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January 17, 2025  
 Vol. 21, No. 50

# The Prairie News

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## INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE

### State to pay filing fees for some

By **JADE AUBREY**

Capitol News Illinois

Many Illinois residents will be able to use the IRS Direct File service to electronically prepare and file their 2024 federal tax returns for free.

Almost 2 million eligible Illinois taxpayers will be able to use Direct File starting Jan. 27. Gov. J.B. Pritzker said this service will, “put money typically spent on tax preparation services back into the pockets of hardworking families across Illinois.”

After users file their federal taxes, Direct File will connect user to MyTax Illinois, Illinois’ free state income tax filing system where they can file their Illinois state returns. The program is ac-



State driver's licenses and ID cards may soon be available on iPhones. But they will not replace physical IDs. Capitol News photo by Andrew Adams.

cessible on mobile phones, laptops, tablets or desktop computers and users will have access to help through a chatbot in both English and Spanish.

“We understand that a significant amount of time and money is spent every year to ensure personal income tax returns are filed accurately and on time,” said Illinois Department of Revenue Director David Harris. “This

integration will help relieve stress and financial burden for taxpayers.”

The IRS created Direct File as a result of the Inflation Reduction Act, which was signed in 2022 by President Joe Biden. It began as a test program in 2024 and will become permanent in 25 states this year. The IRS estimates that over 30 million taxpayers will be eligi-

*Continued on Page 2*

## County board intrigue

Board member criticized for comments

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Stark County board of supervisors announced committee assignments during Tuesday’s meeting and heard criticism of a board member by vice-chair Robin Nowlan.

During public comment, Nowlan read a statement criticizing comments made previously by fellow board member Tom Howes.

“These are going to address the comments you made at the last meeting, Tom,” Nowlan said. “First, I think it was very unprofessional some of the comments that were made (as) personal attacks on the county board chair (Kari Bush).”

“Comments like (get-

ting) through meetings to get to family events. Just because she doesn’t travel in the same circles, doesn’t mean she isn’t known in our community. Because she is.”

Howes did not respond to Nowlan’s statement.

Committees, with the first person named as chair, are: Police – Jamie Schaffer and Howes; Legislative – Joe Orwig and Bill Loane; Economic Development – Schaffer and Tim McMillen; Health Board – Bush; Road and Bridge – Nowlan and Adam Wilson; Buildings – Wilson and Nowlan.

County Engineer Judd Giffin said he did not have an official report for the meeting.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Toulon may handle house demolition

By **JOHN A. BALLENTINE**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Toulon City Council has decided that city workers can handle the demolition of a home after reviewing bids for the project.

The council met Monday night and opened four bids for the demolition of the house at 213 E. Greenwood St., which was formerly occupied by Charles Slightom Sr.

After a long discussion, the board decided city employees will demolish that house in-

stead of hiring a contractor to do the work.

The low bid was \$15,735 by NRE Land Solutions LLC of Toulon, but the council decided the city can do the project, plus tear down another house on South Street, for less money.

The council approved renting dumpsters for no more than \$9,000 and renting an excavator for no more than \$6,600. If no other costs arise, this would be a savings of \$135 under the contractor’s low bid, not counting the hourly wages

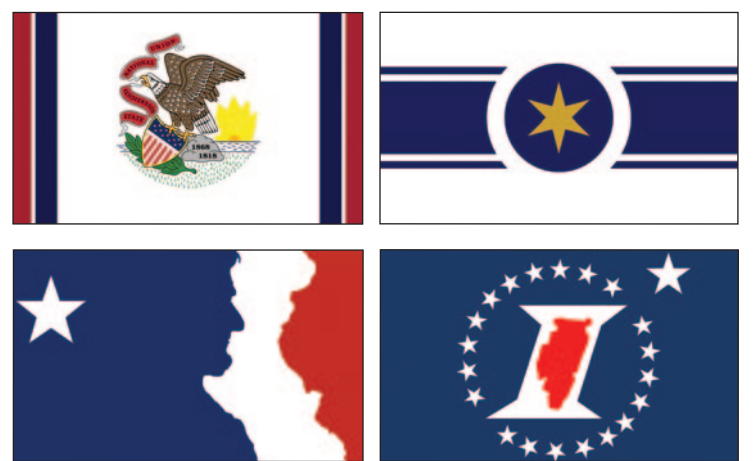
of city staff.

Only one bid was received to replace the roof of the mausoleum in Toulon Cemetery, which has needed repairs for years. Cemetery funds will pay for the approved expense of \$46,878 to R.A. Oldeen Roofing Inc. of Kewanee to tear off and replace the roof.

City Employee Matt Forstrom informed the council that the city’s water plant will be shut down on Tuesday, Jan. 21, at 8 p.m. for necessary electrical work.

*Continued on Page 2*

## STATE FLAG VOTING



Illinois has received more than 4,800 entries for the state-flag redesign contest. Above are four of the 13 finalists, including one that is the current state flag. Public voting runs through Feb. 14 at [apps.ilsos.gov/stateflag](http://apps.ilsos.gov/stateflag).



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The quality, not the longevity, of one's life is what is important.  
 -Martin Luther King, Jr.

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**Jim Andrews**    **Service Tech**

**First Congregational Church, Toulon**  
**All are invited to a Community Service**  
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**January 19<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 PM**

Speaker: **Warton Hertz de Oliveira**  
 Partnership Coordinator of Barnabas Aid in Brazil and our guest minister during January.



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# COUNTY: Board to get paid for meetings

*Continued from Page 1*  
 “I just have everything ready for the (closed) executive session,” Giffin said.  
 The last agenda item was acquisition of real property for county highway facilities, which was discussed for one hour in closed session. The same agenda item was first discussed last May and has been tabled every month since then.  
 After the board reopened the meeting, Bush said, “No action has been taken, we discussed property

already owned by the county.”  
 The board discussed a resolution concerning paying themselves a salary for attending meetings. The board decided to pay each member \$100 for each meeting attended, plus \$150 per meeting for the county chairperson. The budgeted amount is \$10,000 and this is for a two-year period.  
 Also, mileage – at the going rate – will be paid for traveling outside of committee meetings.  
 All board members voted yes to

the changes.  
 County Treasurer Paula Leezer said there was “nothing out of the norm” for the monthly report.  
 The board also passed resolutions reappointing Tom McMahill to the planning commission for three years, also reappointing Carl Ryan to the zoning board of appeals for five years and a Motor Fuel Tax resolution for \$100,000 of MFT funds to be used for the purpose of maintaining streets and highways.  
 There was no sheriff’s report.

# TAX FILING: IDs on iPhone available soon

*Continued from Page 1*  
 ble for Direct File in 2025.  
 To check eligibility and to use the service, visit [www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file-for-free](http://www.irs.gov/filing/irs-direct-file-for-free). Individuals may not qualify if they:

- Have unreported cash income, such as tips or alimony.
- Have income from sources such as gig work that’s reported on other tax forms.
- Have added or used money from a Medical Savings Account.
- Have taken distributions from employer-sponsored retirement plans, like a 401(k), pension, annuity, 403(b), or governmental 457(b).
- Have made contributions to or taken distributions from an IRA.
- Exceed \$200,000 in wages (or \$168,600 if they had more than one employer).
- File as Married Filing Jointly, and their spouse’s wages exceed \$200,000 (or \$168,600 if the spouse had more than one employer).
- File as Married Filing Jointly, and have combined wages exceeding \$250,000.

- File as Married Filing Separately, and wages exceed \$125,000.
- Claim additional tax credits for college tuition or other higher education expenses, energy efficient home updates or adoption expenses.
- Take itemized deductions.

**Mobile driver’s licenses and state IDs**  
 Illinois Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias says he hopes to bring mobile driver’s licenses and state IDs to iPhones by the end of the year.  
 Giannoulias announced Monday that his office has officially started working with Apple to allow users to access their driver’s licenses and state IDs digitally on their iPhone or Apple Watch.  
 He said in a news release he expects to expand these features in the future for additional digital wallets, such as Google Wallet for Android users.  
 Lawmakers passed House Bill 4592 last spring, allowing the secretary of state to issue mobile IDs and driver’s licenses. When it rolls out,

Illinois will be the 11th state to adopt mobile IDs.  
 But a mobile driver’s license and ID would not replace physical cards.  
 The cards would be issued “in addition to, and not instead of” a physical ID, under the law. The law allows agencies and private entities to choose if they want to accept electronic IDs in place of physical ones, but “upon request by law enforcement, a credential holder must provide the credential holder’s physical credential.”  
 The secretary of state’s office has a sign-up page for Illinois residents to receive updates about the program, including when mobile IDs become available for iPhone users.  
 The move toward digital IDs is part of Giannoulias’ “commitment to modernizing the office,” according to his office.  
*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service that distributes state government coverage to hundreds of news outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.*

# TOULON: Bids to be accepted for new water tank

*Continued from Page 1*  
 cal work.  
 City Engineer Justin Reeise said advertising for the new elevated water storage tank “tower” will be for April 1 of this year. The council will decide which bid to accept in June or July.  
 Toulon resident Linda Dean spoke to the council

during public concerns about drivers disobeying the stop sign located at the intersection of Franklin and Prairie streets near the high school. She also said people are speeding on Franklin Street and noted that concerns about speeding on Main Street have been voiced on social media.  
 Police Chief Gary Bent said he and Ron Salisbury have sat at the end of Main Street running speed radar and people are only going 1-2 mph over the

speed limit.  
 The council approved city clerk Barb Cantwell’s performance bonus of \$1,800 for the year. The council also approved a \$1,200 donation to the Stark County Parents’ Club and \$42,673 to purchase a pickup truck from Gustafson Ford, in Kewanee, to replace the aged Chevrolet truck that has many mechanical problems.  
 A \$3,262 maintenance contract with Neptune 360 was approved for the

city’s water department.  
 Also, the drainage ditch at the Toulon school campus will be filled in after culverts are installed to extend the drainage at that location.  
 Finally, a \$33,666 expenditure to line the Vine Street sewer pipes was approved.  
 Two TIF agenda items were tabled due to not having a qualified quorum of council members present to vote on these measures.

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**PUBLIC RECORD**

**Incidents & Accidents  
Stark County**

**1-2** - A two-vehicle accident occurred on the Modena Blacktop. Driver Cayleb J. Hodson, 19, of Bettendorf, Iowa, was traveling west when he lost control of his vehicle and skidded sideways into the eastbound lane and struck the front of an oncoming vehicle being driven by Paul M. Cooper, 43, of Wyoming.

No injuries were reported, and no tickets were issued. Both vehicles sustained estimated damage reported at over \$1,500.

**1-8** - A dog-bite incident was reported from the 300 block of N. Main St. of Wyoming. The incident remains under investigation.

**1-8** - A two-vehicle accident occurred at the intersection of Route 40 and 17. Driver Glen L. Waters, 82, of Bradford, was traveling south when he reportedly admitted to driving through a stop sign at the intersection and striking a vehicle being driven by Christopher P. Mitchell, 46, of Henry.

No injuries were reported. Estimated damage to the vehicles was reported at over \$1,500.

**1-9** - An assault/aggravated battery incident was reported to authorities by two teenage juveniles. The incident remains under investigation.

**1-10** - John R. Bannon, 41, Macomb, was cited for speeding 85 mph in a 55 zone. He was issued a court date to appear.

**1-11** - Amie E. Ellberg, 41, Princeton, was cited for speeding.

**1-11** - Cameron L. Verstraete, 21, Kewanee, was cited for speeding.

**1-11** - An employee from the Wyoming Casey's General Store reported a theft after discovering that an unknown individual had cut the lock of the business' propane supply and stole all the propane. The incident remains under investigation.

**Peoria County report**

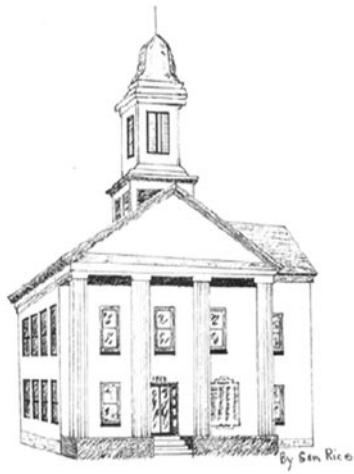
**1-13** - Daphne King, 23, of Wyoming was arrested about 12:45 p.m. and accused of unlawful possession of a controlled substance, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

**Galva Report**

**Officer dispatched:**

**1-6** - to the 400 block of SE 7th Ave. for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a misdial.

**1-6** - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a verbal disturbance/neighbor dispute. The suspect appeared



to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

**1-6** - to the 200 block of NE 2nd Ave. for a suspicious vehicle complaint. The owner was contacted and agreed to move it.

**1-7** - to meet with a registered sex offender at the Galva Police Department to update their registration form. A copy was emailed to Henry County for LEADS entry.

**1-7** - to the 800 block of W. Division St. for a report involving four loose dogs. The owner was contacted and got them back inside a residence.

**1-7** - to a residence on NW 7th Ave. for a possible suicidal subject. The complaint was unfounded.

**1-8** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of SE 2nd St., George Villa, 73, Hanna City, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a required court date.

**1-8** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 00 block of NW 5th Ave., Justin Johnson, 36, Woodhull, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a required court date.

**1-8** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of SE 5th Ave., Leah Anderson, 27, Galva, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. She was released with a required court date.

**1-8** - Alice Smith, 37, Galva, was issued a citation for having expired registration in the 00 block of SW 2nd St.

**1-9** - Tracy Wunderlich, 46, Kewanee, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance in the 100 block of SE 2nd St. She was released with a required court date.

**1-9** - to assist a citizen by telephone in reference to a juvenile complaint.

**1-9** - to the 700 block of NW 5th Ave. for a solicitor complaint. Three subjects were located and educated about the city ordinance that requires a permit.

**1-9** - to the 00 block of SW 5th St. to assist a citizen.

**1-10** - to the 300 block of Front St. for a physical domestic disturbance. As the result, Kaynen Bond, 21, Kewanee was arrested for domestic battery and criminal damage to property. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

**1-10** - to the 300 block of Front St. for a civil stand-by to retrieve property.

**1-10** - to the 700 block of W. Division St. for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a pocket dial.

**1-10** - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a 911 hang-up call. Officer was unable to locate anyone needing assistance.

**1-10** - to assist Henry County with checking the welfare of a subject walking several miles north of town. The subject was located and refused any assistance.

**1-10** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of SW 1st Ave., Keith Bell, 58, Williamsfield, was arrested for possession of methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and obstructing a police officer. He was taken to the Galva Police Department for processing and then taken to the Henry County Jail.

**1-11** - to the 300 block of Front St. for a harassment complaint.

**1-11** - As the result of an incident in the 300 block of Front St. on Jan. 10, a subject was served with a banning letter that prohibits him from being present on the premises.

**1-11** - Melissa Kelly, 47, Galva, was issued a citation for having expired registration in the 100 block of NE 2nd St.

**1-12** - to the 900 block of NW 6th St. for a loose-dog complaint. Officer was unable to locate.

**Property Transfers**

**1-8** - Karen I. and Steven W. Kraklow, Paula K. Leezer and Linda J. Moran to Rumbold & Kuhn, Inc. - Pt. Sect. 19-12-6 NW - Consideration = \$1,327,650.

**1-10** - Kenneth Dean and Roberta L. Brady to Roberta L. Brady - Pt. Sect. 1-12-6 NW - 11402 Township Road 600 N., Wyoming - Consideration = \$0.

**Marriage**

**1-6** - Robin Dorene Manno and Raymond Lyle Wilkinson, both of El Paso.

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**MOWING AND TRIMMING, TOULON CEMETERY**

The City of Toulon is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of Toulon Cemetery for mowing season of 2025.

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

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

Bids are to be mailed to Toulon City Hall, P.O. Box 597, Attn: Larry Hollis - Mowing Bids, Toulon, IL 61483. Bids will be opened at the February 10th city council meeting.

**Super Crossword**

Answers

G	E	N	I	E	S	O	M	E	G	A	D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E		
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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

**CryptoQuote**

answer

All I want is the best of everything and there's very little of that left.

— Cecil Beaton

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# The Prairie News

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- **Bradford Correspondent** - Angie Stange
- **Galva Correspondent** - Carol Townsend

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## GUEST VOICES



# 2025 rural economy to be squeezed, slowed

By far the biggest lender to U.S. farmers, ranchers and rural businesses is the Farm Credit System, whose four banks and 56 associations hold nearly 50% of all debt in rural America.

What's more, the largest lender within the massive FCS is CoBank. In mid-2024, CoBank reported an average loan volume of \$149.9 billion of Farm Credit debt.

Given that enormous loan portfolio and agriculture's stumbling start to 2025, what the economists, market analysts and ag lenders at CoBank see, think and implement will have a weighty impact on farm and ranch finances this year.



Alan GUEBERT

And that view is decidedly gray. CoBank's Dec. 12-issued "The Year Ahead" forecast carries several gloomy chapter titles such as:

- "Trade war could send ag economy from bad to worse;"
- "Strong dollar, trade policy and South American crops to hobble U.S. exports;"
- "Biofuels production to slow as policy uncertainty looms;" and
- "Rural connectivity faces challenges in a shifting political landscape."

The headline writers did spot a few rays of coming sunshine for dairy farmers, cattlemen, and hog farmers. "Rising margins fuel livestock growth," focuses on livestock's biggest variable cost, feed, that composes "roughly half of livestock expenses."

That key cost – mostly corn – has "tumbled from record-high levels over the last two years."

That made hog farmers smile last year and pushed cattle feeders to add extra weight on fed cattle. In fact, "Tight feeder (cattle) supplies, low feed costs and excellent beef demand have yielded heavier carcass weights ... nearly 30 pounds or 3% (more) in 2024."

That's remarkable, and even more so when you consider that "This is up from a trendline of just 5 pounds over the last 20 years."

So, no, we aren't raising more cattle – and probably won't again until 2026 – but cheap corn means more beef this year and "heavier weights are especially important for meeting consumer demand, which remains resilient despite inflationary pressures."

More than simply meeting demand, beef production will exceed market needs by an estimated 2%, say the bank's experts.

By itself, however, livestock profits can't make a silk purse out of the

sluggish, stuck-in-the-mud larger ag economy. Any upward climb will likely swing on political choices, CoBank notes, and that will depend on how the White House manages the still-growing U.S. economy.

If the Trump Administration, one analyst explains, limits its tariff use (10% to 20% on China), implements "modest but delayed ... tax cuts," and goes with "only a decline in the rate of immigration rather than mass expulsions," farmers can expect GDP growth around 2.5%-3.0%.

But don't take that to the bank – especially CoBank – if "Trump's campaign backers and voters reject this more-of-the-same approach."

Worse, adds the report, "All things being equal," adds the analyst parenthetically, "all of Trump's proposed policies are inflationary: tax cuts, decreased labor supply, and tariffs on imported goods."

And don't forget, as rhetoric from the White House increases, there's still a Farm Bill to write, regional conflicts to influence and a federal debt limit to raise. So take it from ag's biggest banker: This year starts with more tough questions than easy answers.

*The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, supporting documents and contact info are at farmandfoodfile.com.*

## Of LincolnLand conference issues & Mothra

Rambling through central Illinois, sad to see how much football still forces conference realignment.

The future is uncertain for the LincolnLand football conference, which started play in 2023 as a 17-team merger of Lincoln Trail and Prairie-land schools, along with a few football-only members.

That is according to Farmington Athletic Director **Jeff Otto**, who said Monday at a Farmington School Board meeting that he will know more after a scheduling meeting Friday with Lincoln Trail Conference schools.



Jeff LAMPE

"The reality of the situation is nobody wants to play us, Macomb and Elmwood-Brimfield," Otto said.

Otto said pressure to get five wins to be playoff eligible creates a situation where smaller schools don't want to play larger schools. That's especially true for 4A Macomb and Farmington, which expects nearly 100 players out for football. This is nothing new, as football has torn apart nearly every conference ever



created. So while a schedule is set for this fall, don't be shocked to see the LincolnLand dissolve after 2025.

As some know, I am a fan of **Godzilla** movies. And any true fan of Godzilla has to be confused by **Mothra**, the mysterious, monster moth. How can a moth be powerful? Why do Japanese maidens in colorful dresses singing weirdly make Mothra appear? And why is Mothra on a final entry for the new Illinois state flag (pictured above). The silhouette is actually a monarch, but it underlines the silliness of the flag-changing exercise. Why change the flag?

Kudos to Williamsfield grad **Gra-**

**ham Wight**, who played five games on defense for North Central's Division III national champion football team. North Central defeated Mount Union of Ohio, 41-25, on Jan. 5. ... Parting shot: Williamsfield Interim School Superintendent **Rolf Sivertsen** said this Monday, comparing Billtown to neighboring districts that upped tax levies: "There are a lot of districts out there that did a money grab. That's a very dangerous thing to do, in my opinion, because those property values are eventually going to start coming down. Your ability to levy additional money is going to come back and haunt them."

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

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Elmira Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/15-316 will impose weight limitations on Elmira Township roads effective immediately and lasting through May 15, 2025, due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.  
**Therefore, no vehicle shall be operated upon Elmira Township Roads having a gross vehicle weight greater than 5 tons (10,000 pounds) upon the posting of road weight limit signs on Elmira Township Roads.**  
Any questions contact Elmira Township Road Commissioner Matt Bennett at **309-231-1038.**  
For further load limitations visit the county website <http://starkco.illinois.gov/highway/>

# Illinois climatologist looks ahead to 2025

By KEVIN BESSLER

The Center Square

The Illinois state climatologist says extreme weather swings don't appear on the horizon this year.

During an Illinois Soybean Association webinar, Trent Ford said 2024 got off to a dry start, which allowed farmers to get an early start during spring planting season.

"Early season dryness across much of the state in 2024, especially April and May statewide, we only got 60 to 70% of normal precipitation," said

Ford.

As a result, the entire growing and harvest season for corn and soybeans was ahead of schedule.

According to the drought monitor map, much of northern Illinois is in a moderate drought. Ford said that is the result of an extremely dry September and October.

As for this winter, Ford said don't expect the mild winter Illinois has seen over the past few years.

"Shots of cold air, maybe some snow depending on when that cold

air arrives with precipitation, but I think variability will be the name of the game for this winter," said Ford.

Ford adds that Illinois was not heading into winter with full topsoil and streams, so there is capacity for more moisture. He said as usual, Illinois farmers will just have to adjust to the changing weather conditions.

"I've never seen it get this dry or wet this quickly," Ford said. "It's just dealing with the change in climate means having these new experiences and managing them as best we can."

# New law would change driving test age to 87

By KEVIN BESSLER

The Center Square

Illinois is the only state that requires a behind-the-wheel driving test based on age, but that may soon change.

Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias has proposed a new Road Safety and Fairness Act, House Bill 1226, which would make the age for behind-the-wheel testing 87, raising it from 79.

"Seniors are among the safest drivers of any age category," said Giannoulias. "This measure will align Illinois senior driving standards with the rest of the nation while increasing safeguards so that Illinois maintains its status as one of the strictest states when it comes to driver safety and license renewals."

Giannoulias pointed to statistics

from the Illinois Department of Transportation that show in 2023, the crash rate for drivers 75 and older is 24.6 per 1,000 drivers, which is lower than every age range of drivers between 16 and 74 years old.

Last year, about 55,000 drivers between age 79-86 took driving tests. Of those, only 55 failed and could not renew their driver's licenses.

Drivers between the ages of 81 and 86 would still be required to visit a DMV facility to renew their license every two years. Drivers aged 87 and older would continue to be required to renew their license annually. These renewals would include a vision test and a driving test.

"AARP Illinois has heard for years from our members about how the driving test requirement disproportionately affects older drivers and

perpetuates false narratives about their driving abilities," said AARP Illinois State Director Philippe Largent. "The research clearly shows that older drivers are the safest drivers on our roadways, and we believe that singling them out to take an extra test is a type of age discrimination and has to end."

Illinois is one of only five states that do not allow immediate family members to report concerns about a relative's driving ability, but that would change.

"This legislation would allow family members, who have the best line of sight into a person's cognitive state, to report those concerns and enable action," said Giannoulias.

"Either get them tested in a timely manner or take their driving privileges away entirely."

# Homelessness advocates call for more funds

By TJ CARSON

Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO – With homelessness increasing in Illinois, a coalition of shelter providers and advocates is calling for a \$100 million increase in state funding to prevent homelessness and provide shelter to people without homes.

That would come on top of the \$290 million the state is spending this year on homelessness services. Advocates hope the new funding can build on lessons the state learned since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in opening new shelters and accommodations that better meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

The coalition known as the Illinois Shelter Alliance sent a letter to Gov. JB Pritzker in December, making the request ahead of the new General Assembly's January inau-

guration.

But finding new state money for any programs will be a tough sell in Springfield this year, with the state facing a \$3.2 billion shortfall.

The number of people experiencing homelessness in Illinois more than doubled between 2023 and 2024, according to federal data released this month. Most of that increase was a result of migrants who came to Chicago – many of them on buses chartered by Texas state agencies.

But the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development noted that the number of people experiencing homelessness also increased in most of the rest of the state, too. The federal report attributed that growth to a lack of affordable housing, increased shelter capacity, extreme cold that brought people into shelter when the count was con-

ducted last January and a rising cost of living that came while federal pandemic aid ended.

Many shelter providers say lack of affordable housing in the state has kept people from moving from the streets to shelters and then into more permanent housing.

Last month, Pritzker created a new position in his administration tasked with increasing the supply of affordable housing in the state.

The governor also revived the SmartBuy program, which provides financial assistance for student loan relief and affordable mortgages for home buyers.

Pritzker also noted his administration has increased funding for Home Illinois, a collaboration between state agencies and service providers. It received a \$90 million increase in fiscal year 2024 compared to the previous year.

## PUBLIC AUCTION OF FIREARMS, AMMO, TOOLS, OUTDOOR, COINS, SILVER, AND ANTIQUES

The following five auction will be held at the Millbrook Community Center in Laura, IL (located off of Rt. 78 in the NE edge of Laura, on SATURDAY JANUARY 25TH, 2025 AT 10 a.m. (FIREARMS SELL APPROX. 11:30 a.m.)

NOTE: 2 rings will be running, so plan accordingly. See pictures and updates online.  
**COINS/SILVER:** This is a condensed coin description. See ad online for more details. Roosevelt Unc. dimes and others-early Mercury and Barber dimes--Roosevelt silver dimes-Neutron Irradiated Roosevelt dimes-silver Barber quarters-Uncirculated/ other silver Washington quarters-American dimes of the 20th Century-Henry the VIII coin set-History of the US sterling proof coins, 1930's-Standing Liberty quarters-Kennedy Unc. Half dollars and other Kennedys--rough lg cent-V nickels-5 Buffalo nickel Wild West coll.-many other vg Buffalo nickels-History of US sterling silver proof coins, 32/33,36/37--Jerusalem set-Walking Liberty halves-silver 1970 MS River-I 999 colored silver eagle-Canadian cent. Silver Fly Goose-1988 Canadian \$5 1 oz silver coin-1976 Montreal Olympic silver coins-Gold stamp replicas-70's US mint sets-sheets of foreign coins--CA Gold 1/2 replicas-nice 1963 red note \$2 bill-Wartime framed coinage-4 comm. sterling badges-Australian lg. pennies-Sosa 1999 LE coin-hundreds of Wheat and steel pennies-100 Indian Head pennies, some vg-sports-911 Firefighters-foreign paper money-full comm. quarters sets--lg. coll. of silver spoons and flatware--.925 bowls--.925 thick necklaces, rings, bracelets--misc.  
**GUNS/AMMO/TRAPS:** All guns are new or like new condition: FOID is required. Guns will be held by Phil Albertson, Princeville, IL. A \$12.00 fee per gun will be charged for registration. #1. Browning 22 semi auto pistol w/ holster and clips--#2. Ruger LC 9mm pistol w/ holster and conceal carry holster--#3. Smith & Wesson SW9VE 9mm pistol--#4. Heritage 22 revolver w/mag cylinder--#5. Henry Golden Boy 22 lever action--#6. Ruger Precision 22 bolt action--#7. Marlin 22 Duck's Unlimited semi auto w/Pursuit scope--#8. Diamond 12 ga. single shot--#9. New England Firearms 12 ga. single shot--#10. Remington 870 magnum pump w/Nikon scope, extra barrel, and choke tubes--#11. New Marlin 30-30 lever action--#12. Glock TLR6 40 cal. w/ laser site and 4 magazines--#13. Taurus 22 semi auto w/ 2 magazines--#14. Scpy CPx2 9mm semi auto, laser site w/ holster and 2 magazines-A. J.C. Higgins 583 12 gauge-B. New England Partner 12 ga. pump-C. Winchester 250 22LR lever action-D. Mossberg 144LSA 22 LR w/peep sites-E. Remington 40-X 22 LR w/peep sites. AMMO: 12 boxes 12 ga. shells-240 rds. Remington 30-30-92 rds. Winchester 30-30-4 boxes Remington 22s-2 boxes, 500 each, Blazer 22s-Blazer 9mm-Winchester, Remington and Federal 40 cal.-TRAPS: 6 330 Conibear traps w/setter-110 Conibear traps--#4 double long spring traps-1.75 and 1.5 coil spring traps-dog proof traps w/setter-1g. coon and coyote stretchers-cable stakes w/stake driver-trap trowel-cookie cutter for 1.75 cal. traps-hammer/fleshing knife, misc.  
**TOOLS/OUTDOOR:** metal utilityyard dump trailer-like new Generac 2900 PSI w/Generac 196 cc gas motor-stainless cart on wheels-propane tank w/gas-new steel post driver and jack stands-nice sm. accet. cutting torch on cart-like new Schuauer port. charger-Wolcraft work bench-like new McGraw 8 gallon 150 PSI port. air compressor-new 5 gallon air tank-new Powerbuilt 3 ton floor jack-mailbox/metal stand-nice Werner 8' fiberglass and 15' alum. ext ladders-like new gas Stihl FS50C weed eater-magnet on wheels-Coleman Powermate Magna Force 6 HP 60 gallon good 220 electric upright air compressor-Lincwelder w/rod and helmet-ramps-Craftsman 8" table saw- Delta drill press-new mechanics seat-2 nice Craftsman upper and lower tool boxes, nice 4 drawer-many nice air tools, ratchets, chisels, saws, cutters, etc.-hand/garden tools-new log chains-new router and buffer, miter saw, chop saw, vises, new Sawzall, bench grinder, new bits and ind. sockets, ratchet wrenches, port. chipper, electric Wam winch and spools wire-new torque wrenches, some Snap-On wrenches, new set of side running boards, cords, air hose, survey stand/tripod--fluorescent lamps, machinists tools, much misc.-sm. Earthquake Roto tiller-nice Cabela's snow shoes-many fishing rods/reels-Bounty Hunter digital metal detector in box.  
**ANTIQUES, COLLECTIBLES, MISC.:** Intellivision and games, Atari and Nintendo systems and many orig. games (see pictures online), X Box, games, Playstation 2, games--gaming items-LE Monster Energy new 7908 drone in box-2 vintage Tony Hawk skate boards-vintage leather football, pads, helmet-2 Brett Favre jerseys-pony saddle-Buckeye Root beer 5 cent wooden keg dispenser-1g. studio camera w/cast iron tri-pod-hundreds of vintage and other cameras, movie cameras, equipment and access. (35mm, Nikon F, N90s, Olympus 35-S, Kodak Retina Reflex III, Minolta 16 II, (see pictures online)-ant. clocks including 51" Seth Thomas wall clock, ant. mantle, 37" calendar clock, auto clocks, etc.-vintage and newer stereo equipment, turntables, speakers-vintage/other electronics (VHS, dvd players and more)-22 boxes Kilgore #1 08 Mammoth caps-21" copper kettle -Mad magazines, comic books-Nascar cars in boxes-metal Smokey the Bear sign-flats of costume jewelry-fluorescent Blue Moon beer light-Pepsi Cola alum. cooler-Stan Musial and Jack Dempsey signed pictures-Harley, other collector cards-8' banquet tables-2 old trunks--misc.  
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**BRIEFS**

**College honors**

• **Paige Rewerts** of Wyoming was named to the Elmhurst University fall 2024 Dean's list (3.75 gpa or better).  
• Several local students achieved high honors (3.75 gpa or better) at Black Hawk College - East Campus for the fall 2024 semester: **Lillia Atteberry, Garrett Bruecks, Cheyeh Smith, of Bradford; Madison Bates, Emma Bradley, Katelyn Clemens, Makayla Craig, Abby Crockett, Ally Cytrych, Diego Diaz Lopez, Melana Followwill, Kalleigh Gale, Kyrsten Hill, William Hoben, Mi-**

**chaela Hudson, Breanna Lafary, Ana Leu, Mia Merkel, Addison Moore, Sophia Napierski-Hamilton, Gabrielle Olson, Will Rumbold, Olivia Schenning, Emily Simmons, Roslyn Stoltzfus, Zoa Strohbehn, Halle Tindall, Lillian Wigant, Sadie Wilson, Emily Yeager, and Kali Yelm** of Galva; **Jason Knowles** of LaFayette; **Maeve Colgan, Chet Gillespie, Jacob Prindiville, Cleo Richards, Kayla Vandenberg, Chase Wright, and Jesse Wright,** of Toulon; **Lauren Best, Logan Goerks, Krishna Patel, Whitley Ryan, Kai-**

**ley Smith, Allison Wall, and Abigail Zaviska** of Wyoming.  
• Several local students made the Honors List (3.5 to 3.74 gpa) at Black Hawk College - East Campus for the fall 2024 semester: **Cole Baulch, Calen Braden, Kayla Cochran, Benjamin Dahl, Jessica Diaz Lopez, Emma Farmer, Josh Gravitt, Johnathan Ingels, Mackensie Lennartz, Aidan Moore, Teagan Morley, Alexis Morris, Areyes Scoles, and Ava Strom** of Galva; **Hailie Ales** of LaFayette; **Emily Hurst** of Toulon; **Madison Bumbalough, Emma Down, and Charissa Musser** of Wyoming.

**State budget next year a cause for concern**

By **BEN SZALINSKI**

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Governor's Office of Management and Budget projects a \$3.2 billion deficit for the fiscal year that begins July 1, and the number one task facing Gov. JB Pritzker and the new General Assembly that was seated last week will be to eliminate it.

Pritzker is slated to give his budget address on Feb. 19, facing the largest projected deficit entering a spring session since 2021, when the pandemic hurt state income – though federal stimulus funds and a strong economic recovery helped erase the gap that year.

Since then, the state has enjoyed more robust revenue with little need for new revenue-generating policies – until the current-year budget that passed in May with about \$1 billion in new revenues through a tax hike on sportsbooks and businesses among other changes.

But with one-time federal funding in the rearview mirror and the economy slowing, lawmakers face flat revenue projections for the coming year with spending on the rise.

As for the current year, revenues are keeping pace with what lawmakers projected when they approved the \$53.1 billion spending plan last May.

According to the December monthly report from the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability, the state brought in \$52.6 billion last year, and through December, this year's revenue is \$35 million, or 0.1%, ahead of the six-month mark of fiscal year 2024.

December was a strong month for the state, with revenue up \$327 million compared to December in FY24, driven by income tax receipts. Income tax receipts are up 9.2% so far this year, even as corporate income taxes have declined by 11%. Sales tax receipts rose in December for the third consecutive month thanks to holiday shopping and are now up 1.2% for the year.

Though revenue remains on track, it's also showing little sign of growth – something GOMB warned in the fall would be a challenge for lawmakers as they craft a new state budget this spring.

As a new General Assembly begins, it remains unclear how lawmakers and the governor plan to plug the projected deficit. Republicans' main concern is Democrats will resort to tax increases to boost revenue and avoid spending cuts.

"I know they're going to be talking about needing additional revenue, but there's no reason to do that. We're spending almost \$20 billion

more than we were eight years ago," Rep. CD Davidsmeyer, R-Murrayville, who is a co-chair of COGFA, told Capitol News Illinois.

Pritzker told reporters on Wednesday that tax increases aren't his preferred method, but he didn't elaborate on how he will propose closing the deficit.

Dissatisfaction with the budget has also grown among Democrats. Several voted against the FY25 budget last May. The revenue plan passed in the Illinois House with the bare minimum 60 votes despite Democrats holding 78 seats in the chamber. Rep. Fred Crespo, D-Hoffman Estates, who voted for the state spending plan but against the revenue bill last year, told Capitol News Illinois Democrats need to revamp their budgeting approach.

Crespo said he feared the FY25 revenue enhancements that were enacted to close a roughly \$900 million deficit would limit lawmakers' options to increase revenue this year. He's also been harping on his Democratic colleagues for passing bills "subject to appropriation," which means the bill creates a new program that will only be funded if the state agency it is housed in asks the General Assembly to fund the program. Without funding, the program can't move forward.

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Local Extension Master Naturalist Brent Fowler led a conservation farm tour during the 2024 Illinois Master Naturalist Conference highlighting his efforts to fight invasive species, promote biodiversity, and improve wildlife habitat on his McDonough County farm. Photo by Anita Wilkinson.

## Farmer models sustainability

By ANITA WILKINSON

U of I Extension

Commercial row-crop agriculture and environmental conservation are not mutually exclusive. While large-scale farming operations can sometimes have negative environmental impacts, many farmers are increasingly adopting sustainable practices that promote biodiversity and ecosystem health.

McDonough County farmer and University of Illinois Extension Master Naturalist Brent Fowler is leading the charge.

“Overhearing my dad talk about quail hunting, no longer possible due to their population decline, really struck a chord with me. I set out to change that,” explained Fowler. “Most of my stewardship activities involve prairie and field-to-forest border edges.

“I care for about 160 acres of prairie in about 30 small fields. Most of these prairie acres have been planted along field edges where the forest transitions to row crops – this creates excellent habitat and can actually be more profitable for the farm because row crops don’t yield well right up next to large trees.”

Not satisfied with simply making conservation-minded improvements on his land, Fowler is actively educating others about his efforts. After becoming a Master Naturalist in the Fulton-Mason-Peoria-Tazewell Unit in 2022, Fowler began hosting farm tours. He shows visitors the various strategies he employs seasonally, including establishing spring/summer blooming prairie plants,

identifying fall colors of native shrubs, and how best to control invasive species.

“Touring Brent’s farm during the 2024 state Extension Master Naturalist conference inspired me not only to continue to plant native species for pollinators, but to be aware of the various bird species that need native prairie for habitat. His passion for conservation was contagious,” explained Extension Master Gardener and Master Naturalist Janine Donahue.

In addition to the work on habitat restoration, Fowler is also incorporating regenerative agriculture practices in his row-crop acreage, including reduced tillage and cover crops. These practices work in tandem to reduce soil erosion and prevent nutrient loss in our streams and rivers.

“Ten years ago, when we were slowly and cautiously transitioning to no-till, each step involved yield test after yield test to prove that what we were doing was more profitable or at least as profitable. We are now almost exclusively no-till on our 3,500 acres of corn and soybeans with about half of that receiving a cover crop,” he said.

“Conservation farming is crucial for the long-term sustainability of our food production systems,” said Tara Heath, commercial agriculture educator. “I’m excited to see him leading the way in implementing practices that benefit both the environment and the agricultural community.”

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# OBITUARIES

daughters, Debbi Becker of Hickory, N.C. and Donna (Matt) Arjes of Mendota; seven grandchildren, McKenzie Becker, Madelyn Becker, Meredith Becker, Tanner (Shelby) Arjes, Addison Arjes, Elijah Arjes and Aiden Arjes; one great-grandchild, Curren Arjes; one sister, Sandy Whitney of Silvis; and nieces, nephews, cousins and many friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, one sister, Patti Ann Mercer and one great-grandson, Bodie Arjes.

A memorial visitation will be held from 4 p.m. until time of service at 6 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home in Princeton, Ill. Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial of cremated remains will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to Northwestern Medicine Cancer Center in Warrenville, Ill.

Online condolence may be made at [www.grant-johnsonfh.com](http://www.grant-johnsonfh.com).

## Lucille Simpson

LAWN RIDGE – Lucille Simpson, 85, of Lawn Ridge, passed away at 2:35 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2025, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. Lucille was born on Jan. 18, 1939, in Auburn to Jerry and Eura (Clouse) Cole. She married Chester Charles



Simpson

“Chuck” Simpson on Dec. 29, 1956. He preceded her in death on Oct. 4, 1997.

Surviving are three daughters, Brenda Lee Huston of Bondville, Deborah Lynn (Richard) Vickery of Washington, Texas, and Donna

Marie Stone of Princeville; two grandchildren, Melissa Ann Rusk and Robert Earl Cleghorn; four great-grandchildren, Dakota Rusk, Lane Rusk, Jade Purple and Jayla Purple; three great-great-grandchildren, Aiden Cleghorn, Malachi Rusk and Willow Eden; two brothers, Hubert Cole and Herbert Cole; two sisters, Maryneal Braumn and Elizabeth Moman; and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by one grandchild, Ashley Marie Huston; and four siblings, James “Harvey” Cole, Ruby Davis, LucyMae Webster and Monroe Cole.

Lucille worked at the former Cloth World, JoAnn Fabrics and Walmart. She was a seamstress and loved crafting and cake decorating. Above all else, Lucille valued time spent with her family.

Her funeral service will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, Jan. 17, 2025, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville. Certified Funeral Celebrant Nicole Reed will officiate. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the funeral home. Burial will follow in Blue Ridge Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Shriners Children’s Chicago (Office of Philanthropy, Shriners Children’s Chicago, 2211 N. Oak Park Ave., Chicago, IL 60707).

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

## Roderick H. Wheelhouse

GALVA – Roderick H. “Rody” Wheelhouse, 80, of Galva, died at 3:40 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13, 2025, at Avenues at Royal Oaks in Kewanee.



Wheelhouse

He was born on Dec. 19, 1944, in Kewanee, the son of R. Paul and Ruth Mae (Lashbrook) Wheelhouse. Survivors include his siblings, Rebecca of Galva, Rose of Maine and Richard (Rita) Wheelhouse of Kewanee; sister-in-law, Shirley Guss of East Galesburg; brother-in-law, Ron Hepner of Galva; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his sisters, R. Marcia Hepner and Rita Mallery; his brothers, Raymond and Roger Wheelhouse; and nephew Russell Hepner.

Rody mowed yards and plowed snow for many residences in Galva with his John Deere tractor. Since 2022 he has been a resident of Avenues at Royal Oaks in Kewanee.

The family would like to thank the staff at Avenues at Royal Oaks for the care and compassion that they gave to Rody.

Cremation will be accorded and private graveside services will be held at Galva Cemetery at a later date. Rux Funeral Home in Galva is assisting the family with arrangements.

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JUST \$50  
CALL (309) 286 - 2185**

## MPSWCD Accepting nominations for Director

The Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District is accepting nominations for those interested in being elected to the Board of Directors. This information goes out to all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of the Marshall-Putnam Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning on December 9th, 2024, nominations will be accepted for the two (2) year term of the office of Director of the Marshall-Putnam Soil & Water Conservation District at the District’s Office at 1511 University Ct. Henry, IL 61537 during our normal business hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. January 31, 2025. Information will also be available by calling (309) 364-3913 x3.

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SUNDAY EVENINGS BY APPOINTMENT  
600 S. 7TH ST.**

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

OK, FELLAS, I GOT SEVEN STEAMING-HOT BOXES OF PIZZA FOR EVERYONE!

GARBAGE STYLE WITH EXTRA ONION, JUST THE WAY YOU LIKE IT.

YOU SHOULD HAVE ASKED FOR EXTRA SAUCE. THIS PIZZA IS KIND OF DRY.

UH, YEAH ... MARVIN, THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE EATING THE BOX.

CHOMP!  
CHOMP!

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I'M ADDICTED TO SEAWEED!!

MAYBE YOU SHOULD SEEK HELP?

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

GIVE ME A BREAK. YOU ACTUALLY WANT ME TO PICK SOMETHING GOOD FOR ME IN A GAS STATION? WELL, THIS ONE DOES SAY "SWEET GOODNESS" ON IT.

## GRIN & BEAR IT

"I have no idea what you're talking about, but I do have an opinion on it."

### Weekly SUDOKU

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

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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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY: What is the smallest continent by area?
- MOVIES: What is Deadpool's real name in the movie series?
- MEASUREMENTS: How many ounces are in 1 gallon?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the character that Jason Bateman plays in "Ozark"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is the dimple at the bottom of a wine bottle called?
- U.S. CITIES: Which city also is known as Motown?
- LITERATURE: The movie "Bridget Jones Diary" is loosely based on which novel?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which is the only big cat that doesn't roar?
- MEDICAL: What is a common name for fasciculation?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin term "magnum opus" mean?

Answers

- Australia (Oceania).
- Wade Wilson.
- 128.
- Marty Byrde.
- Punt.
- Detroit, Michigan.
- "Pride and Prejudice."
- The cheetah.
- Muscle twitch.
- "Great work."

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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.

WRR Y TWLM YH MFD

ADHM BE DXDKNMFYLU WLC

MFDKD'H XDKN RYMMRD

BE MFWM RDEM.

— JDJYR ADWMBL

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### TOP 10 MOVIES

- Mufasa: The Lion King (PG)
- Sonic the Hedgehog 3 (PG)
- Nosferatu (R)
- Moana 2 (PG)
- Wicked (PG)
- A Complete Unknown (R)
- Babygirl (R)
- Gladiator II (R)
- Homestead (PG-13)
- The Fire Inside (PG-13)

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LEGAL ADS

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.

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.

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.

To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit https://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help to have trouble e-filing, visit http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp.

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

LAFAYETTE PARK DISTRICT ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Receipts and Disbursements for the Fiscal Year

beginning June 1, 2023 and ending May 31, 2024.

Cash on hand all accounts June 1, 2023 \$90,832.18

RECEIPTS Real Estate Taxes \$78.95 Building Rentals Recreation Programs Donations \$200.00 Loans Miscellaneous TOTAL RECEIPTS \$27,046.40 TOTAL CASH AND RECEIPTS \$117,878.59

DISBURSEMENTS Operational Costs \$113.50 Building Maintenance \$46,143.17 Supplies Insurance \$12,104.00 Asset Maintenance Loan Repayment Utilities \$7,756.03 Recreation Programs Miscellaneous

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$66,116.70

CASH on hand all accounts May 31, 2024 \$51,761.88

Respectfully submitted Keith Knowles Treasurer, LaFayette Park District Published 1/17/25

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

Suzanne R. Bell, No. 2025PR1 Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Suzanne R. Bell. Letters of Office were issued on January 3, 2025, to Steven D. Bell as 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 July 1, 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 provider. Visit efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Name Barash & Everett, LLC Attorney for Executor Address P.O. Box 165 City Galva, IL 61434 Phone(309) 932-2001 Email: everett@barashlaw.com Published 1/17, 1/24,1/31/25

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Stark County school administrators and players took to center court on Jan. 10 for the grand opening of the school's new gym. Photo by John A. Ballentine.

## SPORTS: Galva boys improve mark to 14-3

*Continued from Page 12*

Galva improved to 14-3 overall, 3-0 in the LTC by beating Ridgewood 62-30.

MJ Louck had 17 points and Blake Stahl scored 16. He and Jay Smith each had seven rebounds. JP Sloan had 12 points and four steals. Braden Murphy had five assists.

Louck had 15 points Jan. 10 to lead Galva past Monmouth United 45-35. Sloan had 11 points and eight rebounds. Stahl had 11 rebounds.

Galva travels tonight to Princeville in a showdown of undefeated LTC teams. The Wildcats play host Saturday to Bushnell-Prairie City.

• **SC girls** – The Lady Rebels (9-11) lost to West Central, 55-52, on Jan. 13 as a fourth-quarter rally came up short.

Finnegan led Stark County with 19 points, Coley Johnston added 11 and Hallie Newton tallied nine points.

On Jan. 7, the Lady Rebels fell to Henry-Senachwine, 39-31. Johnston scored 13 and Finnegan had nine.

“We came out very flat and sluggish and didn’t play our game until the middle of the second half,” Bohm said. “We knew being young we were going to run into these lows.”

A Jan. 6 game to Brimfield resulted in a 54-31 loss. Demetreon and Johnston led with 10 points apiece and Finnegan scored seven.

“In the Brimfield game, it felt like we outplayed them everywhere, we

just shot the ball very poorly – 25% from the foul line and 16% from the field,” Bohm said. “They shot well.”

Stark County was to play at ROWVA-Williamsfield on Wednesday and then faces Ridgewood on Jan. 20 at home.

• **Galva girls** – The Lady Wildcats are 4-13 after losses to Princeville on Jan. 13 (79-44) and Orion on Jan. 8 (65-35). Galva is to play at Annawan on Jan. 20.

• **Princeville** – Logan Olshawsky had 20 points Jan. 10 to lead Princeville (13-3, 2-0 LTC) to its ninth victory in a row, 69-34 over Ridgewood. Olshawsky had 14 points in the first half. Brady Day had 13 points and Tucker Sennett scored 10. That total leaves Sennett 18 points short of 1,000 for his career.

Sennett had 25 points, Jake Williams had 17 and Day had 10 in a 68-38 win Jan. 7 over R-W. Sennett scored nine in the first quarter and 11 in the third.

Princeville was scheduled to play Tuesday night at Knoxville and is to return home Friday against Galva. The Princes are to hit the road again Saturday, to Roanoke-Benson.

• **Princeville girls** – The Lady Princes (11-9) won three straight after dropping the title game of their Christmas tournament.

On Monday, Princeville beat Galva, 79-44. Sahara Streitmatter led Princeville with 24 points while Paisley Schock and Reagan Calder added

15 apiece.

The Lady Princes routed Peoria Heights on Saturday, 55-22, behind 17 points from Streitmatter, 13 from Calder and 10 from Schock. Princeville led 21-2 after one quarter.

On Jan. 9, Princeville rallied to beat Flanagan-Cornell-Woodland, 57-44. Trailing 36-35 after three quarters, Princeville went on a 22-8 run to win. Streitmatter had seven of her 18 points in the fourth and Schock added seven of her 15. Addison Buckley added 10 points.

Princeville was to play West Central on Wednesday and is at Monmouth United on Jan. 20.

• **R-W girls** – The Lady Cougars (5-10) topped West Prairie on Jan. 9, 44-28, behind 15 points from Megyn Erlacher and 11 from Ella Rigg.

“Our full-court pressure really gave them some problems,” R-W Coach Jeff Hannam said.

R-W lost to Brimfield on Jan. 8, 47-39, despite nine points from Erin Welch and eight by Erlacher.

R-W faces Abingdon-Avon Jan. 25.

• **R-W girls** – On Monday, Peoria Christian beat No. 8 ROWVA-Williamsfield, 76-27, in the ICAC Tournament. The Cougars (4-11) trailed 37-9 with 3:00 left in the first half and 51-14 at intermission.

Jeremiah Johnson scored eight to lead R-W, which is to play at 6 p.m. Friday against Delavan in the consolation bracket. The tournament ends Saturday.

**MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation**  
**309-364-2287**

**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.

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# The Prairie News Sports



## Gym opening brings two wins

### Atmosphere compared to a 'sectional championship'

By NICK VLAHOS and JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The grand opening of the new Stark County High School gymnasium was a grand success.

The Rebels boys and girls teams both won their games on Jan. 10 for the opening of the new gym in front of a vocal crowd.

“The atmosphere for the gym grand opening game was like a sectional championship game – packed gym loud,” Stark County girls coach Bob Bohm said. “The girls responded, made big shots, got some big stops and pulled out a win.”

The girls topped Illini Central, 42-37, as Sophie Finnegan scored 14 points, Emily Deme-treon tallied 12 and Coley Johnston scored six.

From the boys basketball on-court viewpoint, the opening of the new Stark County gymnasium was also success.

The Rebels’ first game in their new home in Toulon was a 56-41 Lincoln Trail Conference victory over Knoxville. Connor Daum and Ross Saner each

had 17 points to lead Stark County, which had been playing in a 64-year-old gym next door.

“It was nice to get a win in the new gym,” Stark County Coach Kane Mastin stated. “We got the shots we wanted but are still struggling finishing at the rim. Knoxville played hard, but luckily we ended up making more plays than they did.”

The Rebels led by almost 20 a couple of times, but the Blue Bullets rallied to pare their deficit to single digits.

• **SC boys** – After the big opener, Saner had 30 points Tuesday night, but Stark County (4-12, 1-2 LTC) lost 67-61 at Kewanee Wethersfield. Stark County trailed by almost 20 in the third quarter but cut its deficit to four points late.

“(We) played well in the first and fourth. Unfortunately, we had to play the second and third quarters, too,” Mastin stated.

Dillon Steelman had 12 points for Stark County, which is host tonight (Jan. 17) to Biggsville West Central.

• **Galva boys** – On Tuesday night, *Continued on Page 11*





The Stark County boys and girls basketball teams both won their first games in the new Stark County High School gymnasium on Jan. 10. The boys topped Knoxville, 56-41, and the girls opened the evening with a 42-37 victory against Illini Central. Photos by John A. Ballentine.



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