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December 5, 2025
Vol. 21, No. 46

The Prairie News

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Galva council OKs lowering tax rate

By CAROL TOWNSEND
for The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva City Council gave final approval Monday to a tax levy ordinance that will lower the city’s tax rate by \$.056.

The new rate will take effect on May 1, 2026, and run through April 30, 2027.

Still to be seen is the impact of increased as-

sessed value of city property, which Henry County estimates will increase from \$31 million to \$41 million.

City Administrator David Dyer said the city also gained \$219,000 from the dissolution of TIF 2, which is the area around the Big River Resources LLC ethanol plant.

The council also passed a comprehensive plan for the city and discussed possibly adding a dog park, a splash pad and a train viewing spot. Public input will be sought on those items.

The former Lord Chevrolet building on Market Street was another topic of discussion. Second Ward Alderman John Wirth said

the city needs to know what a buyer’s plans for the building are before it is sold.

The building presently has boarded up windows and is in need of paint. Several council members agreed that some language needs to be in place about plans for fixing up the building and what it is



The former Lord Chevrolet building on Market Street in Galva has been a topic of conversation for the Galva City Council. Photo by Carol Townsend.

Continued on Page 2

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Xmas celebrations Bradford & Galva set, Toulon planning

Mother Nature did not cooperate with last weekend’s Christmas events, raining out Wyoming’s Moonlight Madness Parade and forcing rescheduling of Galva’s Ol’ Fashioned Christmas.

But holiday spirit returns this weekend. Galva’s Ol’ Fashioned Christmas was rescheduled for Saturday from 9 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. minus a few activities.

Most events at Bradford’s Old Fashioned Christmas on Saturday, Dec. 6, are from 4-7:30 p.m. in downtown Bradford.

And Julmarknad continues this weekend in Bishop Hill, Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 6-7.

Inside
• Toulon readies for its Dec. 13 Christmas walk **Page 2**



Pictured above is a prior year’s entry in Bradford’s Ol’ Fashioned Christmas annual best decorated holiday home contest. This year’s festivities will be on Saturday, Dec. 6, from 4-7:30 p.m.

Ameren increase

Average increase will be \$3.65 for natural gas bills starting in January

By MAGGIE DOUGHERTY
Capitol News Illinois

CHICAGO – Ameren Illinois residential customers will see an average \$3.65 increase on their natural gas bills in January after the Illinois Commerce Commission last week slashed proposed rate hikes for two of the state’s largest utilities.

Ameren, which serves about 816,000 customers in central and southern Illinois, initially held off on estimating the impact to customers until it could conduct an in-depth review of the ICC’s order, said Brad Kloeppel of Ameren.

The ICC’s Nov. 19 rulings arrived after 11 months of reviewing testimony and documents submitted by Ameren and Nicor, consumer protection groups and environmental advocates.

The Commission approved a \$73 million rate increase for Ameren and \$168 million increase for Nicor – more than 40% lower than what the utilities had requested.

Both companies are eligible to propose new rate hikes to the ICC annually in January, though in recent years have done so every other year.

Even with reduced supply costs and a smaller monthly rate increase of \$3.65 vs. the \$9.09 estimated in Ameren’s January request, consumer groups like the Citizens Utility Board say any increase in rates is too high.

Kloeppel said underground storage allows Ameren to buy nearly 60% of its winter supply during the summer when prices are lower, thereby saving money for customers.

Wyoming man facing porn charges released

By JEFF LAMPE
for The Prairie News

TOULON – Kenneth J. Stahl of Wyoming is scheduled for a Dec. 12 hearing in Stark County Circuit Court on three charges of possession of child pornography on a computer.

Stahl, 33, was arrested on Nov. 7 by Stark County Sheriff’s Deputy Calib Ingle. He had been in custody in the Bureau County Jail for two

weeks until a Nov. 21 court appearance in the Stark County Courthouse before Tenth Judicial Circuit Court Judge James A. Mack.

In that Nov. 21 appearance, Stahl pleaded not guilty to the charges and waived his hearing.

Mack agreed with a motion by Stahl’s attorney, Christopher McCall of Peoria, to release Stahl from custody. Release was granted despite an



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The Prairie News

The Prairie News is published every Friday (except one week in July and Dec. 27) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529.

- **Publisher** - Jeff Lampe
news@prairie-news.com
- **Advertising Manager** - Pam Wulf
ads@prairie-news.com
- **Ad and Graphic Designer** - Ken Black
graphics@prairie-news.com
- **Bradford Correspondent** - Angie Stange
- **Galva Correspondent** - Carol Townsend

The Prairie News mailing address is PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529.

Hours are Mon. to Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Deadlines - News due Tuesdays by 3 p.m. Ads due Mondays by 3 p.m. The Prairie News encourages readers to submit news for publication. Email to: news@prairie-news.com

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Toulon planning for Dec. 13 Christmas walk

TOULON – The Toulon Civic Association is finalizing plans for its annual Christmas Walk on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 5-7 p.m.

Santa will arrive at 6 p.m. and, weather permitting, will be outside by the gazebo.

The Civic Association plans to compile a map of participating businesses and thus would like confirmation of participation by Dec. 8. Business are also encouraged to decorate their windows in the spirit of the Christmas season.

All people who wish to participate can begin the walk at Nelson Auto Sales and pick up game sheets there.

The Civic Association will also be offering Christmas ornaments in memory of loved ones made by member Christine Winscott. Ornaments will sell for \$10, with proceeds to benefit the TCA and add to the Christmas Charity Auction for local charities. Order forms are available at the State Bank of Toulon, Connie’s Country Kitchen, or from Karmella Reining at the Stark County office of assessments.

Pat Sloan will play at the Bistro from 6-7 p.m.

The annual Christmas charity auction will be held at the Bistro at 7:30 p.m. Participating businesses are asked to bring entries to the Bistro by 7 p.m. so they may be entered into the drawings for Toulon Bucks. Businesses who would like to be eligible for Toulon Bucks are also encouraged to donate \$20 to the TCA. This covers the cost of printing.

People are encouraged to donate items to the live auction to benefit local city and county nonprofit organizations. They may be dropped off at Connie’s or State Bank of Toulon prior to the auction.

Each year, the charity auction helps provides a happier holiday for many people. All are encouraged to attend.

GALVA: Parking problems

Continued from Page 1

going to be used for, adding that it should be used for retail and not just storage

Wirth has also been meeting with parents about plans for new playground equipment in Wiley Park to replace an existing play area. Another playground for smaller children is in good condition and will be left.

Dyer said that the larger playground would not pass inspection, as it has been vandalized.

A representative from a playground equipment vendor plans to bring some ideas to the February council meeting.

Police Chief Kraig Townsend reported that repeat offenders are not getting their vehicles off the streets when the plows go out after a 3-inch snow. He said it is hard to knock on doors when snow isn’t shoveled and you aren’t sure which vehicle goes to which apartment. It is also a safety hazard for the snow plow driver as they could clip a vehicle.

Mayor Rich Volkert thanked everyone including workers and volunteers who have helped with everything in Galva this past year.

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Galva Area Chamber of Commerce and The City of Galva present:

O' Fashioned Christmas

RESCHEDULED DATE!! SATURDAY, DEC. 6

9am-11am

Kids Make and Take Crafts @ Galva Arts Council

9am-7pm

Festival of Wreaths and Mini Trees @ Galva Arts Council

11:30a- 1pm

Chili & Soup Luncheon @ Galva Arts Council

1pm-4pm

Veterans Park on Front St
Santa Claus in the Gingerbread House - sponsored by CSB
Galva Boy Scouts Bird Food Ornament - sponsored by Galva Arts Council

2pm-4pm

Galva Girl Scouts Love Tree Toy Drive @ Crescent City Tap 336 Front St

4:30pm

Parade Line-Up at Stackhouse Moore 117 E Division St - join us!!

5pm

Lighted Christmas Parade around the downtown square

5:30pm

Lighting of Veterans Park - Join Santa as he leads the countdown!!

7pm-8:30pm

Christmas Carols @ Galva Arts Council (doors at 6pm)

Allenia Space 330 Front St will be featuring holiday decor & Winter Garden with FREE photo sessions along with refreshments 10am-8pm. More details available at www.facebook.com/AlleniaSpace to reserve a photo session.

Midwest Carpets @ 126 N Exchange St Open House will provide refreshments from 4p-7p

Nightshade at 120 Front St will offer free refreshments and extended hours 10am-630pm--gift with every purchase!!

The Old Bank Coffee and Tea open 7:30am-5:30pm with HOT COCOA specials!

Road Trip Food & Spirits @ 327 Market St open 4-7, specials to warm up with!

Special Kneads Bakery at 326 Front St will be open extended hours 9am-12pm and 4pm-7pm offering refreshments.

Uncle Nolan's Diner at 320 Main St will be open extended hours 8am-8pm

PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents
Stark County

11-22 - Joseph T. Benefield, 58, Wyoming, was traveling east on 450N when his vehicle struck a deer and skidded through the intersection and off the road at the intersection of 450N and 1050E. The 2001 Chevrolet Silverado then struck a utility pole guide wire and snapped off the top of the pole which caused the power line to fall on top of the truck. Both the Wyoming Fire Department and Stark County Ambulance services were dispatched to the scene and Ameren was notified. No injuries were reported. Estimated damage to the truck was over \$1,500.

11-25 - Samantha R. Ross, 29, Toulon, was cited for driving a vehicle without insurance.

11-25 - James M. Castagna, rural Toulon, reported criminal damage to property after discovering where an unknown individual(s) had damaged his excavator in a field.

11-26 - Enrico B. Santos, 18, Edwards, was arrested for speeding 35 mph or more over the speed limit. The ticket indicated Santos was driving 116 mph. He was later released.

11-27 - Clair E. Whiteside III, 29, Galva, was cited for speeding 67 mph in a 55 zone, driving a vehicle without insurance and driving on an expired registration. Passenger Clair E. Whiteside, 53, of Galva, was ticketed for possession of adult-use cannabis in a vehicle.

11-28 - Nicholas W. Ogorzalek, 40, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 58 mph in a 55 zone and for driving while his license was suspended. His vehicle was towed and impounded.

11-28 - A hit-and-run accident occurred on North Franklin St. in Toulon. Vehicle owner Emily M. Martinez, LaFayette, reported her parked vehicle was damaged by an unknown driver. The 2012 Hyundai sedan had estimated damages between \$501 and \$1,500.

Peoria County Report

11-20 - Shortly before 6:45 p.m., Aubrey L. Pyle of Toulon was driving a northbound 2004 Ford Freestar minivan on Princeville-Jubilee Road near Jubilee Hollow Court north of Kickapoo when the vehicle



struck a deer. Pyle was uninjured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle sustained disabling damage.

11-18 - A Bradford man required a visit to a Peoria hospital following a single-vehicle accident south of Edelstein. Robert R. Grinslade was driving a 2016 Chevrolet Equinox south in the 15000 block of Illinois Route 40 when he lost control, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The SUV left the road, traversed a west-side ditch, struck a culvert and crashed into a harvested field.

Grinslade sustained minor injuries and was transported to OSF Saint Francis Medical Center. The SUV sustained heavy front-end damage.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

11-24 - to the 500 block of NW 5th Ave. for an identity theft complaint.

11-24 - along with Stark County Medic and the fire department to a medical emergency in the 200 block of Morgan Road.

11-24 - to a two-vehicle accident with damage only in the 00 block of SW 4th St.

11-24 - to the 200 block of SE 8th Ave. to check a suspicious vehicle.

11-24 - to serve a written banning letter to a subject in the 100 block of SE 6th Ave. after a disturbance last week.

11-25 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a loud-music complaint.

11-25 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a disorderly conduct complaint.

11-25 - to a residence on NW 5th Ave. for a welfare check on a reportedly suicidal subject. There was no answer at the door.

11-25 - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. to assist a citizen.

11-26 - to the 00 block of NE 3rd St. for a utility wire complaint. Mediacom was notified for repairs.

11-26 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a citizen suffering from an apparent mental-health crisis.

11-26 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a child-custody exchange.

11-26 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a child-custody exchange.

11-26 - to Veterans Memorial Park for a utilities complaint involving a leaking fire hydrant. The Galva Water Department was contacted.

11-26 - to assist the ambulance with a male subject who had collapsed on SE 2nd St.

11-27 - to the 100 block of NE 9th St. to assist a citizen.

11-28 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a citizen suffering from a mental health crisis.

11-28 - to the 700 block of NW 1st Ave. for a burning complaint. The subject was advised to put the fire out as it was not a burn day.

11-28 - near the intersection of James B Young Road and North Center Ave. for a vehicle was disabled.

11-28 - to the 400 block of SE 6th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was returned to its owner.

11-28 - along with Stark County Medic, to a medical emergency near the Galva Cemetery.

11-28 - to the 200 block of NE 4th St. for a loose-dog complaint. It was returned to its owner.

11-28 - to the 100 block of NW 8th Ave. for a domestic disturbance.

11-28 - to the 100 block of N. Center Ave. for a two-vehicle accident with damage only. One vehicle left the scene and was not located.

11-30 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a loud-music complaint.

11-30 - While patrolling, officer saw a motorist stuck near the end of a driveway in the 500 block of SE 2nd St. Officer was able to assist the motorist.

Robert L. Potts
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Minimum Training and Experience:
High school diploma or GED.
Must obtain a class B CDL with air brake within 6 months of hire.
Must work to obtain a Class 2 wastewater and Class C water license.

Minimum Physical requirements:
Frequent standing and walking; work subject to changing weather conditions. Requires occasional periods of strength, lifting objects weighing 50 lbs. or more as well as physical activity climbing ditches, steps, crawling, bending, stooping, crouching, etc. Requires clarity of vision, depth perception, and field of vision to operate equipment. Eyehand/foot coordination, manual and finger dexterity, normal hearing and conversational skills. Some work performed in an environment with undesirable conditions: exposure to extreme heat and cold, rain and snow, noise, dust, fumes, moving parts, burns, electric shock, and toxic agents. Occupational hazards are those associated with direct contact to moving machinery, i.e.: Saws, backhoes, loaders, leading to cuts, bruises, abrasions, burns, strains, backaches, and potentially more serious injury.
Basic knowledge of the work methods, general practices, materials and equipment used in various public works activities such as plant operation, piping, electrical, and control system maintenance and troubleshooting. Ability to understand and communicate written and oral instructions and establish and maintain effective working relationships with employees, peers, and the public.

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Galva Legion has lunch for seniors

GALVA – The Galva American Legion will hold a free lunch for area senior citizens on Saturday, Dec. 6. Doors open at 11 a.m. and a family style meal will be served at noon featuring creamed chicken, biscuits, vegetables, salad, dessert and a drink.

Kongero offers music workshop

BISHOP HILL – The renowned Swedish vocal ensemble Kongero will teach a variety of Swedish folk songs and tunes from 1-

Bradford boys basketball players, the manager and the cheerleaders were recognized recently at the boys basketball and cheerleading 8th grade night. Photos by Becki Hoffert.

2:30 p.m. at the Dairy Building at 410 N. Erickson St. in Bishop Hill on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Participants will get tips and feedback on vocal technique, intonation, tools for improving their singing together and basic arranging ideas. The four Kongero singers are all skilled and experienced workshop leaders.

Kongero has released two Song Books with the songs and arrangements they teach. All are welcome to this free workshop and no reservations are required. Song books will be available for sale but are not necessary for participation. Call (309) 927-3899 or email bhha@mymctc.net for more information.

18th ANNUAL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

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11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Lois E. Johnson

GALVA – Lois Elaine Johnson, 91, of Galva, formerly of Kewanee, died Friday, Nov. 28, 2025, at the Hillcrest Home in Geneseo.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5, at the Galva Chapel of Stackhouse-Moore Funeral & Cremation Services. Pastor Haley Hausman will preside. Burial will be in the Galva Cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to services on Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Lois Johnson Memorial Fund.

Lois was born April 15, 1934, in Geneseo, the daughter of John and Alma Engquist Swanson. She was a 1952 graduate of Cambridge High School. Lois married Wayne F. Peterson on June 5, 1955, in Osco. He died on April 18, 1978. Her marriage to Joseph G. Johnson took place on June 6, 1987, in Galva. He passed away Dec. 3, 2008.

Lois worked as a cook at the Galva school district for 20 years, retiring in 1987.

She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Kewanee and its United Methodist Women Ruth Circle. She also was a member of the Henry County Farm Bureau and the Flemish American Club in Kewanee. Her hobbies were card playing, dancing, cooking and crocheting. Lois enjoyed travelling to Missouri.



Johnson

Survivors include two sons and daughters-in-law, Gary L. and Lucinda Peterson, Warsaw, Mo., and Terry and Angela Peterson, Galva. Other survivors include five grandchildren, Tara (Jimmie) Vansell, Katie (Joe) Bauer, Jeanett (Jarett) Atkins, Morgan Nelson and Colby Peterson; and seven great-grandchildren. Her parents and her two husbands preceded her in death.

A video tribute may be viewed and condolences expressed by visiting www.stackhousemoore.com.

Terry L. Wulf

LaFAYETTE – Terry L. Wulf, 69, of LaFayette passed away peacefully at 11:06 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 25, 2025, at the Knox County Nursing Home in Knoxville.

Born on Nov. 11, 1956, in Rock Falls, Ill., Terry was the son of Aaron and Ella (Hazelwood) Snoke. On April 5, 1985, he married the love of his life, Jenny Weedman, and together they built a life filled with loyalty, laughter and family at the center of it all.

Terry was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend. He is survived by his wife, Jenny, of LaFayette; his children, TJ (Becky Boose) Wulf, Amy (Timmy) Donovan, Michael (Christy) Wulf, Randi (Scott Barnes) Ingram and Heather Wulf; his siblings, Vicki (John) McReil, Anna Vannoy and Nancy Copeland; and his sister-in-

law, Pam Wulf. Terry’s legacy continues through his 24 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, with one more on the way, and his longtime friend, Burgess Langdon.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his daughter Jennifer, his brother Aaron Wulf and his granddaughter Autumn.

Terry graduated from Toulon High School in 1974. He was no stranger to hard work, beginning with raising rabbits and delivering newspapers as a boy. Over the years, he worked at LaFayette Home Nursery, worked alongside his brother and best friend, Aaron, for 22 years at Martin Implement and another 22 years at BOMAG, and later worked for Kone and Rainbow Resources.

He also gave back to his community through service on the LaFayette Fire Department, the LaFayette Park District Board and the LaFayette Water Board.

A man of simple joys, Terry loved mowing, fishing, tinkering with lawnmowers and cars, and spending time on the computer. His favorite moments were the ones spent connecting with his family – especially watching TikToks with his daughter Randi and talking every day with his granddaughter, Megan. Above all, Terry loved his family fiercely and treasured every moment he shared with them.

Cremation will be accorded, and no services are planned at this time. Memorials may be directed to the family. Arrangements are entrusted to Rux Funeral Home in Galva.



Wulf



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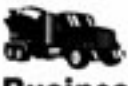


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December 12
Lucia Nights Serving 3 - 8 p.m.

December 13
Lingonberry Lunch 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Lucia Nights Serving 3 - 8 p.m.

December 28
Final 2025 Classic Sunday

December 29
Holiday Tea Luncheon 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
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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 fcctoulon@gmail.com
website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church
Pastor Marshall Jones
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434
(309) 932-3733
Service Time 10 a.m.

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

Wyoming Nazarene Church
517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491
Rev. Shawna Marsh
Sunday School: 10 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.
Email: pastor@toulonbaptist.com
www.ToulonBaptist.com
www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon
Call us for Salvation Army Assistance

St. Timothy Lutheran Church
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
16883 State Route 17, PO Box 158 - Wyoming, IL 61491
allsaintsil.com

Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)
317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL
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Rev. Katie Gallagher
Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. Adult Discussion Group, 5:30 p.m.
Worship (in Luther Hall)
Sunday: 9 a.m. Worship, 9:45 a.m. Children's Sunday School
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: 9:0 a.m.

Holy Trinity National Catholic Church
Father John Cramer
716 N. Tremont, Kewanee, IL
Mass - Sat. at 5 p.m., Sun. at 9 a.m., Mon.-Thurs. at 9 a.m.
Rectory Phone: 309-852-5191
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 Wyanet 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 School pre-K thru 12+
11:00 Lunch and Fellowship, 12:15 2nd Sunday Worship
Wednesday Worship Service 7:15 pm
www.bradfordacchurch.org; info@bradfordacchurch.org

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Notice of Acceptance of Nominations
- NOTICE -

To all persons of legal voting age who own or reside on land located within the boundaries of Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District. Beginning on November 6, 2025, nominations will be accepted for the two-year term of office of Director of the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District at the District's Office at 7419B State Route 17, Toulon, Illinois 61483 during our normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. To be considered for nomination as a candidate for the office of Director, nominees must provide proof of residency or ownership of land located within the boundaries of the District. Interested persons must respond by 4:30 p.m. on January 6, 2026.

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NOTICE:

CITY OF TOULON

SNOW REMOVAL PARKING

The City of Toulon will begin enforcing a parking ban on motor vehicles parked on city streets when 2 or more inches of snow has fallen. Any person violating this ban will be fined in accordance with the City's ordinance on snow removal parking. Vehicles may be moved back once the street has been cleared. Parking during snow removal is permitted in the parking lot behind City Hall on Franklin Street. For more information please contact City Hall at (309) 286-5042

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Notice of Election of Directors
- NOTICE -

To all owners and occupiers of lands lying within the boundaries of the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District: Notice is hereby given that an Annual Meeting and Election Will be held on the 6th day of February, 2026 - time and location to be announced. Three Directors will be elected to serve the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms, or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise.

Only such persons, firms, or corporations are eligible to vote.

Trevor Nelson, Chairman

Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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LEGAL ADS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY - 130 WEST MAIN STREET TOULON, ILLINOIS ESTATE OF Fernando De Vargas, DECEASED. 25 PR 10

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Maria De Vargas, 140 Brittany Trail, Elgin, Illinois 60120, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Martin J. Fogarty, Heartland Law Firm, 1545 Waukegan Road, Suite 1-3, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

Notice is given to Caleb and Unknown Heirs, Heirs of the Decedent whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition for independent administration that an order was

entered on September 19, 2025, granting independent administration of the estate. This means that the administrator will not have to obtain court orders of filed estate papers in court during probate. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless interested persons ask the court to become involved.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before May 28, 2026, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant 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>.

Martin J. Fogarty
Heartland Law Firm (6201215)
1545 Waukegan Road, Suite 1-3
Glenview, Illinois 60025
(847) 729-3300
l3276852

Published 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/25

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 DEVI- SEES), 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 SER- VICES, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUN- SEL 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 DIRECT- ING 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 RE- DEEMED 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

HELP WANTED



Writers needed to cover sports and local board meetings for The Prairie News

Call (309) 231-6040

The Prairie News

will not publish on December 26th

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

Merry Christmas!



NOTICE

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR GALVA CUSD 224

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Galva CUSD 224 Henry and Knox Counties, Illinois for 2025 will be held on December 15, 2025 at 1020 North Center Avenue, Galva, IL 61434 at 6:55 PM.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Jeny J. Becker at jbecker@galva224.org.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$5,077,841.

The proposed corporate and special purposed property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$5,687,934. This represents a 12.01% increase over the previous year

III. The properly taxes extended for debt services and public building commission leases for 2024 were \$347,361.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2025 are \$362,970

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$5,425,203.

The estunated total property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$6,050,904. This represents a 11.53% increase over the previous year.

Published 12/5/25

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR STARK COUNTY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #100

I. A Public Hearing to approve a proposed property tax increase for Stark County Community Unit School District #100 for 2025 will be held on December 15, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. at 300 W. Van Buren, Wyoming, IL 61491.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Brett M. Elliott, Superintendent, 300 W. Van Buren, Wyoming, IL 61491; Telephone (309) 695-6123.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended for the year 2024 were \$7,409,993.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$7,829,520. This represents a 5.66% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service for 2024 were \$1,251,698.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service for 2025 are \$1,344,900. This represents an increase of 7.45% from the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended for 2024 were \$8,661,691.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$9,174,420. This represents a 5.92% increase from the previous year.

Published 12/5/25

Stark County Salvation Army Kettle

We are thankful for the blessings that we have received in the county this year. And the good folks of Stark County do a great job of sharing those blessings. Last year we were able to help many people get gasoline to make it to work or the doctor. We also helped many who found themselves running out of food at the end of the month. We bought medicine for some. Paid on rent, electric and water for others. I know that you will want to do those same things again this year. So when you see a Kettle in Stark County put in your donation. Or you can make your checks to Stark County Salvation Army Kettle and send to Stark County Salvation Army, PO Box 636, Toulon, IL, 61483. If you know someone who needs help have them call Al Harmon at 309-286-4611.

NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX INCREASE FOR BRADFORD COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 1

I. A public hearing to approve a proposed property tax levy increase for Bradford Community Unit School District No. 1 for 2025 will be held on Monday, December 15, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Bradford Grade School, 345 Silver Street, Bradford, IL 61421.

Any person desiring to appear at the public hearing and present testimony to the taxing district may contact Mr. Chad Gripp, Superintendent, 345 Silver Street, Bradford, IL 61421, telephone number 309-897-4441.

II. The corporate and special purpose property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$4,131,766.74.

The proposed corporate and special purpose property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$4,375,000. This represents a 5.887% increase over the previous year.

III. The property taxes extended for debt service and public building commission leases for 2024 were \$0.

The estimated property taxes to be levied for debt service and public building commission leases for 2025 are \$0. This represents a 0.0% increase over the previous year.

IV. The total property taxes extended or abated for 2024 were \$4,131,766.74.

The estimated total property taxes to be levied for 2025 are \$4,375,000. This represents a 5.887% increase over the previous year.

Published 12/5/25

CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE

• CHRISTMAS TREES: You-cut Christmas trees and wreaths, free shake and bale. Merkle Ridge Christmas Trees (2 miles south of Tanner's on Route 40), Open Friday & Saturday 9 am to 4 pm, Sunday Noon to 4 pm. For appointment, call (309) 249-3140.

• AIR COMPRESSOR: Campbell Hausfeld 28-gallon portable Iron Force air compressor, accessories \$150. (309) 231-6040.

• HOME for sale by owner, 630 Mission Drive, Kewanee, Illinois. Attached garage and brand new detached garage, covered patio, all appliances stay, gas forced air furnace with central air. Asking price \$169,900. Call (309) 238-8351.

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• WYOMING: 104 East Elm, Wyoming. Two bedroom apartment, \$500 per month plus utilities, \$400 deposit, work and landlord references required, no smoking, no pets. Call (612) 940-5208.

We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion

Galva wins R-W tourney

Wildcats' boys team falls to 3-1 after loss to Sherrard

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Prairie News

Galva won its first three boys basketball games this season to claim a tournament title, but suffered a decisive loss in its fourth outing.

Host Sherrard never trailed in a 74-45 victory Tuesday night. Sherrard (3-0) led 48-22 at halftime after Galva had 11 turnovers in the first quarter. After three quarters, Sherrard led 68-35.

MJ Louck and Jay Smith evenly split 22 points to lead Galva. Louck also had four assists and three steals. Brylan Bender had a game-high 26 points for Sherrard.

Smith had 23 points and three assists on Nov. 28 as Galva beat the hosts of the ROWVA-Williamsfield round robin, 67-57 to secure the championship. Louck had 22 points, eight rebounds and seven steals. Louck did all his scoring in the first three periods as Galva led 54-30 in winning all three of its tournament games.

The tournament was

Xmas Tourney

The Galva boys basketball team starts play Saturday in the Colmone Classic, a week-long tournament at Spring Valley.

scheduled to end Nov. 29, but an impending snowstorm forced a change.

Galva plays tonight at home against North Fulton. Beginning Saturday, Galva plays at the Colmone Classic, a week-long tournament at Spring Valley. The Wildcats' opener is at 3 p.m. against Minonk Fieldcrest.

- **Stark County** – Connor Daum represented Stark County on the all-tournament team at the Wally Keller Invitational in Kewanee.

Stark County went 0-5 in the round robin at Weathersfield, capped by a 61-40 loss Nov. 28 to tourney-champion Elmwood. Daum scored 17 despite being shut out in the second quarter.

Earlier that day, Putnam County beat Stark County 53-50 despite the Rebels leading by five points with

1:30 left. A late turnover led to a Putnam County basket, then another turnover and an intentional foul resulted in free throws.

"We had every opportunity to win, and it just turned into a comedy of errors," Stark County Coach Kane Mastin stated.

Daum had 19 points. An inclement-weather forecast resulted in games scheduled for Nov. 29 being played the previous day.

On Nov. 26, the tourney hosts beat Stark County 48-38. Daum had 17 points and Tanner Bishop scored 11.

Stark County plays tonight at Brimfield.

- **Stark County Girls** – The Lady Rebels (2-2) were to play Thursdat at home vs. Peoria Christian and then again on Monday, Dec. 8, at Kewanee.
- **Galva Girls** – The Lady Wildcats dropped to 1-4 with a 60-30 loss to Midland on Tuesday. Galva is home vs. Henry-Senachwine on Tuesday, Dec. 9.

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Bradford's Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday, December 6, 2025
4:00 - 7:30 pm

Bradford Firehouse
4 pm - 5:30 pm ~ Santa arrives at the firehouse
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
~Free meal sponsored by the Apostolic Church
~Horse drawn wagon rides - pick up & drop off

Bradford Public Library District
4:00 pm - 5:30 pm
Family Craft

First Baptist Church
4:00 pm - 6:45 pm
~Project Honor Flight - letters, pictures, donations
~Photo op and amazing decorations
~Enter your completed Christmas Passport card in the raffle drawing
~Vote for the Best Decorated business & Bradford's Holiday Home of the year

7:00
~Raffle Drawings for kids and adults
~Best decorated business & Holiday Home of the year.
~Announcement of the BBC's Citizen of the Year Award.
~Christmas Sing-a-Long

St. John's Catholic Church
4:00 pm - 7:00pm
Stop by our beautiful Catholic Church for a tour and see the Christmas decorations
Purchase beautiful ornaments & order a shirt

4:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Christmas Market - Village Hall
Do a little Christmas shopping from a variety of vendors!

Beta Senior Holiday Dinner
Firehouse at Noon

Delicious Food, Ice Cream & Drink Specials at
Snack Shack
3-8 pm
Main Street Tap
11 - 8 pm
&
My Place

Pick up a **Christmas Passport** at your 1st stop. Have it stamped everywhere you go. **Get at least 4 of the 8 stamps** & enter it in the raffle drawing at the Baptist Church