 p.m. at the Paramount Theater in downtown Wyoming.

Also on hand will be Toulon

ing just four homes for sale in the entire county.

The U of I survey showed that 50% of families in Stark County don't feel like they can find housing to fit their needs. That impacts who stays in the county and

Mayor Larry Hollis, Wyoming Mayor Jim Mercer, Bradford Village President Sharon Cauthon, Stark County CUSD 100 Superintendent Brett Elliott and several business leaders.

The event is open to the public and residents are encouraged to attend, ask questions and join the discussion.

whether or not businesses can hire local employees.

Knoblauch said BO/GAR is ramping up to add to its 80-person workforce. But the lack of housing makes recruiting harder

Continued on Page 4

Stark on schedule

Tentative school dates set for 26-27; Stark Co. Star test scores improve

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

May 26 as a tentative last day of school.

WYOMING – The Stark County School Board took a step toward finalizing a 2026-27 calendar Tuesday at its monthly meeting.

Final approval of the calendar will come at the February meeting, but it's likely the dates approved by the board after Tuesday's first reading will remain unchanged.

Proposed dates include an Aug. 19 first day of school for students, a Nov. 25-27 Thanksgiving break and a Dec. 18-Jan. 1 winter break. Proposed dates for 2027 show a spring break from March 26-April 2, May 16 graduation and

Principals Emily Mastin (elementary) and Megan McGann (junior/senior high school) both reported that students showed improvement in math and ELA (reading) testing in statewide Star assessments conducted in December.

Largest gains were in the high school, where ELA proficiency tested at 53.3% (up 14.38%) and math proficiency was at 54.09% (up 10.53%).

Junior high ELA proficiency was 45.6% (up 12.8%) and math proficiency was 38.89% (up 8.73%), while K-5 ELA

Continued on Page 2

GRANT TO AID PARKS

\$600,000 awarded for Galva parks

State OSLAD award will fund repairs, amenities

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva Park District announced Tuesday it will receive a \$600,000 Open Space Land Acquisition and Development grant for renovations and new amenities on its grounds.

The grant was part of \$36 million in Department of Natural Resources funding paid out to 67 communities for park development projects.

"The Park District was thrilled to be one of the recipients of the 2025



The Galva Park District will use part of its \$600,000 state OSLAD grant to update lighting, concrete and fencing at baseball and softball diamonds. Photo by Carol Townsend.

OSLAD grant," Galva Park District Superintendent Doug Anderson said. "These funds will help renovate deteriorating infrastructure that will allow the GPD to continue to meet community needs."

Anderson said funds will be used for the following items:

- Update chain link/backstop fencing around the baseball/softball fields;
- Update lighting and concrete around the baseball/softball fields;
- Upgrade the batting cages;
- Install an ADA lift for the pool;

Continued on Page 2



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STARK: High school leads in Star testing gains

Continued from Page 1
proficiency was at 39.57% (up 5.65%) and K-5 math proficiency was 36.61% (up 9.54%).

The board also heard that several Stark County students will participate in the all-state choir and band performances at the Peoria Civic Center Jan. 30-31. Performers include Levi Sparks (Jan. 30, 6 p.m.), the 6th-grade choir (Jan. 31, noon) and Piper Tyree (Jan. 31, 1 p.m.).

Superintendent Brett Elliott reported that budget expenditures through 50%

of Fiscal Year 2026 show the following percentages spent based on fund: Education 46.07%, Building 36.7%, Transportation 58.95%, IMRF/Social Security 46.6% and Tort 67.16%. Only the Building expenditures are significantly different than half-year totals from the past three fiscal years.

In other business, the board unanimously approved a contract with M&M Lawn Service of Toulon to maintain the stadium grounds and Gary Johnson Field at an hourly

rate of \$50 per hour from April through November.

The board also approved the faculty seniority list and accepted the honorable dismissal list to be used in case of a reduction in force. No such reduction is planned for this

year.

After executive session, the board voted for immediate termination of high school clerical staffer Lindsey Garcia and accepted the resignation of Christine Cole (kitchen worker) effective Jan. 30.

GALVA: More walking paths

Continued from Page 1

- Renovate the flooring base of the tennis/pickleball courts and tennis court shelter;

- Add new trash receptacles, grills, drinking foun-

tains and trees;

- Fix aging sidewalks;
- Add about 950 feet of walking paths in the south field.

OSLAD grants were established in 1986.

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February 1st, 2026 4-6:30p Galva American Legion

Cost: Free Will Donation

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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

1-12 - Courtney D. Smith, 28, Springfield, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone, operating an uninsured vehicle and driving on a suspended registration. Her vehicle was towed and impounded.

1-12 - Steven J. Earthely, 25, Kewanee, cited for driving while his license was suspended. His vehicle was impounded.

1-13 - Shannon W. Capen, 51, Peoria, was ticketed for driving on a suspended registration and for operating an uninsured vehicle.

1-13 - Kenneth L. Meeker, 64, Kewanee, was cited for driving a vehicle without a valid registration and for operating an uninsured vehicle. His vehicle was impounded.

1-15 - Rebecca E. Fabry, 63, Galva, was cited after she lost control of her vehicle after reportedly hitting a patch of black ice and running off the roadway on Illinois Route 17 near 900E. Fabry was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle.

1-15 - Izac Contreras, 21, Kewanee, was ticketed for operating an uninsured vehicle.

1-15 - Deja M. Riddle, 31, Pekin, was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle.

1-16 - Lawrence K. Standaert, 65, of Kewanee, was involved in a deer-related vehicle accident along Illinois Route 93, one-quarter mile west of 1300E. No injuries were reported but the 2020 Chevrolet Equinox had estimated damages over \$1,500.

1-17 - Antonio Guzman, 27, Schaumburg, was cited for driving while his license was suspended. His vehicle was impounded.

1-18 - A resident in the 300 block of Adams Street in LaFayette, reported criminal damage to property after an unknown individual threw a rock through a window at their house and broke it.

Peoria County Report

Peoria County Report

1-18 - Jasmine L. Gleason, 29, of Toulon was arrested about 9:30 a.m. and was being held for another law-enforcement agency, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

1-13 - to the 300 block of SE 2nd St. for a domestic disturbance.

1-14 - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for a telephone harassment complaint.

1-15 - Officer found a debit card in the 200 block of SW 2nd Ave. The card owner was contacted and the card was returned.

1-15 - to a residence on NW 6th Ave. to assist Stark County Medic with a medical emergency.

1-16 - to the 200 block of NE 4th St. for a civil standby to retrieve property.

1-17 - to the 100 block of SE 3rd St. to assist a citizen gain entry into their residence after the owner heard noises. Officer found broken water pipes flooding the house. The water service was shut off until repairs could be completed.

1-17 - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for a domestic disturbance.

1-18 - After a traffic stop in the 400 block of NW 4th Ave., Phillip Muckey, 31, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a required court date.

1-18 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 300 block of S. Center Ave., Patricia Brudnicki, 32, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a court date.

1-18 - along with several area fire departments, to Bonham Road west of town for a structure fire.

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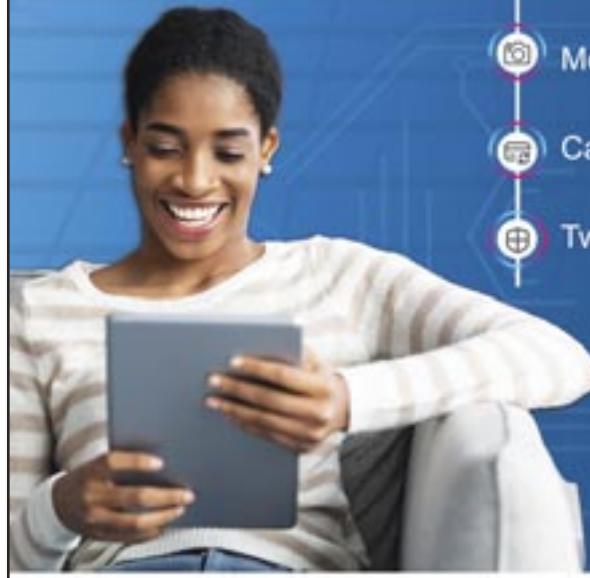
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SCCI: Trying to boost development

Continued from Page 1
for the Wyoming-based business, Knoblauch said.

Also glaring is the lack of "forever homes" that entice well-paid workers to stay in Stark County. A lack of housing for retirees is also an issue.

"We have a lot of seniors staying in homes who don't want to leave the county," Knoblauch said. "If there was an opportunity for an assisted living facility to open we could keep retirees here."

BRIEFS

College Graduate

• **Shannon Westphal** of Toulon graduated from the University of Central Arkansas with a Master of Science in School Counseling in December 2025.

ees in the county and open more houses for families."

That's why the SCCI created a housing committee that meets regularly and is dedicated to finding ways to provide more housing and explore opportunities for an additional assisted-living facility.

The group has also generated a rare synergy. Mayors from Toulon, Wyoming and Bradford are regulars at the meetings and are sharing information, Knoblauch said.

That includes Toulon Mayor Larry Hollis promoting his city's Toulon Ridge Subdivision. While there is room for more than 30 homes in the development south of Stark County High School, the field remains empty despite

power, water and gas easily available and location in a TIF district.

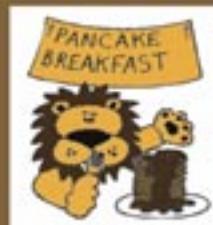
"It's hard to envision what it could be because right now it's just a field," Knoblauch said. "If we can get turnkey houses built ... now a family looking to get out of Peoria, Galesburg, LaSalle-Peru and even Kewanee might look here."

To encourage development, the SCCI is reaching out to developers and builders in hopes of getting spec homes built. The SCCI also used a grant from Apex Energy for billboards promoting the Toulon subdivision.

The SCCI is also pushing to create a grant system to fund renovations in downtown businesses and in residential homes.

The Wyoming Lions Club

2026 Pancake, Sausage & Scrambled Egg Breakfast



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EVENT OVERVIEW

A Premier Event for Firearms Enthusiasts

A family-friendly show to buy, sell, or trade firearms and related items, hosted by the Sauk Trail Gun Collectors.

Location

The event is held at the Bureau County Fairgrounds in Princeton, Illinois.



Safe & Secure

All federal and state laws are strictly observed to ensure a responsible event for all attendees.

JANUARY SHOW SCHEDULE

January 24-25

Mark your calendars for the first gun show of the year.



Saturday Hours:
8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Full day access for browsing, trading, and purchasing.

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8:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
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Food and refreshments will be available for purchase directly at the fairgrounds.



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Vendor Focus

Tables are required to feature at least 90% arms and related items.

2026 CALENDAR



More Shows in 2026

Can't make it in January?
Future dates include March 28-29, October 24-25, and November 28-29.

LEGAL ADS

NOTICE OF SALE
of Property Owned by the City of Galva
and Invitation to Bid Thereon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Galva will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property:

The property commonly referred to as 214 NW 1st Avenue Vacant Residential Lot, Galva, IL 61434 which property has been assigned PIN # 24-28-439-006 and which is legally described as: N54 LOT 1 BK 13 ORIGINAL TOWN CITY OF GALVA said property being appraised for \$1,425 (one thousand four hundred twenty five dollars) which appraisal is on file with the Galva City Clerk.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois, during normal working days between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM until 30 January, 2026. Said proposals shall be contained within an opaque envelope addressed to:

Mayor and City Council
City of Galva
c/o City Clerk
311 N. W. 4th Avenue
Galva, IL 61434

and shall bear the legend: PROPOSAL – SALE OF 214 NW 1st Avenue

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the corporate authorities of the City of Galva to be held at 6:00 p.m. on 2 February 2026.

A contract may be awarded to the highest, most responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interests of the City of

Galva, so long as that bid meets the minimum bid amount which is equivalent to 80% (eighty percent) of the appraised value or \$1,140 (one thousand one hundred forty dollars), the appraised value being \$1,425 (one thousand four hundred twenty five dollars). The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 45 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals for the development of the lots on which they are bidding. Development proposals should include, but are not limited to: an abstract of bidders building plans and specifications, a statement of financial capacity, a statement of other financial arrangements to facilitate performance of the contract, name of financial institution with contact information, line of credit (personal, special-purpose, or otherwise), or other statements indicating the financial capacity to perform the stated purpose upon which the bid proposal is based.

The corporate authorities reserve the right to include penalty clauses in any and all contracts awarded to successful bidders. Penalties may include, but are not limited to: monetary damages payable to the City for non-performance of contractual terms, forfeiture of the lot for non-performance, loss of building permit fees, and other assessments that may become part of a development contract.

Any prospective bidder may inspect the "Land Appraisal Report" for any and all lots upon which they wish to bid at the City Clerk's office during normal working hours. The City Clerk's office may be reached by calling (309) 932-2555 or in writing to: City Clerk, City of Galva, 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434.

Published 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/26

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF STARK COUNTY

Renewal forms for the 2026 assessment year are being mailed to all Stark County property owners who had previously signed up for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze, Homestead Exemption, Disabled Persons and the Disabled Veterans. The deadline for their return is July 1, 2026.

The following is a list of all exemptions. If you have any questions concerning any of the homestead exemptions, or to obtain applications, contact the Supervisor of Assessments office at 130 West Main St., Toulon, Illinois, or call 286-7172.

Owner Occupied Exemption reduces the final equalized assessed value by the amount the current equalized assessed value exceeds the 1977 equalized assessed value up to a maximum reduction of \$6,000. To qualify a taxpayer must own and occupy a property as his or her principal dwelling on January 1 of the assessment year.

Homestead Exemption is for taxpayers who will be 65 years of age or older anytime during the assessment year and who own and occupy their property. This exemption reduces the equalized assessed value by \$5,000.

Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption is for taxpayers who will be 65 years of age or older during the assessment year, have a total household income of less than \$75,000 for the prior year, and occupy their dwelling on January 1 of the taxable year, own the property and be liable for payment of property tax for the taxable year. Applications must be submitted annually to the Supervisor of Assessments.

Home Improvement Exemption reduces the Board of Review assessed value by the amount of increase in assessed value due to improvements being added to an existing residential structure. The exemption is for four years from the date of completion and is for maximum amount of \$75,000 in market value.

Disabled Persons Homestead Exemption provides a \$2,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a disabled person. Applications must be submitted annually to the Supervisor of Assessments office.

Returning Veterans Homestead Exemption provides a one-time \$5,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving armed forces of the United States. To receive this exemption, the veteran must file an application with the Supervisor of Assessments office upon their return home.

Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption provided a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owner owned by a veteran with a service connected disability certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. A \$2,500 homestead exemption is available with a disability of at least 30% but less than 50% or a \$5,000 homestead exemption with a disability of at least 50% but less than 70%, and a disability of 70% or more, the property is exempt from taxation. The veteran must file an annual application with the Supervisor of Assessments office.

Disabled Veterans Exemption reduces the Board of Review assessed value by up to \$70,000 in assessed value for homes especially built or remodeled to suit a veteran disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. Applications are processed by the Board of Review.

Published 1/16, 1/23/26

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

Estate of **DONALD W. GRABBE**,
Deceased
No. 2025PR110

CLAIM NOTICE

(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Donald W. Grabbe**. Letters of Office were issued on **November 26, 2025**, to **Erica Grabbe as Independent Administrator** 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 **June 16, 2026**.

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

City Galva, IL 61434

(309) 932-2001

everett@barashlaw.com

Published 1/23, 1/30, 2/6/26

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

Estate of **KEVIN M. DUYTSCHAVER**,
Deceased
No. 2025PR125

CLAIM NOTICE

(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Kevin M. Duytschaver**. Letters of Office were issued on **January 7, 2026**, to **Angela R. Carey, as Independent Administrator** 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 **July 19, 2026**. 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.

Barash & Everett, LLC

Attorney for Executor

P.O. Box 165

City Galva, IL 61434

(309) 932-2001

everett@barashlaw.com

Published 1/23, 1/30, 2/6/26

NOTICE
GOSHEN TOWNSHIP ROADS
LOAD LIMIT POSTING

Goshen Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/15-316 will impose weight limitations on Goshen Township roads effective for 90 days (Jan. 15, 2026 thru April 15, 2026) due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.

Therefore, no vehicle shall be operated upon Goshen Township Roads having a gross vehicle weight greater than 5 ton (10,000 pounds) upon the posting of road weight limit signs on Goshen Township Roads.

Any questions contact Goshen Township Road Commissioner John Forstrom, 309-238-3481.

For further load limitations visit the county website <http://starkco.illinois.gov/highway/>

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Church Directory

Toulon Methodist Church

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

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

LaFayette Methodist Church

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

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

West Jersey United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Elmira United Presbyterian Church

7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483 • (309) 896-3481
Services each Sunday at 9 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

website: [www.thegathering.life/](http://www.thegathering.life)

www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

Reverend David Graham
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon • (309) 286-4901
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Email fcotoulon@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 a.m., All ages • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Fellowship 5:30 to 6:30

Thursday Kids Club 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Baby Connection: Wednesday and Thursdays 9 - 11 a.m.

Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

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

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational 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. Randy Swanson (interim)

Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. "See Through the Scriptures" Bible Study,

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

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Adult

Discussion Group, 10:00 a.m. Worship

Contact: messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com

1-309-932-3346

Facebook: Messiah Lutheran—Galva, IL

Galva First United Methodist Church

Rev. Rebecca Gearhart

214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434 • (309) 932-2460

preachinghope@gmail.com

galvafirst@gmail.com

Sunday Worship: 9:0 a.m.

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

Father 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 a.m. 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

thewrights62@hotmail.com

Bradford Apostolic Christian Church

440 E Main St Bradford IL 61421

9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service and simultaneous Sunday

School pre-K thru 12+

11:00 Lunch and Fellowship, 12:15 2nd Sunday Worship

Wednesday Worship Service 7:15 pm

www.bradfordaccchurch.org; info@bradfordaccchurch.org

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OBITUARIES

George Chesser

WYOMING – George Chesser, 90, of Wyoming, passed away at 8:15 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, 2026, at his home. George was born on March 30, 1935, in Galesburg to James and Rosetta (Sargeant) Chesser. He married Marilyn (Powell) Chesser on Sept. 23, 1955, in Galva. She preceded him in death on July 8, 2020.

Surviving are two sons, Steve (Chris) Chesser of rural Bradford and Robert (Karla) Chesser of Edelstein; one daughter, Christine King of Wyoming; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Bonnie Delabar of Toulon; one brother-in-law, Gary Powell of St. Paul, Minn.; one son-in-law, Rodney King; and several nieces and nephews. He was also preceded in death by two brothers, Harvey and Harry Chesser and two sisters, Norma Williams and Yvette Kemp.

George worked for farmers in the Wataga area when he was young, including working on a turkey farm. He later worked at FMC in Wyoming for 36 years, retiring in 2000. He enjoyed being outside, gardening, fishing and tinkering or fixing things. George also loved time spent watching the birds and squirrels, chatting with neighbors and watching over his neighborhood.

His funeral was Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming. Nicole Reed, certified funeral celebrant, was to officiate. Visitation was one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial was in Wyoming Cemetery.

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

Lois A. Seger

KEWANEE – Lois Ann Elliott Seger, 93, was born in Kewanee, Ill., on Jan. 4, 1933, to James Creighton Elliott and Grace Souder Elliott. Lois attended a one-room country school in Saxon, Ill., and graduated from Toulon High School in 1950.

Lois attended Monmouth College and Western Michigan University, where she graduated cum laude in 1956. Lois earned a Master of Arts in library science from the University of Michigan in 1960.

Lois married Robert Morse Seger on Sept. 25, 1956, in Elmira.

They lived in Port Huron, Mich., and Rogers City, Mich., before moving to Clinton, Iowa, in 1967. Lois was an active member of the Presbyterian Church and was a founding member of a women in theology study group.

Lois ran a small business called The Book Nook for several years, and was employed at the Gateway YWCA from 1983 to 2000. She helped establish the first domestic violence shelter in Clinton County and

was recognized by the Clinton YWCA as a Woman of Achievement in 1978.

Lois was an avid reader who loved music, nature and being with family.

In 2021, Lois moved to Council Bluffs, Iowa, where she was able to enjoy many cultural events, holidays, and Sunday dinners with family before her death on Jan. 7, 2026. In a manner typical of her generous spirit, Lois donated her body to the University of Iowa.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband Robert and brother John. She is survived by her daughters, Ellen Seger of Mesa, Ariz., Janet (Steve Pera) Seger of Omaha, Neb., and Nancy Seger of Minneapolis; and grandchildren Sophia and Eric Seger-Pera of Omaha. She is also survived by her sisters Eunice Daniels of Kewanee and Alice (Bob) Griswold of Huntingdon, Pa.; sister-in-law Donna Elliott (Kewanee); and many other extended family members.

Those wishing to honor Lois' life are encouraged to make donations to Friends of the Library (clintonpubliclibrary.us/about/friends) or First United Presbyterian Church (www.lupc.org/) in Clinton.

A memorial service will be planned at a later date.

Janet B. Vermeire

WYOMING – Janet B. Vermeire, 93, of Wyoming, formerly of Kewanee, passed away at 3:40 a.m. Friday, Jan. 16, 2026, at Hillcrest Home in Geneseo.

Janet was born on April 16, 1932, in Buda, Ill., the daughter of Jay Harry and Ethel M. (Foster) Bangtson. She married Bernard Vermeire on June 4, 1955, in Sheffield; he preceded her in death on July 18, 2019.

Surviving are one daughter, Denise (Kevin) Mercer of Wyoming; four grandchildren, Wayne (Aaren) Vermeire of Thibodaux, La., Brian (Pamela) Vermeire of Denham Springs, La., Seth (Nichole) Mercer of Wyoming and Ben (Kris-tina) Mercer of Seatonville; five great-grandchildren, Owen Mercer, Chloe Mercer, Michael Barrett, Caleb Barrett and Jameson Vermeire; sister-in-law Donna Vermeire of Geneseo; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; one son, Kevin Vermeire; two brothers, Foster (Edna) Bangtson and Robert Bangtson, who died in his youth; two sisters, Esther (Raymond) Philhower and Elaine (Richard) Cambron; and brother-in-law Francis Vermeire.

Janet worked at Illinois Power Co. in Kewanee for 20 years, retiring in December 1990. She loved horses, chocolate, the Green Bay Packers, being outdoors and taking walks around Wyoming with her husband.

SPORTS: Galva boys riding 6-game win streak

Continued from Page 8
this weekend on a six-game winning streak.

Blake Stahl had 24 points, MJ Louck 22 for Galva in a 65-53 victory Tuesday over Bureau Valley. The Wildcats (15-6) improved to 4-0 in the Lincoln Trail Conference.

Galva also won twice last weekend. Jay Smith had 15 points, seven rebounds and three assists Jan. 17 in a 63-25 victory

over Bushnell-Prairie City. JP Sloan had 14 points, and Louck scored 10. Stahl had seven rebounds.

On Jan. 16, Louck and Stahl each scored 17 in a 79-36 LTC win over Biggs-ville West Central. Reid Harris had 10 rebounds and seven assists.

Galva plays tonight (Jan. 23) at Knoxville.

• **SC boys** — Annawan defeated Stark County 53-33 in an LTC game Tuesday.

The Rebels (5-10, 2-2) had only 10 points at halftime. Stark County also lost 62-

33 on Jan. 16 against Sciota West Prairie. SC is at Abingdon-Avon tonight.

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**HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
LAND AUCTION**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026 AT 10:00 AM^{CT}



240 ACRES (SUBJECT TO SURVEY) - 3 TRACTS

The Wainwright farm is located approximately 8.5 miles Northeast of Geneseo, IL. Access is through an ingress & egress easement off of E 1520th St. and is further described as being located in Section 10 & 11, T18N - R3E, Phenix Township, Henry County, Illinois.

The Wainwright farm represents a large contiguous tract of productive tillable farmland in Henry County, IL. A great opportunity to add on to an existing farm operation or investment portfolio.

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REQUEST FOR BIDS MOWING AND TRIMMING, TOULON CEMETERY

The City of Toulon is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of Toulon Cemetery for mowing season of 2026.

This is bid for mowing the **complete cemetery grounds**. **Grass around headstones will be trimmed**, rather than killed with Round-Up herbicide. Experience in the past shows that the trimming around the headstones should be done, on the average, **at least every other mowing**.

For other expectations and questions, may call **City Hall, 309-286-5042, Monday-Friday, 8:30-12 and 1-4:30**.

Bids are to be mailed to **Toulon City Hall, P.O. Box 597, Attn: Larry Hollis - Mowing Bids, Toulon, IL 61483**. Bids will be opened at the February 9th city council meeting.

Thinking of you on

The Day You Went Away

Today, like many other days brings special thoughts of you of happy times we shared and caring things you used to do

And once more, it's a reminder
that life's special road is sometimes rough
because the time we shared just wasn't long enough
For you were someone special who was thought so highly of
who'll always be remembered with affection, warmth and love
So sending thoughts to heaven on the day you went away
and hope you know you're missed
more than words could ever say

We love and miss you,
Ashlynn, Mom and Lee, Dad and Deb,
Grandpa Bill and Grandma Judy
Ken and Mischell, Hayley and Lucas and family
Sara and Henry and family.

2025 MISSION: OUR MISSION IS HELPING PEOPLE HELP PEOPLE

This report is published to tell everyone about the work of SCCS, Inc. and associated groups.

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

Board of Directors:

Mike Finnegan (Acting President and Treasurer), Bonnie Schmidt (Secretary/Director of Food Pantry), Peggy Gray (director of Resource House), Doug Blunier, Denise Turnbull, Carissa Conley, John & Judi Hauck, Pastor Shawna Marsh (Board Members at Large).

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

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

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



Stark County Community Services, Inc. Board of Directors

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

STARK COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY
322 S. Downend St., Toulon, IL 61483 • 309-286-6611

INCOME:
DONATIONS (\$27,357.70)
(Cash/Food/Grants)

EXPENSES:
Food Purchased & Operational Expense (\$25,925.86)
(Rent/Utilities/Office Supplies/Phone)

HOUSEHOLDS SERVED: 394

INDIVIDUALS: 1687

RESOURCE HOUSE
102 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491 • 309-695-5660

STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.
P. O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483

INCOME: \$16,900.00

EXPENSES: \$17,946.41

89 Requests - 239 People Served.

STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES, INC.
P. O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483

INCOME:
Income: \$4,975.00
Total Expense: \$4,936.00

WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS AND GENEROUS GIFTS MORE THAN EVER. Please send your tax deductible gifts to Stark County Community Services, Inc., P. O. Box 357, Toulon, IL 61483.
Please specify if you want your gift to go to a specific ministry, otherwise we will direct it to the greatest need. Thank you!


The Prairie News Sports


Stark County girls facing adversity

By ANDY LATORA

For The Prairie News

Illness and injury have sent the Stark County girls basketball team into a tail-spin.

"So far, January has been a tough month as we are battling sickness and nursing injuries," Stark County Coach Bob Bohm said. "We have our first three-game losing streak of the season with a very tough and important game (Jan. 21) against Knoxville."

Stark County's skid started with a 53-50 loss to Orion on Jan. 12. Coley Johnston led the Lady Rebels with 25 points and eight rebounds, while Hallie Newton scored seven and grabbed nine boards.

Two days later, Johnston had 16 points and eight rebounds in a 57-24 loss to host Abingdon-Avon. On Monday, Bureau Valley rolled up a 60-31 victory over Stark County (10-11).

"Johnston, (Sophie) Finnegan and Newton are battling through it and everybody else, it's next man up," Bohm said. "We have to be able to learn to be consistent as we are learning how to win."

Stark County has a home

game vs. Galva on Monday and travels to Ridgewood Wednesday.

• **Galva girls** – It hasn't been much of a happy new year for Galva, either. The Lady Wildcats welcomed 2026 with a Jan. 3 victory over Peoria Heights.

Since then they've had four straight losses. On

Monday, Galva had nine points at halftime in a 44-29 loss to Princeville. Kaylyn Gale and Jovie Weber scored 11 points apiece for Galva (4-15).

Galva is at Stark County on Monday.

• **Galva boys** – Galva boys basketball headed into

Continued on Page 7



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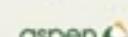
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