



## The Prairie News

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## NOTICE CITY OF WYOMING

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- 1) Water base rate from \$19.00 to \$27.00 per month
- 2) Sewer base rate from \$22.50 to \$30.50 per month
- 3) Garbage rate from \$12.00 to \$15.00 per month.

These increases will be on the March billing

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For Information Call Dennis Hickey at 493-5311 or any Lions Club Member

Please Support Your Local Community Sponsors

**Bake Sale by the Bradford Betas**

## TRIALS: Set for March

*Continued from Page 1*

Stark County after a status hearing Jan. 21 at 11 a.m. in Marshall County.

Sullivan said Nowlan is also entering Peoria attorney Christopher S. McCall as his co-counsel for all cases.

Patrick Murphy is prosecutor for the Nowlan cases in Stark's Circuit Court. Stark County State's Attorney Austin King recused himself due to a conflict.

Deck faces felony charges dating back to the fall of 2024 for possession of a firearm by a felon, assaulting a police officer, burglary and theft of property worth \$500 to

\$10,000. Deck also has two previous misdemeanor charges of trespass to state land from 2024 and domestic battery/physical contact from March 2025.

In court Monday, Deck was scheduled for a pre-trial hearing on Feb. 9 at 9 a.m. in Stark County. He may enter a plea on a new misdemeanor charge of escape for failure to report in June 2025, according to his public defender, Robert M. McBride.

The hearing apparently also includes a request by McBride for a ruling on the admissibility of some evidence before the jury trial.

## BRIEFS

### College Honors

• Paige Rewerts of Wyoming made the Dean's list (3.75 gpa or better) at Elmhurst University for the fall 2025 semester.

### Scholarships for Bradford seniors

BRADFORD — The Board of Directors of the Bradford Community Scholarship Fund remind high school seniors from Bradford that they may be eligible for BCSF scholarships.

The scholarship is of

fered to graduating Bradford seniors who have a minimum of a 3.0 gpa on a 4.0 scale, exhibit citizenship/behavior, volunteerism, extracurricular participation and evidence of strong effort to reach personal potential. The scholarship is limited to continuing education expenses — tuition, books, housing, etc. — and is provided as a reimbursement.

The BCSF also helps other community organizations award scholarships.

Bradford seniors should be receiving a letter and application in the mail. Those who do not receive the letter and application by Jan. 20 should contact Becki Hoffert at b.hoffert@bcusd1.net or call the Bradford Junior High office at (309) 987-2801.

The deadline for returning the information is Feb. 27.

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## PUBLIC RECORD

### Incidents & Accidents

#### Stark County

1-1 - Nathan A. Hess, 20, Wyoming, was cited for operation of an uninsured vehicle. He was issued a court date to appear.

1-4 - Dale E. Amack, 56, Wyoming, was arrested for driving while his license was revoked for driving under the influence. He was also cited for a loud and or altered defective exhaust. His vehicle was towed and impounded.

1-5 - A 17-year-old Walnut teen was cited for operating an uninsured vehicle.

1-5 - Christopher M. Cook, 29, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

1-7 - Jannefer Slichenmyer, Bradford, reported the theft of her laptop computer. The incident remains under investigation.

1-8 - Patricia A. Nelson, 63, of rural LaFayette was the driver of a vehicle that hit a deer on 1100N west of intersection 500E. The 2019 GMC Terrain received estimated damages of over \$1,500.

1-9 - A hit-an- run accident was reported to the Stark County Sheriff's Office at 10:19 p.m. by a rural Wyoming resident located on Modena Road. Authorities located driver Quinton J. Wilkinson, 44, of Wyoming, and he was arrested for driving under the influence, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, improper lane usage, operation of an uninsured vehicle, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report the accident to police and failure to wear a seat belt by a driver. He was issued a court date to appear.

#### Peoria County Report

12-31 - Susan M. Callahan of Wyoming was driving an eastbound 2024 Ford Ranger pickup truck at 7 a.m. on Blue Ridge Road about one-quarter mile east of Streitmatter Road near Lawn Ridge when the vehicle struck a deer. Callahan wasn't injured, according to a Peoria County

Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle sustained minor driver's-side front-bumper damage and was drivable.

#### Galva Report

##### Officer dispatched:

1-5 - An officer met with a subject at the Galva Police Department to answer questions about obtaining a FOID card and with another person who returned a license plate that was found a couple days earlier.

1-5 - to West Division St. and SW 10th Ave. to check for a sinkhole in the roadway. Officer placed barricades over a low area.

1-5 - to U.S. Route 34 just east of town to check on an abandoned vehicle along the roadway. Officer placed a 72-hour tow tag on the vehicle.

1-5 - along with Stark County Medic and the fire department, to a residence on SW 7th St. for a medical emergency involving a subject not breathing.

1-6 - Officer spoke to a subject by telephone about a civil property dispute.

1-6 - Officer spoke to a subject by telephone to take a report of a violation of an order of protection. A report was forwarded to the State's Attorney office for consideration of charges.

1-6 - to assist Henry County with a motorist assist on Route 34 east of town.

1-6 - While patrolling, officer noticed a train that stopped and blocked every Galva crossing for nearly an hour. BNSF was contacted.

1-6 - to the 800 block of NW 1st Ave. for a verbal domestic disturbance.

1-7 - to the 1000 block of N. Center Ave. for a semi-tractor trailer that had driven off the roadway and was parked in a yard. Several co-workers were able to get vehicle back onto the roadway and arrangements were made with property owners to fix their yards.

1-7 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 100 block of SE 6th St., Pat-

rick Hammons, 69, Galva, was arrested for driving while license suspended and cancelled, speeding and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a court date.

1-8 - Officer was dispatched to the 300 block of SE 6th St. for a complaint of an attempted phone scam.

1-8 - to the 300 block of NW 2nd St. to assist a citizen with a delivery dropped off at the wrong residence.

1-8 - to the 1000 block of SE 2nd St. to recover a credit card that had been left there. The owner was contacted and the card was returned.

1-8 - to the 300 block of NW 4th Ave. to speak to a resident about a city ordinance violation involving overweight vehicles on posted roads.

1-8 - to the 200 block of NW 4th Ave. to assist a motorist who locked their keys inside a car. Henry County was able to unlock the vehicle.

1-9 - to the 1000 block of SW 2nd St. for a landlord/tenant dispute.

1-9 - to the 1000 block of SW 2nd St. for a theft complaint.

1-9 - to the 100 block of NW 4th Street to assist an elderly citizen having phone issues.

1-10 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. to remove an unwanted subject.

1-10 - to the 200 block of SE 4th St. for a dog-bite report. The dog bit its owner and was found to be up-to-date on all of its shots.

1-10 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. for a 911 open-line complaint. It was determined to be a medical call. Stark County Medic was paged to respond.

1-11 - Officer assisted Knox County with a traffic stop on the south edge of town.

1-11 - Officer assisted Henry County with a single-vehicle accident with injuries on South County Road just east of town.

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## WIND: SCCI seeks aid

*Continued from Page 1*  
Stark and Peoria counties and road-use agreements for several townships. Multiple jurisdictions are involved since a transmission line that starts near Princeville has to be extended into Stark County.

Apex representatives will hold a question-and-answer session Jan. 21 at Toulon Public Library from 8:30-11 a.m.

After Apex's presentation, County Engineer Judd Giffin introduced Shane Larson of Hutchinson Engineering to the board. Giffin suggested that Larson would help negotiate

and oversee road-use agreements with Apex as the wind project moves forward.

Jon Knoblauch and Stark County CUSD 100 Superintendent Brett Elliott also were on hand representing the Stark Council for Continuous Improvement. They presented data from a survey of Stark County residents conducted by the University of Illinois Extension.

The SCCI is seeking a financial commitment from the county board to help promote the Toulon Ridge Subdivision and to start a grant program to renovate properties in the county, among other things.

Board Chair Kari Bush said the board would discuss the request on Feb. 10.

In other business, the board approved appointing Interim Sheriff Chuck Demetreon to the Emergency Telephone System Board and tabled a vote on reappointing Pat Maher.

New garage doors are in place at the new county highway building in Bradford and the board OK'd paying \$15,700 for pressure washing the interior and acid-washing concrete. Giffin said the latest utility bill at the new building was \$400 compared to \$1,400 for the current highway building.

Board Member Alex Wilson discussed a possible grant that could pay for a portion of a proposed new county administrative building and said architectural plans of the structure are partially complete.

The board also approved an MFT resolution for work to be done in 2026.

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**NOTICE**  
**GOSHEN TOWNSHIP ROADS LOAD LIMIT POSTING**

Goshen Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/15-316 will impose weight limitations on Goshen Township roads effective for 90 days (Jan. 15, 2026 thru April 15, 2026) due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.

Therefore, no vehicle shall be operated upon Goshen Township Roads having a gross vehicle weight greater than 5 ton (10,000 pounds) upon the posting of road weight limit signs on Goshen Township Roads.

Any questions contact Goshen Township Road Commissioner John Forstrom, 309-238-3481.

For further load limitations visit the county website <http://starkco.illinois.gov/highway/>



**UPCOMING FARMLAND AUCTIONS**

**FOR SALE — Online Auctions**

**January 21<sup>st</sup>: Ted Fairfield Auction; 35.4 Acres Stark County**

- Pt SW 1/4 of Sec 24, 12N 5E, West Jersey Twp.
- PI: 119.7

**January 23<sup>rd</sup>: Juanita Murray Auction; 98.23 Acres Stark County**

- Pt of Ne 1/4 of Sec 22, 13N 5E, Goshen Twp.
- PI: 129.3

**January 30<sup>th</sup>: Jacobson Auction; 63.2 Acres Stark County**

- Tract 1: Pt SW 1/4 of Sec 34, 13N 6E, Toulon Twp.
- PI: 107.2

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## LEGAL ADS

### STEVEN STAGGS AUCTION

**What:** Auction of personal property belonging to Steven Staggs, living at last known address of 410 5th Ave., Kewanee, IL 61443.

**Where:** Stall 25 located at 1109 North Main St., Kewanee, IL 61443

**When:** Saturday, February 14th, 2026, at 8:00 AM. **ITEMS:** Wooden Table, step stool, bags of personal items. Cash or credit/debit card only. **No** personal checks. Photos of items can be provided by email. Please contact: **Tom Greiner** [tgreiner-ergbs@gmail.com](mailto:tgreiner-ergbs@gmail.com) 319-863-3232.

Published 1/9, 1/16/26

### PUBLIC NOTICE FOR THE CITY OF GALVA 2006 Ford F-450 For Sale

2006 F-450 with APPROXIMATELY 102,000 miles. Ten (10) foot utility box with ladder rack, Triton V10 gasoline motor, 4X4 manual hub locks, Rhino-lined bed, Vinyl floor and seats, nearly new tires with duals on the rear. Will be sold AS-IS, WHERE IS, with NO WARRANTY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED.

**Bidders may schedule a vehicle inspection by contacting the Galva City Clerk during normal working hours at (309) 932-2555. Inspections must be conducted before 30 January, 2026, during normal working hours.**

1. Each bid shall be submitted in figures and words. In the event of any discrepancy in the bid amount, the prices stated in writing shall govern.

2. The bid must be delivered to the City Clerk, City of Galva, 311 N.W. 4th Street, Galva, IL, on or before 4:00 PM, prevailing time, 30 January, 2026. Proposals received after this time will not be considered.

3. Bids will be publicly opened at the regularly scheduled meeting of the Galva City Council to be held at 6:00 PM on 2 February, 2026 in the Council Meeting Room located at 311 NW 4th Avenue, Galva, IL 61434.

4. The proposal shall be submitted in an opaque, sealed envelope on or before the time stated and shall bear the name of the individual, firm, or corporation submitting the bid.

5. By submitting a bid, the bidder understands and agrees that if that proposal is accepted and the bidder fails to enter into a contract forthwith, the bidder shall be liable to the Owner for any damages the Owner may thereby suffer.

6. Bids may not be modified after submittal. Bidders may withdraw proposals, either in person or by written request, at any time before the hour set for the bid opening, but may not resubmit them. No proposal may be withdrawn or modified after bid opening, except if the contract award has been delayed by more than 45 days.

7. The City of Galva reserves the right to waive any informality in or to reject any or all bids and to accept any bid deemed most favorable and in the best interest of the City after all bids have been examined and tabulated.

Published 1/16, 1/23/26

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON TOWNSHIP BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes of the Elmira Township in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2026, and ending February 28, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the Town Clerk's home from and after 6:00 p.m., 13th day of February 2026.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing and action on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2026, in the township road maintenance building located in Osceola, Illinois.

Dated this 8th day of January 2026.

Jana Clancy, Supervisor

Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 1/16/26

### MEETING NOTICE

Elmira Township board meets on the second Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. in the township road maintenance building located in Osceola, Illinois, to approve payment of township expenses and consider any other township business.

Jana Clancy, Supervisor

Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 1/16/26

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF STARK COUNTY

Renewal forms for the 2026 assessment year are being mailed to all Stark County property owners who had previously signed up for the Senior Citizens Assessment Freeze, Homestead Exemption, Disabled Persons and the Disabled Veterans. The deadline for their return is July 1, 2026.

The following is a list of all exemptions. If you have any questions concerning any of the homestead exemptions, or to obtain applications, contact the Supervisor of Assessments office at 130 West Main St., Toulon, Illinois, or call 286-7172.

**Owner Occupied Exemption** reduces the final equalized assessed value by the amount the current equalized assessed value exceeds the 1977 equalized assessed value up to a maximum reduction of \$6,000. To qualify a taxpayer must own and occupy a property as his or her principal dwelling on January 1st of the assessment year.

**Homestead Exemption** is for taxpayers who will be 65 years of age or older anytime during the assessment year and who own and occupy their property. This exemption reduces the equalized assessed value by \$5,000.

**Senior Citizen Assessment Freeze Exemption** is for taxpayers who will be 65 years of age or older during the assessment year, have a total household income of less than \$75,000 for the prior year, and occupy their dwelling on January 1 of the taxable year, own the property and be liable for payment of property tax for the taxable year. Applications must be submitted annually to the Supervisor of Assessments.

**Home Improvement Exemption** reduces the Board of Review assessed value by the amount of increase in assessed value due to improvements being added to an existing residential structure. The exemption is for four years from the date of completion and is for maximum amount of \$75,000 in market value.

**Disabled Persons Homestead Exemption** provides a \$2,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owned by a disabled person. Applications must be submitted annually to the Supervisor of Assessments office.

**Returning Veterans Homestead Exemption** provides a one-time \$5,000 reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying veterans who return from active duty in an armed conflict involving armed forces of the United States. To receive this exemption, the veteran must file an application with the Supervisor of Assessments office upon their return home.

**Disabled Veterans Standard Homestead Exemption** provided a reduction in a property's EAV to a qualifying property owner owned by a veteran with a service connected disability certified by the U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs. A \$2,500 homestead exemption is available with a disability of at least 30% but less than 50% or a \$5,000 homestead exemption with a disability of at least 50% but less than 70%, and a disability of 70% or more, the property is exempt from taxation. The veteran must file an annual application with the Supervisor of Assessments office.

**Disabled Veterans Exemption** reduces the Board of Review assessed value by up to \$70,000 in assessed value for homes especially built or remodeled to suit a veteran disabled while serving in the Armed Forces. Applications are processed by the Board of Review.

Published 1/16, 1/23/26

### BID NOTICE

Elmira Township is accepting bids for mowing three cemeteries: Elmira, Osceola and Osceola Grove. For information, contact Jana Clancy at 309-883-1040 or [jkclancy65@gmail.com](mailto:jkclancy65@gmail.com). All bids, along with proof of insurance, must be received by February 11, 2026. Elmira Township and/or Cemetery boards have the right to accept or reject any bid.

Published 1/16/26

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET

Notice is hereby given that a tentative budget and appropriation ordinance for road purposes of the Elmira Township in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2026, and ending February 28, 2027, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at the Town Clerk's home from and after 6:00 p.m., 13th day of February 2026.

Notice is further hereby given that a public hearing and action on said budget and appropriation ordinance will be held at 7:00 p.m. on March 12, 2026, in the township road maintenance building located in Osceola, Illinois.

Dated this 8th day of January 2026.

Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 1/16/26

### NOTICE OF SALE of Property Owned by the City of Galva and Invitation to Bid Thereon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Galva will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property:

The property commonly referred to as 214 NW 1st Avenue Vacant Residential Lot, Galva, IL 61434 which property has been assigned PIN # 24-28-439-006 and which is legally described as: N54 LOT 1 BK 13 ORIGINAL TOWN CITY OF GALVA said property being appraised for \$1,425 (one thousand four hundred twenty five dollars) which appraisal is on file with the Galva City Clerk.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above-described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois, during normal working days between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM until 30 January, 2026. Said proposals shall be contained within an opaque envelope addressed to:

Mayor and City Council  
City of Galva  
c/o City Clerk  
311 N. W. 4th Avenue  
Galva, IL 61434

and shall bear the legend: PROPOSAL – SALE OF 214 NW 1st Avenue

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the corporate authorities of the City of Galva to be held at 6:00 p.m. on 2 February 2026.

A contract may be awarded to the highest, most responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interests of the City of Galva, so long as that bid meets the minimum bid amount which is equivalent to 80% (eighty percent) of the appraised value or \$1,140 (one thousand one hundred forty dollars), the appraised value being \$1,425 (one thousand four hundred twenty five dollars). The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 45 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals for the development of the lots on which they are bidding. Development proposals should include, but are not limited to: an abstract of bidders building plans and specifications, a statement of financial capacity, a statement of other financial arrangements to facilitate performance of the contract, name of financial institution with contact information, line of credit (personal, special-purpose, or otherwise), or other statements indicating the financial capacity to perform the stated purpose upon which the bid proposal is based.

The corporate authorities reserve the right to include penalty clauses in any and all contracts awarded to successful bidders. Penalties may include, but are not limited to: monetary damages payable to the City for non-performance of contractual terms, forfeiture of the lot for non-performance, loss of building permit fees, and other assessments that may become part of a development contract.

Any prospective bidder may inspect the "Land Appraisal Report" for any and all lots upon which they wish to bid at the City Clerk's office during normal working hours. The City Clerk's office may be reached by calling (309) 932-2555 or in writing to: City Clerk, City of Galva, 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434.

Published 1/16, 1/23, 1/30/26

### ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Notice is hereby given to the legal residents of the Town of Elmira in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, being the second Tuesday of said month. The Town meeting for the transaction of miscellaneous business of said Town will be held at the hour of 7:00 p.m. on said day at Elmira Township Road Maintenance Building in Osceola and a moderator, having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law, come before the meeting.

Dated this 8th day of January 2026.

Cliff Lane, Clerk

Published 1/16/26

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

## 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](mailto:info@thegathering.life)

website: [www.thegathering.life/](http://www.thegathering.life/)

[www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life](https://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 [fcotoulon@gmail.com](mailto:fcotoulon@gmail.com)

website: [firstcongregationaltoulon.org](http://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 Grem, Pastor

(309) 932-2713 • [GalvaBaptistChurch.com](http://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](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)

[www.ToulonBaptist.com](http://www.ToulonBaptist.com)

[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon](http://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](http://allsaintsil.com)

### Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL

Casual, family friendly Rev. Randy Swanson (interim)

Wednesday: 4:00 p.m. "See Through the Scriptures" Bible Study,

5:30 p.m. Worship (in Luther Hall)

Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Children's Sunday School, 9:00 a.m. Adult

Discussion Group, 10:00 a.m. Worship

Contact: [messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:preachinghope@gmail.com)

[galvafirst@gmail.com](mailto:galvafirst@gmail.com)

Sunday Worship: 9:00 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](mailto: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](mailto: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.bradfordaccchurch.org](http://www.bradfordaccchurch.org); [info@bradfordaccchurch.org](mailto:info@bradfordaccchurch.org)

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The Prairie News; PO Box 240; Toulon, IL 61483-0240.

## OBITUARIES

### Herbert A. Babb

WYOMING – Retired U.S. Air Force Col. Herbert A. Babb, 95, of Wyoming, Ill., died peacefully on Jan. 10, 2026, at his home surrounded by family. He was born in Wichita, Kan. on Dec. 2, 1930. He attended Wichita State University and earned his bachelor's degree in economics before joining the Air Force as a commissioned officer in 1953.

His military career spanned nearly 30 years and included being stationed at Strategic Air Command Headquarters at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Neb., where he met and married Virginia L.



Babb

(Hughes) Babb, enlisted USAF. He was also stationed at Anderson AFB in Guam and the Pentagon in Washington D.C. While at the Pentagon, he earned his master's degree in public affairs and information from American University. In 1978, he retired from service while stationed at Maxwell AFB in Montgomery, Ala.

Babb is survived by two children, Kimberly Kent and Christopher Babb, both of Wyoming. He is also survived by four grandchildren, Leisa Boswell of Washington, D.C., Jennifer (Zach) Babb of Morton, Evan Murphy Boswell of Wyoming and Melody Kent of Galva; and two great-grandchildren, Justin and Rhett. Surviving also is one sister-in-law, Rose Hughes of Montana; several nieces and nephews and grand-nieces and nephews across the globe.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William J. Babb II and Selma (Ahrens) Babb; his wife of 54 years, Virginia; his eldest sister Beverly Babb; his brother Bill Babb; his eldest son Herbert A. Babb II; and his infant son John Timothy Babb. Also preceding him in death are four brothers-in-law, Bruce, Jay, Jerry and Jim, as well as three sisters-in-law, Bernadine, Lois and Audrey.

In his free time, he enjoyed playing (competitively) cards with family and friends, thick chocolate milkshakes and a good cigar. Cremation rights were accorded and a graveside ceremony with military honors will be at 11:30 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23, 2026, at St. Dominic Catholic Cemetery in Wyoming. A visitation will be prior to the service from 10-11 a.m. at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming. In lieu of flowers, Col. Babb asked that you support your local public library by making a financial or in-kind donation.

Online condolences for Babb's family may be left on his tribute wall at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

### Richard W. Bauer

BRADFORD – Richard William "Gomer" Bauer, 77, of rural Bradford, Ill., passed away on Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, at his home.

Richard was born on Dec. 29, 1948, in Peoria, the son of Marion and Alma (Elmore) Bauer. He graduated with the Bradford High School class of 1968. On June 17, 1973, he married Beth Giuliani in Chillicothe. She preceded him in death on March 13, 1999.

Gomer worked for Bradford Industries in Bradford for 20 years while also driving a truck and doing factory work. He then went to work for Cox Transportation for 10 years. After he retired, he went back to work for Gill Grain in Bradford for seven years.

## OBITUARIES

He loved camping and was the past president and longtime member of the Family Campers RV Club, formerly known as the NCHA. Gomer enjoyed going to the Bradford Senior Citizen Center to play dominos and eat lunch with fellow seniors in Bradford. He also liked to play cards at Jerry's Tap. Gomer was an active member of the First Baptist Church of Bradford. After his son's passing in 2010 Gomer became very active with fund-raising for his son's Chief William T.



Bauer

"Bill" Bauer Scholarship Fund. He is survived by his daughter, Anne (John) Cantwell; daughter-in-law Jodie Bauer; five grandchildren, Jesse Cantwell, Elizabeth Ahrens, Hillary Kelly, Joey Kelly and Timothy Kelly; two great-grandchildren; six siblings, Eileen (John) Norin, John Bauer, Jack Bauer, Ed (Sharon) Bauer, Barb (Ray) Carlson and Mary Jason. He was a tremendous Uncle Dick to many nieces and nephews.

Gomer is preceded in death by his wife Beth; son Chief William T. "Bill" Bauer; his parents; brother Walter (Marion) Bauer; and sisters-in-law Betty and Bonnie Bauer.

Visitation will be held from 1 p.m. until time of funeral service at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at First Baptist Church in Bradford, with Pastor Mark Graves officiating. Burial of cremated remains will be at a later date in Chillicothe City Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to the Bradford Senior Citizen Center in Gomer's honor.

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

### Frank E. Clucas

GALVA – Frank E. (Mike) Clucas, 91, passed away on Jan. 4, 2026, doing what he loved, feeding his horses. He was reunited with his beloved wife of nearly 55 years, Lorraine Tiemann Clucas, who preceded

## OBITUARIES

her brother Fred, and brother-in-law Lewis McKinney.

Joan was of the Christian faith. She lived a quiet life since her retirement. Bill's dog Pearl brought her much joy and solace in the past few years.

The funeral service was Jan. 13, 2026. Nephews Bruce Endress and Tyler Endress officiated. Burial was in the Apostolic Christian Cemetery in Bradford. Memorials may be made to the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, IL.

**Phillip E. Kitterman**

GALVA – Phillip E. "Phil" Kitterman, 90, of Galva, died at 9:31 a.m., Monday, Jan. 12, 2026, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 22, 1935, in Princeton, Ill., the son of Forrest and Martha (Dixon) Kitterman. He married Sally A. Nye on Dec. 10, 1953, in Tiskilwa and she preceded him in death on Nov. 7, 2012.

Survivors include his three sons, Alan (Susan) Kitterman of Galva, Tim Kitterman of Victoria and Robert "Pat" Kitterman (Deborah Halsall) of Galva; 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Helen Kitterman and Beverly Nora; brother Kenny Kitterman; his son Kevin; and granddaughter Nicole Leeper.

Phil owned and operated a gas and service station, starting out as Deep Rock, later Kerr-McGee and eventually Phil's Sinclair Station, retiring after 35 years of service to the Galva community. He was known as Happy



Kitterman

Phil and was a member of Lake Calhoun Country Club and a former member of the Galva Lions Club, Galva Chamber of Commerce and the Henry County Board. He was an avid pool player, obtaining the rank of championship player, and he enjoyed golfing, skiing, fishing and hunting. His greatest joys were his boys and serving the needs of his customers.

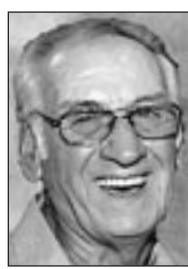
Cremation will be accorded and a celebration of his life will be held at a later date. Memorials may be directed to the Lake Calhoun Country Club or to the Henry County Humane Society-Kewanee Chapter. Rux Funeral Home in Galva is assisting the family with arrangements.

**William Vereecke**

KEWANEE – William "Bill" Vereecke, 85, of Kewanee, passed away Friday, Dec. 26, 2025, in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family. Bill fought colon cancer for 12 years with determination and grace, inspiring everyone who knew him. However, an unexpected bout of pneumonia ultimately took his life.

Bill was born July 26, 1940, in Kewanee, the son of William and Rose (Boyka) Vereecke. After attending Kewanee High School, he married the love of his life, Dorothy VanAutreve on Sept. 17, 1960. Their love endured 65 years and they went on to build a beautiful life together.

Bill is survived by his wife; son Dave Vereecke; daughter Lynne (Paul) Lamb; two grandchildren, Kari (Travis) Barker and William "Willie" Peck; and a great-granddaughter,



Vereecke

Sami Barker, whom he was especially fond of, and lovingly referred to as his Peanut. Bill was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Janice.

After high school, Bill dabbled in many careers, until finding his passion in construction. Bill was part of Laborers Local 852 for eight years, was self-employed for 10 years and, after 40 years with Local 166, he retired as a master carpenter. While operating his business, he completed multiple projects, including residential and commercial builds. Some of his proudest were Dairy Queen, Me-nards, Driver's Facility, Super 8 and multiple projects for Lou Little of Kewanee.

Bill could build or fix anything. He especially loved working on the country home he and his wife shared for over five decades. In his younger years, he was a member of the Kewanee Pigeon Club, where he raised and raced pigeons. He was an avid hunter, both small and big game, which included multiple trips to Canada to hunt bear and moose. He and his favorite coon hound D-Con walked many miles and won many trophies, but his 22-point non-typical buck was his pride and joy. He enjoyed his summers gardening and working in his yard, but what he enjoyed most was spending time with his donkey, Rocky, and goats, Amos and Andy.

A graveside service will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 17, 2026, at Mount Olivet Cemetery in Kewanee, where family and friends are welcome to attend. Pastor Andrew Christman will officiate. Memorials may be made to Illinois Cancer Care. Online condolences for Bill's family may be left at [www.golnickschuenemanfh.com](http://www.golnickschuenemanfh.com).

**Job Announcement****RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST**

The Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District is seeking a Resource Conservationist. Duties include implementing and managing conservation programs and providing education to promote soil and water conservation practices.

**Qualifications:** Bachelor's degree preferred (but not required) in agriculture, natural resources, or related field. Agricultural background, engineering knowledge, and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Outlook) experience beneficial. The ideal candidate would possess the following skills/characteristics: Self-motivated, organized, detail oriented, ability to multi-task, work independently within a team, and excellent oral, written, and interpersonal communication skills.

**Required:** Ability to perform field work in various conditions. Some lifting required. Must have a valid driver's license. Employment contingent upon receiving a satisfactory United States Department of Agriculture background investigation.

Salary commensurate with education and work experience. The Stark County SWCD is an equal opportunity employer.

Mail cover letter and resume to:

**Stark County SWCD**  
Attn: Hiring Committee  
7419B State Route 17,  
Toulon, IL 61483  
Or email [starkcountyswcd@gmail.com](mailto:starkcountyswcd@gmail.com)  
Please submit by COB on January 23, 2026

**Joanne Holman's 90th Birthday**  
January 28th

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**Celebration of Life for John Costin**

The family of John Costin would like to invite you to his Celebration of Life to be held at the American Legion, 116 E Third St., Kewanee on January 24 from Noon to 4:00 p.m.

We will have a memorial service at 12:30 with Pastor Andrew Christman of the Kewanee Church of Peace officiating. The Toulon American Legion will be providing military rights during the service.

Food will be provided from 1 - 4 p.m.

The family would love to share John's life with you as well as listen to stories from friends and acquaintances.

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## Rebels D sparks win over Princes

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

Connor Daum had 12 points and Stark County was 7-for-8 on fourth-quarter free throws in a 45-41 boys basketball win Tuesday over Princeville.

The foul shots helped host Stark County (5-8, 2-1 Lincoln Trail Conference) break a 32-32 tie. Tanner Bishop was 4-for-4 from the line down the stretch en route to nine points.

"We started slowly, but our defensive intensity led to a lot of deflections and forced them to play at a pace they were uncomfortable with," Rebels Coach Kane Mastin stated. "The points didn't show it, but we dictated a frenetic pace that played to our advantage."

Bishop had 16 points in a 53-46 victory Jan. 10 over ROWVA-Williamsfield. Daum scored 12.

Daum had 10 points Jan. 9, but Monmouth United beat Stark County 63-34 in an LTC opener.

• **Galva boys** – JP Sloan had 31 points Tuesday for Galva, which won 78-58 at Kewanee Wethersfield. MJ Louck scored 19, Reid Harris 11 and Jay Smith 10 for

the Wildcats (12-6, 2-0 LTC).

Galva opened league play Jan. 9 by beating Ridgewood 62-30. Sloan had 16 points, seven rebounds and six steals. Louck had 14 points and eight assists.

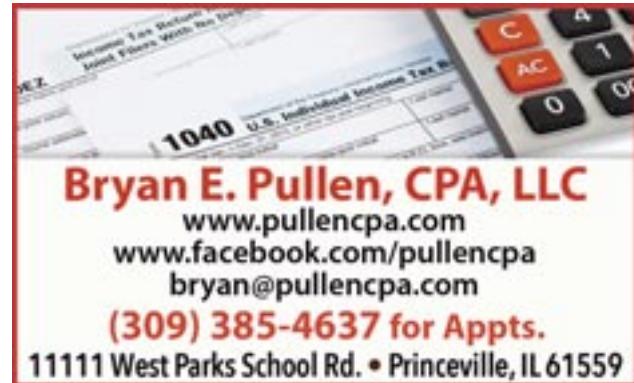
• **SC girls** – Stark County (10-9, 2-1) fell to Orion 53-50 on Monday despite 25 points from sophomore Coley Johnston, who was 11-for-20 from the field. Hallie Newtown had eight

rebounds.

The Lady Rebels play at Bureau Valley on Monday.

• **Galva girls** – The Lady Wildcats (4-14, 1-3) suffered losses on consecutive days, 61-40 to Fulton and 67-47 to Orion.

Galva visited Manlius for a matchup against Bureau Valley on Monday and the Storm ran to an 81-34 victory. Next on the schedule is a Jan. 19 home game against Princeville.



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