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Friday
March 17, 2023
Vol. 20, No. 6

The Prairie News

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Stark Co. treasurer warns of pending ARPA fund shortages

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Stark County treasurer Paula Leezer had grim news for the Stark County Board when she gave a finance report Tuesday night.

Leezer said salaries paid out of funds from the American Rescue Plan Act for two sheriff's dispatchers exceeded what was budgeted. Leezer said that is due to overtime paid to the dispatchers.

ARPA funds received equal

Inside
• Bradford's Chelsey Stotler wins FFA award. **Page 7**
• Gov. Pritzker touts plans for higher education. **Page 8**

\$1,037,062 and the county has spent approximately \$400,000 of that to date. That leaves around \$554,000 available in ARPA funds not designated to other projects.

ARPA funds for the two dispatchers "will run out this year," Leezer stated. This is due to

overtime and secondly, the projected amounts for the two dispatchers were not initially known.

"The overtime was not thought about," Leezer said. "\$302,000 was appropriated for ARPA to pay for the two dispatchers. To date, we have spent – allocated \$245,000, so we will not make it to the end of this year."

The board could appropriate more funding, but board chair Kari Bush said, "We need to have a conversation with the

sheriff (Steven Sloan) before we do that."

The sheriff was absent from the board meeting.

Funding was supposed to have lasted until 2025.

"We need to either have a police committee meeting where Mr. (Bill) Loane and Mr. (Jamie) Schaffer have a discussion with the sheriff to talk about that – or, vice-chair (Robin) Nowlan and I can sit with the sheriff to talk about that, as well," Bush said.

"We need to come to a solution

to the issue."

County Engineer Judd Giffin gave his report to the board and highlighted that the highway department has purchased a new John Deere grader for \$432,772 with a \$40,200 trade-in value deducted from that cost. Giffin sought and received board approval for this purchase. Delivery of the new grader is expected by this September.

Giffin continues to work with the Illinois Department of Trans-
Continued on Page 2

FREE BREAKFAST

FFA members gather at Black Hawk

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

GALVA – FFA chapters around the area gathered at Black Hawk College's game room on March 10 for an annual FFA Breakfast.

Chapters from Stark County, Galva, Wethersfield and Kewanee attended the annual event hosted by The State Bank of Toulon.

Keynote speaker was Kate Colgan of Laura, who was elected last June as FFA State Treasurer, in Springfield. Colgan is a 2022 graduate of Princeville High School.

Other officers are President Rachel Hood, of Industry, Vice President Derek Sample, of Sessere, Reporter Levi Maierhofer, of Seneca, and Secretary Haley Bode, of Waterloo.



Stark County FFA members fill their plates with breakfast entrees last Friday at the State Bank of Toulon's FFA Breakfast event. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

Colgan discussed the past year's events in review, such as the Illinois State Fair, attending the FFA Congress, meeting with the Illinois Corn Board and a trip to Washington, D.C. Also, she and other FFA members attended the National FFA Convention.

Plans for this year's state convention, scheduled for June 13-15,

were begun last December and the annual event will be held in Springfield.

Colgan left the audience with this advice: "The most important thing is taking the opportunity and succeeding; The Blue Jacket gives FFA members the opportunity to grow. Growth is where success is found."

Stark Co. schools ask Toulon for more lights

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Stark County School District Superintendent Brett Elliott has requested that Toulon install additional lighting at the Toulon school buildings, which are located on Franklin and Prairie Streets.

At Toulon's city council meeting Monday, Mayor Larry Hollis told the council about the request.

"This was brought to my attention by Brett Elliott that there's a lack of streetlights on Franklin and Prairie Streets," Hollis said "There's a light at each end of the blocks, but there's no lights in between."

Hollis said the city will contact Ameren to schedule installation of a light in front of the high school building on Franklin Street

and also a light in front of the junior high school building on Prairie Street. The council approved adding lighting at the schools.

The council also approved spending up to \$2,700 to repair the end caps of the reverse osmosis vessels at the east end of the water plant that are leaking water. The costs to replace the seals are \$839 for parts and approximately \$1,800 for a technician to perform the repairs, plus travel time.

The council also approved a \$5 per hour raise for city employee Matt Forstrom from \$20 to \$25 per hour, which matches the \$25 per hour wage of city employee Jake Streitmatter.

Part-time summer jobs will be advertised in The
Continued on Page 2



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Troop 150 of Toulon and Pack 142 of Wyoming will be conducting their annual **Scouting for Food** in Toulon **Saturday, March 18th** from 9 a.m. until noon

Non-perishable foods, paper products, etc. will be collected for the Stark County Food Pantry. Please leave non-perishable items in a bag outside of your door by 9 a.m. on that day.

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TOULON: Culvert damage to be addressed

Continued from Page 1
Prairie News for two weeks. The city is seeking two people this year.

Approved was the purchase of gravel for a sewer line to be installed for Dollar General at the Union and Main Streets junction. The cost for 130 tons of rock at \$31 per ton equals \$4,030.

During public comment, Mark Swank, who lives at 211 E. Turner Ave., addressed the council about a sewer line problem located at his and several other residences along Turner Avenue. Swank said sewage is backing up into the residences due to damaged and collapsed sewer lines.

A possible problem is that a particular sewer line was installed decades ago under a garage and excavating isn't possible now. Hollis suggested that it would take time for the city to study the problem and come up with a solution.

Jake Streitmatter was approved to attend a five-day waste-water class and be certified by passing a test. The dates to attend will be scheduled, as well as travel accommodations.

Bids were opened for a small parcel of land on Jefferson Street with Sandy and Al Muggleton winning the parcel with a \$1,000 bid that the council approved. Also, a winning

bid of \$3,000 from Matt Forstrom was approved by the council to trim brush at the sewer facility and at the city cemetery.

The culvert on Jefferson Street between Union and Olive Streets is damaged and is scheduled for replacement in April according to past month's meeting's discussions. The box-type culvert is adjacent to a sewer line, which makes replacement difficult. According to Farnsworth Group's Zack Knight, the city engineer, there is a lot of material squeezed into one spot making it tricky to work on.

COUNTY BOARD: Agreement with New Windsor

Continued from Page 1
portation concerning Motor Fuel Tax documentation dealing with the purchase of gravel and sealcoating material to re-surface county highways.

The board signed an intergovernmental agreement with the City of New

Windsor to provide them with core sampling. Stark Highway Department personnel will perform the work and New Windsor will pay for its services.

Bids were received for the North Valley Road Bridge project and Stark Excavating, Inc. was the

low bidder at \$1,938,062, which was higher than estimated.

Tami Rouse, of Career Link, gave a presentation to the Stark County board concerning the employment and schooling program for Stark and Marshall Counties. Career Link can provide up to two years of schooling for motivated individuals who are just beginning to enter the career field, or considering changing occupations.

Under new business, a special-use permit was approved for a new solar facility to be located northeast of State Highway 17 and 450E road.

The landowner is Jane Orwig and the applicant is SVCSG Toulon Solar 1, LLC. The project size is 39 acres "inside the fence for each project."

SunVest Solar, LLC representative Bill French said the project would commence in 2025, produce \$40,000 in revenue per year, and have a service life of 25 years, at which time the developer claims all evidence of the solar facility would be removed from the land and the property restored to its agricultural state.

Passed by the board was: a resolution to appoint the Peoria Area Convention and Visitors' Bureau as sole representative for Stark County; a resolution for DOAP [downstate operating assistance program] to provide public transportation between Stark and Marshall Counties; an ordinance to provide for public transportation in Stark County; and a resolution in support of agriculture in Stark County via the Farm Bureau.



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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

3-8 - Todd C. Schafer, Speeding 35+ mph over the limit.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

3-6 - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on 1500E just east of the intersection of 1425N. The driver involved was Sharon Shaner, 66, of Bradford. No injuries were reported but the vehicle sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

3-9 - A domestic problem was reported and handled in the 100 block of W. Main St. in Toulon.

3-10 - Melody A. Kent, 28, Galva, turned herself into the Stark County Sheriff's Office on an outstanding McDonough County warrant for failure to appear on a payment review for possession of a controlled substance. She posted \$500 cash bond and was released with a new court date to appear.

3-10 - Anthony D. Thomas Jr., 28, Toulon, was arrested and charged with two counts of endangering the life of a child, resisting and obstructing a peace officer, illegal transportation of adult use cannabis and for smoking cannabis in a vehicle with a minor present. He posted \$250 cash bond and was released with a court date to appear.

3-10 - Mina Granado, 28, Toulon, was arrested and charged with two counts of endangering the life of a child, driving a vehicle without a valid registration, speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone, failure to transfer a vehicle title, aggravated fleeing to elude authorities, improper lane usage, reckless driving, speeding 115 mph in a 55 zone, improper overtaking, improper starting of a parked vehicle and driving without a driver's license on person. She was taken into custody and transported to the Stark County Jail. On March 12, she posted \$250 cash bond and was released with a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

3-6 - to the 100 block of NE 1st St. for a civil standby to retrieve property.

3-6 - to the 600 block of SE 2nd St. in reference to a forgery complaint. This crime occurred in Bureau County. It was referred to them for follow up prosecution.

3-6 - Officer realized a train had stopped that blocked all Galva crossings except SW 6th Ave. Officer directed numerous vehicles and semi-trucks to the open crossing. The train eventually moved along.

3-6 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd St. for a complaint involving a possible phone scam.

3-6 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. to help a resident locate a dog that ran away. The dog was ultimately struck and killed by a train.

3-7 - to the 200 block of SE 2nd St. for a report of heavy black smoke in the area. It was deter-



mined to be the steam from the ethanol plant.

3-7 - to the 800 block of W. Division St. to recover a bicycle that had been left there.

3-7 - to the 100 block of SE 8th Ave. for a report involving a social security scam.

3-7 - to the 1000 block of Courtyard Estates to recover a debit card that had been turned in there.

3-7 - to the 100 block of N. Center Ave. for a 9-1-1 open line call. Officer checked the area but was not able to locate anyone needing assistance.

3-8 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a complaint involving a mental-health crisis.

3-8 - to the 00 block of Wallace St. for to assist a citizen who was having phone problems.

3-8 - to the 300 block of Front St. for a loud-music complaint.

3-8 - again to the 300 block of Front St. for a loud-music complaint.

3-9 - to a residence on NW 8th St. for a welfare check. The subject was fine and having phone problems.

3-9 - to speak to residents in the 400 block of SE 7th Ave. about basketball hoops near the roadway.

3-9 - to assist Henry County serve an eviction notice at the Lincoln House.

3-9 - to the 500 block of NW 4th Ave for a theft report.

3-9 - to a residence on NE 4th Street in reference to a suicidal subject needing transported by ambulance for a mental evaluation.

3-9 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for an attempted-burglary complaint.

3-9 - to the 100 block of NW 2nd St. for a possible-prowler complaint.

3-10 - to the 400 block of SE 7th Ave. for a suspicious-person complaint. The subject appeared to be having a mental-health crisis.

3-10 - to the 600 block of SE Industrial Ave for an activated burglar alarm. It was determined to be a false alarm.

3-10 - along with Stark County Medic and several area fire departments, to the 1300 block of SE 2nd St. for a structure fire.

3-10 - to the 200 block of NW 2nd St. in reference to a vehicle that was stuck in a yard and another vehicle was trying to pull it free. The vehicles were both removed.

3-11 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. to try to locate a wanted sub-

ject. As the result, Brayland Bushong, 18, Galva, was arrested on a Stark County warrant for failing to appear on charges of aggravated battery. He was also found to be in possession of a controlled substance at the time of his arrest. He was given a notice to appear in court for the new charges and was turned over to Stark County for his warrant.

3-11 - to assist Henry County with a complaint involving an unresponsive subject several miles east of Galva. The subject was found to be deceased.

3-11 - to the 600 block of N. Center Ave. for a complaint of a subject walking around with a rifle during the snowstorm. Officer found the subject, who actually had a broom for snow removal.

3-12 - to a residence on NE 2nd St. for an out-of-control juvenile complaint.

3-12 - to the 100 block of Main St. in reference to a verbal domestic dispute.

3-12 - to assist Henry Co with a welfare check at a residence NW of town. The subject was fine.

3-12 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a complaint involving neglected dogs. The complaint was unfounded.

3-8 - Richard Austin 58, Wataga, was issued a citation for having expired registration in the 400 block of S. Center Ave.

3-12 - Shannon Hunt, 43, Monmouth, was issued citations for improper display of registration and improper use of registration in the 100 block of Exchange St.

3-12 - Rebecca Ripka, 66, Galva, was issued a citation for speeding in the 500 block of S. Center Ave.

3-12 - Charles Doty, 36, Kewanee, was issued a citation for having no insurance in the 1200 block of SE 2nd St.

3-12 - Rita Williams, 60, Donnellson, Iowa, was issued a citation for speeding in the 1200 block of SE 2nd St.

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The Village of LaFayette is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the village park. Term will be for the 2023 season and should specify cost per time. Contractor must provide proof of insurance with written bid, and supply their own equipment.

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Any questions feel free to contact Chris Smith at (309) 509-2522.

NOTICE TO STARK COUNTY VOTERS

Early voting for the April 4th Consolidated Election will begin February 23rd and end April 3rd at the office of the Stark County Clerk
130 W. Main, Toulon.
Voting hours are Monday-Friday
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We will also be open Saturday, April 1st from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. for early voting.

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| ORATE | MELINAMER | COURI | |
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CryptoQuote
answer

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Rambling through central Illinois, happy to report the bluebells are starting to poke through the leaf litter and promise to put on a fantastic show later this spring.

• • •

Callers have been wondering if we will have stories about political races before the April 4 election. Yes! Watch for stories on the three-person Galva mayoral election and on the contested race for the Bradford Village Board. ... Speaking of Bradford, we will have a story in the latest village board meeting in our March 24 issue. ... Last year



Jeff LAMPE

was a good one for Stark County farmers, who led Illinois in corn yield this year with a county-wide average of 240 bushels per acre, followed by Woodford and Ogle counties. That's according to USDA figures. McLean County had the largest corn crop, with nearly 71 million bushels produced, according to the USDA. Overall Illinois had the top five corn-producing counties in the country but ranked second to Iowa in total corn production. McLean County also led the nation in soybean production. Worth noting is that McLean is the largest county in Illinois and is actually larger than the state of Rhode Island.

• • •

Once upon a time, I had a nice leather recliner. OK, it was pleather, but real high-quality pleather. For a few weeks I loved that chair. Then our cat decided she loved it too. Before long, the pleather was decorated with long white streaks where the cat's claws had proved her love for the arms of the chair. I mention this after reading a story about veterinarians who support Illinois House Bill 1533, a state law that would ban the declawing of cats. These vets are going against guidance of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association, which encourages its members to oppose HB 1533. Vets against declawing say it "often increases biting and house soiling," proven reasons for cats to be put up for adoption, or worse. Hmmm. Seems that was the exact choice presented to the family when our Rosie got cat-scratch fever. No claws, or she goes. An inside cat, Rosie now has no front claws. Even though she still scratches away every day, the furniture is safe and – while she is still a weird little animal – there's no more talk of Rosie leaving.

• • •

Anyone who saw Elmwood take a 45-15 drubbing at the hands of Illini Bluffs (32-5) in the boys basketball sectional had to be impressed by IB. Some even pondered whether IB had what it takes to win it all in Class 1A. Seems the Tigers did, if not for a last-second 3-pointer that handed IB a 45-44 loss to Waterloo Gibault in the supersectional. Gibault beat Scales Mound for the Class 1A state title

over the weekend, 65-45, and also won easily in the semifinals against Bloomington's Cornerstone Christian Academy, 70-46. The only consolation for IB is that nearly the entire roster returns next year, including 6-foot-9 Hank Alvey. That's not such good news for the rest of the ICAC, though. ... Unfortunately, I missed the Metamora title game, but saw plenty of the lopsided and fairly uninspiring 1A and 2A tournaments. No question about it: small-school basketball was down statewide this season.

• • •

Ready for some not-surprising-but-still-depressing news? MoneyGeek rates Illinois as the least tax-friendly state in the country. According to MoneyGeek's analysis, families in Illinois pay an average of \$14,778 per year in taxes, or nearly 17 percent of their household income. Compare that to the most tax-friendly state of Wyoming, where residents pay about \$3,438 per year in taxes. And then tell me, "Why do I still live here?" Ah yes, it's so the state can tell me I can't have my cat declawed. ... Parting shot: Driving north Tuesday afternoon, we saw numerous tell-tale plumes. Burning season is here in force, which is often a fun time for everyone – except for the firefighters who must deal with landowners letting things get out of control.

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

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The Stark County Board is soliciting candidates for the position of Fire Protection District Trustee for all four Stark County Fire Departments. There is one opening in each of the four fire protection districts (Bradford, Lafayette, Toulon & Wyoming).

The appointment will be for a term of 3 years to begin May 2023 and conclude May 2026. The trustee candidate must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of the fire protection district. Candidates must not have a felony conviction under the laws of the State of Illinois or comparable laws of any other states or the United States or is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness to a fire protection district.

Applications are available on the county website at www.starkco.illinois.gov or at the Office of the County Clerk 130 W. Main, Toulon. Completed applications are due in the Office of the County Clerk by Monday April 3rd.

Moody's gives Illinois another credit upgrade

By **PETER HANCOCK**

Capitol News Illinois
SPRINGFIELD – Moody's Investors Service announced it has upgraded Illinois' bond rating to A3, up from Baa1, marking the eighth credit upgrade the state has received in less than two years.

Moody's is now the second major rating agency to put Illinois in the 'A' category following S&P's decision on Feb. 23 to upgrade the state to A- on its scale.

In its announcement, Moody's cited the state's "improving governance" as a key factor in its decision. Moody's is one of many firms that now assesses companies and governments on an "environmental, social and governance," or ESG, framework.

The rating agency said it had updated the state's "issuer profile score" in the governance category to 2 from 3.

"Like other states, Illinois enjoyed solid tax

revenue growth over the past couple years, expanding its capacity to build financial reserves and increase payments towards outstanding liabilities," Moody's said in its announcement. "The state is on track to close fiscal 2023, which ends June 30, with further growth in reserves that are already

at their strongest level in over a decade."

Illinois' "rainy day" fund is slated to reach its highest-ever balance of more than \$1.9 billion by the end of the fiscal year.

The new rating applies to the state's general obligation, or GO, bonds and its Build Illinois sales tax bonds.

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Please apply in person at the Elmwood Office.
For questions call 1-309-742-2711 office or Clay's Cell 1-217-652-2021.

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ONEIDA, IL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

The following property will be sold on location at 132 W Dayton St. Oneida, IL 61467, on **SATURDAY MARCH 25, 2023 AT 11 A.M. (R.E. SELLS FIRST)**

REAL ESTATE: This older 2 story 960 sq. ft. home sits on a large 3,133 acre lot. The house consists of a full eat in kitchen, dining room, full bath with laundry area, one bedroom and living room on the lower level with 2 more bedrooms located upstairs. The basement is full. Front and back porches attach to the house. Although the house is in need of updating and a new furnace, there is much potential to turn this into a nice family home or rental property. The roof is in good shape. There is also an unattached garage and small storage shed located on this property. An OPEN HOUSE will be held on Tuesday March 7 th from 4:30-5:30 p.m. Terms are a non-refundable 10% down the day of auction with the balance to be pd. in full in approx. 30 days. This is an as is auction. Watch for a list of personal property soon.

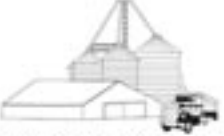
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RYAN COCQUIT - 309-945-2795
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Conference to focus on local mental health

For The Prairie News

Anyone interested in addressing the mental health challenge on a local level is invited to the 2023 Mental Health Conference "Protecting Hope," on May 24, at Black Hawk College, East Campus, from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

The conference will feature Jessica Schultz, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology at Augustana College. Dr. Schultz's presentation will share insights and tools from positive psychology to cultivate hope while advocating for mental health and wellness.

The conference is open to all who have an interest in local mental health issues.

Break out sessions are scheduled throughout the day. topics include:

- Sometimes It's Not Too Good To Be True
- Tick Borne Diseases Schizophrenia and Bipolar Disorder
- Sexual Violence and Mental Health
- Family Farm Resource Initiative

- Mental Health First Aid
- Making Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resources Accessible for All
- Adverse Childhood Experiences

- Diet Culture
- Illinois Helpline
- Self-Discovery
- The Future of Behavioral Health
- Alzheimer's Disease
- Burn Out
- Neurofeedback
- Law Enforcement and Mental Health

Participants will also have the opportunity to attend a wellness fair to learn about mental health services in our community.

"Self-care" demonstrations will take place throughout the day.

General registration is \$85. A continental breakfast and box lunch are included. To register visit whova.com/portal/registration/menta_202305/ For assistance call (309)308-4109 or contact Beth.A.Looney@osfhealthcare.org. Seating is limited so please register early.

Property Owners ALERT! Protect Your Topsoil and Tiling

Say NO to Carbon Dioxide Pipelines

- CO2 pipelines will be 5 ft. down risking mix of topsoil with lower soils.
- Will tile restoration have positive drainage or sink due to improper fill?
- Lower soils are often so compacted they do not recover.
- CO2 line construction can leave open ditches for weeks until testing is done.

Neighbors Supporting Neighbors

noillinoisco2pipelines.org

Watch the 8 minute YouTube video with Steve Hess "Farmer to Farmer - Concerns about CO2 Pipeline Construction on Midwest Farmland" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBqBf-7BRP4>

For more information Contact the Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines <https://noillinoisco2pipelines.org>

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BRIEFS

Stotler winner of FFA proficiency competition

BRADFORD – Chelsey Stotler was selected as the District FFA Proficiency Winner in Agriscience Research Integrated Food Systems.

Chelsey Stotler is a member of the Stark County FFA Chapter of the Illinois Association FFA.

Stotler was selected as the District 1 Winner by a committee of agriculture industry representatives and teachers knowledgeable in this work-based area. She is the daughter of Jim and Jodi Stotler from Bradford.

Receiving this honor now makes Chelsey eligible to compete in the State FFA Awards Selection process in Decatur on March 25. Chelsey was previously chosen as the chapter and section awardee of this area.



Stotler

Appell Equipment damaged in shop fire

GALVA – Four fire departments were called to Appell Equipment on U.S. Route 34 on the east edge of Galva Friday at 7:59 am. to fight flames showing in the shop area.

Galva, Bishop Hill, Toulon and Clover fire departments answered the call and found a semi-truck on fire in the shop area. Galva's Fire Chief Nathan Byers said that firefighters were on the scene until 10:40 a.m.

Chief Byers said there was damage to the semi, part of the structure and some contents.

An employee of the Office of Emergency Management was going to work at their facility just south of Kewanee and stopped. He checked the area for fuel and found none, Byers said.

Stark County Ambulance had two ambulances on site during the fire.

– Carol Townsend

Galva drama club to present Potter play

GALVA – The Galva High School Drama Club will present “Puffs: or Seven Increasingly Eventful Years at a Certain School of Magic and Magic” on Friday, March 17 and Saturday, March 18, at Galva High School. Tickets are at \$8 at the door.

Familiarity with Harry Potter books and movies is not required to enjoy.

Puffs cast includes Carolyn Raley, Sarah Burris, Allison Nordstrom, Lexi Stone, Sarah Kocan, Sarah Kaiser, Alexis Spivey, Katie Clemons, Loreyn Robinson, Addie Moore, Maddie Bates, Emma Farmer, Katie Jones, Makayla Craig, Rynne Hutchinson, Randal Eagles, Angie McArthur and Kurtis Smyth. Jillian Rodseth is director, Beth Horton is assistant director and Ava Gunn is property manager;

The play is written by Mathew Cox. Music is by Brian Metolius.

Stark County Athletic Program
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL SIGN-UP
 Saturday, March 25, 9 - 11 a.m. - State Bank of Toulon
 Saturday, April 1, 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 – \$50 (1 player), \$75 (2 players), \$90 (3 players)
 Number of teams determined by numbers signed up in each age group.

QUESTIONS? Please contact Phil Daum at 309-525-2000 or Trisha Berchtold at 309-361-0259 or Janelle Down at 309-238-6115

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LEGAL ADS

•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 STATE BANK OF TOULON, Plaintiff,
 N CHANCERY v.

Case No. 2023FC13
 DEBRA SUE JOHNSON;
 UNKNOWN OWNERS;
 AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned mortgage foreclosure action was filed on March 9, 2023, and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs, the Court in which this action was brought, and the Case Number are identified above.

2. The name of the titleholder of record is: Debra Sue Johnson

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot Twenty-Five (25) and the South Half (S ½) of Lot Twenty-Four (24) of Hi-View Acres (Section 1) Subdivision of the City of Galva, situated in the County of Henry in the State of Illinois. PIN: 24-28-252-015

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 504 NW 10th Street, Galva IL 61434

5. An identification of the Mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:

- a. Names of Mortgagor: Debra Sue Johnson
- b. Name of Mortgagee: State Bank of Toulon
- c. Date of Mortgage: January 28, 2022
- d. Date of Recording: February 8, 2022
- e. County Where Recorded: Henry County, Illinois

f. Recording Document Identification: 20-2200842
 NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants, file your answer to the Complaint for Foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Henry County, Illinois, Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center St., Cambridge, Illinois, on or before April 18, 2023, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a Judgment for Foreclosure may be entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint for Foreclosure.

/s/ Terilyn A. Motley
 Circuit Clerk
 Barash & Everett, LLC
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 211 W 2nd St
 Kewanee IL 61443
 Phone: 309/852-5555
 justin@barashlaw.com
 Published 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/23

•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 ESTATE OF:
 RICK A MUGRAGE, No. 2023PR15
 Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)
 Notice is given of the death of Rick A. Mugrage. Letters of Office were issued on February 27, 2023, to Charlene Mugrage 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 September 13, 2023. 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/serviceproviders.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. Barash & Everett, LLC Attorney for Executor P.O. Box 165 Galva, IL 61434 (309) 932-2001 everetr@barashlaw.com Published 3/17, 3/24, 3/31/23

•••
PUBLIC NOTICE
 The regular scheduled meetings of Valley Township Board of Trustees to conduct regular business of the township, to inspect and pay bills, and any such matters that shall come before the board for the fiscal year 2023-2024, will be held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings will be held at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois beginning at 7:00PM.

Dated March 12, 2023
 Jodi Dienst,
 Valley Township Clerk
 Published 3/17/23

•••
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET AND TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance meetings for Road Purposes of Valley Township, in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, and also for Town of Valley in said county, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2023, and ending March 31, 2024, will both be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Valley Town Hall, 15003 Township Road 300N, Wyoming, IL 61491, after March 17, 2023, by appointment only.

Notice is further given that public hearings on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 6:15PM and 6:30PM

respectively, Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois and that action on these ordinances will take place immediately following.

The 7:00PM regularly scheduled April 13th, 2023 monthly meeting of Valley Township Board of Trustees to discuss regular business will be rescheduled to take place April 11, 2023 immediately following the budget hearings.

Dated: March 12, 2023
 Jodi Dienst,
 Valley Township Clerk
 309-230-8953
 Published 3/17/23

•••
PUBLIC NOTICE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Valley in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday April 11, 2023, at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois at the hour of 6:00 o'clock PM for the transaction of miscellaneous business of Valley Township; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law come before the meeting.

Dated: March 12, 2023
 Jodi Dienst,
 Valley Township Clerk
 Published 3/17/23

•••
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP

To the legal residents of the Town of Osceola in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Township Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 11, 2023 being the second Tuesday of said month. The township meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Township will be held at the hour of 7:30 p.m. on said day at the Osceola Township office building. When the 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; and especially to consider and decide the following: Supervisors Annual Report, C.D. Investments and possible fund transfers.

Dated this day 8th of March 2023
 Ralph Moodie,
 Osceola Township Clerk
 Published 3/17/23

•••
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 11, 2023 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 17, 2023
 Pamela Wulf,
 Goshen Township Clerk
 Published 3/17/23

•••
MILO TOWNSHIP BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the legal Voters of the Town of Milo in the County of Bureau and the State of Illinois, that the Budget Hearing of said Town & Road District will take place on: Tuesday, April 11, 2023, being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 7:00 PM.

Note: Copies of the proposed Budgets are available for viewing prior to the hearing at the home of the Milo Township Clerk: Thomas D. Ashby, 15863 245 North Ave, Bradford, IL. Call before coming 309-202-4067.
 FOLLOWED BY THE Annual

Town Meeting at the hour of 7:30 PM at the Milo Township hall for the transaction of the miscellaneous business of the said town; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following:

- The disposition of excess township property.
 - Other items as may be brought before the electors.
- Dated 10 March 2023, Thomas D. (Tom) Ashby,
 Milo Township Clerk,
 Bureau County, IL
 Published 3/17/23

•••
PUBLIC NOTICE

TREE TRIMMING ACTIVITIES IN Wyoming & Unincorporated Stark County, IL AND NEARBY AREAS TO THE PATRONS OF AMEREN ILLINOIS:

Please be advised that Ameren Illinois will trim trees and other vegetation in and around the town(s) of Wyoming & Unincorporated Stark County, Illinois. Our qualified utility arborists will trim trees and vegetation that could interfere with electric lines that run from pole to pole and elsewhere. This work is necessary in order to minimize the likelihood of outages and safety hazards. There is no charge to you for this service.

If you have any questions about this work, please call 1-800-755-5000 or visit our website at MySafeTrees.com. You may address your concerns in the manner specified on our website. You may also call the Consumer Services Division of the Illinois Commerce Commission at 1-800-524-0795. Maps have been provided to the mayors and the county board chairpersons of the affected areas.

Sincerely,
 Ameren Illinois Forestry Department
 Published 3/17/23

Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



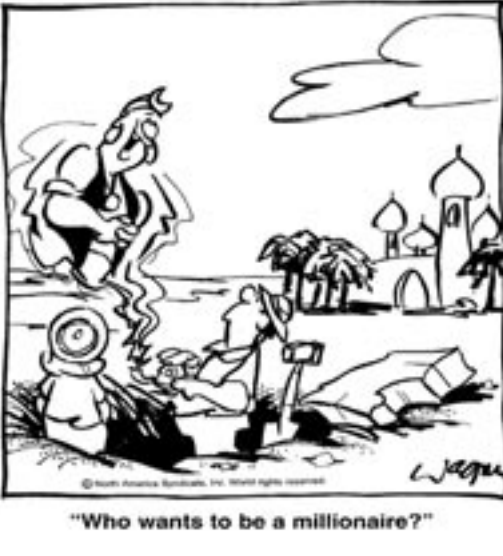
by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN & BEAR IT



"Who wants to be a millionaire?"

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

| | | | | | | | | |
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| | | 4 | | | 8 | | 9 | 6 |
| 1 | | | 6 | | | 3 | | |

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Answers on Page 3

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.

BXL FCT EHTQ AXJUPB HT BXL
 JMJPQCB NHEJ, BXL KJKXPB,
 HT VUCU AXJANJ WCB XT UOJ
 SLW, HT UOJ TJVW, XP ILWU
 VUCU'W HT BXL OJCPU.
 — FCPXN GTT QLEB

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What is the name of Scarlett and Rhett's daughter in "Gone with the Wind"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What body of water lies between Australia and New Zealand?
- TELEVISION: Eric Camden is a minister on which TV dramedy?
- CHEMISTRY: Which element has the Latin name stannum (Sn)?
- LITERATURE: Which book is first written in C.S. Lewis' Chronicles of Narnia series?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the name of the bird logo on Twitter?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: How long does it take a sloth to digest food?
- PSYCHOLOGY: What is the irrational fear represented by coulrophobia?
- MYTHOLOGY: Which Greek god stared at his own reflection until he died?
- INVENTIONS: What did Alessandro Volta invent?

Answers

- Bonnie Blue Butler.
- Tasman Sea.
- "7th Heaven."
- Tin.
- "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe."
- Larry.
- An average of 16 days, and up to 30 days.
- Fear of clowns.
- Narcissus.
- The electric battery.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Creed III (PG-13)
- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13)
- Cocaine Bear (R)
- Demon Slayer (R)
- Jesus Revolution (PG-13)
- Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13)
- Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre (R)
- Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG)
- Magic Mike's Last Dance (R)
- 80 for Brady (PG-13)

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Pritzker touting higher education funding

By **NIKA SCHOONOVER**

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – On his latest marketing tour to sell his state budget plan, Gov. JB Pritzker visited a community college in Normal Tuesday to highlight his proposed investments in higher education.

“With an additional \$100 million directed to the (Monetary Award Program) grant program, a student can pair our state support with a federal Pell grant and pay for college with no loans and debt required,” Pritzker said at the news conference at Heartland Community College.

The increase would bring total MAP funding to \$701 million, a 75 percent increase since the governor took office. According to his office, the proposed investment would allow most community college students and 40 percent of public university students at or below median income levels to have their tuition covered through the combined grants.

The governor added that every student this year who applied and was eligible for a MAP grant received one.

“When I first took office, going to college in Illinois seemed less affordable than ever before. Prior administrations had cut funding for higher education so

badly that out-of-state tuition looked better to Illinois families,” Pritzker said. “And that’s a fundamental failure of state government and it’s a trend we’ve been reversing for the last four years.”

The plan would also provide additional funding for community college programs, including \$8.3 million for dual credit and noncredit workforce grant programs, \$11 million for development of technology-focused workforce training programs, and \$750,000 to expand English language services.

“Illinois has the third largest community college system in the entire nation,” Pritzker said. “We’re home to 48 community colleges and all across the state they open doors to higher wages, new careers, better jobs.”

Abortion access

Pritzker also announced Tuesday that he joined 14 other governors in calling for major pharmacies to

clarify how they will protect access to medication for abortions.

The move comes after an announcement by Walgreens that it would stop distributing the medication in 21 states where Republican attorneys general

threatened action against the company.

A coalition of 14 Democratic governors sent a letter to executives at CVS, Walmart, Rite-Aid, Safeway, Health Mart, Kroger, Costco and Target.



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VOTE

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Answers on Page 3

Super Crossword

INTERNAL IDENTIFICATION

ACROSS: 1 Pop's partner, 4 Hooded serpent, 9 Bygone ruler, 13 Tavern seats, 20 Popular promise, 21 Possesses, in the Bible, 22 Is unable to, 23 "Cocoon" co-star, 25 Red gem, 26 Singer Keys, 27 Talk formally, 28 "Never on Sunday" star, 31 Suckerfishes, 34 Tickles pink, 35 --do-well (idle sort), 36 She voiced Elsa in "Frozen", 39 Pipers, 42 "Desperate Housewives" character, 43 Dickens' "Tiny" lad, 46 Conclude, 47 By means of, 50 18th Constitution addition, 57 Tehran dweller, 58 Restroom, informally, 59 "—-ching!", 60 1983, 61 Popular Toyota model, 64 Person decorating, 68 Brain product, 69 Eden woman, 70 It's south of San Diego, California, 74 "Nanny" has three, 75 Tree off, 77 Political activist -- X, 78 "No, No, --" (old musical), 80 "Find -- and fill it", 82 Of a maritime mil. branch, 83 Lofly poem, 86 These, to Gabriela, 87 Swede transplanted to the U.S., say, 93 In position, 94 Tycoon, 95 Olympic code for Quito's country, 96 Floman 2,051, 97 Earp of Tombstone, 99 "Desk Self" address, 109 Me, myself --, 109 Stay, 112 Way to watch a film at home, 113 Rapid transit system of a large Spanish city, 118 Footways, 119 First-year athlete, 120 Use a wand reader on, 121 Jim Croce hit that's apt for eight answers in this puzzle, 124 Current flow measure, 125 Comic title, 126 Arctic, 127 Gun, in slang, 128 Magoo's title, 129 Concluded, 130 "It was -- and stormy night ...", 131 -- -cone (cold treat), 6 Pen brand, 7 2011-19 Chicago mayor -- Emanuel, 8 Away from the wind, 9 Feel great excitement from, 10 Basking box, 11 Baseballer's turn to hit, 12 Poetry devices, 13 Wound mark, 14 Soft powder, 15 Big Mac components, 16 As if scripted, 17 Longest, 18 Step, 24 Heaps, 29 Spike of film, 30 Lauder of perfumery, 32 Prefix with -dextrous, 33 Certain Slav, 37 Pop singer Diamond, 38 Greek Z, 40 Small hotel, 41 Small vortex, 44 Shared, as interests, 45 Phil of skiing, 47 Bitter feud, 48 Determined to do, 49 Mip books, 50 Division of Canada, 51 Very unusual achievement, 52 Yoko of the avant-garde, 53 Sword handle, 54 Ans who won the 2008 French Open, 55 Cat with no tail, 56 "Till -- was dreaming?", 57 Glacier or ice, 62 Maximum or minimum, 63 Steely Dan album with the hits "Peg" and "Deacon Blues", 65 NFL's Cowboys, on scoreboards, 66 German "r", 67 Hitachi rival, 71 Arm bone, 72 Living in -- (oblivious to current events), 73 "Dedicated to the -- Love", 76 Swampy area, 79 PC key, 81 5/6/44, 84 Accurse, 85 Austen novel, 88 Lyricist Gershwin, 89 Part of TNT, 90 Group of spectators, 91 "Tickle Me" Muppet, 92 French for "nothing", 97 Arch used in croquet, 98 Tightened up, 100 CD's error: Abbr., 101 Area for mobile campers, 102 Johnson who directed "Star Wars: The Last Jedi", 103 Pets' jingers, 104 Goller Tom who won the 1996 British Open, 105 Be beaten by, 106 James -- Garfield, 107 Actress Watts, 108 Rain units, 109 PC shortcut, 111 With full force, 114 St. Pat's isle, 115 Satyric look, 116 TV host Kelly, 117 Psalm starter, 122 Suffix with pay or bolt, 123 Road goo



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Card of Thanks
Foglesong

Thanks, what a memorable day! Turning 90 years old is a real blessing when you're blessed with the wonderful family and friends that I have. To all of you who planned the party, prepared the food, sent cards, made phone calls and shared some time with me, a huge thank you! God bless all of you.

Love, Carolyn Foglesong



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Toulon, LaFayette & West Jersey United Methodist Church

Rev. Leon D. Pomeroy
229 W. Main St., PO Box 538, Toulon, IL 61483
(812) 698-9294
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(Pastor), 2nd & 4th Sunday (Lay Speaker);
West Jersey 9 a.m. 1st & 3rd Sunday (Lay Speaker), 2nd & 4th
Sunday (Pastor); Toulon Sunday School: 9:15 a.m., All Ages.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.
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
web: <https://www.thegathering.life/>
<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

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

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434
(309) 932-3733
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First Baptist Church

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Wyoming Nazarene Church

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

First Congregational United Church of Christ

Pastor Ross Wyman
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First Congregational UCC of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

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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
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St. Timothy Lutheran Church

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Galva First United Methodist Church

Rev. Rebecca Gearhart
214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-2460
preachinghope@gmail.com
galvafirst@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 9:00

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Pastor Rebecca Klemm
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OBITUARIES

Eldon R. Aupperle

TOULON – Eldon R. "Bud" Aupperle, 90, of Toulon, died Saturday, March 11, 2023, at his home. Bud was born Sept. 9, 1932, in Fairbury, Ill., the son of Ernest and Aline "Lena" (Gnehm) Aupperle. Bud attended Fairbury Township High School; graduating with the class of 1950.



Aupperle

Bud attended the University of Illinois and obtained a master's degree in Ag Education. Bud married Virginia E. Edgington on Aug. 11, 1968, in Ross County, Ohio; she survives.

Bud is also survived by one brother, Elmer (Beata) Aupperle, Champaign; sister-in-law, Joanne (Willis-deceased) Aupperle, Fairbury, Ill.; brother-in-law, David (Barbara) Edgington, Frankfort, Ohio; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Elias (Greta) Aupperle, sister, Ann (Hazel) Richard; two brothers-in-law, Charles (Linda) Edgington and Vernon (Shelba) Edgington; and one niece, Barbara Aupperle.

Bud served in the U.S. Army, where he was stationed in Germany. Bud grew up as a farm kid near Fairbury and joined Future Farmers of America (FFA) in 1946. In 1958, he initiated the FFA Chapter at Warren High School near Monmouth. FFA enjoyed his lifelong support. He attended 49 national conventions and in 2021, was awarded the Forever Blue Circle of Membership that recognized his continual financial support.

Bud developed and taught agriculture class at Black Hawk East College from 1967-88. He was the first faculty member hired at the college. He organized the Agri-Business Club, for which he was executive secretary until 2009. He retired from Black Hawk East in 1988, and was named Professor Emeritus.

Bud was an International Youth Farm Exchange Delegate to Chile in 1954; he was a member of the IFYE Alumni group that traveled to the Soviet Union in 1988. He was a group leader to 15 4-H Ambassadors to Switzerland in 1989.

Bud was a member of the Rotary Club; where he was Rotarian of the Year in 1992-93 and was a contributor to the Paul Harris Fellows. Bud and Virginia served their one of a kind "Uncle Bud's Cider Slush" to many surrounding communities from their little trailer for 25 years!

Visitation will be from 4-7 p.m., Friday, March 17, 2023, at Golnick-Schueneman Funeral Home and from 9-10 a.m., Saturday, March 18, 2023. Funeral services will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 18, 2023, at the funeral home. Steve Sams will lead the service. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery, Fairbury, Ill. Military

Rites will be accorded by the Fairbury VFW. Memorials may be made to Black Hawk East Foundation or Illinois Association FFA.

Please leave an online condolence for Bud's family at www.golnick-schuenemanfh.com.

Janice E. Beall

KEWANEE – Janice E. Beall, 83, of Kewanee, passed away, Sunday, March 12, 2023, at Toulon Rehabilitation and Health Care Center.

She was born on March 23, 1939, in Kewanee, the daughter of William and Christine (Dolieslager) Derick. She married Raymond Beall of Wyoming, Ill., and they later divorced. Surviving are her two daughters, Patricia Beall-Daniels of Sheffield and Colleen (Sam) Beall-DeValkenaere of Bradford; four grandchildren, Jason (Terilyn) Motley of Cambridge, Monica (Russ) Ensley of Kewanee,



Beall

Brooke Daniels (and her fiancé Kyle Schneider) of Kewanee, and Sharon (Autry) Cauthon; five great-grandchildren, Emma and Brady Motley, Carter Ensley, Axel Schneider and Alyssa Cauthon; a brother, Dennis (Nancy) Derick; a brother-in-law, Jerry Gray; several nieces and nephews; and Janice had a special bond with niece, Jaime Gray Palmer and nephew, Jeremy Gray.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers, Tom and Jim, her sister, Rosalie and her special friends, Vern Griswold and Bonnie Baker.

Janice was raised on a farm in Bradford and graduated from Bradford High School. She later raised her two daughters in Bradford. Janice was a hard worker her whole life. She drove a school bus for Bradford School District and had also owned and operated a restaurant in Bradford and cooked at various locations throughout her life including K-Mart and Dairy Queen.

Janice had a passion for baking and was known for her famous "sweet rolls" and "Buckeyes." She loved to bake for her family and friends especially her many cookies at Christmas time. She liked to write poems and enjoyed country music. She was a huge Green Bay Packers fan, especially Brett Favre. She always let everyone know how proud she was of her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She was full of sass and loved to joke around. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends. Her memory will be treasured.

Thank you to Toulon Health Care Center and Hospice Compassus for their care, compassion and services.

A Celebration of Life will be planned at a later date. Memorials may be directed to St. John Catholic Church in Bradford. Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee is in charge of arrangements.

This obituary may be viewed and private condolences left at www.rux-funeralhome.com.

Scott A. Eisenbarth

DAHINDA – On Wednesday, March 8, 2023, Scott Alton Eisenbarth, 59, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family after an eight-year battle with cancer. Scott was born on Oct. 6, 1963, in Kewanee to Ronald and Javon (Alton) Eisenbarth. He married Cindy Henehan on Feb. 8, 1992, in Bradford; she survives.

Also surviving are his two daughters, Mackenzie (Jordan) Kingdon of Hanna City and Madison (Josh) Garber of Dunlap; one son, Nick Eisenbarth of Dahinda; his parents, Ronald and Javon (Alton) Eisenbarth of Chillicothe; seven grandchildren, A.J., Milly, Sam, Ben, Emmy, Peyton and Charlotte, as well as another grandson due in June; two brothers, Mark (Kim) Eisenbarth of Greensboro, N.C., and Kyle (Jill) Eisenbarth of Chillicothe; two brothers-in-law, Jim (Lori) Henehan of Normal and Fr. Patrick Henehan of Peoria; one sister-in-law, Susan (Jason) King of Wyoming; parents-in-law, Jim (Sharon) Henehan of Wyoming; and many nieces and nephews.



Eisenbarth

Scott graduated from Wyoming High School in 1982. He then went on to graduate from Loras College after a successful basketball career as a DuHawk. He was affectionately known as "Scooter" and "Ice" by his teammates, some of whom he remained close to throughout his life. Most recently, he was inducted into the Loras College Hall of Fame with his 1982-1983 men's basketball team.

After college, Scott began working at the family business, Wyoming Motors, where he was the general manager for 29 years. He had a passion for golf, Ford trucks and the Green Bay Packers, and was known for having the best "Dad Jokes." Most of all, he loved and cherished the time spent in the company of his children and grandchildren. He will be dearly missed.

His funeral mass was at 10:30 a.m. Monday, March 13, 2023, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. Fr. Patrick Henehan officiated. Visitation was Sunday, March 12, 2023, also at St. Dominic Catholic Church. Burial was in St. Dominic Catholic Cemetery. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Illinois CancerCare Foundation or Siteman Cancer Center at MSC 1-247-414-2100, 7425 Forsyth Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63105, or online at siteman.wustl.edu/tribute.

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OBITUARIES

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

Mary H. Gray

WYOMING – Mary Helen Gray, 92, of Wyoming passed away at 1:07 a.m. on Thursday, March 9, 2023, at UnityPoint Health Proctor in Peoria. Born Jan. 20, 1931, in Peoria to Jesse and Christina Brown. She married Robert Gray on Feb. 28, 1949, in Peoria. He preceded her in death on March 16, 2005.

Surviving are her two sons, James Gray of Wyoming and Joe (Mary) Gray of Toulon; three grandchildren, Matthew Johnston of Wyoming, Robin Ford (Devin) of Toulon, and Marissa Gray of Portland, Ore.; and two great-grandchildren, Emerson and Lincoln Ford. Mary Helen was also preceded in death by her parents.



Gray

Mary Helen was a member of St. Patrick's Church in Camp Grove until it closed, then attended St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. She was bookkeeper for Valley Grade School for six years in the early 1960s, also working at the Speer Post Office. She and Robert farmed in the Stark County area their whole life. Mary Helen loved to volunteer at the Stark County Food Pantry. They also enjoyed running Red School House Antiques in Castleton and Peoria for several years.

Her visitation was March 14, 2023, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. A rosary service was at 9 a.m. Funeral mass was at 10:30 a.m., also at the church. Fr. John Cyr presided. Burial was in St. Patrick's Cemetery in Camp Grove. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to Stark County Food Pantry or St. Patrick's Cemetery fund.

Online condolences and expressions of sympathy may be left on Mary Helen's tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Philip A. Grieve

TOULON – Philip A. Grieve, 75, passed away March 7, 2023. Cremation has been accorded and private family inurnment services will be held at a later date.

Leland Hultgren

TUCSON, Ariz. – Our father, Leland ("Pete") Hultgren, passed away peacefully in his home in Tucson, Ariz., on Jan. 3, 2023, surrounded by his family. He was born to our beloved grandparents, Raymond Hultgren and Olivia Hultgren (Johnson), on Nov. 4, 1940,

and grew up in Galva, Ill. He was blessed with a large and loving circle of extended family and friends. Two of his favorite places were the basketball court and ball field.



Hultgren

Dad graduated from Galva High School and was awarded the Richard E. Freece Memorial Scholarship for participation in school activities and achievement in scholastic honors. That scholarship contributed to his earning his B.A. degree from Bradley University, Peoria, in 1962.

After graduating from Bradley, Dad

joined the U.S. Air Force and served our country with distinction. He earned his silver wings in the 3615 Pilot Training Wing at Craig Air Force Base in Selma, Ala., and began his career as a fighter pilot. Dad's 25-year military service was exemplary, noted for his leadership, bravery, and mastery of two fine and very different fighter aircraft, the F4 Phantom and A-10 Warthog. He flew over 170 wartime combat missions in hostile airspace. As an instructor pilot, he taught and checked out active duty pilots of all ranks in both the F4 and A-10.

Following his retirement from active duty, Dad continued as an A-10 instructor, training active duty pilots in the classroom and in simulators. Several of those pilots worked with one of Dad's daughters during their rotations at various commands and the Pentagon, and they noted his commitment to developing the best pilots. There was "no skating by" in Dad's courses. Dad holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Force Commendation Medal and several awards of the Air Medal.

After fully retiring, he helped teach less-advantaged children to read and, until his death, was a volunteer at Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (TROT). He greatly enjoyed his work at TROT, whose mission is to enrich the lives of people with special needs, including veterans, using horses.

Dad loved dogs, sports, fly fishing, poetry, history, a good read, John Wayne movies, his daughter's homemade frosted Christmas cookies, most anything with maple or brown sugar and cinnamon and breakfast.

He was proud of his Swedish heritage and a lifelong White Sox fan. His taste in music was eclectic (Puccini, Tchaikovsky, Artie Shaw, Dolly Parton), but his taste in food was not. He taught his children to fish and shoot, and a love for nature. Cherished memories include long road trips, fishing with Dad and his parents at Bone Lake, Wis., and, after Dad learned to sail, sailing with him in Monterey Bay, Calif.

He tolerated his daughters' cats and never ceased correcting his children's grammar. When we were young, he entertained us with his self-made geography trivia games during Sunday breakfasts after church. His children and grandchildren had no bigger fan, as Dad cheered them on in softball, soccer, volleyball, and crew. We all delighted in the pictures he shared of the owls, bobcats, quail, javelina and other wildlife that were frequent visitors around his home.

He assumed the role of single dad when his oldest child was 12 and his youngest was five. With the help of his amazing parents, Dad raised his children well. He was a kind, thoughtful man and a true gentleman. For all in his large circle of family and friends near and far, time spent with Dad was eagerly anticipated and always enjoyable. Conversations with Dad will be especially missed. Whether in person or over the phone, he was great fun to talk with about current events, politics, sports, family and whatever other topics arose. He leaves an indelible, lasting impression on family and friends who loved him dearly. His ability to love, support and be present will forever be lessons to all he knew. Through the toughest of times, he invariably offered the right words of wisdom and comfort. Dad's understated warmth and humble ways have left a void

that only he can fill.

He leaves behind his four children, Kathleen (Vincent), Karrie, Mark (Peggi), and Jennifer; his granddaughter, Lauren; his five step-children, John (Kalee), Kristine, Kimberly, Robert (Michelle) and Gregory; and his step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who affectionately called him Grandpa Pete, Mackenzie and Brynn, Mikayla and Rachel, Mark Jr. (Cynthia), Jeffery, Gregory Andrew, and Mark III and Cameron.

He also leaves behind his partner of 20 years, Karen.

Adios, Dad! We love you!

To share a memory of Dad or send a condolence to his family, please visit www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/tucson-az/leland-hultgren-11094579.

Details on his funeral service later this summer will be provided in the coming months. Charitable donations in honor of Dad can be made to Therapeutic Riding of Tucson (<https://trotarizona.org/>).

Ardith A. Wittmeyer

WYOMING – Ardith A.

Wittmeyer, 87, of Wyoming, passed away at 10 p.m. Monday, March 13, 2023, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Ardith was born on July 11, 1935, in Elderville, to Curtis and Luella (Fleming) Ayers. She married Bill Wittmeyer on Aug. 9, 1958, in Hamilton; he survives.

Also surviving are one daughter, Hollie (Mike) Matthys of Eldridge, Iowa; one son, Jeffrey (Kari) Wittmeyer of Dyersville, Iowa; three grandchildren,



Wittmeyer

Sean (Mandy) Matthys, Janis (Cody) Walkup and Shelley (Carter) Roskam; three great-grandchildren, Payton, Graham and Kate; and one brother, Curtis Joe Ayers of Montrose, Iowa. She was preceded in death by her parents. Ardith was a wonderful, loving wife of 64 years, mother, grandmother and friend.

Ardith graduated from Western Illinois University with a bachelor's degree and began her career at Bradford High School teaching home economics. She was retired from Stark County Elementary School.

She assisted in establishing the former Wyoming Ambulance Service and served as member on its board for many years. Ardith volunteered in numerous ways at St. Dominic Catholic Church including serving on the Altar and Rosary Society. She loved baking and cooking, and authored her own cookbook. She also enjoyed quilting, golfing with the Lake Calhoun Ladies League, trips to Branson, attending Danny O'Donnell concerts and was an avid Chicago Cubs fan.

Her funeral mass is 11 a.m. Monday, March 20, 2023, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming. Fr. John Cyr will officiate. A time of fellowship to celebrate Ardith's life is from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Monday at St. Dominic Fellowship Hall in Wyoming. A private burial will be in St. Dominic Catholic Cemetery in Wyoming. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Dominic Catholic Church or the Stark County Ambulance Service. Condolences may be left at www.haskellfuneral.com.

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Spring Cemetery Clean up week:
All grave blankets, artificial flowers, potted flowers, and all other plants are requested to be removed from the Galva Cemetery by **Sunday, April 2, 2023** if relatives wish to save them. No more flowers should be placed on the graves until after **Thursday, April 6, 2023.**
Galva Cemetery Board

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The Prairie News Sports

Stark. Co. baseball has experience

By PHIL JOHNSON
For The Prairie News

Stark County has plenty of varsity experience returning for the upcoming baseball season.

The senior class has several key returnees. Ryne Hillan has played at third base, catcher and pitcher, Charlie Rouse returns at first base as does shortstop Daniel Kieser. Utility infielder, outfielder and Jack Colgan is ready to contribute and strength up the middle will continue with the return of senior center-fielder Cameron Watson. More contribution will come from seniors Devon Decker, Mark Wagner and Finley Rus-sow.

Juniors Tim Giesenhagen and Braden Lindley were varsity starters as sophomores last spring.

More juniors look to be important on the field in Charley Holstrom, Owen Gilber, Connor Wagenbach. Sophomore Dillon Steelman played varsity last year at third, second, catcher and outfield.

Head Coach Scott Paxson, assistants Tim Giesenhagen and Jim Langdon are looking forward, after pre-season practices, to get the games going.

“Our pitchers will need to be aggressive in the strike zone,” Paxson said. “We will need to make the routine plays defensively, and will need to put the ball in play consistently when at bat for a very good season.”

• **Galva** – Galva’s school, community and High School Coach Van White are in the process of trying to increase participation for high school baseball in what

looks to be a transitional 2023 season.

Thirteen players are currently on the baseball roster, so Galva will play varsity games versus the five teams they are aligned with in the Eastern Division of the Lincoln Trail Conference for 2023. Remaining games on the schedule will be junior varsity games against Western Division Lincoln Trail teams and non-conference foes.

“We are trying to build up our competitiveness with our current high school players this season, along eventually with a good group of junior high players working towards the future,” White said.

Experienced senior Jaxson Meier will be the No. 1 pitcher. When he isn’t on the mound, he will play shortstop, bringing in a .338 batting average from 2022.


Junior John Bersell will be the next pitcher in the rotation, also playing at third base. He will be bouncing back from a lost sophomore year when he had a broken leg.

Junior outfielder Summit Ouart will return with much varsity experience. Junior Jared O’Brian looks to be contributing. Freshman J.P. Sloan will work from the mound and play in the in-field.

“We will be young. Pitching will take time and work. We are working on developing a good baseball future in Galva,” White said.


• **Softball** – Previews of softball teams will be included in the March 24 edition of The Prairie News.

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Samantha Gange and David Dyer for Black Hawk College Trustees




Samantha Gange
As a former student and staff member at Black Hawk College, I understand the importance of providing a quality and affordable education. If elected, I plan to do my part to ensure both affordable tuition and quality resources and services for our students.

Samantha Gange

- Samantha Gange is the City Clerk of Rock Island.
- Master's Degree in Public Administration, University of Illinois at Springfield.
- Almost 8 years of administrative experience at Black Hawk College, Moline
- Mother of 2-year-old twins Addison and Jackson.



David Dyer
I will use my experience as a former small business owner to bring good fiscal management to Black Hawk College. For example, in my first year as City Administrator for Galva, I saved the City \$1.8 million. I will apply that budgetary experience to BHC, a college for which I have deep affection.



"I am deeply impressed with Samantha Gange. She is smart, positive, and has excellent college administrative experience. Samantha is passionate about making Black Hawk College the best community college around."
Jim Nowlan, Retired University of Illinois professor and former publisher of the Prairie News.

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APRIL 4th



"David has demonstrated a personal and professional commitment to outstanding public service through his management of Galva city government! His financial and personnel skills are of the highest caliber and I strongly recommend his election as a BHC trustee."
Bruce Dennison, Geneseo; former regional superintendent of education for Henry, Bureau and Stark Counties

Samantha Gange with prospective student and Black Hawk graduate. David Dyer with prospective Black Hawk student.

Samantha and David are strongly endorsed by Friends of Black Hawk College, who paid for this ad.