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December 19, 2025
Vol. 21, No. 49

The Prairie News

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Galva school board lowers tax rate levy to \$4.48

By CAROL TOWNSEND
for The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva School Board on Monday passed a 2025 tax rate of \$4.4841 following a Truth in Taxation hearing.

While the tax rate is lower, the equalized assessed value of properties has increased, which is what prompted the hearing. Galva’s EAV went up 10.81%, which is largely due to TIF 2 being retired, according to Superintendent Joe Becker.

In response, Robert Collister of Galva noted during the hearing

that EAV has increased more than surrounding schools which had increases of 5%. He also said a lighted sign at the school does not make the “school safer or the student grades higher.” He said the sign is so bright that it can be seen from Midland Country Club and that the \$46,500 spent on the sign should have gone to something else.

Elementary Principal Adam Norway reported on the Elementary School report card. The school received commendable status and attendance improved

from 92.4% to 93.3%. In 2022 it was 94%.

The rate of chronic absenteeism is 17% vs. the state average of 25.4%. Norway said math proficiency was 46.1% vs. the state average of 38.4%. The homeless rate went up to 5.9%, which is the highest since 2016.

“This is alarming to me,” Norway said.

Junior-senior high school principal Kurtis Smyth reported that the high school also received commendable status. The graduation rate went up from 69.2% in

2022, to 91.9%. Chronic absenteeism went from 21.5% in 2022 to 25.5% in 2025. Smyth said the district is holding more families accountable for non-attendance and several court cases have been made for truancy of minors.

Several board members attended the state school board conference and a seminar on hiring a superintendent they felt will be helpful, as Superintendent Becker is planning to retire.

The board approved hiring Tami Thuline as a bus aide for the 2025-26 school year and the

following hirings for 2026-27:

- Zach Anderson as head varsity high school football coach.
- Mike Funke and Chris Anderson as assistant football coaches.
- Justin Robinson as assistant junior high football coach.
- Brandon Owens as varsity head golf coach and Josh Harris as assistant golf coach.
- Taylor McMeekan as JH and HS cross country coach

The board also approved resignations of Heather Anderson (assistant volleyball coach), Lucas Wigant (JH football coach).

Stark County OKs 2025 levy

Tax rate drops, total levy increases due to EAV

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Prairie News

WYOMING – The Stark County School Board on Monday approved a 2025 tax levy that includes a 5.66% increase.

The vote was taken following a Truth in Taxation hearing during which no public comments were voiced. The hearing was required because the equalized assessed value of district properties is predicted to increase by 5.5% to 6%. The school district is taking that full increase in its 2025 levy and, because the increase is greater than 5%, a hearing is required.

Elliott said winter break starts Friday, Dec. 19, and students return Jan. 6.

In other business, the board approved travel expense reimbursements of \$58,440 for Fiscal Year 2026, PRESS policy updates and s 2026-27 risk management plan.

During the meeting, the Stark County Elementary School Parents Club made another presentation with a new proposal

Continued on Page 2

GETTING IN THE SPIRIT



Pictured above is one of 17 locations entered in the Galva Arts Council Tour of Lights contest. Voting concludes on Dec. 20, when winners will be announced.

Holiday events rescheduled

Galva & Toulon Christmas festivities continue

For The Prairie News

Cold weather and snow last weekend caused some Christmas schedule juggling.

Toulon’s Christmas Walk was rescheduled for this Friday, Dec. 19, with the same schedule of events from 5-7 p.m. The event concludes with a charity auction at the Bistro at 7:30 p.m.

Voting has been extended for

the Galva Arts Council Tour of Lights contest, featuring 17 decorated homes. Cast votes at galvaartscouncil.org/voting until Dec. 20, when winners will be announced and volunteers recognized at the Arts Council Center, located at 128 Exchange St. in Galva. For more information visit the Galva Arts Council website .

Q&A with Bradford village president

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – The Stark Council for Continuous Improvement recently conducted a brief question-and-answer session with Bradford Village President, Sharon Cauthon, to ask about her new experiences.

She is Bradford’s first female president.

Q: What has been the most challenging for you in this new position since you took the chair six months ago?

Cauthon: “I came into this with no prior municipal knowledge. I have been doing a lot of reading, researching, asking questions, and attending



Cauthon

meetings. There is nothing about this position that can be taken lightly, the growth and continued betterment of the community must always be in the forefront.”

Q: What steps have you taken to move Bradford forward?

Cauthon: “I had a fantastic meeting with Rep. Ryan Spain. We spoke about Bradford and the state of our wastewater facility. We discussed conditions that need to be updated not only there but also at our water-treatment facility. I have spoken to (U.S. Rep. Darin) LaHood as well in hopes that there is funding that could help get Bradford back on track with these improvements that are needed.”

Q: Can you tell us any new developments that you

Continued on Page 2

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STARK: District will sell 2006 Ford F-150 truck

Continued from Page 1
and new costs for a playground. The new plan would be done in phases. No action was taken.

The board also recognized students who competed at the Illinois Music Education Association contest and offered congratulations to Piper Tyree

for being selected to participate in the all-state senior chorus and to Levi Sparks for selection to the junior band. They will perform in January at the Peoria Civic Center at the Illinois Music Education Conference.

The district will take bids on a 2006 Ford F-150 truck declared as surplus.

After executive session, the board approved resignations of Brittany Venzon as sophomore class sponsor at the end of the school year and of Deidre Morgan as an aide effective Dec. 29. Also approved was administrative leave for Lindsay Garcia.

CAUTION: SCCI meetings well attended

Continued from Page 1
have started since taking office?

Caution: "I am incredibly excited that we have started attending and getting involved with SCCI. This group has given us an opportunity to work with the other major players in all Stark County. The community mayors from Wyoming and Toulon, school district superintendents, APEX Energy, NCICG, DCEO and many others attend monthly. Being part of this group has given Bradford resources that were unknown to us before.

"This collaboration is also helping

bridge the gap between the small towns. I look forward to our monthly meetings. New housing developments, business possibilities and county growth are discussed at each meeting, with no community being left out. When discussing any situation, the betterment of all communities is taken into consideration."

Q: Do you think the public can see changes that have been made?

Caution: "I can't speak for everyone. There is positive and negative in everything. I don't think that I have made or influenced changes that have made a huge impact.

"We have our village Facebook page, which I have had very positive feedback from as it has showcased a lot of our youth. I have tried to bring a positive attitude to our village employees, to show them just how great of a job that they are doing every single day. They are the ones who keep Bradford going; there is no doubt about that.

"I just want Bradford to feel proud again of everything we have. It is such a great place to live and raise your family."



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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents Stark County

12-7 - Aaron B. Bell, 39, Peoria, was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle. He was also cited for driving while his license was revoked, operating an uninsured vehicle and driving on a suspended registration. He was extradited to the Bureau County Jail. On Dec. 9, Bell was released with a notice to appear.

12-7 - A traffic stop on Illinois Route 17 and 1500E resulted in three arrests Myla A. Reno, 20, and Christian M. Barajas, 20, both of Henry, and Jonathan N. McLaughlin, 25, Peoria, were all charged with burglary. Reno identified as the driver was also cited for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone, operating an uninsured vehicle and possession of adult-use of cannabis by a driver. McLaughlin was ticketed for illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger and failure to wear a seat belt. The trio were all issued notices to appear and released.

12-11 - Amanda K. Rucker, 24, of Huntsville, Ala., was a vehicle that reportedly slid on a slick spot and rolled over near the intersection with Illinois Routes 40 and 17. Rucker was ticketed for failure to reduce speed and for driving without vehicle insurance. Estimated damage to the vehicle was over \$1,500.



12-13 - Mirlya J. Jones, 22, of Sterling, was involved in a single-vehicle accident on the South Valley Blacktop and Holmes Road. No injuries were reported to the driver or two additional passengers. Estimated damage to the vehicle was reported at over \$1,500, along with a guardrail also reported damaged.

Galva Report Officer dispatched:

12-8 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. after a disturbance involving a subject yelling at school children waiting for the school bus.

12-8 - to the 300 block of NW 4th Ave. for a complaint involving child-custody issues. Officer was then requested for a civil standby in the 600 block of NE 2nd Street to attempt to retrieve property.

12-8 - to the 500 block of SE 2nd St. for a disturbance possibly involving a long gun inside a vehicle. Of-

icers and Henry County deputies could not locate the suspect vehicle.

12-8 - Officer met with a resident at the Galva Police Department to file a report of a domestic disturbance from several weeks ago.

12-9 - to the 300 block of SE 2nd St. for a loose-dog complaint. The officer was not able to load the very large dogs into the car and was unable to contact the owner. Officer walked the dogs home and secured them on a porch.

12-10 - to the 100 block of NW 7th Ave. for a disturbance and trespassing complaint.

12-10 - to the 200 block of NW 2nd St. for a child-custody dispute.

12-11 - to the 300 block of NE 1st St. for a trespassing/parking complaint.

12-11 - While patrolling, officer noticed the Chester Street railroad crossing arms were activated with no trains present. BNSF was contacted.

12-11 - to the 100 block of N. Exchange St. to assist a motorist who locked their keys inside their vehicle. Tarletons was contacted.

12-11 - twice to assist Henry County check on vehicles in the ditch on U.S. Route 34 about 2 miles west of town. One vehicle was towed.

12-12 - to the 00 block of SE 2nd Ave. for a disorderly conduct - telephone harassment complaint.

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GISH		
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ETTE	INERRANT	PIVOTED
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Answer

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

CryptoQuote
answer
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GUEST VOICES

Let's help our town grow through volunteering

To The Editor:

Volunteering is a powerful force that shapes communities, strengthens connections and drives positive change. In towns across America, people who give their time, energy and skills help to create vibrant, resilient and welcoming places to live.

This letter explores ways in which volunteering can help our town grow, the benefits it brings to individuals and the community and practical steps for getting involved.

Volunteering is an investment in a town's future. When residents volunteer, they build a sense of ownership and pride. That can lead to improved public spaces, enhanced social services and a stronger local economy.

• Beautification projects: Volunteers can help to maintain parks, making the town more attractive to

visitors and potential new residents.

• Supporting local charities: By assisting food banks, shelters and non-profits you ensure vulnerable neighbors are cared for.

• Events and festivals: Community events rely on volunteers. Successful events draw people together, celebrate local culture and boost local businesses.

• Mentoring and education: Tutoring students, offering job training, or sharing professional skills can empower the next generation and prepare them for future success.

Volunteering also helps you increase your happiness, make new friends and learn new skills.

• Skill development: Volunteering can help reveal hidden talents and develops new abilities that may support future career goals.

• Networking: Working alongside others creates natural opportunities for expanding personal and professional networks.

• Well-being: Studies show that volunteering can lead to a longer, more satisfying life.

To get started, join a local service club or neighborhood association; volunteer at schools, libraries, or community centers; support town-wide beautification days; offer skills-based volunteering; or even start your own initiative. Wyoming's growth and success depend on the active participation of its residents.

Contact City Hall to help.

– **Jim Mercer**, Mayor of Wyoming

Email letters to the editor to jeff@wkypost.com or mail to:

The Prairie News,
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ORDINANCE NO. 757
CITY OF TOULON, Stark County, Illinois
AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SNOW REMOVAL - PARKING CITY OF TOULON

WHEREAS, the City Council has determined that it is necessary and in the best of the City of Toulon to amend the City's snow removal - parking regulations; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TOULON, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION ONE: Section 9-1-19 of the City Code is amended to read as follows:

"SECTION 9-1-19: SNOW REMOVAL - PARKING (a) After a snowfall of 2 inches or more, and for a period of 24 hours after snowfall stops or until City snow removal has been completed on the street in question, it shall be unlawful to allow any motor vehicle, trailer or any obstruction to remain within the City's right-of-way of any street within the City Limits, including the street roadway and area between the street and sidewalk.

(b) The City shall have the authority without notice to remove any vehicle, trailer or other obstruction, at the owner's cost, which remains within the City's right-of-way in violation of his section.

(c) Any person violating Section 9-1-19(a) shall be fined not less than TWENTY-FIVE (\$25.00) DOLLARS nor more than ONE HUNDRED (\$100.00) DOLLARS, and each day shall be deemed a separate offense. In addition, each person or owner shall be liable to the City for its costs of towing and removal of the vehicle, trailer, or other obstruction."

SECTION TWO. All Ordinances or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION THREE. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect ten days after its passage and publication in pamphlet form as provided by law.

Passed and Approved by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Toulon, Illinois, this 8th day of February, A.D. 1999.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Absent: 1

Approved: /s/ Albert Jon DeWitte, Mayor
Attest: /s/ Sandra Langdon, City Clerk

CERTIFICATION
STATE OF ILLINOIS,)
COUNTY OF STARK,) SS.
CITY OF TOULON,)

The undersigned, Clerk of the CITY OF TOULON, in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, do hereby Certify that the attached and foregoing Ordinance entitled "AN ORDINANCE REGULATING SNOW REMOVAL - PARKING" is a true and accurate copy of said Ordinance passed and approved by the Mayor and the City Council of the City of Toulon on the 8th day of February, A.D. 1999, after a Public Hearing held thereon.

Dated this 8th day of February, A.D. 1999.
/s/ Sandra Langdon
City Clerk

Published 12/19/25

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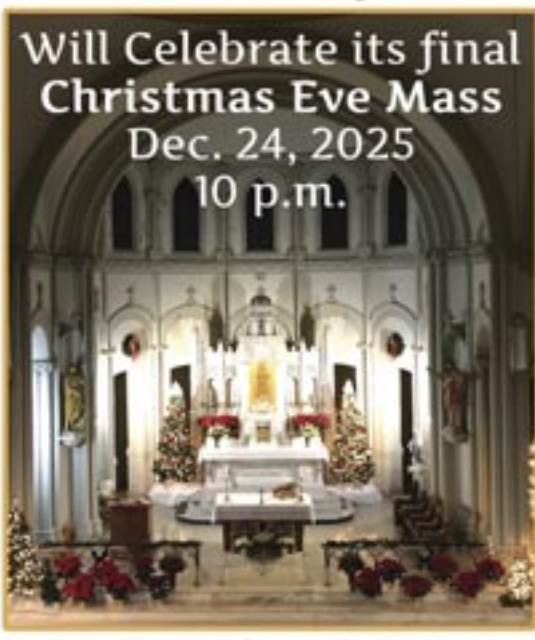
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BRIEFS

Nowlan, Stahl hearings in Stark County court

TOULON – The Stark County Courthouse last Friday was the scene for hearings on two cases involving charges of possession of child pornography.

In one case, Alex Nowlan was denied a requested release from Bureau County Jail by Tenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge James A. Mack.

In the case of Kenneth J. Stahl, a jury call was set for March 2 for his upcoming trial.

Bradford School Board OKs tax levy increase

BRADFORD – The Bradford School Board passed its 2025 tax levy on Dec. 15 following a Truth in

Taxation hearing. The district is keeping the same tax rate as last year, but is increasing the total levy to capture an estimated increase of 5.8% in the equalized assessed value of property in the district. Three residents spoke during the levy hearing and expressed concern about tax increases impacting residents.

After closed session the board approved hiring Kim Harris as a part-time aide. In other business, the board heard discussion about a first version of the calendar for Fiscal Year 2027 and formally approved PRESS policy changes from the Illinois Association of School Boards.

Golnicks acquire Haskell funeral home

PRINCEVILLE – James and Bran-

dee Golnick have acquired Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services from Bert and Veronica Haskell.

The Haskell family have run their two funeral homes in Princeville and Wyoming since 2013. Bert Haskell has 30 years in the industry.

The Golnicks also run Golnick-Schueneman Funeral Home in Kewanee. In a Facebook post on Dec. 12, the Golnicks said, “We believe that the future of the funeral care industry is expansion by small, family-owned funeral homes, not corporations. We will continue to provide the same level of personal care for our communities and the surrounding areas.”

Joining the Golnick staff will be several Haskell staffers, including Nicole Reed, Jake Martin, Shalaine Maher and several funeral assistants.

The Greatest Story Ever Told
St. Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1-20

1. And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.
2. And this taxing was the first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.
3. And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.
4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem (because he was of the house and lineage of David);
5. To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.
6. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.
7. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.
8. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.
9. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.
10. And the angel said unto them, Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.
11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.
12. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.
13. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and Saying.
14. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
15. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known to us.
16. And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger.
17. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.
18. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.
19. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
20. And the shepherds returned glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

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<p>2025 Ford Escape Active AWD 4dr SUV Price \$24,500 Mileage 17,978</p> 	<p>2025 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 LT 4x4 4dr Crew Cab 5.8 ft. SB w/1LT Price \$43,500 Mileage 15,985</p> 	<p>2023 GMC Terrain SLT 4dr SUV Price \$23,500 Mileage 59,624</p> 	<p>2019 Chevrolet Trax LT 4dr Crossover Price \$11,000 Mileage 84,500</p> 	
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Church Directory

Toulon Methodist Church

229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
Phone (309) 286-2224

Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 286-2224 or (217) 778-1591
Toulon Sunday School 9:15 a.m., all ages & Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

LaFayette Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 17, P.O. Box 147, LaFayette, IL. 61449
Phone (309) 995-3371

Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 995-3371 or (217) 778-1591
LaFayette Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

West Jersey United Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 78, West Jersey, IL • Rev. Pablo Marty
Phone (217) 425-5707

Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Elmira United Presbyterian Church

7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483 • (309) 896-3481
Services each Sunday at 9 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

website: www.thegathering.life/

www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

Reverend David Graham

218 N. Henderson St., Toulon • (309) 286-4901

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

Email fctoulon@gmail.com

website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones

211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434

(309) 932-3733

Service Time 10 a.m.

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Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491

Rev. Shawna Marsh

Sunday School: 10 a.m., All ages • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesday Prayer & Fellowship 5:30 to 6:30

Thursday Kids Club 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Baby Connection: Wednesday and Thursdays 9 - 11 a.m.

Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

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

(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational Church of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon • (309) 286-4611

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

Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

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

Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

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www.ToulonBaptist.com

www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon

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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: 9:0 a.m.

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Father 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 a.m. 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 Wyonet Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421

Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.

Rev Dan Wright

309-897-8113 309-507-1626

thewrights62@hotmail.com

Bradford Apostolic Christian Church

440 E Main St Bradford IL 61421

9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service and simultaneous Sunday

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OBITUARIES

John Costin

HENRY – On June 20, 1930, John Costin burst upon the scene in a little hospital in Henry, Ill. on the banks of the Illinois River.

John was born to Thirl Costin and Helen Irene Colwell during the Great Depression. As a result, they lived with his grandparents for a few years.



Costin

His young school years started in Leonore, Ill., then Tonica, Ill., then Lowell until they settled in Toulon, Ill. His father couldn't afford or didn't believe in allowance, so if he wanted anything it was up to him to find work and earn it. Not all bad, he learned to work! He did winter snow shoveling and summer lawn mowing. The average lawn was about 25 cents for a city lot, large ones were 35 cents.

For a while his father operated Costin's Garage in Toulon as an auto mechanic where he took John in at age 13 and trained him to be a mechanic.

In 1948, his parents took him on a 6,000-mile three-week vacation that ultimately turned him into a nomad. Besides other vacations he was needed to do over 30 wilderness canoe trips with family and friends.

An automobile accident landed him in the hospital in 1951, where he met a nurse trainee named Elizabeth Eisinger who he married on Dec. 25, 1952. They wrote a song that pretty well described his married life: "She had kisses sweeter than wine."

In 1952, Uncle Sam insisted on John giving two years to the Army Service. So he spent two years in Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., during the Korean War as supply sergeant of the 201st Engineer Battalion.

Their kids were a true testament of their love: Kevin Costin, John Costin II, Karen (Jim) Kadar, Eugene (Teresa) Costin, Yvonne (Ted Meissner) Jannie, Daniel (Yvelice) Costin and Jennifer (Kurt) Schmitt. They were married for almost 63 years until Elizabeth passed away on Oct. 15, 2015.

Life took them to a 60-acre farm near Osceola just down the road from the Spoon River where John was thrilled to raise his kids. It was his ideal place. After arriving home from the Army in August 1954, he worked as a mechanic for Sellers Sales & Service and then for a farmer named Dan McKean near Bradford. From there he worked at East Moline International Harvester and C&E Motor Supply. His final employment was when he started Costin Machine & Parts Co in 1977, until his retirement when he turned 87.

John knew if you are lucky enough to stay healthy, being retired lets you have lots of opportunity. He got to spend a lot of time in a canoe in the Boundry Waters Wilderness and Canada's Quetico Park and thoroughly enjoyed all the wildlife and fishing.

All in all, it was a very good life. (Obit written by John Costin.)

His other passion was his grandkids, many of whom experienced many canoe trips and vacations with John. He was so very thankful that his wonderful kids blessed him with several great-grandkids.

John was preceded in death by the love of his life, Elizabeth; son Kevin; grandson Cody Jannie; son-in-law William "Tick" Jannie; and daughter-in-law Sandra Costin.

John was a lifetime member of the NRA and was a member of the Toulon American Legion and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Special thanks goes to the Galesburg VA, Devere Billingsly, Vicki Clemens, Karen Lindquist and Lu Liebelt. Memorials may be made to the Henry County Humane Society-Kewanee Chapter.

His best friend was Polly, a dog he rescued from the shelter.

John passed away peacefully on Dec. 10, 2025. A celebration of life is being planned for a later date. Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee is assisting the family with arrangements.

Rodney C. Frank

PEORIA – Rodney Charles "Rod" Frank, 56, formerly of Wyoming, passed away at 3:41 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, 2025, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria, Ill. He was born Aug. 11, 1969, in Bloomington, Ill., the son of Charles Everett Frank and Victoria Lynn (Grunloh) Johnston.

He is survived by his mother, Victoria Johnston, of Wyoming; four sisters, Theresa (Danel) Olmsted, of Toulon, Ill., Michelle (Ryan) Weststart, of Galesburg, Ill., Veronica Rowe, of Prophetstown, Ill., and Erica (Frank) Smith, of Kewanee, Ill.; one brother, David (Marqué) Johnston, of Wyoming;



Frank

one son, Tyler Frank, of East Peoria, Ill.; one daughter, Hannah (Andy) Warren, of Peoria; stepchildren Josh Tomblin and Ashley Tomblin, both of Peoria; and five grandchildren, Logan, Gwen, Aly, Havyn and Jacoby. Rod was preceded in death by his wife, Theresa Lynn (Tomblin); father Charles Frank; and stepfather Mike Johnston.

Rod graduated from Wyoming High School in 1987. In high school he played football and performed in the show choir. Rod worked for Firestone Tire and Rubber Company for many years before furthering his career with E2 Companies. He was known for his work ethic and workaholic tendencies. He was a huge fan of the Las Vegas Raiders football team and enjoyed watching the Chicago Cubs. Rod loved fishing and anything Harley Davidson related. More than all else, he loved spending time with his family.

His funeral will be at noon on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. The Rev. Corey Kregiel will officiate. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to noon on Monday, Dec. 22, 2025, also at the funeral home. Memorial contributions may be made to St Jude Children's Hospital. Online condolences may be left for Rod's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Bonnie L. Headley

GALVA – Bonnie Lorene Headley, 71 of Galva, passed away peacefully in her home on Dec. 11, 2025, following a brave two-year battle with ALS. She was born on Feb. 20, 1954, in Chicago to the late Joseph and Alice Brantl.

She attended her early school years in Chicago, before moving to Union

Pier, Mich., to attend middle and high school, graduating as a New Buffalo Bison. Following high school, Bonnie met her husband of 51 years, Jim, at a Michigan truckstop where she was working. They quickly knew that they were meant to be and married on May 24, 1974, beginning life together in Galva. Michigan has held a special place in Bonnie's heart throughout her life, and she made sure to visit yearly, if not more.

In addition to her husband, Jim, she will be missed by her children, Jill (Ryan) Smith of Plainfield, Ill., and Andrew (Sara) Headley of Fort Mill, S.C. Bonnie is also survived by five grandsons, Cameron and Cooper Smith, and Jackson, Lucas and Nathan Headley.

Bonnie had a full and active life. She enjoyed working at Hathaway's in Galva when her kids were young, before moving on to a long and fulfilling job at Breedlove's in Kewanee until the time of her diagnosis of ALS. She enjoyed traveling with her husband, Jim, and they visited many places throughout the East Coast and Midwest, with frequent visits to Mackinac Island her favorite.

Bonnie was a devoted mom and grandma and took great pride in her family. She sat through countless athletic events, cheerleading competitions and choir concerts when her kids were young. She enjoyed many soccer games and band concerts involving her grandsons in Illinois and loved visiting her grandsons in South Carolina several times a year. Her warm and caring spirit will be greatly missed.

Bonnie was a sports fan, enjoying the NFL (Go Bears), PGA golf and the Olympics. She was an avid reader, loved gardening and enjoyed doing jigsaw puzzles. She looked forward to lunches and dinners out with friends, seeing shows in Chicago and spending time with her dog, Kinsie.

Bonnie's family would like to extend a huge thank you to her caregiver, Dorothy Schaefer, who was with her for the last eight months.

A memorial service was held Dec. 16 at Rux Funeral Home in Galva. Memorials may be directed to Rebuilding Together Henry County.

Paula J. Sprowls

SPEER – Paula Joy Sprowls, 79, of Speer, passed away peacefully at 6:34 a.m. Friday, Dec. 12, 2025, at her residence. Paula was born on May 11, 1946, in Speer to Ernest and Pauline (Thompson) Sprowls.

She is survived by a brother-in-law, Michael Cutler of Wyoming, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; three sisters, Nancy Cluney, Wanda Cutler and Janice Studer; two brothers, Danny Sprowls and Carl Sprowls; and one nephew, Brian Cox. Paula worked for the State Bank of Speer as a bookkeeper from 1995, until her retirement in 2017. She was an avid golfer and enjoyed time spent maintaining her yard and garden.

There will be no public services at this time. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services is assisting the family with arrangements. Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society. Online condolences may be left for Paula's family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



Headley

NOTICE

The Annual Meeting of the Stark County Junior Fair will be held on **Thursday, January 8th, 2026 at 6 p.m.** at the Stark County Junior Fairgrounds in Wyoming, IL for Stark County residents 18 or older.

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... WHY CAN'T YOU BE LIKE THAT?

by Jeff Pickering

I DON'T KNOW HIS WIFE THAT WELL.

Just Like Cats & Dogs by Dave T. Phipps

MY WIFE IS NOW UPSET WITH ME BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE'S UPSET. SHOULDN'T THAT BE AGAINST THE RULES?

GRIN & BEAR IT

FIGEN'S DEPARTMENT STORE GET IT HERE

"Could you manage a little less bah-humbug and a little more ho-ho-ho?"

Weekly SUDOKU

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

1. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Who was the first left-handed president?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What country is home to the largest cave in the world?
3. MOVIES: Who is the voice of Buzz Lightyear in the "Toy Story" movies?
4. HISTORY: Who was the first emperor of Rome?
5. LITERATURE: In what city is James Joyce's novel "Ulysses" set?
6. TELEVISION: What is the name of Data's cat on "Star Trek: The Next Generation"?
7. ASTRONOMY: What is an exploding star called?
8. SCIENCE: What kind of cloud is associated with thunderstorms?
9. U.S. STATES: Which states have no sales tax?
10. ANATOMY: What is the function of the carotid arteries?

Answers

1. James Garfield.
2. Vietnam.
3. Tim Allen.
4. Augustus.
5. Dublin, Ireland.
6. Spot.
7. A supernova.
8. Cumulonimbus.
9. Five states have no sales tax: Alaska, Delaware, Montana, New Hampshire and Oregon.
10. They supply oxygen-rich blood to the face, neck and brain.

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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 3

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.

TPETJP UPSOHU NIPPUES EN
GTPPDL QE SOAP KT NEI QLP
NIPPUES EN QLEKFLQ XLYDL
QLPZ OBEYU.
- GEIPH AYPIAPFOOIU

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TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Five Nights at Freddy's 2 (PG-13)
2. Zootopia 2 (PG)
3. Wicked: For Good (PG)
4. Jujutsu Kaisen: Execution (R)
5. Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG-13)
6. Kill Bill: The Whole Bloody Affair (NR)
7. Eternity (PG-13)
8. Hamnet (PG-13)
9. Dhurandhar (NR)
10. Predator: Badlands (PG-13)

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LEGAL ADS

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

ESTATE OF NORMAN ALLEN ANDERSEN, Deceased. No. 2025PR121

CLAIM NOTICE
 (Publication)
 Notice is given of the death of **Norman Allen Andersen**. Letters of Office were issued on **December 8, 2025, to Reynolds M. Everett, Jr. 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 **June 8, 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 of Executor
 Address P.O. Box 165
 City Galva, IL 61434
 Phone(309) 932-2001
 Email: everetr@barashlaw.com

Published 12/19/25, 1/2, 1/9/26

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

Kewanee Municipal Airport Authority
 An Illinois Municipal Airport, Plaintiff
 Vs 2025 EV 130
 Rusty Ott., Defendant

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
 The requisite Motion for Service by Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, **Rusty Ott**, Defendant in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled action was filed and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs, the Court in which this action was brought, and the Case Number are identified above.
2. The name of the landlord is: **Kewanee Municipal Airport.**
3. The premises in which this matter pertains is **Hangar #3A, Kewanee Municipal Airport, 3769 Midland Road, Kewanee, Illinois 61443.**

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, file your answer to the Complaint for Forcible Entry and Detainer in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, with the Henry County Circuit Clerk, 307 W. Center Street, Cambridge, Illinois 61238, on or before 30 days after the date of this publication, a default may be entered.

/s/ Terilyn A. Motley
 Circuit Clerk

Zachary L. Lessard (ARDC #6325734) of Barash & Everett, LLC
 Attorney for Petitioner
 211 W. Second Street
 Kewanee, IL 61443
 Telephone: 309/852-5555
 Fax: 309/853-8153
 E-mail: zac@barashlaw.com

Published 12/19/25, 1/2, 1/9/26

The Prairie News will not publish on December 26th

Ad deadline for the January 2nd edition is Monday, December 29th, by noon.

Merry Christmas!



HELP WANTED
 Writers needed to cover sports and local board meetings for The Prairie News
 Call (309) 231-6040



BISHOP HILL COMMUNITY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ANNUAL TREASURER'S REPORT FY 25

Beginning Balance 05/01/24 \$66,706.14

REVENUE

Property Tax	\$180,657.17
Interest	\$239.58
Refunds/Reimbursements	\$25,188.00
IL Replacement Taxes	\$2,824.42
Donations	\$4,425.71
Total Revenue	\$213,334.88
Total Funds Available	\$280,041.02
Total Expenditures	\$179,620.90
Ending Balance 04/30/25	\$100,420.12

Expenditures in excess of \$2,500.00:

Ameren	\$4,760.81
DeReu Construction	\$17,418.00
Fire Catt LLC	\$2,856.50
IL Finance Authority	\$13,333.33
Jeffries Truck & Trailer	\$2,598.91
Mainline Construction	\$10,500.00
Public Risk Underwriters	\$7,990.00

Stark Co Ambulance	\$88,128.00
Supreme Radio Communications	\$3,568.95
Target Solutions	\$2,735.00
All Other Disbursements	Less than \$2,500.00
Payroll Under \$25,000.00:	\$4,815.00

Drake Stahl, Cameron Meyer, Brandon Johnston, Benjamin Strand, Gregory Peck, Jeffery Burke, Kevin Schwartzkopf, Michael Keup, Ryan Ruhl, Shawn Wood, Tyler Johnston, Kent Youngstrom, Dan Meyer, John Foley

Total Expenditures \$179,620.90

I, Kelly Cheline, do hereby certify that the above is a true copy of the Bishop Hill Community Fire Protection District Annual Treasurer's Report for the fiscal year May 1, 2024 through April 30, 2025.

___/S/Kelly Cheline, Accountant

Published 12/19/25, 1/2, 1/9/26

STARK COUNTY NOTICE OF TAX DEED SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2025TX11 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND STARK COUNTY CLERK, STARK COUNTY TREASURER, CITY OF TOULON, STARK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
03-18-428-001	FEUCHT, EARL	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-428-001	FEUCHT, MARGARET	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-428-001	PUBLICANI INVESTMENT CORP.RA: DENNIS BALLINGER JR	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-437-003	FEUCHT, EARL	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-18-437-003	FEUCHT, MARGARET	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-18-437-003	MB TAX PARTNERSRA: JOHNNIE MCKEE	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-24-403-003	COPPLE, MATTHEW	202200020	506 N. CULBERTSON ST.
03-24-403-003	CITY OF TOULON	202200020	506 N. CULBERTSON ST.
04-36-302-015	INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CO	202200045	507 N. GALENA AVE.
04-36-318-013	WILSON, MARCUS	202200048	104 E. WILLIAMS ST.
04-36-318-013	CITY OF WYOMING	202200048	104 E. WILLIAMS ST.
05-16-100-012	WILLIAMS, JUSTIN	202200050	310 N. SHERMAN ST.
05-16-100-012	WILLIAMS, JESSICA L.	202200050	310 N. SHERMAN ST.
07-02-219-019	TURNER, JEFFREY A	202200059	508 S. 7TH ST.
07-02-219-019	TURNER, NATHAN O.	202200059	508 S. 7TH ST.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON **OCTOBER 24, 2023**, FOR GENERAL-TAXES FOR THE YEARS 2022 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES **MAY 15, 2026**. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECTING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS CAUSE AS TO THESE PARCELS BY STARK COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON **JUNE 5, 2026 AT 9:00 AM [COURTROOM A]**, SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT REDEEMED ON OR BEFORE **MAY 15, 2026**.

/S/ STARK COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 130 WEST MAIN, TOULON, IL 61483
TELEPHONE: (309) 286-5911

Published 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/25

Answers on Page 3 — Super Crossword — UNIVERSITY SUBSTITUTES

ACROSS

1 Small, sticky sheets	8 Sentimental souvenir	16 Bit of aquatic flora	20 in hitting position, in baseball	21 Haphazardly	22 Ringing thing	23 Providence university founded to educate Dracula?	25 Not phony	26 Auld lang —	27 Wed. preceder	28 Stale	29 Passover bread	30 Phishish type	32 Nicer than a Madison university?	38 Actress Anderson	41 Jeans, e.g.	42 Ridden horse	43 Located on a Somerville university's campus?	46 Pooch or Yogi unit: Abbr.	50 Clueless	51 Cruise of film	52 Mine metals	54 Baseball Hall of Famer Tony	56 Some Siouan people	58 Shakur of hip-hop	62 LAX stats	64 Little — ("Hairspray" girl)	65 Certain till bill	66 Title of a picture album featuring an Atlanta university?	70 Paella veggie	71 Singer Abdul	72 Org. offering tows	73 Inadequate leader of a Durham university?	80 Easter meat	83 Santa — (desert winds)	84 Tart garnish	85 Italian actress Sophia	86 NFL coach Don or Mike	88 Fort Knox bar	90 — deck (cruise ship part)	92 Cup edge	94 Actress Lena	95 Loud noise	96 Mega melee	98 Unable to escape from a New York university?	103 Routine	105 Animals of a region	106 Pretenses	107 Houston university attended for four complete years?	112 Tattoo fluid	113 Make ecstatic	114 "Way cool!"	115 Tazo drink	117 "Intolerance" star Lillian	120 TV imp	121 Leave a New Haven university with no exit fee?	127 Kin of -brix winds	128 Able to do no wrong	129 Swiveled	130 Big name in private jets	131 Used a sieve on	132 Partner of Hulch	1 Alshouses	2 Nashville's Grand Ole —	3 Wall builder, e.g.	4 Moist wipe	5 "Son of," in Arabic names	6 Successor of Roosevelt	7 Malt brew	8 Kit — bar	9 Biblical verb ending	10 Sooner than, in verse	11 — Man (arcade game)	12 Hair nets	13 Past puberty	14 Organizing expert Marie	15 First-aid pro	16 Chafe	17 Golf great called "The Merry Mex"	18 Like many a boned person's eyes	19 Permit	24 Early car ints.	29 Subway system	31 Writer woe	33 Mil. missions	34 Fissure	35 The Yoko of "Dear Yoko"	36 "Beetle Bailey" dog	37 Troop gp.	38 Plane fier	39 "La. — to follow so"	40 Sternward	44 Dog in Oz	45 X-rated stuff	46 Actress Mary — Hurt	47 Actor Morales	49 Like loaters	53 Fix	55 Peru's capital	57 Went swiftly	59 Burst open, as corn	60 Lab gel	61 Very mean	63 Eye carefully	67 Lug	68 In addition	69 Gobbles up	70 Call currency	73 Installed, as carpet	74 Totally wipe out	75 Document of English liberties	76 Metric mass, in brief	77 Give forth	78 Nixing mark	79 City in Oklahoma	80 Hawaiian dancers' garments	81 Wonderland girl	82 Long, thick heads of hair	87 Wishing to receive	89 Stale	91 Royal name of Norway	93 Sow or boar	97 Figure skater Midori	99 Arles assent	100 Wolf Blitzer's channel	101 Chiang — -shek	102 Raps — (Easter Island)	104 No longer ill	105 Hat for Frank Sinatra	107 Mysterious sort	108 Former senator Lott as carpet	109 Spiteful sort	110 Home for a 93-Down	111 Messy stacks	116 Dismounted	118 Search for "Algiers"	119 Lamsarr of "Algiers"	121 Mil. onists	122 Metalist Geller	123 Khaki cousin	124 Certain till bill	125 Bouquets-to-order co.	126 Mendes of "Hitch"
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DOWN

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SPORTS: Johnston tallies 23 twice for SC girls

Continued from Page 12
Manito Midwest Central vs. the Dunlap junior varsity. That team plays L-W at 1 p.m., followed by Stark County against Midwest Central.

Stark County is to play a regular-season game Dec. 23 at Putnam County, then not again until Jan. 9 at home against Monmouth United.

• **Stark County Girls** – Coley Johnston had 23 points and nine rebounds in Stark County's 41-23

victory over Monmouth United on Dec. 10.

In their game against Princeville on Monday, Johnston scored 17 first-half points to lead the Rebels (4-4) to a 12-point halftime advantage but a two-point fourth quarter allowed the Lady Princes to rally for a 52-47 victory. Johnston finished with 23 points.

Stark County was to play ROWVA-Williamsfield on Wednesday and Peoria Heights on Thursday this week.

• **Galva Girls** – The Lady Wildcats are in the midst of a five-game losing skid.

Galva lost 42-32 to Henry-Senachwine on Dec. 9 before dropping a 49-35 decision to Ridge-wood the next day.

On Monday, Kewanee

Wethersfield freshman Kyleigh Anderson poured in 31 points and five other Geese players reached double digits in scoring in a 100-41 win.

Galva (1-8) was scheduled to play West Central at Biggsville on Wednesday.

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• PI: 119.7

January 23rd: **Juanita Murray Auction**; 98.23 Acres Stark County
• Pt of Ne ¼ of Sec 22, 13N 5E, Goshen Twp.
• PI: 129.3

January 30th: **Jacobson Auction**; 63.2 Acres Stark County
• Tract 1: Pt SW ¼ of Sec 34, 13N 6E, Toulon Twp.
• PI: 107.2

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Tourney time continues

Galva 9th at Spring Valley; Snow disrupts Stark Co. event

By **NICK VLAHOS**
For The Prairie News

All's well that ended well for Galva boys basketball at the Colmone Classic.

The Wildcats (6-3) won their final two games Dec. 13 in the tournament at Spring Valley to finish ninth. Galva lost a late lead but came back in overtime to beat Peru St. Bede in the ninth-place game, 64-63. Reid Harris and MJ Louck each had 19 points. Harris had 12 rebounds.

Earlier, Galva beat Putnam County 58-32 behind 15 points from JP Sloan

and 14 points and seven rebounds from Louck. Jay Smith had nine rebounds and four steals. Bad weather earlier in the week forced changes in the tournament schedule.

Galva lost its first two games in the 12-team, pool-play event.

The championship game, between tournament host Spring Valley Hall and Mendota, was postponed to Saturday because of snow.

Another tournament awaits the Wildcats, this time beginning Dec. 26 at LaMoille. Pairings are to be released Monday.

• **Stark County** – Weather put a major damper on the Country Roads Classic, a first-year tournament at Stark County.

The first day of what was supposed to be a five-team round robin in Toulon was canceled Dec. 13 because of snow. After that, DePue dropped out of the tournament, which was scheduled to end Saturday.

It still will end Saturday, but it's been truncated to a one-day, four-team event. Stark County is to play Lowpoint-Washburn at 10:30 a.m., followed by

Continued on Page 11

IHSA OKs FB playoff expansion

Reaching the Illinois High School Association football playoffs just got considerably easier.

Ballots from members schools were tallied Monday and the vote was 377-252 in favor of an amendment to expand the playoff field by 16 teams per class starting in 2026. Another 96 schools had no opinion.

Along with expansion, the football season will move up one week, meaning opening day will be Aug. 21 instead of Aug. 28. By expanding from 32 teams to

48 teams per class, many 3-6 squads will reach the postseason. The top 16 teams in each class will also receive a first-round bye.

While most teams will simply move their season up one week, the change creates headaches for LincolnLand schools Illini West and West Hancock, who play Iowa schools whose schedules have not changed.

Another amendment approved by schools is to move up the start of softball season by one week.

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