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March 29, 2024  
 Vol. 21, No. 9

# The Prairie News

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## Stark hires elementary principal and assistant principal

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

WYOMING – The Stark County Board of Education hired new leadership for its Elementary School on Monday during a special meeting.

The board named Emily Mastin of Peoria as Elementary School principal and Jackie Colgan of Toulon as assistant principal for the elementary school.

Superintendent Brett Elliott said there were six candidates for elementary principal who were narrowed down to four and then to two candidates.

The board and Elliott received



Mastin



Colgan

input from focus groups and conducted the interview process.

Elliott said it was a difficult process. He recommended Mastin and Colgan for their positions.

Mastin replaces Jenna Bibb, who has been hired as superintendent of the Cambridge School

District.

Mastin is originally from Rockford and her husband, Kane Mastin, was last week named as the new Stark County High School head basketball coach. Kane Mastin was hired in 2022 as a high school social studies teacher.

Emily Mastin attended Bradley University, earning a bachelor degree in elementary and middle school education in 2011 and a master’s degree in education administration in 2017.

She also taught at Franklin Primary School in Peoria for seven years before becoming assistant

principal in the Unit 5 district in McLean County, in 2019. In 2020, Mastin returned to Franklin Primary as principal. She has also served as assistant director for the past 12 years at the Moonlight Coalition for Adult Learning, in Peoria.

Colgan is currently a third-grade teacher in Stark County Elementary School. She will also be an instructional coach in her new role.

A 1995 Stark County High School graduate, Colgan was born and raised in Toulon. She earned a bachelor’s degree in 1999 in early childhood educa-

tion from the University of Illinois and in 2021 earned a master’s degree in educational leadership from Western Illinois. She and husband Andy Colgan have three children, Jack, Maeve and Lucie.

After a brief executive session, the board announced the hiring of Grace Michal and Erin McClanahan as elementary school teachers for 2024-25.

Also hired were Jackie Carroll as summer technology support staff and Sophia Elswick as grades 6-12 vocal and band director. Both receive stipends for the spring 2024 semester.

### BACK TO FAMILY FARM

## From flying to farming

Gould goes from Navy cockpit to tractor cab

By **ALI PRESTON**  
 FarmWeek

“You can do whatever you want, you just can’t come back here.”

Chris Gould still remembers those words from his parents when he was told there wasn’t an opportunity for him on the family farm after high school.

While he could’ve chosen any educational or career path, Gould’s innate calling to serve, and the lure of financial assistance, led him to apply for a ROTC scholarship at the University of Illinois.

After graduating from the U of I in 1991, Gould was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. He



Chris Gould’s call sign “Farmer” was displayed on the side of his jet

received orders to attend flight school in Pensacola, Fla., before being selected for jet training in Kingsville, Texas. He received his wings in September 1994.

During 10 years of service, Gould graduated from the Top Gun fighter weapons school, was a tactics instructor for the East Coast

Hornets and served in deployable, warfighting fleets.

But the most impactful moment came on Sept. 11, 2001.

“On the morning of Sept. 11, I was driving to work and was listening to news reports like everyone else. Shortly after I got there, it

*Continued on Page 2*

## Galva council hears criticism of new law

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**  
 For The Prairie News

A standing room only crowd attended the Galva City Council Monday night, many in support of Dustin Williams, who seeks revision of a new vehicle ordinance passed in February.

Williams said he and about 20 residents met last week to discuss working on the ordinance. He said the council needs to revise the law which they had worked on for seven months.

“There are only three houses in this town that are a real problem,” Williams said.

Williams said not everyone has the luxury of a garage and wants restrictions

to be eased.

The council said it will consider his suggestions and go over the ordinance in the next few months.

Resident Josh Smith told the council that the playground in Wiley Park is in poor shape. He said one slide has a dog chain on the ladder to deter children from climbing on it, but added children are climbing over the chain to use the slide. He suggested disassembling the ladder.

The council said someone had started a fire on the slide.

City Administrator David Dyer said the city has a bid of \$81,467 to fix the playground, a bid of \$169,364 to replace the equipment  
*Continued on Page 2*

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# GALVA: Improvements planned for parks

*Continued from Page 1*  
 for the older children and \$255,894.00 for a larger piece. All council members have a copy of the proposals and plan to discuss it later.

BOW Renewables, the company putting solar panels at several locations, is giving \$150,000 to the city to be used in the parks.

Smith also told the council they should not have allowed rubble to lay on the ground uptown all winter after taking the buildings down on Front St. He said there is asbestos in the rubble and this can cause cancer.

Smith also told the city it needs to update its website more regularly.

In other business, the council accepted low bid of Laverdiere Construction of Macomb for \$42,400 for

storm sewer work.

The council appropriated \$477,253 for the 2024 street program. The actual proposed plan is for \$462,139.

There will be a meeting with Galva officials and BNSF railroad about fixing the Exchange crossing on July 14. The city hopes to also get the Chester Street crossing fixed.

Resident John Wirth said he has planned several car cruises this summer at the old water works owned by Aaron Kewish.

Second ward alderman Jim Hartman asked about cars near the old Lily Tulip building on SW 2nd St. It was noted that they belonged to someone from Cambridge and will be leaving.

Jim Anderson of Players Edge gave

a proposal to put rubberized tiles over the basketball court in Wiley Park with a Wildcat in the center. His proposal also included a pickle ball court of the same material over the Washington Park basketball court. The cost is \$30,000 for both. But Anderson said he would donate \$5,000, making the cost \$25,000, since he was a Galva resident for 25 years and his children went to Galva schools. This will be discussed at the April council meeting.

Police Chief Kraig Townsend told residents not to blow grass in the streets. Townsend also said there were 104 residents cited for ordinance violations, but 30 have already corrected the issue and another 15 have contacted the department.

# PILOT: Father asked son to come back to the farm

*Continued from Page 1*  
 was decided a few jets, including mine, would get loaded with live missiles and fly onto the USS George Washington off the coast of New Jersey. We took turns sitting Alert 15 for the next few days, which means we had to sit in our flight gear and be airborne within 15 minutes of the launch order. On the morning of Sept. 12, I woke up and was walking out on the flight deck and we were in New York Harbor watching two pillars of smoke barreling up from

downtown New York," he recalled. "That was impactful."

It was amid the intensity of military life that Gould found ties to his agricultural roots. The first connection came from his call sign – "Farmer."

"To most people in the U.S., farming is crazy. Like they don't get it. They don't even understand that there are still farmers," he said. "Just that I grew up on a farm was weird for them and they thought it was hilarious. So, I just defaulted to 'Farmer.'"

When Gould moved back to Maple Park with his wife, Dana, and three young children in 2001, he didn't have a strong background in agronomy. But he also didn't have the luxury of time.

His father, Eldon, was appointed administrator of USDA's Risk Management

Agency and needed his son to take over the farm.

"In about a two-week period, or what seemed like two weeks, I went from being an occasional tractor driver to running a business, which are two totally different things," he said.

Thankfully, his military training instilled in him a sense of confidence in the face of uncertainty.

He also found support from local agronomy retailers and grain merchandisers and completed the two-year Illinois Ag Leadership Program and learned by doing.

As Gould guides the family farm into the future, his children are following in his path. His daughter, Vanessa, is returning to the farm and taking on responsibilities. His son, Drew, also went through ROTC at the U of I. He recently

finished Navy primary flight training and is heading to advanced flight training.

And while his career as a fighter pilot took him to new heights, Gould said there is no place like home.

"I didn't realize how much I love being here," he said of the Kane County farm. "Waking up on a nice summer morning and looking down the driveway seeing corn growing tall and tasseled. I just love it."

*This story is part of the Cultivating Our Communities campaign, a collaboration by Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Specialty Growers Association to showcase Illinois farmers. This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

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**PUBLIC RECORD**

**Traffic citations & Ordinance violations**

- 3-13 - Gonzalo Lopez - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.
- 3-16 - Zaffery L. Reed - Speeding 26-34 mph over limit.
- 3-17 - Donald J. Davis - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.
- 3-17 - Zachery L. Tuttle - Speeding 26-34 mph over limit and suspended registration.
- 3-18 - Katrina M. Catton - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.
- 3-19 - Micah Dana Lynn Hindahl - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.
- 3-19 - Alexis J. Ruemker - Driving 21-25 mph above limit.

**Misdemeanours & Felonies**

3-15 - Criminal felony - Richard Ortiz - Two counts of possession of a controlled substance and obstructing identification.

**Incidents & Accidents Stark County**

- 3-17 - Hayden J. Holton, 18, Napoleonset, was cited for speeding 73 mph in a 55 zone, operating an uninsured vehicle and illegal transportation of cannabis in a motor vehicle.
- 3-17 - Sesar M. Delgado, 19, La Crosse, Wis., was ticketed for speeding 79 mph in a 55 zone and driving while his license was suspended.
- 3-18 - Donald L. Barks Jr., 62, Wyoming, cited for disobeying a stop sign, speeding 67 mph in a 55 zone and following too closely.
- 3-18 - Debra L. Williams, 52, Mineral, cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone, uninsured vehicle and driving with expired registration.
- 3-19 - Jeffrey A. Guiliano, 34, Peoria, ticketed for passing in a no-passing zone.
- 3-19 - Trina M. Buffum, 67, Lafayette, cited for driving without a valid registration. She was released with a notice to appear in court.
- 3-21 - Ashley R. Shafer, of rural Wyoming, reported theft involving a

Chevy truck found ransacked while parked at their residence.

- 3-21 - A deer-related vehicle accident occurred on Sharkey Highway. The driver was Greyson M. Burnham, 20, of Burlington, Iowa. No injuries reported. Estimated damages to the vehicle topped \$1,500.
- 3-22 - Kyle N. Grant, 36, Toulon, was arrested for disorderly conduct. He was released with a court date.
- 3-22 - James S. Harlan, 46, Toulon, was arrested for fleeing to elude a peace officer, failure to wear a seat belt and driving with a revoked license. He was released with a notice to appear.
- 3-23 - A harassment complaint was reported from a Wyoming resident in the 200 block of East Agard St.

**Peoria County Report**

3-21 - Ronald L. Rynearson Jr., 43, of Castleton was arrested shortly before 4 p.m. and accused of failure to register as a sex offender, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

**Galva Report**

- Officer dispatched:**
- 3-7 - Shortly after 5:15 a.m., Tevan K. Dorian, 32, of Galva was driving a 2014 Nissan Altima on Illinois Route 17 north of Knox Highway 4 and hit a deer. Dorian wasn't injured. The vehicle was towed.
- 3-18 - to 700 block of NW 1st St. for a disturbance complaint.
- 3-18 - to meet with a resident at the Galva Police Department to assist them remove property from a vehicle in the impound lot.
- 3-18 - to the 600 block of NW 1st St. for a city-ordinance violation.
- 3-19 - to the 400 block of NW 1st St. for a loud-vehicle complaint.
- 3-19 - Ronald Snyder, 70, Monmouth, cited for speeding in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St.
- 3-21 - along with Stark County Medic to a residence on NE 1st Ave. for a suicidal subject.
- 3-22 - to the 200 block of SE 7th Ave. for a civil-property dispute.
- 3-22 - to the 00 block of SE 6th St.

for a 911 open-line complaint. It was determined to be a medical call.

- 3-23 - to the 100 block of NE 9th St. for a civil-property dispute. As a result, Donald Ensley, 37, Galva, was arrested on a no-bond warrant for an Illinois Department of Corrections parole violation. He was transported to the Henry County Jail.
- 3-23 - to Wiley Park for a disturbance involving a group of juveniles.
- 3-24 - to the 600 block of NW 2nd St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was impounded and later released back to its owners.
- 3-24 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for an unknown complaint. Officer determined the subject was suffering from a mental-health crisis.
- 3-24 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd Ave. for a 911 hangup complaint. Officer removed an unwanted subject.
- 3-24 - to assist the Kewanee Police Department with a complaint involving a gunshot victim. The subject was later pronounced deceased.

**Property Transfers**

- 3-18 - Gail V. Maher, Joni L. Carter Oberlander, and Janet L. Quiring to Andrew E. and Marsha R. Dwyer, Trustees - Pt Sect. 13-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.
- 3-18 - Gail V. Maher, Joni L. Carter Oberlander, and Janet L. Quiring to Andrew E. and Marsha R. Dwyer, Trustees - Pt Sect. 12-13-6 NW and SW, Pt Sect. 13-13-6 NW and NE - Consideration = \$842,904.
- 3-20 - Gail V. Maher, Joni L. Carter Oberlander, and Janet L. Quiring to Paul S. Vigue - Pt Sect. 16-13-7 NE and NW - Consideration = \$10,300.
- 3-20 - Gail V. Maher, Joni L. Carter Oberlander, and Janet L. Quiring to 4C Mokena Property, LLC - Pt Sect. 13-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$0.
- 3-20 - Gail V. Maher, Joni L. Carter Oberlander, and Janet L. Quiring to 4C Mokena Property, LLC - Pt Sect. 13-13-6 NW - Consideration = \$516,753.
- 3-20 - K&K Limited Partnership to Greater Valley Farms, LLC - Pt Sect. 8-14-7 SE - 16393 Township Rd. 1400 E, Toulon - Consideration = \$500,480.

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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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## BRIEFS

### Historically low turnout for March 19 primary

With only a few exceptions, incumbent officeholders in Illinois cruised to easy victories in primary elections on March 19 that were marked by historically low voter turnout.

Preliminary returns from many of the state's larger counties showed turnout hovering in the range of 20-25%. That compares to a statewide average of 47% in 2016, when the White House was an open race, and 28% during the pandemic-impacted primaries in 2020.

In a race to replace retiring Sen. Win Stoller in the 37th Senate District, former Dixon Mayor Li Arellano Jr. got 48% of the vote in the Republican primary against Henry County Board member Tim Yager (36%) and Chris Bishop (15%), a former teacher and high school wrestling coach who now works in crop insurance.

### Strom recognized for land real estate expertise

Toulon native Liz Strom of Murray Wise Associates, LLC has been recognized as a part of the APEX 2023 Producers Club by the REALTORS Land Institute.

The award is part of the RLI APEX Production Awards Program, sponsored by The Land Report.

Strom was recognized by RLI CEO Aubrie Kobernus and The Land Report's co-founders Eddie Lee Rider Jr. and Eric O'Keefe at a special awards ceremony March 12.

"I am very thankful to be recognized at the national level for helping families buy and sell their farmland, I have a passion for agriculture and for generational ownership of farmland," Strom said.

### Creative Commons hosts book fair April 6

BISHOP HILL – The Bishop Hill Creative Commons, 309 N. Bishop Hill Rd., will host its fourth annual Bishop Hill Book Fair on Saturday April 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Attendees can meet local authors and hear them discuss their work, covering a variety of genres including children's books, folklore, young adult novels, romance, mystery, biography and history. Books will be available for purchase, and signed by the author upon request.

Local authors will include Brian "Fox" Ellis, Jannifer Powelson, Amanda McNeill, Art Blegen, Carol Paur, Dan Moore, Dave Lager, Debra Borys, Hollye Green, Connor McManis, Jackie Lawson, Jill Ryan, Mary Davidsaver, Mike Bayles, Misty Urban, Nadine Roth,

Sam Rice and Thomas McKay.

This event is also an opportunity for teachers to meet local authors and make contacts for author visits to your school. Aspiring writers can visit with local authors to learn more about writing, publishing, and promoting their own work.

There is no fee to attend, and all proceeds are earmarked to help re-establish Bishop Hill's Community Orchard.

Bishop Hill will also host its Spring Jubilee this weekend with special sales in many of the shops, a flea market, a lecture on Native American Women's History, and a concert at the Commons on Saturday evening. For more information, contact Fox at: (309) 696-1017 or foxtales@foxtalesint.com.

### Galva First Baptist hosts Good Friday service

GALVA – First Baptist Church of Galva will host a Good Friday Service today, March 29, at 7 p.m.. This will be a special candlelight service with the seven last words of Jesus, seven stations of the cross and seven songs of the Savior.

On Easter Sunday, March 31, First Baptist will have a service at 10:30 a.m., an egg hunt and a Peep-eating contest and photos with the Easter bunny.

Join us for a **Good Friday Worship Night**  
March 29 at 6 p.m.

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# Local basketball players earn all-LTC

By NICK VLAHOS

For the Prairie News

Lincoln Trail Conference honorees for the 2023-24 boys basketball season included a total of 11 players from Galva, Princeville, ROWVA-Williamsfield and Stark County.

Princeville had two first-team picks, Tayshaun Kieser and Tucker Sennett. They were the top two scorers, respectively, this season for the Princes (28-6), who advanced to the Class 1A Brimfield Regional final. Both averaged almost 11 points per game.

Sennett was the only junior on the 10-player first team. Other area first-teamers were Riley Danner (16.6 ppg, 13.7 rebounds) from R-W and Luke Reverts (13.8 ppg) from Stark County.

The rest of the LTC first

team consisted of Lucas Collison and Colby Cox, both of league-champ Mercer County; Carter Redfern of Abingdon-Avon; Landon Sauer of Kewanee Wethersfield; Will Shreeves of Knoxville; and Garrett Vincent of Ridgewood.

Second-teamers included Princeville senior Parker Melick and two players from Galva, senior Braxton Rylander and sophomore Blake Stahl.

Another Princeville player, senior Josh Hunt, earned third-team honors. So did R-W senior Lewis Sams and two Stark County seniors, Matthew Bowser and Will Rumbold.

• **LTC girls** – Princeville seniors Brianna Brodie and Paisley Schock were among 10 first-team all-Lincoln Trail selections.

Others were Kennady Anderson of Wethersfield, Shelby Bowman and Harlee Hains of West Central, Kaylee Celus and Bella VanOpdorp of Annawan, Molly Hofmann of Mercer County and Kennedy Quinn and Hailey Redding of Abingdon-Avon.

The 10-girl second team included Galva senior Ava Strom and Stark County senior Payten Hillier.

Et cetera – Brianna Brodie of Princeville (five points), and Ava Strom of Galva (four) helped the North team win 96-45 in the girls Kiwanis Club of Canton All-Star Game March 16 at Spoon River College.



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### JAIL ADMINISTRATOR POSITION

The Henry County Sheriff's Office is now accepting applications for the Jail Administrator position. The Jail Administrator is responsible for the organization, planning and implementation of operations and programs pertaining to the Corrections Division of the Sheriff's Office. Working under the supervision of the Sheriff and Chief Deputy, the Jail Administrator shall assign and direct subordinates to assist in the supervision of Correctional Officers in performance of duties and adherence to all rules and regulations of the Sheriff's Office, as well as state and federal laws pertaining to incarcerated individuals.

Applications will be accepted until April 30, 2024. Excellent benefits include affordable health, dental and vision insurance, life insurance for employee, paid holidays and vacation, and IMRF pension (Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund). Starting salary of \$72,500-\$75,000 with anniversary raises. Illinois Basic Correctional Officer certification is preferred, but not required. Applications and additional information may be obtained from the Henry County Sheriff's Office at 311 W Center St Cambridge, IL, by calling Chief Deputy Ben Franklin at (309) 937-3902 or from the Henry County website: (<https://www.henrycty.com/449/Employment-Opportunities>). Completed applications can be emailed to bfranklin@henrycty.com or dropped off at the Henry County Sheriff's Office.

### MOWING/TRIMMING BIDS

The Village of LaFayette is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the village park. Term will be for the 2024 season and should specify cost per time. Contractor must provide proof of insurance with written bid, and supply their own equipment.

Bids must be received by Monday, April 1, 2024.

Please mail bids to: Village of LaFayette  
P.O. Box 116  
LaFayette, IL 61449

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

(During Beta's Breakfast with the Bunny)

### Bradford T-Ball Signups

March 30th, 2024  
9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
@ Bradford Fire House  
(Enter on West side of Building)  
For 3 to 6 year olds

There will be no charge for T-Ball this year.  
Any questions or if you are unable to sign up at the above time, please call  
Tom (238-3767)  
or Deb (238-8489).



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Toulon (309) 286-2461	Kewanee (309) 751-4355

### 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 Rosebecke at (309) 238-3600. Bids must be submitted by Monday, April 1, 2024.

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Mail Bids to:  
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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  
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.

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**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  
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**First Congregational Church**  
204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491  
(309) 695-4091  
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.  
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**First Congregational Church 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.  
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**Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)**  
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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**  
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(309) 879-2042  
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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 Wyand 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

## Christopher B. Cade

BRADFORD – Christopher Brian Cade, 26, of Bradford, passed away at 11:15 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, 2024, at his home. He was born on Jan. 13, 1998, in Kewanee, the son of Brian and Rebecca (Harris) Cade.



Cade

Surviving are his parents of Bradford; grandfather, Fred Cade of Bradford; grandmother, Deanna Logan of Effingham; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Brad and Judy Harris.

Christopher loved working on his truck, growing plants, fishing and mudding.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences for Christopher's family may be left on his tribute wall

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

## John C. Stanton

WYOMING – John C. Stanton, 79, of Wyoming, formerly of Peoria, passed away on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, at his home.



Stanton

John was born on Feb. 18, 1945, in London, England, to Charles Henry "Chuck" and Annie Faith "Fay" (Marasco) Stanton.

He married Janice Louise (LeMasters) on Oct. 1, 1966, in Peoria. She preceded him in death on June 30, 2012.

Surviving are two daughters, Britt (Don) Quigley of Shiloh and Angie (Brian) Johnson of Wyoming; one son, Kristoffer Stanton of Wyoming; six grandchildren, Jakob, Lukas, Dakota, Emma, Gavyn and Brendyn; two sisters, Jessica Heid and Tina (Dave) Guth; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his

parents; two sisters, Vicki and Annie; and one brother, D.T.

John was a member of the U.S. Army Reserves. He worked at Caterpillar Inc. for over 30 years before his retirement as a foundry supervisor and maintenance worker. Additionally, he ran his own photography business for 10 years, and most recently worked in maintenance for Walmart in his retirement.

John was a JFL coach for over 30 years and a softball coach for 10 years. He enjoyed camping, time spent with his family and grandchildren, and was an avid Chicago Bears fan. He also loved his coffee and Miller Light.

His funeral service was March 27, 2024, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Nicole Reed, Certified Funeral Celebrant, officiated.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

To leave condolences for John's family please visit, [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

**NOTICE**  
**Wyoming Cemetery Clean-up**  
Please remove all items that you wish to keep. Must be removed by Apr. 3, 2024  
Thank you, Wyoming Cemetery Assc.

**The Stark County Sheriff's Office is accepting Bids for mowing and trimming, bush trimming and weed control of the Courthouse Yard, County Cemetery and the Sheriff's Office Yard.**  
All bids must be turned into the Sheriff's Office, 130 W. Jefferson St., Toulon by April 4, 2024  
We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

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# SPORTS: Lady Rebels win medals at Top Times

Continued from Page 8

Mastin plans to build his first team around returning starter Ross Saner, key reserve and part-time starter Dillon Steelman and guards Connor Daum and Ben Browning, Dusty Browning's son.

"Every year is a chance to create a new identity," Mastin said. "We're going to have a standard where we want to compete at the highest levels, regardless of what your lineup looks like. My ultimate goal is always going to be the same — are we the best team we can possibly be come regionals."

Mastin and wife Emily reside in Peoria. He is a 2009 Bradley University graduate. Among other jobs, Mastin was a boys assistant coach at Knoxville, a girls assistant at Monmouth United and a men's assistant at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg.

**R-W Coach** — In other basketball coaching news, "interim" has been removed from Ryan Hart's ROWVA-Williamsfield boys basketball job title.

On March 19, the ROWVA School Board hired head-coach Hart on a more-permanent basis. The R-W assistant took the top job early in the 2023-24 season after longtime Coach Bob Anderson retired, in part because of illness.

Also hired was ROWVA physical-education teacher James Sams to be head coach of the R-W girls team.

**Top Times track** — Junior Lauren Orwig led a group of medal-winning Stark County girls track athletes at last Friday's Illinois Top Times indoor meet, held at Illinois Wesleyan University in Normal.

Orwig placed fourth in Class 1A

## Track Previews

• We will preview local high school track teams in the April 5 edition of The Prairie News.

shotput with a throw of 36 feet, 11.25 inches. That put her two places ahead of junior teammate Chelsey Stotler, who was sixth with a throw of 36-8.5.

Two of the Lady Rebels relays also earned medals. In seventh with a time of 10:15.37 was the 4x800 relay of Paytin Terwilliger, Alexis Martinez and sisters Cheyenh and Dusti Smith.

Placing eighth in 4:23.33 was the 4x400 relay of Sarah Kraklow, Terwilliger and the Smith sisters.

Rounding out the showing for Stark County was sophomore Claire Bowser who was ninth in high jump, clearing 4-8.

For Galva, freshman Kaleanna Lat-cham was 17th in 60-meter dash prelims in 10.4 seconds.

The Stark County boys 4x200 relay was 15th in 1:42.5.

**Stark County baseball** — Stark County (3-5) battled Rock Island Al-leman and cold, windy weather to a 3-1 deficit at home on Saturday until the visitors struck for eight in the fifth inning in an 11-1 loss.

Five team errors took a toll. Pitcher Connor Daum fanned seven, walked three and allowed six hits Dillon Steelman went 2-for-3. Will Rumbold, Ben Browning and Charley Holstrom each recorded a base hit.

The Rebels beat Morrison, 8-2, at home last Thursday.

"Ben Browning pitched three solid innings in his first varsity start. Will Rumbold picked up his first win as a

Rebel. Giesenhagen got the save," Coach Scott Paxson said.

Browning went 3.1 frames, yielding three hits and fanning five. Rumbold pitched 1.2 innings, giving three hits but three strikeouts. In two innings for the save, Tim Giesenhagen whiffed two hitters. Daum knocked a triple and recorded two RBI. Steelman hit a round tripper. Braden Lindley hit safely twice.

"We played solid defense and pitched really well. We bunched our hits. It was a solid win for us," coach Paxson said.

The Rebels lost 9-2 against Farmington at home on March 19. Steelman threw five innings, giving up one earned run, striking out seven, yielding three walks and five hits. Connor Wagenbach and Holstrom each drove in one run.

The Rebels face Port Byron Riverdale Saturday on the road.

**Galva baseball** — Galva (1-2) erupted for 12 runs in its half of the third inning to win 16-1 at home over Morrison on March 19. Ty Dowell-Keup doubled twice and drove in four runs. Cyrus Hurd doubled and knocked in two runs. M.J. Louck, J.P. Sloan, Cameron O'Brien and Jared O'Brien each had one RBI.

Sloan pitched four innings, giving up no earned runs, five hits and one walk, while striking out eight.

Galva is at Midland on Monday.

**Galva softball** — An 11-run second paced Galva (1-0) to a 17-2 three-inning victory over Bushnell-Prairie City. Kaylyn Gale was 2-for-3 with three RBI as Galva had seven walks and 10 stolen bases overall.

**Stark softball** — SC was to play Thursday against West Central and Saturday at Port Byron Riverdale.

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## GARAGE SALE

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HUGE GARAGE SALE: April 4, 5 & 6, 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. all three days. Lots of nice clothes, shoes and household miscellaneous items. Go one mile north of Tanners Orchard, turn at sign, go 1 more mile, big gray house.

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## MOWING BIDS

Bids are now being accepted for the mowing of the LaFayette Cemetery which includes the McClenahan Cemetery, south of LaFayette and the Himes Cemetery, north of LaFayette for a total of (3) Cemeteries.

Proof of insurance is required. Must be age 18 or older, Bids should be submitted to:

LaFayette Cemetery/Goshen Township  
104 Hodgson St.  
LaFayette, IL 61449  
Deadline is April 5, 2024

The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

Goshen Township is now accepting mowing bids for the Township Building property, located on Rt. 17 West of Toulon.

Bids should be submitted to:

Goshen Township/Bids  
104 Hodgson St.  
LaFayette, IL 61449

Bid deadline is April 5, 2024

Goshen Township reserves the right to accept or reject any bid. Proof of liability insurance required. Must be age 18 or older.

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dcover@coverlawgroup.com www.coverlawgroup.com

## LEGALS

**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. Schneppe. Letters of Office were issued on March 5, 2024, to Mathew Schneppe 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  
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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/gehelp.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

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

Estate of GARETH D. KENNEY, deceased  
No. 2024PR29

Notice is given of the death of GARETH D. KENNEY. Letters of Office-Independent Executor was issued on March 13, 2024 to Warren W. Kieft of 127 E. Church St., Kewanee, IL 61443 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 Henry County Circuit Clerk, Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, 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 3/22, 3/29, 4/5/24

**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. 24-OV-12K  
vs.  
KEWANEE PARTNERS, LLC, a Colorado limited liability company,

Defendant  
**NOTICE OF PROPERTY CLEAN-UP AND LIEN BY PUBLICATION**

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Kewanee Partners, LLC, all Non-Record Claimants, and all Unknown Owners, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled property clean-up 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: Kewanee Partners, LLC  
3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot 2 of Zang's Re-Plat of a part of the East Half of the Northwest Quarter of Section 34, Township 15 North, Range 5 East of the 4th P.M., Henry County, Illinois, EXCEPT A part of Lot 2 of Zang's Re-Plat of a part of the NW 1/4 of Section 34, T15N, R5E of the 4th P.M., in the City of Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois. More particularly bounded and described as follows and bearings are for the purpose of description only:

Beginning at a iron rod at the Southwest Corner of said Lot 2; Thence N 00°13'36" E, along the West line of said Lot 2 and also being the East line of May Street, a distance of 199.31 feet to an iron rod; Thence S 87°29'03" E, a distance of 141.21 feet to an iron rod; Thence N 78°20'48" E, a distance of 96.95 feet to the center of a ditch; Thence S 45°26'01" E, along said center line, a distance of 94.60 feet; Thence S 84°54'40" E, along said center line, a distance of 389.38 feet to the Northerly extension of the East line of said Lot 2; Thence S 00°37'27" W, along said Northerly extension and continuing along said East line, a distance of

124.00 feet to the Southeast corner of said Lot 2; Thence N 88°59'11" W, along said South line, a distance of 690.82 feet to the Place of Beginning and containing 2.60 acres, more or less. Subject to all easements of record.

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 1119 Lake Street, Kewanee, IL

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, file your answer to the Petition for Judgment 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  
Published 3/22, 3/29, 4/5/24

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal residents of the Town of West Jersey in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 being the second Tuesday of said month at the hour of 6 o'clock p.m. at the West Jersey Township Building for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town and a moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting. The regular monthly meeting will follow. Dated March 29, 2024  
Michelle Webster, West Jersey Township Clerk  
Published 3/29/24

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# The Prairie News Sports

## New Rebels basketball coach

### Mastin calls Stark County 'a diamond in the rough'

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Part of what attracted Kane Mastin to Stark County as a teacher also attracted him to its boys basketball head-coaching job.

“This place is a diamond in the rough that’s overlooked,” Mastin said last week. “My job as a coach is to make sure we’re not overlooked anymore.”

Stark County administrators and school-board members didn’t overlook Mastin’s job application. During its meeting March 18, the board authorized Mastin to fill the boys basketball vacancy created when Dusty Browning resigned after the 2023-24 season, his eighth.

Mastin assisted Browning the past two seasons and also was head coach of the Rebels’ junior varsity.



Mastin

A 2004 Knoxville graduate, Mastin arrived at Stark County in 2022 from Manito Midwest Central, where he was head coach four seasons.

Leaving a head-coaching position to become an assistant at

a similar-sized school might seem like an odd career move. But it made sense to Mastin, who teaches social studies, once he heard Stark County Superintendent Brett Elliott’s presentation.

“They were really in need of a social-studies teacher,” Mastin said. “I joked that Brett Elliott could sell ketchup popsicles to a man wearing white gloves. The pitch he made to me was good enough where I was willing to give up a varsity job to come teach here, and I haven’t looked back since.”

Mastin was 27-69 at Midwest Central, per IHSA records. He also was 25-5 in one season (2014-15) as girls head coach



Stark County athletes won mutiple medals at the Top Times indoor state track meet last Friday. Lauren Orwig (right) was fourth in Class 1A shot-put and teammate Chelsey Stotler was sixth.

at Sidell Salt Fork.

Stark County Athletics Director Roland Brown said Mastin was among three who applied for the opening. A focus on developing players as a whole and using basketball as a tool to teach life skills separated Mastin from other applicants.

Mastin said he was a bit conflicted about perhaps becoming a head coach again.

“I knew that would mean Dusty wouldn’t be there,” Mastin said. “I absolutely loved coaching with Dusty. He and I have had one of the best working relationships with any coach I’ve ever coached with before. It was one of those bittersweet moments when he said he was going to step down and said I should apply.”

Stark County was 19-13 last season and advanced to a Class 1A regional final. But three of the Rebels’ top players were seniors – Matthew Bowser, Luke Rewerts and Will Rumbold.

Continued on Page 7



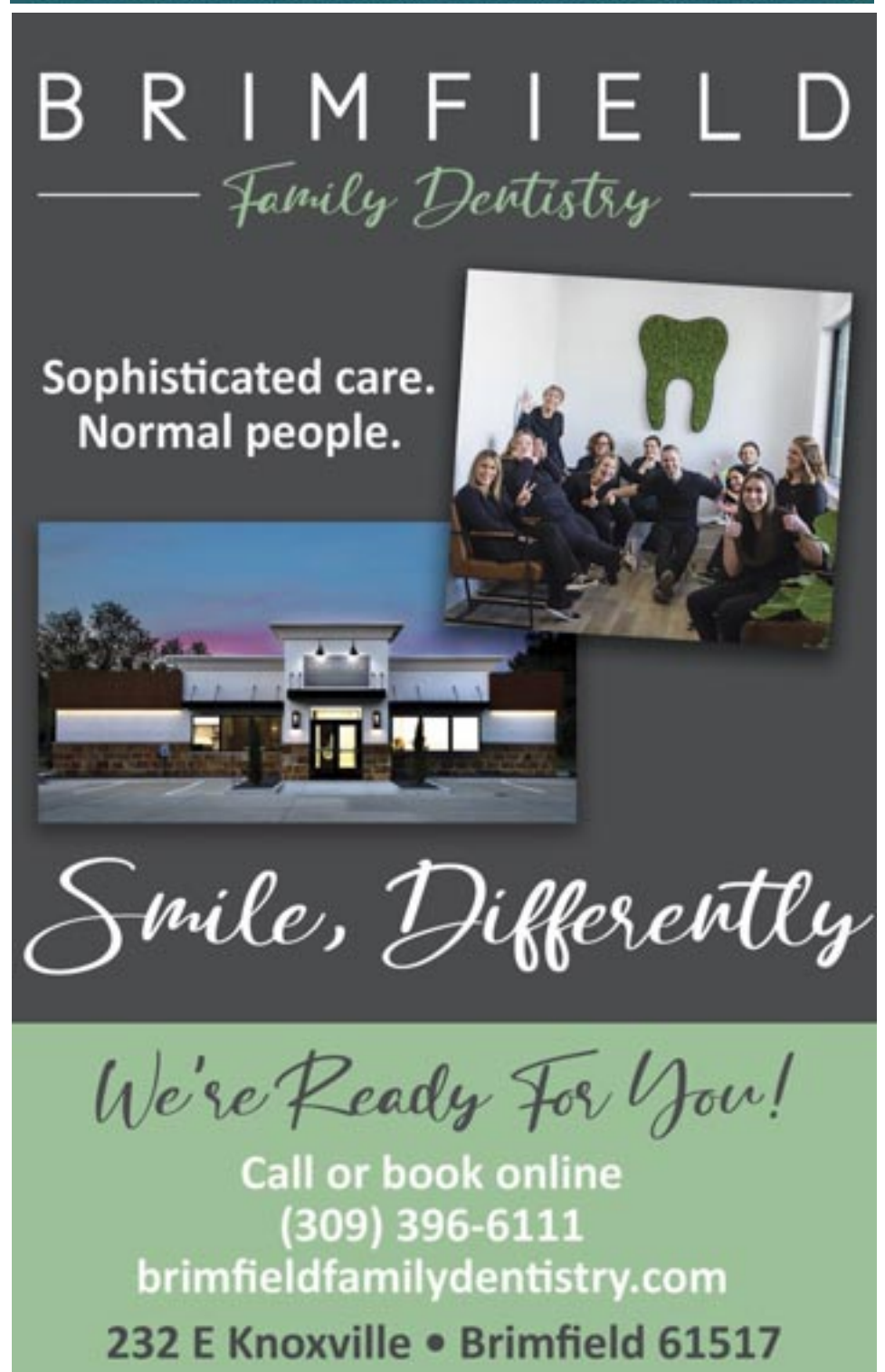
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