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December 22, 2023
Vol. 20, No. 46

The Prairie News

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Stark Co. School Board to sell \$6.6 million in bonds for track, gym

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
For The Prairie News

WYOMING – The Stark County School Board held a public hearing Dec. 18 to hear public comments concerning the school district's plan to sell \$6.6 million in bonds to pay for the new all-weather track and the new gymnasium projects. There were no comments and the hearing was closed.

Representatives from the Farnsworth Group and CORE Construction made a presentation about the new gymnasium project to be built at the Toulon school campus. The gym will seat 1,500 people and be con-

structed just west of the new high school building. It would be approximately on the same ground as the former high school building.

The basketball court would run north to south and three designs with various colors, arrangements and amenities were presented for the board's perusal and selection.

No action was taken.

According to CORE's representative, "The plan right now is to have the final plan come out in early February 2024 to put out for bids. We will get the bids back and write a contract and start construction at the end of

March 2024."

In his report, School Superintendent Brett Elliott said dirt has been moved out for the new all-weather track and concrete should be poured this spring. Long jump and pole vault pits have been relocated behind the grandstand for safety. An early summer completion date is anticipated.

Elliott also said the school district's winter break is Dec. 20 to Jan. 5, with teachers returning Jan. 5 and students returning on Jan. 8.

The school board also held a truth in taxation hearing just prior to the regular board meet-



Pictured above is the current Gym at Stark County Jr/Sr High School. Submitted photo.

ing. Eric Siewerts commented that the school district didn't that his taxes were increasing,

Continued on Page 2

THE MUSIC OF CHRISTMAS

Every song has a tale

Interesting background on Christmas songs
By RON DIETER
For The Prairie News

It's the Christmas season. That means whenever I venture into a store, the Evil Queen of Christmas, Mariah Carey, will be screaming "All I Want For Christmas Is You" from the sound system. Someone wrote that Carey's song brings up sweet images of Christmas. Humbug. The only thing that song brings up for me is my lunch.

During November and December, I try to keep that noise out of my house. Instead of the radio, I rely on my trusty CD player. It holds 100 CDs, of which 45 are Christmas albums. Lots of sweet music. One of my favorites is Karen Carpenter's



"Merry Christmas Darling." It has much the same sentiment as Carey's song but is delivered in soft, smooth dulcet tones more appropriate for both the season and the sentiment.

Music is an important part of the Christmas season and many of the

songs and carols that we enjoy each year have interesting backstories. "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer" is one. It involves a mailorder catalog and a persistent wife.

In 1939, the Montgomery Ward Company tasked one of its copy-

Continued on Page 2

Galva city council OKs levy increase

By CAROL A. TOWNSEND
For The Prairie News

The Galva City Council passed their tax levy ordinance in the amount of \$710,806 which is up from last year's \$664,876. The rate per \$100 of assessed valuation is \$2.67, which is lower by 6 cents.

Inside

- Five more felony charges for Matthew Shipp. **Page 5**
- Galva School Board passes tax levy. **Page 14**

City Administrator David Dyer reported that Illinois has a new law taking effect Jan. 1. regarding paid leave of absence for all workers act. Employers would provide up to 40 hours after one year of employment.

Dyer also reported that a new fence is going to be put up around the Bishop Hill Park but \$40,000 needs to be raised before the Life Skills Reentry

Center of Kewanee can do the work. It was noted that maybe Galva can donate but will wait and see on other donations.

The state of Illinois has refused to pay.

Interest has been shown in two vacant lots in Galva. They have been appraised and interested parties must pay 80% of the appraised price in order to be sold. Bids will be opened at the Jan. 22 meeting.

Continued on Page 7

Christmas
Saturday Dec 23rd - Closed
Christmas Day - Closed





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Ross and Patti Streitmatter's 50th Wedding Anniversary
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THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STARK COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR
will be held on Thursday, January 11th at 6:00 p.m. at the Stark County Fairgrounds in Wyoming, IL for Stark County residents 18 or older.

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SONGS: Rudolph's story started as a poem

Continued from Page 1
writers, Robert May, to write a story for a coloring book to be used as a giveaway to kids at Christmas. May came up with the story of a misfit ninth reindeer whom he named Rudolph. The story became popular and demand for the booklets grew.

Then in the late 1940s, songwriter Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law, converted May's poetry to lyrics and composed the melody for "Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer."

A cowboy singer, Gene Autry, was offered the chance to record the song but refused. Why, I don't know. Autry's wife loved the song and finally convinced him to record it. He reluctantly agreed, but put it on the B side of another recording.

The B side became the A side when the song about the bullied reindeer went on to top the music charts in 1950.

Montgomery Ward owned the copyright of the song because May wrote the words while under their employ. But the company turned it over to May, who was burdened with a mountain of family medical bills. Rudolph's popularity grew and grew, and May became a wealthy man.

Ironically, the Montgomery Ward

Company eventually went bankrupt.

The story behind the beloved "Silent Night" is fairly well-known, at least to older generations. In 1818, Father Josephus Mohr, the pastor of St. Nicholas Church in a little village in Austria, had a problem. A recent flooding of a nearby river had put the church organ out of commission.

Father Mohr needed a simple carol for the midnight mass. He presented a poem he had written a couple of years previous to his friend and choirmaster Franz Gruber who in just a couple hours composed the melody for the poem. Playing his guitar, Gruber joined Father Mohr in singing "Stille Nacht" later that night, accompanied by the church choir.

It wasn't until 1863 that the lyrics were translated into English by John Freeman Young, an Episcopal priest at Trinity Church in New York City. His translation is rather loose, to say the least.

What we sing today is quite a stretch from Mohr's original German words.

A literal translation of the German lyrics reads: "Silent night, holy night. Everyone sleeps, alone watches only the close, most holy couple. Blessed boy in curly hair, sleep in heavenly

peace, sleep in heavenly peace." Although the English version isn't precise, the sentiment comes through just the same.

The story behind another Christmas classic, "I'll Be Home For Christmas," makes it one of the most poignant of Christmas songs. Recorded in late 1943 by Bing Crosby, the song touched the hearts of soldiers and their families as they struggled through World War II.

"I'll Be Home For Christmas" became the most requested song at USO shows entertaining troops during the war. Knowing what the song meant to the soldiers, it's hard for me to keep a tear away when I hear the song's closing words, "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams."

Set aside 10 minutes during this Christmas season to watch a presentation about this beautiful song.

Just search YouTube for "David McCullough Tabernacle Choir." Have some tissue handy.

This Christmas we'll ask the Good Lord to watch over our soldiers away from home and family. God bless them all.

STARK SCHOOL: Taxation hearing held

Continued from Page 1
need a 1,500-seat gymnasium and repeatedly said his taxes have increased every year while he remains on a fixed income.

The board later adopted

the levy during the regular meeting.

The tax rate is slightly lower this year Elliott pointed out. According to the school district's notice, "The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for the year 2022 were \$6,411,766.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$6,860,594. This represents a 6.54 percent increase over the previous year.

"The property taxes extended for debt service for 2022 were \$1,046,000. The estimated property

taxes to be levied for debt service for 2023 are \$1,044,800. This represents a decrease of .11% from the previous year. The total property taxes extended for 2022 were \$7,457,766. The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2023 are \$7,905,395. This represents a 5.66% increase from the previous year."

In her presentation, Elementary School Principal Jenna Bibb said that the Stark County Elementary School Parents' Club and Stark County Educational Foundation auction will be held on March 9.

The board discussed but did not finalize its winter retreat to be held Jan. 16 at noon. The regular meeting will be at 6 p.m. that day. Tuesday was picked because Jan. 15 is the Martin Luther King holiday.

After a closed executive session, the board approved:

- Sophia Elswich as K-12 music teacher for the 2023-24 school year.
- Cole Hartley as Innovation Lab supervisor.
- Tyler Brown as 7th grade volleyball coach.
- Chad Acree resigned as Junior High girls basketball coach.

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104 N Main Ave Wyoming \$129,000
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409 E Division St Galva - \$59,900
3 bedrooms/ 1 bath. Partially fenced yard/ 1 car detached garage.

PENDING!



417 East St 5 Kewanee - \$122,500
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Correction


In last Friday's Stark County board article, it was incorrectly written that the board did not receive a county finance report for the second month in a row. The board did receive emails of the finance report for the past two months.

In Loving Memory of Chad Colgan
1984 - 2007

"Missing You at Christmas, and Your Birthday."

This is for someone wonderful as loved as one could be for you were everything in life you meant the world, you see And sometimes life can be unkind when hearts are torn in two but nothing ever could compare to the pain of losing you But all the love you left behind, forever will live on and so until we meet again rest peacefully, dear son.

— Forever Loved and Missed,
Mom, Dad, and family.



PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic Citations & Ordinance Violations

12-11 - Cathy L. Baker - Expired registration.

12-15 - Travis D. Arends - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.

12-19 - Demacio D. Warfield - Unlawful possession of cannabis, seatbelt required & driving 11-14 mph above limit.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

12-11 - An employee from the Wyoming Dollar General reported that a customer missed the business driveway and nosed their vehicle into the ditch. No injuries were reported, and the driver was identified as Cathy L. Baker.

12-13 - Justin L. Homberg, 25, Bradford, and Riley D. McLean, 42, Galva, were arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle. Holmberg was also charged with obstructing identification, driving while his license was suspended, failure to signal when required and disobeying a stop sign. McLean was charged with obstructing identification. Both men were taken into custody and transported to the Bureau County Jail.

12-16 - Pamela V. Turnbull, of rural Toulon, reported the theft of a gaming air hockey/foosball table estimated at \$200 from her porch.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

12-11 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. to assist a citizen having a mental-health crisis.

12-11 - to the 400 block of NW 6th Ave. for a complaint involving two loose dogs. The dogs were captured. Officer recognized one of the dogs and returned them to their owner in the 700 block of NW 7th Ave.

12-12 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a subject having a mental-health crisis.

12-12 - to the 500 block of SE 3rd St. for a complaint involving excessive phone calls/scam calls. Officer assisted placing the complainant's number on a national do-not-call list.

12-12 - to the 400 block of S. Center Ave. for a complaint involving cats being left in a vacant house. The tenant was contacted and assured officer the cats would be taken to a new residence.

12-12 - Officer spoke to a subject by telephone about an altercation that reportedly took place on Nov. 5.

12-12 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St., Karysa Taylor, 29, Kewanee, was arrested for operating a vehicle with a cancelled driver's license. She was transported to the Galva Police Department and later released with a court date.

12-13 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for numerous calls to Henry County. As the result, John Kurzeja, 42, Galva, was arrested for disorderly conduct and filing false police re-



ports. He was taken to Henry County jail.

12-14 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a 911 call that plotted there. It was determined to be a verbal dispute over money.

12-14 - to 00 block of SE Industrial Ave. for an intoxicated motorist who had just left the area. Officer was not able to locate the suspect vehicle.

12-15 - to the 400 block of Swank St. to inspect a slow-moving vehicle.

12-15 - Officer met with a subject at the Galva Police Dept. who wanted police to be aware he purchased a house in town.

12-15 - Noelle Butler, 40, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance in the 800 block of SE 2nd St.

12-16 - Rosa Meza-Martinez, 28, Kewanee, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

12-16 - to the 500 block of SW 6th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was returned to its owner.

12-16 - Officer was flagged down by a citizen in the 200 block of SE 8th Ave. to discuss a civil issue.

12-16 - to the 00 block of SW 9th Ave. for a hit-and-run accident involving an unknown vehicle striking a street signpost.

12-16 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 100 block of SE 2nd St., Kierstin Bryner, 31, Galesburg, was arrested for improper use of registration, operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a court date.

12-16 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a mental-health crisis.

12-17 - to the 00 block of IL Hwy 17 for a hit-and-run accident involving an unknown vehicle striking a mailbox and leaving.

12-17 - to the 400 block of S. Center Ave. for an animal abandonment complaint.

Property Transfers

12-11 - Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church to LaFayette Methodist Church - Vg of LaFayette - Block 19- Lots 1,2,3,4,7 and 8 - 307 E. Main St. and 308 Hodgson St., LaFayette - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Illinois Great Rivers Conference of the United Methodist Church to Toulon Methodist Church, NFP - Original Town of

Toulon Pt Block 5 Lots 4,5,8,9 and Block 12 Lots 2,3, and 6 - 229 W. Main St., 302 W. Main St., 108 N. Henderson St., and 112 N. Henderson St., Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Sally Ann Corrigan - Pt 8-13-6 NW, Pt 26-14-6 NW & Pt 27-14-6 NE - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Gretchen Sue Main - Pt 32-14-6 SE - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Preston R. Currier - Pt 32-14-6 SE & SW - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Lucinda Kay Milburn - Pt 8-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Anita Lee Milburn - Pt 17-13-6 SE & Pt 27-14-6 NE - Consideration = \$0.

12-11 - Sally Ann Corrigan, Anita Lee Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Preston R. Currier, Preston R. Currier Succ. Co-Trustee, Gretchen Sue Main, Anita Lee Milburn, Lucinda Kay Milburn, and Jeanne Mary Ryan to Jeanne Mary Ryan - Pt 8-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.

12-12 - Chad E., Clint A., Kirk A. and Kyle E. Plattner to Plattner Brothers LLC - Sect Pt 16-12-6 SE and SW and Pt 22-12-6 NW & SW - Consideration = \$0.

12-13 - Jeffrey Leffelman to Todd Schaffer - Lt7 Sect. 27-13-6 SE - Consideration = \$15,000.

12-15 - David K. Klumpp to Andrew D. and Rachel D. Klumpp - Pt 15-13-7 - 15251 Castleton Rd., Wyoming - Consideration = \$200,000.

Divorce

12-8 - Chad Eric Gillam, Wyoming and Holly Lynn Gillam, Hanna City.

NOTICE
City of Wyoming
Vehicles will be towed at owner's expense from the downtown streets if left after a snowfall of two or more inches until cleanup is complete.

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

H	O	P	I	M	W	A	F	B	I	L	A	B	A	M	P	S			
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

CryptoQuote

answer

If baking is any labor at all, it's a labor of love. A love that gets passed from generation to generation. - Regina Brett

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• Publisher - Jeff Lampe
news@prairie-news.com
• Advertising Manager - Pam Wulf
ads@prairie-news.com
• Ad and Graphic Designer - Ken Black
graphics@prairie-news.com
• Chief Correspondent - John Ballentine
• Bradford Correspondent - Angie Stange
• Galva Correspondent - Carol Townsend

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THANK YOU

The Wyoming Christmas Baskets would like to say thank you to Stark County Fairgrounds for use of the building and all who gave generously by your monetary donations or your time. We are truly grateful and blessed by such a caring and giving community. May you all have a wonderful and blessed New Year! God bless you all!

Marilyn Swearingen, Director,
Mike Finnegan, Treasurer
Wyoming Christmas Baskets

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Clean Getaway
Car Wash & Laundry
Wyoming
Clean Getaway
Princeville

Howard's priceless gift of simple giving

The Christmas tree was a scrub cedar hacked from the edge of the woods that bordered the farm. Big-bulbed lights, strung in barber pole fashion, generated almost as much heat as the nearby woodstove. Yellowed Christmas cards, saved through the years and perched like doves in the un-trimmed branches, served as ornaments.

"I believe this is the prettiest tree I've ever had," Howard proclaimed as we stood in its glow. "And it smells good, too."

The only scent evident to me was a mixture of wood smoke and the remains of a fried pork supper, but I lied and said, "Sure does."

Howard beckoned me to sit. We had shared Christmas Day in the dairy barn and it was his request that we share a bit of the night, also. He knew I was alone because my family, his employer, was visiting relatives. I knew he was alone because he was always alone, a bachelor for nearly 40 years.



Alan GUEBERT

"I'll get us some Christmas cheer," he offered as I sank into the sofa. In untied work shoes he shuffled toward the kitchen. A minute later, he returned with two water glasses filled with rhubarb wine.

"It's been a good Christmas, ain't it Allie Boy?" he asked as he sat in a ladder-back chair by the stove.

He had called me Allie Boy for as long as I could remember. I had taken to calling him Hoard the

Dairyman after the title of a farm magazine my father subscribed to. I nodded. It had been a good day. Two wobbly newborn calves greeted us when we arrived at the dairy barn early that morning. Wet and shivering, we dried them with the past summer's straw before showing them how to find breakfast at their mamas' side. One was a bull, the other a heifer.

"We ought to name 'em Mary and Joseph," Howard now said as we reshaped the day, "on account of them being born today."

Mary and Joseph? Generally, Howard had only one name for all cows: Succum. None of us knew what it meant or where it came from, but from the time he arrived on the farm in 1965 every cow was always Succum and every heifer was always Little Succum. A group of cows or calves were simply Big Succums or Baby Succums.

"Mary and Joseph they will be," I said approvingly. Silence hung in the stale air. I reckoned that if you had bached it for 40 years, silence wasn't a void that needed to be filled, so I sipped my wine and said nothing.

Howard reached for his pipe and the big, red can of Velvet tobacco that had been my Christmas gift to him that morning.

"You want to roll yourself a smoke, Allie? I got some papers here."

I shook off the offer.

"Yep," Howard said as if to himself, "that's the prettiest tree I've ever had. And this is shaping up to be the nicest Christmas I've ever had because you came by."

I looked at the tree and then at the

old man ringed in tobacco smoke staring at it and I felt sad. Not for him. I felt sad for me.

I had agreed to come to his house to accommodate him, a favor for a hired man.

But he had not wanted a favor. All he had wanted was the chance to share his Christmas good fortune with me. He had some new wine, a warm fire, his best Christmas tree ever and a week's worth of tobacco. He was happy, and he wanted to give me some of that happiness.

As I stared at the silhouette of Hoard the Dairyman in the glow of the Christmas lights, I saw a man of great warmth, vast wealth and pure honesty. He didn't have a checking account or credit card, but he was far richer than the condescending college boy on his sofa.

"Well Hoard," I said a very quiet minute later, "I better go. We both need to be at the barn early tomorrow."

He led me to the back door. "Don't forget," he said as I headed for the truck, "we'll call those calves Mary and Joseph."

Almost as many Christmas Nights later, I have not forgotten two calves named Mary and Joseph and Howard's priceless gift of simple giving.

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents, and contact information are posted at farmandfoodfile.com.

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Five more felony porn charges in Shipp case

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Matthew R. Shipp, 19, of rural Toulon, was indicted Dec. 15 in Stark County Circuit Court with five additional Class X felony child pornography distribution charges by the Illinois Attorney General's prosecutor Shanti Kulkarni.

This makes 10 counts of Class X child pornography distribution filed against Shipp since his initial arrest in November.

Class X felonies are punishable by a maximum of 30 years imprisonment.

Shipp appeared in Court with his newly hired private attorney, Douglas Johnson, of the Bloomington law firm Johnson Law Group. Johnson and his father, Mark, filed entry of appearance documents with the Stark County Circuit Court Clerk on Dec. 8 and 12.

Shipp's Stark County Public Defender, Robert M. McBride, was released from the case.

Kulkarni stated in court that the new charges are associated with Lee County, but he did not elaborate on specifics.

According to Stark County Circuit Clerk Julie Kenney the additional five charges were from a statewide grand jury that was held in Lee County. Shipp and his counselor waived the reading of the new charges.

A new sex-offender evaluator, Stephen Draminski, of Kewanee, is to be hired by Stark County to conduct an examination of Shipp before Feb. 2. Draminski will replace Bryan DeNure as the evaluator, because DeNure is unavailable.

Shipp's pretrial release motion was continued again by his defense counselor and Shipp remains incarcerated in Henry County Jail, in Cambridge. Shipp's next court appearance will be Feb. 2 for a pretrial scheduling conference hearing. His trial is set for March 4.



Shipp

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Terms of Sale: The successful bidder will be obligated to enter into a Purchase Agreement and pay a deposit of 10% of the purchase price within 48 hours after the bids are opened. The Purchase Agreement provides for a final closing on or before February 2, 2024, at which time a Warranty Deed and an Owner's Title Insurance Policy in the amount of the purchase price insuring merchantable title and possession of the farmland shall be delivered to the Purchaser in exchange for the balance of the purchase price. Sellers shall give Buyer a credit for the 2023 Real Estate Taxes. Sellers are retaining the 2023 farm rent. **A bid package, containing the bid form, purchase agreement, title commitment, and detailed information about the farm, may be obtained from the Attorneys for Sellers.**

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BRIEFS

Black Hawk College East gets \$150,000 donation

GALVA – Trustees of the Donal Ward Living Trust have made a \$150,000 donation to the Black Hawk College East Foundation.

That follows a 2020 donation of \$240,000 to the Black Hawk foundation –the largest estate gift in the foundation's history – from the late Donal J. "Bud" Ward of Walnut.



Ward

Ward was a longtime supporter of Black Hawk College and contributed to the ag program at the East Campus in numerous ways.

Much of the initial donation from his estate was used to create two livestock judging scholarships (\$150,000) and to support the livestock judging team (\$50,000). The remainder went to the foundation's general fund as unrestricted contingency funds to be used at the East Campus.

The new \$150,000 gift will be used as follows:

- \$75,000 to establish the endowed NACTA Travel Fund to supplement the college's teams and coaches attending the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Judging Conference each spring. The first award will be for the 2027 NACTA trip.

- \$25,000 to establish the Donal Ward Vet Tech Endowment. Veterinary technology faculty members will select one student from Illinois each year to receive the scholarship. The first award will be in the fall of 2026.

- \$25,000 to establish the Donal Ward Ag Scholarship Fund for a student who is pursuing a career in agriculture. The first award will be in the fall of 2024.



Pictured is Clint Morris, MSW Projects' Stark County home delivered meal manager, who delivered meals and Christmas cheer, along with volunteer drivers, for those in need on Dec. 14.

- \$25,000 to establish the Donal Ward Mini-Grant Fund to supplement the East Foundation mini-grant awards with preference given to ag-related initiatives.

Bradford school board passes 2023 tax levy

BRADFORD – After a truth in taxation hearing before its Dec. 18 regular meeting, the Bradford School Board passed a 2023 tax levy.

The district's tax rate is unchanged from last year, but a hearing was necessitated because the equalized assessed valuation of properties in the district has increased by more than 5%.

In other business, the board approved the retirement of Pat Nelson at the end of the 2024-25 school year.

The board also heard Paul Barry report that he is researching costs of upgrading the school's vans and renewing bus leases.

College honors

- **Katelynn Nutzhorn**, a senior

nursing major from Toulon, was named to the Jones University fall 2023 Dean's list (3.0 gpa or better).

Marshall-Putnam SWCD seeks director nominations

The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting nominations for those interested in being elected to the group's board of directors. Eligible for the board are all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Marshall-Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District.

Nominations will be accepted for the two-year term of the office of Director of the Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 1511 University Ct., Henry, IL 61537, during normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the district. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 26.

Information will also be available by calling (309) 364-3913, Ext. 3.

Galva First Baptist hosts candlelight service

GALVA – First Baptist Church of Galva will have a Christmas Eve Candlelight service on Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The service includes the singing of Christmas carols led by the church's Praise Team, plus a candlelight service.

Et cetera

- GALVA – The Galva Lions Club and the Galva Co-Op workers delivered 135-139 food baskets Saturday morning to needy families.

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GALVA: Parking to be reviewed

Continued from Page 1
 The two lots are:
 • H315 SE 4th Street which was appraised at \$7,000 but must bring at least \$5,600 in order to sell.
 • H14 SE First Street appraised at \$1,160 and must bring at least \$928.
 Resident Bridgett Owens thanked the council for approving the new stop signs on South West 3rd Street. She had requested them after traffic is trying to get to the only crossing not blocked in town and also for the chil-

dren playing at Washington Park.
 The council will review the parking ordinance at the January 22 meeting and hopefully take action at the February meeting.
 Police Chief Kraig Townsend said he had several complaints yesterday on garbage.
 Please put your garbage cans out the night before your pick-up, and then put them away or up near your home. Some residents are leaving them by the street and just adding their garbage to them.

Also if your garbage blows in a neighbors yard, please pick it up.
 Also don't put your cans in the street. Put them on your terrace near the street.

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HOLIDAY BREAK
 The Prairie News will not publish on Dec. 29.
 Ad deadline for the Jan. 5 edition will be Tuesday, Jan. 2, at noon.
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<p>RST 4x4 4dr Crew Cab 6.6 ft. SB Price \$48,500 Mileage 11,927</p>	<p>2019 Chevrolet Tahoe LT 4x4 LT 4dr SUV Price \$35,500 Mileage 100,403</p>	<p>2014 Chevrolet Equinox LS LS 4dr SUV Price \$9,600 Mileage 111,000</p>	<p>2020 Chevrolet Malibu LT LT 4dr Sedan Price \$19,500 Mileage 76,345</p>	<p>2018 Chevrolet Equinox Premier 4x4 Premier 4dr SUV w/1LZ Price \$16,500 Mileage 102,324</p>	<p>2004 Chevrolet Impala 4dr Sedan Price \$2,200 Mileage 184,827</p>
<p>2020 Chrysler Pacifica Touring L Touring L 4dr Mini-Van Price \$30,000 Mileage 65,609</p>	<p>2016 Ford Escape SE AWD SE 4dr SUV Price \$9,400 Mileage 145,800</p>	<p>2017 Ford Explorer Limited AWD Limited 4dr SUV Price \$19,200 Mileage 127,928</p>	<p>2018 Ford Escape SEL AWD SEL 4dr SUV Price \$16,200 Mileage 100,113</p>	<p>2010 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4 XLT 4dr SuperCrew Styleside 5.5 ft. SB Price \$6,200 Mileage 208,000</p>	<p>2002 GMC Sierra 1500 SLT 4dr Extended Cab SLT 4WD SB Price \$6,900 Mileage 194,126</p>
<p>2016 GMC Terrain SLT SLT 4dr SUV Price \$10,000 Mileage 166,963</p>	<p>2019 Hyundai Santa Fe Ultimate 2.0T AWD Ultimate 2.0T 4dr Crossover Price \$24,000 Mileage 89,850</p>	<p>2018 Jeep Compass Latitude 4x4 Latitude 4dr SUV Price \$17,200 Mileage 75,708</p>	<p>2009 Kia Optima SX SX 4dr Sedan (I4 5A) Price \$5,800 Mileage 116,500</p>	<p>2013 Nissan Sentra SV SV 4dr Sedan Price \$8,200 Mileage 93,970</p>	<p>2020 Nissan Versa SV SV 4dr Sedan Price \$17,000 Mileage 75,998</p>
<p>2014 RAM 1500 Tradesman 4x2 Tradesman 2dr Regular Cab 8 ft. LB Pickup Price \$12,200 Mileage 119,000</p>	<p>2020 RAM 1500 Big Horn 4x4 Big Horn 4dr Crew Cab 6.4 ft. SB Pickup Price \$36,500 Mileage 65,570</p>	<p>2019 RAM 2500 Big Horn 4x4 Big Horn 4dr Crew Cab 6.3 ft. SB Pickup Price \$19,000 Mileage 197,000</p>	<p>2019 Toyota RAV4 Limited AWD Limited 4dr SUV Price \$34,999 Mileage 31,310</p>	<p>2015 Toyota Highlander XLE XLE 4dr SUV Price \$18,200 Mileage 127,673</p>	<p>2005 Yamaha V-STAR MIDNIGHT 650 MIDNIGHT XVS111C Price \$1,500 Mileage 30,289</p>

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Wyoming passes levy, resolutions

By **JOHN A. BALENTINE**

For The Prairie News

WYOMING – The Wyoming City Council passed the annual tax levy on Dec. 19 during its regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

“What we did is raise everything to an average of 3.8 percent for inflation and it’s below 5 percent, so we don’t need a Truth in Taxation hearing,” said Councilman Dan Hardman.

All taxable property in the City of Wyoming for the year 2023 is affected by this levy. The total tax

levy amount equals \$137,355, which is made up of eight funds. The general corporate fund is \$38,950 representing the largest amount of the new levy.

The council also heard an insurance renewal presentation from Ben Leezer of the Toulon Leezer Insurance Agency. Leezer said various insurance carriers wanted at least 60 days to present quotes. He explained that Tokio Marine Insurance Company made higher prices on Wyoming’s city properties and that he talked them down slightly. The total yearly premium was estimated at \$54,889. The council passed this resolution.

Also, the city’s health insurance was approved by a resolution for the Midwestern Insurance Association’s In PPO Blue Cross Blue Shield self-funded insurance plan.

A final resolution passed was to pay Leander Construction, Inc. \$106,826 for work performed at Wyoming’s wastewater treatment plant. The money comes from an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency 30-year loan that has an interest rate of .83%.

Economic Development Director Denny Rewerts said during his presentation to the council that the buildings that house the

businesses The Lounge and Makers’ Mall on North Seventh Street has had a change of ownership. He said the businesses will remain the same.

Police Chief Jim Tiller reported a quieter time with the lower temperatures as a contributing factor in the crime rate decreasing. He stated that he will try to make more appearances in Stark’s Circuit Court for Wyoming cases.

Finally, Councilman Jim Mercer presented a report concerning the reverse osmosis system at Wyoming’s water treatment plant. Mercer said there are two options for the council to consider. One is for \$150,000 to leave the R/O frame and just replace the filters, etc. with new ones.

The other options is for \$500,000 to \$550,000 to finance installation of a completely new R/O system.

The council did not take action on the options.

The May council meeting has been changed to May 2 from May 21.

There was also a discussion related to raising Wyoming’s sewer rates that will be on next month’s agenda.

The Greatest Story Ever Told

St. Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1-20

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
2. And this taxing was the first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.
3. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David);
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and Saying.
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.
16. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

SBT Merry Christmas!

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Winner of Galva's Tour of Lights announced

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**

For The Prairie News

GALVA – There were 19 homes Saturday night on the annual Tour of Lights sponsored each year by the Galva Arts Council.

Pictured at right is this year's winning home, owned by Jason and Tricia Klein at 920 W. Division. The Kleins received a gift certificate.

Entry lists were available at the Arts Council building and turned in by spectators who voted for their favorites. While voting is over, there's still time to take a drive and admire the lights.

Other homes in the contest are:

- The Normans, 2253 Knox Road 2900 N.
- Kraig and Dawn Gale, 208 State Route 17 (north of the Galva Cemetery).
- Judy Hand, 609 SW 4th St.
- Harry Hergert and



Pictured above is the winning entry for this year's Galva Tour of Lights. The home belongs to Jason and Tricia Klein at 920 W. Division. Photo by Carol Townsend.

Megan Claves, 101 SW 10th Ave.

- Al DeCrane, 19022 Bonham Rd.
- The Kendlls, 400 NW 9th St.
- The Norways, 502 NW 11th St.
- The Mannings, 502 James B. Young Rd.
- The Nances, 1214 NW 3rd Ave.
- The Pankaus, 814 NW 3rd Ave.
- The Jones, 728 NW 3rd Ave.
- David and Lauren Heck, 212 NW 5th St.

- Tami and Jeff Svoboda, 120 NE 8th St.
- Jesse and Misty Hutchinson, 114 NE 7th St.
- The Zureks, 117 NW 4th Ave.

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This is the time of year that has always brought a flood of memories of years gone by. There is nothing that can be said that you haven't heard before.

It is our hope that your memories of Christmas past will help you through the Christmas present. The loss of a loved one can never be compensated by the passage of time. May the blessing of the Christ Child help you to bear this time.

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

Using USDA surveys to determine cash rent

By KEVIN BROOKS
U of I Extension

The number one question I receive is, "What is the going rate for cash rent?"

Most landowners are seeking an average to charge a farmer for the use of the land per acre for one year. One of the problems with this approach is that many landowners really don't know whether their farm is below or above average for the area.

Cash rent levels are determined by supply and demand. Landowners are sometimes uncomfortable with advertising and negotiating rent in the open market. Often, the landowners want to keep the current farmer to avoid the uncertainty and potential

stress of contracting a new tenant. In this, the landowner may look at leasing surveys to establish a rental rate.

One of those is from the United States Department of Agriculture which surveys farmers and landowners to establish what the county average for rent per acre is. The key point is that responding to this survey is voluntary and not verified. As a farm manager, I find these surveys to:

- Be lower than the actual market place.
- Only list the "average" for the county.
- Include less than arm's length transactions.
- Not be representative of the "going rate" for land that has recently come on the market.

A landowner can account for how their farm compares to average by comparing their average yields to the average yield for the county. The average yield for each year is released in February following harvest. The average cash rent per year is released in August during the production year. If your farm constantly outperforms the county average, then your cash rent could then be established above the county average.

Farmers can protect from loss should yields or prices decrease by purchasing Federal Crop Insurance that protects them from

downside risk. Landowners with a fixed cash rent are vulnerable to yield or price increases during the growing season. If revenue goes up, since the lease rate is "fixed," the owner does not gain revenue from increased profits.

There are several factors that go into cash rent levels. Generally, "average" cash rents per acre are slow to adjust to market conditions. The biggest factor is supply and demand for the land. In today's market, there is a lot of competition for the right to use your land to grow crops. Still, the higher the cash rent requested; fewer farmers will be willing to pay.

Let's look at a formula farm managers often use to determine cash rent.

In this formula, the landowner need to know what the average yields for the farm is going back in time. Minimally you will need three years. Ten years of yield data will be better.

Once the average yield has been determined, the next step is to choose a multiplication factor that you are comfortable with. For normal arm's-length transactions, this factor ranges from 35% to 38% on corn and 40% to 44% on soybeans.

The factor is the amount the landowner will capture of the estimated revenue that the farm will produce using yield times esti-

mated grain price per bushel. This factor can be less for relatives or other special relationships between the farmer and the landowner. Some lease arrangements are higher but not common. The top end is sometimes 40% on corn and 45% on soybeans but is not common.

Next, a per bushel price needs to be determined. The USDA estimates the average price expected for the coming crop year.

Corn Example

Assume a landowner and farmer are negotiating cash rent for the coming year in late November after harvest.

The local elevator is offering \$5 per bushel of corn for fall delivery of the next year's crop.

The owner has determined the average yield is 200 bushels per acre.

After consideration, the landowner offers a 38% factor (estimate of generated farm revenue) and the farmer counters with 35%. They reach an agreement at 36%. Below are the calculations.

200 bushels per acre x \$5 x 36% = \$360 per acre cash rent.

Soybean Example

For this we assume an average yield of 70 bushels per acre.

The USDA is estimating soybean prices to average \$14 per bushel for the year.

The negotiated revenue capture factor is 42%.

65 bushels per acre x \$14 x 42% = \$382 per acre cash rent.

In negotiations, you may want to consider averaging the soybean and corn rents together or prorating the crops by the percentage of your farm in each crop.

These calculations put a formula behind the numbers for cash rent.

Disclosure: The author is a licensed real estate managing broker in Illinois and manages farms.

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LEGALS

NOTICE OF SALE
 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2023TX7 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND STARK COUNTY CLERK, STARK COUNTY TREASURER, CITY OF TOULON, STARK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED:
Parcel Number
 08-36-100-026
Owners/Parties Interested
 HOFFMAN, DAVID A
Cert Number
 202000032
Street Or Common Address
 227 MCKINLEY ST.
 TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON OCTOBER 26, 2021, FOR GENERAL TAXES FOR THE YEAR 2020 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES MAY 17, 2024. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THE ABOVE SAID CAUSE AS TO THE ABOVE-NAMED PARCELS BY STARK COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON JUNE 14, 2024 AT 9:00 AM [COURTROOM 1], SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE MAY 17, 2024. /S/ STARK COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.
 FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 130 WEST MAIN, TOULON, IL 61483 TELEPHONE:

(309) 286-5911
 Published 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 CITY OF WYOMING, ILLINOIS, an Illinois Municipal corporation, Plaintiff, vs. Case No. 23-OV-10
 MARCUS WILSON Defendants.
NOTICE OF PROPERTY CLEAN-UP AND LIEN BY PUBLICATION
 The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Marcus Wilson, and all Non-Record Claimants, and all Unknown Owners, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled property clean-up and lien action was filed 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: Marcus Wilson
 3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: A part of the southwest Quarter (SW ¼) of Section Thirty-six (36), Township Thirteen (13) North, Range Six (6) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Stark County, Illinois, described as follows: Commencing at a point fifty (50) links North and One Hundred Twenty-four (124) feet East of the Northwest corner of Section One (1), Township Twelve (12) North, Range Six (6) East of the Fourth Principal Meridian; running thence North Sixty-four (64) feet to the center of the brick wall on the East side thereof; thence West Seventeen and One-half (17 ½) feet; thence South Eleven (11) feet to the brick wall on the North end; thence West Three and One-half (3 ½) feet, or to the center of the brick wall on the West end thereof; thence South Fifty-three (53) feet; thence East Twenty-one (21) feet to the place of beginning, situated in the county of Stark in the State of Illinois.
 4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 104 E. Williams Street, Wyoming, Illinois.
 NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, must file your answer to the Petition for Property Clean-Up and Lien in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, with the Henry County Circuit Clerk, 401 E 3 rd St, Kewanee, IL

61443, on or before 30 days after the date of this publication, or a default may be entered.
 /S/Julie Kenney, Circuit Clerk
 Barash & Everett, LLC
 Attorneys for Plaintiff
 211 W 2nd St
 Kewanee, IL 61443
 Phone: 309/852-5555
 Published 12/8, 12/15, 12/22/23

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
 The Village of Lafayette will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at Lafayette United Methodist Church located at Franklin & Hodgson St's in Lafayette, IL to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities, or non-English speaking persons, who wish to attend the public hearing, and need assistance, should contact the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG), 613 W. Marquette St., Ottawa, IL (815) 433-5830 no later than January 9, 2024. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.
 On or about January 18, 2024, the Village of Lafayette intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: grant administration, construction supervision, and housing rehabilitation of 8 owner-occupied, single-family homes in the project target area of; the Village Limits of Lafayette. The total

amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$600,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$600,000. The Village of Lafayette also proposes to expend \$20,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. The \$20,000 non-CDBG funds will be derived from the Village's General Fund.
 Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of December 22, 2023, at the Lafayette Post Office located at 301 Commercial St in Lafayette. The Lobby is open 24/7. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to NCICG no later than January 10, 2024, in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the Village of Lafayette and is also available to the public. This project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Connie Buchanan, (815) 433-5830, or write to NCICG, 613 W. Marquette St. Ottawa, IL 61350
 Chris Smith
 Village President
 Published 12/22/23

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
 ESTATE OF
 ROBERT W. HARDY, Deceased
 No. 2023 PR 103
CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)
 Notice is given of the death of Robert

W. Hardy. Letters of Office were issued on December 19, 2023, to Donna Kistler as Independent Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.
 Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 27, 2024. 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 service provider.
 Visit:
<http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit:
<http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/geth-elp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
 Barash & Everett, LLC
 Attorney for Executor
 211 W. 2nd St.
 Kewanee, IL 61443
 (309) 852-5555
 Published 12/22, 1/5, 1/12/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition has been filed by The Towers, LLC, 750 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 200, Boca Raton, FL 33487, on property owned by Village of Bradford, Po Box 9, Bradford, Illinois, directed to the Stark County Board of Appeals requesting a variance in setback requirements for property legally described as Part NE1/4 Section 26, 6.54 acres, County of Stark, State of

Illinois.
 The request for the variance is to construct a 255' Self Supporting Telecommunication Tower to the above described property that will be less than the 1000' setback from four residential parcels of land.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing on said petition will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the County of Stark, at the Courthouse at 130 W. Main Street, Toulon, IL 61483, at 7:00p.m., on Monday, January 8, 2024, at which time and place all persons may be present and will be heard.
 Renee L. Johnson
 STARK COUNTY ZONING OFFICER
 Published 12/22/23

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition has been filed by The Towers, LLC, 750 Park of Commerce Drive, Suite 200, Boca Raton, FL 33487, on property owned by Village of Bradford, Po Box 9, Bradford, Illinois, directed to the Stark County Board of Appeals requesting a Special Use Permit in the (I-1) Industrial District for property legally described as Part NE1/4 Section 26, 6.54 acres, County of Stark, State of Illinois.
 The request for the Special Use is for construction of a 255' Self Supporting Telecommunication Tower to the above described property.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a hearing on said petition will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals of the County of Stark, at the Courthouse at 130 W. Main Street, Toulon, Illinois, at 7:00 p.m., on Monday, January 8, 2024, at which time and place all interested persons may be present and will be heard.
 Renee L. Johnson
 STARK COUNTY ZONING OFFICER
 Published 12/22/23

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Blessed Christmas
 Our thoughts are with the Men & Women in the military & their families, serving all over the world this Holiday Season.
Wyoming American Legion Post #91



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



GRIN TO BEAT IT



Weekly SUDOKU
 by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
 ♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
 ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!
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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 10

CryptoQuote
 AXYLBAAXR
 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.

SL QPESIX SJ PIA KPQMD PF
 PKK, SF'J P KPQMD ML KMUV.
 P KMUV FNPF XVFJ YPJJVG LDMC
 XVIVDPFSMI FM XVIVDPFSMI.
 - DVXSIP QDVFF
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Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK: What is ciabatta?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the 1980s cop drama series starring actor William Shatner?
- HISTORY: In which year did the Gulf oil spill occur?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the classic holiday novella "The Cricket on the Hearth"?
- INVENTIONS: Who invented penicillin?
- GEOGRAPHY: Monaco is bordered on three sides by which European country?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Land of Enchantment"?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the police chief in the movie "Jaws"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does the J.D. stand for in a law degree?
- MUSIC: Which singer had a breakout hit with "I Kissed a Girl"?

Answers
 1. An Italian bread.
 2. "T.J. Hooker."
 3. 2010.
 4. Charles Dickens.
 5. Alexander Fleming.
 6. France.
 7. New Mexico.
 8. Martin Brody.
 9. Juris Doctor.
 10. Katy Perry.
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TOP 10 MOVIES

- The Boy and the Heron (PG-13)
- The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG-13)
- Godzilla Minus One (PG-13)
- Trolls Band Together (PG)
- Renaissance: A Film by Beyoncé (NR)
- Wish (PG)
- Napoleon (R)
- Waitress: The Musical (NR)
- Animal (NR)
- The Shift (PG-13)

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 Thank you to all of my clients and customers.
 Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Thank You

Joan DeBord Family

We want to express our great appreciation to everyone who sent cards, flowers, food and memorials after the loss of our mother and grandmother.

~ Joan DeBord Family

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OBITUARIES

Cathie J. Maguire

EDELSTEIN – Cathie Jayne (Smith) Maguire, 78, of Edelstein passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, at Lutheran Hillside Village in Peoria.

She was born Oct. 10, 1945, in Washington, Ill., to Benjamin and Easter (Reeves) Smith. Cathie married Roy L. Maguire on Dec. 9, 1967, in Washington who survives. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her brother, Benjamin “Cliff” Smith.

Additional survivors include one son, Marcus (Heather) Maguire of Princeville; one daughter, Megan (Chris) Horan of Peoria; three grandchildren, Dakoda Maguire, Brody Horan and Dylan Horan; three nephews, Brian (Joe Johnson) Smith of Chicago, Derek (Sarah) Dunnagan of Ankeny, Iowa, and Timothy (Misty) Smith of Durango, Colo.; and two nieces, Jill (Bill) Cranford of Ottawa and Darci Dunnagan of Los Angeles, Calif.

Cathie was a Girl Scout where she received the Gold Award and achieved lifetime membership. A Class of 1963 graduate of Washington High School, Cathie was highly involved in Student Council, FHA, Chorus and band, leading the marching band as drum majorette her senior year. Cathie received a junior accounting degree from Midstate College of Commerce where she was affiliated with Alpha Iota International Honorary Business Sorority. Upon graduating, Cathie worked at Caterpillar as a secretary and met her future husband Roy in the cafeteria. She retired in 1975.

In addition to homemaker and mother, Cathie was an active philanthropist. Her volunteer work was often centered around her children and love of the outdoors and included: Junior Achievement, Princeville PTA, Princeville band and Sports Booster Clubs, Princeville Garden Club, Girl Scout troop leader and Peoria County 4H. Cathie also served as a Peoria County election judge for nearly 30 years.

Cathie was highly involved with the Boy Scouts of America for 35 years. While there she served as a den leader, put the fun in Cub Scout round table, served on the Heartland District Committee, completed wood badge and served on staff for two years, worked in the council store and volunteered to sew patches to assure proper uniforming. She was also recognized with the Heartland District Award of Merit and Council Silver Beaver Award.

Cathie was a decades long member of the Peoria County Home Extension and served in multiple leadership roles. Through the University of Illinois Extension program, she at-



Maguire

tained the status of both Master Naturalist and Master Gardener. She worked with local parks and municipalities such as Jubilee College State Park and Wildlife Prairie Park butterfly habitat to help maintain and beautify various landscapes.

An avid reader, movie buff and trivia lover, Cathie also enjoyed sports, square dancing and holds several bowling trophies.

A Celebration of Life will be held Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023 from 3-6 p.m. at Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel in Peoria. At 4 p.m. we will pause for a time of remembrance, when friends and family are welcome to share stories of Cathie’s life.

A private burial will be held at a later date at Oak Grove Cemetery in Jerseyville, Ill.

Memorials may be made to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, American Cancer Society, or Boy Scouts of America W.D. Boyce Council. Words of comfort may be shared with Cathie’s family at www.Davison-Fulton.com.

James L. Peterson

TOULON – James “Jim” Larry Peterson was born in Kewanee, Ill., on March 2, 1960, to Arlie and Mary (McMillen) Peterson.

Jim passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, at his home due to recent health issues. Jim was only 63 years old. Jim attended Toulon High School and graduated in 1979.

Jim met Pam Jackson in 1980, and they married June 11, 1983. Jim and Pam had one son, Matthew James Peterson, born on March 20, 1987. Sadly, Matthew passed away Thursday, March 24, 2016. Jim was very proud of Matt’s athletic abilities and his apprenticeship in the IBEW Brotherhood. He dearly missed him after his passing.

Jim later married Cheryl Blakey of Wyoming, Ill.

Jim followed in the footsteps of his dad and was a very hard worker. He was a farm hand to many local farmers and was employed by Goods Furniture in Kewanee prior to being employed by Ag View FS in Toulon. He enjoyed spending time with two of his co-workers, Tom Pitzer and Jason Gerber.

Although Jim was a private person, he enjoyed going to truck and tractor pulls. He loved muscle cars, especially his Dodge Super Bee that he owned in his early years. His favorite tractors were International tractors, and he bled red from Day 1. Jim was like his dad, Arlie Roscoe, and brothers, Terry and Bob, and was a great mechanic. Many hours were clocked in the garages of family and friends working on cars and trucks and “having a few Keystone Smoothies.”



Peterson

Jim was predeceased by his son, Matthew, his parents, Arlie and Mary, his sister, Connie Lynn, his maternal grandparents, Robert and Nola (Stephens) McMillen and his paternal grandparents, Roscoe and Lois (Taylor) Peterson.

He is survived by his siblings, Linda Poynter and special friend Rex Turnbull of Toulon, Terry (Crystal) Peterson of West Jersey, Sue (John) Torbert of Nekoma, Cathy Webster of Kewanee, Lisa (Scott) Blankenship of Milan, Bob Peterson and special friend Linda Neiryneck of Toulon and Sally Jo Peterson of Galesburg; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, great-great nieces and great-great nephews.

Cremation has been accorded, and a private burial of ashes will take place at a later date along with a celebration of life. Due to the unexpected death of Jim, the family will humbly accept donations. Memorial contributions may be made to an account established at the State Bank of Toulon in Jim’s name. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be left on Jim’s tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Mary E. Rhoades

TOULON – Mary Ellen Rhoades, 65, of Toulon, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023, surrounded by her family at home. She was born on Nov. 18, 1958, in Peoria, to Alvyn and Mildred (Harris) Helferich. On Feb. 11, 1978, she married Donald L. Rhoades. He preceded her in death on Aug. 23, 2020.

Survivors include Robert (Vivian) Rhoades, Debra K. Rhoades and Tom (Julie) Rhoades; three granddaughters, Katherine Rhoades (Ryan Hauer), Sarah Rhoades and Lilah Rhoades; and three great-grandchildren, Bo Dean, Arabella Kay and Hallie Jo; two brothers, Gary (Mary) Helferich and Bill (Char) Helferich; five sisters, Lynda Burkhalter, Gayle (Kyle) Finan, Brenda Potter, Kathy (Bill) Jones and Bettie Davis; over 50 nieces and nephews; and special friends, Karin (Joe) Orwig and Gregg Moutoux.

She was also preceded in death by her parents; one daughter, Dana Marie; two sisters, Julie (Ray) Branch and Judy Cornelison; two brothers, Larry Helferich and Monte Helferich; and one brother-in-law, Larry Burkhalter.

Mary knew just about everyone in the Toulon area. She previously worked at the local grocery stores and assisted at Orwig’s Auction and Event Center. She most recently worked for the MSW Projects of Henry preparing meals for the sen-



Rhoades

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OBITUARIES

iors, creating prizes for Bingo, and getting everyone involved in a game or creating crafts. She never knew a stranger and lent a helping hand where needed. She enjoyed collecting cows, frogs, and sunflowers. She loved getting together with friends and family, playing cards, games, and bingo. Mary adored her children, granddaughters, and great-grandchildren, never missing a birthday and attended many of their activities.

Visitation was to be from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming. A graveside service will follow in Toulon Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. Funeral Celebrant, Nicole Reed, will officiate. Memorial contributions can be made to the MSW Projects of Henry or American Cancer Society. Condolences for Mary's family may be left on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Joshua M. Mummert

POTEET, Texas – Born on Feb. 26, 1980, in Peoria, Ill., Joshua Michael Mummert embarked on a life filled with adventure, love, and cherished moments. It is with heavy hearts and deep sorrow that we announce his peaceful passing on Dec. 9, 2023, at his residence in Poteet, Texas, at the age of 43.

Joshua, known to his loved ones as Josh, was a compassionate, fun-loving husband to his beloved wife, Katie Estrada, and a devoted father figure to their children. He was a pillar of strength and support for his family, always going above and beyond to ensure their happiness and well-being.

Josh had an enthusiastic love for the great outdoors. His adventurous spirit led him to explore the depths of the woods, where he indulged in his passion for deer hunting, fishing, camping and sitting around open fires, sharing stories and laughter with his companions. He reveled in the beauty of nature and enjoyed hiking through picturesque landscapes and hunting for mushrooms, setting foot on countless trails across the country.

For more than two decades, Josh dedicated himself to his profession as an over-the-road truck driver in the transportation industry. Known for his strong work ethic, he approached every journey with dedication and a sense of responsibility. Through countless miles, on winding highways and country roads, Josh's unwavering commitment allowed him to form lifelong friendships and have memorable experiences on the open road.

Behind his adventurous spirit and dedicated nature, Josh always valued the importance of family. He cherished the moments spent with his

loved ones, creating lasting memories. His remarkable presence brought joy to those around him, and his laughter filled the room, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of all who crossed his path.

Josh will be deeply missed by his wife Katie Estrada; daughters Addison Mummert, Isabella Mummert, Ivory Estrada and Amanda Estrada; his parents Sally and James Mummert; brothers Christopher and his wife Trudy, Kyle and his wife Lynzi and Evan Mummert; grandparents Loris and Lottie Stisser and Mary Mummert; as well as a multitude of nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles and other family members and friends who were fortunate to have shared in his extraordinary life.

He is preceded in death by his grandfather Floyd Mummert Sr.

Visitation services were held in Pleasanton, Texas. Cremation has been accorded. There will be a Celebration of Life service in Illinois at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to Hurley Funeral Home, 118 W. Oaklawn Rd., Pleasanton, Texas 78064, to go towards his funeral expenses.

Robert G. Palmer

GALVA – Robert G. "Bob" Palmer, 79, of Galva, died Monday, Dec. 18, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Dec. 22, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Karen Martin officiating. Visitation was to be held from 4-7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 21 at the funeral home. Cremation will be accorded following the services with private inurnment at a later date at LaFayette Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to Knox County 4-H.

Bob was born Feb. 24, 1944, in Kewanee, the son of Willard and Phyllis (Johnson) Palmer. He married Karen A. Youngfeldt on Feb. 27, 1965, in Kewanee. She survives as well as their children, Tami (Jim) McKenna of Kewanee, Traci Williams of LaFayette, Troy (Jennifer) Palmer and Teri Bourque (Scott Clong) both of Kewanee; seven grandchildren, Megan McKenna, Trent, Ashleigh and Kai Williams and Colby, Bentley and Magnolia Palmer; and a brother, Richard Palmer (Sjonnie Johnson) of Kewanee.

He was preceded in death by his parents and a son-in-law, Mark Williams.

Bob graduated from Galva High School in 1962. He had farmed and

had worked at the Galva Feed Mill. In later years, he worked at Kewanee Corp. until his retirement in February 2006.

He was of the Methodist faith. He had been a 4-H leader for 52 years and served as the swine superintendent from 1963-2023 for Knox County 4-H. He had also been inducted into the 4-H Hall of Fame. He was an active member of the Galva Hall of Fame Committee and was inducted to its Hall of Fame several years ago. He was an avid Illinois sports fan.

Bob was a deeply loved husband, father and grandfather and friend and will be missed by all.

Jordan W. Streitmatter

SPEER – Jordan W. Streitmatter, 79, of Speer, passed away at 4:02 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

He was born on Dec. 3, 1944, in Peoria, to the late Wallace and Veneta (Gruner) Streitmatter. On June 18, 1966, he married Karen Hindert, who survives him.

Jordan was a devoted husband and father who was loved by everyone who knew him. In fact, there wasn't anything he wouldn't do for his friends or his three boys. Jordan loved working on projects and was a jack of all trades. There wasn't any project he wouldn't tackle or anything that he couldn't fix. In his free time, he enjoyed golfing, watching movies, working on the farm, traveling, spending time with family and having dinner with friends.

Survivors also include three sons, Mark (Carrie) of Burlington, Wis., Matt (Kim) of Midland, Mich., and Kevin (Tricia) of Peoria; seven grandchildren, Kaylee, Megan, Allison, Zach, Nathan, Bailey and Grace; and a sister, Stephanie (Tom) Hatch.

Jordan worked as a purchasing analyst for Caterpillar for 35 years, while also farming for his mother. He was a member of St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church in Princeville.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place on Friday, Dec. 22, 2023, at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church at 10 a.m. with Father Corey Krengiel officiating. Visitation was to take place on Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville from 4:30-6:30 p.m. Interment will be at Streitmatter Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital or to the American Heart Association. Condolences for Jordan's family may be left on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



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Galva School Board passes levy

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**

For The Prairie News

The Galva School Board met Monday and unanimously passed a tax levy rate in the amount of \$4.56 up one cent from last year's \$4.55. The total levy is \$4,775,670.

Board member Jil Pan-kau reported that parent Mike Yepson plans to spearhead getting plans to update the weight room. He will bring the plans to the committee.

Parent Paula Plummer told the board a volleyball coach had commented to her daughter about what the girl's father wore to a game. Plummer said she contacted the athletic director but said her daughter never got an apology. Plummer also expressed concern about a lack of interest for players sitting on the bench.

"We are simple people, this is us," Plummer said.

Board members reported on seminars they attended at a school-board conference in Chicago Nov. 17-18.



Galva students honored with the Wildcat Pride Award at Monday's board meeting were (left to right) Vegas Harm, Crow Bailey, Randel Engels and Emmett Wigant. Harm and Bailey came to Galva last year and have enough credits to graduate in December, Principal Kurtis Smyth said. Engels ran a personal-best time of 13:13.10 at the IESA state cross country meet last fall. Wigant was recognized for his work in the classroom. Photo by Carol Townsend.

The following personnel items were approved after an executive session:

- Heather Anderson as volunteer for junior high volleyball for 2023-24.
- Madelin DeJesus as cafeteria aid.
- Mike Boston as head golf coach for 2024-25.
- Krystal West as head high school volleyball coach for 2024-25.
- Michelle Mersman as assistant high school volleyball coach for 2024-25.

- Tayler McMeekan as head cross country coach for 2024-25.
- Mark Jeffrey as head high school football coach for 2024-25.
- Tim Meier and Charlie Gibbons as assistant high school football coaches for 2024-25.
- Ali Weston as high school dance and drill coach for 2024-25.
- Michelle Mersman as high school cheerleading coach for the 2024-25.
- Joe Conner and Jeff Burke as volunteer trap shooting coaches for 2024-25.
- Van White as head junior high baseball coach for the 2024-25.
- Brad Jackson as head junior high softball coach for 2024-25.
- Chance Jones and Kyle Schipper as head junior high football coaches for 2024-25.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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Answers on Page 10

Super Crossword

MAKING 20 OUT OF 9

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|----------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 40 Stephen of "Angie" | 94 Words of woe | 2 Bobby in the Hockey | 35 Cabbage side dish | 83 Even up |
| 1 Pueblo dweller | 41 Humongous | 95 Desert haven | 1-Down | 36 Little hotel | 84 Out-of-towner |
| 5 Sound of an "air kiss" | 44 Foot, in verse | 96 Sch. founded by Thomas Jefferson | 3 Leguminous side dish | 37 Playtex item | 85 "Shane" star |
| 9 Forensic facility in Quantico, for short | 47 Tattered | 97 December mall temps | 4 Low pelvic bones | 42 "Ugly Betty" actress Ortiz | 86 Teased one another playfully |
| 15 Gig hookups | 48 Novel whose name consists entirely of the letters in 62-Across | 100 Consumer | 5 Hosp. test in a big tube | 43 Crash-probing agcy. | 87 International alliances |
| 19 Refined finds | 54 Others, in Oviedo | 103 Very talented | 6 "Mrs. Dalloway" novelist | 45 Little plateau | 88 Harbinger |
| 20 Civil rights leader Parks | 55 Last letter, in Leeds | 105 Setups whose name consists entirely of the letters in 117-Across | 7 Ed of "Lou Grant" | 46 Pickle liquid | 89 Medieval Scandinavian |
| 21 In an uncivil way | 56 Trig function | 110 Some legumes | 8 Is trustful | 49 Bubbly mixer | 90 Group's activity in the community |
| 22 Lawn mower brand | 57 Arab nation | 111 Lindsay of "Liz & Dick" | 9 Citrusy diet soft drink | 50 Blogging pundit Klein | 91 Crooner Burl |
| 23 Parts of wholes | 60 Titanic sinker | 112 Be in debt to | 10 Idling type | 51 Prescribed diet, say | 92 Frowny-faced |
| 25 Key related to G major | 62 Didn't type or text, perhaps | 113 Imp Simpson | 11 Cruel Amin | 52 Finishes up | 93 Suffix with Vietnam |
| 26 "Jurassic Park" dino | 67 Relating to an eye layer | 114 Throat tissue | 12 Slower than andante | 53 Swamp wriggler | 98 Aesthetic interest |
| 27 "Billions" channel, in brief | 71 Corn, to a Brit | 117 Lawbreaker | 13 Socially distant | 54 Ocean east of Mass. | 99 Sewing unit |
| 28 Some boxing blows | 73 Neighbor of Latvia | 121 — fixe | 14 Side street | 59 Country east of Mass. | 101 Bank job |
| 30 Horn blowers | 74 Relatives of terraces | 122 Menu offering | 15 Give proof of | 61 Inits. on an ambulance | 102 "Neroli" musician Brian |
| 32 Person whose name consists entirely of the letters in 23-Across | 76 Silent performer | 123 In — (stuck) | 16 Novelist Toni | 62 Tailor's edge | 104 Least |
| 37 Los Angeles neighborhood | 78 Consumer | 124 Lasting mark | 17 Strong-arm | 63 City on the Seine | 106 Maui greeting |
| 38 "I knew — along!" | 79 Coup d'— | 125 Betting info | 18 Boston Red — | 64 Put — (jokey pranks) | 107 Contrarian's retort |
| 39 Old Nissan brand | 80 Attain | 126 "Mad" Carroll character | 24 This evening | 65 Knot up | 108 Nile capital |
| | 81 Exit | 127 Some votes in Congress | 29 Building-blasting stuff | 66 Part of a jug | 109 Come next |
| | 85 Film whose name consists entirely of the letters in 74-Across | 128 Those folks | 31 Bag-screening org. | 68 Yuletide song | 113 Short history |
| | 93 Verve | | 32 Gotten sight of | 69 Opposer | 115 Park oneself |
| | | | 33 Attempter | 70 Climbing vine org. | 116 Cooler cubes |
| | | | 34 Fibber's admission | 72 Rigatoni's kin | 118 Divs. of dollars |
| | | | | 75 Ingrain | 119 Scott's turndown |
| | | | | 77 Film/dom's Kazan | 120 Give it a whirl |
| | | | | 80 Shimmer | |
| | | | | 82 Golfer Ernie | |

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SPORTS: Galva girls at Princeville; SC at Erie

Continued from Page 12
p.m. The tournament ends Dec. 29.
Galva Girls – Galva (0-10) has been off since dropping a 50-35 contest to Kewanee on Dec. 13.

The Lady Wildcats return to play at the 12th annual Lee Westerman Tournament in Princeville, which has switched from a round-robin to

an eight-team field with a bracket. Galva opens play Dec. 26 at noon against Elmwood (11-2) in the Junior High School gym. Galva's second game will be on Dec. 27.

Stark County Girls – The Lady Rebels (1-12) dropped a 60-27 game at Lewistown on Monday. Junior Payten Hillier had 15

points to lead Stark County. Stark County has switched out of the Monticello Holiday Hoopa tournament and is at Erie.

The Lady Rebels open against Bureau Valley (7-5) on Dec. 27 at 11:30 a.m., then follow that on the same day with a 2:30 p.m. tipoff against Monmouth-Roseville (7-6).

IHSA members vote down football districts plan

BLOOMINGTON – Illinois High School Association member schools voted down a proposed amendment that would have significantly changed football scheduling in the state.

The vote on a measure that would have established football districts using geography and classification was voted down, 379-272-76.

"The IHSA Board of Directors has already had discussions about the potential of forming a football ad hoc committee in


2024 in the event that this district proposal failed to pass," IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said. "They want to be proactive in trying to address the issues that are at the root of different football proposals seemingly being brought forth each year."

Members did approve 12 other amendments during the annual by-law referendum process that ended on Dec. 19.

Those include allowing football teams to conduct a pre-season scrimmage

with another school on Friday or Saturday of the IHSA Week 7. The IHSA also stipulated limits for scrimmages, such as no special teams play and a limit of 48 plays per

player. Member schools also voted to establish girls flag football fall season limitations, practice requirements and contest limits.



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The Prairie News Sports

Hobbling into the holiday

Stark Co., Galva basketball teams hoping for Xmas victories

By **NICK VLAHOS**
For The Prairie News

Stark County headed into Christmas on a two-game boys basketball losing streak.

Host Elmwood held Stark County to one fourth-quarter point Tuesday night in a 61-37 victory. Elmwood made six 3-pointers in the middle quarters to expand a one-point lead to 16.

Matthew Bowser had 13 points to lead the Rebels (6-4), and teammate Luke Rewerts scored 11. Bowser had only one point in the second half, and Rewerts had his team's only fourth-period scoring.

On Dec. 14, visiting Midland eked out a 55-53 victory over Stark County. It led by eight in the first half and by two going into the fourth quarter before Midland had a decisive five-point run.

"They made some hustle plays when needed and hit some free throws to keep it a two-possession game," Stark County



Stark County senior guard Matthew Bowser scored 13 points in a loss to Elmwood on Tuesday.

Coach Dusty Browning stated. "They just hung around and went on a run at the right time."

Rewerts had a team-high 17 points. Teammates Ross Saner and Will Rumbold scored 15 and 13, respectively. Keagan Faulkner scored 29, including 11 in the second period, to lead Midland.

Stark County plays next week in the Warkins Tournament at Erie. Stark County plays twice Dec. 27, the pool-play event's

first day – against Orion at 1:30 p.m. and against Kewanee at 4:30 p.m.

The Rebels' ensuing game is Dec. 29, with time and opponent dependent on where they finish in their pool. The tournament ends Dec. 30.

Galva Boys – Host Midland defeated Galva 63-49 on Monday night despite 18 points from Blake Stahl. Teammates Braxton Rylander and John Gravitt scored 16 and 10, respectively.

Galva (2-6) also was scheduled to play Wednesday night at Lewistown. The Wildcats' final game before Christmas is set for Friday night at LaMoille, which also is where they'll play next week in an eight-team holiday tournament.

Galva faces DePue there in a first-round game at 3 p.m. Dec. 27.

Win or lose, Galva will play Dec. 28, against LeLand or Lowpoint-Washburn. Winners play at 4:30 p.m., losers at 1:30

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