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 Vol. 21, No. 6

The Prairie News

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Stark County E911 service moves closer to completion

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

TOULON – After years of discussion and meetings, it took just two days to construct a 180-foot tower that will soon provide Enhanced 911 service for Stark County.

Construction on the new tower started Feb. 29 and was completed March 1 just east of the new Enhanced 911 service center that was added to the existing jail building.

"This tower will have new antennas and microwave transmission/receiver capabilities, plus antennas for fire calls, etc.," said David Tuttle, chairman of the Peoria/Stark Joint Emergency Telephone System Board.

Tuttle is overseeing the construction of the Stark County Emergency Communication Center, as it will be known.

"The original tower will serve as backup for radios," Tuttle said. "The StarCom-21 system will have new portable radios for the deputy sheriffs and sheriff when the tower is operational."

In the next few months, more equipment will be installed in the new E911 building, according to Tuttle. Installation continues for the Enhanced 911 service. Furniture and walls will be brought in to the new building, which is 90 percent completed. Radios and telephone electronic equipment will be installed in the next 60 days.

"Stark County citizens will be

Continued on Page 2



A new 180-foot communication tower has been built for Stark County's Enhanced 911 service. The tower is east of the E911 service center added to the jail building in Toulon. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

Few choices for voters

Primary least competitive in decades

By **ANDREW ADAMS**
 Capitol News Illinois

On March 19, voting will conclude in primary contests for hundreds of seats in the Illinois legislature and in the state's court system. But most of those contests are uncompetitive.

Statewide, 88 percent of judicial and state legislative primaries feature either a single candidate or no one running at all. This is the highest number of uncompetitive primaries for those seats in at least 20 years, according to a Capitol News Illinois analysis of data going back to 2004.

The number of primaries with no candidates running at all is similar to years past, about 33 percent. But the

number of primaries with a single person running has jumped to 55 percent, from 46 percent in 2020.

John Shaw, director of the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute, said Illinois' primary participation mirrors a national trend and is partially stoked by growing political polarization and state redistricting practices. The state process for drawing legislative districts is a partisan one by law, meaning many districts have been drawn in a way that favors one party over the other.

While that's made primaries increasingly important in districts that lean heavily in favor of one party over the other, it's also helped reinforce a trend

Continued on Page 7

Crash claims Toulon woman's life

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

A fatal crash on March 1 claimed the life of Mariliel Slightom, 38, of Toulon.

The crash occurred at approximately 2:14 p.m. on Knox County Highway 4 (the Altona blacktop) and Knox County Highway 15 and involved two vehicles, both driven by residents of Toulon.

A red 1994 Pontiac driven by 41-year-old Charles D.



Slightom Jr.

Slightom Jr., of Toulon, was traveling north on Knox Highway 15. Slightom failed to stop at a stop sign and his vehicle was struck on the passenger side at the intersection by a white 2004 Chevrolet truck traveling west on Knox Highway 4.

The white Chevrolet was driven by 24-year-old Ariel Harlan of Toulon.

Slightom's wife, Mariliel, was the passenger in his car and was pronounced dead at the scene, according to Knox County Coroner Mark Thomas.

A male passenger in Harlan's truck, Joshua Zuelly, 28, of Toulon, was treated

on scene for injuries and a 2-year-old juvenile in the truck was taken to an area hospital by the family, but was not injured. Harlan was transported by ambulance to an area hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Charles Slightom Jr. was transported by OSF Life Flight to an area hospital with life-threatening injuries. At the hospital, Slightom was cited for disobeying a traffic-control device, driving while his license is suspended, driving under the influence, operating an uninsured vehicle and failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

BRIDGE WORK AHEAD



The State of Illinois has placed signs on each side of the Spoon River bridge just west of Wyoming that say, "Road construction to begin during the week of March 11." According to Stark County Highway Engineer Judd Giffin, the bridge will be shut down to one lane for construction. It is anticipated that the entire construction will take approximately 12 months, due to all of the staging, Giffin said. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

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E911: Service made possible through grant

Continued from Page 1
very pleased with the new system," Tuttle said.
"It's looking good," Sheriff Steven Sloan said. "There will be an open house later before we open it for operations. The Peoria County people

are excellent to work with and I'm glad to be with them."
It hasn't been an easy road for Stark County to establish the State mandated E911 service. A long road of frustration and rejection blocked

Stark County from having E911 service. In 2015 legislation was passed that called for every county in Illinois to implement the E911 service.

Stark County attempted to obtain E911 service with four other counties before Peoria County agreed to partner with Stark in June 2022.

Sloan and former Stark County State's Attorney Caroline Borden-Campion worked with Peoria County officials to obtain a \$2,410,473 state grant to pay for the new emergency center.

Stark County is the last

of 102 Illinois counties to establish E911 service, eight years after the mandated legislation. No other county was willing to partner with Stark because of the costs associated. The grant eliminated those costs to Peoria County who agreed to partner with Stark.

With the advent of Stark's new E911 center, Stark citizens "will be able to call or text only one number to receive emergency service in Stark County - that number is 911," Sloan stated previously.

In the past, and currently, dialing 911 would route the call to another county, which delayed emergency service. Once operational, that problem is solved.

It won't matter if it's a landline, cellphone, or text message - the calls will be to Stark's new E911 center. Plus, the new radio system should eliminate problems with the current radio system that left radio dispatchers unable to clearly understand what sheriff's deputies said.

The new E911 center in Stark County is expected to be completed and operational by this summer.

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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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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

2-11 - Katrice M. Johnson - Expired registration.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

2-29 - A rollover accident was reported to the Stark County Sheriff's Office by a rural Wyoming resident on 400N. The caller advised authorities that a blue sportscar was involved in the accident and that a male subject was seen running from the scene. The accident remains under investigation.

3-1 - Leslie D. Troutwine, 61, Toulon, was arrested for criminal trespass to real property and theft at Toulon Methodist Church. He was later released and issued a notice to appear in court.

3-1 - Thomas R. Stoecker Jr., 28, Wyoming, was charged with open burning refuse. He was released with a court date to appear.

3-2 - Michael C. Dougherty Jr., 30, Toulon, was arrested for retail theft. He was released with a notice to appear.

Peoria County Report

3-1 - Kyra D. Comer, 26, of Toulon was arrested at 9 a.m. and accused of battery/physical contact, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-26 - to a two-vehicle accident with damage only near the intersection of West Division Street and SW 9th Ave. Two large trucks pulling trailers "sideswiped" each other while trying to go around the corner at the same time. A crash report was completed. No citations were issued.

2-26 - While patrolling, an officer stopped and attempted to assist a subject capture their dog in the 100 block of NE 8th Ave. The dog eventually returned home after eluding capture for a period of time.

2-26 - to an abandoned house on NE 4th St. to check an open door. The door was secured.

2-26 - to the 300 block of SE 7th Ave. for a complaint involving a large tree falling on a house, due to the wind. Officer spoke to the owner, who wasn't home at the time of the incident.

2-26 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a complaint of threats made against a pizza delivery driver.

2-27 - to a residence on SE 6th St. to assist with a medical emergency.

2-27 - to meet with a resident at the Galva Police Department in reference to a complaint of harassment through Facebook.

2-27 - to the 100 block of S. Center Ave. for a civil property dispute and threats.

2-27 - to the 100 block of SE 1st



St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog returned home.

2-27 - While patrolling, officer checked on an activated car alarm during the late-night hours in the 100 block of NE 1st St. Nobody was located in the area.

2-27 - Robert Kremer, 63, of Galva, cited for speeding and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

2-28 - to the 1200 block of NW 3rd Ave. for a disabled and abandoned vehicle in the roadway causing a traffic concern. The vehicle was towed.

2-28 - to a low-hanging utility wire complaint in the 200 block of NE 5th St. A utility company is replacing wires in this area. Everything looked normal.

2-28 - to the 300 block of SE 2nd St. for a 911 hang-up call. It turned out to be a verbal domestic disturbance.

2-28 - to a medical emergency in the 200 block of Morgan Road and assisted with CPR until the ambulance arrived. Life-saving efforts were unsuccessful. The coroner was contacted.

2-28 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd Ave. to remove an unwanted subject.

2-28 - to the 400 block of SE 7th Ave. to assist a resident with locating a cat that ran away. Officer was not able to locate.

2-28 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave. for a loud-noise complaint.

2-29 - to a residence on NW 4th St. to assist the ambulance with a medical emergency.

3-1 - Officer was flagged down in the 500 block of SW 6th St. by a resident.

3-1 - along with the fire department and Stark County Medic, to a two-vehicle fatality accident on the Altona Blacktop. A Knox County deputy handled the accident.

3-1 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1200 block of SE 2nd St., Karysa Taylor, 29, Kewanee, was arrested for possession of adult-use cannabis in a motor vehicle. She was released with a required court date.

3-1 - As the result of a traffic stop

in the 600 block of S. Center Ave., Matthew Roden, 49, Galesburg, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and improper lane usage. He was released with a required court date.

3-2 - to the 400 block of N. Center Ave. for a suspicious vehicle complaint.

3-2 - to a residence on SW 5th Ave. for a possible overdose complaint. The subject was transported by ambulance for treatment/evaluation.

3-2 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a trespass complaint to a vehicle parked in the driveway.

3-2 - to the west edge of town for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a traffic complaint.

3-2 - to the wooden train viaduct to check for appliances thrown from an "overpass somewhere in the Galva or Kewanee area and struck by a train." Officer didn't locate any appliances near Galva.

3-2 - Ronald Gregory, 57, Kahoka, Mo., cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

3-2 - Laura Rawlings, 37, Galva, cited for having expired registration in the 500 block of W. Division St.

3-2 - Patrick Hammons, 68, Galva, cited for improper lane usage in the 300 block of SE 6th Ave.

3-3 - to the 100 block of SE 3rd St. to remove an unwanted subject.

3-3 - Brennen Stewart, 31, Galva, cited for having expired registration in the 400 block of SE 2nd St.

Property Transfers

2-26 - One Schott Properties, LLC to Diane S. and Thomas L. Pearson - Original Town of Toulon - Block 8 Lots 7 and 10 - 117 E. Main St., Toulon - Consideration = \$110,000.

2-27 - Grant Johnson Funeral Homes to Baker Real Estate, LLC - Pts 25-14-7 NW - 217 E. Main St., Bradford - Consideration = \$100,000.

2-27 - Diane S. and Thomas L. Pearson to Alex J. Butterfield - Giles C. Dana's Add'n - Pt Block T Lots 5,6,7 - 104 N. Main Ave., Wyoming - Consideration = \$110,000.

2-28 - Illinois Valley Cellular, LLC to Daniel Eugene Jr. and Trisha Jean Berchtold - Pt Sect 24-13-6 SW - 11121 Grain Bin Rd., Wyoming - Consideration = \$76,000.

2-28 - Kayla M. Jackson to Lori K. Jackson - Pt Sect 17-12-5 SE - 1889 W. Jersey Rd., Toulon - Consideration = \$0.

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Card of Thanks
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The family of Sue Hardman would like to thank all who sent prayers, condolences, flowers, food and memorials to us and the Toulon First Baptist Church. A special thank you goes out to the church family and the American Legion Auxiliary for the meal and special services. We wish to thank the staff at Fresenius Dialysis Center for their care and compassion. Thank you to Pastor Al Harmon and Haskell Funeral Home for all you did. We are blessed to have such loving and caring friends during this difficult time. God bless you all.
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Getting into the calving season routine

Written in red pencil on our March 1 square of the calendar is the somewhat cryptic notation “HFR DUE DATE.”

I can tell it’s important because it is written in red and the writer retraced the lettering a couple of times pressing firmly enough that it is still faintly visible in May. Decoded, it means our heifers, the first-time moms, were due to begin having calves on March 1.

So far, six heifers and one cow have calved. The cows aren’t due until a week after the heifers.

There are two powerful forces that can induce cows to give birth if they are nearly full-term in their pregnancies: A full moon and a storm front. The convergence of those two powers threw us into high gear in late February.

The first order of business was to manage the spate of calves born to heifers during the summer-like weather leading up to the approaching cold front. This was the easy part. The ground is dry, the lots are firm, the barns are freshly bedded and clean. The heifers just had babies any old where and got along fine. All have been enthusiastic and loving mothers.

One particularly vocal gal decided the best way to get her baby up and nursing was to put her nose down right next to the calf’s ear and bellar at full volume. This startled the calf enough that it did, indeed, stumble to its feet. A second ear-splitting moo propelled it in the direction of her udder where it quickly got the hang of nursing while Mom licked it vigorously but not silently, as she continued to murmur contentedly as she worked.

AJ and Matt took advantage of the mild weather to haul the cows home from the Other Place. We leave them there as long as possible because it is

more sheltered and to ease the burden on the water system here at home. Some years icy roads delay the move, and in the distant past we occasionally resorted to walking the herd the mile and a half home, but this year the men hauled them at a record pace.

Well, all except for one lone cow who decided at the last moment before stepping onto the trailer that she was Not. Gonna. Go. She bolted and high-tailed it to the far end of the pasture. For a few days she lived there alone, which is extremely uncharacteristic for a cow.

By late afternoon before the night the temperature fell the cows were situated in the hay lot with plenty of stalk bales for bedding and rye bales for feed. Matt and AJ had sorted the first and second calf heifers so that the most likely to calve had access to the barns. The already-born calves and their moms were nestled into the lots closest to the east barn. We were as ready as we could be for whatever this was that was coming.

The storms stayed north of us. I could see lightning out our north windows and stars out the south. But the temperature plummeted just as predicted. At first light the next morning AJ went out to check on everyone. All was well.

When Matt arrived a couple hours later, he walked through the cows they had hauled home the previous day. Surprise! There, snuggled down into a heap of corn stalks with mom was a new calf. Matt noted that the rest of the herd were all bedded down around it, so it was quite comfortable, despite the sub-zero wind chill.

He moved the pair to the barn, nonetheless. While Matt and AJ were both surprised to find a calf in the cow lot, given that the due date there was still a couple weeks off, they were even more astounded when they looked up records on the cow and found she had had a calf on May 6 last year.

You can do the math, but wow! This gal was taking care of business.

We are settled into our calving routine now. We have three groups of cows in the lots: Likely to calve, maybe, and not for a while. They are evaluated and resorted every evening. The cows learn the drill quickly. Matt puts some corn in the feed-bunks, they come in to eat, we look at them closely to decide who stays in the barns that night, and the rest go back out.

Matt has a good eye for detecting subtle but important changes in the cows, so it is a pretty good system, at least until the next full moon or storm front arrives.

Corned Beef Reuben Soup

- Ingredients*
- 2 cups pre-cooked corned beef brisket, shredded
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 1/2 cup chopped onion
 - 1/2 cup chopped celery
 - 1/2 cup chopped carrot
 - 1-1/2 cups beef broth
 - 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 - 2 cups half-and-half
 - 1 cup sauerkraut, chopped
 - 1 cup shredded Swiss cheese
 - 1/4 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 2 slices rye bread, toasted

- Directions:*
1. Heat butter in a large sauce pan on medium until hot. Add corned beef, onion, celery and carrot; sauté 5-7 minutes or until vegetables are crisp-tender. Combine broth and corn starch in small bowl; whisk until smooth; slowly add to sauce pan. Bring to a boil; cook 2 minutes or until thickened, stirring often.
 2. Reduce heat. Add half-and-half and sauerkraut; simmer 15 minutes, stirring often. Add cheese, salt and pepper, as desired; stir until melted. Garnish with rye bread, as desired.

Cook’s Tip: Serve in a rye bread bowl, top with additional sauerkraut, celery leaves and Thousand Island dressing.

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

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MARCH 19, 2024

GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION

STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN BALLOT
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 19, 2024
STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk
Stark County, Illinois

To vote, darken the oval to LEFT of your choice, like this [filled oval]. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return to the election judge and obtain another.

Table with 5 columns: FEDERAL, CONGRESSIONAL, LEGISLATIVE, COUNTY BOARD, and PRECINCT. It lists various candidates for the Republican primary election, including Rylan L. Binkley, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Donald J. Trump, and others.

OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT
GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION
MARCH 19, 2024
STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Heather L. Hollis
County Clerk
Stark County, Illinois

To vote, darken the oval to LEFT of your choice, like this [filled oval]. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return to the election judge and obtain another.

Table with 5 columns: FEDERAL, LEGISLATIVE, COUNTY BOARD, JUDICIAL, and PRECINCT. It lists various candidates for the Democratic primary election, including Joseph R. Biden Jr., Dean Phillips, Marianne Williamson, and others.

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 Prior to April 1st, contact Linda at (309) 932-9067 for more information and an application. After April 1st, contact Linda or LCCC at (309) 995-3343.

Galva drama club to present ‘Radium Girls’

GALVA – The Galva Junior-Senior High School Drama Club will perform “Radium Girls” Saturday and Sunday, March 8-9, at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium.

“Radium Girls” was written by D.W. Gregory and directed by Jillian Rodseth and Joe Angelo.

In 1926, radium was touted as a miracle cure, Madame Curie an in-

ternational celebrity and luminous watches were the latest rage – until the girls who painted the watches began to fall ill with a mysterious disease. Inspired by a true story, “Radium Girls” traces the efforts of Grace Fryer, a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court.

Written with warmth and humor, and called a powerful and engros-

sing drama by critics, “Radium Girls” offers a wry, unflinching look at the peculiarly American obsessions with health, wealth and the commercialization of science.

Tickets are \$8 and are available at the door. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Science sodas, t-shirts and concessions will be available before the show.

BRIEFS

Toulon native Strom new ISPFMRA president

CHAMPAIGN – Toulon native Elizabeth (Heaton) Strom was elected president of the Illinois Society of Professional Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers at the organization’s annual meeting held in Champaign in February.



Strom

Strom is a vice president and a real estate broker with Murray Wise and Associates in Champaign.

Strom joined the ISPFMRA in 2016 and received her accredited farm manager designation from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers in 2018.

She received an associates degree from Black Hawk College in Kewanee in 2014 and a bachelors in agricultural business from Iowa State University in 2016. Prior to being elected president, Strom served as vice president and president elect of

the society. The Illinois Chapter is the largest of the 28 around the United States with 262 members and 32 friends of the chapter.

Galva First Baptist hosts escape room

GALVA – First Baptist of Galva will host an Empty Tomb Escape Room on Friday, March 15, from 5-9 p.m. and on Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. This Escape Room will be 45 minutes long and is based on the Gospel telling of Christ’s resurrection.

Cost of the event is \$10 per person. Groups of six people will go through each time slot and discounts are offered to groups of six or more that sign-up. Proceeds benefit Awana. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Call the church at (309) 932-2713 or Pam at (309) 368-1787 to reserve a time slot.

Freedom House celebrates 41 years

PRINCETON – The Simon Conference Center in Princeton will host a fundraiser for Freedom House on April 13. This year’s event features a

champagne reception, food and drink, live and silent auctions, and music by Greg Percifield.

To reserve a spot visit www.freedomhouseillinois.org. Contributions can also be sent to Freedom House, 440 Elm Place, Princeton, IL 61356 Attn: GALA Event.

Golden Poets contest now open for seniors

Illinois Poet Laureate, Angela R. Jackson, has announced a new poetry competition for seniors: Golden Poets. The competition is open to Illinois residents age 70 and over with cash prizes of \$500, \$250 and \$100 awarded to the top three finishers, respectively.

Poems must be original and unpublished, typed with name and page numbers in upper right corner. Proof of age is required to win.

Deadline for submissions is March 31. Submissions can be emailed to ilpoetlaureate.contests@gmail.com. Winners will be announced in May 2024.

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PRIMARY: 'The only battle is the primary'

Continued from Page 1
of parties choosing not to run candidates in districts that were not drawn in their favor.

"The only battle is the primary," Shaw, a former congressional reporter, told Capitol News Illinois.

Shaw said the expectation of candidates to work across the aisle has decreased in recent decades, meaning that parties lean into ideology more.

"It is not good for governance when candidates run unopposed in a primary or general election," Shaw said.

For about 65 percent of state legislative and judicial seats, only one party's primary has any candidates running, with most of those primaries featuring a single candidate.

While many of those races will likely be uncompetitive in the general election as well, the number of contested seats could grow beyond what the primaries indicate via a political appointment process. The political parties have until June 3 to select a person to run on the party's behalf in races where the primaries did not produce a winning candidate. That person would be chosen by local party officials, such as county board chairs in downstate Illinois or ward committees in Chicago.

"It's not routine, but it's not unheard of," Illinois Board of Elections spokesperson Matt Dieterich said of the process.

Long-term trends

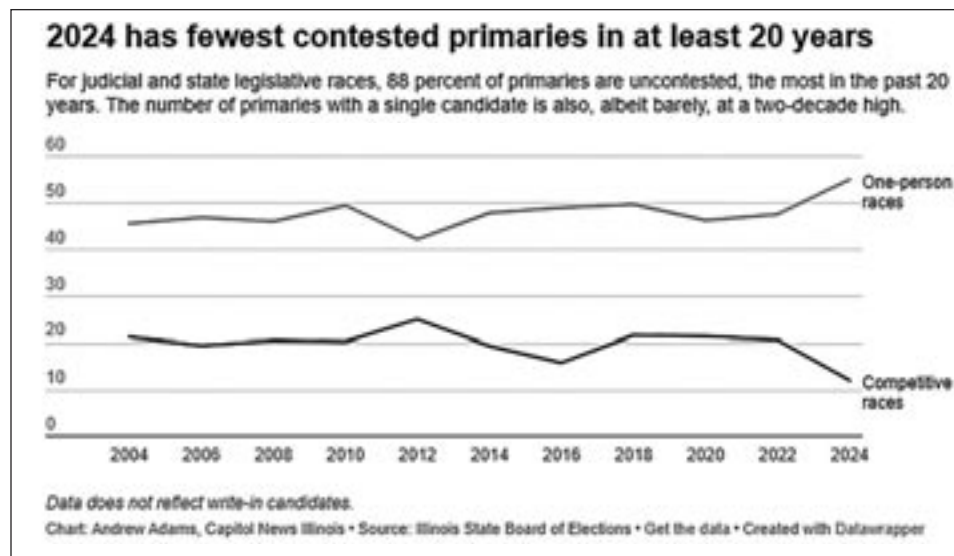
John Jackson, a professor at the Paul Simon Institute, said the stark divisions in party control are driven by party realignment and polarization, which have resulted in fewer candidates running on politically moderate platforms.

"That started nationally, then trickled down to state, even now to local," he said.

Jackson, who works at an institute founded by and named for a conservative Democratic senator, noted this trend only emerged in the past few decades.

"There used to be moderates in the Republican party and moderates in the Democratic party," Jackson said. "They were much more heterogeneous than they are."

In Illinois, that's led to stark partisan divides that also fall squarely along urban-rural lines. The city of Chicago remains the center of Democratic power in a democratically controlled state. Republicans have few primary candidates in the city and no serious challengers to



most Democrats running.

Rural Illinois, meanwhile, remains almost unrepresented by the state's Democratic party in the legislature or on the bench, with few Democratic candidates filing to run on rural primary ballots.

House primary elections are more competitive in the suburbs and downstate

In races for the Illinois House, 9.8 percent of primaries have more than one candidate running. For 65 of the state's 118 districts, only one person is running for the seat.

Only one legislative seat is competitive for both Democrats and Republicans: the 76th House District. This district contains most of the city of DeKalb as well as stretches of DeKalb, LaSalle and Bureau counties. The district's current representative – Rep. Lance Yednock, D-Ottawa – is not running for reelection, and two Republicans and three Democrats are vying to replace him.

The legislative primaries that have drawn the most candidates include two four-way Democratic contests in the Chicago area. The 53rd Senate District Republican primary also drew four candidates.

Judicial races gaining attention

While there are primaries for 82 judicial positions across the state, about 85 percent of them feature either

one or no candidate on the ballot. Just over half feature a single candidate across both major party primaries.

Part of this is due to the high number of races in Cook County – a very Democratic area – which operates the second largest court system in the nation.

But the low number of interested candidates can be partially explained by shifting career goals among lawyers, according to Eizabeth Monkus, senior research attorney at the nonprofit judicial reform advocacy group Chicago Appleseed Center.

"People come into the profession with different goals than they used to," Monkus said.

Monkus noted that there are more people interested in what she called "movement lawyering," where a person furthers political and social goals through legal advocacy, rather than working as a trial lawyer or working on criminal cases.

"If you're working to change the world, judges have less power to do that than you might expect," Monkus said.

But judicial elections are important because of their impacts on a local – often personal – level, where Monkus said judges' decisions can have a "long and lasting" impact.

Monkus noted that since

she began working in judicial elections over a decade ago, people are more aware of judicial elections than they used to be, despite the relatively low number of candidates in any given race. She attributed that to increased voter interest, more campaigning in high-profile races and more thorough news coverage.

The most high-stakes judicial primary this year is the battle over one of the state's Supreme Court seats from the 1st District in Cook County.

That race features Joy V. Cunningham running to keep the seat she was appointed to in 2022 against Jesse G. Reyes, an appellate court judge who also ran in 2020 in a heated seven-way primary for the seat currently held by P. Scott Neville. Reyes came in second in that race with 20.3 percent of the vote to Neville's 26.2 percent.

As with most judicial races this year, it's a one-party race at this point. No Republicans are currently running for the seat on the state's highest court.

Capitol News Illinois is a non-profit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide.

Lack of races also seen locally

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

The same lack of competitive races seen statewide is also evident on local primary ballots for Henry and Stark counties.

Yes, there are presidential candidates on the ballot. Democrats can choose among President Joe Biden, Dean Phillips, Marianne Williamson and Frank "Frankie" Lozada.

Options for Republican voters include Ryan L. Binkley, Ron DeSantis, Nikki Haley, Donald J. Trump and Chris Christie.

Beyond those presidential candidates and a few contested elections for delegates to the national nominating conventions, most races have just enough candidates, too

few candidates to fill open positions or no candidates at all.

One contested primary race is the Illinois Senate seat being vacated by Win Stoller in the 37th Senate District, which includes parts of Stark and Henry Counties. Republican candidates to replace Stoller are Li Arellano Jr. of Dixon, Tim Yager of Geneseo and Chris Bishop of Dixon.

Republican voters in part of Henry County can also cast votes in a contested race for the 17th congressional district. Scott Alan Crowl is running against Joe McGraw for the right to face Democratic incumbent Rep. Eric Sorensen in the November election.

Spring Open House
Saturday March 9, 2024
9:00 am – 2:00 pm
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Dan's Sweet Treats	Pampered Chef	Popcorn	Tupperware
	Papazzini	Puppy Paws Creations	Valley Wood Crafts

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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF: STEVEN LLOYD ANDERSON, Deceased
No. 2024PR20

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Steven Lloyd Anderson. Letters of Office were issued on February 15, 2024, to Mary Jane Anderson as Independent Executor whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

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

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor

P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-2001
everetr@barashlaw.com
Published 2/23, 3/1, 3/8/24

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, minois, 61421. Letters of Office were issued on February 23, 2024 to RONALD G. SEFRIED 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. SEFRIED
(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
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 PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for the Town of Elmira in the County of Stark State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2024, and ending February 28, 2025, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the Town Clerk's home from and after 6:00 p.m., 15th day of March 2024.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m., 9th day of April 2024, at the Township Building in Osceola, Illinois, and that final action on this ordinance will be taken by the Board of Town Trustees at the meeting to be held at 7:00 p.m., on the 11th day of April 2024.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2024.

Jana Clancy, Supervisor
Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 3/8/24

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes of the Elmira Township in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2024, and ending February 28, 2025, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the Town Clerk's home from and after 6 o'clock p.m., 15th day, March 2024.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m., 9th day April, 2024, at the Township Building in Osceola, Illinois, and that final action on this ordinance will be taken at a meeting to be held at the Township Building at 7 o'clock p.m., 11th day of April 2024.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2024.

Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 3/8/24

MEETING NOTICE

Elmira Township board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the township road maintenance building located in Osceola, Illinois, to approve payment of township expenses and consider any other township business.

Jana Clancy, Supervisor
Cliff Lane, Town Clerk
Published 3/8/24

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal residents of the Township of Elmira in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting of said Township will take place on Tuesday, April 9, 2024 being the second Tuesday of said month. The Town meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 7:00 p.m. on said day at Elmira Township Road Maintenance Building in Osceola, Illinois, 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.

Dated this 2nd day of March 2024.

Cliff Lane, Town Clerk
Published 3/8/24



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Rep. Spain seeks ethics amendment

By PETER HANCOCK

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – A Republican proposal that would give citizens the ability to propose ethics-related constitutional amendments on the ballot received a bipartisan boost Tuesday when former Democratic Gov. Pat Quinn endorsed it.

“I think it’s very, very important that this year, 2024, that the people of Illinois have their General Assembly consider an ethics initiative,” Quinn said at a Statehouse news conference. “We need this in our state.”

Under the state’s current constitution, citizen-initiated amendments are limited to amending Article IV, which deals with the legislative branch of government. Further, they are limited to offering “structural and procedural subjects” contained in that article, meaning they can only deal with basic aspects of the legislature such as its size, organization, and procedures.

The proposed change – House Joint Resolution Constitutional Amendment 19, by Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria – would expand the scope of citizen-initiated amendments to allow for changes to Section 2 of Article XIII, which requires candidates for state offices to file statements of economic

interest. As of Tuesday, Spain’s measure had just one Republican cosponsor.

Specifically, Spain’s proposal would authorize citizen-initiated amendments calling for “stronger ethical standards” for candidates or officeholders of state offices, offices of local units of government, school districts, and positions on boards or commissions created by the Illinois Constitution.

“At its core, it’s a way to empower our citizens, our voters, to deliver upon the ethical reforms and standards of conduct in office that we need more of in the state of Illinois,” Spain said.

The concept of allowing voters to bypass their own elected legislative bodies and force public votes on proposed laws or constitutional amendments – known as “initiatives and referenda” – emerged during the Populist era of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, and they are more widely used in some states than others.

Missouri, Ohio and Michigan, for example, all allow citizens to propose and vote on constitutional amendments and state statutes as well as vetoes of laws passed by their legislatures. Illinois, by contrast, has only limited authority for citizen-initiated amendments.

Pritzker said he took GOP advice on tax

By GREG BISHOP

The Center Square

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker says he’s taking a cue from Republicans in pushing to eliminate the state’s 1% grocery tax. Republicans say their plan would make local governments whole.

The second-term Democratic governor proposed eliminating the tax during his State of the State speech last month. Municipalities criticized the move, saying they could be out of \$325 million in tax revenue if the proposal

passes.

“You may recall two years ago when the state enacted a suspension of the same grocery tax, but retailers were required to continue to report their sales and the state made corresponding transfers from the state’s General Revenue Fund to municipalities, so there was no lost revenue based on actual grocery sales,” the Illinois Municipal League said in a memorandum.

Pritzker repeated his response Tuesday at an unrelated event, saying local

governments could implement their own sales tax.

“But this is about local control and also eliminating a regressive tax on everyone in Illinois but especially those who are disadvantaged and often left out and left behind,” Pritzker said Tuesday.

State Sen. Jason Plummer, R-Edwardsville, was surprised the governor supports local control.

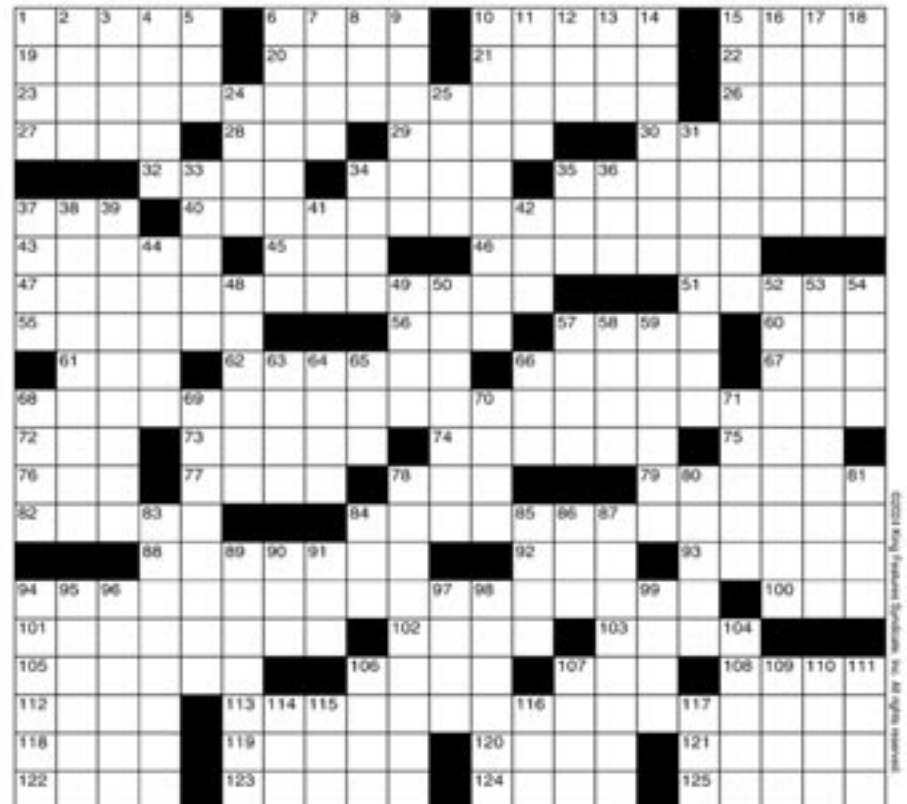
“It’s the first time that I’ve ever heard Gov. Pritzker in support of any sort of local control,” he said.

Answers on Page 3

Super Crossword

ADDITIVE-FREE

- ACROSS**
- 1 Not suitable
 - 6 Sorry to intrude
 - 10 Capricious ideas
 - 15 Cartoonist Addams, informally
 - 19 Payments to the IRS
 - 20 Oscar winner Robert De —
 - 21 Capital of Vietnam
 - 22 Sword handle
 - 23 Fifth Avenue skyscraper
 - 26 Other, in Acapulco
 - 27 Identity hider
 - 28 Altitudes: Abbr.
 - 29 — C (PC copy command)
 - 30 What a groom may toss
 - 32 ‘Uh-huh!’
 - 34 Pioneer Boone, informally
 - 35 Orthodox Jewish movement
 - 37 Rapper — Rida
 - 40 Technique for viewing a slow process quickly
 - 43 Cattle farm
 - 45 Prefix with nourished
 - 46 In a daze
 - 47 First lady of the U.S.
 - 51 Gets close to
 - 55 Sesame seed paste
 - 56 Pucksters’ org. with the Calder Cup
 - 57 Newspaper think piece
 - 60 Born as
 - 61 Toon sheet
 - 62 Hedy of ‘Ecstasy’
 - 66 Rome’s — Fountain
 - 67 Dollar bill
 - 68 Advance inquiry into a crime, e.g.
 - 72 Israeli city close to Ben Guion Airport
 - 73 Big name in life insurance
 - 74 Decrease
 - 75 Doc for the neck up
 - 76 D-H linkup
 - 77 FDR or HST
 - 78 Former ‘Idol’ judge
 - 79 Bob of play-by-play
 - 82 Wofled down
 - 84 Launching of people into orbit
 - 88 Insurance payment
 - 92 ‘The Simpsons’ shopkeeper
 - 93 Was overlong
 - 94 Dual-focus course about bodily structures
 - 100 Some kitchen appliances, for short
 - 101 From a northwest Italian port
 - 102 Certain South African
 - 103 Arena level
 - 105 ‘Hallelujah Chorus’ composer
 - 106 Rough — wood
 - 107 City vehicle
 - 108 Gas brand
 - 112 Water, in Acapulco
 - 113 What love is, per a Four Aces #1 tune, with ‘a’
 - 118 Crate piece
 - 119 Capital of South Korea
 - 120 Actress Best
 - 121 Really mad
 - 122 The ‘T’ of 66-Down
 - 123 Day divisions
 - 124 Bargain
 - 125 Restaurant notice that’s applicable to this puzzle’s seven longest answers?
 - 18 Tempestuous
 - 24 Spicy cuisine
 - 25 — Reader (magazine)
 - 31 Carrier based in New Delhi
 - 33 Hawke of film
 - 34 Salvador of surreal art
 - 35 Spicy
 - 36 From — Z
 - 37 Sig. Nu, e.g.
 - 38 Video game tombrader
 - 39 Teetering
 - 41 — di-dah
 - 42 Attila follower
 - 44 Refrigerate
 - 48 More artful
 - 49 — a soul
 - 50 ‘— in Manila’ (Al-Frazier fight)
 - 52 Consecrating
 - 53 Nevada airport
 - 54 In view
 - 57 Mining finds
 - 58 Sampras of the court
 - 59 Show plainly
 - 63 Poker cost
 - 64 Supplies with personnel
 - 65 Coach Parseghian
 - 66 LG or RCA products
 - 68 Petition
 - 69 ‘Thumbs-up!’
 - 70 Gas in signs
 - 71 Gasless car
 - 78 Tipoffs in hoops, e.g.
 - 80 Christie’s ‘A Pocket Full —’
 - 81 Depots: Abbr.
 - 83 Not old-fashioned
 - 84 Cabinet dept. since 1965
 - 85 Twosome
 - 86 Abbr. on military mail
 - 87 Societal
 - 89 It might have mascara on it
 - 90 Pas’ mates
 - 91 Opal ending
 - 94 Horror-struck
 - 95 All-Star pitcher Denny
 - 96 Yearly
 - 97 Gordie of hockey
 - 98 Iched (for)
 - 99 Seine leader
 - 104 Trendy again
 - 106 Stimulate
 - 107 — tide
 - 109 Phony
 - 110 Creates a lap
 - 111 Blood type, for short
 - 114 Prefix with pagan
 - 115 Part of TTYL
 - 116 HST follower
 - 117 Loud noise



Amber Waves



The Spats



Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps



Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Answers on Page 3

CryptoQuote

AXYLBAAAXX 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.

MBFLPKMLTMKD MZ L FSBFSOZ
ILBN USP MIWMUUNPNIRN,
HEMRE MZ LI NTNOLIK ILBN
USP MQISPLIRN.
— Q.J. RENZKNPKSI

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Trivia test

by Jiti Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which large U.S. city is nicknamed Rip City?
- MOVIES: Which movie features the quote, “She doesn’t even go here!”
- GEOGRAPHY: Which national capital city is the northernmost in the world?
- TELEVISION: Which long-running sitcom features a dad named Phil Dunphy?
- GAMES: In chess, how many knights does each player have at the beginning?
- GEOLOGY: What natural phenomenon is associated with igneous rock?
- LANGUAGE: How many official languages are in the United Nations?
- MUSIC: David Grohl was a drummer in which band before he became the frontman for the Foo Fighters?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of alligators called?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of meat is used in Hasenpfeffer, a traditional German stew?

Answers
1. Portland, Oregon.
2. ‘Mean Girls.’
3. Reykjavik, Iceland.
4. ‘Modern Family.’
5. Two.
6. Volcanic eruption.
7. Six.
8. Nirvana.
9. A congregation.
10. Rabbit.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Bob Marley: One Love (PG-13)
- Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba - To the Hashira Training (R)
- Ordinary Angels (PG)
- Madame Web (PG-13)
- Migration (PG)
- Argyle (PG-13)
- Wonka (PG)
- Drive-Away Dolls (R)
- The Beekeeper (R)
- The Chosen: S4-E4 (NR)

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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

website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434
(309) 932-3733

Service Time 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church

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211 NW 4th Ave GALVA

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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

Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church of Christ

Pastor Ross Wyman

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

(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational UCC of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon

(309) 286-4611

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

Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

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

Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Email: pastor@toulonbaptist.com

www.ToulonBaptist.com

www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon

Call us for Salvation Army Assistance

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

allsaintsil.com

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317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL

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Rev. Katie Gallagher

Wednesday: 5:30 p.m. Worship (in Luther Hall)

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

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

Contact: messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com

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

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

Service is held at 10:30 Sunday morning.

The Oaks Community Church

1868 Congregational Road, Dahinda, IL

(309) 879-2042

Pastor Marty Briney and Pastor Dean Lane

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

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

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

Website www.theoakscommunitychurch.com

Facebook: 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

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OBITUARIES

James C. Coakley

GALVA – James C. "Jim" Coakley, 67, of Galva, died Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2024, in Galva.

He was born May 17, 1956, in Moline, the son of Calvin Cornelius and Lois Anne (Penix) Coakley. He married Mariann M. Waggoner on Dec. 12, 2012, in Galva.



Coakley

Survivors include his wife of Galva; his five children, Os'scarr Coakley of Galva, Douglas (Maggie) Schmidt of Galva, Amber (Melvin) Inman of Newton, Iowa, Samantha Schmidt (William Despain) of Galva and Jerzie and Luciee Coakley, both of Galva; three sisters, Gloria (Dan) Sheldon of Clinton, Iowa, Pam Coakley of Moline and Sharon Kermeen of Sterling; and seven grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a daughter, Alica Coakley

and two angel infants.

Jim graduated from United Township High School in East Moline, Ill. He worked for the water department at Big River Resources in Galva for six years until his retirement. He had also worked for John Deere and Bob Evans and was the director of the Galva Ambulance Service for several years.

He was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed watching football and baseball. Most of all he loved his family and cherished the time spent with them.

A visitation was to be held Monday, March 4 at Rux Funeral Home in Galva. Cremation was to be accorded following the visitation. Memorials may be directed to the family.

This obituary may be viewed and private condolences left at www.ruxfuneralhome.com.

Donovan K. Stout

ANNAWAN – Donovan K. "Don" Stout, 94, of Annawan, a LaFayette native, died March 3, 2024, at Allure of Prophetstown.

Don was born April 5, 1929, in LaFayette at the family farm, the son of Eddis and Cora (King) Stout. Don is survived by his significant other, JoAnn Cathelyn.

Don is also survived by six children, Donna (Mike) DeReu of Buda, Jeri (Danny) Baker of Prophetstown, Mike (Jodi) Stout of Havana, Terry Stout of Annawan, Bobbe (Pam) Stout of Prophetstown and Francis (Becky) Stout of Annawan; 19 grandchildren; 36 great-grandchildren; and 15 great-great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Earl Stout; and a sister, Margaret Berlin.

Visitation will be noon to 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 10, 2024, at Goltick-Schueneman Funeral Home in Kewanee. Funeral services will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, March 10, 2024, at the funeral home. Burial will be in Evergreen Memorial Gardens.

Condolences can be left online at www.golnickschuenemanfh.com.

Pages From the Past - March

Compiled by John A. Ballentine

5 Years Ago in 2019

- Planning moves ahead for Bradford's 150th birthday on Aug. 13, with various events to be held all summer.

- Additional charges of criminal neglect of a disabled person are filed against Barbara J. Simoneaux and her husband, Dean P. Simoneaux, formerly of LaFayette.

10 Years Ago in 2014

- Toulon city charge accounts are allegedly used illegally by a former Toulon city employee for thousands of dollars charged at Menards. Several investigations result.

- Three candidates vie for Stark County Circuit Judge: Bruce Fehrenbacher, Tom Keith and Robert Rennick Jr. Keith is elected judge.

- Black Hawk College East breaks ground on a new Trade Center building located on East Third Street in Kewanee.

- Longtime Toulon resident and deputy Stark County clerk and recorder for 50 years, Frannie Durbin, died March 15 at age 96.

20 Years Ago in 1999

- Stark County puts a new high school building initiative on the

ballot again. Once more the initiative failed. It would take decades for a new high school building to be built, in 2022.

- A late winter storm paralyzes the area with up to nine inches of snow.

- A series of public meetings were scheduled to explain the Enhanced 911 emergency telephone system. The system would not be finalized until 2024.

- An article from 1999 described the 1925 and 1926 Bradford football teams. In 1925, the team won all 11 games without being scored upon. In 1926, the team only played five games and won all five with just seven points scored against them.

35 Years Ago in 1989

- Dedication of the Rock Island Trail was held with ground broken on a trail that was planned to run from Peoria through Dunlap, Princeville, Wyoming and on to Toulon.

- The Wyoming High School Board of Education delayed action on a proposed consolidation with Princeville and other Wyoming

area districts.

- A Stark County economic group was formed to discuss the county's economic future.

40 Years Ago in 1984

- Robert Cashen drops out of the Stark County judge's race only to reenter the race a week later.

- Political ads appear in The Stark County News for Dorothy Schmidt as Stark County circuit clerk and for Stuart Borden as state's attorney.

- Toulon-LaFayette school board cuts the band program in half.

- The 1984 Old Settlers' Association theme is "Country Roads."

50 Years Ago in 1974

- The Colgan Company, in Wyoming, was burglarized when a pocket calculator and change from a cash register were stolen during a nighttime invasion.

- Murphy's Chevrolet, in Wyoming, advertised the brand new 1974 Camaro Sport Coupe sale priced at \$3,695 and the Caprice Classic, no price listed.

- Davidson's Smorgasbord, in Kewanee, advertised its business as a well-known establishment.

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PEKIN INSURANCE

New U of I research field among largest in U.S.

By **HANNAH SPANGLER**
FarmWeek

One of the largest tile-drained test plots in the country will be located at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign thanks to a massive investment from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Studies.

This new research field, the Alma Mater Plots, will sit on approximately 55 acres and host 64 test plots with 16 treatments and four replicates.

“The overall goal is to understand long-term agriculture practices on crop productivity. Not just the yields, but why are crops producing the way they do,” said Andrew Margenot, ACES crop sciences associate professor.

College of ACES Dean Germán Bollero told FarmWeek, “The decision to support the Alma Mater Plots aligns with our land-grant mission. By investing in the Alma Mater Plots, we are addressing the practical needs of many farmers managing tiled ground.”

UIUC is home to the Morrow Plots, the second-oldest experimental test field in the country and the oldest in the Americas. Established in 1876, studies on these plots spurred innovations in crop rotation and land use practices over the past 150 years.

Although the Morrow Plots will still be studied, Margenot said, “The questions of today are different than the past. We want to look at modern practices and questions that build on the Morrow Plots.”

The Alma Mater Plots will be over 70 times the size of the Morrow Plots. Additionally, each plot will be center-tiled and have a buffer tile. The center tile will monitor the amount of water draining from the field and the nutrients that



The University of Illinois' new Alma Mater Plots will include 64 test plots with 16 treatments and four replicants. The plots are located at the start of the Embarras River in Champaign County. Photo courtesy of Andrew Margenot.

are flowing out with the water. This will be used to understand the management practices conducted on the overlying soil.

Margenot said an important factor of this experimental design is the buffer tile.

“To be certain the nutrients coming out of a tile are just from the treatment on the soil that overlays that tile, you have to have some way to tell that only that treatment is draining,” he said. “The buffer tile runs through the border of two plots and basically sucks up any overflow that would contaminate the treatment in the plot of interest.”

Once the plots are set up, the plan is to not touch them for 150 years.

“We will modify the rotations, the grades and fertilize the Alma Mater Plots, but the overall gist of the treatment will hopefully stay intact, as it has for the Morrow Plots,” Margenot said.

With UIUC's location near the start of the Embarras River, the Alma Mater Plots will help researchers study the effects of farming on water quality.

Bollero and Margenot see the plots becoming a living lab, where quality data can be collected to in-

form agronomic practices and agricultural policy. “We envision the plots becoming a focal point for hands-on education, research and collaboration,” Bollero said. “This initiative reflects our commitment to not only preserving the legacy of the Morrow Plots but also paving the way for the next 150 years.”

To establish treatments and what should be studied, Margenot and his team are asking stakeholders of Illinois agriculture for their input.

“What we don't want is a bunch of professors like myself in their office, putting out treatments and then have people say the experiment isn't as meaningful as it could have been with their feedback,” he said.

This summer, Margenot will lead a tour with focus groups and workshops to gain input from Illinois farmers and commodity board leaders. He also welcomes input via email, margenot@illinois.edu.

There is no official website yet, but Margenot said the public should “keep an eye out with more information coming in late summer to early fall.”

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

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Helena Agri Enterprises, LLC, a national, agricultural chemical company, has immediate openings for part-time **Truck Drivers** at our Wyoming, and Sparland IL, locations.
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Responsibilities: makes deliveries, loads and unloads product and performs general warehouse duties.
Submit resumes by mail, email or apply in person.
Helena Agri Enterprises LLC
7064 Township Road 1300 E
Wyoming, IL, 61491
Attn: Scott Libby
libbys@helenaagri.com
Resumes submitted without a salary requirement will not be considered. Pre-employment drug screen and background check required. EEO/AA/M/F/Disabled/Veteran

NOTICE
BRADFORD CEMETERY CLEAN-UP
Please remove all items that you wish to keep **Prior to March 20, 2024**
All remaining items will be removed by the Village during clean-up which will be on **Wednesday, March 20, 2024 & Thursday, March 21, 2024.**
DO NOT PLACE ANY NEW ITEMS IN THE CEMETERY UNTIL AFTER MARCH 21st, 2024!

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SCES Parent's Club & Stark County Education Foundation
FUNDRAISER AUCTION
Saturday, March 9, 2024
ORWIG AUCTION & EVENT CENTER
Toulon, IL

Silent Auction begins at 5 p.m. Dinner is at 6 p.m.
Live Auction begins at 7:30 p.m.
Dinner Tickets: \$25
(You do not need to purchase a ticket to attend the auction portion of the evening.)
Tickets are available at the following locations:

Main Street Coffee A Few of My Favorite Things
Berger Accounting SC High School
State Bank of Toulon (Toulon) SC Elementary School
Better Banks (Wyoming)

WATER BILLING INCREASE IN THE VILLAGE OF BRADFORD
Due to the rising cost of trash, recycling and power usage all residents will notice an increase in their April water billing pending board approval at the March 11th Board Meeting.

The following rates will be in effect:
Water will remain at \$45.50 - Sewer \$35.50
Trash - \$12.00 - Recycling \$7.00
Businesses too will receive an increase but at this time the increase has not been finalized. Until board approval, your bill will remain the same.

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

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- **SALVAGE:** Buying junk autos, farm equipment, grain bins, and also doing total farm clean up. Call Doug Lofgren at Spoon River Salvage (309) 299-8531.
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The Prairie News Sports

Browning steps down

Rebels boys basketball coach retires after 8 seasons

By **NICK VLAHOS**
For The Prairie News

TOULON – As the most successful Stark County boys basketball season in more than a decade progressed, Dusty Browning couldn't shake one thought: Perhaps the end of the season also should be the end of his head-coaching tenure.

A few days after the Rebels were eliminated from the Class 1A state tournament, Feb. 21 in the Williamsfield Regional semifinals, Browning resigned.

Browning was Stark County head coach for eight seasons and amassed an 80-145 record. But the Rebels have been on an up-swing in recent years, with back-to-back 17-victory seasons before a 19-13 record in 2023-24.

Still, Browning sensed something was amiss. He looked inward.

"I just think that there needed to be a different voice trying to tell this message," Browning said late last week. "Whether the voice went stale or wasn't quite what I wanted, the message I was trying to send and the way that I send my message was just something that wasn't connecting.

"All seasons are up and down. It's absolutely a part of it, and I understand that. But there just came a time where I just wasn't getting as much enjoyment out of the season as I should have. So I just de-

ecided early on I think this is my last season."

How the season ended might have affirmed Browning's decision. For the third consecutive time, Stark County lost in a regional semifinal.

"From Day One, I wanted to win that regional," Browning said. "It just kind of felt like we're stuck in the same spot. I think it needs to be maybe a different message or different voice to get us where we need to be."

Browning said he was not forced out of the job and the decision was his, made in consultation with his family. The 1987 graduate of old Wyoming High School plans to remain at Stark County as a mathematics teacher and assistant football coach.

"I love basketball," Browning said. "When the game is played well, I think it's a beautiful sport. I just kind of felt like my time here had kind of come to an end, in a way. I just felt like it was time to move on and let somebody else take the reins."

The top three Stark County scorers this season were seniors – Luke Rewerts (13.8 points per game), Matthew Bowser (10.2) and Will Rumbold (10.1). Among returnees next season is Ross Saner (9.6 ppg).

Through a post on the district Facebook page, Stark County Athletics Director Roland Brown solicited applications.

Stark County Assistant Coach Kane Mastin has head-coaching experience, from 2018-22 at Manito Midwest Central.



Browning

PANTHER OPEN



A group of Bradford High School alumni is planning the **2nd Annual Panther Open**. Proceeds from the event will be donated to the **BHS Alumni Scholarship**.

Saturday July 13th, 1pm
Hidden Lake Golf Club
4-Player Scramble
\$75 Per Player / \$300 Team
Enter by Friday June 14th

If you are interested in getting a team together or just want to play, please contact the organizing committee at bhspanthers8382@gmail.com.

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Lincoln Day Luncheon

Stark County Republican Central Committee

Saturday, March 16 • 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Bistro • Toulon, IL



Featured Speaker:

CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE REPUBLICAN ORGANIZATION
RYAN SPAIN

Ryan Spain has served as State Representative of the 73rd District since January 2017. He is currently serving as Deputy House Republican Leader and the Chairman of the House Republican Organization.

A lifelong Peorian, Spain attended District 150 schools and is a Richwoods High School alumnus. He graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a double degree in political science and speech communication and Bronze Tablet Honors. Spain also holds an MBA from Bradley University.

In April 2007, Spain was elected to the City Council as the youngest at-large member in Peoria history, a seat he held until Fall of 2016. He is currently employed at OSF Healthcare System as the Vice President of Economic Development. Spain and his wife Ashley have two young daughters- Vivienne & Eleanor.

Other Invitees:

- 47th District Senator **NEIL ANDERSON**
- 93rd District Representative **TRAVIS WEAVER**

Please join us for our annual Lincoln Day Luncheon program featuring Representative Ryan Spain

CONTACT / INFO: MIKE BIGGER 309-238-0113 MICHAELBIGGER1955@GMAIL.COM

Paid for by the Stark County Republican Central Committee. A copy of our report is, or will be, available at the Illinois State Board of Elections.

RETURN TO: Mike Bigger, Stark County GOP Chairman, 110 W. Butler St., Wyoming, IL 61091

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