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Vol. 20, No. 10

The Prairie News

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Statewide building codes advancing through legislature

By **JERRY NOWICKI**
and **NIKA SCHOONOVER**

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Lawmakers went on a two-week spring break last week with more than 700 bills already passed in at least one chamber of the General Assembly.

They return to Springfield on April 18 for a final one-month stretch in which the measures can be amended, defeated or sent to the governor.

Among the bills to successfully move to the other chamber are a measure to lift the state's 1987 moratorium on nuclear power plant construction, a bill that

would create statewide building codes and another requiring retail establishments to accept cash payments within certain hours.

Statewide building codes

Beginning in 2025, Illinois could have statewide building codes for new or substantially renovated commercial and residential construction under a bill that passed the Senate before break.

Sponsored by Dave Koehler, D-Peoria, Senate Bill 2368 allows the state's Capital Development Board to prohibit occupation of such a facility until it is inspected. The building would have to be compliant with

several state or federal building codes for electricity, energy efficiency, accessibility, and plumbing, as well as the Fire Investigation Act.

"Basically, what this does is establishes a statewide building code as a minimum standard," Koehler said during floor debate. "Now most communities are going to have well above the minimum standard. But the reason that this is important is because Illinois is one of only six states in the union that does not have a statewide building code."

Koehler said when Illinois has a natural disaster and applies for funding from the Federal Emer-

gency Management Agency, the state has to check a box noting it doesn't currently have such a code.

"And so it costs us money," he said.

The bill would require municipalities with existing building codes to adopt at least the newly created statewide minimum standard and submit their plans to the state. A homeowner renovating a residential property in a jurisdiction without a building code would have to adopt the code of any jurisdiction within 100 miles of the construction in the contract with their builder.

Otherwise, it would have to

comply with the new statewide standards, which apply to new construction and any renovations that increase the property's value by 50 percent or more.

Republicans questioned whether a statewide code would be enforceable in smaller towns.

"It's up to a municipality as to how they want to enforce it," Koehler said. "The Capital Development Board is responsible for having organizations say that they're, you know, what codes they have and all that. In terms of who enforces that? I don't know."

Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Maho-

Continued on Page 2

DROUGHT DELIVERY

Donated hay helps Texas ranchers

By **TAMMIE SLOUP**
FarmWeek

Loretta Hall said one word came to mind as she and husband, John, watched a semi loaded with 21 bales of hay approach their cattle ranch in northwest Texas.

"Hallelujah!"

The donated load traveled 900 miles from Fulton County, and just in the nick of time.

Located in the Texas Panhandle, the Halls' 150-cow ranch hadn't seen an inch of rain in 10 months. John said he tried to conserve as much hay as possible as demand is high in his drought-stricken area, as are prices.

"I just thought that we would try to ration what we had to the bitter



Peoria truck driver Darrell White (left) and Texas cattleman John Hall unload 21 bales of hay White delivered to ranch in the Texas Panhandle on March 22. An anonymous Fulton County farmer donated surplus hay and, with the help of a handful of people, the donation arrived at the drought-stricken ranch. Photo courtesy of Loretta Hall.

end as long as we could," he said.

"And we were at the bitter end."

Prepared but saddened at the thought of selling off some of their Braunvieh herd to make ends meet, the Halls said God intervened with

an anonymous donor.

Several weeks ago, a Fulton County Farm Bureau member with a surplus of hay approached Shelley Sweatman, Fulton County Farm

Continued on Page 7

Soil key to gardens

DIY testing of your dirt is an option

By **RON DIETER**
For The Prairie News

I confess that I've never tested the soils of gardens I have planted in my lifetime, even though the experts say the first step to successful gardening is to test the soil. I've always been blessed with rich black soil and never felt the need for testing.

The list of garden characteristics you can test for is a long one. Besides the usual tests for mineral nutrients such as potassium (K) and phosphorus (P), there are tests for texture, organic matter, drainage, tilth, trace elements, heavy metals and microbial activity.

Some tests you can do yourself with supplies found in your kitchen or

underwear drawer. Others are best done by a professional laboratory. University experts recommend sending soil samples to a lab rather than using do-it-yourself test kits for garden nutrients. Home test kits often require some basic knowledge in lab techniques to avoid sample contamination.

I've gone online to find and compare soil-test laboratories. It's a bewildering endeavor. Prices range from \$6 to more than \$90 per sample.

Most independent professional labs are geared more to serve farmers rather than gardeners. University-operated labs are more likely to extend the service to homeowners. A

Continued on Page 2

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LEGISLATURE: Cash acceptance mandate

Continued from Page 1
 met, used a small town in his district as an example to speak against the bill.

“In Metcalf, Illinois, they don’t have anybody to mow the lawn, okay, let alone inspect a house,” Rose said. “But more importantly, you’re telling an awful lot of people who couldn’t afford to repair and maintain their home in the first place that we just doubled or tripled the bill.”

The measure passed 34-18 with one present vote and it awaits action in the House.

Cash requirements

Lawmakers advanced a bill that would mandate retail establishments to accept cash for purchases under \$750. Senate Bill 1979 passed 40-16 in the Senate with mainly Democratic support.

Sen. Omar Aquino, D-Chicago, is the bill’s lead sponsor. He said SB 1979 is aimed at protecting “under-banked and unbanked” people who only carry cash.

“This bill is making sure that those folks ... have an ability to still purchase needed things,” Aquino said.

The bill also says retail establishments can’t charge a higher price to customers paying with cash. SB 1979

also exempts restaurants, gas stations and grocery stores from the requirement between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. to protect against robbery.

“It goes directly into trying to keep people safe,” Aquino said of the time exemption. “Businesses are accepting cash, we’re just trying to get ahead of the trend that looks like more locations are going for a non-cash payment.”

Debate on the measure centered around the question of accessibility versus safety, with Republican opponents arguing that mandating businesses to accept cash was putting them at risk.

“What I’m concerned about is the small businessman who operates in an area that he’s worried about theft, or he’s worried about robbery, and he chooses how he runs his business to operate in a certain area,” said Sen. Jil Tracy, R-Quincy.

The bill also notes that retailers are not required to accept any denomination of currency larger than a \$20 bill.

A violation could result in a \$50 fine for the retail establishment, \$100 for a second offense in a 12-month period or \$500 for a third offense during that period.

Nuclear construction ban

Gov. JB Pritzker noted last week that he’s generally supportive of the concept of lifting the nuclear construction ban, although he didn’t commit to signing the proposal contained in Senate Bill 76, which passed on a 39-13 bipartisan roll call.

Pritzker said he is supportive of allowing for the construction of small modular nuclear reactors, which are small-scale generators that could be used to power individual factories or for other uses.

He said he didn’t think doing so would be contradictory to the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act that he signed in 2021. Some environmentalists have opposed lifting the nuclear ban due to the dangers associated with nuclear waste.

SB 76, as written, would allow any type of nuclear construction, including large-scale projects.

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SOIL: Underwear can help test biological activity

Continued from Page 1
 routine soil test will measure phosphorus, potassium, calcium and magnesium, as well as pH.

The Soil Testing Laboratory of the University of Kentucky will provide a routine soil test with recommendations for \$6 per

sample. The lab will also test for organic-matter content, which I recommend, for an additional \$5.

There are other tests you can perform for yourself. Washington State University suggests a few. You can test a soil’s texture simply by rubbing soil between your fingers. A gritty feeling tells you the soil is sandy and you should select plants that prefer sandy and drier conditions.

A sticky feeling indicates soil is clay and needs to be amended with compost. Silty soil will feel smooth.

Gather a handful of damp soil and give it a good squeeze. Open your hand and the soil should stay together in a clump. If it falls apart or breaks up when poked with your finger, the soil is coarse textured. Clay soils, on the other hand, resist breaking apart. Adding organic matter to these will improve soil texture and structure.

If you suspect your garden has a drainage problem, you can measure the drainage rate by digging a hole a foot deep and filling it with water. When it empties, immediately fill it again. Ideally the water level should drop two inches in an hour, a sign of good drainage. Less than an inch in an hour indicates poor drainage.

You can do a rough test of soil pH in your kitchen using vinegar, baking soda and distilled water. Into each of two containers place a teaspoon of garden soil. In the first container pour a half-cup of vinegar. If the mixture fizzes, the soil is alkaline with a pH somewhere between seven and eight. Adding sulfur will reduce pH but can take months to have an effect.

If there is no fizzing action, test for acidity by adding enough distilled water to the soil in the second container to make a thick muddy slurry. Then

add a half-cup of baking soda. If this mixture fizzes, your soil is acidic with a pH between five and six.

Applying limestone to the garden will adjust the pH upwards. Naturally, if there is dead silence in both containers, the soil is neutral with a pH about seven.

Washington State’s underwear test for biological activity is most interesting. Bury a new pair of 100 percent cotton briefs under six inches of garden soil. Mark the location with flags or stakes and wait two months. Then dig up the briefs. If all that’s left is the waistband, congratulations. You’ve got good biological activity in your soil.

The university folks make no mention as to why the shorts have to be new or why they have to be briefs. I’m no expert but I suspect good ol’ used cotton boxers would work just as well.

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The City of Wyoming is accepting Applications for a **Summertime Helper in the Public Works Dept.**

Must be 18 years of age with a valid Driver's License. Responsibilities include performing manual labor activities and a variety of construction and maintenance as needed and/or required by the Superintendent. Please pick up an application at City Hall located at

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Everything to be picked up must be out by Monday, May 8th. The garbage truck will start in the North end of Wyoming and move South. They will not revisit an area they have already picked up.

It will be free to all **residential households** in the corporate limits of the City of Wyoming. **Per state laws they cannot pick up any electrical items.** Large nonelectrical appliances and large pieces of furniture as in couches, large chairs, mattress, and box springs will require a tag at a cost of \$10.00 each. Tags can be purchased at City Hall. City Hall's hours are Monday - Friday, 7:30 to noon and 12:30 to 4:00 p.m. Anything placed out should be easily picked up by one man and placed into the back of the garbage truck. Bundle items when necessary so they may be picked up quickly.

The following will not be picked up:

- 1) Electrical items.
- 2) Landscape waste.
- 3) Hazardous material as in kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinners, batteries, and tires.
- 4) No bricks, building materials and long poles as these items damage the garbage truck.

Murphy's has the right to refuse to pick up any piles of garbage that are larger than a 4 ft by 4 ft. pile or contain items mixed in that are not allowed.

Any large items set out without the required bulk tags will be in violation of City's Ordinance and subject to possible fines.

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GUEST VOICES



Well-hidden calves provide a spring surprise

Late one Sunday afternoon, AJ and I drove to the Other Place to check on the cows there and to dump some brush in the gully along the pasture. It was still over a week before the main herd was due to start calving.

Three cows had been placed in the little house pasture with the bulls due to space constraints and the need to provide them with extra feed ("They're nursing twins. There's no way they'll get bred.") and were all nuzzling their now nearly two-week-old calves just inside the gate.

It was crisp and breezy and, after being overcast most of the day, the sun was emerging from behind the clouds just in time to set, casting long shadows across the pasture.

The cows, other than the three early calvers, were poking around in the timber we call the frog pond. We pushed the brush out then drove to the far end of the pasture.

"Can you drive along the fence?" I asked.

I always like the timber, especially in early spring. And for some reason, I felt especially keen to see it now.

He obliged and drove slowly along the rickety fence. With my window down I had a good view and could see cows looking for blades of early grass on the far side of the bowl-shaped timber. Then I saw something else.

"Stop!" I flung my door open and bailed out. "There's a calf!"

Curled up in a big bramble patch was a tiny black calf. There was no cow anywhere nearby. AJ hummed a little and we drove slowly on.

"Stop! There's another calf!"

Now he got out of the truck with me, looking in every direction for the mamas to these babies, perhaps momentarily ruing his decision not to haul the cows home for another few days. This calf was tucked out of the wind next to a fallen tree. It was bigger than the first, but clearly these calves had been birthed within the last few hours.

We drove on to the gate and opted to walk back into the timber to approach the sleeping calves in the hope their moms would see us and come claim them. Both calves were sparkling clean and well cared for and both seemed content.

Mama cows have strong instincts. They will not divulge the location of their babies until they feel they must go protect them. They are good at stashing them, as these two were, in safe, sheltered spots. We were just a few feet from the bigger calf when we saw a big black cow striding purposefully in our direction. Oh, good.

Here comes one mom.

I moved on to the smaller calf, still tucked deep in the brambles. Once the cow arrived, AJ stepped aside and she nuzzled the snoozing calf.

We moved as close to the little calf as we dared without causing it to jump up and bolt. By now the entire herd had arrived to offer assistance. Cows quickly join forces to protect any baby from a predator, and these girls were on stand-by. We were certain the second mom would soon show up to claim her calf.

I wriggled ungracefully under the sagging barbed wire of the fence while AJ eased through a gap in the wires. We stepped a few paces away and waited. Sensing no real threat, the cows milled around, nibbling rare sprigs of green they could find. One pretty yellow cow nosed around the little calf but was interested only in grass and soon moved away. None paid any attention to the little critter.

The sun was rapidly sinking, as were our spirits. Walking back to the truck, we mulled our two choices. Neither was good. We could leave the little calf alone and hope it survived the night, or we could take the calf and risk the cow panicking about not being able to find the calf before finally no claiming it.

By the time we drove back to babyland, the big black cow had her calf up and was grooming it vigorously. We reviewed our options. Then the bramble patch calf bleated. Ah. That should bring Mom #2 on the run. We watched. Nope. It bleated again. Still no movement. A third, more insistent bleat finally elicited a reaction ... from the cow with the other calf. She looked at the bleating calf with a mixture of surprise and annoyance. We looked at each other. Of course. These were twins.

Momcow slowly approached the bramble-patch calf. We were still conflicted about what to do. Then she mooed softly to the calf and nuzzled it to its feet. We sighed in relief. This was an older, experienced cow. She had proven she cared for both twins. The rest of the herd was nearby and settling in for the night. We would leave them alone.

The next morning, AJ and Matt hauled the trio home. They put them in the little house pasture with two young Horsely bulls we'd recently purchased. The frisky bulls initially chased the calves around the pasture, but by afternoon they had all settled down. Now the calves snuggle up to them in the sun, with only their red ear tags discernible against the velvety black bellies of the bulls. In the evening the two twin bulls race across the pasture with the Horsely bulls running and bucking behind them while the cow just shakes her head at their antics. And no, of course she won't be having a calf in



Jeanne **HARLAND**

February. She's nursing twins.

BEEF STICKY BUNS

A twist on cinnamon buns, these savory buns get a protein boost from homemade beef breakfast sausage and plenty of veggies.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 cups beef breakfast sausage (recipe follows)
- 1 cup sliced button mushrooms
- 3/4 cup diced onion
- 3 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 package (13.8 ounces) refrigerated pizza dough
- 1/2 cup jalapeño pepper jelly, warmed (optional) or cream cheese "frosting" (optional, recipe follows)

COOKING:

Prepare breakfast sausage. Set aside 2 cups sausage mixture in large bowl; reserve remaining sausage for another use. Add mushrooms and onions to same skillet sprayed with cooking spray over medium heat; cook 5-7 minutes or until vegetables are tender, stirring occasionally. Add spinach to skillet; stir to wilt. Add vegetable mixture to beef; set aside 20-25 minutes or until mixture is cooled completely, stirring occasionally. Stir in cheese.

Beef Breakfast Sausage: Combine 1 pound ground Beef (93% lean or leaner), 2 teaspoons chopped fresh sage or 1/2 teaspoon rubbed sage, 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 teaspoon onion powder, 1/2 teaspoon salt and 1/4 to 1/2 teaspoon crushed red pepper in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Heat large nonstick skillet over medium high heat until hot. Add sausage mixture; cook 8-10 minutes, breaking into 1/2-inch crumbles and stirring occasionally.

Preheat oven to 425°F. Unroll pizza dough on flat surface; pat or roll evenly to 14x10-inch rectangle, pinching together any tears. Spread sausage mixture on dough, leaving 1/2-inch border on short side furthest from you. Starting at closest short end, roll up jelly-roll style, pinching to close. Slice dough into 8 pieces using careful sawing motion; place cut-side-up on greased baking sheet. Bake in 425°F oven 18-20 minutes or until golden brown. Remove buns to cooling rack. While still warm, drizzle with melted jalapeño pepper jelly, if desired.

Warm jelly in 1-cup glass measure. Microwave, uncovered, on HIGH 45-60 seconds or until melted, stirring once. Let stand 30 seconds.

Cream Cheese "Frosting": Combine 1/4 cup softened cream cheese and 1 tablespoon milk in small bowl, stirring until smooth. Drizzle over warmed beef buns.

Jeanne Harland is a cow-calf producer in Knox County where she and her husband, AJ, also raise corn, soybeans, oats and turnips.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



ISN'T THIS NICE. WE FINALLY HAVE A NICE DAY FOR A PICNIC.
 I LOVE THIS. ENJOYING OUR MEAL SITTING IN THE GRASS WITH NATURE ALL AROUND.
 THIS IS JUST HOW ALL THE SETTLERS ATE THEIR MEALS.
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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 OR AS THE FROGS SAY...
 "...TIME'S FUN WHEN YOU'RE HAVING FLIES."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



OK, FORGET THIS! FROM NOW ON WE NEED TO EITHER MAKE LESS OR JUST EAT MORE.

GRIN THE BEAR? IT



"You were talking in your hibernation again."

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

3			6				8
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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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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: What is the name of the president in the drama "West Wing"?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. state shares the same name as one of the Great Lakes?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: What are the ZIP codes assigned to the president and first lady?
- LANGUAGE: What is cryptophasia?
- MOVIES: What is the number on top of the bus in the movie "Speed"?
- LITERATURE: What is the setting for Dashiell Hammett's novel "The Maltese Falcon"?
- ANATOMY: Which two parts of the human body contain the most bones?
- U.S. STATES: In which state would you find the Grand Teton National Park?
- AD SLOGANS: Which popular product uses the slogan, "Is it in you?"
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the primary ingredient of baba ganoush?

Answers

- Josiah "Jed" Bartlet.
- Michigan.
- 20500-0001 and 20500-0002.
- A language developed by twins that only the two children can understand.
- 2525.
- San Francisco.
- More than half the bones are in the hands and feet, 27 in each hand and 26 in each foot.
- Wyoming.
- Gatorade.
- Eggplant.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves (PG-13)
- John Wick: Chapter 4 (R)
- His Only Son (PG-13)
- Scream VI (R)
- Creed III (PG-13)
- Shazam! Fury of the Gods (PG-13)
- A Thousand and One (R)
- 65 (PG-13)
- Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania (PG-13)
- Jesus Revolution (PG-13)

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BRIEFS

Galva Cleanup Day to be held this Saturday

GALVA – Saturday is clean-up day in Galva, with volunteers welcome to help clean up litter along the roadways.

Anyone who can help is invited to come to City Hall on Saturday at 9 a.m. Bags and gloves will be provided.

The event is sponsored by the Galva: Ready to Grow committee.

– Carol Townsend



Stark County Sheriff Steven Sloan (left) poses with Paige Rewerts (center) and Matthew McCauley, the two Stark County winners of this year's Illinois Sheriffs' Association scholarship. Rewerts and McCauley are both seniors at Stark County High School and each earned \$500 scholarships. Submitted photo.

Pipeline risks to be discussed in Bishop Hill

BISHOP HILL – The Coalition to Stop CO2 Pipelines is hosting a free program Sunday, April 16, at 1 p.m., at 309 N. Bishop Hill St. in Bishop Hill to provide information about the proposed CO2 Wolf Carbon Solutions/ADM Mt. Simon Hub pipeline.

The Mt. Simon Hub is a pipeline proposed for construction in Illinois. It would carry high pressure CO2 from Cedar Rapids, Iowa, toward Peoria and on to Macon County. It is the second CO2 pipeline to make its way to Illinois. If approved, both CO2 pipelines would pass through Henry and Knox counties.

The coalition will explain how CO2 pipelines differ from oil and gas pipelines. Members will discuss the dangers of CO2 pipeline ruptures. Illinois farmers will share how pipelines permanently damage soil, sever tiles and reduce crop production.

Mercer County 4-H holding swine clinic

ALEDO – Mercer County 4-H is teaming up with Show-Rite Feeds, Sure-Champ and VitaCharge to hold a free swine clinic on Sunday, April

23, at 2 p.m. at the Mercer County fairgrounds.

The clinic will feature a one-hour overview and product demonstration on the essential products, feed and everyday animal care and best practices that are crucial to keeping your animal in the best position to find success this summer. The clinic is open to all area youth seeking guidance in project management and show day best practices.

Sign up by April 17 to participate at go.illinois.edu/SwineClinic2023 or call the Illinois Extension office at (309) 756-9978. If you need a reasonable accommodation to participate, contact Mercer County 4-H program coordinator Tracy Fowler Pestle at (309) 513-3100.

Better Banks contest

PEORIA – Better Banks has announced a new contest for high school seniors who plan to continue their education in the fall. The Dorm Room Makeover Contest encourages students to earn entries by managing their bank accounts using digital

banking from Better Banks.

Winners will be selected in a random drawing for \$1,000 and another for \$500 from all entries collected from April 10 to July 31.

To learn more, visit www.betterbanks.com.

IHSA reducing license fees for game officials

BLOOMINGTON – The Illinois High School Association approved two changes to its officials licensing process geared toward trying to recruit more new officials and to retain officials who are currently licensed.

Previously, the IHSA charged \$70 for a license in a single sport, \$20 for a license in a second sport, and \$15 for any additional sport licenses. For 2023-24, an individual can register for up to two licenses for \$70, and additional license(s) are \$10 each.

The second action is to attract more out-of-state officials to work contests in Illinois by lowering the cost for their officiating licenses.

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HAY: No words to express the thanks

Continued from Page 1

Service Agency executive director. Knowing the devastating impact of wildfires and drought in other states, the farmer hoped Sweatman could coordinate a donation to a farm in need.

And the connections began.

Sweatman, through the cattle circuit, knew of Randy Allgood, a Texas cattleman and nationally known cattle judge. With Allgood's involvement in cattle showing, he knew of the Halls, well known for being big sponsors and supporters of youth cattle programs.

The wheels were also turning in Illinois. In a quest to find transportation, Sweatman reached out to farmer Chris Schick in Clinton, who has employed truck driver Darrell White of Peoria for the past seven years. White said it was a no-brainer when his boss asked him to make the trip.

Fulton County Farm Bureau Manager Elaine Stone also solicited donations for fuel, raising \$1,400 in an hour, thanks to the FCFB Board and individual directors, West Central FS, and Compeer/Macomb.

With the round bales loaded, White set out on the 14-hour drive Tuesday afternoon, March 21, and delivered the hay

Wednesday.

"They are just beautiful people," White said of the Texas couple. The Halls invited White to spend the night at their house and made him dinner. "We talked and (John) told me some of the stories about what he does for the kids with the show cows. ...It was a good visit."

Faced with either fixing their home's furnace this past winter or buying feed for the cattle, they chose to feed their animals, Allgood added.

John, 63, and Loretta, 74, said the donation will buy them some valuable time, especially if they receive rain within the next month.

"There's just not any words to tell (the donor) how grateful we are," Loretta said. "How do you say thank you for somebody that's just given you a new lease on your breeding program that you're not going to have to sell, that you've been working on for 30 years?"

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



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Bill calls for review of teacher licensing

By PETER HANCOCK
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – Some Illinois lawmakers are calling for a review of one of the tests prospective teachers must pass in order to be licensed in Illinois. The test is known as the Teacher Performance Assessment, or "edTPA," and it is intended to determine whether a prospective teacher has the knowledge and skills necessary to be

effective in the classroom. It has been a requirement for teacher licensing in Illinois since 2015.

State Sen. Tom Bennett, R-Gibson City, said he started hearing concerns about the test from people in his district, and he later learned that those concerns were shared by other lawmakers.

Bennett is the lead sponsor of Senate Bill 1488, which passed unanimously

out of the Senate March 30 and now awaits action in the House. It would continue the suspension of the edTPA through Aug. 31, 2025.

It would also establish a task force to evaluate teacher performance assessment systems and make recommendations to the State Board of Education and the General Assembly by Aug. 1, 2024.

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Sue, Sherri & Terri

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Answers on Page 3 — Super Crossword — RECORD PLAYING

ACROSS				DOWN			
1 Same Old Love singer Gomez	45 Attack, dog?	82 U.S. Navy bulder	1 Toothed tools	33 That is, to Tiberus	74 Bakers get their mitts on them		
7 Taken-back autos, e.g.	48 Portions out	84 Major Calif. airport code	2 Jacob's twin	34 Not closed all the way	75 Oz ion player Best		
12 Most adultlike	51 Savoir —	85 General — chicken	3 Actor Waggoner	35 Stubborn sort	76 Busy as — pics		
20 Sanctuary	53 Get as profit	86 Looking to buy a Beatles album?	4 Edifice extensions	36 Land in el agria	77 Cartoon		
21 Novelist Jong	54 Historic start?	88 Only OK	5 Granola bit	37 Go no further	78 Retained		
22 Undeveloped expense	55 Write preliminary lyrics to a Pat's Smith album?	90 Frequently	6 Mixtures	39 Go — det	81 — use Herman		
23 Carole King album hanging as a decoration?	57 Healing sign	92 Least distant	7 Della of song	42 Greta of the silver screen	82 Smiling evilly		
25 Surpass	59 Cello's ancestor	93 Badly damaged	8 Of times past	44 Part of OTB	83 "Yikes!"		
26 Drags to court	60 Pop's Grande	94 Fleetwood Mac album?	9 Fruit stones	45 Cordage fiber	85 Huge wave		
27 Endures	61 Michael Jackson album that plays mind games?	97 Assessed	10 Scanner of bar codes, for short	46 Dunne of the silver screen	86 Rds.		
28 Big primate	62 Pope before Stephen IV	99 Mad magazine's Alfred E. —	11 Doc's throat-checking request	47 Labor leader Chavez	87 Bury		
30 San — (Texas city, informally)	64 Healing no depth, in brief	100 Dryly funny	12 Copied a cow	48 Actor Raven-	88 Actress Raven-		
31 Nixon veep	70 Spellbound for a Catholic dignitary?	101 Peeling knife	13 Clerk on "The Simpsons"	50 Extensive	89 Speechifier		
32 Taylor Swift album signed for a Catholic dignitary?	71 Bob Marley album that's very popular in big cities?	102 Smartphone extras	14 The "T" of the DPT vaccine	51 Supporting the idea	91 Fast-food cookers		
34 Title ship in a 1997 Spielberg epic	74 Granola bit	106 Mark up with comments	15 Detach, as a jacket fastener	52 Seed casing	93 Not inclined		
38 Hubalaboo	75 Dearth	108 Joni Mitchell album upon being hit by lightning?	16 Toy in a crib	54 Compadre	94 Sprits in lamps		
40 Hoodwink	79 Works by painter Joan	111 Billy Joel hit	17 Mistake	55 Chopped into small cubes	95 Of the moon		
41 John Lennon album sitting there all by itself?	80 Small bouquet	112 Stones	18 River by the Louvre	56 Lyne relative	96 "Hee Haw" co-host Buck		
43 Shoe parts	81 Polymer used in piping, for short	113 Celestial dust cloud	19 Allfixed, as gift wrap	57 Tibias' places	98 Bohemian		
		114 Parts of car wheels	24 Bamboo-eating bear	58 Spiral shape	101 Dels' neighbors		
		115 Cheeky	29 Comical tumble in slapstick	59 Title cousin in a 1992 film	102 "Dear" advice columnist		
		116 Old Faithful is a famous one	31 Very busy	61 Purple fruits	103 In addition to		
			32 Sebastian of England	62 Letter flourish	104 Cry loudly		
				64 Turin "Ta-tal"	105 Blacken, as a steak		
				65 Turns rancid	107 Scof's cap		
				66 Part of OTB	109 Mauna —		
				67 Chapeau	110 Mediocre grade		
				72 — salts			
				73 Silmy stuff			



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preachinghope@gmail.com
galvafirst@gmail.com
Sunday Worship: 9:00

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Pastor Rebecca Klemm
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OBITUARIES

Teri Ann Albertson

PRINCEVILLE – Teri Ann Albertson, 76, of Princeville, formerly of Toulon, passed away at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, April 6, 2023, at her home. Teri was born Oct. 19, 1946, in West Jersey to Bruce R. and Fern G. (Barton) Fell. She married her high school sweetheart Phillip Albertson on Dec. 11, 1965, in West Jersey; he survives.



Albertson

Also surviving are one son, Darren Albertson of Princeville; one daughter, Heather (Brian Probst) Leighton of Edwards; one granddaughter, Noelle Leighton; one brother, Gary (Sandi) Fell of Morton; one brother-in-law, Brian (Carol) Lee of Mount Vernon; two sisters-in-law, Kim (Craig) Willis of Patoka and Kris (Steve) Scott of Jacksonville, Fla.; her mother-in-law, Cay Lee of Mount Vernon; and several close cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents; and one daughter, Karren Albertson.

Teri graduated with her associate degree in accounting from Midstate College and worked as a secretary at the University of Illinois Extension and later at the Toulon Grade School for many years.

She was a member of the Princeville United Methodist Church where she proudly devoted her time and served on various committees. Teri enjoyed traveling, visiting 47 of the 48 contiguous United States with her husband. She loved her plants and pets, along with having a passion for birds, hummingbirds and horses.

Her funeral service was April 11, 2023, at the Princeville United Methodist Church. Rev. Zach Waldis officiated. Her visitation was Monday, April 10, 2023, also at the church. Burial was in Toulon Cemetery. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville is in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to OSF Hospice or the Princeville United Methodist Church, or a charity of the donor's choice.

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

James M. Baulch

GALVA – James M. "Jim" Baulch, 49, of Galva, died Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Houston, Texas, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

A funeral mass will be celebrated at 10:30 a.m., Friday, April 14, at St. John Catholic Church in Galva where military rites will be accorded by the Galva Fusiliers. Celebrant will be Fr. Christopher Magesa. Visitation was to be from 5-7 p.m., Thursday, April 13, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with recitation of the rosary at 4:30 p.m. Cremation will be accorded following the services.



Baulch

In lieu of flowers memorials may be directed to the family or to the PTSD Foundation of America by visiting www.ptsdusa.org.

James was born March 30, 1974, in Houston, Texas, the son of Don and Dorothy (Long) Baulch. He married

Charity Stear on March 18, 2003, in Copperas Cove, Texas.

Survivors include his wife; children Trevor and Cole Baulch of Galva, Zach (Zoye) Bollinger of Cambridge, and Andrew Jones of Kentucky; and his two grandchildren, Luke and Melonie Bollinger. Also surviving are his siblings, Terri Royer, TD (Marcia) Baulch, both of Houston, Angela (Zach) Braden of South Houston and Katy (John) Meyer of Magnolia, Texas; his mother-in-law, Barb Atkinson of Galva; sisters-in-law Deb Tompkins of Galesburg, Dawn (Kraig) Gale of Galva and Denise (Matt) Verway of Kewanee; nieces and nephews, Kim (William) Jones, Chris (Beth) Greiner, Josie and Nathan Berry, Kalleigh Gale, Wes and Chloe Behnke, Lesley Braden, William Webb, Grant and Margeaux Baulch and Samantha Greiner; several cousins; and his four-legged companion, Rosie.

Jim was preceded in death by his biological father Eddie Webb, brother Greg Dodge and his maternal and paternal grandparents.

Jim graduated from Clear Brook High School in Friendswood, Texas, in 1992. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1991 and medically retired in 2010 after 19 years of service. While in the military he was stationed all over, including South Korea, Fort Hood, Fort Sam Houston and Fort Bliss in Texas, Fork Polk in Louisiana, Red Stone Arsenal in Alabama and Tikrit, Iraq, where he served during the Iraq War from March of 2003 to March of 2004.

During his career he held various jobs including 88M Transportation Specialist from 1992-95, 27 T Avenger Systems Repairer from 1995-2005, 91 W Health Care/Combat Medic and EMT Basic from 2005-10 and a 91 W-N3 occupational therapy assistant working as COTA from 2006-13.

Jim was a member of St. John Catholic Church in Galva where he was active in the Knights of Columbus. He was also a member of the American Legion and VFW and a lifetime member of the NRA. He served as an Assistant Scoutmaster for the local Boy Scout troop, coached t-ball, baseball, basketball, soccer, flag football, JFL and, most recently, high school football.

Jim enjoyed volunteering in the community, whether that be helping with legion breakfasts or assisting with Tootsie Roll drives. He also enjoyed his time spent with his neighbor, John Holevoet.

Some of Jim's personal hobbies included playing Magic the Gathering and following his favorite sports teams the Texas Longhorns, Houston Astros and Houston Texans.

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

Sharon L. Deahl

KEWANEE – Sharon L. Deahl, 77, of Kewanee, passed away on Thursday, April 6, 2023, surrounded by family in her home. She was a resilient person and a 21-year liver transplant survivor. This blessing allowed her to extend her life and positively impact many other lives over the years.

Sharon was born July 2, 1945, the daughter of Lloyd Conner and Helen (Stewart) White in Kewanee. She graduated from Wethersfield High School in 1963, and attended Black Hawk East College, where she was a

member of the National Honor Society. Sharon was well known for her talent at cooking and was owner and operator of Shar's Restaurant and Catering.

She was employed by Mechanical Insulation as a bookkeeper and retired from the First Presbyterian Church in 2020, where she was an administrative assistant for 14 years.



Deahl

She was an active member of the Business and Professional Women (BPW) organization and served as president in 2004-05 and was honored as Woman of the Year in 1991. She was a proud member of the League of Women Voters where she served as moderator for candidate forums and was a past president. Sharon's community service and charity donations were extensive including teaching Junior Achievement at Central School for 21 years and serving as sponsorship and silent auction chairperson for the Henry/Stark Relay for Life.

She was a 65-year member of the First Presbyterian Church in Kewanee having served as treasurer for 19 years and was a member of numerous committees including finance, Christian education and the mission committee.

Sharon was preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Chuck" W. Deahl. Chuck and Sharon were married for 35 years and enjoyed traveling and spending time with their family. They were avid Illini fans. Sharon is survived by three children, Janelle (Dwayne) Ouart, Jill (Andy) Bullock and Troy (Erin) Sheets; grandchildren, Brooks (Bobby), Blake, Blair (Michael Shaw) and Briley Bullock, Dylan (Viola) and Courtney (McCauley Johnston) Ouart and Nicholas, Lauren and Landon Sheets; and one great grandchild, Nolan Ouart. She was also preceded in death by her brother, James W. (Alice) Conner.

Per Sharon's wishes cremation will be accorded followed by a private inurnment to be held at Parkview Cemetery in Peoria at a later date.

In lieu of flowers the family asks you to consider sending a memorial to the Black Hawk East College Foundation, 26230 Blackhawk Rd., Galva, IL 61434. Or memorials can be made to the Henry/Stark Relay for Life by mailing or dropping them off at State Bank of Toulon, 635 Tenney St., Kewanee, IL 61443 Attn: Nichelle Morey.

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

Beverly J. Harrell

KEWANEE – Beverly J. Harrell, 90, of Kewanee, died Saturday, April 8, 2023, at OSF Saint Luke's Medical Center.

Beverly was born March 1, 1933, in La Harpe, Ill., the daughter of Ger-vase "Cappie" R. and Vada F. (Alexander) DeHaven. She attended La Harpe Schools for 11 years. She attended Western High School in Macomb her senior year, graduating with the class of 1951. She married Leon R. Harrell in Colchester, Ill., on June 29, 1952; he preceded her in death on Dec. 5, 1980.

Beverly is survived by four children, Rodney Harrell, Kewanee, Teresa "Terry" Craig, Galva, Roger

OBITUARIES

Harrell, Kewanee, and Dave Harrell, Cottonwood, Ariz.; two grandchildren, Lee Craig and Steve Craig; three great grandchildren, Dalton (Bella) Thrasher, Chris Craig and Milan Craig; one brother, Harry (Lola) DeHaven, Galesburg; and a brother-in-law, Gene Watson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, brother Howard DeHaven, sister Carol Watson and son-in-law Melvin "Mel" Craig.

Beverly was a homemaker. She enjoyed taking care of her children. She worked at Kresges Dime Store and the Kewanee Public Hospital part time.

Beverly was a member of the First Christian Church, Kewanee Historical Society and the La Harpe Historical Society. She loved her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. She enjoyed country music, counted cross stitch and embroidery. During her older years, she volunteered to do nails at Toulon Rehabilitation and Courtyard Estates, Galva.

Visitation was to be from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at First Christian Church. Funeral services were to be at noon on Thursday, April 13, 2023, at the church. Pastor Brian Giese and Pastor Nate McCarter, First Christian Church, La Harpe were to officiate. Burial will be at Evergreen Memorial Gardens at a later date.

Memorials may be made to the First Christian Church, Kewanee Historical Society or to the La Harpe Historical Society.

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

Doris L. Roach

TOULON – Doris L. Roach (Swearingen), 74, of Toulon, died peacefully at 11:45 p.m., Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at her residence, surrounded by her children and grand-

children.

Doris was born on Sept. 4, 1948, in Kewanee, the daughter of Woodrow W. and Virginia L. (McKinney) Swearingen. She married Dennis D. Roach Sr. on Dec. 8, 1967, in Galesburg and he preceded her in death on Jan. 14, 2019.

Surviving are six children, Denise Lundell (Ron) of Toulon, Debby (Wayne Clow) of Toulon, Dawn Fox of Pekin, Donna Eagan-Rossi (Mike Rossi) of Crete, Dennis D. "Bud" Roach Jr. of Toulon and Valarie Hacker of Garrett, Ind.; 23 grandchildren, Ashley (Matt), Justin, Joey, Samantha (Jimmy), Jessika (Ron), Duke, Denny, Donald, Deandra, Tiffany, Tommy (Sara), Ryan (Kimmy), Sarah (Connor), John (Taylor), Kirstin, Morgan (Logan), Taylor (KJ), Jessip, Kari, Amber (Greg), Malissa (Steven), Andrew and Cody (Maria); a niece, Chelsey (Justin); 43 great-grandchildren; brother Lonnie Swearingen; and four sisters, Sandy Heiman, Linda Pembroke, Carol Lange and Mary Cantwell.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; three siblings, Sherman, Ruth Ann and Jack; sister-in-law, Merriam, sister-in-law, Carol; and brother-in-law, Bill.

Doris was a kind-hearted woman who loved all and was loved by many. She cherished her time spent playing games with her family, taking a trip to the casino and shopping. She will be deeply missed.

Funeral services were to be held at 11 a.m., Monday, April 10, at Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee with Rev. Rebecca Klemm officiating. Visitation was from 9 a.m. until the time of services at the funeral home. Burial was to be at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in rural Kewanee.

Memorials may be directed to the family for a memorial to be established.

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



Harrell



Roach

funeralhome.com.

Vickie Ann Ruzinski

GALVA – With the love of her family surrounding her in her home, Vickie Ann Ruzinski, 70, of Galva, Ill., passed away on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 12:10 a.m.

She was born on March 24, 1953, in Galesburg, Ill., to John Russell Barlow and Helen Mae Lapan Barlow. Vickie graduated from Galva High School in 1971.

Survivors include her loving husband of 37 years, Jim; her children, Rosanne Williams Wexell, Andrew Williams (Tonya), Jennifer Ulaszek (Jim) and Peter Ruzinski (Catharine); sister Linda Jo (Michael) O'Neal; and sister-in-law, Kay Barlow. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Emilyann and Paige Wexell, Jake (Pasence) and Isles McClintic, Cortnie (Jarod) and Sloane Ackerman, Melissa (Dustin) Dingledine and family, Tim (Misty) Heady and family, Madeline and Grace Ulaszek and Ava and Zeb Ruzinski. Vickie is also survived by many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Vickie was preceded in death by her parents; her infant son, Jonathon Ross Williams; and a brother, Timothy Barlow.

A funeral service was to be held 11 a.m., Wednesday, April 12, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva, with Pastor Dan Wright officiating. Visitation was to begin one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial was to be at Galva Cemetery, with a luncheon to follow at the Galva Congregational Church.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

The family wishes to send a special thank you to the staff of Trinity Hospice and OSF Home Health for their care and compassion.

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



Ruzinski

SPORTS: Rebels improving at tossing strikes, fielding

Continued from Page 12

and Cameron Watson each hit a double.

Hillan finished off the win from the mound in three innings of work with two strikeouts and no earned runs.

"We have started to put together a good combination of throwing strikes and playing defense, which has led to a more competitive effort," Stark County coach Scott Paxson said. "Our hitting has remained fairly consistent so far."

SCHS downed Peoria Heights 6-1 in non-conference action on April 4 at home. The Rebels scored three in the fourth and three in the sixth. A pitching combination of Steelman, Giesenhagen, Hillan and Kieser pitched to just two hits, three walks and nine strikeouts. Watson recorded a double while Steelman, Kieser and Connor Wagenbach each had one hit in the win.

Stark County fell to Bushnell-Prairie City on Tuesday, 12-2.

• **Galva baseball** – Galva (0-1) was defeated at home on Saturday by ROWVA-Williamsfield in a Lincoln Trail matchup. It was the first varsity game of the season for the Wildcats.

Baseball players for GHS are

playing in a transitional and developmental season with six LTC varsity games. The remaining games are against junior-varsity competition. A junior-high team will begin to play a schedule this fall.

Freshman Cyrus Herr had to be called on to catch for the team, a position he had never played before. Jaxson Meier and John Bursell led a thin pitching staff.

The team put together some good at bats in a setback to Monmouth United's JV.

"We have made progress, but there's still a long way to go. We have a lot of inexperience taking the field, but the effort is good," Galva Coach Van White said. "These upcoming seasons, along with developing at the junior-high level should help us build the program upwards."

Galva's next varsity matchup is at LTC rival Princeville on Saturday.

• **Galva softball** – Henry scored six times in the first three innings Monday and pulled away from Galva for a 14-3 five-inning victory. Libby Anderson's fifth-inning triple drove in two Galva runs.

ROWVA-Williamsfield swept a doubleheader April 8 from Galva, 20-0 in three innings and 10-9. In

the second game, Galva led 9-8 after six innings. The Wildcats scored four in the fifth to lead 8-5.

Maddi Bates, Lilly Holleemback, Alexis Spivey and Lexi Stone had RBI in the game for Galva. Bates had the only Galva hit in the first game.

• **Stark County softball** – Shanna Peterson struck out nine Lowpoint-Washburn batters Monday and went 2-for-2 to lead Stark County to a 5-2 victory.

Olivia Orwig scored twice. Anisia Rucker had two RBI, including one on a fourth-inning triple that gave the Rebels a 4-1 lead.

West Central swept Stark County in a doubleheader April 6: 12-3 and 16-3. Payten Hillier and Lauren West each had two hits and one RBI in the first game. Hayley Gillam and Shanna Peterson repeated that feat in the second game.

Annawan-Wethersfield scored seven times in the second inning April 8 to beat Stark County 15-0 in four innings. Orwig had both hits for the Rebels, who were to play Tuesday and Thursday against Abingdon-Avon. A doubleheader is set for Saturday against Knoxville.

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The Prairie News Sports

Lady Rebels win 2 track meets

By The Prairie News

The Stark County girls track team is on a roll, racking up wins its last two track and field meets.

On Monday, the Lady Rebels were first at the Bureau Valley Invite, finishing with 139 points – six ahead of the hosts.

Senior Lindley Johnston paced Stark County with three wins. Johnston took the 100-meter dash in a personal record 12.66 seconds, claimed the 200 in 26.28 and ran the 400 in 1:01.19 ahead of teammate Keagan Hamilton (PR, 1:03.21).

Stark County also got a pair of wins from sophomore thrower Lauren Orwig, who had a PR of 94 feet, 4 inches to win discus and also took first in shot put (32-10), just ahead of teammate Chelsey Stotler (PR, 32-9.75).

The Lady Rebels also won the 4x400 relay behind Cheyenh Smith, Hamilton, Paytin Terwilliger and Paige Rewerts in a time of 4:27.72. Smith was also second in the 800 with a PR of 2:33.52.

On April 6, the Lady Rebels won the Dale Collis Invite at Galva with 126 points – 11 ahead of Henry-Senachwine.

Johnston ran a PR of 25.99 to win the 200 and a PR of 59.01 to easily claim the 400. She won high jump by clearing 5-4.

Smith won the 1,600 in a PR of 5:57.99 ahead of teammate Rewerts (PR, 5:58.14). Other second-place finishers included Hamilton in the 800 (PR, 2:36.12), Orwig in shot put (32-4.25) and the 4x800 relay (10:29.44).

The Stark County boys placed third at the Dale Collis Invite with 81.5 points, behind winner ROWVA-Williamsfield (108) and Princeville (96).

Stark County winners were Daniel Kieser in 110 hurdles (17.89) and 300 hurdles (PR, 44.47), Colby Stotler in shot put (PR, 45-6.25), Luke Rewerts in triple jump (36-10) and the 4x100 relay of Nolan Orwig, Kieser, Avery Gerber and Luke Rewerts (45.38).

Stark County is at Knoxville's Bullet In-



Sophomore Lauren Orwig throws discus April 6 in the Dale Collis Invite at Galva. Orwig won both throwing events Monday at the Bureau Valley Invite. Photo by Collin Fairfield.

vite Monday for a 4 p.m. start.

• **Galva track** – Galva freshman Ian Pacheco won the 3,200 at the Dale Collis Invite with a PR of 11:49.01. The Galva girls team had two second-place finishers: Kyrsten Hill had a PR of 29-8 in triple jump and Maddie Bates posted a PR of 14-2 in long jump for the Lady Wildcats.

• **Stark County baseball** – Stark County (3-8-1) fell 10-0 to Ridgewood last Saturday in the opener of a Lincoln Trail doubleheader at home. Owen Gibler hit a double in the effort.

SCHS took the nightcap, 5-3. Four scores in the fourth inning were enough. Dillon Steelman drove in two of the runs and Daniel Kieser had three hits.

Tim Giesenhagen pitched the first six innings. He gave up seven hits but walked only one, struck out seven and yielded no earned runs. Kieser closed out the win.

The Rebels topped LTC foe West Central, 8-4, on the road on April 5. Ryne Hillan had two doubles and two RBI, Charlie Rouse drove in two and Gibler, Steelman,

Continued on Page 11

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