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March 15, 2024  
 Vol. 21, No. 7

# The Prairie News

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## Toulon selects GFL to handle garbage

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

**TOULON** – The Toulon City Council has selected Peoria's Green for Life to handle garbage pickup in the city.

Meeting on March 11, the council chose GLF out of two bids received. Galva's Eagle Enterprises submitted the other bid.

The council approved GFL after a long discussion of its bid, which is for five years with a yearly increase each year. Year one equals \$1,579 per household, year two is \$1,634, the next year is \$1,691, then \$1,750 and the fifth year is \$1,811.

Eagle Enterprises bid

was for \$1,691, then \$1,760, \$1,830, \$1,903 and \$1,979.

Eagle offered a 10-year contract, but the council could only vote on a five-year bid.

Eagle Enterprises submitted the loane bid for recycling, offering a five-year deal. Eagle has been Toulon's recycling company for 26 years. The council approved Eagle's bid of \$5.80 per household for year one, \$5.98 for year two, \$6.15 for year three, \$6.34 for year four and \$6.53 for year five.

The council also approved paying Potter and

*Continued on Page 2*

## HUNGRY CALVES



Our Central Illinois Farmer spring section will be included with the March 22 issue of The Prairie News. Stories in the upcoming issue include a feature on cattleman Les Potts of Williamsfield.

## Stark Co. hires asst. principal

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

**TOULON** – The Stark County School Board approved Michael Jenkins as new Junior-Senior High School assistant principal for 2024-25 during a March 6 meeting.

Jenkins spent the past six years as dean of discipline at the Island Coast High School in Cape Coral, Fla. He was also formerly at Peoria's Quest Academy as dean, IT director, teacher and head boys basketball coach.

Michael McGovern, current assistant principal, and his wife are Chicago natives and are returning home to be near both sets of parents and have plans to start a family.

The board also held an education committee meeting on March 6 prior to a special meeting at 7 p.m. The education committee listened to

*Continued on Page 2*



Jenkins

## Legislators seek more state aid for Bishop Hill

By **JEFF LAMPE**

For The Prairie News

**BISHOP HILL** – State Rep. Travis Weaver didn't mince words when describing what he sees as poor stewardship by the state at the Bishop Hill State Historic Site.

"Governor (JB) Pritzker should be embarrassed by his agency's ability to care for historic buildings," Weaver said. "Several decades ago, the state decided to take ownership of the Bishop Hill historic properties in order to preserve them; however, since then, they have allowed these buildings to nearly fall into total disrepair.



Anderson

Weaver

"Illinois Democrats will scream about a lack of funding – but make no mistake, this is 5% about funding and 95% about poor management from the Pritzker administration. It doesn't take much funding to ensure windows are sealed and gutters are working properly, which prevents buildings from falling into ruin."

Weaver and State Sen. Neil Anderson held a press conference March 6 in Springfield at which they urged the General Assembly and Gov. JB Pritzker to set aside funds in the 2024 budget for repairs needed at Bishop Hill.

Weaver said several television stations, including two in Chicago, and digital media sources have reported on the legislator's pleas since the press conference.

"That was our goal," Weaver said. "The Illinois Department of Natural Resources knows they need to spend money to fix up these buildings. We're

just trying to increase pressure on them."

Bishop Hill was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1970 and listed in 1984 as a National Historic Landmark. The site features an array of historic buildings, memorials, a park and gazebo. The Henry County settlement dates back to 1846, when the community was founded by Swedish immigrants fleeing religious persecution.

The Bishop Hill Heritage Association works to retain Bishop Hill as a living community while encouraging all ef-

*Continued on Page 2*



The iconic Bjorklund Hotel in Bishop Hill is in better shape than many other buildings in the Bishop Hill State Historic Site, where needed repairs are estimated at more than \$1 million.

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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.

# STARK CO.: Will use Galva track for practice

*Continued from Page 1*

a presentation by Superintendent Brett Elliott and had a discussion concerning the school district's strategic plan draft.

Elliott provided an overview of the strategic plan draft that encompasses 11 subcommittees, goals and action items. A presentation to the public was to be March 13 at the Stark County High School gymnasium.

At the special meeting, the board conducted approved an intergovernmental agreement with Galva High School to renew Stark County's agreement to utilize the Galva track for practice during the upcoming track and field season. Stark County's new track is expected to be completed this summer.

Additionally, the board approved annual membership to the Illinois

High School Association.

In personnel, the board approved John L. Carroll as high school social studies teacher, Mariah Kraft as volunteer high school softball coach and Chad Gardner as high school assistant softball coach.

Finally, the board scheduled its monthly meeting on Monday, March 18, for 6 p.m. at the Stark County Elementary School cafeteria.

# BISHOP HILL: Deferred maintenance an issue

*Continued from Page 1*

forts to restore and maintain historic properties and cultural heritage.

The site is maintained by the IDNR, but requires funding from the General Assembly and Pritzker for repairs. Weaver said the buildings have suffered through years of deferred maintenance, leading to foundation cracks, water leaks, rotting soffits and windowsills, and other issues.

"As a state we have a job to maintain our infrastructure, and it's unfor-

tunate that these historical buildings have been allowed to fall in such disarray," Anderson said. "The continued neglect of Bishop Hill is unacceptable."

Weaver said he believes new IDNR Director Natalie Phelps-Finnie is highly competent, but faces a large backlog of repairs.

"We understand she has other priorities. But at some point, the citizens of Bishop Hill don't care," Weaver said. "We're on the brink of losing the Bishop Hill properties and wiping

away nearly two centuries of history."

Weaver said Pritzker has a pool of discretionary funds that could be used for repairs. He said the needed work is, "more than one million and less than 10."

"It's not really a funding problem, it's a management problem," Weaver said. "Several years ago \$20,000 could have solved this problem. Not any longer. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."

# TOULON: Sewer line responsibilities discussed

*Continued from Page 1*

Sons Blacktopping of Wyoming \$33,000 for work completed at three lots in the new subdivision south of the Toulon school cam-

pus. The lot will be used for additional parking.

The council agreed to pay the \$33,000 for work on the new parking lot. The city council will ask Stark County School district to pay \$16,500.

Originally, the amount for work on the lots was in error and there was an additional \$33,000 owed.

Toulon resident Joe Orwig addressed the council about the city's sewer system. Orwig wanted to know the city regulations concerning a homeowner's responsibility and the city's responsibility for a sewer line from a residence to the city sewer line.

"The lateral line ordinance says it's the homeowner's responsibility, even if it's under a city street," Mayor Larry Hollis said.

After about a 25-minute discussion, it was agreed that Toulon's City Attorney Kate Carter would review the ordinance. Also, both the city and homeowner would investigate

"the sewer line" and return with information later.

Toulon Police Chief Gary Bent informed the council that he's seeking quotes on a new police truck to replace the department's current 2018 truck.

Bent also said that that the police department would like to have a utility task vehicle to use during several functions in Toulon, which would allow officers to move through the blocked-off streets.

Also, Bent and Police Officer Ron Salisbury told the council that the police department wants to hire Taber Conover of Kewanee as a part-time Toulon police officer. Conover is currently employed by Henry County Corrections. The council approved paying tuition costs up to \$3,500 for Conover to attend a police academy.

Hollis announced that city employee Jake Streitmatter has turned in his two-week notice and will

be leaving for another position with a new employer. The city will advertise for a new full-time city employee.

In other business, the council approved the purchase not to exceed \$1,200 for a backup chlorine valve.

Also, the council approved the purchase of 12 new water meters for \$4,176, because the city is currently out of new water meters. Only council-member Ryan Kelly voted "nay" for this purchase.

The council passed a \$2 an hour raise from \$15 to \$17 for part-time employees John Paul McReil and Wendell Cochran. Hollis had suggested a dollar raise an hour to \$16.

Finally, a request for a Spoon River Days donation failed due to the lack of a motion. Tabled was the purchase of three one-inch water meters for \$1,582 plus \$354 to replace the water meters at Sunshine Village.

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**PUBLIC RECORD**

**Traffic citations & Ordinance violations**

1-3 - Bryan P. Desch - Driving on a revoked license and registration light.

3-4 - Amy D. Busboom - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.

**Misdemeanours & Felonies**

3-1 - Criminal misdemeanor - Leslie D. Troutwine - Criminal trespass to a building (Toulon Methodist Church) and theft less than \$500.

3-2 - Criminal misdemeanor - Michael C. Dougherty, Jr. - Retail theft of less than \$300 (Toulon Dollar General).

**Incidents & Accidents Stark County**

3-4 - A single vehicle accident was investigated on 1700E between the S. Valley Rd. and the village of Speer. No injuries were reported, and no additional information was made readily available.

3-6 - Blake N. Petty, 18, Kewanee, was cited for driving on a suspended vehicle registration violation due to mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date to appear.

3-7 - Chad P. Roskopp, 28, Victoria, was cited for speeding 82 mph in a 55 zone and for driving while his license was suspended. He was released with a court date to appear.

3-8 - Jessica D. Smith, 23, Kewanee, was arrested for disorderly conduct involving falsifying a police report. She was later released with a notice to appear.

**Galva Report**

**Officer dispatched:**

2-28 - A Galva woman and her passengers appeared to avoid serious injury from a two-vehicle crash at the northeast edge of Galesburg.

Bethany L. Glaser, 39, was driving an eastbound 2018 Volkswagen Atlas about 5 p.m. Feb. 28 on U.S. Rte. 34 at Knox Highway 9 when it collided with a 2008 Ford F-150 pickup truck. Brandon M. McManis-Genisio, 24, of Oneida was the other driver, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

McManis-Genisio was turning left from westbound Rte. 34 to southbound Highway 9 when his vehicle struck Glaser's. The pickup truck sustained right-front damage and flat tire but was drivable. Glaser's vehicle was towed after it sustained damage to its front bumper, left fender and driver's side.

Glaser had at least two passengers - 4 and 5-year-old children from Galva, the report stated. No injuries were reported. McManis-Genisio was cited for failure to yield on a left turn and is to appear April 10 in Knox County Circuit Court in Galesburg.

3-4 - to a 2-vehicle accident with damage only in the 100 block of NW 8th Ave. As a result, a 17-year-old Galva resident was issued a citation for failure to stop at sidewalk or emerging from alley or driveway.

3-4 - to assist Geneseo PD with attempting to contact a Galva resident in reference to a hit-and-run accident that occurred there.

3-4 - While patrolling, an officer noticed the crossing arms were activated at the NE 6th Ave. railroad crossing with no trains present. BNSF was contacted for repairs.



3-4 - to the 300 block of SE 3rd St. for a child custody dispute.

3-4 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 500 block of SE 2nd St., Shelby Johnson, 32, Gladstone, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance. She was released with a required court date.

3-5 - to the 800 block of NE 3rd St. to assist a resident with locating a dog that ran away. The dog was located by its owner.

3-5 - to the 100 block of SW 3rd St. for a solicitation complaint. Officer checked with city hall and the subject does not have a permit (nor insurance) to complete tree cutting in town.

3-5 - Officer was flagged down by a resident and requested to assist with locating an adult who left a residence after a verbal disagreement. Officer was not able to locate the subject.

3-5 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a complaint involving a verbal altercation.

3-6 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for several 911 hang-up calls. The subject was located and said the phone was in his pocket during a bicycle ride and he didn't need any services.

3-6 - to the 200 block of Morgan Rd. for a parking complaint during pick-up time from the school.

3-6 - to a residence on SW 3rd St. to check the welfare of a subject.

3-6 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disorderly conduct complaint involving a subject yelling at passing vehicles.

3-5 - Mary Sullivan, 66, Kewanee, was issued citations for speeding and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

3-7 - Officer was notified about a 911 call that was plotting at a cell phone tower. It was determined to be a medical call for an elderly subject who had fallen.

3-7 - An officer was notified about a repossession that was taking place in the 400 block of SW 4th Ave. The vehicle was removed without incident.

3-7 - to a residence just west of town on Rte. 34 to complete a VIN verification.

3-7 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd St. for a missing person's report. The subject was later located in Kewanee at a relative's house.

3-7 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a complaint involving a male subject having a mental health crisis.

3-7 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a civil property dispute.

3-7 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a 911 hang-up call. It was a subject having a mental health crisis.

3-8 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a possible burglary complaint. This complaint was unfounded.

3-8 - to the 400 block of SE 1st St. for a burglary complaint. This remains under investigation.

3-8 - Officer was flagged down about a social security card that was found in the parking lot at a local gas station. It was returned to its owner.

3-8 - to a residence on SW 3rd St. for a welfare check.

3-9 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of NW 1st Ave., Gregory Robertson, 67, Bishop Hill, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration is suspended for no insurance and not having a valid driver's license. He was released with a required court date.

3-9 - to respond to several residences to answer questions about ordinance warning letters that had been received in the mail.

3-9 - to the 500 block of SE 5th Ave. for a possible solicitor complaint. Officer was not able to locate.

3-10 - to meet with a resident at the Galva PD to complete their annual sex offender registration form.

3-10 - to the west edge of town on Rte. 34 for a traffic complaint on a vehicle N/B from Altona. Officer was not able to locate.

3-10 - While patrolling, the officer noticed the railroad gates were down and activated with no trains present. BNSF was contacted for repairs.

**Property Transfers**

3-4 - Harvey E. Dailey Jr. to Trisha L. Dailey - John Culbertson's Eastern Add'n - Pt Lot 17 - 426 E. Main St., Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

3-4 - Melanie Lee Boudreau, Ethan J O Ely, Succ. Trus., Marilyn J. Ely, Lorene Sue Foglesong to Melanie Lee Boudreau, Ethan J O Ely, Succ. Trus., Marilyn J. Ely, Lorene Sue Foglesong - Pts 32-12-5 NE SE NW and Pts 28-12-5 SE SW - Consideration = \$0.

3-4 - Rumbold Valley Farms, Inc. to Rumbold and Kuhn Incorporated - Pt Sect 21-12-7 NE - 14888 Township Rd 300 N and 14890 Township Rd., Wyoming - Consideration = \$3,000,000.

3-4 - Delisa F. Simmons to Casey R. Delabar and Virgil W. McGlothlin, Jr. - Pt Sect. 18-12-5 NE - 3656 Township Rd. 100 E, LaFayette - Consideration = \$90,000.

3-7 - Kara L. and Paul D. Grove to John Logan Carroll - Pt Sect. 10-12-6 NW - 4600 Twp. Rd. 900 E. Wyoming - Consideration = \$85,000.

3-8 - Trisha L. Dailey to David Charlet and Trisha L. Dailey - John Culbertson's Eastern Add'n - Pt Lot 17 - 426 E. Main St., Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

**Marriages**

3-1 - Ryan Daniel Abbott and Teri Lynn Shores, both of Kewanee.

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**NOTICE**  
**Spring Cemetery Clean up week:**  
All grave blankets, artificial flowers, potted flowers, and all other plants are requested to be removed from the Galva Cemetery by Sunday, March 24, 2024 if relatives wish to save them.  
No more flowers should be placed on the graves until after Thursday, March 28, 2024.  
Galva Cemetery Board

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**CryptoQuote**  
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No matter how dark the moment, love and hope are always possible.  
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# The Prairie News

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## GUEST VOICES



## Of renovations, stubborn nuts & a fine sendoff

Rambling through central Illinois, head still spinning at all the changes to the Champaign-Urbana community I lived in from 1989-91.

As usual, I'm late to the party. It's been 28 years since my last visit to the University of Illinois' mushroom, aka the Assembly Hall, aka the State Farm Center. So it was an eye-opener to see the facility Saturday during finals of the IHSA state boys basketball tournament. The old, ugly Assembly Hall underwent a \$169.5 million upgrade that ended in 2016. Yes, this is old news, but not to me or to my running mate for the day, **Stephen Wacaser**, who also had not been in the U of I gym in decades. We were very impressed. The scoreboards offer crystal-clear resolution and up-to-the-second stats on players and teams. Acoustics are better. Seats are more comfortable. Aside from the roof, the place has been transformed. While I truly enjoyed having the boys tournament in Peoria, the event should stay in Champaign when bids are reviewed this spring. ... That's not to say holding a four-class tournament in three days is without issues. A common refrain is that there needs to be a better way to handle third-place games – even if that means doing away with them or playing them at an alternate site. My vote is to go back to two classes. Unfortunately, that will never happen. Short of that, the IHSA



Jeff LAMPE

should tweak the schedule. ... As for the girls tournament, it's a safe bet Red-bird Arena in Normal will be host for the next five years.

Speaking of the boys tournament, that Winchester West Central team was fun to watch despite not having a Division I prospect. That they could win a Class 1A title despite turning the ball over 24 times is stunning, maybe even an indictment of four-class hoops. What saved West Central was a zone defense that baffled Mounds Meridian. ... While reminiscing about tournaments, one of many favorites from the past came to mind: **Patrick Beverley** and Marshall vs. **Derrick Rose** and Simeon in 2006. While Beverley led the state with 37.3 points per game that year, Rose and his more skilled supporting cast won, 69-56, in the semis en route to a state title. That both players are still in the NBA is yet another testament to the richness of Illinois hoops history.

Nobody wants to see a species go extinct, unless perhaps it could be the mosquito or tick. Then again, even they are key food sources. But some critters face such an uphill battle to survive that you've really got to wonder. Pugs come to mind, though their existence is a rare case of mankind helping prop up a species, instead of forcing it to extinction. The same is true for Kentucky coffeetrees, a rare tree whose thick, leathery seed pods hinder germination. Scientists hypothesize that the trees were once browsed on by megafauna – think mastodons or woolly mammoths –



who nicked the seeds as they ate seed pods. This assisted germination. Needless to say, there aren't many megafauna left to nick coffeetree seeds, which are also too heavy to be dispersed by wind or water. So humans now fill that role, including **Jim Ellis** of rural Knox County. Ellis was kind enough to give me several seeds he labored over with 40-grit sandpaper. Here's hoping a few hatch so we can plant some of these majestic specimens.

There was an impressive tribute last Friday to the late **Bill Emerick**, a Yates City truck driver, whose 1.3-mile long funeral procession from Elmwood's Oaks-Hines funeral home to Brimfield Township Cemetery featured at least 10 semi-trucks, including one carrying Emerick's coffin (above). ... As an unfortunately frequent purveyor of typographic errors, I read with interest that a statue unveiled in Los Angeles to honor **Kobe Bryant** included four typos. Misspelled in the base of the statue were two names and the word "decision," twice spelled as "decicion." That made me happy our typos are printed on paper and not etched in granite.

Parting shot: While I'm not smart enough to debate daylight saving time's merits, if we pick just one, let's go with the current version. Daylight until 7:30 p.m. already is wonderful.

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


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The Stark County Board is soliciting candidates for the position of Fire Protection District Trustee for all four Stark County Fire Departments. There is one opening in each of the four fire protection districts (Bradford, Lafayette, Toulon & Wyoming).  
The appointment will be for a term of 3 years to begin May 2024 and conclude May 2027. The trustee candidate must be 18 years of age or older and a resident of the fire protection district. Candidates must not have a felony conviction under the laws of the State of Illinois or comparable laws of any other states or the United States or is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other indebtedness to a fire protection district.  
Applications are available on the county website at [www.starkco.illinois.gov](http://www.starkco.illinois.gov) or at the Office of the County Clerk 130 W. Main, Toulon. Completed applications are due in the Office of the County Clerk by Monday April 8th.

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# Stark board discusses non-sanctuary status

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Stark County Board spent nearly 40 minutes discussing whether or not to pass a resolution to become a non-sanctuary county at its March 12 meeting. No action was taken on the topic, which was also discussed at the group's February meeting.

At the February meeting, Stark-Henry Counties Office of Emergency Management Chief Deputy Ryan Cameron encouraged the board not to pass a resolution banning illegal aliens from being bussed into Stark County. He said if passed, such a resolution could hinder the county from receiving state funding.

The board decided last month to not develop and pass a resolution banning illegal aliens from being dropped off in Stark County. Cameron said at that time that local law enforcement officials should be notified and that those officials will contact the Stark-Henry OEM to deal with the illegal personnel.

This month OEM Director Mat Schnepfle attended the board meeting and reiterated Cameron's Febru-

ary statements.

"(The resolution) does damage to county offices (by the state not providing services and funding)," Schnepfle said. "Counties that pass this type of resolution paint a target on their backs."

Schnepfle said that if a bus were to unload a large number of illegal aliens in Stark County, the OEM office would obtain a bus and move the illegal aliens to an OEM facility on Illinois Route 78 for medical screening. The illegal aliens would then be moved to an "Illinois Welcome Center."

The board heard during committee reports that the Lincoln Day Luncheon will be held at Toulon's Bistro on March 16 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The board also heard that the new Toulon health clinic facility is looking for a therapist and has been extremely busy with patients. The telepharmacy is expected to become activated in early April.

The board passed four resolutions and a consent agenda approved. The consent agenda reapproved Dr. Remi Satkauskas, Claudia Plumer and Natalie Carroll to the Stark

County Health Board. The Peoria Conventions and Visitors Bureau's annual resolution passed, authorizing it as the sole not-for-profit convention and visitors bureau in Stark County.

A resolution for National Agriculture Day passed that recognizes the significant impact agriculture plays within the county.

Also passed was a resolution to have for \$2,500 the State's Attorney's appellate prosecutor to provide services to Stark County's State's Attorney.

A resolution was passed to use \$650,000 of Stark County Motor Fuel Tax funds to maintain the county's roads through Dec. 31. In his report, County Engineer Judd Giffin pointed out that the highway department continues to search for available land to purchase for a new county highway department maintenance building.

County treasurer Paula Leezer presented her financial report and said she had nothing significant to report about the county's finances.

The next county board monthly meeting will be held on April 23, and not on April 9.

# Ag trade opportunities arise in Vietnam, Philippines

By TAMMIE SLOUP

FarmWeek

A rise in incomes and increased appetite for finer products and animal proteins have opened the door for trade opportunities in the Indo-Pacific region.

The U.S. ambassadors to the Philippines and Vietnam recently joined USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack for a discussion on the trade outlook in those countries. And the future looks bright.

About 60% of the world's population resides in the Indo-Pacific, and the region is expected to be the largest contributor to global growth over the next three decades.

The Philippines' imports have tripled during the past decade, and the U.S. remains the top single country supplier. The U.S. is also the No. 2 customer for the country, said Ambassador MaryKay Carlson, adding soybean meal, wheat and dairy are the three top U.S. exports to the Philippines.

Despite tariffs and trade challenges over the past decade, the Philippines is America's ninth-largest market for food and agricultural-related exports.

Ambassador Marc Knapper called 2023 a "watershed year" for the U.S.-Vietnam relationship, which was upgraded in September to a

Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for the purposes of peace, cooperation and sustainable development.

The U.S. is the No. 2 exporter to Vietnam, supplying products such as wheat, cotton and dairy products. The U.S. is the largest importer of Vietnam products, including coffee and cashew nuts.

However, more work can be done to further open the Vietnam market to American products.

Both Vietnam and the Philippines have fast-growing, dynamic economies, the ambassadors said.

The Philippines faces challenges in feeding its growing population due to limited land, water and technological issues, making partnership with the U.S. crucial for food security and economic growth.

U.S. farmers can benefit from trade expansion in the Philippines, a familiar market with high brand recognition for American products, Carlson said.

"It's hard to put a cap on what the possibilities are for the U.S.-Philippines market," she said.

A 7% economic growth forecast and rapid expansion of the food sector in Vietnam also is good news for U.S. farmers, Knapper said, adding potential growth opportunities in Vietnam include U.S. cotton,

lumber, protein and nuts, fruit and wine.

In 2022, the Biden administration launched the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, a new trade bloc made up of the United States and a dozen other countries, including the Philippines and Vietnam.

U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai said efforts are not solely focused on opening new markets, as the U.S. must also enforce existing trade agreements.

Tai said the U.S. "will do everything we can to resolve our concerns" with the dispute over Mexico's plans to restrict imports of genetically modified corn.

"Mexico's policies regarding agricultural biotechnology are threatening to cause serious economic harm to U.S. farmers," Tai said. Last August, the U.S. established a dispute panel under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), which is expected to be resolved this year.

Tai also stressed the U.S. will "not hesitate to use all available tools to enforce trade commitments" in response to serious concerns about how Canada is implementing its dairy market access commitment under the USMCA.

## BID NOTICE

**The Village of LaFayette is currently seeking bids to replace the ramp in front of the Post Office. Contractor must provide proof of insurance. For further information contact Chris Smith at (309) 509-2522 or Dean Rosebeck at (309) 238-3600. Bids must be submitted by Monday, April 1, 2024.**

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## LARGE COLLECTIBLE COIN AUCTION

This large selection of highly collectible coins will be sold at the Knoxville American Legion located at 749 Henderson Rd. Knoxville, IL 61448 (off of Interstate 74 right next to Love's), on

**SUNDAY MARCH 24TH, 2024 AT 12 NOON**

(Doors open at 10 a.m.)

**NOTE:** This is a brief description of the hundreds of coin lots being offered on auction day. The full catalogs are online at [www.folgersauctionservice.com](http://www.folgersauctionservice.com). This Morgan and Peace dollar collection is a must see, as well as the rest of this very nice pristine coin auction.

**DESCRIPTION:** There is something for every coin collector at this auction, including nearly completed set of Morgan and Peace dollars in uncirculated condition. There are several American Eagle uncirculated coins—an Octagon Liberty gold coin—Troy oz. coins—one pound silver coin—proof and mint sets—silver commemorative coins—gaming coins—V and Barber nickels—Mercury dimes—Flying Eagle Indian heads—steel and wheat pennies—Kennedy silver coins, uncirculated cond.—sm. amount of panned Black Hills gold—lg. variety of lots. See catalog for full details.

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## CITY OF WYOMING

**"CLEAN UP DAYS"**

**Monday, May 6th & Tuesday, May 7th**

Everything to be picked up must be out by Monday, May 6th. The garbage truck will start in the North end of Wyoming and move South. They will not revisit an area they have already picked up.

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

The following will not be picked up:

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

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

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

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**Saturday, March 23**

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**Bradford 8th grade brings notables to life**

BRADFORD – Eighth-grade students in Bradford held their annual Living Museum recently, with wax figures included following six categories:

- Business Innovator: Ken Kutaragi, portrayed by Collin Paton.
- Daredevil: Robert “Evel” Knievel, unnamed.
- Entertainers: Jennifer Coolidge, Jacey Endress; Billie Eilish, Aaliyah Heathcoat; Chris Farley, Kaiden Rhodes; Adam Sandler, Jake Primo; Betty White, Rylee Bowen.
- Historical figures: Mary “Mother” Jones, Alyssa Cauthon; Sarah Winchester, Grace Atteberry.
- Notorious Criminal: John Wayne Gacy, Avery Johnston.
- Sports figures: Kobe Bryant, Isaac Cresto; LeBron James, Evan Knobloch; Michael Jordan, Caden Chapai; Scottie Pippen, Blake Kieser.

**Galva chamber retains officers for 2024**

GALVA – The Galva Chamber of Commerce board met in February and kept their same officers for 2024.

Retained were President Carson Halsall; Jake Anderson, vice President; and Stacey Hanks as secretary-treasurer. Board members are Mike Yepson and Adam Jaquet.

The officers and board meet the first Tuesday of each month at noon a City Hall.

– Carol Townsend

**Levitt AMP returns to Galva's Wiley Park**

GALVA – The Levitt AMP Galva Music Series is returning to Wiley Park every Sunday this summer, beginning May 26 through Aug. 4. All

**BRIEFS**



Bradford 8th graders recently dressed up various figures from the past and present during their annual Living Museum. Photo by Becki Hoffert.

free, family-friendly concerts are presented by high-caliber talent and a broad array of music genres.

Anyone interested in sponsoring or donating to help raise \$30,000 toward a matching grant can visit galvamusic.com/donate/ or contact fundraising chairperson, Mindi Perkins at (309) 299-2416.

**Public invited to meet Black Hawk president**

KEWANEE – The public is invited to meet Jeremy Thomas, the Black Hawk College President, at the Kewanee Public Library, on Tuesday, March 26, from 6-7:30 p.m.

The League of Women Voters of the Kewanee Area is playing host to the meeting, which is open to the public.

After a short presentation, the audience will be able to ask questions. Refreshments will be served.

In his current position as president, Thomas supervises a diverse group of faculty and staff on two campuses and at three community outreach centers.

**Marshall-Putnam elects soil and water directors**

HENRY – The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District held its annual election of directors Feb. 8, at the U.S.D.A. Service Center in Henry. Three director positions were available for the election.

Re-elected to two-year terms were George Mattern, Josh Merdian and

Debbie Leigh. They will join district board members Mark Haun and Gina Schlosser. Additionally, associate directors Terry Bogner, Diana Williamson and Jim McQuilkin will join the board.

Anyone is interested in being an associate member or in information for next year's election can contact the SWCD office at (309) 364-3913, Ext. 3.

**College graduates**

• Joel Matthew Kieser of Bradford earned a master of science at South Dakota State University in the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Science following the fall 2023 semester.

**Galva Methodists host Palm Sunday dinner**

GALVA – The Galva First United Methodist Church will serve a Palm Sunday dinner on March 24, from 4-6:30 p.m. at the church located at 214 NW 2nd Ave. and 2nd St., Galva.

Dinner includes baked ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans, applesauce, rolls with butter, drink (dine-in only) and homemade dessert. Dine-in, carry-out and delivery is available. For delivery, call (309) 932-2460 by March 22 at noon. Orders after that date can be placed the day of the dinner by calling (309) 932-3255 or (309) 507-2284 from 2-3:30 p.m.

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Requesting Delivery of Dinners Call: 932-2460 by Fri. Noon, March 22nd, and leave a message stating how many dinners you will need delivered with your name, address w/apt. number, & phone number. If you didn't get your delivery order in by Friday, Noon, March 22nd, no problem, just call the day of the dinner from 2 - 3:30 p.m. to 932-3255 or 309-507-2284.

Invite your family and friends to join you!  
 Money raised will be used for Trustee projects, Galva First UMC, 214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL **FREE WILL DONATION!**

*Palm Sunday*



# Top That food truck of Toulon seeks annual fee in Princeville

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

PRINCEVILLE – The owners of a food truck would like to park in Princeville on a regular basis. But paying \$50 to do so each visit isn't practical for them.

That's why Top That co-owner Jenni Davis asked the Princeville Village Board to consider implementing an annual fee for vendor licenses. Other communities have such a fee. It would allow food trucks and similar mobile businesses to operate in Princeville more regularly, Davis suggested.

"If you could come up with something, we would love to work that out and serve your area," she told the board at its March 5 meeting.

Davis and husband Bob Davis own Top That, based in Toulon. The truck specializes in topping macaroni, nacho and potato bases with variations of chili, hamburger, chicken and taco meat. Bowls, sandwiches and salads also are available.

Top That was expected to make its Princeville debut earlier this week. Jenni Davis said she would like to return every other week, probably on Mondays, and perhaps operate next to Stevens Square Park.

Vendors are charged \$50 daily to operate in Princeville. Business hours are between 8 a.m.



Owners of the Top That food truck have asked the Princeville Village Board to consider offering an annual permit for food vendors to set up in Princeville.

and 8 p.m.

"We have had many, many people request us to come to your village and bring our food. ... But 50 dollars a time that many times, that's going to be beyond what we can do," Davis said.

Members of the board's license committee plan to discuss the issue March 19.

Another board subdivision, the property committee, met before the regular meeting last week to discuss ongoing efforts to allow a nascent local not-for-profit group to

take over the shuttered Princeville Aquatic Center.

Committee Chairman Donald Peterson Jr. said the group needs to establish itself formally, including a name, for the board to consider donating the aquatic center. The village will need to craft an ordinance that states it will retake possession of the facility should the not-for-profit effort fail.

"It's a slow process," Peterson said.

Earlier this year, the board agreed to wait until mid-June to determine the

future of the aquatic center. The delay is intended to give the save-the-pool group time to explore options. If reopening the facility under non-village oversight isn't possible, demolition is likely.

In other business, the board approved two changes regarding code violations. One allows the village to assess daily fines for property-maintenance violations, ranging from \$100 to \$750. The other offers owners of inoperable or abandoned vehicles a chance for a local hearing rather than a court case.

A typical property-maintenance violation warranted a one-time fine of \$100, according to Dan Sullivan, the village code-enforcement officer. The village attorney suggested the fine was too low.

"You're going to take them to court and you're only going to fine them 100 bucks? That's not

even going to pay for my time, let alone the attorney's time," Sullivan said. "If you're going to fine 100 dollars a day, someone's more likely going to comply instead of, 'I'm just going to get fined 100 dollars, who cares?'"

The board also authorized a \$1,000 donation to

Princeville Little League and a \$34,906 deal with Yemm Auto Group of Galesburg for a 2021 GMC Sierra 1500 pickup truck for public-works use.

A village building permit was issued for a privacy fence at a residence at 103 N. Cottage Grove Ave.

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 14TH**  
**SPRING MEETING**

Meeting Details:  
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**\$12.00 - Dine-in or Carry Out**



## 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  
 v.  
 Case No. 2024FC11  
 MANDY M. MOORE; MARINER FINANCE, LLC;  
 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 February 22, 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: Mandy M. Moore

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

Lot Two (2) in Block Three (3) of Burlington View Addition to the City of Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois

PIN: 20-32-230-008

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 343 North Rice St., Kewanee IL 61443.

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

a. Names of Mortgagor: Mandy M. Moore

b. Name of Mortgagee: Union Federal Savings & Loan Association

(f/k/a First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Kewanee)

c. Date of Mortgage: March 1, 2013

d. Date of Recording: March 4, 2013

e. County Where Recorded: Henry County, Illinois

f. Recording Document Identification: 20-1301439

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 April 2, 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 3/1, 3/8, 3/15/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITY OF KEWANEE, ILLINOIS, an Illinois Municipal corporation,  
 Plaintiff IN CHANCERY  
 Case No. 23-MR-39K  
 vs.  
 MAURICIO BARRAGAN TELLO;  
 JICTB INC  
 Defendants

### NOTICE OF DEMOLITION BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Mauricio Barragan Tello and JICTB, Inc., all Non-Record Claimants, and all Unknown Owners, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled 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: Mauricio Barragan Tello

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot Four (4) of Executor's Subdivision of Lot One (1) of Little's Subdivision of Lot Twenty-one (21) of Elliott's Addition to the City of Kewanee, subject to a common driveway easement over the South four (4) feet of Lot Four (4) and over the North four (4) feet of Lot Three (3), and dated September 4, 1971, and recorded September 10, 1971 as Document 71R3472 in the Office of the Recorder, Henry County, Illinois, all lying, being and situated in the County of Henry, State of Illinois.

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 614 S. Chestnut Street., Kewanee, IL 61443.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, 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 3rd St, Kewanee, IL 61443, on or before 30 days after the date of this publication, or a default may be entered.

/s/ Terilyn A. Motley  
 Circuit Clerk

Barash & Everett, LLC  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff  
 211 W 2nd St  
 Kewanee, IL 61443  
 309/852-5555  
 Published 3/1, 3/8, 3/15/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

CITY OF KEWANEE, ILLINOIS, an Illinois Municipal corporation,  
 Plaintiff IN CHANCERY  
 Case No. 23-MR-37K  
 vs.

BARBARA BURMEISTER; FIRST MIDWEST BANK n/k/a OLD NATIONAL BANK, and MS INVESTMENT GROUP, INC.  
 Defendants

### NOTICE OF DEMOLITION BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Barbara Burmeister, First Midwest Bank n/k/a Old National Bank, and MS Investment Group, Inc., all Non-Record Claimants, and all Unknown Owners, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the

above-entitled 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: Barbara Burmeister

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lots 7 and 8 in Block 2 of Ackerman Subdivision of Lots 8 and 21 of the Original Town of Wethersfield, now a part of the City of Kewanee, excepting therefrom the North 50 feet of said Lots 7 and 8; situated in the County of Henry, in the State of Illinois.

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 144 Tenney Street., Kewanee, IL 61443.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, 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 3rd St, Kewanee, IL 61443, on or before 30 days after the date of this publication, or a default may be entered.

/s/ Terilyn A. Motley  
 Circuit Clerk

Barash & Everett, LLC  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff

211 W 2nd St  
 Kewanee, IL 61443  
 309/852-5555  
 Published 3/1, 3/8, 3/15/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS  
 ESTATE OF NANCY A. PUSKAR,  
 Deceased  
 No. 2024 PR 24

### CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Nancy A. Puskar. Letters of Office were issued on February 22, 2024, to Leo Puskar III as Independent Administrator 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 30, 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 3/1, 3/8, 3/15/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY STATE OF ILLINOIS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF EVELYN I. SIEGMUND, Deceased.  
 Case No. 2024-PR-4

### WILL NOTICE AND CLAIM NOTICE - INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION

Notice is given of the death of EVELYN I. SIEGMUND of Rural Route #1, Bradford, Stark County, Illinois, 61421. Letters of Office were issued on February 23, 2024 to RONALD G. SEFRID as Independent Representative, whose attorney is The Rennick Law Firm, P.C., Box 430, Toulon, IL 61483.

Notice is given to all interested parties, heirs or legatees who are named in a petition filed in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose names or addresses are

not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, including, but not limited to, the unknown heirs at law, if any, of the deceased in the above named estate proceeding, that an order was entered by the court on February 23, 2024, admitting the will to probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in Section 6-21 of the Probate Act to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Stark County Circuit Clerk, Stark County Courthouse, 130 West Main, Box 426, Toulon, IL 61483, or with the representative, on or before the later of 6 months from the first date of publication in this estate, to wit: September 1, 2024, or 3 months from the date of mailing or delivery of notice of death and the names and addresses of the representative and the attorney of record and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act of 1975 (IL Rev. Stat., Ch 755 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. You may obtain a copy of a Petition to Terminate Independent Administration form from the Clerk of Court at the above address. Dated this 23rd day of February, 2024.

THE RENNICK LAW FIRM, P.C.  
 P.O. Box 430  
 Toulon, Illinois 61483  
 Phone: (309) 286-5921  
 Fax: (309) 286-5000

RONALD G. SEFRID  
 (Independent Representative)  
 By: Robert H. Rennick, Sr.  
 Published 3/1, 3/8, 3/15/24

### CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF NORMA PATRICIA BROWN, Deceased  
 No. 2024-PR-

### NOTICE OF CLAIM DAY

Notice is given to creditors of the death of Norma Patricia Brown. On February 23, 2024 Letters of Office were issued to Amy B. Milroy and Alan M. Streitmatter whose attorney of record is Anne C. Rennick, P.O. Box 90, Wyoming, IL 61491.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Stark County, Illinois, or with the Representative, or both, on or before (a) September 13, 2024 or (b) if mailing or delivery of a notice from the Representative is required by the provisions of Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before the aforementioned date(s) 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.

Dated February 27, 2024  
 /s/ Anne C. Rennick

Anne C. Rennick  
 Attorney for: Estate of Norma Patricia Brown  
 P.O. Box 90  
 Wyoming, IL 61491  
 Phone: (309) 695-4701  
 Fax: (309) 695-2119  
 Email: [acrennick@yahoo.com](mailto:acrennick@yahoo.com)  
 Published 3/8, 3/15, 3/22/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Estate of  
 SUELLYN M. FLATMAN, deceased  
 No. 2024PR3

Notice is given of the death of SUELLYN M. FLATMAN. Letters of Office-Independent Executor was issued on February 23, 2024 to Tiffany Ann Furan, of 109 Park Lane Circle, Eldridge, Iowa 52748 as Independent Executor, whose

attorney is Michael E. Massie, of Massie & Quick, 115 NW 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Stark County Circuit Clerk, Courthouse, Toulon, Illinois 61483, or with the representatives, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the BAR DATE, and any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Massie & Quick, LLC  
 Attorneys for Estate  
 115 Northwest Third Avenue  
 Galva, IL 61434  
 Telephone: (309) 932-2168  
 Published 3/8, 3/15, 3/22/24

### NOTICE OF SALE of Property Owned by the City of Galva and Invitation to Bid Thereon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Galva will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property:

The property commonly referred to as Commercial Street Vacant Residential Lot, Galva, IL 61434 which property has been assigned PIN # 24-27-361-001 and which is legally described as: LOT 3 & N30 LOT 4 BLK 34 ORIG TOWN CITY OF GALVA said property being appraised for \$1,047 (one thousand forty seven dollars) which appraisal is on file with the Galva City Clerk.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois, during normal working days between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM until 25 March, 2024. Said proposals shall be contained within an opaque envelope addressed to:

Mayor and City Council  
 City of Galva  
 c/o City Clerk  
 311 N. W. 4th Avenue  
 Galva, IL 61434

and shall bear the legend:  
 PROPOSAL - SALE OF COMMERCIAL STREET LOT

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the corporate authorities of the City of Galva to be held at 6:00 p.m. on 25 March 2024.

A contract may be awarded to the highest, most responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interests of the City of Galva, so long as that bid meets the minimum bid amount which is equivalent to 80% (eighty percent) of the appraised value or \$837.60 (eight hundred thirty seven dollars and sixty cents), the appraised value being \$1,047 (one thousand forty seven dollars). The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 45 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals for the development of the lots upon which they will be bidding. Development proposals should include, but are not limited to: an abstract of bidders building plans and specifications, a statement of financial capacity, a statement of other financial arrangements to facilitate performance of the contract, name of financial institution with contact information, line of credit (personal, special-purpose, or otherwise), or other statements indicating the financial capacity to perform the stated purpose upon which the bid proposal is based.

The corporate authorities reserve the right to include penalty clauses in any and all contracts awarded to successful bidders. Penalties may include but may not be limited to: monetary damages due the City for non-performance of the contractual terms, forfeiture of the lot for non-performance, loss of building permit fees and other assessments which may become a part of a development contract.

Any prospective bidder may inspect the "Land Appraisal Report" for any and all lots upon which they wish to bid at the City Clerk's office during normal working hours. The City Clerk's office may be reached by calling (309) 932-2555 or in writing to: City Clerk, City of Galva, 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434. Published 3/15/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF JAMES C. SCHNEPPLE,  
 No. 2024PR28  
 Deceased

### CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of James C. Schnepple. Letters of Office were issued on March 5, 2024, to Mathew Schnepple as Administrator whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before September 15, 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.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
 Attorney for Administrator  
 P.O. Box 165  
 Galva, IL 61434  
 (309) 932-2001  
 Published 3/15, 3/22, 3/29/24

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF JOHN R. KITTERMAN,  
 Deceased  
 No. 2024 PR 6

### CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of John R. Kitterman. Letters of Office were issued on March 1, 2024, to Michelle McGinn and Joni Oberlander as Independent Co-Representatives whose attorney is Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Stark County Courthouse, Toulon, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before September 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 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 3/15, 3/22, 3/29/24

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING NOTICE OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP

To the legal residents of the Town of Osceola in the County of Stark and the State of Illinois, that the ANNUAL TOWNSHIP MEETING of Said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024, being the second Tuesday of said month. The Township meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Township will be held at the hour of 7:30 p.m. on said day at the Osceola Township Office building. When the Moderator has been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting; and especially to consider and decide the following: Supervisors Annual Report, C.D. Investments and possible fund transfers. Dated this 8th Day of March 2024. Ralph Moodie  
 Osceola Township Clerk  
 Published 3/15/24

  
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# Ag education programs growing

By HANNAH SPANGLER  
FarmWeek

A grant program has helped increase the number of agriculture teachers and agriculture education programs in the state.

In 2014, there were 320 agriculture programs with 386 teachers. That number grew to 386 agriculture programs with 547 teachers in the 2023-24 school year, according to data from Facilitating Coordination in Agricultural Education.

The Three Circle FFA and SAE grant program began in 2017 and allows full-time ag teachers to receive pay for 400 hours outside of their usual teaching obligations. The teacher's school district pays 50% using the grant dollars and the other half is often covered by the school district or community partners.

FCAE State Coordinator Jennifer Waters attributes ag program growth to the Three Circle Grant and an ag teacher's ability to fill home economics, industrial arts and science teacher roles.

"We have these teaching vacancies happening, but the grant is what sweetens the pot," she said. "We can say to the district not only are we going to help you by picking up these classes that you couldn't find someone for, but we're also able to give a stipend to help pay this teacher for their extended time." Adding ag teachers and giving them

compensation for the extra time in their jobs has had an impact on student participation.

"Now the teacher is getting paid to do the extra, so they are going to other events and other activities. Student participation is growing because of this," Waters said.

The Illinois 2023 Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources Education Report showed an increase of almost 10,000 students since the implementation of the Three Circle Grant.

"With the increase in agriculture programs offered, there are teaching roles that do not get filled," Waters said.

"In most cases, we're able to work with school districts so the next year we can fill the position," she said. "But I will say the Three Circle Grant has helped with retaining the teachers we have."

To fill teaching vacancies, a selection of teachers are coming from the ag industry with non-traditional licenses. FCAE offers teacher training in addition to first-year ag teachers conferences to help these teachers grow their knowledge.

FCAE provides further support to ag teachers through workshops, grant application assistance and overall advocacy.

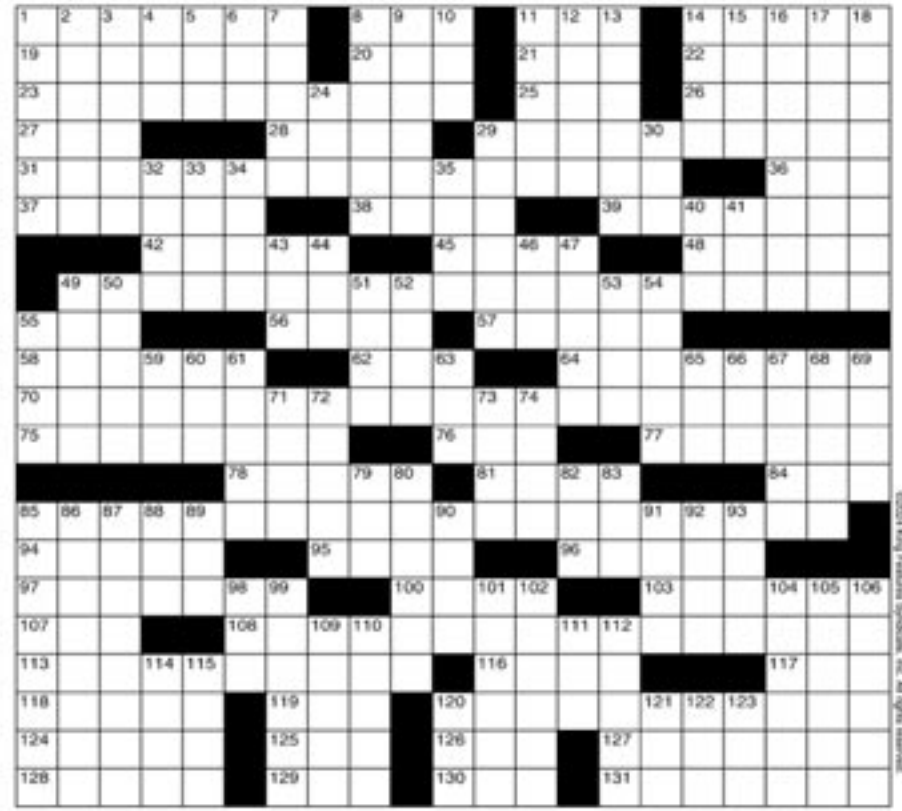
*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

Answers on Page 3

## Super Crossword

WELL-DEFINED

- ACROSS**
- 1 Flan after
  - 8 — oil (trendy marijuana extract, for short)
  - 11 Old TV ET
  - 14 Feudal peons
  - 19 More ill-bred
  - 20 Leaf in a deli
  - 21 Palme — (Cannes award)
  - 22 "La Traviata," e.g.
  - 23 120-Across #1
  - 25 "Over here!"
  - 26 Sieved, as potatoes
  - 27 Folk rocker DiFranco
  - 28 Drink holders
  - 29 120-Across #2
  - 31 120-Across #3
  - 36 Suffix of enzymes
  - 37 Don effortlessly, as shoes
  - 38 Toxin-fighting fluids
  - 39 Functional unit of a kidney
  - 42 Wield a saber or foil
  - 45 Sky twinker
  - 48 Stray calf
  - 49 120-Across #4
  - 55 Plead
  - 56 Cabinet chief: Abbr.
  - 57 Muse of poetry
  - 58 Mimosa tree, e.g.
  - 62 "Put — Happy Face"
  - 64 DiCaprio of "Titanic"
  - 70 120-Across #5
  - 75 More futile
  - 76 Possess
  - 77 Gets the impression
  - 78 Core belief
  - 81 Light tan
  - 84 Groom's vow
  - 85 120-Across #6
  - 94 "Take —" ("Jot this note")
  - 95 Water spigots
  - 96 Extort money from
  - 97 Fit to reside in
  - 100 Architect Saarinen
  - 103 Island near Bora Bora
  - 107 Rage
  - 108 120-Across #7
  - 113 120-Across #8
  - 116 Male sweetie
  - 117 Day, to Juanita
  - 118 Totally lost
  - 119 Bruins' Bobby
  - 120 What this puzzle literally provides eight times
  - 124 Wee
  - 125 Hitler's stat
  - 126 Single-named R&B singer
  - 127 Erase
  - 128 Some Canadian gas stations
  - 129 Tor's "piggy" translation, e.g.: Abbr.
  - 131 Lobby sofas
  - 8 Burial vaults
  - 9 Poet Percy — Shelley
  - 10 — Moines, Iowa
  - 11 One-off, as a committee
  - 12 Lerner's songwriting partner
  - 13 Skillet
  - 14 Ik
  - 15 Grand-scale
  - 16 Give new energy to
  - 17 Region prohibiting slavery prior to the Civil War
  - 18 Made unhappy
  - 24 — "Put (facial sponge)"
  - 29 Really hate
  - 30 Suffix with
  - 32 Resist boldly
  - 33 Singer Lisa
  - 34 City in Sicily
  - 35 Once, once
  - 40 Word file alternative
  - 41 — polloi
  - 43 Syringe armts.
  - 44 Stretch (out)
  - 46 — Lingus (Irish carrier)
  - 47 Writer Dahl
  - 49 The Beatles' "— Work It Out"
  - 50 Tequila plant
  - 51 Sacred image
  - 52 Big Apple address abbr.
  - 53 Sch. near the Rio Grande
  - 54 Axes, e.g.
  - 55 Scrooge's outbursts
  - 59 U.S. spy org.
  - 60 Fluid in a pen
  - 61 Anxiousness
  - 63 In times past
  - 65 Scott's denial
  - 66 Novelist Flannery
  - 67 Varnish stuff
  - 68 "Judge —" (Stallone film)
  - 69 — buco
  - 71 Artist Jan van der —
  - 72 "Niola" composer
  - 73 Actor Wilson
  - 74 How much '90s music was recorded
  - 79 LAX info
  - 80 High-quality
  - 82 CSA soldier
  - 83 Web address
  - 85 Certify
  - 86 The "E" of UAE
  - 87 Overtures
  - 88 Singer Sumac
  - 89 Word before goblin
  - 90 Employed it, for short
  - 91 — bad example
  - 92 Split
  - 93 Retain treats
  - 98 Science writer Willy or ESPN anchor
  - 99 Urge strongly
  - 101 Kind of steak
  - 102 Like some headsets
  - 104 Chemist's "I"
  - 105 Brief pang
  - 106 For a really long time
  - 109 Muscle car booster
  - 110 Macabre
  - 111 Interval
  - 112 Is really angry
  - 114 Lotto variant
  - 115 Deposits, as eggs
  - 120 License-issuing agcy.
  - 121 Palindromic file suffix
  - 122 Fitting
  - 123 Cashew, e.g.



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**Amber Waves** by Dave T. Phipps

HEY THERE, LITTLE FELLA. DID YOU JUST FLY IN?

AND BOY, ARE YOUR ARMS TIRED!

WOW, I DIDN'T KNOW A BIRD CAN ROLL ITS EYES.

**The Spats** by Jeff Pickering

OH NO, FINLAND HAS CLOSED ITS BORDERS

...NOW I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO CROSS THE FINNISH LINE.

**Just Like Cats & Dogs** by Dave T. Phipps

YOU BOUGHT NEW DECORATIVE HAND TOWELS WE CAN'T TOUCH? HOW IN THE WORLD DID WE WEAR OUT THE OLD ONES?

**GRIN & BEAR IT**

"Our car has been recalled to the factory that's been closed!"

**Weekly SUDOKU** by Linda Thistle

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

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**  
AXYDLBAAXN 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.

BK YGAALX TKZ SGXM ATL  
YKYLBA, WKUL GBS TKQL GXL  
GWZGFV QKVVHPWL.  
— NLKXNL RTGMHXHV

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**Trivia test** by Neil Rodriguez

- TELEVISION: Which TV sitcom featured a father figure named Philip Banks?
- LANGUAGE: How many letters are in the Greek alphabet?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the line, "To be honest, when I found out the patriarchy wasn't just about horses, I lost interest"?
- SCIENCE: How long is an eon?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which country is most of the Kalahari Desert located?
- MUSIC: Which singer once was called the Material Girl?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is injera?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of cockroaches called?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Emerald City?
- GAMES: How many blocks are in a Jenga tower?

Answers  
1. "The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air"  
2. 24.  
3. "Barbie."  
4. 1 billion years.  
5. Botswana, Africa.  
6. Madonna.  
7. Fermented flatbread.  
8. An intrusion.  
9. Seattle, Washington.  
10. 54.  
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**TOP 10 MOVIES**

- Dune: Part Two (PG-13)
- Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13)
- Ordinary Angels (PG)
- The Chosen: S4 E7 (NR)
- Madame Web (PG-13)
- Migration (PG)
- Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba - To the Hashira Training (R)
- Wonka (PG)
- Argyle (PG-13)
- The Beekeeper (R)

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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 (309) 995-3371 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

"faith in truth"

211 NW 4th Ave GALVA

Main Service: Sun 10:30

New Preacher! Bryan Griem

(309) 932-2713 • [GalvaBaptistChurch.com](http://GalvaBaptistChurch.com)

### Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491

309-695-4523 leave message

Sunday School: 10:00, All ages

Sunday Worship: 11:00

Wednesday Night TBD

Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

### First Congregational Church of Christ

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Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

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Rev. Rebecca Gearhart

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[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

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(309) 879-2042

Pastor Marty Briney and Pastor Dean Lane

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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

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

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Rev Dan Wright

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## OBITUARIES

### Marilyn R. Jones

GALVA – Marilyn R. Jones, 90, of rural Galva, died Friday, March 8, 2024 at her home.

She was born Oct. 3, 1933, in Galesburg, the daughter of Ralph and Helen (Miles) Chatterton. She married James W. Jones on Dec. 17, 1954, in Stark County and he preceded her in death Dec. 22, 1982.



Jones

She was also preceded in death by her parents; two sons, John and Dan; a grandson Chase Ripka; and two sisters, Margaret and Madelyn. Survivors include her daughter, Rebecca "Becky" Ripka of Galva; daughter-in-law, Susan Jones of Burlington, Iowa; and two grandchildren, Dalton Jones and Jennifer Jones.

Marilyn graduated from Galva High School in 1951. In earlier years, she had worked as a bookkeeper at the First National Bank in Galva and then as a bartender at Midland Country Club for almost 30 years. She had been a member of the Galva Congregational Church and enjoyed playing bridge, golfing, shopping and traveling.

Funeral services were to be held March 13, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Marshall Jones officiating. The visitation was to be held one hour prior to the services. The burial was to be in the Galva Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to the Galva Public Library.

### Linda L. Spring

BISHOP HILL – Linda L. Spring, 66, of Bishop Hill, died at 5:48 p.m., Monday, March 11, 2024, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

She was born Nov. 24, 1957, in

Galesburg, the daughter of Keith and Carol (Frank) Corbin.

Survivors include her mother of Bishop Hill; her children, C.J. (Marcy) Spring of Oneida, Richie (Megan) Spring of Brimfield and Marcy (Ben) Strand of Bishop Hill; her grandchildren, Owen (Lindsey) Spring, Hayden (Abbie) Spring, Myles (Emily) Spring and Corben and Axel Strand; and siblings Mike (Pam) Corbin, Cindy Musick, Crystal (Ed) McGee and Nancy (Roger) Martindale.

She is also survived by Crystal Dennis and her other children and grandchildren, Doug (Bridgette) Dennis and Tera (Kevin) Rothzen and Devlin and Brooklyn Dennis and Zack, Tommy and Lukas Rothzen.

She was preceded in death by her father.

Linda owned and operated the Filling Station in Bishop Hill for 30 years along with Crystal Dennis. She was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in North Henderson and was recently attending State Road Community Church in rural Cambridge.

She enjoyed being outdoors, tending to her gardens and hunting mushrooms. Linda thoroughly enjoyed helping others and loved her family dearly. She cherished the time spent with her children and grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, March 16, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Andrew Chistman officiating. A visitation will be held from 5-7 p.m. Friday, March 15, at the funeral home.

The burial will be in Mount Vernon Cemetery in North Henderson.

Memorials may be directed to the Bishop Hill Honor Flight or to the Cambridge Ag Complex.

This obituary may be viewed and private condolences left at [www.ruxfuneralhome.com](http://www.ruxfuneralhome.com).

### Franklin R. Brown

BRADFORD – Franklin R. Brown, 83, of Bradford, passed away at his home on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Arrangements are being handled through the Fiochhi Funeral Home, Princeton.

### Joan E. Davis

WILLIAMSFIELD – Joan E. Davis, 85, of Williamsfield, died Tuesday, March 12, 2024, at her home. Arrangements are pending at Rux Funeral Home in Williamsfield.

### Gareth D. Kenney

GALVA – Gareth Dean "Gary" Kenney, USMC Ret., 86, of Galva, died Friday, March 8, 2024, at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford.

He was born June 25, 1937, the son of Elbert L. and Fern B. (Carlson) Kenney. Survivors include cousins, friends and acquaintances including Warren and Wanda Kieft of Kewanee. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Norma.

Gary moved many times as a child and graduated from Galva High School in 1955. He served his country in the U.S. Marine Corps and was stationed in California. He later served in the Army National Guard working as a cook.

Graveside services were to be held March 12 at Galva Cemetery where military rites were to be accorded by the Galva Fusiliers. Memorials may be directed to the Galva American Legion Hagberg-Hamlin Post 45.

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# Legislature's fiscal forecast mirrors Pritzker's

By **JERRY NOWICKI**  
Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The state's two main fiscal forecasting agencies agree: Illinois' finances will see a strong close in the final 3½ months of the fiscal year before things tighten a bit next year.

It's a picture laid out in Gov. JB Pritzker's budget proposal last month, and it got a vote of confidence Tuesday from the legislature's fiscal forecasting body, the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability.

"So looking into fiscal year 2025, what are we seeing? There is some concern going forward that the economy, or not necessarily the economy, but the revenues are slowing down," COGFA revenue manager Eric Noggle said at the annual revenue briefing to the bipartisan commission of lawmakers.

Still, COGFA staff noted general nationwide fears of a recession have subsided and the scope of the

potential slowdown is reflected in Pritzker's proposed spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year.

COGFA's revised revenue estimates expect the current fiscal year to end with \$52.6 billion in revenue, or about \$2 billion ahead of what lawmakers budgeted for last May.

That estimate tracks closely with the revenue estimate released by the Governor's Office of Management and Budget in February. The GOMB estimate was about 0.7 percent, or \$374 million, below COGFA's updated projection.

Current-year revenue estimates have been driven upward by strong economic performance, as seen by an annual transfer from the state's income tax refund fund that exceeded expectations by \$255 million. Larger than expected transfers from that fund are a general indicator that individual household incomes are performing strongly.

But state coffers also saw about

\$881 million in unexpected one-time revenues this year, according to COGFA. That includes \$633 million received from the federal government as reimbursement for Medicaid services the state failed to collect in previous fiscal years.

Because those one-time sources are not expected to repeat, COGFA is expecting revenues to decrease to about \$52.1 billion in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

That's \$916 million below GOMB's estimate that was included in Pritzker's budget proposal. But Pritzker's plan also anticipates raising more than \$1 billion in additional revenue through tax law changes, including more than doubling the state tax on sports betting and extending a cap on a tax credit for net operating losses that businesses can claim.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of newspapers, radio and TV stations statewide.*

# Republican legislators push for property-tax relief

By **GREG BISHOP**  
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – Illinois Republican state legislators continue to push for policy changes to address what they see as a poor business climate.

The credit rating assigned to Illinois by Fitch Ratings, A- in November 2023, is far below the ratings given to most of the 50 states. As of early 2024, most states have AA or AAA credit ratings, and can borrow money at much lower expense to taxpayers than can Illinois.

In a news conference Tuesday, state Rep. Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva, said

Democrats are promoting a narrative that all is well. He wants a property tax relief plan.

"The idea is to start giving property tax relief, so as we gave each school district a dollar, they would have to reduce their levy by a dollar," said Ugaste. "This would generate more businesses and people coming to areas instead of leaving because property taxes would then be lower."

"It's unfortunate Rep. Ugaste hasn't voted for any of the budgets that Democrats passed to earn Illinois nine credit upgrades in under two years, but with press conferences like

these, my hope is renewed that we can count on his support this year," said Jaelyn Driscoll, a spokesperson for Illinois House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch, D-Hillside.

Illinoisans pay the second highest property taxes in the nation. Illinois is tied for the worst credit rating in the nation.

Alongside Ugaste Tuesday, state Rep. C.D. Davidsmeyer, R-Murrayville, said that despite revenues being up and surpassing fiscal year 2025 budget estimates, Illinois is in poor financial condition in comparison to neighboring states.

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Come share your views concerning the Main Street Squares. Cement them in?  
Keep perennial flowers in place? Your opinions are important! Community input is necessary by the March 27 Village Board Committee Meeting, so it can be voted on at the regular April 8 Village Board Meeting.  
Questions? Contact Angie Stange.

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# The Prairie News Sports

## Better baseball ahead

### Stark County, Galva expect better play on the diamond

By PHIL JOHNSON

For The Prairie News

Stark County is coming off a 9-18 season last year, but Coach Scott Paxson's team looks to be moving up, with plenty of varsity experience returning this season.

Two key losses by way of graduation were Ryne Hillan, who went to Wartburg College in Iowa and Daniel Kieser, an all-Lincoln Trail Conference performer last season.

Senior all-conference pitcher and first sacker Tim Giesenhagen and junior all-conference third baseman, pitcher and catcher Dillon Steelman lead the returning corps.

Seniors Connor Wagenbach (outfield, first base and pitcher) and Charley Holstrom (outfield and pitcher) will also be integral parts of the team's success.

"We are optimistic about 2024. The first week of practice went well and shows promise," Paxson said.

### Softball

Stark County and Galva softball previews will be in next week's paper.

"We are hoping to compete for the Lincoln Trail East championship, and we are working to be playing our best baseball at regional time."

**Galva baseball** – Galva lost its best hitter and pitcher, Jackson Meier, to graduation, but Coach Van White and staff continue to work hard to build the baseball program.

"We will still be very young this season in all areas, but we are excited that more kids are coming

out to play," White said. "If our young players can work well with our upperclassmen, I believe we will see a lot of improvement over last season."

"We have more pitching, better defense and overall better baseball I.Q."

Senior pitcher John Bursell and senior transfer student Cyrus Lilly look to contribute, White said. Sophomores J.P. Sloan, Jay Smith, Alex Davis, Alex Gustavson, Cyrus Sloan and Kaden Wood should also be significant contributors.

Incoming freshmen M.J. Louck, Braxton Halstrom, and Ty Keup will be in the mix for the Wildcats.

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