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February 9, 2024  
Vol. 21, No. 2

# The Prairie News

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## Wyoming raises sewer rates for work at wastewater plant

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

WYOMING – Sewer rates will increase by \$6 for Wyoming residents.

The City Council approved raising the current \$16.50 monthly charge for its sewer rate by \$6 to \$22.50 per month. The Wyoming City Council approved the increase Tuesday at a meeting that was rescheduled from January.

The council voted unanimously for the resolution increase to pay for expenses associated with the operation and maintenance of the wastewater treatment plant. Alderperson Jim Mercer was absent, but Dan Hardman, Steve Hansard, Dave Rumbold, Dave Lindahl and Ginger Carlyle voted “yes.”

The sewer rate was last increased two years ago according to the council.

Also passed was an ordinance that approved a sewage dumping license and setting of fees plus regulations.

“We should get \$50 per (commercial dump) and \$25 for personal dumping,” Mayor Pat Maher said.

The \$50 would be charged to commercial contractors to dump their sewage into Wyoming’s wastewater treatment plant. The \$25 would be charges for motor homes to dump sewage. Hours are from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m.

“Violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by fine only, not to exceed \$750 per incident in addition to civil damages and revocation of the license,” according to the ordinance.

In addition, two resolutions concerning the wastewater treatment plant passed. One authorized an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency loan disbursement for \$26,050 to Leander Construction and the Farnsworth Group LLC for work performed to refurbish the plant.

Also passed was a change order adding an additional float to the RAS pump station at the wastewater treatment plant, a \$1,292 charge by Leander Construction. The float will prevent flooding of the wet well.

The council then passed a resolution to purchase new replacement filters for the reverse osmosis system at Wyoming’s city water plant for \$135,112. These will be purchased from Harn R/O Systems. Inc. of Venice, Fla.

According to water/sewer contractor Kurt Downie, the filters are 13 years old and in serious condition that warrants their replacement to provide clean, drinkable water. It could take up to 14 weeks to receive the filters after the order is received, a Harn representative wrote.

*Continued on Page 2*

### WELCOME WETNESS

## Wet January aids recovery from drought

**By RHIANNON BRANCH**  
*FarmWeek*

Welcomed precipitation across most of the state in late January contributed to what has been a slow journey to recovery from the 2023 drought.

Illinois received an average of 4.25 inches of precipitation Jan. 1-29, which was 2.53 inches above normal, the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) Illinois field office reported. The active pattern created some flooding issues and extremely muddy conditions.

“We made up some serious ground in drought relief over the last few weeks in southern Illinois,” State Climatologist Trent Ford told FarmWeek. “Deep-layer soil and



*Many fields across Illinois, such as this one in Mason County, received above-average precipitation last month, which created some flooding issues. Photo by Catrina Rawson.*

water table levels are still much below average, but they’re improving.”

Looking back on a rollercoaster crop season, a dry start to summer pushed the entire state into drought by late June and while timely summer rains limited significant row crop impacts, a dry fall reignited the drought causing low water levels on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers.

The tables turned again in January.

Ford said levels on the Mississippi River between Cairo and Memphis, Tennessee, have increased 10 to 15 feet in some areas over the past couple of weeks.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Shipp trial vacated

### No date set to replace March 4 trial

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

TOULON – A March 4 trial date was vacated for Matthew R. Shipp, 19, of rural Toulon during an appearance in Stark County Circuit Court on Feb. 2.

Shipp’s attorney requested that the March 4 date be vacated. No trial date has been rescheduled.

Shipp’s attorney, Mark Johnson, of Bloomington, and the state’s prosecutor, Shanti Kulkarni, both appeared before Circuit Judge Paul E. Bauer by Zoom for the motion hearing and scheduling conference.

A petition for Shipp’s release from custody was not acted upon in court at the defense counselor’s request. Shipp has been in custody since his arrest on Nov. 15, 2023.

The state requested at that time that Shipp not be released and that request was granted.

It was also stated in court that Shipp has completed a court-ordered sex-offender’s evaluation.

Shipp’s defense learned during this court appearance that the state has more information associated with his case. That information was not discussed during this court date. The defense and prosecuting parties will have ongoing negotiations and discovery exchanges regarding the new information.

*Continued on Page 2*





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# WET WEATHER: Topsoil moisture better

*Continued from Page 1*

While significant rainfall is encouraging, it will take a lot more to reach normal river levels due to the intensity of drought experienced across the entire Midwest last year.

Meanwhile, some bodies of water, including the Illinois and Rock rivers, reached or surpassed flood stage last week. Ice jams also contributed to flooding issues in places.

A similar story can be told for soil moisture levels across the state. Ford said there has been significant progress replenishing moisture, but especially in southern and western Illinois, two years of drought have dried up deeper level soils.

“For example, our well at the water survey site in Belleville, the water

tables are still 10 feet deeper than what we typically expect this time of year,” he said.

Topsoil moisture supply ranked 57% adequate, 39% surplus and just 4% short statewide as of Jan. 28, according to NASS.

February is usually the driest month of the year, so Ford is not expecting much help in the near term.

“The biggest determinant for crop impacts from drought is how much rain falls in spring and summer,” Ford said. “So even if we come in with fairly dry soils in the spring, if we get enough rain this summer, there won’t be that many impacts.”

On the flip side, if there is a dry pattern in the spring and summer, Ford said Illinois remains in a vulner-

able state for drought, but that does not mean a repeat of 2023 is certain.

“Because there isn’t a strong signal pointing to drought in spring and summer, I’m not overly concerned at this time,” he said. “The 2023 drought was not predicted very well more than a few weeks out, so we’ll have to wait and see what weather we get come April and May.”

At the end of January, the U.S. Drought Monitor showed parts of western Illinois and the entire southern third of the state were experiencing abnormally dry conditions with 18% in moderate drought.

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

# WYOMING: Ribbon-cutting on Saturday

*Continued from Page 1*

During his report, Economic Development Director Denny Rewerts said four businesses will be located in the attorney’s office building on West Williams Street.

Those businesses are Yellow Dog Spa, an Illinois Department of Transportation office (for one year), Attorney Michael Evans and “Society Groups” – a non-profit

entity that was not explained at the meeting.

There will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Vintage Rose, a new boutique business in Wyoming, Saturday at 10 a.m. Also, the city will hold a retreat meeting on March 2 from 8 a.m. to noon to discuss Wyoming’s future.

Finally, the city council approved a \$1,000 donation to the Stark County Elementary School Parents’ Club for its March 9 auction to help raise funds

for a playground equipment project. The auction will be held at Orwig’s Auction and Event Center, east of Toulon on Grain Bin Road.

A \$500 donation was approved for the sixth Annual Stark County 4H Equine Speed Show July

# SHIPP: Court date April 12

*Continued from Page 1*

April 12 was set for Shipp’s next court appearance for a status hearing. Attorneys were again

26-27 at the Stark County Fairgrounds in Wyoming. The event will feature horse barrel racing and other competitive events.

Wyoming Police Chief Jim Tiller reported there were three reports, two warrants and 17 calls to the police department.

Shipp was initially charged in November 2023 with five counts of distributing child pornography. In December 2023, he was charged by the state with five additional Class X counts of distributing child pornography.

Each Class X felony count is punishable by up to 30 years in prison.

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# PUBLIC RECORD

## Traffic Citations & Ordinance Violations

**1-24** - Cole N. Cook - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.

**1-25** - Susan L. Hendricks - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.

**1-25** - Jeremy M. Andrzejewski - Unlicensed.

**1-29** - Shelli J. Trone - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.

## Misdemeanors & Felonies

**1-26** - Criminal misdemeanor - Andrew W. Szparkowski - Possession of drug paraphernalia.

**2-1** - Criminal misdemeanor - Andrew W. Szparkowski - Criminal trespass to a building (Toulon Public Library).

## Incidents & Accidents Stark County

**1-13** - A Victoria man reported no injuries after his vehicle struck a snowplow west of LaFayette. Shortly after 2:30 p.m., 52-year-old Gregory M. Jurgensen was driving a 2018 Ram 1500 pickup truck south in the 2400 block of Illinois Route 180 and noticed snowdrifts in his lane. Jurgensen then began to drive south in the northbound lane, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

As his vehicle crested a hill, Jurgensen saw a northbound Illinois Department of Transportation plow driven by Scott A. Hopping, 51, of Galesburg. Jurgensen tried to return to the southbound lane, but lost control of his vehicle, which spun and struck the plow.

The pickup truck sustained damage to its rear driver's-side bumper and taillight. Both vehicles were driven from the scene.

**1-17** - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Wallace Highway north of Toulon. The driver was Robin R. Nowlan, 65, of Toulon. No injuries were reported but the 2019 Chevrolet pickup truck sustained damage over \$1,500.

**1-27** - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Route 17 approximately one-half mile east of 450E. Driver was Armando R. Gonzales, 33, of Toulon. No injuries were reported but the 2011 Nissan vehicle sustained damage over \$1,500.

**1-29** - A possible harassment and or threat complaint was received from a Toulon resident in the 500 block of W. Main St.. Authorities reported the incident was a civil complaint.

**1-30** - A traffic stop netted charges on two individuals including Kristin R. Chapman, 27, Peoria, on an outstanding Tazewell County warrant. She was taken into custody and transported to Tazewell County Jail. Also cited was Cory L. Ford Jr., 32, of Peoria, for driving on a suspended registration, driving a vehicle with no insurance, speeding and illegal transportation of adult-use cannabis in a motor vehicle. He was issued a notice to appear in court.

**1-30** - James A. Graves, of rural Wyoming, reported criminal damage to property after finding damage to his fence by an unknown vehicle.

**1-31** - Zachary D. Beintema, 39, Brimfield, cited for speeding 66 mph in a 55 zone, driving on expired registration and illegal transportation of adult-use cannabis in a vehicle.

**1-31** - A Toulon resident in the 900 block of W. Clinton St. reported computer harassment and or threats.

**2-3** - At 5:30 p.m., Lindsey M.

Mackie, 33, of Galva was driving a northbound 2015 Chevrolet Tahoe in the 1800 block of Knox Highway 28 north of Williamsfield when the vehicle struck a deer. The vehicle sustained damage to its driver's-side fender and bumper but was drivable.

## Galva Report

### Officer dispatched:

**1-29** - to the 100 block of SW 4th St. for a loose-dog complaint. Officer was not able to capture the dog, which returned to a porch in the 300 block of SW 3rd St.

**1-29** - to the 300 block of SW 4th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. It was returned to its owner, who was advised of the Illinois leash laws.

**1-29** - to a business in the 00 block of SW 2nd St. to recover contraband found at this location. This remains under investigation.

**1-29** - Scott Ford, 47, Media, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

**1-30** - to 100 block of N. Exchange St. to remove an unwanted subject after a verbal disturbance.

**1-30** - to 00 block of NE 4th St. for a subject having a mental-health crisis and calling Henry County dispatch repeatedly.

**1-30** - Nicole Barry, 40, Galesburg, was issued citations for failure to secure new registration upon transfer of ownership and having expired registration in the 900 block of SE 2nd St.

**1-31** - to 300 block of Front St. to check on a suspicious vehicle that was occupied and had been parked there for a few hours. The subject was tired and pulled over for a nap.

**1-31** - After a semi-tractor trailer got stuck in the shoulder of the road in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St., Randy Isaman, 57, of Burlington, Iowa, was arrested for improper operation of a commercial motor vehicle for not having a valid CDL. He was released with a court date.

**1-31** - to the 200 block of SW 5th St. for a physical altercation and to remove an unwanted subject. A report was forwarded to the state's attorney for review of charges.

**2-1** - along with the fire department, Stark County Medic and the Henry County Sheriff's Office to a semi-tanker truck rollover accident on Route 34 near 2400 E. The driver was flown by helicopter to a Peoria area hospital for treatment.

**2-1** - to the 800 block of NE 3rd Ave. for a wild-animal complaint involving a sick or injured raccoon. The animal was relocated.

**2-1** - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. after multiple death threats were received by Henry County dispatch. The suspect was detained and transported to Robert Young Mental Health Center in Moline.

**2-1** - Henry County Sheriff's Office was dispatched to 00 block of NE 4th Ave. for an altercation. As a result, Justin Slichenmyer, 34, and Bryce Shores, 27, both of Galva, were arrested for aggravated battery and transported to Henry County jail.

**2-1** - along with Stark County Medic and the fire department to Route 34 west of town for a single-vehicle accident with unresponsive driver. The subject was transported by ambulance for treatment.

**2-3** - While patrolling, an officer went to the 100 block of NE 9th St. after locating an unlicensed vehicle. Donald Ensley, 37, Galva, was issued an administrative warning ticket for violating the city's vehicle ordinance.

**2-3** - to assist Kewanee Police Department locate a suicidal subject in the Galva area. The subject was ultimately located in Geneseo.

**2-3** - Officer and K9 partner assisted Henry County with several traffic stops near Galva.

**2-4** - to the Exchange St. railroad tracks for a crossing-arm malfunction. BNSF was contacted.

**2-4** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 00 block of SE 3rd St., Alex Muller, 38, Galesburg, was arrested for driving while license suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was transported to the police department for processing and released with a court date.

**2-4** - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a theft report.

**2-4** - Patrick Hammons, 67, Galva, cited for expired registration in the 800 block of SE 2nd St.

## Property Transfers

**1-26** - Donna L. Lee, Diane S. Pearson, David A. Price, David A. Price, Succ. Trustee and Denise J. Turnbull to Diane S. and Thomas L. Pearson - Pts 26-13-5 SE - Consideration = \$0.

**1-26** - Donna L. Lee, Diane S. Pearson, David A. Price, David A. Price, Succ. Trustee and Denise J. Turnbull to Donna L. Lee - Pt 24-13-5 NW and Pt 26-13-5 NE - Consideration = \$0.

**1-26** - Donna L. Lee, Diane S. Pearson, David A. Price, David A. Price, Succ. Trustee and Denise J. Turnbull to Denise J. and Donald C. Turnbull - Pt Sect. 34-13-5 NW - Consideration = \$0.

**1-26** - Donna L. Lee, Diane S. Pearson, David A. Price, David A. Price, Succ. Trustee and Denise J. Turnbull to David A. and Debra J. Price, Trustees - Pts 26-13-5 NE and Pt 27-13-5 SW - Consideration = \$0.

**1-29** - Simpson Schott Properties LLC to First Schott Estates LLC - Original Town of Toulon - Pt Block 6 Lots 6,7,10 - 213 W. Main St. and 221 W. Main St., Toulon - Consideration = \$7,000.

**1-29** - Stephanie L. and Thomas L. Hatch to Stephanie L. and Thomas L. Hatch - Pts Sect 34-12-7 SE - 15887 Twp Rd. 00 N. Speer - Consideration = \$0.

**1-30** - Danny E. Fidler, Co-Exec., Marian L. Fidler Estate, and Peggy I. Piper, Co-Exec. to John W. and Natalie B. Carroll - Pts Assr's Sub Sect 1-12-6 NW - Giles C. Dana's Add'n Pt Block 11 Lot 1 - 311 W. Smith St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$90,000.

**1-30** - Holly L. Gillam to Chad E. Gillam - Original Town of Wyoming - Pt Block 5 Lots 2and3 - Consideration = \$0.

**1-30** - Terri Sue Sipes to Jayce D. and Sarah B. Miller - Original Town of Toulon - Pt Block 4 Lots 2and3 - 219 N. Henderson St., Toulon - Consideration = \$84,000.

**1-31** - Denise A. and Philip L. Schaffer, Trustees to Denise A. and Philip L. Schaffer, Trustees - Pt Sect. 17-12-7 SW and Pt Plus Easements Sect. 32-13-6 SE - Consideration = \$0.

**1-31** - Grace R. Swearingen, Trustee to Clara and Thomas J. Swearingen - John H. Drawyer's Add'n - Pts Lot 13 - 119 Silver St., Bradford - Consideration = \$70,000.

**1-31** - Bethany Baptist Church of Peoria to Charles E. and Karen E. Curry - Pt Lt 5 Assr's Sub Sect. 2-12-6 NE - 406 S. Sixth St., Wyoming - Consideration = \$0.



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The Illinois Sheriff's Association announces that it will be awarding over \$58,000 in college scholarships throughout the State of Illinois to students wishing to pursue higher education during the 2023-2024 academic year. The scholarships are to be applied to tuition, books and fees only. The student must be enrolled full-time at a certified institution of higher learning within the State of Illinois, full-time online learning is acceptable.

Henry County Sheriff, Joshua C Versheure, will be awarding one scholarship in the amount of \$500.00. There will be no restriction on any applicant by reason of race, age, creed, color, sex or national origin. The only limitations are as follows:

- Applicants must be permanent Illinois residents
- Scholarships must be utilized at institutions of higher learning within the State of Illinois
- Students must be enrolled as a full time student during the 2024-2025 school year (excluding summer session).

Applications are now available at your local Sheriff's Office or on the ISA Website [https:// www.ilsheriff.org /youth-2/](https://www.ilsheriff.org/youth-2/) Students must complete the application; answer the essay question and return all documentation to the Sheriff's Office in their permanent county of residence by March 15, 2024 (must be postmarked by this date).

A directory of Sheriff's Offices available on the ISA website at <https://www.ilsheriff.org/sheriffs-directory/>.

For more information, please contact your local Sheriff's Office, Illinois Sheriffs' Association, high school advising center or college financial aid office.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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8	6	5	2	1	4	7	3	9

CryptoQuote

answer

I often think that the night is more alive and more richly colored than the day.

— Vincent Van Gogh

## The Prairie News

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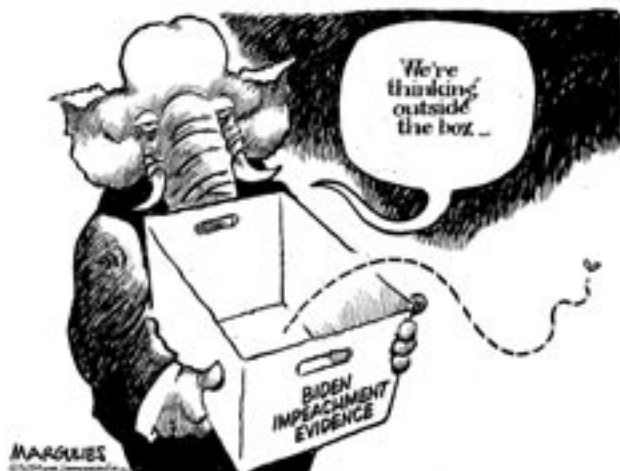
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So WHAT ARE THE ODDS WE'RE GOING TO USE A.I. RESPONSIBLY?



MARGULIES

# America's love-hate relationship with China

There's a joke about my fellow Baby Boomers making the rounds that goes something like this: In the 1960s, Boomers didn't trust anyone over 30 but as soon as they reached their 60s, they didn't trust anyone under 30.

American farmers and ranchers have nearly the same dynamic with China: As long as its people and companies buy our soybeans, beef, pork and corn, we love each and every one of them and their dollar-stuffed wallets.



Alan  
**GUEBERT**

When Chinese companies or citizens start buying our farmland, technology and businesses, however, our farm leaders and politicians call them every name under the sun except "customer" or "investor."

American farmers and ranchers aren't alone in their sometimes-sunny, oftentimes-dark view of China and its political – and possibly nefarious – role in international markets.

New York University business professor and popular podcaster Scott Galloway sees TikTok, the popular, China-based social media platform used by nearly 145 million Americans, as "the ultimate propaganda tool."

Galloway, who has often described TikTok as the most addictive social media platform he's ever seen, adds that China "would be dumb" not to put their finger on the scales" to make "the West look

bad." Over 30 U.S. states have that same concern; 10 have banned state employees from loading the app on state-owned electronic devices and 20-plus (the number keeps growing) are considering legislation to do so. India, the world's most populous country, banned TikTok after its user numbers nationwide hit 190 million.

Many in U.S. agriculture see China's growing presence in our business and political arenas as even more sinister. For example, in 2023, 10 states enacted "restrictions on the ability of land purchases by foreign nationals," according to MultiState, a lobbying firm that operates throughout the U.S.

While only one of those states, Alabama, enacted its law against China specifically, five other states did direct their new laws against American "adversaries such as China, North Korea, Russia and Iran."

Presently, 19 states have introduced some form of foreign land-ownership ban in their statehouses.

While all this worrying and banning has been going on, China spent most of 2023 learning one of capitalism's biggest lessons: Economic growth isn't an endless ride upward. Even though the Chinese economy did, in fact, grow last year, its rise was the smallest since 1990, noted The Wall Street Journal.

Leading the slowdown was real estate. Sales as measured by square footage were down a calamitous 23% in 2023.

Worse, in mid-January a Chinese court ordered Evergrande, one of China's largest real estate devel-

opers, to liquidate its crumbling \$300 billion "debt mountain."

Additionally, more signs of coming weakness – deflation, falling stock markets (as U.S. stock indices hit record highs) and flagging consumer spending – suggest China is well on the path to becoming the next Japan, a global powerhouse that's about to stumble for years as it juggles too much debt, a declining population and flagging exports.

While those deepening signs of trouble suggest Xi Jinping, China's 70 year-old president, will surely spend more time on domestic politics to maintain power and order, other experienced China watchers think Xi will work even harder to lower tensions between his nation and the U.S.

In fact, noted The Washington Post, relations between the world's two superpowers have taken a decidedly positive turn – probably because of China's worsening economic outlook.

"Much of the shift ... stems from Beijing's recognition that its own economy has been foundering while the United States' is booming," the Post reported Jan. 27.

That only proves the age-old axiom that there's nothing like a good customer – China for our ag exports and America for China's manufactured and digital goods – to move people from pounding their fists at the negotiating table to picking up forks at the dinner table.

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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.

**The Village of LaFayette is looking to fill 2 openings on the Village Board. The positions are Trustee and Clerk.**

**For questions/inquiries please call Mayor Chris Smith at 309-509-2522**

**The Village of Bradford is accepting applications for Part-Time Police Officers. Please contact the Village Office at 309-897-2071.**

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# Galva official speaks on behalf of Bow

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

WILLIAMSFIELD – Galva City Administrator Dave Dyer spoke on behalf of Bow Renewables at Monday's meeting of the Williamsfield Village Board.

Florida-based Bow has been contacted about a solar-energy installation proposed for 20 acres of village-owned land at the north edge of Billtown. Bow wants to develop at a cost of about \$7 million. A lease of up to 40 years would pay the village at least \$40,000 annually. The proposed site is south of Park Road and west of Illinois Route 180.

Village President Robert Johnson appears to favor solar. So does Dyer, who addressed the board Monday. Joining him was Mike Musso, a Bow associate developer. Bow is overseeing three solar-farm developments on city-owned land in Galva.

"We want to work with you guys as much as possible and be there for every step, not just sign a lease and

we disappear," Musso said.

Galva officials are delighted with Bow, Dyer said. He cited the company's dealings with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency on the city's behalf, among other things.

"We did our due diligence," Dyer said. "I think what you really want to know is what our relationship has been like with Bow, and it's just been superb."

Johnson said he's contacted at least two other solar firms, but none expressed interest in a Williamsfield project because it's too small. The village attorney is to review a proposed lease with Bow.

One person who spoke against the project Monday was Williamsfield resident Rick Smith, who said a solar installation might be an improper use of the property.

Smith said the property was part of a 70-acre bequeathment that stipulated it be used for parks eventually, save 15 acres that were subdivided for housing. Doubet-Benjamin Park

was established in the 1990s on 16 acres. Most of the rest has been farmed.

"Corn and beans is what it was in for 100-some years," Smith said following the meeting. "That was to be left there until they transitioned to park. To transition to (solar) and say 'We're just continuing the thing,' that's disingenuous."

Smith, who has planted trees and established a butterfly garden in the park, believes an apple orchard can be as lucrative as a solar installation. He bases that on information from University of Illinois Extension. Smith also believes an orchard would be true to the bequeathment.

"A park is a park," Smith said. "I've seen a lot of parks. I've never seen one that's covered with solar arrays. ... If you understand wills and estates and probate, you're not left with a choice here."

Smith intends to make a more-detailed presentation to the board during its meeting March 4.

# Bingo fundraiser raised \$1,375 for Hegwood

By ANGIE STANGE

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – A bingo fundraiser for Katina Hewitt Hegwood on Feb. 3, sponsored by the Bradford Betterment Committee, raised \$1,375.00 to help the Hegwood family with expenses incurred during Katina's illness.

In all, 70 people joined in bingo for Katina with one person travelling from Michigan to show their support.

Special thanks go to Becky Cade, My Place and K&R Stump Grinding, Bradford Public Library, Diana Foley, Deb Grunloh, Tanya Walker and Kate and Jim Hewitt who donated prizes, in addition to the prizes provided by the BBC.

The BBC will host its next regular Bingo at the American Legion on Saturday, March 2.

Upon requests from community members, the BBC will hold Family

Bingo on Feb. 17 at the Bradford Fire House Community Room from 2-4 p.m. Children must be accompanied by an adult. There is a suggested donation of \$5 for 2 Bingo cards. Bring your own snacks. Water and lemonade will be provided by the BBC.

Proceeds from bingo are used to provide for various needs and events of the Bradford community.

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Tract 1 is located just east of the village of Castleton, or 6 miles northeast of Wyoming, IL. Tract 2 is located 6 miles north of Wyoming, IL. Tracts 3-10 are located 4 miles north of Wyoming, IL. Tract 11 is located in the southeast portion of the village of Castleton, Wyoming is located 30 miles north of Peoria, IL. Land is further described as being located in Sections 7, 10, 15 & 16, T13N-R7E, Penn Township, and Sections 3, 12 & 13, T13N-R6E, Toulon Township, Stark County, Illinois.

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## LARGE AUCTION OF OUTDOOR, DECOYS, TOYS, BARBIES, ANTIQUES, FURNITURE AND MORE

The following nice variety of items will be sold at the Millbrook Community Center Building in Laura, IL. (Just off of Rt. 78 in the NE corner of Laura), on **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18TH, 2024 AT 12:00 NOON**  
NOTE: This is a large auction. Two lines will be running for the duration of the sale, so plan accordingly. See pictures and full ads online at [www.folgersauctionservice.com](http://www.folgersauctionservice.com) and LIKE US ON FACEBOOK.

Items need removed from building day of sale.  
**ANT. TOYS:** Mersey Tunnel Dinky #255 England toy—Dinky 3 ton Army wagon #621—Dinky #301 tractor w/woman—Hubley #404 metal car—JD stationary engine and JD B tractor—JD 7610 tractor—NB Millennium Case Steam Traction Engine—JD mix mill—JD wheel disc—Jensen steam engine completed kit #76 w/direction book—2 old toy cannons—OH Art metal toy watering can—wooden old pull toy horse and cart—lg. plastic soldier—2 sm. metal ducks on wheels—jars of nice old marbles and shooters—Lumar Contractors old metal truck w/blade—Hubley Jr. tractor—Ford tractor—plastic IH McCormick Farmall tractor w/wagon—rubber Auburn sm. tractor w/woman—Tonka old dump truck—metal manure spreader and disc—Tom Thumb register w/play money—Tonka pick-up GR2-2431 Army—metal Dodge pick-up—old metal truck w/wooden wheels—Hubley Ford station wagon—Hubly 494 flat bed Ford—Buddy metal dump truck—Wyandotte towing metal truck—metal wagons and hayrack—misc. modern kid's toys and books—Little Brown KoKo old book—**BARBIES:** Coll. of 60's thru early 2000 Barbies. 90% are new in box. A few samples are 90's Holiday Barbies and Millennium, 35th Ann., Generation girls, Interactive, Dolls of the World, Pilgrim/Pioneer, Dodgers, Sleeping Beauty, Enchanted Season, Grecian Goddess, Coca Cola and so many more—old orig. 60's/70's Barbie and Ken clothing, old metal doll trunk—misc. toys.  
**ANTIQU FURNITURE AND LARGER ITEMS:** full size Cutter red prim. wooden sleigh—primitive sled—child's busy box—stained glass window out of a caboose—stained and leaded glass windows—folding Bible stand—cast iron ant. floor lamps—round pine accent table—walnut commode cabinet w/kids footrest—prim. library table—set back cabinet—pine pantry from old house—old pine cabinet—white wicker pieces—wishbone mirror—lg. lumber store prim. parts bin w/back—walnut upholstered side chair—walnut server—upholstered foot stools, organ stool and parlor chairs—wrought iron ice cream parlor set—misc.  
**ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES:** 3' Bryner's chainsaw carved wooden mushroom—very old Spalding #105 Nottingham chalk baseball diamond liner—1969 Donnie Secrist rookie card, graded 7, #654—10 1959 Topps baseball cards including Russ Nixon, Jim Davenport and others—Cary Hulin shine glaze pottery piece—1893 Morgan dollar—2005 Silver Eagle, silver dime, roll wheat pennies—ax head, points, scrapers, dove and beaver tails—old Bakelite flashlight—egg scale—Detect-o-gram scale—ant. hand stitched quilts including double wedding ring, bow tie, Ribbon of Diamonds and others—electrified banquet ant. lamp—Angel lamp—metal John E. Kennedy Farm Bureau sign—JD planter iron piece—2708-H—iron Moline, Ill Deer & Mansur 1993 3 legged planter lid—nice 2 gallon pottery churn—1 gallon Western pottery water dispenser—Western 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 gallon crocks—1 gallon SPS crock—Ed and Gibb, Bushnell, Ill. ashtray—Flying Cloud #47 of 50 Indian doll marked Alex 93—old Essex racing jacket and patches—Red Cloud framed tobacco adv. prints—Waltham Franklin pocket watch—old stop watch—**JEWELRY** including sterling silver pieces, Heildaus rhinestone/pearl necklaces, rhinestone birds and more, turquoise, costume old sets, coral, watches earrings and pins and more—Royal Bonn German and Austria porcelain vases—Frontman 10G amp. Fender electric guitar—violin/uke in orig. box w/wow and music—ukuleles (Aklot Inc., SBU, and Hanky), Hohner harm.—old IRC volume control kit metal fuse and elect. box—Union Pacific tea co. tray—lg. metal Ginger tea container—2 old military metal trays—metal Brown & Williamson adv. tobacco roller—Squirt glass S & P—Mobil Oil Co. playing cards—beaded wallet—dip pens—adv. bullet pencils—NRA 1943 pin and patch—prim. smoking pipe—Vernon Co. Moline adv. mirror—Postum Cereal and other old tins—IL 100 cigar wooden box—lg. oriental jardiniere—Moira Pottery England Buchans Dog Sopa adv. crock—Buckeye pottery jug, other old jugs—old liquor jug—Bobs Cola, Bubble-up, Whistle soda, Galesburg Steam Bottling, and other bottles—Oberweis Dairy pt. and 1/2 gallon bottles—Pyrex meas. cups, casseroles—Horlicks lg. glass jar w/lid—blue seltzer glass jar w/spout—copper boilers—old bat—Creamy Whirls lg. candy tin—retro glass shaker—FK tulip white bowl—India wooden box—chalk Indian old S & P, other chalk—Dodge Desota ashtray—prim. utensils—qt. oil can—2006 Cardinal World Series pennant—misc. Beatles posters—James Dean cardboard stand up, movie posters, Woody Allen movie posters, "Giant" movie poster, Truman framed election poster, Animal house movie poster—Buck, 350 Daisy BB guns/box, Red Ryder Daisy BB gun, Crosman air gun and others—galk. sq. wash tub and round basket—several old wooden and jointed lures, Lureman—Jack Daniels pottery pitcher—Griswold #8 skillet, 85-B iron skillet, iron Dutch oven w/lid, Lodge iron griddle and lg. skillet, 5A iron skillet—full size fiberglass/resin Hampshire pig—Buda, oriental yard statues—other yard statues—pottery and other pigs, frogs, banks—80's/90's Playboys—antiques too numerous to list all.

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**NOTICE**  
**GOSHEN TOWNSHIP ROADS  
LOAD LIMIT POSTING**

Goshen Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/15-316 will impose weight limitations on Goshen Township roads effective for 90 days (Feb. 1, 2024 thru May 1, 2024) due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.

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

Any questions contact Goshen Township Road Commissioner John Forstrom, or call the Township Building at 309-286-7103 (leave a message).  
For further load limitations visit the county website  
<http://starkco.illinois.gov/highway/>

**REQUEST FOR BIDS**  
**MOWING AND TRIMMING,  
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The City of Toulon is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of Toulon Cemetery for mowing season of 2024.

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

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

Bids are to be mailed to Toulon City Hall, P.O. Box 597, Attn: Larry Hollis - Mowing Bids, Toulon, IL 61483. Bids will be opened at the February 12th city council meeting.

**BRIEFS**

**Kewanee nursing home placed in receivership**

KEWANEE – Courtyard Estates in Kewanee is one of eight senior-living facilities owned by Petersen Health Care that has been placed in receivership by the U.S. District Court in Rockford.

The Peoria-based Petersen group faces foreclosure for allegedly owing more than \$51 million to lenders.

Petersen Health Care owns 17 facilities and eight were placed in receivership at the end of January. Petersen also owns facilities in Galva and Toulon and several other Kewanee properties that have not been placed in receivership.

According to the Kewanee Voice, a Petersen company spokesman said in a statement, "No other Petersen Health Care locations in Kewanee, or outside those eight facilities, are affected by this action."

**Galva Pre-K sign-up scheduled Feb. 12-16**

GALVA – Galva Elementary School 2024-2025 Pre-K sign-up will be Feb. 12-16 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Galva Elementary School Foyer.

Parents may pick up paperwork in the elementary foyer and return it there upon completion.

Children signing up for Pre-K must be at least 3 years old before Sept. 1. Current Pre-K students returning to Pre-K for next year will be automatically registered for the 2024-25 school year.

Due to limited enrollment, each child will be screened in March to determine who will be eligible to attend. You will be contacted to schedule a screening time.

Please call Heather Nance, Pre-K coordinator at (309) 932-2420 with questions.

**College honors**

• Paige Rewerts of Wyoming was named to the Elmhurst University's fall 2023 Dean's list (3.75 gpa or better).

**Vasa hosts game night held every Tuesday**

BISHOP HILL – The Vasa Na-



Wyoming native Austin King was sworn in on Feb. 2 by Circuit Judge Paul E. Bauer as the interim Stark County State's Attorney. King will be interim state's attorney through Nov. 30. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

tional Archive will be hosting game nights on Tuesday evenings from 6-8 p.m., weather permitting. The public is welcomed to bring their board games, card games or come by themselves to enjoy the fun.

Participants can also bring their own snacks or beverages. Game nights continue through March 26 and are held on the archive's second floor, which is accessible through the main entrance. Lift chairs are available for people with mobility issues.

The Vasa National Archives is located at the corner of Knox St. and S. Bishop Hill St.

**HSCHD to hold blood drive on March 5**

KEWANEE – The Henry and Stark County Health Department and the Henry County Office of Emergency Management have a blood drive on March 5, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Health Department's Kewanee Office, 110 N. Burr Blvd.

Appointments are preferred by calling (309) 852-0197 or by emailing [nvandesampel@henrystarkhealth.org](mailto:nvandesampel@henrystarkhealth.org). Walk-ins are also welcome.

Participants are instructed to eat before donating and bring a photo ID.

**Stark Co. input sought on broadband access**

There is still time to help shape North Central Illinois' broadband future. Between now and Feb. 11, share Stark County residents are asked to share their insights through a 5-minute survey accessible online at [go.illinois.edu/ConnectNorthCentralIL](http://go.illinois.edu/ConnectNorthCentralIL).

Because the survey includes a speed-test component, participants are asked to take the survey while connected to the wi-fi at the site they are answering questions about. Responses will be instrumental in identifying areas with limited access and pinpointing opportunities for improvement.

Reliable, high-speed internet fuels education, empowers businesses, enables access to healthcare and connects communities. The North Central Illinois Council of Governments is developing a Broadband Strategic Plan in partnership with TPMA and BHC to improve broadband connectivity in the region of Bureau, Grundy, LaSalle, Livingston, Marshall, Putnam and Stark Counties.

Contact Kevin Lindeman at [info@ncicg.org](mailto:info@ncicg.org) or (309) 433-5830.

**Extension has farm A.I. event on March 5**

WOODHULL – University of Illinois Extension invites farmers and ag professionals to an A.I. and Your Farm event and luncheon on March 5 at Woodhull Community Center, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sponsored by Goldstar-Cambridge, Big River Resources and River Valley Cooperative, the event will feature speakers discussing integration of A.I. in agriculture. Lunch is provided by Henn House BBQ. Registration is \$5 per person and pre-registration is required at [go.illinois.edu/Alfarm](http://go.illinois.edu/Alfarm) or by calling the extension office at (309) 756-9978.

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# New deputy returning to small-town roots

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – The definition of a small town might be relative, but it appears Adam Bickett knows his way around them.

He grew up in one. He has worked in them. And now, Bickett is working in one again.

Bickett is the new Peoria County Sheriff's Office deputy assigned to Princeville. The 33-year-old succeeded Vince Cogdal, who after about a year on duty in Princeville resigned from the force in late December. Bickett was one of two applicants for the open position, according to Sheriff Chris Watkins.

"They really liked Vince," he said about Princeville village officials. "It's unfortunate to see him leave. But I think Adam will be the same. It'll be good."

Bickett is dedicated to patrol Princeville 40 hours a week, in keeping with the sheriff's-office contract with the village.

In the 17 or so months he's been with the sheriff's office, Bickett has specialized in pursuing and curbing illegal drugs and guns, mostly in Peoria. He had the same task when he was a deputy in Massac County, at the southern tip of Illinois.

But most of Bickett's policing background lies in less-violent pursuits in much-smaller jurisdictions.

A Princeton native, Bickett has worked for law-enforcement agencies in communities even smaller than his home-



Adam Bickett is the new Peoria County Sheriff's deputy assigned to patrol Princeville.

Peoria Heights, although police work wasn't always his calling. He studied theater engineering – sound systems, scenery, lighting – at Northern Illinois University and worked in that field. He also worked in construction and retail sales.

Personal tragedies helped change Bickett's path. Younger brother Noah Bickett was a heart-transplant recipient who died at 24. Older brother Brandon Bickett committed suicide.

"Brandon passes away, and it was like this light turned on," Adam Bickett said. "I was tired of feeling helpless. I was feeling like I couldn't help people. Funny thing was I probably needed the most help of all."

Bickett received help from Todd Marquez, the Wyanet police chief, who hired him for free on a trial basis. Bickett never returned to the stage.

So far, things on the Princeville beat have gone well, according to Bickett, who is married and has four children. Bickett said he seeks open communication with residents. That

doesn't surprise the sheriff.

"He's not somebody that's just going to sit in a corner all night," Watkins said. "He'll be out stopping cars and interacting with people in a positive way."

Bickett appears positive his return to small-town life will be beneficial – for him and for the people he's pledged to serve and protect.

"When I hear about Princeville, I always hear a sense of community," Bickett said. "I always hear they've got each other's backs. I always hear they're looking out for one another, always willing to help another neighbor out."

"If all of those things are true, I'm proud to be part of any of it."

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**LEGAL ADS**

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
 UNION FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION (F/K/A FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION OF KEWANEE), Plaintiff,

IN CHANCERY  
 Case No. 2024CH1  
 v. CHARLENE F. REBHOLZ;  
 UNKNOWN OWNERS; AND  
 NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,  
 Defendants.

**NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION**

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned mortgage foreclosure action was filed on January 16, 2024, and is now pending.

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

2. The name of the titleholder of record is: CHARLENE F. REBHOLZ

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:

The North Half (N ½) of Lot Twelve (12) in Block Two (2) of Hoffrichter's Addition to the City of Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois. PIN: 20-32-482-009

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows:  
 828 Franklin St., Kewanee IL 61443.

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

- a. Name of Mortgagor: CHARLENE F. REBHOLZ
- b. Name of Mortgagee: Union Federal Savings & Loan Association (f/k/a First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Kewanee)
- c. Date of Mortgage: July 18, 2014
- d. Date of Recording: July 21, 2014
- e. County Where Recorded: Henry County, Illinois
- f. Recording Document Identification: 20-1403892

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants, file your answer to the Complaint for Foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Henry County, Illinois, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, on or before February 23, 2024, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day and a Judgment for Foreclosure may be entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint for Foreclosure.

*/s/ Terilyn A. Motley*  
 Circuit Clerk

Barash & Everett, LLC  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
 211 W. 2nd St.  
 Kewanee IL 61443  
 Phone: 309/852-5555  
 justin@barashlaw.com  
 Published 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/24

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
 ESTATE OF CHARLOTTE J. CURRIER, Deceased  
 No. 2024 PR 9

**CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)**

Notice is given of the death of Charlotte J. Currier. Letters of Office were issued on January 19, 2024, to Tamara J. Currier, as Independent Representative 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 July 26, 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/gethelp.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 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/24

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
 ESTATE OF ROGER D. JACOBSON, Deceased  
 No. 2024 PR 13

**CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)**

Notice is given of the death of Roger D. Jacobson. Letters of Office were issued on January 29, 2024, to Steven D. Jacobson as Independent Representative 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 August 8, 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/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
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 (309) 852-5555  
 Published 2/2, 2/9, 2/16/24

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

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

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

Sincerely,  
 Ameren Illinois Forestry  
 Department  
 Published 2/9/24

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- Directory Assistance** \$.75
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as part of local service rate.

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**Emergency 911 Services** - Charged according to government assessments. Access to operator services and interexchange services are available.

\*Unlimited local minutes provided as part of the plan. Lifeline is a program that helps qualified low-income Illinois residents with a discount on their telephone or broadband Internet service. Lifeline provides assistance to one person in a household, for one service (telephone or broadband Internet) and is not transferable. Link-Up is a program that helps qualified individuals with the one-time telephone installation charge.

Basic services are offered to all consumers in the Mid Century Telephone Cooperative service territories at the rates, terms, and conditions specified in the Cooperative's assessments. If you have any questions regarding Mid Century Telephone Cooperative's services, please call 309-778-8611 or visit the business office at 285 Mid Century Lane, Fairview, IL.

Mid Century Telephone Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.  
 Published 2/9/24

**STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION**

Mid Century Telephone Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer. Esta institución es un proveedor de servicios con igualdad de oportunidades.

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USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.  
 Published 2/9/24

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
 ESTATE OF: SANDRA E. VERDICK, Deceased

No. 2024PR16  
**CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)**

Notice is given of the death of Sandra E. Verdick. Letters of Office were issued on February 1, 2024, to Douglas Livingston as Independent Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before August 9, 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 provider. Visit [efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm](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 [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp). Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
 Attorney for Executor  
 P.O. Box 165  
 Galva, IL 61434  
 Phone (309) 932-2001  
 everettr@barashlaw.com  
 Published 2/9, 2/16, 2/23/24

**The Henry County Sheriff's Office is accepting applications for Telecommunicator until February 13, 2024 @ 4:00pm.**  
 Excellent benefits include health, dental & life insurance for employee, paid holidays, paid vacation, starting salary \$47,756.80 (\$22.96/hour), with anniversary and contractual raises, and IMRF pension (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund) Applications may be obtained from the Henry County Sheriff's Office @ 311 W Center St Cambridge, IL or download an application from: [www.henrycty.com](http://www.henrycty.com) (Sheriff's Office, then to Employment). Additional information may be obtained by calling 309-937-3614. Henry County is an E.O.E. Testing is required for applicants on February 21, 2024 @ 8:00pm at the Henry County Office of Emergency Management, 4424 US Highway 34, Kewanee, IL.

**BBC FAMILY BINGO!!**  
 Saturday, February 17  
 2 - 4 pm  
 Bradford Firehouse  
 Suggested donation of \$5 for 2 bingo cards. Bring your own snacks. Water will be provided. All are welcome! Children must be accompanied by an adult.  
 Don't forget  
 Saturday, March 2nd for adults  
 Bingo at the Legion  
 doors open at 5 ~ bingo starts at 6  
 ~ bring your own snacks  
 ~ \$10 suggested donation

**Craft-Vendor Show**  
 Saturday, February 24, 2024  
 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
 Kewanee American Legion Post 31  
 1509 Railroad Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443  
 Friends of the Animals are hosting our Annual Craft/Vendor Show. All funds raised will be used to help assist families in financial need to help pay their vet bills. (money paid directly to the Vet.) Please come join us for shopping with vendors such as Pampered Chef, Tastefully Simple, Papparazzi, BV Jewelry Designs, Tupperware, Purple Owl, Glass by Sue, Mee to Youee and Scentsy just to name a few. Come have breakfast and lunch with us, we will be having a special drawing for the Faber Family donations from Tim Bryner Chainsaw Carving and Little Valley Crafts. Plus raffle baskets donated by, Sauk Trail Animal Hosp., PNB, 7 Sisters, Kew Park District, SBT, NAPA, Tastefully Simple, just to name a few

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# Battle brewing over tipped wage

By GREG BISHOP  
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD—Battle lines are being drawn at the Illinois statehouse over whether to get rid of a lower minimum wage for tipped workers statewide.

While some are advocating for tipped workers to get the minimum wage with tips on top, a legislator who also owns restaurants says such a move would be devastating to the economy.

Advocates from the group One Fair Wage organized a rally outside of the Illinois statehouse Tuesday as legislators were returning. State Rep. Elizabeth Hernandez, D-Cicero, explained why she supports the effort.

“Eliminating the sub-minimum wage is the right thing to do for workers, it’s the right thing to do for businesses and it’s the right thing to do for the state economy,” Hernandez said.

State Rep. Mike Coffey, R-Springfield, who owns several restaurants, said while there may be good intentions for such a move, if passed into law, it would hurt consumers, employers and employees

across the board.

“It’ll create unemployment. It will be hazardous to the business community, especially the restaurant community where you’ll see many of them go out of business, so it’s just not good,” Coffey told The Center Square.

State Sen. Lakesia Collins, D-Chicago, advocated for getting rid of tipped wages. She said they did that in Chicago and such workers get tips on top of a minimum wage.

“And it’s time for Springfield to bring the economic security to workers across the state of Illinois and to send a message that to do business in Illinois, you have to be able to pay your employees a living wage, period,” Collins said.

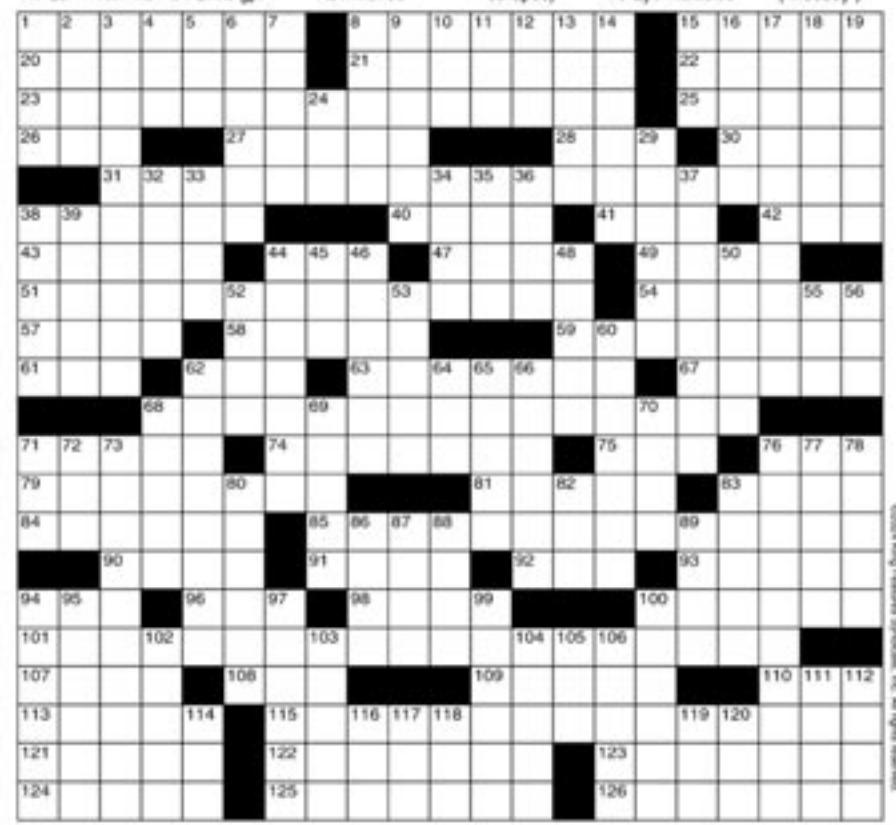
Coffey said removing the tipped wage would disincentivize quality service and could lead to such employees making less money than when they were tipped workers. He said while Chicago may have done just that, the idea is “catastrophic” for his and other communities across the state.

Answers on Page 3

## Super Crossword

STORYBOOK SENTIMENT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Auxiliary professor
  - 8 Nickname for baseball great Ruth
  - 15 Cultural value system
  - 20 High-fashion clothing
  - 21 Knows someone at the company, say
  - 22 Reluctant (to)
  - 23 "Wait, my rant isn't finished..."
  - 25 Private, as desired
  - 26 Agnus — (lamb figure)
  - 27 "Cool beans"
  - 28 Down dinner
  - 30 Look lewdly
  - 31 2018 war documentary directed by Peter Jackson
  - 38 Composer — Sebastian Bach
  - 40 Hamilton/Burr confrontation
  - 41 Era upon era
  - 42 Turndowns
  - 43 Stati — (America, in Italian)
  - 44 Stage design
  - 47 La — Tar Pits
  - 49 Gp. opposed to leather
  - 51 Made a habit of taking risks
  - 54 Actress Cuthbert
  - 57 French for "summers"
  - 58 Bible book after Micah
  - 59 Dwell at
  - 61 — Ops (CIA mind games)
  - 62 Coffee holder
  - 63 In love
  - 67 Big name in candy wafers
  - 68 2011-13 Fran Drescher sitcom
  - 71 Give it — (try)
  - 74 Paris Champs- —
  - 75 Certain scanning device; Abbr.
  - 76 St. crosses
  - 79 First book
  - 81 Former U.N. chief Boutros Boutros- —
  - 83 Stool or pew
  - 84 Milk container
  - 85 Just a tiny bit
  - 90 Op-ed writer Maureen —
  - 91 Art of Erité
  - 92 Once existed
  - 93 Elixir
  - 94 Links gp.
  - 96 Canon camera brand
  - 98 — part (role-play)
  - 100 1996-2002 sports sitcom
  - 101 Song phrase following "See you later, later"
  - 107 Amazes
  - 108 Daddy's boy
  - 109 Prague citizen
  - 110 Victor's hand gesture
  - 113 Prefix with type or plasm
  - 115 What's spelled out by the starts of six answers in this puzzle
  - 121 Lot units
  - 122 Countering an attack by missile, e.g.
  - 123 Pundit Huffington
  - 124 Hockey feints
  - 125 Fill with more inventory
  - 126 Like soon-to-be-unveiled tech
  - 3 She won a Tony for "Hurlyburly"
  - 4 Stage actress Hagen
  - 5 Pious sister
  - 6 Actor Hume of "Cocoon"
  - 7 Heads to Henriette
  - 8 Iota preceder
  - 9 Novelist Robbins
  - 10 N.Y. hours
  - 11 Cranky cry
  - 12 Singer DiFranco
  - 13 Stanford- — test
  - 14 Occupy
  - 15 — Lily & Co.
  - 16 Until this time
  - 17 "Just one moment"
  - 18 Verdi opera
  - 19 Tears to bits
  - 24 "Told ya so!"
  - 29 Recurring themes
  - 32 Detests
  - 33 Author Blyton
  - 34 Oil, informally
  - 35 Dweeb's kin
  - 36 Cassini of 20-Across
  - 37 Quick quip
  - 38 Minty Kentucky Derby drink
  - 39 — last legs (about to collapse)
  - 44 Biting turtle
  - 45 Ordinal suffix
  - 46 Like so, informally
  - 48 Correo — (Spanish airmail)
  - 50 — over (satisfied for the moment)
  - 52 "Movin' —" (sitcom theme song)
  - 53 Tube prizes
  - 55 Brand of fruit drinks
  - 56 Year, in Brazil
  - 60 Signs up
  - 62 Multilevel structure for Fluffy
  - 64 Suffix with chlor- or fluor-
  - 65 Model Cheryl
  - 66 "ER" or "CSI"
  - 68 Get a move on
  - 69 Lead-in to "So sue me!"
  - 70 Caesar's 202
  - 71 N.C. State's NCAA div.
  - 72 "— Na Na"
  - 73 Toiling away
  - 76 Fetching brand
  - 77 Certain surrealist paintings
  - 78 Eye maladies ("indeedy")
  - 80 Funds
  - 82 Sly — fox
  - 83 Tortoise's top
  - 86 Call product
  - 87 Caesar's "Behold!"
  - 88 Campus mil. program
  - 89 Singer Halliwell
  - 94 Underside of a dog's foot
  - 95 Liftoff stress
  - 97 Hebrew horn
  - 99 With 106-Down, North Pole surround
  - 100 Cling (to)
  - 102 Perfumer Lauder
  - 103 Absurd
  - 104 Missouri's — Mountains
  - 105 Toon pic
  - 106 See 99-Down
  - 111 Kin of -ette
  - 112 Novelist Jennifer
  - 114 Pre-CIA gp.
  - 116 "— a girl!"
  - 117 Fabric dye brand
  - 118 Retired NBAer Ming
  - 119 Vote down
  - 120 "True —" ("indeedy")



### Bradford Lions Club 2024 Benefit

## PANCAKE BREAKFAST

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO LOCAL CHARITIES

**8 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Sunday February 18**

**Pancakes & Sausage**  
**Bradford Grade School Gym**

In These Tight Economic Times  
**"Have Breakfast on Us!"**

**NO TICKETS NEEDED**

**COME ONE — COME ALL!**

The Bradford Lions wish to thank our loyal supporters of 50+ years!  
For Information Call Dennis Hickey at 493-5311 or any Lions Club Member

Please Support Your Local Community Sponsors  
**Bake Sale by the Bradford Betas**

### Amber Waves



by Dave T. Phipps

### The Spats



by Jeff Pickering

### Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



### GRIM BEAD IT



"I cleaned up in stocks today!"

### Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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### Answers on Page 3

### CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW  
One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

C YH5OZ SQCZM SQUS SQO  
ZCBQS CV AYGO UKCWO UZN  
AYGO GCPQKL PYKYGON SQUZ  
SQO NUL.  
— WCZPOZS WUZ BYBQ

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### Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Which movie has the tagline, "May the odds be ever in your favor?"
- GEOGRAPHY: Which country possesses Baffin Island?
- AD SLOGANS: Which company's slogan is, "You're in good hands?"
- LANGUAGE: What is a common saying for the Latin phrase "apsus linguae"?
- MUSIC: What country was home to reggae singer Bob Marley?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is an example of a macropod?
- TELEVISION: Gordon, Percy, James, Toby and Emily are characters on which children's show?
- MATH: What is 1/60 of a degree?
- LITERATURE: Who wrote the book series "The Chronicles of Narnia"?
- ACRONYMS: What does the acronym SPF stand for?

### Answers

- "The Hunger Games."
- Canada.
- Allstate.
- A slip of the tongue.
- Jamaica.
- Kangaroo.
- "Thomas the Tank Engine."
- A minute.
- C. S. Lewis.
- Sun Protection Factor.
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### TOP 10 MOVIES

- Mean Girls (PG-13)
- The Beekeeper (R)
- Wonka (PG)
- Migration (PG)
- Anyone But You (R)
- Poor Things (R)
- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13)
- Godzilla Minus One (PG-13)
- American Fiction (R)
- Night Swim (PG-13)
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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Toulon Methodist Church

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

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

### LaFayette Methodist Church

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

Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (217) 425-5707 or (217) 778-1591.  
LaFayette Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

### West Jersey United Methodist Church

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

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

### Elmira United Presbyterian Church

Rev. Art Blegen  
7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483

(309) 896-3481

Services each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

<https://www.facebook.com/Elmirachurch1852>

### The Gathering Church

Location: 105 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491

Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.

Mail: PO Box 322, Wyoming, IL 61491

email: [info@thegathering.life](mailto:info@thegathering.life)

web: <https://www.thegathering.life/>

<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

### 1st Congregational Church of Toulon

(309) 286-4901

218 N. Henderson St., Toulon

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Email [fcctoulon@gmail.com](mailto:fcctoulon@gmail.com)

website: [firstcongregationaltoulon.org](http://firstcongregationaltoulon.org)

### Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones

211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434

(309) 932-3733

Service Time 10 a.m.

### First Baptist Church

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Sunday Worship: 11:00

Wednesday Night TBD

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### First Congregational Church of Christ

Pastor Ross Wyman

204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491

(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational UCC of Wyoming, Illinois

### Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon

(309) 286-4611

Sunday School 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m.

Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

Wednesday Kid's Club 5:30-7 p.m.

Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Email: [pastor@toulonbaptist.com](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)

[www.ToulonBaptist.com](http://www.ToulonBaptist.com)

[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon](http://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon)

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### St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

16883 State Route 17, PO Box 158 - Wyoming, IL 61491

[allsaintsil.com](mailto:allsaintsil.com)

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Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School

9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship

Contact: [messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com](mailto:messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com)

1-309-932-3346

Facebook: Messiah Lutheran—Galva, IL

### Galva First United Methodist Church

Rev. Rebecca Gearhart

214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL 61434

(309) 932-2460

[preachinghope@gmail.com](mailto:preachinghope@gmail.com)

[galvafirst@gmail.com](mailto:galvafirst@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship: 9:00

### Wyoming United Methodist Church

Pastor Rebecca Klemm

302 North Main Street PO Box 287 Wyoming, IL, 61491-0287.

309-606-9027

Email: [WyomingUMCPastor@gmail.com](mailto:WyomingUMCPastor@gmail.com)

Service is held at 10:30 Sunday morning.

### The Oaks Community Church

1868 Congregational Road, Dahinda, IL

(309) 879-2042

Pastor Marty Briney and Pastor Dean Lane

Worship Service 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Fellowship 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

Website [www.theoakscommunitychurch.com](http://www.theoakscommunitychurch.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch)

### Bradford Leet United Methodist Church

### Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church

Leet UMC 118 E. Main St., Bradford, IL 61421

Services on Sundays at 10:15 a.m.

Boyd's Grove UMC 1976 Wyonet Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421

Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Rev Dan Wright

309-897-8113

309-507-1626

[thewrights62@hotmail.com](mailto:thewrights62@hotmail.com)

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## OBITUARIES

### Mildred Allen

WEST JERSEY – Mildred "Sue"

Allen passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2023, at her daughter's home in Pennsylvania. Sue

was the seventh

of 11 children of

Bert and Marie

(Catton) Cham-

berlain. Nine

brothers and

sisters have pre-

ceded her in

death.

Sue was mar-

ried to Clifford Allen on Feb. 17,

1945, at Fort Hood, Texas. They

were married 55 years when Clif-

ford passed away in 2000. They

moved to West Jersey, Ill., in 1965

to be near relatives. Sue moved to

Pennsylvania to be with her daugh-

ters in 2022.

Sue is survived by three daugh-

ters: Nita (Richard) James and Rita

Frail of Canonsburg, Pa. and Donna

(David) Gunnison of Sanborn, N.Y.

She had eight grandchildren and

nine great-grandchildren.

Sue had 97 varied and interesting

years, many of which she spent

moving around the Midwest sup-

porting her husband during his

pipeline-construction career. After

moving to West Jersey and caring

for her ailing father, she worked

until retirement at the Alcoa factory

in Princeville, Ill.

Sue was a member and supporter

of the West Jersey United Method-

ist Church.

After retiring from Alcoa, she de-

voted her time to her garden, family

and friends. Always ready for a

rousing game of cards, she taught

many a family member how to lose

gracefully (ha, ha). She was an ex-

cellent cook (pie specialties) and

passed on the skill to her children

and grandchildren.

She also instilled in her children

and grandchildren the importance

of family. Her hugs and smiles will

be sorely missed by family and

friends.

Her funeral will be conducted on

Saturday, Feb. 10, at 1 p.m. at Has-

kell Funeral and Cremation Serv-

ices in Wyoming. Burial will be for

attendance of family only at the

West Jersey Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, the family

requests donations to hospice in

honor of the tender, loving care

they provided to Sue in her final

months of life, Send to Concordia

Hospice of Washington, 10 Leet St.,

Washington, PA 15301, or your

local hospice.

Condolences for Sue's family

may be left on her tribute wall at

[www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

### Steven L. Anderson

GALVA – Steven Lloyd Ander-

son, 60, of Galva, Ill., passed away

on Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024.

Steven was born on May 17,



Allen

1963, in Kewanee, Ill., to Lloyd and Donna (Downard) Anderson.

He is survived by his wife of 19 years Mary Jane; son Steven Ander-

son Jr. of Galesburg; stepsons Tyler

(Haley) Simo-

neaux and Jacob

Simoneaux, all of

Galva, Ill., and

stepson Phillip

Anderson of

Geneseo; and his

grandchildren,

Gage and Grace-

lynn Simoneaux,

Ethan and Kolten Simoneaux,

Kaden and Jaxson Willer, all of

Galva.

He is also survived by his parents,

Lloyd and Donna Anderson of

Galva; brother Mark (Lisa) Ander-

son of Altoona, Iowa; and several

nieces and nephews.

Steven enlisted in the Army Na-

tional Guard his junior year of high

school in 1980 and went on to basic

training at Fort Sill, Okla. He grad-

uated from Galva High School in

1981 and then completed his ATT

training. He served in the Army Na-

tional Guard for 22 years, training

in Norway, Honduras and several

locations in the United States.

Steven worked at the Galva Ar-

mory for over 35 years in mainte-

nance and as groundskeeper and

was proud to have the best kept ar-

mory in the state of Illinois.

Steven enjoyed camping and fish-

ing with his wife and family. He

also liked helping his dad keep his

John Deere tractors running and

showing them off in parades. His

favorite tractor was the 1947 Model

A John Deere.

He was a member of the Ameri-

can Legion Post 45 as well as a

member of Henry County 40 and 8.

Funeral services were to be held

at 11 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 8, at Rux

Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor

K. "Butch" and Victoria Ann

"Vicki" (Mardock) Wexell.

She married James M. "Jim" Cav-

anagh on June 27, 1987, in Galva.

He survives as does her mother,

Vicki, her son, Mason Cavanagh, a

brother, Chad Wexell, all of Galva,

and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her

father and sister, Cathy VanWassen-

hove.

Cheri graduated from Galva High

## OBITUARIES

Neal (Vicky) Ruggles, David Criswell and Mary Ruggles; and is further survived by many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three grandchildren, Mark, Zachary and Samantha; one great-grandchild, Taylor; and siblings, Carroll Powell, Burris (Gloria) Ruggles, Robert (Rita) Ruggles, Betty Criswell and Keith Ruggles.

Barbra graduated from Aledo High School in 1956 and was the last graduate when attendance centers were created.

She was a member of Sunbeam United Presbyterian Church before becoming a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Kewanee in 1960. Barbra was active in church as a Sunday school teacher, treasurer, finance committee, Women of Christ and Bible Study Circle.

Barbra owned The Corner Shop and worked at FBFM in Toulon. She was a 4H leader, Illinois Farm Bureau women's committee member, Toulon-LaFayette School Board member and a charter member of the Stark County Genealogy Society.

Barbra loved to host family reunions, work in the yard and help on the farm.

Her funeral service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, 2024, at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kewanee. Rev. Burnell Eckardt will officiate. Her visitation will be from 5-7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, 2024, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Burial will be at Toulon Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Kewanee, or Stark County Genealogy Society.

Condolences may be left for Barbra's family on her tribute wall at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

### Paul D. Whittaker

WEST JERSEY – Paul D. Whittaker, 77, of Kewanee, formerly of Osceola and West Jersey, passed away on Feb. 3, 2024. Paul was born on Dec. 12, 1946, in Kewanee to Robert E. and Hazel Whittaker.

Surviving are one brother, Eldon Whittaker of Wisconsin; one sister-in-law, Rosana Whittaker of Georgia; several nieces and nephews, Shawn, Julie, Susan and William; and his close cousin, James Fryer.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Robert L. and Arthur Whittaker; and his nephew, Anthony.

Paul was active in scouting as a youth, rising from Cub Scout to Eagle Scout to adult leader within the same troop. His fondest memory was attending the 1964 New York World's Fair as a scout.

He worked many rural jobs in his youth, including farming, lifeguarding and mowing cemeteries. He was a graduate of Toulon High and went to college at Western Illinois, where he was a southpaw pitcher on the baseball team.

After college he worked at Ford in Michigan, Caterpillar in Peoria, as a heating and air-conditioning technician and as a service agent for Rutmans Marketing in Peoria. His fondest and most difficult job was as a manager of several Tractor Supply Company stores in Illinois, where he earned a reputation as a leader who could turn around struggling stores.

Paul often returned to the family farm near West Jersey, where he and his brother Bob cared for their mother. They visited her twice a day when she was in a nursing home for a decade before dying at 102. Paul bought a house in Osceola to be



Whittaker

closer to her in Kewanee.

Paul later cared for his brother when his time came.

Paul will always be known for his kindness, humor and storytelling. He was generous to a fault, and always tried to help out those who needed it. He was an organ and tissue donor, so he continues to help those in need.

His funeral service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, 2024, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Certified Funeral Celebrant Nicole Reed will officiate. Burial will follow at Evergreen Memorial Gardens in Kewanee.

Paul loved scouting and Girl Scout cookies. Memorial contributions can be made (and cookies purchased) with the Girl Scouts of Western Illinois, [www.girlscoutstoday.org](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org).

### Betty Turner

GENESEO – Betty Turner, 91, of Geneseo, formerly of Galva, died at 11:02 a.m., Friday, Jan. 26, 2024, at her home. She was born Sept. 29, 1932, in Galva, the daughter of Harvey and Pearl (Lempke) Huffman.

She married John D. Turner on Nov. 18, 1951, and he preceded her in death on Nov. 8, 1980. Survivors include her children, David Turner of Florida, Kathy (Charlie) DeCrane of Galva, Rick (Nancy) Turner of Cambridge, Denise Key (Jay Boulware) of Florida and Tammy (Hal) Clark of Geneseo; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was also preceded in death by her parents; her three sisters, Dorothy Mae Huffman, Doris Harper and Mary Ann Haff; and a grandson, Brian DeCrane.

Betty graduated from Galva High School in 1950.

Private graveside services were to be held at Galva Cemetery with Rev. Dr. Chris Ritter officiating.

## SPORTS: Mercer County wins LTC tournament

*Continued from Page 12*  
but rallied, taking advantage of a 3-pointer by Lucas Collison (17 points), a Princeville turnover and a basket by Jude Hofmann (16 points) to take the lead for good.

Mercer County has now won 13 games in a row – including winning the LTC Tournament for the second straight season with a 56-44 win over Princeville in the title game at Aledo last Saturday.

The Princes (23-3) hadn't lost since Illini Bluffs beat them Dec. 8.

Mercer County beat them by neutralizing their strengths, according

to Princeville Coach Tait Sennett.

"We wanted to get out and run," he said. "We're kind of a finesse-style team, and we like to get up and down the court as quick as possible and pressure defense. They had basically turned that into a slugfest. They slowed us down on offense and defensively, their sets just ate us up."

Lucas Collison had a game-high 19 points for Mercer County, which never trailed.

Tayshaun Kieser had 17 points and Josh Hunt 11 for Princeville.

**Galva Girls** – Galva is seeded No.

11 in its sub-sectional and opens Class 1A regional play Saturday at No. 8 Monmouth United at 3 p.m. The winner advances to face No. 3 seed Brimfield on Monday, Feb. 12, at 7:30 p.m. in Annawan.

Galva (4-18) lost to Mercer County on Jan. 31, 46-33.

**Stark County Girls** – The Lady Rebels are seeded No. 12 in their sub-sectional and open Class 1A regional play Saturday at No. 5 Elmwood at 1 p.m. Winner of that quarterfinal game advances to face No. 4 Kewanee Wethersfield at Princeville at 7:30 p.m.

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### Notice to Stark County Voters

Early voting for the March 19th 2024 Primary Election will begin February 8th and end March 18th  
at the office of the Stark County Clerk  
130 W. Main, Toulon. Voting hours are  
Monday - Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We will also be open  
March 16th from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
for early voting.

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## NOTICE

### CITY OF WYOMING

Regular Council Meetings will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month and 1st Tuesday of the following month (if needed). They will be held at the Paramount Theater located at 108 S. 7th St. beginning at 6 p.m.

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# The Prairie News Sports

## Rebels heating up

### Stark Co. has won 10 of last 12 as regionals near

By **NICK VLAHOS** and **JEFF LAMPE**  
For The Prairie News

Stark County began this week with two consecutive boys basketball victories and through Tuesday has won 10 of its last 12 contests.

The Rebels won a Lincoln Trail Conference game 39-37 Tuesday night at Annawan. Luke Rewerts' basket with 3 seconds to play was the winning one for Stark County (17-10, 7-1) and gave him 12 points in the game.

"We played very poised and deliberate throughout the game," Stark County Coach Dusty Browning stated.

The previous night, Stark County traveled to Henry and won 64-56 in double overtime. Henry made a buzzer-beating basket to tie it in regulation. In the first OT, Stark County missed a shot to win after Henry made a tying free throw with about 50 seconds to go.

But the Rebels hit some big baskets and made some big free throws in the second extra period, according to Browning. They were 9-for-10 from the line in the overtimes, and Matthew Bowser scored 10 of his 18. Rewerts had 19 points and Ross Saner scored 11.

Stark County is host tonight (Feb. 9) to United in an LTC game.

Stark County finished sixth in the LTC tournament, which ended Feb. 3 in Aledo. Abingdon-Avon defeated Stark County in the fifth-place game, 39-28 in what Browning called a physical game. Rewerts had 12 points.

In LTC tourney play on Feb. 1 at Joy, Will Rumbold had 16 points as the Rebels beat Ridgewood 58-34. Connor Wagenbach had 12 points and Rewerts

scored 10.

**Galva Boys** – A fourth-quarter comeback Tuesday came up short for Galva, which lost an LTC home game 68-67 to ROWVA-Williamsfield. Lewis Sams' free throw with 1.7 seconds left gave R-W the victory.

Galva (8-18, 1-7) trailed 55-45 after three periods. But in the fourth, J.P. Sloan had eight points and Braxton Rylander scored seven. Sloan finished with 18 points, Rylander with 16 and Cyrus Lilly with 13.

On Monday, Ridgewood defeated Galva 62-53 in LTC play despite 19 points and 14 rebounds from Blake Stahl. Rylander had 14 points and seven boards, and Sloan scored 10.

Galva travels tonight to Aledo to face Mercer County.

Galva finished ninth in the LTC tourney, beating United 43-41 in the ninth-place game behind 14 points from freshman M.J. Louck, whose 3-pointer with 9 seconds left set the final score.

The previous day, Galva defeated Knoxville 60-53 as Rylander had 19 points and Stahl had 18. Stahl also had 11 rebounds and four assists.

"We have been moving the ball more on offense and playing tighter on defense," Galva Coach Jake McClintic said of how his team ended the tournament.

**Princeville Boys** – Mercer County (22-6, 8-0 LTC) took control of the conference race on Tuesday night, beating Princeville (23-4, 8-1 LTC), 58-57, in overtime.


The Golden Eagles trailed 57-53 with less than 40 seconds remaining in OT

*Continued on Page 11*

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