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The Prairie News

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Galva contacting residents about repairs

By CAROL TOWNSEND
 For The Prairie News

GALVA – About 54 letters have been sent out to Galva residents whose properties need attention.

Police Chief Kraig Townsend told the City Council at Monday’s meeting that since the city sent out the letters, several residents have called and asked questions.

Chief Townsend also reported that the 2023 squad car had an engine failure and is fully covered under the warranty. The car only had 38,000 miles on it. He said the new tasers have arrived for use by the Galva Police Department.

Every town in Henry County is going to STARCOMM radios. This will take effect

in about a month.

Chief Townsend said he is looking into more cameras at Wiley Park. He said there was a call that there were kids on the pavilion roof at 2 a.m. and windows were broken in the restrooms at Washington Park recently.

Mayor Rich Volkert said there is more trash every morning in Wiley Park than there has been in the past.

Second Ward Alderman Jim Hartman reported the mesh for a privacy fence at the old Bixby Zimmer building needs attention on the north side of the property. He also asked about the fence the owner was going to install on the property. City Administrator David Dyer said the city

paid for half of the fence and the owner never picked it up at a local company. Dyer will check on the situation.

Two proclamations were read:

- Declared April 3 as Junior Achievement day.
- Declared April 25 as Arbor Day in Galva, encouraging all residents to plant a tree and maintain the trees on their property.

Resident Dustin Williams asked if anyone from the city had reached out about repairs to the slide at Wiley Park.

Dyer said he had contacted an individual who wanted \$25,000-\$35,000 to replace part of the slide after it was damaged by a

Continued on Page 2



Jim Hartman (above), received a plaque for his eight years of service on the Galva City Council. John Wirth will assume the alderman seat in May. Photo by Carol Townsend.

GOLDEN GIRL SCOUT

Top honor for Best Girl Scouts honor Stark Co. senior for developing digital music library

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Lauren Best of Girl Scout Troop 4365 has earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, for developing a digital music library to support area music teachers.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can receive, earned by girls in grades 9-12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership and create a significant and sustainable positive change in a community.

The Stark County High School senior wanted to make a meaningful im-

pact on her school’s music program, and knew digital PDFs of sheet music were becoming more popular and easier to manage than physical copies stored in cabinets.

To help her school’s music program more efficiently find songs for its ensemble, Best created a digital music library by digitizing nearly 300 pieces of existing school sheet music and organizing them by title, composer/arranger and file number of any physical copies.

She worked with vol-

Continued on Page 2



Pictured above is Lauren Best, a Stark County High School senior who recently received the Girl Scouts’ highest honor, the Girl Scout Gold Award for digitizing and organizing nearly 300 pieces of school sheet music to provide a resource for area music teachers.

Judge releases Deck from jail

Case dismissed for no probable cause

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE
 For The Prairie News

TOULON – Caleb A. Deck, 48, appeared in Stark’s Circuit Court Friday, April 4 for a preliminary hearing on his charges of felony intimidation/physical harm. Deck was arrested March 27 and incarcerated at the Bureau County Jail.

Circuit Court Judge James A. Mack heard arguments from both defense and prosecuting attorneys concerning this newest charge against Deck.

“Caleb Deck’s actions were not innocent. Why couldn’t he have asked her while she was at the DMV?” Stark County

State’s Attorney Austin King stated, regarding Deck going to a DMV employee’s Wyoming residence to inquire about an alleged lost cat.

Deck’s Public Defender Robert M. McBride argued, “Intimidation is a threat verbally or physically. We can’t substitute a thought into a crime. None of the specifics are relevant.”

King offered no rebuttal.

McBride then listed seven points about why the intimidation case should be dismissed. King offered no response in argument for the judge to consider.

Continued on Page 2

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DECK: Released with curfew, GPS monitor

Continued from Page 1

Mack therefore ruled, "No probable cause is found and this case is dismissed."

McBride then requested the pre-trial release for Deck be revisited. Mack again paused for a lengthy period of time after King said Deck

allegedly committed a new offense and that he should be kept in custody.

Mack ordered Deck to be released but with a curfew, placed on GPS monitoring and to have no contact with the DMV employees. Deck was transported back to Bureau County

Jail to be processed for pre-trial release and a monitoring device placed on his ankle later that evening.

Deck's bench trial on his traffic charges will be scheduled at his April 25 court appearance and a review of his remaining cases will be held.

BEST: To be honored Saturday in Bloomington

Continued from Page 1

unteers to upload and organize the sheet music, and created a process so the library could be maintained. Best also shared the process and benefits of a digital music library with other area music teachers so they could more easily organize their music.

"I know that my current teacher and future teachers will be able to use my digitized music library to support their work," Best said. "I am thrilled to have been able to support and give back the music program in such a large way."

Gold Award Girl Scouts address the root cause of a problem, plan and implement innovative solutions to drive lasting change, and lead a team of people to success – all while learning essential skills that prepare them for all aspects of life.

"I learned that I can be an ambitious person," Best said. "I took on a large project and then quickly made the decision to try to get the project done at an earlier date than I originally planned. I worked hard to reach this goal even though nobody expected me to get it done."

Best is one of six 2025 Gold Award Girl Scouts in central Illinois. Together, these young women have devoted over 500 hours of service to causes they are passionate about, proving they are committed to making their communities – and the world – a better place.

The Gold Award Girl Scouts will be honored for their remarkable achievements at Girl Scouts of Central Illinois' Awards Ceremony on Saturday, April 12, at Heartland Community College in Bloomington.

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GALVA: Cemetery rates rising 25%

Continued from Page 1
fire. Dyer noted that the company wanted \$83,000 to make several repairs to the playground equipment.

He said the city is waiting to replace the entire playground as soon as money is available. The city is expecting funding from a new solar project going up in Galva.

Cemetery plot rates will increase by 25% on May 1. Each space goes from \$1,000 to \$1,250. Anyone interested in a space before the increase should call

City Hall. Other cemetery costs will also increase.

First Ward Alderman Jeff Olson asked what the rules are for electric bicycles. He was told they are legal on the streets but for certain classes of the bikes you must have a license to operate. Many electric bicycles don't require a license or insurance to operate them, according to Chief Townsend.

Townsend said he will look into the e-bikes more thoroughly. He said it used to be painted on the sidewalk downtown that no bicycles could be ridden on sidewalks in the downtown area.

All items must be off the Galva Cemetery by Sunday, April 13, and not put back until after April 17.

Resident John Wirth announced that there will be several car cruises in Galva this summer.

Correction

The rate of pay for support staff in Stark County schools was incorrectly reported in the March 21 edition of The Prairie News. Directors received a 4% raise and all support staff received a 6.3% increase. The newspaper erred.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Traffic citations & Ordinance violations

4-3 - Kimberly J. Strong - Uninsured vehicle.

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

3-25 - Trudy A. Holmes, 60, Wyoming, was cited for improper lane usage, leaving the scene of an accident and failure to report an accident to police. She was issued a court date to appear. The tickets were issued in conjunction with a single-vehicle accident Holmes reportedly was involved in on 1050E near Duncan Road where a rural mailbox was struck.

4-3 - Stark County Sheriff Steve Sloan was involved in a deer-related vehicle accident on 950E approximately 1.5 miles west of 1100E. No injuries were reported but a 2023 Dodge Durango owned by the sheriff's office sustained estimated damage over \$1,500.

4-6 - Jeffery A. Highfill, 58, Peoria, was ticketed for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone. He was issued a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

3-31 - to the 100 block of SE 6th Ave. to remove unwanted subjects. Officer determined the complainant was suffering a mental-health crisis.

3-31 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 500 block of SE 2nd St., Susan Lopez, 37, Kewanee, was arrested for driving while license revoked, operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was taken to the Galva Police Department for processing and released with a court date.

3-31 - to meet with a subject at the Galva Police Department in reference to questions about an ongoing child custody dispute.

3-31 - to the 400 block of SW 4th St. for a city ordinance violation involving burning on a non-burn day. The subject put the fire out.

3-31 - to the 100 block of SE 6th Ave. to remove unwanted subjects. Officer determined the complainant was suffering a mental-health crisis.

4-1 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance. The resident was suffering from a mental-health crisis.



4-1 - to the 00 block of SW 2nd St. to remove an unwanted subject. The subject was advised to leave the premises.

4-1 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance. The resident was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

4-1 - to the north edge of town to remove tree branches that apparently fell from a passing vehicle. They were removed.

4-1 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance. The resident was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

4-1 - to the 1000 block of SW 2nd St. for a 911 hang-up call. It was determined to be a medical call. Stark County Medic was paged to handle the call.

4-2 - to the 800 block of West Division St. for a complaint about a young child wandering around unsupervised. A guardian was located in the 100 block of NW 8th Ave. The child was returned.

4-2 - to the SE corner of Wiley Park for a verbal disturbance involving several subjects.

4-3 - to the 500 block of SE 2nd St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was taken to impound.

4-3 - As a result of a traffic stop in the 200 block of SE 2nd St., Misty Scott, 36, Cambridge, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for mandatory insurance. She was released with a court date.

4-3 - As the result of a follow-up investigation into a complaint last week, a 15-year-old Galva resident was issued a juvenile referral for reckless conduct after reportedly spraying another subject with

pepper spray.

4-3 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 600 block of SE 2nd St., Jeffrey Andrews, 57, Kewanee, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for mandatory insurance. He was released with a court date.

4-3 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for an out-of-control juvenile complaint.

4-4 - to the 500 block of SE 2nd St. for a child-custody dispute.

4-4 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance. The resident was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

4-4 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. for a disturbance complaint. The subject was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

4-4 - to the north edge of town to watch for a reckless driver heading towards Galva. The officer was not able to locate the driver.

4-5 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 00 block of NE 8th Ave., Sarah Martin, 25, Orlando, Fla., was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a court date.

4-5 - Officer was flagged down in reference to a criminal damage to residence complaint after a resident found their house had been egged on Swank St.

4-6 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disturbance. The resident was suffering from a mental-health crisis.

4-6 - to the 200 block of SW 5th St. for a disturbance complaint. Officer located the suspects, who then fled south of Galva and led the officer on a high-speed pursuit. Officer terminated the chase for safety reasons. The vehicle was later located and abandoned near Victoria. The Galva Police Department had the suspect vehicle towed.

4-6 - to assist Knox County with a single-vehicle, car-vs.-deer accident south of town. The deer was dispatched.

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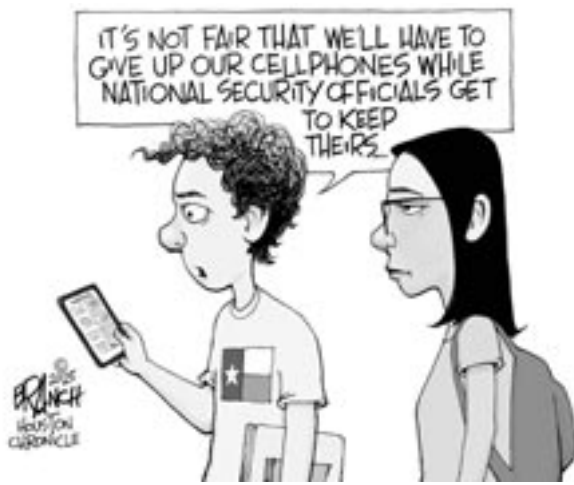
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GUEST VOICES



Trump uses theatrics to achieve his agenda

One of President Donald Trump's strengths in negotiations is his ability to disrupt or unsettle the other side during negotiations.

Skilled negotiators always know their final objective. It is to their benefit to make that goal uncertain to the other side. Trump is a master at keeping his final objective hidden at the front side until after his opponent has made a move that can be used against the opponent.

I believe Trump's tariff demands are simply a part of his trade negotiations at a higher level. Trump is always looking for leverage against an opponent and, historically, he has proven his skill at getting that advantage.

Richard KORITZ

Presidents in this country have lost much of their political power during second terms because everyone knows the president's time in office is numbered and a new guy will be moving in. Presidents have their greatest clout during their first two years in office.

Trump is now in his second term. Normally, his political clout would be starting to slide, but we have had some crazy elections of recent date. Trump is proving his detractors

wrong and appears to be gaining in that commodity called political clout. He is the master of keeping the topic focused on Trump personally until he is able to come up with the resolution to an issue that he wants.

Current talk of a third term for Trump appears to be just a tactic to maintain his agenda as he starts his second term.

George Washington set the standard by refusing to run for a third term and leaving office after eight years. That informal standard was followed by successive presidents until Franklin Roosevelt. Roosevelt was president during World War II and decided that it would be best if the nation simply retained its current president. He succeeded and was elected four times.

After WWII, the nation and Congress really started to question if any president should have an unlimited stay in office. Congress passed what would be the 22nd Amendment to the Constitution, limiting the time in office for any president to two elected terms. States ratified the amendment in 1951 and it is the current law.

But Trump has allowed pundits to speculate on how a third term could be achieved. By allowing discussion, his opponents are distracted and Trump is pushing his agenda. It is the

same bargaining tactics that Trump has always adhered to.

I give very little credence to Trump seriously seeking a third term, but I do admire the theatrics.

The same is true in his treatment of Bill Maher, a left-leaning comedian with a true insight into politics. Maher is funny and articulate, even with a potty mouth. What sets him apart is his ability to discern political opinions without regard to his own political preferences.

While Maher has voiced his disagreement with the far left of the Democratic Party, he has also consistently opposed Trump's political positions in a direct and forceful manner. Trump recently invited Maher to dinner at the White House. Why? Trump does enjoy a debate, but this is more than that. As stated above, Trump seeks to sidetrack his opposition. Bringing Maher to the White House gives more attention to Trump and maintains his clout.

Discussions of third terms and having Maher over for dinner are simply an art form for Trump. He is the consummate politician. Enjoy the theatrics, but keep your eye on the agenda and see how it is progressing.

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

You mess up the creek, you clean the creek

Family lore has it that sometime in the pre-refrigeration days of the late 19th century, my forefathers dug a small cave into a steep hillside on their adjacent farms to store several barrels of home-brewed beer.

Like the family's suds, the cave was cool, dark and prized.

This being southern Illinois, however, a minor earthquake one day sent the roof of the underground rathskeller onto the barrels of beer. Soon their hoppy contents were flowing into the nearby creek.



Alan GUEBERT

A minor catastrophe, yes, but the brothers and their stein-tipping friends weren't the only ones without their favorite beverage.

With a slow-moving creek now half-full of sweet-smelling beer, milk production of the neighborhood's cows soon dropped low enough to worry downstream neighbors.

Within a week, though, the creek flowed clear again, the neighborhood's cows were back to their regular, sober routine and my family was done with its beer-making hobby for good.

I once asked my father if the tale was true. It was, he replied, and after the collapse his great-grandfather

"apologized to all the neighbors for the trouble he had caused. He believed that if you messed up the creek, you cleaned up the creek."

It's the rural version of the Golden Rule: Do unto your neighbors' farms that you'd have your neighbors to do unto yours.

At least it seemed that way in the late 1800s when farms were smaller, neighbors were more numerous and the height of farm technology included a personal beer cellar.

My father's rural ethic harkened back to his ancestor's view. In the six decades we shared, I never once heard him covet any neighbor's land, machinery or success. Not once, not anything.

Part of the reason may have been what he already had; too many cows, too many acres, too much work and too little time. A bigger part, however, likely was contentment; he simply didn't want much more of anything, except time to go fishing.

And that included partners. In the late 1970s I asked him what might happen if "the farm" borrowed money to expand its dairy herd to boost farm income so I might return.

"What might happen," he said almost reflexively but firmly, "is that that news would be on the front page of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch the next morning."

The answer, deeply in character for a German Lutheran farmer, was one

we did not argue, debate or discuss. I took it as intended, a clear "No," and soon thereafter the lovely Catherine and I went back to the university with an eye for another line of work.

Equally unsurprising was that neither Dad nor I ever mentioned the topic again. He went about his life's work and so did I - after I stumbled upon it.

A key part of his work was neighborliness. For example, a neighbor with a carload of growing children often stopped at the dairy barn twice, sometimes three times a week to get a couple of gallons of milk for, well, a very long time. Decades.

When they did, Dad would fill their one-gallon glass jars while the children made a small show of adding a pencil mark to their already foot-long tab in a nearby cabinet.

When Dad retired from dairying 25 years later, the tab, like the cabinet, simply disappeared. Again, the long-gone milk and long-lost tab were never mentioned.

It was a hallmark of my father's unwritten rural rules: Among our neighbors, tabs, kept or unkept, were meaningless. Only one tab mattered to him, and it wasn't of this world.

And that, too, he believed, was already forgiven.

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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.

Shipp gets 12 years on child-porn plea

By JOHN A. BALLENTINE

For The Prairie News

TOULON – Matthew R. Shipp, 21, of rural Toulon, pleaded guilty to one count of child pornography in a fully negotiated disposition plea deal.

Circuit Court Judge James A. Mack sentenced Shipp April 4 to 12 years in prison on the Class X felony. Nine other counts were dismissed per the deal.

Shipp was credited with 508 days served in Henry County Jail and according to court documents he must be imprisoned 50% of the 12 years

per the deal versus the 85% standard Class X felony incarceration time in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

Mack told Shipp that he could reduce the six years further by taking classes while in prison.

Asked if he had a statement, Shipp said, "No."

After he is released from prison, Shipp will be placed on parole three years to life as determined by a prison review board.

Shipp was initially arrested Nov. 15, 2023, at his rural Toulon res-

idence and charged with five counts of child pornography distribution. Five additional counts were filed later. Shipp admitted to investigators that he had been sharing child porn online for a year.

Shipp was transported back to Henry County Jail to await his transfer to IDOC. His defense counsel was Douglas Johnson while Shantikumar Kulkarni was the state's prosecutor.

Shipp did not transmit child porn across the state's boundary, which would have made his charges federal.

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Toulon, IL
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**PUBLIC AUCTION
LIVE ONLY**

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SATURDAY APRIL 19, 2025 @ 10 AM:

LIFTS AND TRENCHER: *GENIE AWP-24 ELECTRIC MAN LIFT, #3894-6616, 24FT; *GENIE TMZ 34-19 TOWABLE MAN LIFT, ELECTRIC, 40 FT WORKING HIGHT, NEEDS REPAIR; *SCISSOR LIFT, 19FT PLATFORM, NEEDS BATTERIES AND SWITCH; *DITCH WITCH 1620 TRENCHER, DIESEL, 5 FT STINGER; *RA ADAMS REEL TRAILER

TOOLS: RIGID 2-4 IN HYD PIPE BENDER; GREENLY 1801 MANUAL PIPE BENDER; HYD PIPE BENDER; MISC MANUAL BENDERS; ENSLEY CABLE PULLING SYSTEM; REEL STANDS; WIRE PULLING SHEAVES; 3/4 X 600 FT WIRE PULLING ROPE AMONG OTHERS; REEL HOLDERS; WIRE DISPENSERS; HYD WIRE CRIMPERS; WIRE PULLING VACCUM; VARIOUS FIBERGLASS LADDERS; MISC HAND TOOLS; RYOBI TABLE SAW; HYD PUMP; LINCOLN OIL FILTER PROCESSOR; 12 SPD DRILL PRESS; CAMPBELL HAUSFELD 26 GALLON AIR COMPRESSOR; MILWAUKEE A TAPER HAMMER DRILL; 2-MILWAUKEE MULTI BATTERY CHARGERS; DAYTON 5K GENERATOR; PROTEC 14 IN CHOP SAW; TOOL CARTS; MISC PIPE VICES; DRILL BITS; SKIL PORTABLE BAND SAW; BOSCH HAMMER DRILL; JD GAS SNOWBLOWER; FILE CABINETS; INDUSTRIAL RACKS; VARIOUS HALOGEN STAND LIGHTS; MISC LIGHTS; SHOP VACS; JOB BOXES; MISC SHELVING AND RACKS;

INVENTORY AND PARTS: (13) 10 FT EMT AND OTHERMISC CONDUIT; MISC WIRE WAY TROUGH; 4K FT OF RJ6 COAX; 5 CASES OF 5K T8 BULBS; 6 CASES OF 4 LAMP T8 BALASTS AND OTHER BALASTS; 4X8 SHEETS OF SLOT WALL; 2X4 CEILING TILE; TEMPORARY ELECTRICAL SERVICES; HOFFMAN WIRE WAY FITTINGS; HEAVY DUTY LIGHT LENSES; MISC KNOCK-OUTS; VARIOUS DISCONNECTS; INDOOR AND OUT-DOOR WIRE

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**CITY OF TOULON
NOTICE OF CITY'S ACCEPTANCE OF SEALED BIDS FOR SALE OF REAL ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council for the City of Toulon, Stark County, Illinois, has authorized the sale of the City-owned property described below by the sealed bidding process. The City-owned property is located at 227 E. South Street in the City of Toulon, which is legally described as follows:

Lot Number Eight (8) in Block Number Thirty-One (31) in Henderson & Whittaker's Addition to the City of Toulon. PIN: 04-19-342-010

This property is currently a vacant lot, located in a residential area. It is open for public inspection and can be used for any purpose that is in compliance with local ordinances. This property is being sold in its "as is" condition, and the City makes no warranties regarding the condition of the property.

All bids must be submitted to the City Clerk for the City of Toulon before 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025, at the following address:
City Clerk
Attn: Sealed Bid for 227 E. South Street
Toulon City Hall
122 N. Franklin Street
Toulon, IL 61483

Bids must be received on the "Bid to Purchase / Real Estate Purchase Agreement" available at City Hall at the address listed above. Bids may be hand-delivered or mailed to the City Clerk, but must be received by the City Clerk before 5:00 p.m. on May 12, 2025 for consideration by the City Council at its regular meeting to be held on May 12, 2025. The City Council reserves the right to reject any and all bids received for this property sale.

The sale shall be made on the terms and conditions set forth in the Bid Documents. Among these terms and conditions are, without limitation, the following:

1. Seller will not furnish title insurance and the conveyance will be by quitclaim deed.
2. Seller reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted.

Any questions can be directed to the Mayor, Larry Hollis by phone at 309-286-5042 or by email at lhollis@hotmail.com

Dated this 12th day of March, 2025.
Barbara Cantwell, City Clerk
City of Toulon, Illinois

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(309) 286-2815**

LAFAYETTE, IL REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION
The following home will be sold on location at 301 Washington St. Lafayette, IL 61449 (turn N. at the church off of Rt.17 to sale site), on **SATURDAY MAY 10TH, 2025 AT 10 A.M. (R.E. sells first)**

NOTE: Watch for the full ad of personal property soon.
REAL ESTATE: This single-family residential home sits on an approx. half acre lot in LaFayette, IL. The main level of this house includes 2 downstairs bedrooms, a nice sized living room, an enclosed front porch entrance, an open kitchen/dining area with room for utilities, one full bath, and a sunken lg. family room. There is a loft upstairs area that could be used as another bedroom or storage area. The 28'-24' veryn ice garage attaches to the family room and has a 16'x7' overhead door w/auto opener. It is insulated, paneled and has a cement floor. There is also a 8'x23' lean-to enclosed to the side of the garage. An outside cellar entrance leads to a basement. The furnace and central air are good shape and are less than 10 yrs. old. The roof is under 15 yrs. old. The siding and windows are in good shape. A whole house Generac generator was installed just a few yrs. ago. With some updating this makes for a great family home. An OPEN HOUSE will be held on Thursday April 17th from 4:30-5:30 p.m. **TERMS:** A non-refundable 3500.00 deposit will be required on auction day with the balance to be pd. at closing in approx. 30 days. This is an AS-IS auction. No credit cards accepted for real estate transactions.

KATHLEEN PERKINS-SELLER
FOLGER'S AUCTION SERVICE, INC.
-WILLIAMSFIELD, IL
(JIM AND CATHIE GIBBS, MATT SHIPLEY)
Ph. 309-368-6314 and 309-337-2150
Email: folgersauctionservice@gmail.com
Attorney for seller-Massie & Quick, LLC-Galva, IL
Ph. 309-932-2168

CITY OF GALVA WATER DEPT. NOTICE

On 12/24, the Galva City Council voted to end the "RED DOOR TAG" process for delinquent water bills. Beginning with the bills processing 5/1/2025, your second notice shut-off date is a true shut-off date. The City of Galva staff will no longer be placing red door tag notices at residences offering another 5 days to pay. Second notices will print on yellow paper and must be paid by the due date to avoid disconnection. If you cannot make the payment by the due date, you must call City Hall to make arrangements to pay in a reasonable amount of time. Failure to follow through on these arrangements will result in disconnection with no additional notice.

Once disconnection occurs, a \$100 reconnect fee will be added to your water account and must be paid to restore service.

We would like to remind everyone that when payment cannot be made on time, a call to City Hall with reasonable arrangements to pay will avoid disconnection and additional charges.

If you have any questions, you are encouraged to call City Hall at 309-932-2555.

Kindergarten Signing Day 2025-2026

For all children who turn five on or before September 1, 2025

Thursday, May 1st 4:00 - 5:30 pm
Stark County Elementary School
300 W. Van Buren, Wyoming

Please make sure you bring:

- Original Certified Birth Certificate (We will make a copy)
- Proof of Residency Documents (bit.ly/3TBVd8G)
- School Physical Form & Immunization Records (if available)
- Dental & Vision Exam Forms (if available)

If you have any questions, please call 695-6123 (option 3) or email ahamilton@stark100.com

Please bring your child to meet next year's kindergarten teachers, tour the school, and visit the cafeteria.

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BRIEFS

Bradford community meets to share ideas

BRADFORD – Members of the Bradford community met on April 7 to generate and coordinate upcoming activities in the Bradford area. Representatives from various churches, organizations, businesses, the village board and the school were present to share ideas and information.

Among the many ideas discussed was incorporating family friendly activities into the Bradford Hog Roast on June 7 and adding a Fall Festival to the list of events in Bradford. The plan is to put a list of upcoming events in a mailer that will be sent to residents of the Bradford community in an attempt to inform and encourage attendance.

Residents are encouraged to monitor their mail and Facebook for further information on upcoming Bradford events. If you have community events to share, please contact Angie Stange at (309) 363-1524 as soon as possible for the information to be listed.

Another Bradford community meeting will be held later, on a date yet to be determined.

– Angie Stange

Wyoming man dies in accident on Route 167

VICTORIA – A Wyoming man was killed earlier this week in a single-vehicle accident west of Victoria.

Preliminary results from an autopsy indicated Don L. Gillam, 73, died from injuries sustained in the wreck, according to Knox County



Bradford 8th graders enjoyed their annual school trip to Springfield last week. Photo by Becki Hoffert.

Coroner Jacque Dare. The accident happened about 5:15 p.m. Sunday on Illinois Route 167 at Knox Road 1650 East.

Gillam apparently was driving east on Route 167 in a 2017 Chevrolet hatchback when the vehicle crossed the roadway into the north-side ditch and struck a fixed object, according to the Knox County Sheriff's Office. Gillam was found dead at the scene. There were no passengers.

Spring bonfire set for April 25 in Bishop Hill

BISHOP HILL – The return of spring will be welcomed during an ancient Swedish traditional Valborg bonfire at the Vasa National Archives on April 25 at 6 p.m.

Yard games and activities will be available to the whole family. Hot dogs, buns, coffee, iced tea and hot chocolate will be provided. This event is free and open to the public. Visitors are encouraged to bring a dish to share.

In the event of rain, the festivities

will be moved to the Vasa National Archive's second floor.

The history of Valborg goes back to Viking era. Pre-Christian Swedes held spring bonfires to herald the onset of the growth season. It attempted to ward off evil, ensure fertility and cleanse the land of the dead of winter. Today, it marks the gateway to longer and warmer days.

Early Christians merged the pagan spring bonfires with celebrations of Saint Walpurga, who was canonized on May 1 ca. 870.

Valborg continued to be useful celebration into the early modern era. Swedish farmers kept their livestock penned up in barns until early May to protect them from weather and predators. Farming villages and farmers used the Valborg bonfires and celebratory noises to scare away predators. A few days after being let out of the barn, livestock was herded to summer pastures.

For more information, contact the Vasa National Archives at VasaArchivist@gmail.com or (309) 927-3898.

April 13, 2025 PALM SUNDAY HAM DINNER
 4:00 - 6:30pm



GALVA FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 214 NW 2ND AVE. (corner of NW 2nd Ave. & 2nd St.)
 DINE-IN, CARRY-OUT, OR DELIVERY

Serving: Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Green Beans, Apple Sauce, Rolls w/butter, Drink (dine-in only) & Homemade Dessert.

Requesting Delivery of Dinners Call: 932-2460 by Fri. Noon, April 11, and leave a message stating how many dinners you will need delivered with your name, address w/apt. number, & phone number. If you didn't get your delivery order in by Friday, Noon, April 11, no problem, just call the day of the dinner from 2 - 3:30 p.m. to 932-3255 or 309-507-2284.

Invite your family and friends to join you!

This is our church's annual fundraiser with the money raised to be used for building improvements and maintenance - Galva First UMC, 214 NW 2nd Ave., Galva, IL

Price: \$10.00 per meal per adult and children up to 6 yrs of age \$5.00 per meal.

Palm Sunday

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Sheep producers have 'bright' options

By **PHYLLIS COULTER**
FarmWeek

Sunshine might help increase sheep populations in Illinois, according to an Ohio sheep producer.

Camren Maierle, an American Lamb Board member, showed Illinois sheep producers photos of his sheep grazing on Ohio pastures in a field of solar panels. Solar grazing has become a big part of his business.

"There could be a decent amount of this in Illinois in the next couple of years," Maierle told Illinois lamb and wool producers at the Sheep Industry Day. There are about 55,000 sheep in Illinois, according to USDA.

Maierle predicts there will be more large-scale solar operations because of energy demand. "I want sheep on every one of those sites that are conducive to having sheep on them," he said.

"I'm not promoting solar panels, but if they go in, I want sheep there," he said virtually from Ohio at the University of Illinois event on March 22.

He sees it as a huge opportunity for sheep producers. "Our ability to capitalize on affordable feed is huge," he said of

combining solar power and production agriculture, known as agrivoltaics.

Sheep are the animal of choice for solar grazing because they "fit" and cause less wear on the equipment than cattle or goats. "It's a risk mitigation industry," Maierle said.

Usually, a clover mix is used to graze three to five ewes per acre. Maierle said his goal, on well-managed pastures, is to graze eight to 10 sheep per acre.

He estimates that if a sheep producer grazes 500 solar acres, he or she could earn half a million dollars with 2,000 ewes if the lease was for \$350 per acre. That's not counting any lambs.

The competition for grazing solar fields isn't from neighboring sheep farmers, it is mowing companies, he said. Solar companies pay landscapers about \$480 per acre per year to keep the weeds down. Comparatively, sheep grazers might charge \$300 to \$500.

"I offer an improved service of soil health and management for equal pay," Maierle said. "Energy companies eat



New opportunities continue to pop up around the nation for solar grazing. Photo by the American Solar Grazing Association.

that up." Challenges for grazing sheep on a solar farm compared to a traditional lot or pasture include movement of solar panels and managing wires sheep must traverse.

As for marketing increased Illinois lamb production, Maierle said homegrown lamb could displace some of the lamb imported today. Between 60% and 70% of lamb consumed in the state is imported from New Zealand and Australia.

To help farmers take advantage of the opportunities, the American Lamb Board and the American Sustainability Growers Association (ASGA), are teaming up to offer solar grazing certification programs. Maierle will be

one of the trainers at the new ASGA solar grazing training program June 11-13 in Kankakee. The three-day workshop costs \$200.

"The certification program can help a sheep producer become a valuable service provider," said Maierle, who noted there are things farmers will learn as a sheep producer at the event, even if they aren't solar grazing now.

Visit the website solar-grazing.org to learn more about opportunities in agrivoltaics.

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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Holy Trinity Food Sale

Spring 2025

Menu

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Potato & Onion Pierogi - \$6.00 / dz.	Strawberry Pierogi - \$9.00 / dz.
Potato & Cheese Pierogi - \$6.00 / dz.	Blueberry Pierogi - \$9.00 / dz.

Pick-up Day
May 3, 2025 • 10 AM-2 PM
Last Day to Order - April 20, 2025

Holy Trinity NCC
716 N. Tremont St. • Kewanee, IL 61443
www.kewaneeptncc.org

To Order Call: Nan Cramer - (574) 329-9292
Laura Kubiak - (309) 525-0849
Carol Entas - (309) 853-6605
Or, E-mail: holytrinitykewanee@yahoo.com



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
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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.
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First Congregational Church

202 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491
(309) 695-4091
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Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon
(309) 286-4611
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St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
16883 State Route 17, PO Box 158 - Wyoming, IL 61491
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Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. Adult Discussion Group, 5:30 p.m.
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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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Rectory Phone: 309-852-5191
Fr. Cramer Phone: 574-329-9292

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
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OBITUARIES

Linda S. Crum

WYOMING – Linda S. Crum, 75, of Wyoming, Ill., passed away at 4:41 p.m., on Sunday, April 6, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loving family.

Linda was born Dec. 17, 1949, in Independence, Mo., to James and Virginia (Williams) Oas. Linda married Elmer Crum on March 13, 1968, in Peoria, Ill. He survives.

Linda is also survived by one son, Eric (Leah) Crum of Carlock, Ill.; and two sisters, Cheryl (Ronald) Smith and Barbara Noteboom.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents.

Linda was a homemaker but also worked at Breese in Wyoming, and the nursing home in Toulon, Ill. Linda was also a member of the Bradford Apostolic Christian Church.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., on Saturday, April 26, 2025, at the Bradford Apostolic Christian Church.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

To leave online condolences, visit www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com.

Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Elmwood is in charge of arrangements.

Don L. Gillam

WYOMING – Don L. Gillam, 73, of Wyoming, passed away unexpectedly on Sunday, April 6, 2025. He was born on Dec. 18, 1951, in Peoria, to Frank R. and Shirley J. (Snyder) Gillam.

Survivors include five siblings, Larry G. Gillam of Williamsfield, Dixie L. Gillam of Princeville, Dennis D. (Lani) Gillam of Lineville, Iowa, Linda J. Detwiler of Bureau and Raymond J. Gillam of Princeville; many nieces and nephews, and friends too plenty to mention. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Don was a local car mechanic for many years. He enjoyed working on his car, going on long drives, making new friends, farming, walking and spending time with his family.

There will be no public services at this time. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting the family with arrangements. Condolences may be left for Don's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Clarence O. Hodges

TOULON – Clarence Otis Hodges, 87, of Toulon, Ill., passed away on Monday, April 7, 2025 at OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center in Rockford, Ill.

Clarence was born on May 3, 1937, in rural Tiskilwa, Ill., the son of Edwin and Velma (McLane) Hodges. He graduated from Princeville High School in 1955 and then began his lifelong career as a farmer in Stark and Henry

Counties.

Clarence married Raylene Johnson on Oct. 4, 1957, at Peoria Methodist Church in Peoria, Ill. She preceded him in death on Sept. 27, 2018.

Outside of farming Clarence enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs and Chicago Bears.

He is survived by his two children, Brenda (Peter Broughton) Hodges of DeKalb and Brent Hodges of Toulon; brother, John Hodges of Wyoming, Ill.; brother-in-law, James Darnell of Onalaska, Wis.; and sister-in-law, Wynne (Gary) Swedberg of Mt. Dora, Fla.; along with many beloved nieces and nephews.

Clarence was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Helen (Charles) Barton and Alma Darnell; and one sister-in-law, Sharon Hodges.

Visitation will be held from 10-11 a.m. on Monday, April 14, 2025, at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home in Bradford. Graveside services will immediately follow at Bradford Cemetery, with the Rev. Dan Wright officiating.

Memorials may be directed to American Heart Association.

Online condolences may be made at www.grant-johnsonfh.com.

William B. West Sr.

HANNA CITY – William Bruce "Bill" West Sr., 90, of Hanna City, passed away Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Snyder Village in Metamora.

He was born on June 22, 1934, in Logan Township, Peoria County, the son of George W. and Fama Jane (Donaldson) West. Bill married Arlene Shaddock on July 1, 1956, in Moweaqua, Ill., she survives.

Bill is also survived by his children W. Bruce (Julie) West of Geneseo and Jeffery (Tracy) West of Wyoming, Ill.; grandchildren, Callie (Levi) Allen, Paul (Amanda) West, Victoria (Andrew) Wells and Elizabeth West; great-grandchildren, Ben and Emilia Allen, Evelyn and Lucy West with Baby Wells on the way; and niece Jane (Ed) Fussenner and nephew David (Debby) Doubet.

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Robert "Rob;" and a sister, Helen Doubet.

Bill graduated from Farmington High School and the University of Illinois, where he received his bachelor's degree in agriculture. He was a member of Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity. Following college, he served in the United States Army and was stationed in Germany.

Bill was a lifelong farmer. He was also an active member of the Hanna City Presbyterian Church, where he served as an elder. In addition, he volunteered as a chaplain at Methodist Hospital. His service extended beyond his church. Bill served on the school board for Farmington East and as a trustee for Logan Township. Bill was also a member

of the Peoria County Pork Producers and Farm Bureau.

Bill will be remembered fondly by his family, friends and the community he loved. He will truly be missed by all who knew him.

Visitation will be held Friday, April 11, 2025, at Davison-Fulton Bartonville Chapel from 4-6 p.m. Funeral service will be held Saturday, April 12, 2025, at 10 a.m. at the Hanna City Presbyterian Church. Pastor David Keithley will officiate. Burial will conclude in Smithville Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made in Bill's name to Hanna City Presbyterian Church.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.Davison-Fulton-Bartonvillechapel.com.

Barbara A. Williamson

MORTON – Barbara A. Williamson, 71, of Morton, passed away Saturday, April 5, 2025, at her home.

She was born on Feb. 27 1954, in Kewanee, Ill., to Robert and Lovena (Gingrich) Milburn. Barb married Larry Williamson on May 19, 1973, in Toulon, Ill.

She is survived by her husband; sons James (Heather) Williamson and Ryan (Brook Adkins) Williamson; daughter April (John) Wright; grandchildren



Williamson

Haylie Williamson, Stone Williamson, Payton Williamson, Joey Williamson, Skylar Williamson, Miles Wright and Alanna Wright; sisters Sandy (John) Reed and Mary (Jim) Streitmatter; brothers, Roger (Anita) Milburn, Tom (Cindy) Milburn and Dave (Dawn) Milburn; and numerous nieces and nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and extended grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Robert and Lovena Milburn; sister Carol Zaehring; and brother-in-law Robert Williamson.

Barb was a member of Advent Lutheran Church in Morton, where she was member of the women's fellowship group.

When the kids were young, she served as room mother and library helper at Grundy Elementary and later volunteered at Upscale Resale in Morton.

Barb loved gardening until her health limited her activity. She cherished her time with her family and always hated to see them leave.

Those who met or knew her know she was an amazing woman they will never forget.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2025, at Advent Lutheran Church in Morton, with Pastor Nancy Bacon officiating. Visitation will be held from 9-9:45 a.m. on Saturday, prior to the service at the church.

Memorials may be made to Advent Lutheran Church property maintenance fund or St. Jude Runners' Association.

Knapp-Johnson Funeral Home and Cremation Center in Morton is handling arrangements.

To leave an online condolence, visit www.knappjohnson.com.



Crum



Hodges



Gillam



West

Bill would ban Midgets as Freeburg mascot

By BRIDGETTE FOX

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The House passed a bill Tuesday that would ban public schools from using mascots that discriminate against people with disabilities.

The bill, if signed into law, currently would affect just one high school in St. Clair County.

Freeburg Community High School's mascot, the Midgets, is considered a slur used against people with dwarfism.

The school's administration did not reply to a request for comment.

Under House Bill 3527, the school could continue using "uniforms or other materials" it bought before the bill was passed until Sept. 1, 2028, as long as it already picked a new mascot, according to the bill's language. The bill doesn't clarify what repercussions, if any, the school would face if it didn't change its mascot.

The bill passed through the House on Tuesday with a vote of 71-38.

The mascot was chosen during the 1930s when a reporter coined the term because the tallest member of the basketball team was just 5 feet, 10 inches tall, according to the school's website.

The bill's main sponsor, Rep. Maurice West, D-Rockford, said the name was chosen during a time when freak shows, the exhibitions of human "abnormalities," were popular.

School alumni, members of the Freeburg community, along with activists and organizations, filed almost 1,000 "witness slips" to the General Assembly for and against the bill.

Opponents said the school's mascot is a tradition, and there aren't any students with dwarfism in the school who might be affected by the mascot.

However, Shelby Holloway, a woman with dwarfism and a national advocate and co-director of Mascots

Matter, said students at Freeburg aren't the only ones affected.

"This is a statewide issue, and it deserves a statewide solution," said Holloway during a March 20 committee meeting. "The Freeburg mascot does not just affect the students who attend that school. Every time a Freeburg sports team travels, its mascot's name is displayed in the schools across Illinois."

Rep. Kevin Schmidt, R-Millstadt, represents Freeburg and argued against the bill on the House floor.

Schmidt and other opponents said the school board should be in charge of changing the mascot name, and the General Assembly is infringing on other governing bodies.

The bill still has to go through the Senate.

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

Bill would prohibit move-in fees for renters

By GREG BISHOP

The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois House of Representatives passed a slew of bills on Tuesday.

One measure, House Bill 3564, prohibits a landlord from imposing a move-in fee for renters. It also limits fees for the late payment of rent to a one-time \$15 fee for every \$1,500 of rent. Democratic state Rep. Rita

Mayfield, D-Waukegan, said that amount is pointless.

"As a landlord, I'm going to tell you that \$15 is not punitive enough to force anyone to pay their rent on time," said Mayfield. "We have a lot of problems with individuals who don't want to pay their rent and having the ability to charge a daily late fee actually spurs them to pay their rent."

The measure passed by a vote of 61-43 and is headed to the Senate for consideration.

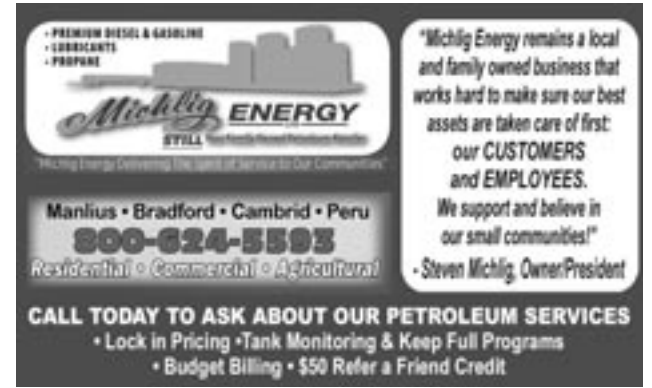
The House also approved the Illinois Sexual Assault Survivor Treatment Act in House Bill 2805 sponsored by House Minority Leader Tony McCombie, R-Savanna, which prohibits insurance co-pays for sexual assault exams. The measure now heads to the Senate.



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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF SHIRLEY CRAVENS, No. 2025 PR 34
Deceased.

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES AND CLAIM NOTICE TO: UNKNOWN HEIRS

Notice is given of the death of Shirley Cravens.

Notice is also given to the above who are heirs or legatees in the above proceeding to probate a will and whose name or address is not stated in the petition to admit the will to probate, that an order was entered by the court on the 18th day of March, 2025 admitting the will to probate.

Letters of Office were issued on March 18, 2025 to Patricia Wohl as Executor, whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC, 211 W. 2nd St., Kewanee, IL 61443.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the Clerk of the Court, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, or with the representative, or both on or before September 29, 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.

Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in section 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (75 ILCS 5/6-21).

You also have the right under section 8-1 of the Probate Act (75 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

The estate will be administered without court supervision, unless under Section 28-4 of the Probate Act (75 ILCS 5/28-4) any interested person terminates independent administration at any time by mailing or delivering a petition to terminate to the clerk. You may obtain a copy of a form of a petition to terminate independent administration from the clerk of the court at the address set out below.

Filings are to be made with:
Henry County, Circuit Clerk
Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois
61238
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

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

CHANCERY DIVISION
CARRINGTON MORTGAGE SERVICES, LLC,
Plaintiff,
vs.

AMY SIGHTS; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF TIMOTHY L. SIGHTS, DECEASED;
JAYCE SIGHTS; SARAH BETH MILLER; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,
Defendants.

Case No.: 2024FC3
Property Address:
124 South St, Bradford, IL 61421

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN TO THE FOLLOWING,
SARAH BETH MILLER
defendants, that this case has been commenced in this Court against you and other defendants, asking for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to wit:

THE WEST SEVENTY-FIVE (75) FEET OF LOT THIRTY-FOUR (34) IN THE VILLAGE OF BRADFORD, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

Commonly known as: 124 South

St, Bradford, IL 61421

Names of the titleholders of record: HEIRS AND/OR LEGATEES OF TIMOTHY L. SIGHTS, DECEASED.

Date of the Mortgage: November 21, 2008.

Name or names of the mortgagors: TIMOTHY L. SIGHTS, now deceased.

Name of the mortgagee: Taylor, Bean & Whitaker Mortgage Corp..

Date and place of recording: November 25, 2008; Office of the Recorder of the Deeds of Stark County, Illinois.

Identification of recording: Document No. 2008-94787.

NOW THEREFORE, unless you file your answer or otherwise file your appearance in this case, on or before April 27, 2025, A JUDGMENT OR DECREE BY DEFAULT MAY BE TAKEN AGAINST YOU FOR THE RELIEF ASKED IN THE COMPLAINT.

E-filing is now mandatory with limited exceptions. 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://illinoiscourts.gov/self-help> or talk with your local circuit clerk's office. If you cannot e-file, you may be able to get an exemption that allows you to file in-person or by mail. Ask your circuit clerk for more information or visit www.illinoislegalaid.org.

For information about defending yourself in a court case (including filing an appearance or fee waiver), or to apply for free legal help, go to www.illinoislegalaid.org. You can also ask your local circuit clerk's office for a fee waiver application.

PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Lender Legal PLLC
1800 Pembroke Drive, Suite 250
Orlando, Florida 32810
Tel: (407) 730-4644
Service Emails:
cstrong@lenderlegal.com
EService@LenderLegal.com
LLS13631-IL- SIGHTS

/s/ Chandray Strong, Esq.
Chandray Strong, Esq.,
Counsel of Record for Plaintiff
ARDC # 6321577
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

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

Estate of
JOAN E. MARCHESE, deceased
No. 2025-PR-35

Notice is given of the death of JOAN E. MARCHESE.

Letters of Office were issued on March 20, 2025, to MICHELLE L. JACKSON, 18133 E 950th St., Geneseo, IL 61254, as Independent Executor, 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

**Annual Treasurer's Report
Elmira Township
Fiscal Year Ending February 28, 2025**

Revenue Summary:

Property Taxes	\$ 69,447.21
Replacement Tax	\$ 3,430.92
Interest Income	\$ 1,260.81
Cemetery Lots	\$ 3,400.00
Other Income	\$ 11,239.34
Total Revenues:	\$ 88,778.28

Compensation Summary

Road Commissioner, Matt Bennett	\$ 27,600.00
Supervisor, Jana Clancy	\$ 4,240.00
Clerk, Cliff Lane	\$ 1,540.00
Trustees	\$ 2,080.00
Cemetery Trustees	\$ 1,200.00
Total Compensation:	\$ 36,660.00

Expenditure Summary

Bock's Lawn Care	\$ 18,347.00
Saw-N-Logs	\$ 2,250.00
TOIRMA	\$ 7,418.00
Stark County Food Pantry	\$ 1,000.00
All other disbursements less than \$1,000.00 each	\$ 1,691.25
Total Vendors:	\$ 30,706.25

Summary Statement of Condition

	General Fund	Special Funds
Beginning Balance	\$ 73,843.05	\$ 78,018.26
Revenues	\$ 49,915.71	\$ 38,847.23
Expenditures	\$ 39,504.60	\$ 39,474.45
Ending Balance	\$ 84,254.16	\$ 77,391.04

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025.

Jana K. Clancy, Elmira Township Supervisor

Published 4/11/25

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
(309) 932-2168
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

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

Estate of RICHARD R. STURM, deceased
No. 2025-PR-26

Notice is given of the death of RICHARD R. STURM. Letters of Office were issued on February 25, 2025, to E. LYNN STURM, 18285 County Hwy 14, Atkinson, IL 61235, as Independent Executor, 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
(309) 932-2168
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

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

ESTATE OF: Margo J. Berry,
No. 2025PR32
Deceased

CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)
Notice is given of the death of Margo J. Berry. Letters of Office were issued on March 21, 2025, to

Dennis B. Berry 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 September 21 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.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-2001
Email: everett@barashlaw.com
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Estate of STEVEN A. BENT, deceased
No. 2025-PR-5

Notice is given of the death of STEVEN A. BENT. Letters of Office were issued on March 28, 2025, to JAMES O. BENT, 403 S. Galena Ave., Wyoming, IL 61491, 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 Stark County Circuit Clerk, Stark County Courthouse, 130 W. Main St.,

Cambridge, Illinois 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.

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.

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-2001
Email: everett@barashlaw.com
Published 3/28, 4/4, 4/11/25

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

ESTATE OF
JENNET R. RUSSELL, Deceased
No. 2025 PR 4
CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Jennet R. Russell. Letters of Office were issued on March 28, 2025, to Larry D. Russell as Independent Executor 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 October 6, 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.

**Annual Treasurer's Report
Elmira Township Road District
Fiscal Year Ending February 28, 2025**

Revenue Summary:

Property Taxes	\$ 47,327.67
Replacement Tax	\$ 4,141.38
Motor Fuel Tax	\$ 0.00
Interest Income	\$ 1,040.77
Miscellaneous Income	\$ 18,071.66
Total Revenues:	\$ 70,581.48

Compensation Summary

Road Help	\$ 8,721.00
Total Compensation:	\$ 8,721.00

Expenditure Summary

AgView	\$ 1,532.50
Cole Bennett	\$ 1,560.00
Creations Unlimited	\$ 1,315.80
Dwaine Jackson	\$ 22,913.33
Galva Iron & Metal	\$ 1,950.00
Matt Bennett	\$ 5,633.94
Moore Tires	\$ 2,257.25
Purtscher Oil	\$ 8,146.92
State Bank of Toulon (Loader Loan)	\$ 18,000.00
Sullivan Door Co	\$ 1,800.00
TriCon Materials	\$ 4,449.60

All other disbursements less than \$1,000.00 each \$ 6,203.01
Total Vendors: \$ 75,762.35

Summary Statement of Condition

	General Fund	Special Funds
Beginning Balance	\$ 207,663.44	\$ 31,596.47
Revenues	\$ 45,540.90	\$ 25,040.58
Expenditures	\$ 84,483.35	\$ 18,000.00
Ending Balance	\$ 168,720.99	\$ 38,637.05

Subscribed and sworn to this 8th day of April, 2025.

Jana K. Clancy, Elmira Township Supervisor

Published 4/11/25

Toulon, IL 61483, 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.

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

ESTATE OF
JENNET R. RUSSELL, Deceased
No. 2025 PR 4
CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Jennet R. Russell. Letters of Office were issued on March 28, 2025, to Larry D. Russell as Independent Executor 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 October 6, 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.

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Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
211 W. 2nd St.
Kewanee, IL 61443
(309) 852-5555
Published 4/11, 4/18, 4/25/25

Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 205
Galva, IL 61434
(309) 932-2168
Published 4/4, 4/11, 4/18/25

Barash & Everett, LLC
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Stark Co. baseball tops Putnam Co, 7-3

By **NICK VLAHOS**
and **PHIL JOHNSON**

For The Prairie News

TOULON – The Stark County baseball team bested nonconference opponent Putnam County 7-3 at home on Monday.

Ahead 6-3 after four innings, the Rebels pitching and defense put a hold on the guests for the remainder of the game.

Connor Daum threw 4.1 innings for Stark County (3-5). He held the guests to four hits, two earned runs and struck out two. Dillon Steelman, Khaiden Turnbull and Keegan Sparks relieved to combine for no runs scored.

Blair Daum batted 2-for-2 with a double and four RBI. Dillon Steelman, Ben Browning and Jason Knowles each had one RBI in the

win.

Next up for SCHS is a Lincoln Trail matchup at Princeville on Saturday.

• **Galva baseball** – The Wildcats (0-4-1) lost 8-2 to nonconference foe Midland at home on Monday.

MJ Louck pitched five innings giving up five hits, two earned runs and five walks. He recorded five strikeouts in the effort. Braxton Hulstrom relieved for two frames giving up no hits, two earned runs while striking out four.

Ty Dowell-Keup, Hulstrom and Louck each recorded one hit.

• **SC softball** – Erie-Prophetstown scored three times in the first inning Tuesday on its way to a 7-4 victory over Stark County. Kenna Newton was 1-for-3 with two RBI for the Rebels (1-4), who after a scheduled

game Thursday at ROWVA-Williamsfield are to play a double-header Saturday at Annawan-Wethersfield.

• **Galva softball** – Kaylyn Gale and Lily Wigant each had two RBI and Amber Plummer struck out 16 Varna Midland batters Monday as Galva won 9-5.

Midland led 4-3 after the top of the third inning, but Gale scored on a fielder's choice and Alyssa Hudson scored on Wigant's single in the bottom half to give the Wildcats (1-1) a lasting lead. Galva scored four more in the sixth. Maddie Bates had an RBI double in the inning and was 2-for-4 overall, as was Gale.

The Wildcats are to play Saturday against ROWVA-Williamsfield.

TRACK: Orwig wins 3 boys events, posts PR

Continued from Page 12

Barnwell in the 100 (13.71), senior Darilis Knobloch in the 800 (PR, 2:45.68) and junior Cheyenh Smith in the 1,600 (PR, 5:41.76) and 3,200 (12:30.45). Also taking second was the 4x200 relay of Barnwell, junior Claire Bowser, sophomore Lyla Rosado and freshman Madison Ensey in 2:00.55.

Third-place finishers for the girls were Barnwell in the 200 (28.75) and long jump (13-7.75); sophomore Michelle Atchley in discus (88-11.75); and the 4x100 relay of Price, Rosado, Ensey and freshman Kamiyah Webster (57.95).

In addition to winning the 3,200, Knobloch posted personal records while placing second in the 800 (2:13.33) and third in the 1,600 (4:51.37).

The other top finisher for Stark County was senior Nolan Orwig, who was first in the 200 (23.21), 110 hurdles (PR, 15.91) and 300 hurdles (43.01). Orwig's times were

all season or personal bests.

The Rebels had several second-place finishers on the day, including the 4x00 relay of freshmen Louis O'Bryant, Jackson Knoblauch and Braxxten Gibson and senior Cary Morgan (1:41.07) and senior Audon Frihetsli in discus (PR, 125-2.25).

Stark County had four of the top six finishers in shot put, led by runner-up senior Nolan Snider (43-6) and third-place senior Owen Hess (38-3).

Stark County also got a third-place finish from its 4x100 relay of Orwig, Jackson Knoblauch, Morgan and Gibson (48.55).

Stark County had its meet at Annawan-Wethersfield called off on Monday. The team was to compete at Galva Thursday, then next week is at the Bureau Valley Girls Invite on April 14 and the Dale Collis Invite in Galva on April 16.

• **Galva track** – Galva had two third-place finishes at the April 3 meet in Kewanee.

Sophomore Braydon Robinson placed third in the triple jump with a leap of 33-1.25. Also third was the 4x200 relay of freshmen Fisher Appell, Landon Rodseth and Eli Ingles and sophomore Brayden Robinson (1:48.76).

Fourth-place finishers included: junior Braden Murphy in discus (PR, 110-1.5); the 4x100 boys relay of freshman Blaiden Brose, sophomores Bryant Jeffrey and Reid Harris and Murphy (50.82); the 4x100 girls relay of seniors Maddie Bates and Addie Moore and juniors Reese Sumner and Ella Ingels (58.3); the 4x200 relay of sophomores Olivia Calderon, Charley Chamberlain, Sage Kaiser and Mia Gazzera (2:16.23); and Bates in the long jump (13-7.75).

Galva was to host a meet on April 10 and then will compete on April 16 at home in the Dale Collis Invite.

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Thank You
My thanks to all who sent cards for my 95th Birthday in March. Many happy memories were recalled from them!
Again, Thank You!!
~ Rollie Krause

City of Wyoming
CLEAN UP DAYS
MONDAY, MAY 19TH & TUESDAY, MAY 20TH
Everything to be picked up must be out by Monday, May 19th. The garbage truck will start in the north end of Wyoming and move south. **They will not revisit an area they have already picked up.**
It will be free to all **residential households** in the corporate limits of the City of Wyoming. Per state laws they cannot pick up any electrical items. Large non-electrical appliances and large pieces of furniture such as couches, large chairs, mattresses and box springs will require a tag at a cost of \$10 each. Tags can be purchased at City Hall. City Hall's hours are Mon-Fri 7:30-noon and 12:30 to 4pm. Anything placed out should be easily picked up by one man and placed into the back of the garbage truck. Bundle items when necessary so they may be picked up in a timely fashion.
THE FOLLOWING WILL NOT BE PICKED UP:
• Electrical items • Landscape waste • Hazardous material as in kerosene, fuel oil, paint thinners, batteries and tires • No Bricks, building materials and long poles as these items damage the garbage truck.
Murphy's has the right to refuse to pick up any piles of garbage that is larger than 4ft. by 4ft. pile or contained items mixed in that are not allowed.
Any large items set out without the required bulk tags will be in violation of City Ordinance and subject to possible fines.

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Sealed bids should be sent to:
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2558 E. Knox Road
LaFayette, IL 61449
Bids must be received by March 14, 2025. Bids will be opened at the Trustees' meeting April 16, 2025, 7 p.m.
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Prairie News Sports



School records fall

Stark Co. girls win opener, Rebels set 3 school records

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Prairie News

KEWANEE – The Stark County track teams started their outdoor season in impressive fashion on April 3.

In addition to winning the five-team meet at Kewanee Stadium with 116.5 points, the Lady Rebels set two school records.

The Stark County boys scored 73 points to finish second to Kewanee (156 points) and saw freshman Evan Knobloch break the school record by 46 seconds in the 3,200-meter race in a time of 10:02.92.

For the girls, sophomore Dusti Smith won the 3,200 in a school and personal record time of 11:52.43 despite being knocked to the ground on the second lap.

Senior Lauren Orwig also set a Stark County girls record with a throw of 112 feet, 6 inches in the discus. Placing second in discus was SC senior Chelsey Stotler with a throw of 98-0.75.



On April 3, sophomore Dusti Smith (right) broke a Stark County school record in the 3,200 that had been held by Brooke Down (left) for eight years.



Stark County senior Lauren Orwig set a school record with a throw of 112 feet, 6 inches in the discus on April 3.



Stark County freshman Evan Knobloch set a school record in the 3,200 on April 3 with a time of 10:02.92.

Those two flip-flopped in shot put, with Stotler winning with a throw of 37-1.25 and Orwig second (34-11.75).

Other winners for the Lady Rebels were freshman Taylor Price in the 400 (PR, 1:11.86), junior Paytin Terwilliger in the 800 (2:39.35), Dusti Smith in the 1,600 (5:33.86) and the 4x400 relay of Sarah Kraklow, Terwilliger, Cheyenh Smith and Dusti Smith in

Second-place finishers included senior Paul'nya
Continued on Page 11

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