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Vol. 21, No. 48

The Prairie News

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New Year rings in 293 new laws for Illinois residents

By **BEN SZALINSKI**

Capitol News Illinois

Time to study up, Illinois. As of New Year's Day, 293 new state laws have taken effect.

Those include some of the defining bills of the 2024 legislative session and others that will change how people get IDs, evaluate job postings and even cancel gym memberships.

In addition to the laws taking effect on Jan. 1, the state's minimum wage will rise to \$15 to complete a ramp-up initiated during Gov. JB Pritzker's first month in office in 2019.

Digital driver's licenses

The secretary of state can begin

creating a process to issue digital driver's licenses and state IDs beginning in the new year after Pritzker signed House Bill 4592. Residents will still be required to receive a physical ID and agencies or private entities will not be required to accept digital IDs in place of physical IDs.

Providing a phone to police to show a digital ID also doesn't give police consent to search a person's cellphone.

Salary transparency

Employers with 15 or more employees must include information about benefits and the salary range on job postings, according to House Bill 3129. The law will

Inside

- Obituaries. **Page 9**
- Illinois minimum wage increases to \$15. **Page 10**
- Are more gun-control efforts headed for Illinois as legislators meet for a lame-duck session starting Saturday? **Page 10**

also apply to businesses hiring for remote-work positions in Illinois.

“When employers aren't transparent about pay, gender and racial wage gaps widen, costing women and people of color valuable compensation,” Lt. Gov. Juliana Stratton said in a news release. “Illinois' new Pay Trans-

parency law is a resounding win for the working people who call our state home.”

'Junk' health insurance

Short-term, limited-duration health insurance plans will be illegal in Illinois beginning Jan. 1. The plans, often called “junk insurance” by critics, do not meet the minimum standards of the federal Affordable Care Act.

The ban outlined in House Bill 2499 was part of Pritzker's health insurance overhaul that lawmakers passed in the spring. It was aimed at reducing barriers to care for patients and making health care more affordable by expanding coverage require-

ments for insurance companies.

Short-term insurance plans are typically for people who have a lapse in health insurance coverage such as when they lose or change jobs, but they are different from COBRA benefits, which most employers are required to offer under federal law.

Supporters of the bill argued the plans are deceptive and stick consumers with huge out-of-pocket costs, but others said the plans provide consumers with an affordable option to fill a gap in coverage.

Caregiver discrimination

House Bill 2161 adds family
Continued on Page 2

Solar panels

Shedding light on getting the most from a contract

By **PHYLLIS COULTER**

Farm Week

Allan Delphi, a LaSalle County farmer and landowner, felt the heat of the sun shining on him when making decisions that would affect him, his children, grandchildren and possibly others who work his land in the future.

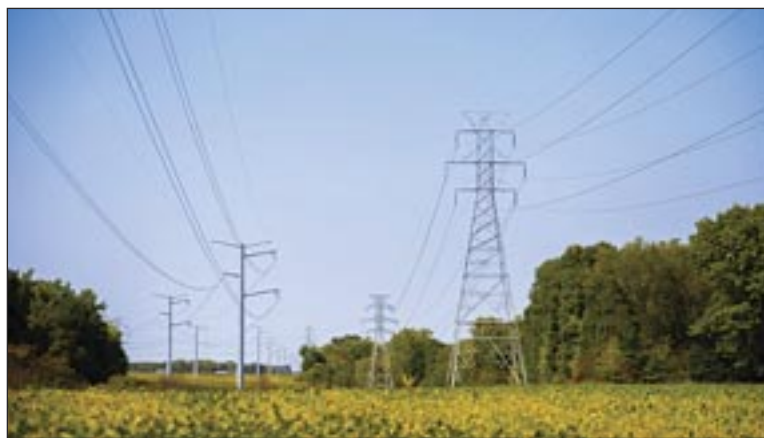
“I have had five solar companies approach me. Each one told me what they would do for me. I even had one more today,” he said while attending a recent farmland owners conference in Oglesby.

At the event, sponsored by the University of Illinois Extension at Illinois Valley Community College, he gathered more information. Delphi said he is thankful that the responsibility of making the decision isn't his alone. He has involved family members, a lawyer and his support team.

Delphi told FarmWeek he's learned a lot during the process, studying the easements, learning about equipment and

Continued on Page 7

POWER PROBLEMS?



Transmission lines are pictured in central Illinois. Capitol News Illinois photo by Andrew Adams.

Are power problems ahead?

By **ANDREW ADAMS**

Capitol News Illinois

When you flip the switch, the lights come on.

But in Illinois, after years of sweeping reforms to the energy industry and growing demand for electricity, that premise is coming into question.

Several experts – including

those involved in crafting the state's energy reform, current and former regulators and those in the renewable-energy industry – are warning that prices will spike this summer and rolling blackouts could become necessary in the coming years. That is, unless the state takes action to make sure

Continued on Page 6

Shipp, Deck receive circuit court dates

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Stark County's Circuit Court held Dec. 20 brought several decisions on pending felony cases for Matthew R. Shipp, 20, of rural Toulon.

Shipp will make a fully negotiated plea on April 4 at 2 p.m. regarding 10 Class X felonies he's been charged with for child pornography.

In another case, Caleb A. Deck, 47, of Wyoming, was in circuit court to re-



Shipp

view multiple cases from traffic violations to criminal felonies. He was scheduled for a Jan. 10 bench trial at 3 p.m. for charged traffic offenses of fleeing or attempting to elude police, driving on a revoked license, defective windshield, improper turn signal and seat belt required.

Deck is also scheduled for a jury trial on March 3 for felonies stemming from a raid of his Wyoming apartment. Charges are for aggravated assault of police, two counts of a felon in possession of a firearm, burglary, theft and criminal trespass to state land.

Continued on Page 2

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LAWS: Work-talk limits on politics, religion

Continued from Page 1
responsibilities to the list of categories protected from discrimination and retaliation in the workplace. The new law prevents employers from taking adverse action against employees because of their responsibilities as a caregiver for a family member, which could cause them to miss work.

Bill sponsor Rep. Will Guzzardi, D-Chicago, told a House committee in April that pregnant women are a good example of who the bill is designed to help. He said pregnant women shouldn't be passed up for a promotion or face other consequences at work in anticipation that they will be taking time off to care for their baby.

AI regulations

New laws governing artificial intelligence take effect Jan. 1. It will be illegal to generate child pornography using AI, according to House Bill 4623. Supporters of the bill, including the Illinois Attorney General's Office, said it is becoming more difficult to distinguish between real and AI-generated images.

They said updating Illinois' child pornography laws was a necessary step to allow law enforcement to identify and prosecute child pornography cases.

House Bill 4875 also adds new protections to prohibit using AI to recreate a person's voice, image or likeness for commercial purposes without the person's consent. Recording artists can seek damages for violations of the law.

Politics/religion at work

COURT: Judge lifts Deck's evening curfew

Continued from Page 1
Deck's other traffic case of driving on a revoked license, unlawful use of cannabis, uninsured vehicle and improper turn

signal is to be scheduled.

While in court, Deck said to Circuit Judge Paul E. Bauer, "Can we extend the time (of his electronic monitoring) to no curfew?"

Stark County State's Attorney Austin King replied "No" when Bauer asked him about dropping Deck's curfew.

Bauer then ruled, "I'll lift the curfew."

Deck was previously ordered to have an ankle monitoring device and to be able to do errands, etc. from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. then to be in his Wyoming

apartment all night. Bauer gave no reason for his ruling. Deck is now free to go whenever at all times within the bounds of the monitoring device.

William K. Skog, 19, was scheduled for a scheduling conference on Jan. 31 to have time for his evaluation report to be examined by both the prosecution and defense. Skog is charged with two felony counts of possession of a stolen vehicle, felony resisting police, felony aggravated fleeing (two counts) and many misdemeanor traffic violations.

Other new laws

- **NIL money:** Student athletes at NCAA universities can earn name, image and likeness money directly from their universities. House Bill 307 was an initiative of the University of Illinois.

- **Hearing aids:** Insurance providers must cover medically prescribed hearing aids for all people under House Bill 2443. Coverage was previously only required for those under 18.

- **Gym memberships:** House Bill 4911 requires gyms and fitness centers to accept multiple ways for people to cancel their membership. Physical fitness locations also must now allow customers to cancel their membership by email or online. Customers will also be allowed to submit written notice by mail.

- **Subscription renewals:** Businesses that offer a free trial or promotional period for their product or service must notify customers at least three days before the subscription automatically renews at a paid rate under Senate Bill 2764. The law only applies to subscriptions longer than 15 days.

- **Crime victim DNA:** DNA evidence collected from a person who is the victim of a crime to aid a criminal investigation cannot be entered into a DNA database, according to House Bill 1168.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, non-partisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide.

Russel A. Potter, 62, was ordered to pay the remainder owed on a 2006 felony case. The total owed is \$21,401, of which Potter has paid \$9,086. That leaves \$12,315 to pay by April 4.

Potter was found guilty of arson, burglary and damaging school property and violating an order of protection. He was sentenced to prison for seven years for arson, seven years for burglary and three years for school property damage with all those sentences to be served concurrently.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

12-14 - Ana Maria Gabriela Fortunero-Rojas - Driving 15-20 mph above limit, unlicensed, failure to secure new registration and uninsured vehicle.

12-16 - Candy A. Taylor - Uninsured vehicle.

12-19 - Martin A. Gardner - Driving 15-20 mph above limit.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

12-17 - A two-vehicle accident was reported from the intersection of Illinois Routes 17 and 78. Drivers involved were Denise K. Lancaster, 50, of Tampico, and Michael Joseph Rediger, 35, of Toulon. No citations were issued.

12-18 - An abandoned vehicle was located by authorities on 650E north of Illinois Route 93. The vehicle was towed to the Stark County Sheriff's impound lot. The owner posted the towing and vehicle impound fees on Dec. 23 totaling \$350.

12-18 - A two-vehicle accident was reported from along South Franklin Street in Toulon from the parking lot at the Stark County High School. Vehicle drivers involved included a 16-year-old Wyoming teen and Alexis R. Martinez, 18, of LaFayette. No injuries were reported and no tickets were issued but estimated vehicle damage was reported at over \$1,500.

12-18 - A complaint of possible domestic violence was reported from the 100 block of South St. in Bradford.

12-22 - Martin A. Gardner, 22, Gibson City, was ticketed for speeding 70 mph in a 55 zone.

12-22 - Ricardo A. Isidro, 27, Park Forest, was cited for speeding 76 mph in a 55 zone.

12-22 - Gibson R. Kluge, 26, Dixon, was ticketed for driving on an expired registration.

12-22 - Brianna N. Blanks, 36, Kewanee, was cited for illegal adult use of cannabis in a vehicle by a passenger.

12-28 - Enrique N.M.I. Rodriguez, 19, Peoria, was ticketed for speeding 67 mph in a 45 zone.

12-29 - Tyronecia L. Warren, 46, Gulfport, Miss., was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55 zone.

Knox County report

12-10 - A Galva woman was arrested for multiple traffic-related offenses. Jamie L. Howard, 36, was driving a 2017 Volkswagen Passat when a Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy stopped it about 11:30 p.m. in the 2600 block of U.S. Route 34 southwest of Altona. The deputy noted the vehicle registration was suspended, according to a sheriff's-office report.

Howard's driver's license also was suspended. Howard was cited for that, the suspended registration and for operating an uninsured motor vehicle. She was transported to the Knox County Jail in Galesburg, and the vehicle was impounded.

12-10 - A Galva woman appeared to avoid injury from a single-vehicle accident south of Elmwood. Jessica J. Ince, 40, was driving a southbound 2022 Hyundai Santa Fe shortly before 9 a.m. on Illinois Route 78 when she swerved to avoid a deer just north of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway viaduct.

The vehicle struck a BNSF-owned

guardrail on the west side of the roadway, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report. Ince was able to drive from the scene.

12-4 - A rural-Galva resident reported two people tried to break into his vehicle. The 49-year-old man, who resides in the 2900 block of Knox Road 1900 East, said he saw the males attempting to enter his Ford F-250 pickup truck about 2 a.m. One of the suspects was wearing a white hoodie, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report.

Nothing was reported missing from the vehicle, which was locked and undamaged. Neither suspect entered it, the report stated. The owner did not see the suspects leave.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

12-16 - to the 200 block of SW 1st Street for a theft and burglary complaint.

12-16 - to the 700 block of NW 4th Street to assist a citizen that seemed to be suffering from a mental health crisis.

12-17 - to the intersection of SE 1st Ave and SE 2nd Street for a two-vehicle accident with damage only. As a result, David Moreno, 20, Corpus Christi, TX, was issued a citation for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident. A crash report was completed and a stop sign had to be replaced by IDOT after the sign was knocked over as the result of this accident.

12-17 - Officer located a wanted person in the 1000 block of North Center Ave. As a result, Kayla Snider, 34, Galva, was arrested on a Henry Co warrant for failing to appear on the charge of resisting a police officer. She was released with a new court date.

12-18 - to a residence on SW 6th Street for a medical emergency involving a subject who wasn't breathing. The subject had no signs of life. The coroner responded and confirmed the subject was deceased.

12-18 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd Street, Audri Roberts, 22, Kewanee, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a required court date.

12-18 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd Street, Guillermo Gonzalez-Rivera, 39, Galva, was cited for operation of vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a required court date.

12-19 - to the 500 block of Burlington Road for a physical altercation that had taken place. The victim declined to prosecute. The offender was served with a banning letter from the business.

12-19 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of SE 2nd Street, Jennifer Hooks, 35, Cambridge, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a court date.

12-19 - to meet with a business owner at the Galva PD in reference to banning a subject from his property. Officer served the written banning form to the offender.

12-19 - to the 100 block of NE 6th Street for a loose and aggressive dog complaint. As the result, Bradley Yelm, 36, Galva, was issued an ad-

ministrative warning ticket (AWT) for allowing a dog to run at large. The dog was taken back inside the house.

12-19 - to the 500 block of SE 2nd Street for a 2-vehicle accident with damage only. A crash report was completed.

12-20 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 00 block of SW 4th Street, Kelley Fredrickson, 35, Kewanee, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for mandatory insurance. She was released with a court date.

12-20 - to the 100 block of SE 6th Ave for a physical domestic disturbance. As the result, Jeanny Ibarra, 37, Galva, was arrested for domestic battery and assault with a weapon. She was transported to the Henry Co Jail.

12-20 - Russell Anderson, 61, Galesburg, was issued a citation for speeding in the 800 block of North Center Ave.

12-21 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 900 block of North Center Ave, Braden Jones, 46, Galva, was arrested for driving while license revoked. He was transported to the Galva PD for processing and then released with a required court date.

12-21 - to the 600 block of North Center Ave after several 911 calls were received reporting an accident involving a truck vs power pole. While enroute, officer was updated that the suspect vehicle was fleeing the area. Officer located the vehicle several blocks away with severe damage. The driver, Gary McDonald, 57, Galva, was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs, leaving the scene of a property damage accident and improper lane usage. He was released with a required court date.

12-22 - to Sentry Estates for a welfare check. The subject was transported by ambulance.

12-22 - to the 500 block of SW 3rd Ave. for a domestic disturbance. As the result, Brandon Swank, 29, Galva, was arrested for criminal damage to property and disorderly conduct. He was transported to the Henry Co Jail.

Property Transfers

12-16 - Petersen 27, LLC to CTR Partnership - Pts Sect. 19-13-6 SE - 700 E. Main St., Toulon - Consideration = \$2,930,372.

12-17 - Stefanie Krans Musselman, Linda K. Pyell and Susan Krans Taylor to One Schott Properties, LLC - Pts Sect. 24-13-5 SE - Culbertson's Western Add'n Block 5 Lot 1 - 903 W. Main St., Toulon.

Marriages

12-17 - Jeffery John Newlun, Broadwell, Ill., and Katie Annette Cully, of Kewanee.

12-18 - Burton Ross Walker and Nanette Aileen Walker, both of Kewanee.

Divorce

12-20 - Jamie D. Cramer, Bradford and John H. Cramer, East Moline Correctional Center.



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Weekly SUDOKU

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CryptoQuote
answer
The person with big dreams is more powerful than the one with all the facts.
- H. Jackson Brown Jr.

The Prairie News

The Prairie News is published every Friday (except one week in July and Dec. 27) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529.
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The Prairie News is located at 101 West Main Street, PO Box 240, Toulon, Illinois 61483. Office hours are Mon. to Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
(309) 286-2185
ads@prairie-news.com
Deadlines - News due Tuesdays by 3 p.m. Ads due Mondays by 3 p.m. The Prairie News encourages readers to submit news for publication. Email to: news@prairie-news.com
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GUEST VOICES



Republicans may be wasting an opportunity

The Republicans will control the Senate, the House and the presidency after the first of the year. From a political science point of view that is as close to absolute power by one party, until it isn't.

The Republican Party, and especially those members in the House of Representatives, continues to make history for trying to waste political opportunity. The Republicans destroyed their chance for political power when they voted Speaker Kevin McCarthy out of the speakership.

Richard KORITZ

Give the Democrats credit, under former Speaker Nancy Pelosi, they knew how to exercise power. Yes, they had their infighting, but when it came to votes on the floor they were unified. Even AOC and her squad fell in line.

Not so the Republicans and their Freedom Caucus.

The speakership is up for vote on

Jan. 3. Republicans have only one vote they can lose to retain that speakership. The Freedom Caucus is once again threatening to withhold its votes, which may well mean chaos in Washington. Nothing happens politically in Washington without the speaker. The vote of the electoral college cannot be certified without a speaker, as the House can enact no business until the speaker is elected.

The ultimate disaster is that Donald Trump would not be certified as president on his scheduled inauguration day of Jan. 20. These are uncharted waters that the nation doesn't need to go down.

This nation has thrived on hardball negotiations and debate. But debate that has the potential of political suicide is simply adverse to our American concept of democracy. The first rule of government is that the government must survive whatever actions its representatives enact.

Letting the Squad on the Democratic side or the Freedom Caucus on

the Republican side dictate policy of the party is simply asinine and should not be allowed to prevail. Both political parties need to realize that this nation is centrist. The nation wants a dominant working class that protects those in need and affords opportunity for those who desire to work.

Elites from either end of the spectrum are not what the American public is seeking for governance. The public wants stability in government and a government that protects the downtrodden and provides a helping hand, not a handout.

My observation is that the Freedom Caucus is overly concerned with the handouts and the Squad views all as downtrodden and in need of government assistance. Neither position will work in the long term.

The pressing issue for this week is that the Republicans need to elect a Speaker of the House and get on with business.

Richard Koritz is an Illinois native and former DeWitt County State's Attorney.

Of a loving tradition, 900 wins & alleys that talk

Rambling through central Illinois, marveling that we are 25 years into the 21st century.

Between basketball games last weekend, I wandered through Princeville's Stevens Square Park and was impressed by the collection of Christmas trees there. More than that, I was moved by several memorial trees decorated in honor of deceased family members. The creative decorations and personal touches that make each tree different are truly wonderful expressions of love that are a needed contrast to the crass commercialism of the season. Next year, I'm making a point to visit Stevens Square before Christmas when the lights are shining bright.



Jeff LAMPE

Speaking of basketball, it was gratifying seeing Princeville girls coach **John Gross** pick up his 900th win last week, even though it came at Elmwood's expense. As is always the case for a team Gross is coaching, this edition of the Lady Princes has improved dramatically since the start of the season. Unlike post-dominated Princeville teams of recent years, Gross switched to a pressure defense because that's what his players are better suited to run. Adaptability is the sign of a good coach and helps explain why Gross has been able to win so many games. So does his explanation of why, at age 75, he is still barking out instructions. "There were some years in there I didn't get to coach," he said. "And I knew when I was sitting out I wanted to come back. I just love coaching. I just love the game. It's been a lot of fun."

Earlier this year, several of you re-

plied to a query for stories about Elmwood Bowl, which operated from the early 1930s through the late 1990s at 201 S. Magnolia St. What I expected were stories of 300 games and league championships. Mostly what I heard, though, were nostalgic recollections of "hanging out" and even fond memories from people who worked there setting pins. Similar reverence is accorded the bowling alley that once operated in Toulon. The general consensus in both towns is that it's too bad there's not someplace similar today where kids could hang out or work. I mention this because a week off from publishing gave us time to install my new desk at our Elmwood office. The desktop was once an alley at Elmwood Bowl. It is in good company, since part of a lane from Toulon serves as a rolling table elsewhere in the office. If only those alleys could talk

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

Boyd's Grove UMC Nativity raises \$2,780.16

To the Editor:

As a member of the Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church and one of many who helped organize and present the Live Nativity at the beginning of the Christmas season, I want to share some follow up information to all who attended.

First, thank you for coming out on such a cold evening. We had 476 people attend this year and your generous donations amounted to \$2,780.16.

We split the amount three ways and



we were able to donate \$926.72 to each of the following: the Bradford Community Scholarship Fund in honor of Kaden Wall, the Bradford

Betterment Committee and the Bradford Community Food Pantry.

Thank you again for joining us in commemoration of the First Christmas and for donating so generously. We hope you had a great Christmas and we wish everyone a happy new year!

— Deb Grunloh, Bradford

The Prairie News welcomes letters to the editor.

Email to jeff@wklypost.com or mail to: The Prairie News 101 West Main Street, PO Box 240, Toulon, Illinois 61483

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A BIG THANK YOU
 to all of those who supported me in the 2024 Kewanee to Peoria St. Jude Run.
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 and thank you to the Breakfast Ladies (Rita Wheelhouse, Linda Hall, Patti Lewis, Pat Nelson, Melissa & Ryker Maxon.) Also, Tanner's Orchard for cider & donuts and Wagenbach Trucking for providing lunch.
THE KIDS AT ST. JUDE, AND I, THANK YOU, ALL, VERY MUCH!
Terry Shields

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BRIEFS

Illinois gun hunters shot 82,496 whitetails

SPRINGFIELD – Hunters in Illinois took a preliminary total of 82,496 deer during the seven-day 2024 Illinois firearm season that concluded Dec. 8. Comparatively, hunters harvested 76,494 deer during the 2023 firearm season.

The preliminary harvest for the second segment of the 2024 firearm season Dec. 5-8 was 27,835 compared with 22,883 deer harvested during the second part of the 2023 season.

The preliminary harvest for the first segment of this year's firearm season Nov. 22-24 was 54,661 deer.

Hunters shot 1,109 deer in Knox County (down 69 from 2023), 1,990 in Fulton County (up 156), 851 in Peoria County (down seven), 216 in Stark County (up 21) and 459 in Henry County (down five).

College honors

• **Lena Becker** of Toulon made

the Dean's list (3.4 gpa or better) at the University of Wisconsin-White-water for the fall 2024 semester.

Cambridge museum features new exhibit

CAMBRIDGE – The Cambridge Natural History Museum has opened a new exhibit called "The Lives and Discoveries of Famous Paleontologists." Museum Curator Anderson Taylor will make a special presentation on Saturday, Jan. 11, from 1-2 p.m. at the museum, located at 132 W. Center St. in Cambridge.



Taylor

The exhibit delves into the work of renowned paleontologists, including Robert Tully, Barnum Brown, Dean Lomax and William Hammer.

Taylor, a young and passionate paleontologist, will discuss the lives

of these famed paleontologists, their contributions to science and the impact of their discoveries on our understanding of Earth's prehistoric past.

The exhibit is supported by an Activate History microgrant from Illinois Humanities.

The museum also features a collection of fossils, minerals and Native American artifacts.

This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Masks being required at all OSF hospitals

As of Dec. 31, all employees, patients and visitors at OSF Health Care hospitals are required to wear masks due to widespread respiratory illnesses, including COVID-19, influenza and RSV.

Additionally, OSF is implementing a temporary visitor restriction: only two visitors (age 18 and over) per patient at a time.

ENERGY: Data centers need ample power

Continued from Page 1
enough electricity is available – in the right place and at the right times of day.

"If we don't continue finding other ways of energy – making sure we can store it in some way – we're going to see that supply and demand kind of thing," Rep. Barbara Hernandez, an Aurora Democrat and sponsor of a bill to incentivize energy storage, told Capitol News Illinois. "We'll see a lot of demand, but the supply will not be there and it's going to create a lot of blackouts in our communities. But also, our families are going to be paying

the price and we're going to see an increase in utilities."

Several factors contribute to the concern over the grid's future. A growing number of data centers in the U.S. and in Illinois are demanding massive amounts of energy. The state's fossil fuel industry is – by design – in decline. And backlogs at regional grid operators have delayed renewable electricity generation from coming online.

The state also isn't bringing renewable energy online quickly enough, according to a lead sponsor of the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act – Gov. JB Pritzker's marquee

climate legislation that seeks to decarbonize the state's electric grid by 2045.

Lawmakers, meanwhile, are hurriedly working to find solutions that could be rolled out quickly to keep electricity reliable and affordable.

A short lame-duck legislative session tentatively planned for Jan. 4-7 could become an energy policy battleground with long-term consequences.

But the tight timeline could cause the legislative process to drag into Springfield's regular session as a new General Assembly is sworn in on Jan. 8.

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In Loving Memory of Chad Colgan
on his birthday and at Christmas 12-21-84 – 8-26-07
"My Own Shining Star"

Christmas days are busy days and follow one upon the other. But still, my mind keeps wondering and the tears I cannot smother. I often think of days gone by, of Christmases that have passed. Sometimes I can't remember, Son, that we have shared our last.

The packages are gaily wrapped, the Christmas cards are posted. The tree is up, the tinsel strung, the chestnuts have been roasted, And once again I see you, my son, but I know that you're not too far, For there you are atop my tree, my own Shining Star.

And as the darkness settles in and the lights again are lit... My mind, at last is quite content, I see you from wherever I sit.

Author Unknown

Forever and deeply missed
Mom, Dad, and Family.



SOLAR: Consult an attorney and insurance

Continued from Page 1
construction and details about decommissioning. "I'm in my 70s. This project will last at least 40 years," he said of the care he is taking for his three sons and five grandchildren.

The company they have chosen practices agrivoltaics, the dual use of land for solar energy production and agriculture. They will likely graze sheep initially, but more research is being done on short corn varieties and other crops that might be compatible with the solar system, said Delphi, who likes the idea of the contracted land still being used for farming.

During his presentation, Garrett Thalgott, assistant general counsel for Illinois Farm Bureau, emphasized the importance of asking questions and having a good team when considering signing a solar project contract.

Insurance is something to consider. It is important to discuss a solar contract with your insurance company and attorney and see what is covered by the energy company and what changes might need to be made to the farmer's or landowner's policy.

Also, be sure to look at the acreage guarantees. It's important to know if five or 50 acres are guaranteed to be involved in the contract.

In terms of compensation

for land rented, it is important for landowners to have an escalation provision, so the rental price keeps up with rising rates of rent over the next 50 years, the IFB attorney told FarmWeek.

Thalgott agreed it is important to be clear on the details of decommissioning when in some cases it won't happen for as many as 60 years. The energy company might be sold by then and other generations might be farming.

Some landowners may be against putting solar farms on agricultural land, but eminent domain is not available to solar developers. The landowner has the right to choose what is right for his farming operation for the future and how to use his or her property rights, Thalgott told FarmWeek.

Mary Ludwig, an attorney



Farmland surrounds a homestead in Vermilion County. A recent farmland owners conference in Oglesby provided key tips for owners interested in new opportunities. Photo by Catrina Rawson.

and partner with Johnson & Taylor in Pontiac, compared property rights to a "bundle of sticks." That bundle includes air, water and mineral rights in the present and future, she told landowners at the conference.

As for solar and wind contracts, Ludwig offered many of the same cautions as the IFB counsel. She said to make sure attorney fees are considered in the contract costs to understand the contract length and provisions of decommissioning.

"About one-third of landowners receive a letter from an energy company,"

Elizabeth Strom, an Accredited Farm Manager and vice president of Murray Wise Associates LLC in Champaign told landowners in attendance.

"Before you sign, make sure you fully understand the contract," Strom said.

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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LEGAL ADS

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

ESTATE OF KEITH D. ORR, Deceased.
No. 2024P121

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Keith D. Orr. Letters of Office were issued on November 26, 2024 to Dianna Orr and Lorie Manthe as Independent Representatives whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 5th, 2025. 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 12/13, 12/20/24, 1/3/25

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

Estate of LYNN M. YELM, deceased

No. 2024-PR-125

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of LYNN M. YELM. Letters of Office were issued on December 12, 2024, to Casey J. Pozzi, 18205 2400 East St., Princeton, IL 61356, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is Michael Massie, Massie & Quick, LLC, P.O. Box 205, Galva, IL 61434.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Henry County Circuit Clerk, Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center St., Cambridge, IL 61238, or with the representative, 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
P.O. Box 205
Galva, IL 61434
Telephone: (309) 932-2168
Published 12/20, 1/3, 1/10/25

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

ESTATE OF WALTER J. VERVYNCK, Deceased.
No. 2024P120

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Walter J. VerVynck. Letters of Office were issued on December 17, 2024 to Misty Patterson as Independent Representative whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before June 27th, 2025. Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit: <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
211 W. 2nd St.
Kewanee, IL 61443
(309) 852-5555
Published 1/3, 1/10, 1/17/25

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

STATE BANK OF TOULON, Plaintiff,
Case No. 2024FC30
v.

THOMAS M. MADSEN; KYLE WHITMARSH; STEPHANIE WHITMARSH; PARTIES IN POSSESSION; INTERESTED PERSONS; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, Defendants.

NOTICE OF COURT SALE [Code Civ. Proc. §15-1507]

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to the Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-captioned matter, the property hereinafter-described, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. The name, address, and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is: Mark Rewerts, Sr. Vice Pres. & CBO, State Bank of Toulon, 102 W. Main St., Toulon IL 61483 / 309-852-3366.

2. The property is located in Henry County - common address: 205 W. Court St., Cambridge IL 61238.

3. The legal description of the real estate is:
Lot 4 of Subdivision of Lot 4 of the Original Town, now Village, of Cambridge, Henry County, Illinois PIN: 18-07-329-003

4. The real estate may not be inspected prior to sale unless arrangements are made.

5. The date and time of the sale is: February 4, 2025, at 9:00 AM.

6. The sale will be conducted by the Henry County Sheriff in the Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, IL.

7. The terms of the sale are: This is an "as is" sale for "cash." The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds at time of sale with balance to be paid, by certified funds, in full within 24 hours from the time of sale upon delivery of possession and warranty deed. The subject property is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the Court. Real estate taxes to be prorated to date of closing. Any statements made at time of sale will supersede any previously advertised or announced.

8. Title will be conveyed subject to all general real estate taxes which are a lien upon the real estate, but have not yet become due and payable, and special assessments, if any, and

easements and restrictions of record.

Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.

If you are the mortgagor (homeowner), you have the right to remain in possession for 30 days after entry of an order of possession, in accordance with Section 15-1701(c) of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

Zachary L. Lessard (ARDC #6325734)
Barash & Everett, LLC / Attys for Plaintiff
211 W. 2nd St., Kewanee IL 61443

Ph: 309-852-5555 / zac@barashlaw.com
Published 1/3, 1/10, 1/17/25

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

ESTATE OF MARVIN L. SHULTS, 2024PR17
DECEASED.

CLAIM NOTICE

Notice is given of the death of MARVIN L. SHULTS, Stark County, Illinois. Letters of Office were issued on December 20, 2024, to ROGER E. SHULTS of 7679 Township Road 900 North, Toulon, IL 61483, as Executor, whose attorney is Curtis J. Ford of Nash Bean Ford & Brown, LLP, 445 U. S. Hwy. 6 East, P.O. Box 63, Geneseo, IL 61254.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Circuit Clerk's office, Stark County Court House, Toulon, Illinois, 61483 or with the representative or both, on or before the 5th day of July, 2025, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by Section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. 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.

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Roger E. Shults, as Executor of the Marvin L. Shults Estate

Curtis J. Ford
NASH BEAN FORD & BROWN, LLP
Attorneys for Representative
445 US Hwy 6 East
P.O. Box 63
Geneseo, IL 61254
Phone: (309) 944-2188
Email: cford@nashbeanford.com
Published 1/3, 1/10, 1/17/25

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-102K

vs. DANIEL L. NYERT, Defendant

NOTICE OF PROPERTY CLEAN-UP BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, Daniel L. Nyert, 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: Daniel L. Nyert

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: Lot Number Nine (9) in Block Five (5) of Bauer's Third Addition to the City of Kewanee, 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: 510 E. 9th St., Kewanee, IL 61443.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, file your answer to the Petition for Order of Demolition 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
Phone: 309/852-5555
Published 1/3, 1/10, 1/17/25

MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation
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Stark County Regular Van Schedule for January

Mon., Jan. 6: Princeton	Thurs., Jan. 9: Peoria
Mon. Jan. 13: Kewanee	Thurs., Jan. 16: Princeton
Mon. Jan. 20: Peoria	Thurs., Jan. 23: Kewanee
Mon. Jan. 27: Peoria	Thurs., Jan. 30: Kewanee

Pick up:
Bradford 8:40, Wyoming 8:55,
Toulon 9:10; Depart from destination city at 2:30

Fees: People under age 60: \$10 except to Kewanee is \$6; People aged 60 & over: voluntary donation
Call by 4:00 p.m. the day before you would like to ride the van to make your reservation.

Individual transports are available M - F with advanced reservations.

To help some people downsize and settle some small estate a public auction will be held at 7642 Grain Bin Road Toulon, IL.

Public Auction
Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 12:00 noon

Items to be sold include: silver plate pcs, milk glass, nesting bowls, flatware, small kitchen appliances, West Bend stand mixer, holiday decorations, holiday blow molds, linens, board games, candles, office supplies, Isabelle Bloom figurine, Limoge China, hand painted dishes, Fostoria coin glass, 100+ pcs Fostoria including American, Imperial, Cape Cod and Jamestown, pink depression, lighted mirror back china hutch, primitive painted pine cupboard, kitchen chairs, 6 drawer chest of drawers, small roll top desk, end tables, night stands, twin bed, queen size bed, dresser with mirror, dining room tables and chairs, 4 drawer file cabinet, wingback chair, book shelves, buffet, wooden tv trays, 3 drawer file cabinet, lamps, 3 pc wicker set, glass top patio table and 6 chairs, double bed, tv stand, Frigidaire dorm size fridge, cedar chest, kneehole desk, shop vac, plastic deck storage cupboards, long handle tools, round oak table, 3 cushion couch, vacuum sweepers, dining room table and 4 chairs, matching chairs and loveseat, 6' step ladder, folding chairs, Radio garden cart, Craftsman snowblower, touch lamp, Rene Duvall saxophone, 16' dual axle car trailer with winch and pintle hitch, 1995 Ford Explorer XLT V8, 2004 Chevy 1/2 ton regular cab 4wd pickup with 8' bed, more to unpack.

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OBITUARIES

Alan E. Dean

WYOMING – Alan E. Dean, 87, of Wyoming, passed away on Dec. 22, 2024, at Arcadia Care in Toulon. Alan was born Sept. 25, 1937, in Kewanee, to the late Carl and Ruth (Etter) Dean. In March of 1955, he married Leona Paulson, and they later divorced.

Together they had five children, Mikel Dean of Mount Vernon, Paul Dean of Kewanee, Lowell (Linda) Dean of Toulon, Merlyn (Sheila) Dean of Woodhull and Cheryl Robsen of Galva.

On Nov. 22, 1974, he married Patti (Wilkinson) Storey in Wyoming. They just celebrated their 50th anniversary. She survives along with three children, Randy (Drinda) Storey of Toulon, Sally (Rob) Ramsey of Kewanee and Theresa (Dana) Storey of Jacksonville, Fla.

Further surviving Alan are 13 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; two brothers, Carl (Judy) Dean of Fla., and Owen (Sheila) Dean of Arkansas; and many nieces and nephews.

Aside from his parents, he was preceded in death by two sisters, Maryella Goldsmith and Lysandra (Omer) Hebert; and three grandchildren, Joseph Dean, Nicole Dean and Robert Dean.

Following graduation from Wethersfield High School, Alan went to work at Caterpillar Inc. in the apprentice program, where he supervised until his retirement in 1987, after 30 years of work. He also worked as a maintenance man for many years at Toulon Health Care Center.

He enjoyed feeding the birds, making birdhouses and gifting them to friends and family, and going shooting at the Chillicothe Sportsmen's Club. He was a good neighbor and enjoyed helping others. Alan served as a trustee at the Wyoming United Methodist Church, where he was a lifetime member.

Funeral services were Dec. 27, 2024, at Wyoming United Methodist Church. Rev. Rebecca Klemm officiated. Burial followed in Wyoming Cemetery. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Wyoming Methodist Church.

To leave condolences for Alan's family, please visit www.haskellfuneral.com.

Donald K. England

GALVA – Donald K. England, 98, of Galva, died at 1:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2024, at Mercer Manor Rehabilitation in Aledo.

He was born on April 21, 1926, in Galesburg, the son of Keith A. and Miriam A. (Eck) England. He mar-

ried LaWanda I. Dempsey on May 12, 1946, in Knoxville, Ill., and she preceded him in death on March 16, 2005. He later married Peggy Ann Shields in October 2006.

Survivors include his wife of Galva; his son, Michael E. England of Scottsdale, Ariz.; his two daughters, Karen S. (Jack) Hawkins of Bishop Hill and Maradell I. (Perry) Peters of Phoenix, Ariz.; six grandchildren, Sheriess (Tom) Croke, Lane (Jason) Redmon, Matthew England, Carlee Hawkins, Craig (Tammy) Hawkins and Curtis Hawkins; and two great-grandchildren, Viola Croke and Barrett Redmon.

He was preceded in death by his two brothers, Eugene and David England.

Don graduated from Williamsfield High School in 1944. He served his country in the U.S. Army from 1944-46, during World War II in the ETO 2nd Infantry Division, 23rd Infantry, obtaining the rank of sergeant.

He farmed in the area from 1947-78, and worked for the Henry County Highway Department from 1978-90 and later for the Illinois Crop Association from 1993 until his retirement.

He was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Galva and its Married Folks Class. He was a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, was a past grand and past district grand of the 40&8 and a member of the Galva American Legion Hagberg-Hamlin Post 45. He was a member of the Henry County Farm Bureau, a past Knox County Farm Bureau director and a trustee of Weller Township.

Cremation will be accorded and private inurnment will be held at Galva Cemetery at a later date. Military rites will be accorded by the Galva Fusiliers. Memorials may be directed to the First United Methodist Church in Galva or to the Alzheimer's Association.

Rux Funeral Home in Galva is in charge of arrangements.

Patti J. Streitmatter

WYOMING – Patti Jane Streitmatter, 70, of Wyoming, passed away unexpectedly at her home at 6:54 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 2024. Patti was born on April 6, 1954, in Kewanee to George E. and Anna Bell (Harvey) Updyke. She married Ross Alan Streitmatter on Dec. 22, 1973, at the Wyoming United Methodist Church; he survives.

Also surviving are two daughters, Amy (Jeff) Buss of Shell Rock, Iowa, and Shelley (Christopher) Marlowe of Miami Springs, Fla.; one son, Daniel (Aimee Shane) Streitmatter; six grandchildren, Ethan Buss, Abigail Buss, Ella Marlowe, Wyatt Marlowe, Jaxton Streitmatter and Mira Streitmatter; two sisters, Sandra Browning of Wyoming and

Cheryl (Rich) Winter of Dunlap; sister-in-law, Dodie (James) Melton of Wyoming; brother-in-law, Kurt (Marilyn) Streitmatter of Wyoming; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and one brother-in-law, Thomas Browning.

Patti graduated from Wyoming High School and Universal Career College. She previously worked as a bookkeeper at Universal Career College in Peoria and Breeze Illinois-LG, Inc. in Wyoming. Most recently, she worked at Lillie M. Evans Library District in Princeville as a bookkeeper and library assistant until her retirement in 2021, after 34 years.

She was a member of the Wyoming United Methodist Church where she taught Sunday school for two years, was on the building committee and served as a church council member for three years and council chair for two. Additionally, she was a Girl Scout leader as well as a member of the Valley Parent club and the Stark County Home Extension. She also served on the school board for both Valley Grade School and Stark County CUSD 100, where she served as secretary and president.

She enjoyed genealogy, cooking and baking, going on drives and crocheting. But her greatest joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Patti's funeral service was Dec. 23, 2024, at Wyoming United Methodist Rev. Rebecca Klemm officiated. Visitation was Dec. 22, 2024, on Patti and Ross's 51st wedding anniversary, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming. Burial was in Streitmatter Cemetery in rural Princeville.

Memorial contributions may be made to The A.R.K. in Lacon or the Wyoming United Methodist Church.

To leave condolences for Patti's family, please visit www.haskellfuneral.com.

December R. Tracy

TOULON – December R. Tracy, 20, of Toulon, died Dec. 19, 2024, in the emergency room at OSF Saint Luke Medical Center in Kewanee.

She was born on Aug. 18, 2004, in Galesburg. Survivors include her mother, Rhiannon Tracy (Jeremy Petty); her three sisters, Alexia, Payton and Madyson; her grandparents, Joe and Donna Tracy; her aunts, Mindy "Fern" Jones, Stacie Bloome and Sheena Murphy; an uncle, Christopher Tracy; and her godmother, Monica Thumma.

December graduated from Stark County High School in 2022 and attended Black Hawk College East Campus. She worked as a clerk at Dollar General in Wyoming.

Cremation will be accorded and no services are planned at this time. Memorials may be directed to the Stark County 4-H Junior Fair.



Dean



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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

"faith in truth"
211 NW 4th Ave GALVA
Main Service: Sun 10:30
Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor
(309) 932-2713 • GalvaBaptistChurch.com

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491
Rev. Shawna Marsh
Sunday School: 10:00, All ages
Sunday Worship: 11:00
Wednesday Night Fellowship & Prayer 5:30
Kids Club 309 5:15 checkin to 7:00 p.m.
Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491
(309) 695-4091
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.
Check us out on Facebook
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
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

Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL
Casual, family friendly
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

Holy Trinity National Catholic Church

Father John Cramer
716 N. Tremont, Kewanee, IL
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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.

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 Wyant 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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BBC
 **Bingo Night!**
WHEN: Saturday, January 4, 2025
 Doors open 5:00 pm
 Games start at 6:00 pm
WHERE: Bradford American Legion.
WHO: Adults only.
WHAT: Suggested donation \$10 to play for the evening, 2 cards/person, \$1 for each extra card.
PRIZES: Baskets awarded to winner after each round.
GRAND PRIZES: Basket and 50/50 drawing at the end of the evening.
 * Contact Angie Stange with any questions 309-897-8204
 * Cash Bar provided by the Legion
 * Bring your own snacks
 * Come out for some fun and prizes!
 Thank you for your continued support of the Bradford Betterment Committee

The annual meeting of the Stark County Junior Fair will be held on Thursday, January 9th at 6:00 p.m. at the Stark County Fairgrounds in Wyoming, IL for Stark County residents 18 or older. There are 4 open Director positions.
Barbie Allen
 Stark County Junior Fair Secretary

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Illinois minimum wage increases to \$15

By BEN SZALINSKI
 Capitol News Illinois
 SPRINGFIELD – The minimum wage in Illinois increased to \$15 an hour on Jan. 1, completing a six-year transition period since the increase was approved in 2019.
 Beginning New Year’s Day, Illinois workers making minimum wage saw wages rise by \$1 and tipped workers saw their paychecks bump to \$9 an hour. Youth workers under 18 who work fewer than 650 hours a year will have a \$13 minimum wage.
 The final increase, ending a six-year ramp which began with the minimum wage rising from \$8.25 to \$9.25 on Jan. 1, 2020, puts a bow on Gov. JB Pritzker’s first major legislative victory. He signed the wage increase in February 2019 about a month after being sworn in for his first term, checking off a top campaign promise.
 “Since day one of my administration, I’ve made it my mission to build an economy that works for ev-

eryone and raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour fulfills that promise to our working families,” Pritzker said in a statement. “This increase honors the workers who power our state and ensures they can better support their families, bringing us closer to a stronger, more equitable economy for all.”
 Illinois is one of 10 states with a minimum wage of \$15 or greater, according to the National Employment Law Project. Twenty-two other states also increased their wages on Jan. 1.
 The minimum wage increase is one of many economic changes that have happened since 2019, including effects of the pandemic, Illinois Chamber of Commerce CEO Lou Sandoval told Capitol News Illinois. He said those have caused businesses to adjust their operations in a variety of ways, such as increasing automation.
 Illinois job growth has been slow since October 2019, according to a November report by the Commission

on Government Forecasting and Accountability. The state has seen a net increase of 28,700 jobs from October 2019 through October 2024. That’s a growth rate of 0.5%, compared to the national rate of 4.9%.
 The rate of new job postings by businesses at the beginning of the year will shed some light on how the jump to \$15 on Jan. 1 is impacting business operations, Sandoval said.
 To help small businesses with the change, the state provides a tax credit through 2027 to businesses with 50 or fewer employees for wages paid to minimum-wage workers.
 The 2019 minimum wage law marked the first increase since the wage hit \$8.25 in 2010. Senate Majority Leader Kimberly Lightford, D-Westchester, introduced a bill to raise it to \$15 an hour in 2017 that was passed by the General Assembly and vetoed by Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner. Lightford sponsored the initiative again in 2019.

More gun-control efforts possible for Illinois

By GREG BISHOP
 The Center Square
 SPRINGFIELD – With Illinois legislators scheduled back to the Capitol Saturday, Jan. 4, some are watching what the lame-duck session could mean for gun-control laws.
 During the previous lame-duck session in early January 2023, legislators approved a ban on certain semi-automatic firearms and magazines. That measure continues to be challenged in the courts.
 Before adjourning the fall veto session last month, state Rep. Daniel Didech, D-Buffero Grove, said legislators should approve an expansion of the state’s red flag law.
 “That will clarify and strengthen the law to require a firearm to be removed when a domestic violence survivor is granted the firearm remedy in an order of protection,” Didech said. “I understand that this is a complex issue, but the time to get

this done is now.”
 Current law already requires subjects of an order of protection to turn over their firearms. The proposed measure would require police to go and take possession of firearms in such instances.
 The Illinois State Rifle Association’s Ed Sullivan said this is a “straight confiscation” proposal.
 “And the Supreme Court ruled in *Rahimi v. United States* that those charged with domestic violence can be temporarily disarmed as well, assuming they have due process, meaning a hearing,” Sullivan told The Center Square. “So that’s kind of the problems we see with this bill.”
 Gun control advocacy group One Aim Illinois said in a statement the measure should pass.
 “We will continue our work to pass Karina’s Bill, a lifesaving piece of legislation that helps to remove firearms from situations where domestic

violence is present,” said Yolanda Androzzo, executive director of One Aim Illinois.
 Two other measures, one requiring quicker lost and stolen reporting and another requiring firearms to be locked up in certain circumstances, are opposed by ISRA.
 State Sen. Andrew Chesney, R-Freeport, said such measures won’t make the public safer.
 “This is nothing to sell it to suburban limousine liberals that they’re going to be safer because they’ve disarmed law-abiding citizens and it will do nothing, it will have zero impact on the safety in their community,” Chesney said.
 Legislators can pass new bills out of both chambers between Jan. 4 and when the 103rd General Assembly ends Jan. 7.
 New legislation can be filed beginning Jan. 8, when the new General Assembly is seated.

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SPORTS: SC girls 2-2 at Warkins

Continued from Page 12
The standard Galva defense is a 1-3-1 zone it tweaks depending on the opponent. The Wildcats played man-to-man defense Dec. 21 at Elmwood, which won 65-51 to give them their second defeat of the season.

Nothing was clicking that night for Galva, McClintic said. The game was tied 30-30 with 3:08 left in the third quarter. But over the following 1:05, four Elmwood players combined to score nine in a row. The Trojans didn't trail after that.

For the game, Elmwood was 22-for-34 on free throws and Galva was 7-for-10. Harris and Sloan fouled out and accounted for 10 of the Wildcats' 25 fouls. Elmwood was assessed 14 fouls.

"We just came out slow, with no energy," McClintic said. "We just had an off game. It happens. You can't blame a game on fouls, no matter how one-sided they were."

Louck had 19 points to lead Galva.

Galva defeated Midland 59-38 on Dec. 23 behind 12 points each from Louck and Sloan. On Dec. 19, Galva beat La Moille-Ohio 68-40 as Stahl had 24 points, Louck scored 15 and Sloan scored 10.

The Wildcats play tonight (Jan. 3) at home against Brimfield (9-4), which McClintic called a good test.

• **SC boys** – The Rebels went 0-4 in the Warkins Memorial Classic, a pool-

play event at Erie. A Fulton basket beat the final buzzer Monday as Stark County lost its tournament finale, 49-47. All-tournament pick Connor Daum had 21 points for Stark County (3-10), which led 27-21 at intermission. Ross Saner scored 12.

On Dec. 28, Kewanee defeated Stark County 64-35. Saner had 14 points. The Rebels played twice on the opening day of the tournament, Dec. 27, and lost 60-43 to Sterling Newman and 66-55 to Lena-Winslow.

Stark County led Le-Win 46-43 after three periods. Daum finished with 23 points, Ben Browning with 11 and Saner with 10. Against Newman, Daum and Dillon Steelman evenly split 16 points.

Midland put Stark County in an early hole Dec. 19 and the Rebels couldn't climb out of it as they lost 43-37. Midland led 19-9 after one quarter. Daum had 14 points.

Stark County game is at Bureau Valley on Jan. 7.

• **SC girls** – The Lady Rebels (8-8) have gone 2-4 since Dec. 19, including a 2-2 showing at the Cliff Warkins Memorial Classic.

Stark County lost in the seventh-place game to Spring Valley Hall, 39-32, on Dec. 30. Coley Johnston led with 11 points. Monmouth Roseville won the tournament.

Coach Bob Bohm called the Hall game a "big measuring stick" since Stark County had lost to Hall 52-23 in its opener with a run-

ning clock in play. "We led most of this one until the fourth," Bohm said. "Big improvement. Ready to see what the new year brings."

In other tourney games, the Lady Rebels beat Morrison on Dec. 28 (45-31) as Johnston scored 16 points and Emily Demetreon added 10. The Lady Rebels had split a pair on Dec. 27, beating host Erie-Prophetstown (42-24) behind 16 points from Demetreon, nine from Johnston and eight from Sophie Finnegan. SC lost that day to Stockton (50-39) despite 20 points from Johnston.

Prior to the tournament, Stark County lost to Lewistown, 46-43, in overtime on Dec. 23. The Lady Rebels also lost Dec. 19 at Midland, 45-31. Johnston scored 11 and Finnegan tallied nine. In a 44-37 win over Putnam County on Dec. 18, Demetreon scored 18 and Johnston had 17.

Stark County is home against Brimfield on Monday, Jan. 6.

• **Galva girls** – The Lady Wildcats (4-11) lost to Farmington, 52-38, on Dec. 28 in the consolation championship game of the Lee Westerman Girls Tournament in Princeville.

Galva lost its opener to Elmwood on Dec. 26, 64-23. Kaylyn Gale led Galva with 11 points.

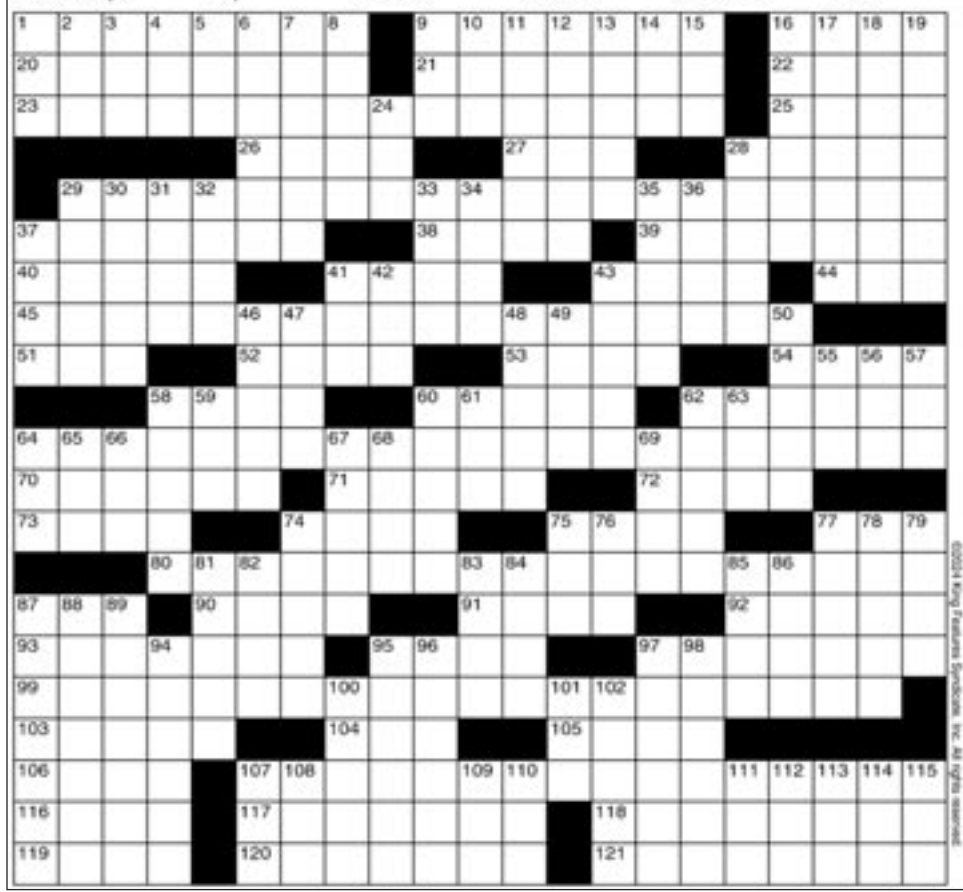
The Lady Wildcats then defeated Bushnell-Prairie City on Dec. 27, 54-23, in a consolation semifinal.

Galva returns to action Jan. 8 with a home game against Orion.

Super Crossword

CATCHING SOME WAVES

- | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|---|
| ACROSS | 53 "Exodus" novelist
Leon | 107 Riddle's answer
116 Fall lawn tool | 15 Start to doze
16 Birds bringing bundles of joy | 48 Quiet spells
49 Moistureless | 81 Want badly
82 Pleading tyke's query |
| 1 Biblical boat of refuge | 54 Toe the line | 117 Interweaves | 17 Russia locale | 50 Track tipsters | 83 First-class aisle seat on many planes |
| 9 1971 Best Actor winner Gene | 60 Angelina of Hollywood | 118 St. Patrick's Day bar order | 18 Easing off | 55 Crotchety cry | 84 Rent- (temporary wheels) |
| 16 Sewing line | 62 Spiny lizard | 120 Store full of playthings | 19 Hedgepodge | 56 Dir. opposite WSW | 85 "Frozen" queen |
| 20 Classroom instructor, in Aussie lingo | 64 Riddle, part 4 | 121 One of the men waiting for Godot | 24 Sanders' title: Abbr. | 57 Turkey Day tuber | 86 Reproving syllables |
| 21 Long South American river | 70 Third-place medal metal | | 28 Sticks with pasty stuff | 58 Wonder Woman player Carter | 87 Partners of fathers |
| 22 Toothpaste container | 71 24 in a day | DOWN | 29 "Subsequent Moviefilm" (2020 sequel) | 59 Brand of potato chips | 88 Tourist office handout |
| 23 Start of a riddle | 72 Vid shooters | 1 Australian state whose capital is Sydney: Abbr. | 30 Have life | 61 Word of joint ownership | 89 Long, twisty and slippery |
| 25 Said aloud | 73 Ship out, e.g. | 2 Scottish interjection of surprise | 31 Narrow land strip: Abbr. | 62 14th-century Russian ruler called "the Moneybag" | 94 Coagulated |
| 26 Sleekly designed | 74 Menageries | 3 "Eureka!" | 32 — pot (sinus-clearing apparatus) | 63 Tiara stone | 95 Main arteries |
| 27 Muscles to crunch | 75 Erie sign | 4 Scorching | 33 Not fatty | 64 "NCIS" aier | 96 Tattletale |
| 28 Persona non — | 77 Celtics' org. | 5 Lawn turf | 34 Eases off | 65 State of rage | 97 Lawn tools |
| 29 Riddle, part 2 | 80 Riddle, part 5 | 6 Red Sox and Orioles' div. | 35 Union Jack and Old Glory | 66 Whole bunch | 98 Nailed the exam |
| 37 Special multi-book packages | 87 Innuendo queen West | 7 Construction bolts | 36 Exude slowly | 67 "— were the days!" | 100 Turin's land |
| 38 Cyberauction site | 90 Not common | 8 Actress Knightley | 37 Vitamin also called riboflavin | 68 Seeks the love of | 102 Shaw of jazz |
| 39 Botching with "up" | 91 Sgt. and cpl. | 9 Tiling tool | 41 "Disco" guy on "The Simpsons" | 69 Cake froster | 107 Ready to go |
| 40 Travis of country music | 92 "Serpico" director Sidney | 10 "— longa, vita brevis" | 42 — Angeles | 74 Goose eggs | 108 Rock's Brian |
| 41 Thick slice | 93 Herb in pasta sauce | 11 Buzzy insect | 43 "Peer Gynt" composer Edward | 75 Egg: Prefix | 109 Zodiac sign |
| 43 Stare | 95 Cruising | 12 Having rounded protrusions | 46 Particular specialty | 76 Partners of pas | 110 Sci-fi gift |
| 44 Go gray, say | 97 Egg hunt holidays | 13 Timid | 47 Maja painter Francisco | 77 Big Apple baseballer, for short | 111 It's S. of Leb. |
| 45 Riddle, part 3 | 99 End of the riddle | 14 Often-injured knee part, for short | | 78 Some Afrikaners | 112 "— Na Na" |
| 51 Hall-of-Fame Giant Mel | 103 Oscar-winning Berry | | | 79 Early P.M. times, in classifieds | 113 Evil woman in fairy tales |
| 52 Debt slips | 104 Prefix with angle or color | | | | 114 "Evil Woman" rock gp. |
| | 105 Compel | | | | 115 Sanders' title: Abbr. |
| | 106 "— and the Detectives" (old Disney film) | | | | |



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	3	6	4		1	9		
			1					
		1	2	7	3	4		
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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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CryptoQuote

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

NGA SATCHM XLNG QLK
ITAROC LC OHTA SHXATEVB
NGRM NGA HMA XLNG RBB
NGA ERWNC.
— G. PRWJCHM QTHXM PT.

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Trivia test

- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of cake is named after a British queen?
 - TELEVISION: What is the name of the family dog on "The Simpsons"?
 - ANATOMY: How long does a human red blood cell exist?
 - GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Where is New Year's celebrated first each year?
 - ADVERTISING: Which company sponsors a 13-foot-long Weinermobile?
 - MEASUREMENTS: How many pints are in a quart?
 - MOVIES: What is the name of the dance performed in the "Rocky Horror Picture Show"?
 - BIOLOGY: What does the term ectothermic mean?
 - GEOGRAPHY: Which country has the longest coastline in the world?
 - LITERATURE: Who is the author of "The Canterbury Tales"?
- Answers
1. Victoria Sponge Cake.
2. Santa's Little Helper.
3. About 120 days.
4. The island of Kiribati in the Oceanic nation of Kiribati.
5. Oscar Mayer.
6. Two.
7. The Time Warp.
8. Coldblooded, when body temperature is regulated by the environment.
9. Canada.
10. Geoffrey Chaucer.
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TOP 10 MOVIES

- Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)
 - Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)
 - Wicked (PG)
 - Moana 2 (PG)
 - Homestead (PG-13)
 - Gladiator II (R)
 - Kraven: The Hunter (R)
 - The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim (PG-13)
 - The Best Christmas Pageant Ever (PG)
 - Red One (PG-13)
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The Prairie News Sports



Galva coaches and players were all smiles after winning the LaMoille Holiday Classic last week. Pictured above are, Front row (left to right): Cyrus Hord, Alec Gustafson, Loagan Herr, Ty Keup and Braden Murphy. Back row (l to r): Assistant Coach Zach Anderson, Josh Gravitt, Jay Smith, MJ Louck, Blake Stahl, JP Sloan, John Ingels, Reid Harris and Head Coach Jacob McClintic.

Galva boys win LaMoille title

By NICK VLAHOS and JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

Improved defense helped give Galva more boys basketball victories by now than it had all last season. It also helped give the Wildcats a holiday-tournament championship. Galva received 26 points and 10 rebounds from Blake Stahl in a 67-55 victory Dec. 28 over Lowpoint-Washburn in the title game of the LaMoille Holiday Classic. "He really solidified the championship for us," Galva Coach Jake McClintic said.

The victory in the eight-team tournament capped a successful 2024 portion of the schedule for Galva, which improved to 11-2. Last season, many of the same players were part of a Galva team that finished 10-21. "One of the big things we struggled with was defense. We gave up a lot of points," McClintic said. "We really hit on defense all summer and team chemistry. We're all clicking at the right time, and it's fun to coach a group like this."



MJ Louck contributed to the fun against L-W by getting 17 points and four steals. In the Wildcats' 69-36 first-round victory Dec. 26 over DePue, Louck had 12 points, tied with Stahl and JP Sloan for team high. Reid Harris, who made all five of his field shots, and Jay Smith scored 11 each. Sloan had 13 points, Louck scored 10 and each player had three steals in a 37-31 semifinal victory Dec. 27 over Amboy. Both players were all-tournament selections.

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