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 Vol. 20, No. 6

# The Prairie News

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## Illinois campaign season open as candidates start filing

By **PETER HANCOCK**  
 Capitol News Illinois  
 SPRINGFIELD – The 2022 campaign season got underway in earnest Monday as candidates lined up in front of election offices to turn in petitions to get their names on the June 28 primary election ballot.  
 Hundreds of candidates and their aides braved cold wind and snow early Monday to line up outside the Illinois State Board of Elections office in Springfield to ensure their placement on the ballot.

Monday was the first day established party candidates could file their petitions. The deadline for turning in petitions is next Monday, March 14.  
 Illinois voters will cast ballots this year for governor and lieutenant governor as well as state-wide constitutional officers, all 118 seats in the Illinois House and 59 seats in the state Senate, circuit, appellate court and state Supreme Court judges, congressional seats, and a U.S. Senate seat currently held by Democrat Tammy Duckworth.

**Inside**  
 • Dangers associated with CO2 pipelines. **Page 4**  
 • Stark County Board discusses Dollar General. **Page 5**  
 • FFA chapters gather for breakfast. **Page 7**  
 • Inside Michael Madigan's machine. **Page 9**

Voters in parts of Illinois will also cast ballots for county board members and various other local government offices.  
 This year's primary was pushed back from its normal time in early March due to de-

lays in the redistricting process brought about by delays in the release of 2020 census data due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  
 That revised schedule could have an impact on who turns out to vote in the primary. The late June date means many college students who would normally vote on campus will be home for summer break while many other voters who would normally turn out in March may be away on vacation.  
 Gov. JB Pritzker and Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton are waging their

first reelection bid this year. They won the 2018 election with 54.5 percent of the vote over former Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner and Lt. Gov. Evelyn Sanguinetti.  
 It is not believed they will face any primary opposition this year but a full slate of Republican candidates are lining up to challenge them. Among the challengers for governor are Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin; state Sen. Darren Bailey, of Xenia; former state Sen. Paul Schimpf, of Wa-  
*Continued on Page 2*

**FAMILY FRIENDLY MOVIE**

### Movies returning to Wyoming's theater

By **JEFF LAMPE**  
 For The Prairie News  
 WYOMING – Movies are returning to the Paramount Theatre. The Wyoming Chamber of Commerce is showing a family-friendly film this weekend as part of what chamber officers hope will become a monthly event if all goes well.  
 The first showing is Saturday at 7 p.m., doors open at 6:30, and the movie (whose chilly title is being kept a mystery) will show again Sunday at 3 p.m., with doors open at 2:30. A \$2 donation is suggested, or

\$3 for entry and a picture with an Ice Princess (pictured below).  
 “We decided to do movies because The Paramount does not have any scheduled events to utilize it routinely,” Chamber President Nicole Largent said. “The chamber used to have our corn boil as a fund raiser, but since we no longer have that, we had to figure out something different.”  
 Movies will be projected onto a white wall “screen” and viewers are asked to bring chairs or blankets. Seating is limited to 50. Popcorn, soda, candy and water will be available for a donation.  
 “There’s people who have come up to me and said, ‘I remember the last movie I saw in high school there,’ so it will definitely be nostalgic for people from the area,” Largent said.

The Wyoming Chamber of Commerce plans to have monthly showings of movies in The Paramount Theatre, starting this weekend. Photo by John A. Ballentine.




### Ukraine farmer shows resolve despite war

By **DANIEL GRANT**  
 FarmWeek  
 Ukrainian farmer Kohctahtuh Xomehko showed the kind of determination and fortitude currently on display by his fellow countrymen and women during an online meeting with farmers in the Midwest.  
 Kohctahtuh (pronounced Konstantine) said his “heart is in great pain” but he’s extremely confident the Ukrainian army can defeat the invading Russians. He also showed the same resolve when asked if farmers in Ukraine will still be able to plant this year’s crops amid the war.  
 “I’m 100 percent sure we can win because it’s about people, not just weapons,” Xomehko said from his farm during a Zoom call



*Ukrainian farmer Kochtahtuh Xomehko said he plans to plant a crop this year despite the ongoing Russian invasion.*

hosted at the Macon County Farm Bureau in Decatur attended by several board members and media.  
 “We’re together working – all the people in Ukraine,” he said. “I understand our army is not that big, but we’re very motivated. There are people

*Continued on Page 2*



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# CAMPAIGN: Crowded field in race for governor

*Continued from Page 1*  
terloo; Chicago-area businessman Gary Rabine; and venture capitalist Jesse Sullivan, of Petersburg, among others.

Speaking at a campaign kickoff rally at a local union meeting hall in Springfield shortly after submitting his petitions, Pritzker touted his efforts to improve job and economic opportunities for middle class workers and marginalized populations in the state.

“In a world that increasingly feels like us versus them, this campaign is about what we can do together. And our vision for a better Illinois doesn’t happen without a fight,” Pritzker said.

Republicans, meanwhile, have so far been attacking Pritzker for the state’s rising rate of violent crime and the impact that his response to the COVID-19 pandemic had on the state’s economy.

“We’re killing small business in the state like no other state and we’ve got to stop that,” Rabine said during an interview outside the ISBE office.

# UKRAINE: Farmers plan to plant despite invasion

*Continued from Page 1*  
you know who are dying. We’ll never forgive the Russians.”

Ukraine farmers are helping their army by providing and transporting diesel fuel and fabricating metal objects for the army to flatten tires on Russian vehicles.

Ukrainian farmers also plow a majority of their fields, which has made it

difficult for some Russian tanks to cross without getting stuck.

When asked how other nations, including the U.S., can help resolve the conflict, Xomehko called for air support.

“We need support to close the air. We don’t need soldiers,” he said.

But thus far the North Atlantic Treaty Organization has rejected Ukraine’s demand to implement no-fly zones.

Meanwhile, reports suggest roughly 2 million Ukrainian refugees had fled the country in recent weeks. But Ukrainian farmers remain determined to produce their crops this year.

“Yes. 100 percent we’ll be planting, spraying and fertilizing,” Xomehko said when asked about his spring plans to grow crops including corn, soybeans and wheat. “But, there is no area in Ukraine that is 100 percent safe. We have

areas with more bombs, and areas with less bombs.”

The online meeting with Xomehko was made possible in part by Loran Steinlage, an Iowa farmer and field engineer for DAWN Equipment, and Macon County Farm Bureau Board member Paul Butler, who is in an international grain marketing group.

DAWN provides ag equipment parts to farmers in Ukraine but pulled its employees out of the country just weeks before the war broke out.

“I’m worried about \$5 diesel and how high our fertilizer prices will go,” Butler said. “But our problems are pretty small in comparison.”

Scott Irwin, University of Illinois ag economics professor, said war in Ukraine will also continue to have a widespread effect on world markets for some time.

“There are really two is-

Deerfield; treasurer candidate Rep. Tom Demmer, of Dixon; and comptroller candidate Shannon Teresi, of Crystal Lake. Milhiser is the secretary of state candidate on the slate.

Those GOP slate candidates were scheduled to host a kickoff event Monday evening in Springfield. They will vie to unseat Attorney General Kwame Raoul, Treasurer Michael Frerichs and Comptroller Susana Mendoza, all incumbent Democrats.

According to this year’s election calendar, voters can request mail-in ballots starting March 30 by contacting their local election authority. Those applications must be received by the election authority by June 23. Mail-in ballots must be postmarked or returned in-person to the election authority by Election Day, June 28.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, non-partisan news service covering state government and distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

sues,” Irwin said in a recent U of I farmdoc video. “One is with old crop. Trade estimates suggest there’s 600 million bushels of corn already contracted (from Ukraine). It’s trapped and I don’t see any way that will get out of there very easily for weeks and maybe months.

“There’s even bigger problems with what will end up getting planted (in the Black Sea region) this spring,” he noted. “It could potentially put a huge hole in global grain balance sheets.”

Irwin suggested the U.S. needs to think “outside the box” in these extraordinary times and consider possibly opening up acres in the Conservation Reserve Program to increase domestic crop output.

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

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

**5-1-21** - Tyler A. Dorsey - Reckless driving.  
**3-4** - Victoria E. Menold - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.  
**3-6** - Kayla M. Garms - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.  
**3-4** - Belem M. Knobloch-Robles - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.  
**3-4** - Tanner W. Hall - Speeding 26-34 mph over limit..

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

**3-1** - A single-vehicle accident occurred on 00E. The driver involved was Jenna L. Matuszyk, 32, Kewanee. She was traveling south when her vehicle struck a patch of gravel and started to slide sideways off the road where it began to roll. Matuszyk was ejected from the vehicle and was transported by ambulance to OSF St. Luke Hospital, in Kewanee. She was cited for driving on a suspended registration and for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.  
**2-26** - A civil issue was handled by authorities in the 600 block of Willow Street in LaFayette.  
**2-28** - Elijah P. Garner, 18, Princeville, was cited for speeding 71 mph in a 55 zone, and for driving without proof of insurance. He was released with a notice to appear in court.  
**3-1** - Patrick D. Durkin, Sr., 58, Kewanee, was cited for driving without a valid registration.  
**3-4** - Debbie L. Ritchie, 61, Toulon, was ticketed for giving and/or selling liquor to a minor.  
**3-4** - Clayton J. Jones, 35, Hammond, was cited for driving without a rear registration light, and for driving while his license was suspended. He was released with a notice to appear.  
**3-4** - Donna K. Ratcliff, 58, Wyoming, was ticketed for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone, and for driving without proof of insurance. She was released with a notice to appear.  
**3-5** - Jeremy M. Bishop, 48, Pekin, was cited for not having proof of valid vehicle insurance. He was released with a notice to appear.

**Galva Report**  
**Officer dispatched:**  
**2-28** - to the 1000 block of North Center Ave. for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a subject at the high school who accidentally hit the emergency button.  
**2-28** - to the area around Wiley Park for a complaint involving a juvenile riding a motorized scooter in the roadway. Officer located the subject and advised him of the laws regarding motorized vehicles.  
**2-28** - Officer flagged down by a subject in the 100 block of SE 2nd St. The subject stated that he had been driving a motorcycle near Black Hawk College when a passing truck lost a piece of plywood from a trailer and it struck the motorcycle causing damage. Henry Co. responded and completed a crash report.  
**2-28** - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a report involving an internet scam.  
**2-28** - to check an unoccupied ve-



hicle a few miles west of Galva along Route 34.  
**2-28** - to a residence on SE 1st St. for a welfare check on a family member.  
**2-28** - Officer checked on a pedestrian walking in the 800 block of SW 2nd St.  
**3-1** - to the 100 block of NE 7th St. for a loud music complaint.  
**3-1** - Officer met with a citizen at the Galva Police Department in reference to concerns about a neighbor.  
**3-1** - Officer noticed that the Exchange Street railroad crossing arms were down and activated with no trains present. Officer directed traffic until BNSF arrived and made repairs.  
**3-1** - to speak with a resident in the 200 block of NE 4th St. about a city ordinance violation. They were given time to clean up items.  
**3-1** - to Wiley Park for a loose pit-bull in the playground area. The dog was impounded and later returned to its owner.  
**3-1** - to assist Stark County with a single-vehicle rollover accident on Midland Road near South County Road. Two occupants had been ejected from the vehicle.  
**3-2** - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for a domestic disturbance.  
**3-3** - Officer notified of a controlled burn that was taking place on the 100 block of NE 5th St.  
**3-3** - to a residence on NW 2nd St. in reference to a city ordinance violation.  
**3-3** - As the result of a complaint in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St., Michael Thuline, 54, Galva, was issued a notice to appear in court for criminal trespass to property.  
**3-4** - to a reckless driving complaint just north of Galva.  
**3-4** - to a parking complaint in the 200 block of SE 2nd Ave.  
**3-4** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1000 block of North Center Ave., Karysa Taylor, 27, Galesburg, was arrested for driving while license suspended, improper lane usage, and failure to secure a child under age 8 in a proper fitting child restraint. She also had a Knox County warrant for failing to appear on the charge of driving while license suspended. She was able to post bond and was released with new court dates.  
**3-4** - to the 400 block of E. Division St. for a dog bite complaint involving a family pet biting a young child.  
**3-5** - to the 400 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a small pile of leaves that was burning unattended.  
**3-5** - Officer advised of a railroad crossing arm malfunction at the NE 6th Ave. crossing. BNSF was contacted for repairs.

**3-6** - to the 200 block of SW 7th St. for a loose dog complaint.  
**3-6** - to the 300 block of NW 1st St. for a complaint involving damage to a vehicle that was possibly caused by the thunderstorm.  
**3-6** - to the 300 block of NE 2nd St. for a domestic dispute involving juveniles.  
**2-28** - Candace Anderson, 40, Galva, was issued a citation for speeding in the 1200 block of SE 2nd St.  
**3-4** - James Schafer, 73, Aledo, was issued a citation for having no insurance in the 800 block of SE 2nd St.  
**3-4** - Frances Iles, 32, Kewanee, was issued a citation for having no insurance in the 300 block of North Center Ave.  
**3-5** - Richard Grant, 25, Galva, was issued a citation in the 200 block of S. Exchange St. for failure to secure or transfer license plates through the Secretary of State.

**Property Transfers**  
**3-1** - Matthew T. Dotzert to Betty A. and Lyle E. Stahl - Pt 12-12-6 SW - Consideration = \$110,000.  
**3-2** - LMRT, LLC to Mimi Farms, LLC - Pt 10-14-7 SE and Pt 15-14-7 NE - Consideration = \$320,000.  
**3-3** - Willard H. Carroll, Dec'd by Exec. to Martha A. Carroll and Jill C. Stieghorst - Pts 31-12-5 NE, 30-12-5 SW, 17-12-5 SW & 32-12-5 SW - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-3** - Willard H. Carroll, Dec'd by Exec. to Leslea S. Carroll (Und 50% Int) & Jill C. Stieghorst (Und 50% Int) - Pt 20-12-5 NE - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-3** - Willard H. Carroll, Dec'd by Exec. to Leslea S. & Martha A. Carroll - Pts 31-12-5 NE & NW, Pt 18-12-5 NE - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-4** - Snyder Family Farms, LLC to Barton R. Snyder - Pt 10-13-5 NW - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-4** - Barton R. & Cheryl D. Snyder to Snyder Family Farms, LLC - Pt 10-13-5 NW - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-4** - David L. & Joni M. Rumbold to Loretta M. Rumbold - Pt 30-12- 6 SW - Consideration = \$765,000.  
**3-4** - Robert B. Armstrong, Co-Tr & mary Brooks Swinderman Co-Tr to Faye Underwood, Trustee - Und 1/2 Int 6-13-6 SW & Und 1/2 Int Pt 6-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-4** - Faye Underwood, Trustee to Faye Underwood, Trustee - Und 1/2 Int 6-13-6 SW & Und 1/2 Int Pt 6-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.  
**3-4** - Bruce Holmes Eastman to KJLK Properties, LLC & Anne L. & Joseph K. Westart Und. 1/2 Int. each - Pts 2-12-6 SE - Consideration = \$1,242,500.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuote

answer

Science is the best idea humans have ever had. The more people who embrace that idea, the better.

- Bill Nye



# The Prairie News

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## GUEST VOICES



# Global food chains face more uncertainty

For the second time in two years, a history-making calamity has shown just how fragile the world’s efficiency-driven, deeply interdependent food system is.

Two years ago, a rampaging pandemic threatened America’s pantries. Today, Russia’s invasion of Ukraine threatens supplies of key ag inputs like fuel and fertilizer while causing deep disruptions to global wheat, corn, and vegetable oil markets. Just how badly, though, remains unknown.

What we do know is that on the export side, Russia and the independent nation it invaded, Ukraine, account for 29 percent of global wheat exports, 19 percent of the world’s corn exports, and 75 percent of the world’s sunflower oil exports.

On the input side, every American farmer knows Russia’s big role in global fertilizer markets. It controls



Alan GUEBERT

21 percent of the world’s potash and, equally bad, its only ally in the Ukrainian invasion, Belarus, holds another 21 percent.

And that’s not all. Russia has a strong hand on both sides of the today/tomorrow energy divide: Its natural gas reserves drive the European heating market (at five times the cost of American natural gas) and the global anhydrous ammonia markets. Also, its large supply of copper, palladium, and nickel—all key ingredients in the world’s push to electrify itself—is rattling today’s green energy markets.

“Russia isn’t a gas station,” one global markets expert said last week, “it’s a commodity superstore.”

And that’s a huge problem when you live in a politically-unstable, commodity-hungry world.

Russia is also an economic basket case. Its GDP, according to the World Bank, is \$1.5 trillion, or only about 7 percent the size of the U.S.’s GDP of \$21 trillion. France’s GDP, in fact, is nearly twice Russia’s.

Moreover, it is deeply dependent

on international trade for food, technology, and—most importantly—finance. The world’s unified and suffocating restrictions on Russian finance following the Feb. 23 invasion threaten deprivation to every Russian and Ukrainian household within weeks, if not days.

In the meantime, some U.S. commodity markets — wheat and oil, in particular — are on a rocket ride. Port shutdowns on Ukraine’s Black Sea are driving its customers to other exporters. For example, a March 1 Twitter post noted “Black Sea wheat unavailable to Chinese for feed so they pivot to US corn, book 10 cargoes...”

Another post earlier that morning urged followers to “Look at soy oil, and then palm oil! It’s going bananas!”

Not every ag commodity market is so fruity. New crop corn and soybeans, the bulk of which isn’t even in the ground yet, have kept their bearings. December corn futures were up a scant 17 cents per bu. during the invasion’s first week while new crop soybean futures

Continued on Page 5

# There are dangers associated with CO2 pipelines

To the Editor:

The landowner information packet I received from the Heartland Greenway Pipeline company contains the following: “We will have enhanced monitoring systems in place 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.”

It goes on to claim, “A state-of-the-art leak detection system is constantly monitored by qualified operators to ensure safe and reliable transportation of the CO2 at various points along the system.

“Additionally, we install strategically placed mainline valves, or MLV’s, that further allow the company to operate the pipeline safely and reliably.”

These claims raise an interesting question: are CO2 pipelines safe?

CO2 must be under tremendous pressure to be transported in liquid form. It behaves much like anhydrous ammonia. In the event of a pipeline rupture, it boils out into a heavier-than-air gas that travels along the ground and settles in low lying areas. It can travel several hundred yards in under a minute. Unlike natural gas, it has no warning odor. It robs the air of oxygen. It can kill you in your sleep.

At concentrations between 2-10 percent, CO2 causes nausea, dizziness, headache, mental confusion, increased blood pressure and respiratory rate. Above 8 percent, nausea and vomiting occur. Above



10 percent humans and animals can suffocate and die within minutes. Moisture in the air can cause carbonic acid, an eye irritant, to form.

These dangers were revealed in February 2020 when a liquid CO2 pipeline ruptured at night near Sattaria, Miss. Although the rupture occurred half a mile from houses, residents were left foaming at the mouth, gasping for air, nauseated, and disoriented. Three hundred people were evacuated and 45 were hospitalized.

Those who tried to escape in vehicles discovered another fact about CO2 pipeline breaks: gasoline and diesel engines cannot operate in the presence of CO2. Once CO2 displaces the oxygen needed to burn fuel in the engine, the vehicle stalls.

In the event of a CO2 pipeline rupture, escape will have to be on foot or in an all-electric vehicle. Hey, what’s the big deal? We all have electric cars, right?

To put it bluntly, you’re on your own if you’re too close to a CO2 pipeline break. For some reason, my Heartland Greenway landowner in-

formation packet fails to mention these hazards. Probably an oversight.

Although Heartland Greenway says it will monitor its pipeline 24/7, one fact is clear: in the event of a rupture, all the liquid CO2 between the pipeline shutoff valves when they’re closed will be released, posing a lethal hazard to nearby humans and animals. Even if the shutoff valves are only a mile apart, the amount of CO2 released from a one-mile length of ruptured 24-inch pipeline would be tremendous.

Considering the risks associated with its proposed pipeline, why isn’t Heartland Greenway providing nearby residents with emergency breathing apparatus and electric cars? Does it plan to donate electric emergency vehicles to governmental entities along its right of way? Will it pay to train first responders to handle CO2-related mass casualty events?

Although our farm house is only a couple hundred yards from the proposed pipeline right of way, I don’t recall seeing promises to supply us with safety equipment in my landowner information packet. I must have overlooked them.

— **John Feltham**, Williamsfield  
Send letters to: The Prairie News,  
PO Box 240, Toulon, IL 61483 or email  
to news@prairie-news.com.  
Include a phone number.  
We reserve the right to edit submissions.



# Stark board discusses Dollar General steps

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

TOULON – The Stark County board met Tuesday evening and preparatory steps concerning the proposed Dollar General, in Toulon, were discussed. County Highway Engineer Judd Giffin reported that he is “working on getting a quote to get the ground leveled [at the Highway Dept. property] for Dollar General, so we can get our part of the commitments [completed].”

In addition, the temporary office trailer, or POD, has been cleared of documents and personnel so that the leasing company for it can retrieve the trailer and remove it from highway property. The site the POD has occupied north of the highway building is where the new Dollar General building will be constructed.

Giffin has also worked on “getting the bid out for sealcoat and aggregate” for the county’s highways. During committee reports, highway committee chair Robin Nowlan

stated that Tax Increment Financing [TIF] has been explored for the Dollar General project. The county intends to purchase 2.5 acres of farm ground from Phil St. John for the purpose of building a new county highway building.

Stark County Sheriff’s Chief Deputy Chuck Demetreon presented a single mowing bid for the county’s courthouse property for board approval. It was from Colgan’s Home Creations for \$3,750. The bid was approved.

Also approved was a \$3,000 bid from Matt Forstrom to demolish a garage south of the courthouse.

In new business, the board approved an annual resolution “to appoint the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors’ Bureau as the sole representative for Stark County” that markets and promotes Stark County to the area surrounding Peoria.

A resolution for “downstate operating assistance program [DOAP]” was approved to provide public

transportation “between Marshall and Stark Counties.”

Also approved was “an ordinance to provide for public transportation in Stark County” in conjunction with Marshall County. A funding grant will be submitted to pay the cost of this program.

Reviewed, without action, was a Public Risk Assessment Input. This relates to the Office of Emergency Management [OEM] and designated hazards the county’s public could encounter.

Finally, in old business, the board briefly discussed the “Castleton [water] well progress.” In February, the county board approved a \$5,000 American Rescue Plan Act expenditure for an engineering study of Castleton’s four water wells. Those funds will be paid to a “water association” that the citizens of Castleton have not established, yet. The county board requested last month that residents form the water association.

# Galva Legion seeks donations for building

**By CAROL TOWNSEND**  
For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva American Legion will hold a chili supper on Saturday, March 19, from 3-6 p.m. to raise funds for a new storage building.

The building will be a 24-by-50 feet storage building in which the Legion will be able to store its Avenue of Flags and also its people movers, used in parades for veterans and at other events including Bishop Hill.



The new Galva American Legion storage building will resemble the photo above and will be built on a lot across the street from the Legion.

The building will be built on the legion’s lot across the street to the

west of the Legion building.

The menu includes chili, chicken noodle soup, corn bread, desserts, coffee, lemonade and pop.

There is no charge for the meal. The legion is asking for donations for their new building. Any amount donated will be appreciated.

Commander Wayne Glisan said the legion will begin work on the new building in June.

Donations can be mailed to The Galva American Legion at 45 Wallace Street in Galva, IL 61434.

# GUEBERT: Fuel, fertilizer prices an issue

*Continued from Page 4*

rose a skinny 3 cents. Still, prices are poised to take off if the war escalates.

Futures prices for wheat, a food – not feed – grain, were up almost 20 percent during the same period, from \$7.82 per bushel to nearly \$9.20 per bu. Drought also stalks the U.S. wheat region so today’s wheat market has both foreign and domestic fuel to go higher if both war and drought persist.

It’s not all tall clover for farmers, however. Rising fuel and fertilizer prices threaten to add as much as \$100 per acre to corn planting costs

this year, according to some market analysts.

Looking around, though, the non-warring nation in the tightest geopolitical spot isn’t Germany or the U.S. The nation most threatened by Russia’s unprovoked invasion of Ukraine might be its key ally, China, which is deeply dependent on corn and wheat imports from both Russia and Ukraine. Russia has jeopardized both supplies.

Additionally, China’s only political soulmate of consequence, Russia, has now been tossed out of everything from global banking

systems to regional sports leagues. That decoupling, and its attendant instability, is not what Xi Jinping, China’s autocratic leader, promised his nation.

Unlike his Russian counterpart, Xi knows his people want food and peace and few, if any, care if they get it from the United States or Ukraine or Mars.

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**Stark County**  
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**Saturday, March 12, 9 - 11 a.m.**  
**- Wyoming Paramount Theatre**

**FEES: T-Ball & Coach Pitch – \$20** *(These teams will play in hometown)*  
**Boys & Girls 9/10, 11/12, 13/14/15 – \$45** *(1 player), \$65* *(2 players), \$75* *(3 players)*  
*Number of teams determined by numbers signed up in each age group.*  
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**WYOMING, IL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION**

The following very nice home and personal property will be sold on location at 405 Madison Ave Wyoming, IL 61491 (2 houses north of the football field), on

**SUNDAY APRIL 10TH, 2022 AT 12:00 NOON**

**REAL ESTATE:** This well-maintained tri-level home sits on a .29 acre lot just 2 houses from the grade school grounds. This house was built in 1973 by the original owner. The main level of this home includes a nice large kitchen with much updated oak cupboard space and modern counter tops. The dining area attached to the kitchen contains patio doors that lead to a back poured cement patio. A large living room and closet areas are also located on the main floor making much space for family. The lower level is mostly finished with a family room and brick gas fireplace. Utility and storage rooms are separated off for appearance and convenience. The basement is dry but 2 sump pumps and a back up battery are installed in case of an emergency situation. The upper level of this home contains 3 nice sized bedrooms and 2 full baths. There is over 2000 sq. ft. of actual living space. An attached 2 stall garage with automatic doors and much storage improves the value of this property. The house is heated with hot water baseboard heat that was new in 2009 along with central air. The house is in very good shape and any updating needed is basically cosmetic. Windows, roof and siding are all in good condition.

**TERMS:** A non-refundable 10% down is required sale day, with the balance to be pd. In full at closing in approx. 30 days.

**OPEN HOUSE:** An open house will be held on Tuesday March 15th, 2022 from 5-6 p.m. Watch for a full list of personal property and see pictures online at [www.folgersauctionservice.com](http://www.folgersauctionservice.com) and LIKE US ON FACEBOOK for more. Personal property will include very nice appliances, antiques, furniture, a nice Troy Bilt TB42 7 speed mower w/42" deck, a very nice Troy Bilt Storm 2410 snow blower, Predator 3200/4000 w. generator, an electric Rem. Chain saw, garage items and so much more.

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BRIEFS

State Bank of Toulon  
Relay raises record 5K

KEWANEE – The State Bank of Toulon held its 16th annual Relay for Life Trivia Night on March 5 at the Kewanee Elks Club. With 14 teams, a basket raffle, a 50/50, a silent auction and a few unexpected donations, the SBT Relay team raised a record amount of \$5,000.

Due to COVID-19, the group was unable to hold its event.

“We were a little nervous, but very excited about getting to hold our Trivia Night again,” said Nichelle Morey, SBT’s Marketing Director and captain of its Relay For Life team. “We weren’t sure people were ready to gather in large groups yet, but we had a great turnout. Not only were people ready to gather, they were ready to give. It was the most money we have ever raised.”

The State Bank of Toulon thanks all who helped plan the event, the Kewanee Elks Club and all who donated.

Trivia Night will be held next year on Saturday, March 4, 2023.

Bishop Hill Commons  
hosts gypsy jazz

BISHOP HILL – A gypsy jazz trio known as Harmonious Wail will perform a live concert on Sunday, March 13, at Bishop Hill Creative



Trivia Night winners, team Lodestone, are pictured above, from left to right are: (First row) Gina Lovell, Heather Sellers, Rachel Wigant and Amanda Norway; (Second row) Ken Lovell, Shawn Dooley, Toni Pickard, Terri Wigant, Brooke Dooley; (Third row) Adam Norway, Brett Sellers and Kurtis Smyth.

Commons. The show will begin with a potluck dinner at 6 p.m., with music starting at 7. A \$15-\$25 donation is suggested, and the event is open to all ages.

The Harmonious Wail recently received the 2017 Musicnotes Outstanding Musical Career Achievement Award.

For more information visit heartlandconnections.com.

Celtic Pub Music at  
Galva Arts Center

BISHOP HILL – Wear something green and get ready for a belated St. Patrick’s Day at the Galva Arts

Council’s Annual Irish Coffee-house. Exorna will be playing Celtic pub music at the Galva Arts Center on Friday, March 19. For over a decade, Exorna has been leaving people with smiles on their faces. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and performance begins at 7.

If you would like to join the Galva Arts Council or see our coming events, visit galvaartscouncil.org.

College honors

Riley Nicole Menssen of Wyoming made the Dean’s List (3.5 gpa or better) at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville for fall 2021.

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TAKING ADVANTAGE OF EVERY OPPORTUNITY

FFA chapters  
gather for  
annual meal

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE  
For The Prairie News

GALVA – The State Bank of Toulon hosted its Annual FFA Appreciation Breakfast on Friday morning, March 4, at Black Hawk College – East Campus.

The breakfast was not held last year due to COVID-19 concerns. This year’s breakfast was catered by Uncle Nolan’s, of Galva, and attended by four local area FFA Chapters.



Shaffer

Those chapters were Galva, Kewanee, Stark County and Wethersfield. The chapter members heard Jaton Shaffer, 18, of Farmer City, in Dewitt County, speak of “taking advantage of every opportunity.” Shaffer is a member of the Blue Ridge FFA Chapter.



Stark County FFA Chapter members attended the annual FFA Appreciation Breakfast on March. Pictured above are: Back row (from left to right) - Lane Moodie, Tobias Stahl, Jimmy Langdon, Jack Winans, Blake Orwig, Kenzie Tilch, Hannah Allen and Jaton Shaffer. Front row (l to r) - Kylie Gillespie, Blair Snyder, Abi Gosnell, Aubrey Pyle, Kailey Smith and Olivia Orwig. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

He is the son of Dyke and Kendra Shaffer and a 2021 graduate of Blue Ridge High School. Shaffer said, “I’m attending the University of Illinois and concentrating on Ag economics, but I haven’t decided on my major as of yet.” Shaffer was elected last June as a State FFA officer becoming the Vice President. In his speech, Shaffer implored the FFA members “to do something every

time a chance is presented to you. Don’t be scared – take advantage of those opportunities.” After Shaffer’s speech, Black Hawk College representatives spoke to the FFA members noting that Black Hawk boasts one of the largest Ag/animal programs in the country. Black Hawk representatives also noted that the veterinarian program is available for credit and transfer to a four-year college to excel in that field.

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**10 a.m. March 19, 2022 Maxwell's Woodhull, IL**  
*This estate of the late Janice Neels, Moline, includes an abundance of collectibles, large doll collection, & household decorations, tools, JD lineup of employee only merchandise, more. Plus the last inventory from the Rock Island Elks Club. There is something for everyone at this sale.*

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**Full Time Consumer Analyst/Mortgage Lender Position**  
The State Bank of Toulon is seeking a Consumer Analyst/Mortgage Lender position for their Toulon and/or Kewanee branch. Job duties would include responsibilities involved in the residential mortgage loan process, including underwriting, doc. prep., servicing, etc. Qualified candidates should possess technical skills, time management and detail orientation skills, as well as, decision making skills. Excellent client services and communication skills required, as well as, initiative and having a positive attitude are vital. Mortgage lending experience also preferred, but not required. Position and Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include 401K, medical/dental insurance, paid holidays. If you are interested in furthering your career with us, please send your resume to: Beth Winslow, Human Resources, PO Box 609 Toulon, IL 61483 EOE.

**Full Time Bookkeeper Position**  
The State Bank of Toulon is seeking a full time bookkeeping department position. Bookkeepers must have computer knowledge. LAN/WAN network knowledge a plus, must be able to multi-task, account balancing skills and banking experience preferred, but not required. Scheduled hours will generally be 35-40 hours with scheduled Saturday morning hours. Candidates should be flexible in availability scheduling. Excellent communication skills required, as well as, initiative and having a positive attitude. Position and Salary is commensurate with experience. Benefits include 401K, medical/dental insurance, paid holidays. If you are interested in furthering your career with us, please send your resume to: Beth Winslow, Human Resources, PO Box 609 Toulon, IL 61483 EOE.

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# Interesting stories in newspapers of old

**By DON SCHMIDT**  
For The Prairie News

Local newspapers from a century ago are interesting. Compared to modern standards, their content is often controversial, sad, shocking, and amusing. For example, deadly accidents are recounted with gory descriptions of mutilated bodies. Scandalous behaviors, such as adulterous affairs, are reported as front page news.

Mary Lucy Goodheart was born near Toulon in 1878. In 1899, at age 21, she married George W. Pate, age 54. Pate, a Civil War veteran, had twice been married and

divorced from the same woman. The affair of Mary L. Pate and Arthur White was front page news in 1904 and 1905 issues of Kewanee Weekly Courier. Mrs. Pate, known as “Bouquet Lou,” was living in Kewanee sans husband and had taken up with Arthur “Snorty” White. The two were arrested. Bouquet Lou pled guilty to adultery and fornication and was sentenced to six months in Henry County jail. Snorty was given six months in the jail at Cambridge for vagrancy. He had been out only a few months from an earlier six-month sentence, also for vagrancy.

In 1907 in Kewanee, Mary L. Pate married Joseph O’Kane, an Ireland native of similar age. They remained married until her death in 1946. He died 20 years later. They had no children. Both of the O’Kanes and Mr. Pate are buried in Toulon Cemetery. Arthur “Snorty” White, 48, a life-long resident of Kewanee, died in 1928 at the home of a sister in Pekin. The attending physician declared that death was due to starvation and gave alcoholism as a secondary cause. He was brought to Kewanee for burial in Wethersfield Cemetery.

# Bill aims to rein in Apple, Google app stores

**By PETER HANCOCK**  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Two bills pending in the Illinois General Assembly would rein in the ability of tech giants like Apple and Google to dictate how transactions are conducted, and how much of a cut they receive from those transactions, when consumers make certain kinds of purchases using smartphone apps.

If enacted, the bill would make Illinois the first state to regulate that segment of the e-commerce industry, but a broader bill is also pending in Congress where it appears to have bipartisan support.

Currently, app developers pay Apple’s App Store and Google’s Play Store an annual fee to distribute their apps on those platforms. In

addition, however, Apple and Google take a commission percentage on what are known as “digital-only” transactions like dating services, journalism or digital music – those that do not involve the purchase of physical goods or services. Those commissions amount to 15 percent of the transaction on the first \$1 million of sales, and 30 percent of all transactions above that. “I was there in the tech industry the last time the U.S. government pursued a major tech monopolist with the case against Microsoft,” David Heinemeier Hansson, CEO and cofounder of the Chicago-based software company Basecamp, told a Senate committee Tuesday. “What Apple and Google are doing today makes what Microsoft did

then look like child’s play,” he said. “At the height of its power and arrogance, Microsoft never even thought they could impose a tax on all software running on the Windows operating system. But that’s where we are today.” Two bills are now pending in the General Assembly that would give Illinois-based app developers more control over their app-based sales, Senate Bill 3417 and House Bill 4599, creating the “Freedom to Subscribe Directly Act.” It would prohibit large app distribution platforms like the App Store and Play Store from requiring Illinois-based app developers to use a particular in-app payment system as the exclusive mode of accepting payments.

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**1-309-238-1970**  
**jballent@yahoo.com**

## LEGAL ADS

•••  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
Estate of AMY ANN HOLMAN, deceased  
No. 2022-P-21  
Notice is given of the death of Amy Ann Holman. Letters of Independent Administrator were issued on February 18, 2022 to Emily Holman, of 218 E. Jefferson Street, Toulon, IL 61483, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Michael E. Massie, of Massie & Quick, 115 NW 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Henry County Circuit Clerk, Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, or with the representative, or both, within

six months from the date of first publication, the Bar Date, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
Massie & Quick, LLC  
Attorneys for the Estate  
115 Northwest Third Avenue  
Galva, IL 61434  
Telephone (309) 932-2168  
Published 3/4, 3/11, 3/18/22  
•••  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
Notice is hereby given to the legal residents of the Town of Goshen in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2022

being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6 o'clock p.m. at the Goshen Township Building for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town and a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting. The regular monthly meeting will be held immediately following the Annual meeting. Dated March 11, 2022  
Pamela Wulf, Goshen Township Clerk  
Published 3/11/22  
•••  
**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Stark County CUSD #100 is taking bids for the following:  
• Two (2) 65-passenger school

buses – chassis and body: NEW (for 3-year lease)  
• One (1) 29-passenger school bus – chassis and body: NEW (for 3-year lease)  
• One (1) 14-passenger activity bus – chassis and body: NEW (for 3-year lease)  
Bid specifications may be obtained by contacting Stark County CUSD #100, 300 Van Buren, Wyoming, IL 61491 (309) 695-6123, option 1. Deadline for bids: 12:00 noon, Thursday, March 17, 2022. Bids shall list any changes from the specifications. The bids will be presented to the Stark County Board of Education at its regular meeting on March 21, 2022. The Board of Education is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to reject any and

all bids.  
Published 3/11/22  
•••  
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
Estate of  
MARY E. TRACY, deceased  
No. 2022PR19  
Notice is given of the death of MARY E. TRACY. Letters of Office were issued on February 9, 2022, to CHARLES LA FOLLETTE of PSC 709 Box 456, APO AP 96339, as Independent Executor, whose attorney is Michael E. Massie, Massie & Quick, LLC, P.O. Box 205, Galva, IL 61434. Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Knox County Circuit Clerk, Knox County Courthouse, 200 S. Cherry,

Galesburg, IL 61401, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of the claim files with the clerk must be mailed, or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.  
Massie & Quick, LLC  
Attorneys for Estate  
P.O. Box 205  
Galva, IL 61434  
Telephone: (309) 932-2168  
Published 3/11, 3/18, 3/25/22  
•••



# Inside the federal indictment of Madigan

By **BETH HUNDSORFER & JERRY NOWICKI**

Capitol News Illinois  
SPRINGFIELD — In a 106-page, 22-count indictment, federal prosecutors painted a picture of former House Speaker Michael Madigan as the leader of a sweeping criminal enterprise that influenced legislation for personal power and financial gain.

“The Madigan Enterprise,” as prosecutors called it in the document filed Wednesday, benefitted from Madigan’s position as a Democratic ward committeeman, speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives, chairman of the Democratic Party of Illinois and law partner at Madigan & Getzendanner.

In those capacities, Madigan, either personally or through confidante Michael McClain, is accused of guiding the enterprise’s illegal activities to punish opponents and reward loyalists, all while generating money for him and other members of the criminal enterprise, according to the indictment and comments from U.S. Attorney John Lausch Jr. of the Northern District of Illinois.

The feds accused Madigan of using intermediaries, falsifying documents, meeting in-person and using third-party phones to avoid detection by federal agents, as well as speaking in coded language to protect the conspiracy.

But the former speaker still vehemently denied wrongdoing in a statement distributed by his lawyers, Sheldon Zenner and Gil Soffer of the Katten law firm.

“I was never involved in any criminal activity,” Madigan said in a statement distributed by the law firm.

The statement directly contradicted claims made publicly in the indictment and by Lausch at a news conference announcing the charges Wednesday night.

Madigan and the enterprise are accused of receiving

bribes and “unlawful personal financial advantage(s)” from parties that had business with the state and city of Chicago. Madigan’s power to pass or kill legislation in the General Assembly, along with his control over resources through his various positions of power, were used to entice financial rewards from third parties, according to the allegations.

In that effort, the enterprise used “threats, intimidation, and extortion to solicit benefits from private parties,” and used facilities of interstate commerce to further the goals of the enterprise, another federal crime, according to the indictment.

Madigan, 79, and McClain, 74, both face charges of racketeering, conspiracy, bribery and wire fraud. Madigan faces additional charges for attempted extortion.

The indictment detailed several schemes attributed to the Madigan Enterprise.

The first involved Chicago-based electric company Commonwealth Edison, or ComEd. The indictment alleges that Madigan shepherded the passage of legislation that helped ComEd, specifically the Energy Infrastructure and Modernization Act in 2011 and the Future Energy Jobs Act in 2016. In 2018, legislation adverse to ComEd was killed, per the indictment.

In exchange for his support of legislation favorable to ComEd, the indictment stated that Madigan placed political pals into ComEd’s intern program, allegedly named his choice for an appointment to ComEd’s board, received “vendor” jobs for his friends on ComEd’s payroll, and received contracts from ComEd for his political allies.

The indictment includes forfeiture actions against McClain and Madigan for \$2.8 million for proceeds they allegedly obtained, directly or indirectly, from racketeering activity.

A central player in another scheme is identified as Danny Solis, who “cooperated in an undercover capacity” with the FBI. Solis served as the city’s zoning committee chair on the timeline identified in the indictment.

According to the indictment, in 2018 Madigan solicited Solis to usher work toward his law firm in exchange for getting Solis a state board appointment at about \$100,000 a year. Madigan said he would arrange for the appointment of Solis to the Illinois Commerce Commission or the Illinois Labor Relations Board and tried to get a state job for Solis’ relative, according to the indictment.

In another scheme detailed in the indictment, Madigan sought an intro-

duction from Solis to a multi-unit apartment developer that was seeking a favorable zoning decision from Solis’ committee. Madigan was allegedly seeking business for his private law firm from the developer identified only as Company C.

Then there was the parking lot in Chicago’s Chinatown neighborhood.

In 2017, a group of real estate developers, identified only as Group A was involved in the development of a large commercial development that would include a hotel in Chinatown. But the group needed a parking lot that was owned by the state.

Madigan agreed to use his position as speaker of the House to assist with the transfer, according to the indictment, in exchange for legal work steered to his private law firm, Madigan & Getzendanner.

When two legislators opposed the transfer, Madigan suggested sending a delegation from Chinatown to visit two state senators to persuade them to remove their opposition.

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- Applications can be found on the Galva Park District Facebook page, Porter Hay Insurance, Galva High School office, and Community State Bank in Galva.

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- **IRRIGATION PIPE:** 3" irrigation pipe with 3' tall nozzle head and fittings, (309) 635-4575.
- **Golden Retriever puppies:** born 12/24/21, AKC registered Dam & Sire. Available 2/19/22. \$1300. View AKC Marketplace 302100, near Wyoming IL 61491. Call/text Stephen (309) 635-2950.
- **2018 Ferris 3000 Zero-turn commercial lawnmower, 61" deck:** 37 hp, big block engine w/ 500-hr oil change intervals. One

owner, excellent condition. 309-525-3110 No texts.

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- **ONE BEDROOM,** one bath apartment for rent in Galva. Sewer, water and trash included, off street parking available, \$550 per month. Call (815) 690-2407.

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**Answers on Page 3**

**Super Crossword** **CONFORMITY**

**ACROSS**  
1 Competitor  
6 Least likely  
14 Spring birds  
20 Adult insect stage  
21 Irish moss or lichen  
22 Insect's egg capsule  
23 Steady job, say  
25 Money, slangily  
26 Egg on  
27 See  
110 Across  
28 One — kind  
30 Italian politician  
31 Walkie locale  
33 Catholic  
35 Steak/lobster combo dish  
39 Leave behind  
41 Aquarium shop supply  
42 Endowing organization  
45 Didn't allow to pass, as a bill  
50 Swimmer Gertrude  
51 — the night before  
54 Novelist — Stanley Gardner

**DOWN**  
55 Past, as a bill  
59 "Lady Love" singer Rawls  
60 Fleasly hate  
62 Jeans brand  
63 Decline lazily  
64 Regulating system  
67 Main run abbr.  
69 Nest egg abbr.  
70 Estevez of "Taxi"  
71 Attractive  
78 Tesla's Musk  
79 Volley starter  
80 Flora and fauna  
81 GPS display  
82 Vogue thing  
83 Uruguay's Punta del — liturgy  
84 Good buds  
85 Campout fuel  
87 Suffer from hunger  
89 Like an attention-grabbing actor  
96 Unrefined petroleum  
99 Eppie who's known as Ann Landers  
100 Home-state candidate  
104 Skilful feat  
106 Clodhopper

**DOWN**  
107 Pitcher Hersheiser  
108 Grassy tract  
109 Deceive  
110 With  
27 Across, makeshift sheds  
112 Theater area  
114 What the starts of seven answers in this puzzle might do?  
121 California beach city  
122 Online merchants  
123 Sharpens truck maker  
124 Appraise  
125 Sign on a dead-end street  
126 Start

**DOWN**  
1 "Clair," in Chinese  
9 Gets bronze  
10 Special attention, for short  
11 Conceit  
12 Singer Cooke  
13 Start a golf hole  
14 Longtime Russian dynasty members  
15 Large games  
16 "Carmen" composer Georges  
17 O-Max pickup truck maker  
18 Appellation  
19 Neck swimmer  
24 Halley of Halley's comet  
29 — Schwarz (boy store)  
31 Clodhopper  
32 — Dhabi  
34 San — (Texas city near Abilene)  
35 Ungodliness  
36 The Trojans of the NCAA  
37 Musical beat  
38 1950s prez  
40 Losing effort?  
41 Add-on charge

**DOWN**  
43 Cal's twin in "East of Eden"  
44 Fill to excess  
46 More itty-bitty  
47 Redenbacher of popcorn  
48 Omission of a syllable  
49 Archbishop Tulu  
52 Affliction  
53 Projectile path  
55 Sips by  
56 Most majestic  
57 Calgary locale  
58 Meest cutter  
59 Large artery  
61 Ho-hum  
62 Hasty escape  
64 2000-15 CBS drama  
65 Prison melee  
66 Laugh hall  
68 HD-to-LA dir.  
72 Rockets' gp.  
73 Actor Gerard  
74 Chucks out  
75 Art Deco artist  
76 Summers, in Sonoma  
77 Dr. Seuss' title turtle  
82 Warty hopper  
84 Very risky  
85 Hit sketch show since '75

**DOWN**  
86 Tattooing tool  
88 Outmoded TV adjunct  
90 Avian sound  
91 A, in Berlin  
92 Classic Chrysler  
93 Heat-attached patches  
94 Prefix with natal  
95 Mutt's threat  
97 Adaptable truck, in brief  
98 Stun with sound  
100 Pro — (perfunctory)  
101 Opera songs  
102 Orso buco meals  
103 "Kukla, Fran and —"  
104 Carpentry peg  
105 — nous  
109 Station-to-be  
111 Iterate  
113 Samantha Bee's station  
115 Southern Sioux  
116 Thai tongue  
117 Lucy of TV's "Elementary"  
118 1940s prez  
119 Really little  
120 July hrs.



The Voice of Stark and eastern Henry Counties



OBITUARIES

Janice K. McCurdy

DONIPHAN, Mo. – Janice K. McCurdy, White, Bowens peacefully passed away surrounded by her son on Feb. 25, 2022, in Doniphan, Mo., formerly of Galva, Ill. She was 82 years old, born June 3, 1939, in Galva.

She owned and operated a TV Shop in Alpha, Ill., for many years.

She also worked at JC Penney in Galesburg, Ill.

Janice was of the Baptist faith. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting, play dominos and spending time with her family and friends. Anyone that knew her, knew that Janice was always there willing to help family and friends anyway she could.

Those left behind to cherish her memories are her two sons, Bill White, Doniphan, Mo., Douglas (Lora) White, Woodhull, Ill., sister Barb (Dennis) Roberts, Geneseo, Ill., brother Roger McCurdy, Galva. Also four grandchildren and six great grandchildren along with many nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her parents Herman and Arlene (Kenney) McCurdy and a brother Willard McCurdy.

Graveside services will be held at the Galva Cemetery on April 9, 2022, at 11 a.m. with a Celebration of Life at the Galva First Baptist Church to follow.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the family.

Gordon J. Collinson

GALVA – Gordon J. Collinson, 89, of Galva, formerly of Champaign and Delavan, died at 2:10 p.m., Saturday, March 5, 2022 at Courtyard Estates in Galva.

Cremation will be accorded and a memorial visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, March 19, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva. Private inurnment will follow at Galva Cemetery.

He was born March 24, 1932, in Galva, the son of Joseph I. and Doris A. (Smith) Collinson. He married Marie G. Anderson on Sept. 7, 1950,

and she preceded him in death on Sept. 20, 1984. He later married Joan Countryman on May 11, 1985.

Survivors include: his wife of Galva; his children, Cathy (Rick) Colbert of Mansfield, Doug Collinson of Couer d’Alene, Idaho, James (Bonnie) Headley of Galva, Carlin (Robert) Follis of Galva, Cherrie (Richard) Rosander of Cambridge, Jeff (Brenda) Puckett of Vinita, Okla., and Brian Headley of Galva; a brother, Leo (Virginia) Collinson of Galva; 15 grandchildren; and 23 great grandchildren.

He was also preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Harold Dean and Lyle, a sister, Leotta and two sons, Greg Collinson and John Headley.

David B. Cox

WILLIAMSFIELD – David. B. Cox, 43, of Chicago, passed away Sunday, Dec. 26, 2021.

David was born March 20, 1978, in Peoria, a son of Tonette and Grant Cox.

He attended school in Chillicothe and Williamsfield.

Surviving are his brothers, Bruce, Brian and Phillip Cox. Also surviving is one sister, Nicole Brockett.

A memorial will be 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 19, 2022, at the American Legion Hall in Williamsfield, 222 Illinois Route 180.

Randi L. Hepner

GALVA – Randi Lynn Hepner, 63, of Galva, died at 4:30 a.m., Thursday, March 3, 2022 at the Kewanee Care Home.

Cremation will be accorded and private inurnment will be held at Galva Cemetery at a later date. Memorials may be directed to the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church. Rux Funeral Home in Galva is in charge of arrangements.

She was born Oct. 2, 1958 in Rock Island, the daughter of Merle and Alice (Lake) Hepner. Survivors include her son, Jessie Stone of Galva, her adopted daughter, Jessica Palmer of Bloomington, a brother, Rod Hepner of Galva, a sister, Linda Kennedy of Fulton, and her grandson, Nash Stone of Bloomington.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Dennis and a

sister, Brenda.

Randi graduated from Galva High School in 1976. She was of the Methodist faith and had attended the Bishop Hill Community United Methodist Church.

Anita L. Wight

WILLIAMSFIELD – Anita L. (Stodgel) Wight, 97, of Williamsfield, passed away on Monday, March 7, 2022 at Courtyard Estates in Knoxville.

Anita was born Dec. 5, 1924, in Williamsfield, the daughter of Vergil and Vera (Spencer) Stodgel. She graduated from Williamsfield High School in 1942 and met the love of her life, Gordon L. Wight, who was in the Army and stationed at Camp Ellis near Western Illinois University where she graduated in 1946. They married on July 18, 1946, and he preceded her in death on Sept. 28, 2012. Also preceding her in death were her parents.

Survivors include her three children: Leland (Connie) Wight of Williamsfield, Dennis (Denise) Wight of San Diego, Calif., and Marianne (Gary) Hess of Galesburg, and ex-daughter-in-law Tina Wight of Chicago.


She is also survived by her grandchildren: Alan (Kathy) Wight, Darren (Kristin) Wight, Nathan (Monica) Wight, Alex (fiancée Juanita Aleo) Wight, Amanda Wight, Brionna Wight, Shea Wight, Rhianna (fiancé Patrick Lewis) Schroeder, and David (Amy) Hess and 14 great-grandchildren.

Anita taught English and was a librarian at the Williamsfield Schools for 14 years.

She also was a business manager and owner at Stodgel Chevrolet Sales which later became known as Wight Chevrolet. Anita was a loyal member of the Williamsfield United Methodist Church. She was also a member of the Spoon River NSDAR and the Williamsfield American Legion Auxiliary.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 27, at the Williamsfield United Methodist Church with Rev. Teri Shane officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the church. Burial will follow at Williamsfield Cemetery.

Rux Funeral Home in Williamsfield is in charge of arrangements.



# CHURCH DIRECTORY

## Toulon United Methodist Church

Rev. Leon D. Pomeroy  
229 W. Main St., PO Box 538, Toulon, IL 61483  
(812) 698-9294  
Sunday School: 9:15 a.m., All Ages.  
Sunday. Worship: 10:30 am  
Check us out on Facebook @  
Toulon United Methodist Church

## Elmira United Presbyterian Church

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

## The Gathering Church

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

## 1st Congregational Church of Toulon

Pastor Dan Wright, Youth Leader Michelle West  
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon  
(309) 286-4901, Leave Message.  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m. in-person or  
watch us live at <https://facebook.com/fcctoulon>

## Galva Congregational Church

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

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## Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491  
309-695-4523 leave message  
Sunday School: 10:00, All ages  
Sunday Worship: 11:00  
Wednesday Night TBD  
Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

## First Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor Ross Wyman  
204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491  
(309) 695-4091  
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.  
Check us out on Facebook  
First Congregational UCC of Wyoming, Illinois

## Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon  
(309) 286-4611  
Sunday School 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m.  
Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.  
Wednesday Kid's Club 5:30-7 p.m.  
Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.  
Email: [pastor@toulonbaptist.com](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)  
[www.ToulonBaptist.com](http://www.ToulonBaptist.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon](https://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon)  
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## Hill Church


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107 N. Main St., Kewanee (between Good's and Florist)  
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[HillChurchFamily.org](https://HillChurchFamily.org)  
[Facebook.com/hillchurchfamily.org](https://Facebook.com/hillchurchfamily.org)  
Pastor: Dr. David W. Pendergrass

## St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Rev. Linda Strader  
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— NOTICE —

## SARATOGA TOWNSHIP ROAD DISTRICT LOAD LIMIT POSTING

Saratoga Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code "625 ILCS 5/15-316" will impose weight limitations on all Saratoga Township Roads effective for 90 days (Feb. 25, 2022 thru May 25, 2022), due to the deterioration caused by winter freezing and spring thawing cycles.

Therefore, no vehicle shall be operated upon Saratoga Township Roads having a gross vehicle weight greater than 10 tons (20,000 pounds) Feb. 25, 2020 thru May 25, 2022.

Any questions contact Saratoga Supervisor at (309) 361-4321 or Highway Commissioner at (309) 690-8106.

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The Voice of Stark and eastern Henry Counties



# SNAKES: Each species has different habits

*Continued from Page 12*  
grating species further. The actual number of animals protected by this action is unknown. However, far fewer reptiles and amphibians are found dead on the road.

Closure dates usually are March 15 to May 15 and Sept. 1 to Oct. 30. However, weather and herptile movement can result in earlier or more prolonged closures.

Small parking areas are located at the north and south ends of the closed road. The walk down the gravel road is relatively easy to traverse, with only a few rises. Some of the best days for viewing and photographing the creatures of Snake Road are in mid-April. Longer, warmer, sunny days trigger the herps to leave the bluffs and head to the swamp.

A few tips to increase your chances of finding more specimens:

- Find water, and you will find herps.
- Learn how to tell if a log is freshly fallen or if it has been there for a while. They are less likely to be under freshly fallen logs.
- If you can't lift a rock because it is buried in the soil, neither can they!
- The herps are leaving their winter hibernation quarters and are not only hungry but looking for love in many cases. Consider likely spots for dens and overwintering.
- Look for a natural path from those spots to the water and swampy areas. Does it feel too hot to hike that long? It is probably too hot for them also.
- Follow weather patterns and look for days when temperatures top in the high 70s to low 80s. Also, look for areas that get the most sun during the warming parts of the day, usually southern exposures.



*Pictured is the western cottonmouth. Photo by Gretchen Steele.*

The best way to enjoy the road is to observe your surroundings. Most people don't realize that many snakes on the road are commonly less than a foot long and can hide in plain sight. Each species has different habits.

One of the most common finds is the Western Cottonmouth (*Agkistrodon piscivorus leucostoma*). They are commonly seen basking on the road near the waterways and bluffs. Keep a safe distance, and do not worry. They do not want to "attack" you. They just want sunshine.

Other common finds will be green frogs, southern leopard frogs, midland brown snakes, ring-necked snakes, and plain-bellied water-snakes. If you develop a keen eye, you will notice hundreds of tiny cricket frogs jumping out of your path wherever you see water.

Pine Hills has approximately 54 species of reptiles and amphibians that can be observed throughout the year. A good field guide can be a great help to the casual hiker. I suggest the "Petersons Field Guide to the Reptiles and Amphibians of the Eastern US."

When visiting Snake Road, it is essential to remember a few safety rules. Dress appropriately in long pants, long sleeves, heavy, sturdy boots. Use plenty of sunscreen and

insect repellent. Not only are there venomous snakes to worry about, but there are also biting insects, ticks, and irritating plants like poison ivy and stinging nettle.

Have an emergency plan, which includes the phone number for the Jonesboro Ranger Station. Tell a friend where you are going and how long you anticipate being there. Cell phone service can be spotty, and the closest public phone is located in Grand Tower. Since it is a total of five miles from one end of the road and then to return to your vehicle, take plenty water and a snack or two.

Most importantly – maintain your distance from venomous snakes. Maintain a distance of two times the snake's body length between you and the snake at all times.

Do not pick up, handle, touch or harass any snakes, but especially those that are venomous.

Remember the rules for the area, perhaps the most critical being: Collection or removal of any snake species is strictly prohibited. This includes gathering, herding, harassing, or having in possession.

To Access Snake Road: From Jonesboro: Take Highway 146 west 8 miles to Highway 3; then north 8 miles on Highway 3 to Muddy Levee Road. Then east 3 miles to LaRue Rd., at the "T" turn right into Winters Pond parking lot. From Murphysboro: Take Highway 149 west 7 miles to Highway 3; then south 14 miles on Highway 3 to Muddy Levee Road. Then east 3 miles to LaRue Rd., at the "T" turn right into Winters Pond parking lot.

For additional information contact: Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District, 521 North Main Street, Jonesboro, IL. 62952. Or call (618) 833-8576.



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### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FOR ANSWERS  
SEE PAGE 12

## 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.

UYTKSYK TU CMK RKUC TBKP  
MDLPSU MPFK KFKZ MPB. CMK  
LJZK OKJOKX IMJ KLRZPYK  
CMPC TBKP, CMK RKCKKZ.  
— RTXX SEK

## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: In which U.S. state is the Devils Tower monument located?
2. LEGAL: Which U.S. Supreme Court justice served for the longest period of time?
3. TELEVISION: Which biker drama is set in the town of Charming, California?
4. WEATHER: What kind of natural disaster is caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption?
5. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president founded the University of Virginia?
6. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a young hare called?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which two elements on the Periodic Table are liquid at room temperature?
8. LITERATURE: Which 20th-century novel features the characters Leopold and Molly Bloom?
9. ASTRONOMY: What planet in our solar system is the farthest from the sun?
10. MOVIES: Which movie portrays the beginnings of Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg?

**Answers**

1. Wyoming
2. William O. Douglas (36 years)
3. "Sons of Anarchy"
4. Tsunami
5. Thomas Jefferson
6. A leveret
7. Bromine and Mercury
8. "Ulysses" (James Joyce)
9. Neptune
10. "The Social Network"

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## TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Uncharted (PG-13)
2. Dog (PG-13)
3. Spider-Man: No Way Home (PG-13)
4. Death on the Nile (PG-13)
5. Jackass Forever (R)
6. Sing 2 (PG)
7. Marry Me (PG-13)
8. Studio 666 (R)
9. Cyrano (PG-13)
10. Scream (R)

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# Southern Illinois' Snake Road

## Road in Shawnee is mythical, magical ppring outdoor destination

**By GRETCHEN STEELE**  
For The Prairie News

Southern Illinois and the Shawnee National Forest are well known to many who enjoy the outdoors. From hiking to hunting, fishing to photography to foraging for the elusive morels, folks flock to southern Illinois in the spring and early summer for the many great outdoor activities offered in the southwest region of Shawnee National Forest.

But did you know that the Shawnee National Forest is also home to a herpetological world-class destination?

Due to unseasonably warm weather and increased reptile/amphibian activity at the site, Snake Road (FS Road #345) closed early on Friday, March 4. It will remain closed to vehicular traffic until May 15, 2022. Though the road is closed to vehicles, it is open to people traveling on foot.

Special regulations apply to the area. LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond is a federally designated Research Natural Area. Unauthorized collecting and handling of any species is prohibited under federal and state law.

Visitors must read and heed all site regulations upon entering.

Snake Road – known to locals and herpetology enthusiasts – is a 2.5-mile stretch of La Rue Road. Most consider Snake Road the most famous portion of the LaRue-Pine Hills/Otter Pond Research Natural Area (RNA).



Wildlife enthusiasts photograph a specimen at Shawnee National Forest's Snake Road. Photo by Gretchen Steele.

This short stretch of gravel road fame is due to the biannual “Snake Migration” across the LaRue Road at the base of the bluffs, adjacent to LaRue Swamp. The road is closed to vehicular traffic every spring and fall to help protect thousands of reptiles and amphibians during their migration between their summer and winter habitats.

About 66 percent of the amphibians and 59 percent of the reptiles known to occur in Illinois are found here (approximately 35 species of snakes).

Herpers, photographers, researchers and wildlife enthusiasts from across the country descend on Snake Road each year. Snake Road offers the chance to view and photograph some of the more rare and unusual reptiles and amphibians that call LaRue Pine Hills home.

If snakes, salamanders, frogs,

toads, turtles, and all other varieties of reptiles interest you, you must visit Snake Road. The yearly migration involves the hibernation of the animals during the winter months in the bluffs. These animals then move to their feeding grounds in the swamp during the summer months.

Herpetologists say ground temperature is the main factor in triggering seasonal migration. This road was open to traffic year-round before 1972. Vehicular traffic resulted in the death of many animals that were crossing the road.

Consequently, the Forest Service decided to close a 2.5-mile segment of the road during the seasonal migration to protect the reptiles and amphibians. The road is now being closed for two months in the spring and fall to protect early or late mi-

Continued on Page 11

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