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# The Prairie News

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## Town hall draws packed crowd to discuss Stark Co.

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

WYOMING — Two points were made repeatedly during a well-attended Stark County Town Meeting on Tuesday.

One was that the crowd estimated at more than 160 packing the Paramount Theater on a frigid night was impressive.

Several speakers at the 170-minute meeting said the turnout was the largest ever seen for a town hall.

"At this kind of event I usually speak on voter apathy," State Sen. Neil Alex-

ander said. "Tonight proves that isn't an issue in Stark County."

The other common refrain was that the event also proves Toulon, Wyoming and Bradford should now be considered collaborators instead of rivals.

"Us all coming together is a big change," said Sharon Cauthon, Bradford's village president. "There's no longer a stigma of the towns can't work together. Just being up here together is the start of a big change."

Nodding in agreement

on the Paramount stage were Toulon Mayor Larry Hollis and Wyoming Mayor Jim Mercer, who also praised the crowd.

"I was overwhelmed," Mercer said afterwards. "It wasn't just Wyoming residents. I thought there was a pretty even mix from all three towns."

Cauthon said the three community leaders regularly share information and ideas and attend meetings of the Stark Council for Continuous Improvement, an under-the-radar group devoted to county-wide

economic and social development.

The format of the meeting allowed politicians and business leaders to address the crowd and then answer questions. Most of the informative and, at times, humorous Q&A was devoted to Alexander, State Sen. Li Arellano and State Rep. Travis Weaver.

When Weaver discussed the need for more nuclear power plants in Illinois, an audience member yelled out, "Put one in Stark County and we'll have lots more jobs."



Participants in Tuesday's Stark County Town Hall included (from left to right) State Sens. Neil Anderson and Li Arellano, State Rep. Travis Weaver and Stark County Board Chair Kari Bush. Photo by Brett Elliott.

"I love it," Weaver said. "Other significant ex-

changes on issues specific

Continued on Page 4

## Galva street traps truck

Broken service line weakens pavement

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA — An Eagle Enterprises garbage truck came to a sudden stop on Jan. 21 at about 2 p.m. during its weekly route.

The accident happened in the 400 block of NE 2nd St. A sewer service line collapsed and the back two tires of the truck dropped about 2 feet into the roadway according to Jake McClintic, Galva's incoming sewer superintendent.

Steve Bell and Tony Interial were at Bell Trucking when the call came in. Bell was able to lift

## SINKING FEELING



An Eagle Enterprises garbage truck fell through the pavement in the 400 block of NE 2nd St. in Galva last Wednesday. The pavement gave way after a sewer service line collapsed beneath the street.

the back of the garbage truck with his Caterpillar Inc. 938 wheel loader, hooked up and guided by Interial, to extract the truck from the hole.

The 400 block of NE 2nd St. was closed immediately and the Galva Water Department placed barricades around the affected area.

Sewer and water employees fixed the service line on Thursday

but will inspect the main sewer line with a camera this week to see if there is any additional damage, as the street remains closed.

If there is damage to the sewer, the city will have to pay for the repairs.

A spokesman for Eagle Enterprises said Monday that two rear tires on the truck were damaged in the incident.

## Gripp extended

Bradford schools superintendent receives 3-year contract extension

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD — In addition to approving a 2025 financial audit and several other items during a busy meeting Tuesday, the Bradford School Board OK'd a three-year contract extension for Superintendent Chad Gripp.

A principal at Bradford since 2009, Gripp was also hired as superintendent in 2016. Marlie Heider was hired as junior high principal in 2023. Gripp is still the grade school principal.

Gripp, 46, will receive 4% raises for each year of his new extension. His old contract was set to expire at the end of Fiscal Year 2028. According to the

website govsalaries.com, Gripp was paid \$127,430 in 2024.

An audit of the district's FY25 financial report by Gorenz and Associates Ltd. of Peoria showed Bradford's budget was balanced. The only new change requested is to increase the treasurer's bond.

The building and grounds committee offered recommendations after meeting prior to the regular board gathering. An attempt will be made Feb. 16 to resurface the gym floor, but quotes for a new floor are being gathered. Other projects in the planning stages are determining the life expectancy of the jun-

Continued on Page 2

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## Galva school budget on target, grant to fund meals

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

**GALVA** - Superintendent Joe Becker told the Board of Education Monday that the school district is on target with revenues and expenditures for the 2025-26 school year.

Becker also said the district has again received an Illinois grant to serve free breakfast and lunch to all students every school day. He said that on early-out days cooks will pack a sack lunch to send with each student at the 11:30 a.m. dismissal.

Galva is one of several area schools interested in the Rural Illinois Shared Education program. RISE currently has more than 100 school districts and community col-

## BRADFORD: Substitute compensation may increase

*Continued from Page 1*

ior high boiler, getting quotes for air conditioning in the grade school, fixing slides and adding a structure to the grade school playground, getting quotes to add mesh coverings over exterior windows and installing new bleachers in the gym and looking into improving the track surface.

The board also reviewed a pro-

posed 2026-27 calendar and heard a first reading of a new compensation structure for district aides. Under the plan, aides with a teaching license who sub more than 11 days in the same classroom can earn a supplemental payment of \$50 for a full day and \$25 for a half day.

In other personnel matters, the board hired Sarah Bruecks as scho-

lastic bowl head coach to replace Abi Stevenson, whose resignation was accepted. Lexi Church was hired as an assistant. The board also hired Dana Ingels as a transportation monitor and accepted the resignation of Morgan Coleman as boys basketball assistant coach.



Galva High School seniors (from left to right) Kailynn Townsend, Allison Nordstrom and McKenna Anderson are Illinois State Scholars and received Wildcat Pride awards.

p.m. and approved the following: accepting Brandon Macklin as a junior high boys basketball volunteer for the 2026-27 school year; a leave of absence for Anna Olson from about Feb. 1 to April 7; and the resignation of Andrew Bresnahan as custodian.

The board unanimously changed its February meeting to Feb. 17 at 7 p.m.

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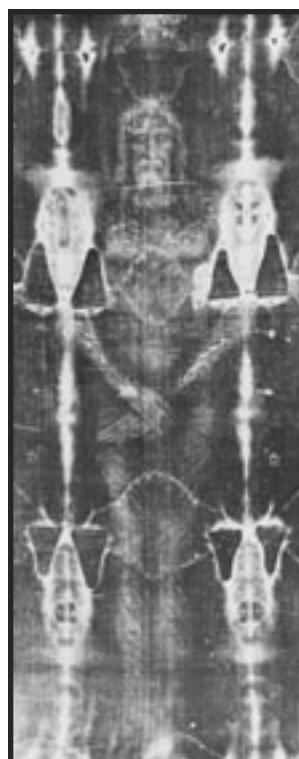
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The centerpiece is a full-length canvas replica of the Shroud made by the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc. In addition the mobile exhibit contains a large crucified corpus showing the wounds of Christ corresponding to the passion narrative in the Gospel accounts and the wounds shown on the Shroud. The exhibit contains over 31 pop-up display banners detailing the history and science of the Shroud.

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## PUBLIC RECORD

## Incidents &amp; Accidents

## Stark County

**1-10** - A two-vehicle accident occurred on the Modena Road approximately a quarter of a mile east of 950E. Tractor driver Jeffrey J. Wisniewski, 62, rural Wyoming, was traveling west when he struck the side of an eastbound 2004 Dodge Ram driven by Gavin J. Ebert, 18, rural Wyoming. The accident report noted that the tractor was wider than its lane. Ebert's driver's side mirror was broken. There was no visible damage to the tractor. No injuries were reported, and no tickets were issued. Damage to the truck was estimated between \$501 and \$1,500.

**1-18** - Jesse J. Cantwell, 18, Guerneville, Calif., was ticketed for operating an uninsured vehicle.

**1-18** - Tekayla R. Wilkins-Fender son, 26, Pekin, was cited for speeding 68 mph in a 55 zone.

**1-19** - Jeffrey P. Woith, LaFayette, reported criminal damage to property after an unknown individual threw a rock through the back windshield of his truck.

**1-19** - Christine A. Schmidt, 62, rural Toulon hit a deer while driving on Illinois Route 78. No injuries were reported. Her 2020 Ford Explorer sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

**1-21** - Heather Hawkins-Barcroft, 39, of Kewanee hit a deer while driving on 950N. No injuries were reported. Damage to the 2018 Lincoln utility vehicle was estimated between \$501 and \$1,500.

**1-21** - Ty B. Gaskill, 30, Kewanee, was ticketed for driving on a suspended registration due to mandatory insurance. He was issued a court date to appear.

**1-21** - Two individuals were ticketed following a traffic stop on Illinois Route 78. Driver Noah D. Kirby, 23, Toluca, was cited for driving with no insurance and illegal adult use of cannabis. A passenger, Robert J.

Mueller, 24, Peoria, was cited for illegal adult use of cannabis by a passenger. Kirby's vehicle was towed and impounded. Both men were issued court dates.

**1-21** - William K. Skog, 20, Nauvoo, turned himself in to the Stark County Sheriff's Department on outstanding warrants from both Stark and Henry counties. He was taken into custody and transported to Bureau County Jail awaiting a court date for the Stark charges before being extradited to Henry County.

**1-22** - Maximiliano R. Ramirez-Barry, 33, Peoria, was cited for driving a vehicle with no insurance and for driving on an expired driver's license. He was issued a court date.

**1-22** - Barry W. Reed, 73, Brad-



ford, was arrested following a traffic stop and charged with DUI (A2), DUI (A1), illegal transportation of alcohol, improper lane usage and speeding 68 mph in a 55 zone. His vehicle was impounded, and he was released with a court date.

**1-22** - Daniel J. Klump, 36, rural Wyoming hit a deer while driving on Illinois Route 93, approximately 500 feet west of 1300E. No injuries were reported but the 2015 Chevrolet Colorado sustained estimated damages over \$1,500.

**1-23** - Dalton J. Ingels, 29, Bradford hit a deer while driving on the Modena Road south of Illinois Route 93 according to a desk report at the Stark County Sheriff's Office.

**1-23** - David S. Lyon, 50, Toulon, was cited for driving while his license was revoked and illegal transportation of alcohol. He was issued a court date.

**1-23** - Jacob R. Dailey, 22, Kewanee, was cited for operation of an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a court date.

**1-23** - Michelle L. Ellington, 53, Wyoming, was issued several citations including: DUI (A2), DUI (A1) and improper lane usage and was issued a notice to appear for possession of a controlled substance. She was released with a court date to appear and her vehicle was impounded.

## Galva Report

## Officer dispatched:

**1-19** - to the east edge of town for complaint of a reckless driver coming towards Galva. Officer observed the suspect vehicle speeding and made a traffic stop. As the result, Madelin DeJesus, 50, Galva, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, DUI with a BAC over .08%, unlawful possession of adult use cannabis in an unauthorized container and speeding. She was later released with a required Henry County court date.

**1-19** - to the 100 block of NE 6th Ave. for an animal-cruelty complaint.

**1-20** - Officer was notified about a vehicle repossession taking place in the 200 block of NE 3rd St.

**1-20** - to the 200 block of NW 5th St. for a complaint involving identity

theft.

**1-20** - to the 100 block of NE 6th Ave. for a verbal domestic disturbance involving brothers.

**1-20** - While patrolling, officer saw a freight train coming to a stop that blocked several crossings. Officer directed traffic for over an hour and eventually the train moved along.

**1-20** - to the 300 block of Swank St. for a criminal damage to property complaint.

**1-21** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 600 block of SW 2nd St., Shannon Ray, 43, Galva, was arrested for driving while license suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a required court date.

**1-21** - to the 00 block of NE 8th St. for an attempted burglary from a vehicle. This is under investigation.

**1-21** - Officer met with a subject at the Galva Police Department to discuss child visitation concerns.

**1-21** - Officer assisted Stark County Medic at a residence on SW 2nd St. after a subject accidentally took too much medication.

**1-22** - Officer was dispatched to the 400 block of SW 1st Ave. for a domestic disturbance.

**1-22** - Officer met with a resident at the Galva Police Department to discuss a neighbor's aggressive dog.

**1-22** - to the 100 block of NE 6th Ave. for a civil-property dispute.

**1-22** - Officer met with a Galva juvenile and a parent in reference to follow up from a car burglary and trespassing complaint received the prior day. As the result, a 14-year-old Galva juvenile was issued a juvenile referral for burglary to a motor vehicle and criminal trespass to property. The juvenile was then released.

**1-22** - Officer assisted Henry County with a death notification on SW 3rd St.

**1-23** - Officer was dispatched to assist Henry County with an activated burglar alarm west of town.

**1-23** - along with Stark County Medic, to a residence on NW 2nd Ave. for two subjects who were reportedly suicidal.

**1-23** - to the 00 block of NW 4th St. for a utilities complaint. A water line had frozen and burst. The Galva Water Department was contacted and was able to shut off the water.

**1-23** - to the 300 block of SE 1st Ave. for a loud-music complaint. The resident was advised to turn it down.

**1-24** - to the 100 block of NW 7th Ave. for a residential burglary complaint. This is under investigation.

**1-25** - to the 600 block of NW 7th St. for an aggressive-dog complaint.

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## TOWN HALL: County seeks paid administrator

*Continued from Page 1*  
to Stark County were sprinkled throughout the meeting.

- Several came from Stark County Board Chair Kari Bush, who discussed efforts to add a paid administrator to help handle the county's day-to-day affairs and to find and manage grants.

Bush said Stark County has even floated the idea of sharing such an administrator with other neighboring counties, so far without any success.

Bush also noted that the county board, the Henry and Stark County Health Department and the State Bank of Toulon have combined

- forces to offer primary care, behavioral-health services and a recently opened pharmacy at the First Choice Healthcare facility in Toulon.

- At one point, Wyoming Alderman Steve Hansard suggested the county needs a committee to help promote economic development.

- In response, Cauthon outlined the efforts of SCCI.

Later, SCCI member Jon Kno-blauch addressed the group's effort to add to the housing stock in Stark County, which currently has only four homes listed for sale.

- SCCI member and Stark County School Superintendent Brett Elliott

noted a stunning fact gleaned from a University of Illinois survey: Only 17% of the population of Stark County is under the age of 54.

- Mercer said at the meeting that anyone who has a house for sale or wants to bring a business to Stark County should call one of the mayors for assistance. He posted the same idea on the City of Wyoming Facebook page Wednesday.

Within two hours after that post, Mercer said he had a call from someone seeking to bring a furniture store into Wyoming.

"People understand they can go to each mayor for help," he said.

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### Bishop Hill Heritage Association meets Feb. 7

BISHOP HILL – The Bishop Hill Heritage Association will hold its annual meeting on Saturday Feb. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the Steeple Building Museum, 103 N. Bishop Hill St. The meeting is open to Bishop Hill Heritage Association members only.

Items to be covered include elec-

tion of board members and officers, a review of 2025 and a preview of 2026. Light refreshments will be served.

Please RSVP by contacting the BHHA at (309) 927-3899 or at [bhha@mymctc.net](mailto:bhha@mymctc.net).

### WIC moving to new Kewanee location

KEWANEE – The Henry and

Stark County Health Department is moving its WIC services to the former Johnson's Chiropractic building at 109 S. Burr Blvd. in Kewanee. Remodeling of the space is nearly completed and the new office will officially open to the public on Tuesday, Feb. 3.

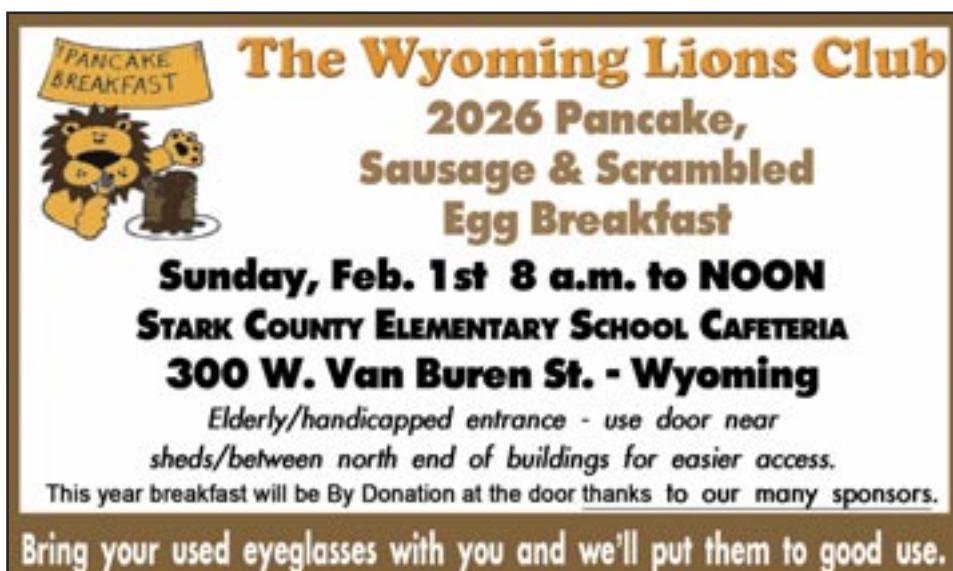
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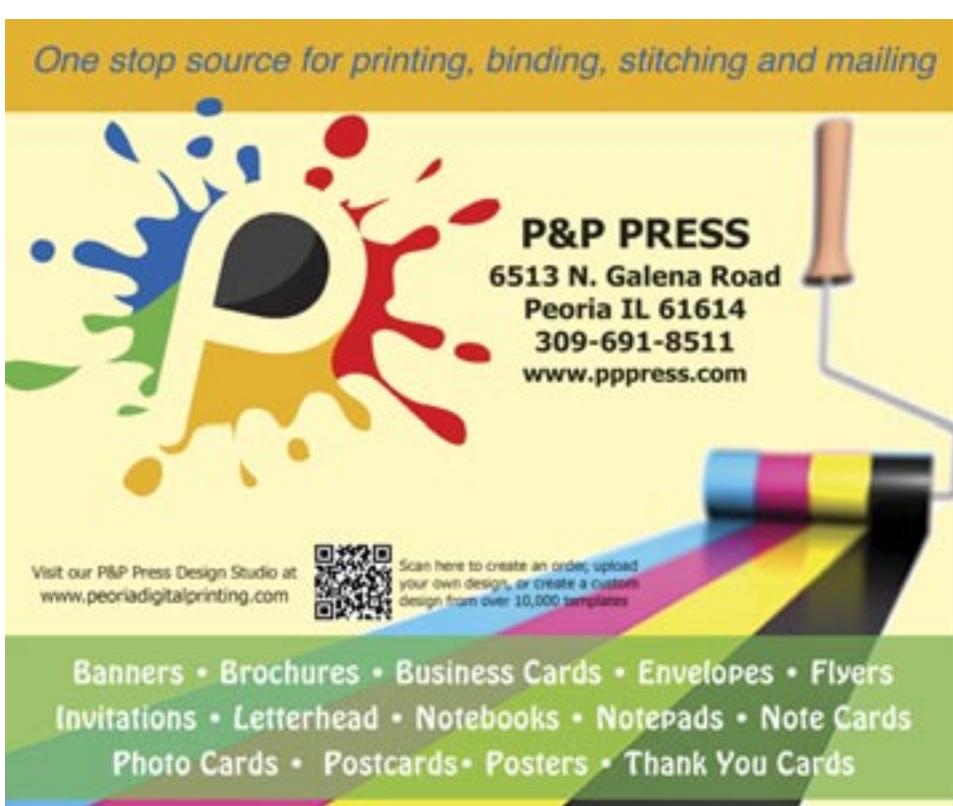
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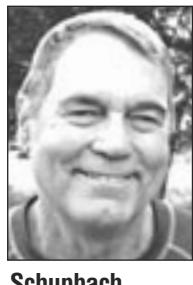
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## OBITUARIES

**Paul A. Schupbach**

WYOMING – Paul A. Schupbach, 75, of Wyoming, went to heaven on Monday, Jan. 26, 2026.

Paul was born May 30, 1950, in Kewanee, the son of Frederick "Fritz" Enoch and Mary (Stapp) Schupbach. Paul married the love of his life Debra (Maher) on Aug. 24, 1974, at St. Dominic Church in Wyoming.



Schupbach

Paul is survived by his wife Debra; four children, Wyatt (Laura) Schupbach of Roswell, Ga., Schuyler (Mary Ellen) Schupbach, Dr. Adrienne Schupbach (Dr. Douglas Leone), all of Bloomington, Ill., and Natalie (Clint) Baldwin of Morton, Ill.; three siblings, Steven (Pamela) Schupbach, Philip Schupbach, and Joanne Schupbach (Jeff Heller), sister-in-law Valerie Schupbach and brother-in-law Larry Thomsen; 12 grandchildren, Colton, Tyraina (Matt Stroud), Shayna (Bryce Bounds), Alexis (Logan Moore), Tyler (Haley Lloyd), Arianna, Alessia, Christian, Aliyah, Silas, Rockland and Rush; eight great-grandchildren, Greyson, Brynley, Riley, Jack, Maggie Jean, Noah, Liam and Theo; and several nieces and nephews.

Paul was preceded in death by his parents; two siblings, Fred Schupbach and Lucielle Thomsen; and two grandchildren, Tristan and Krynn.

Paul served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and was stationed in Germany. Through the years he worked for his family's propane gas company, farmed the family farm, worked at Caterpillar Inc. and

was a foreman at Greenview Landscaping Company.

Paul was an incredibly hard worker and instilled his work ethic and integrity in his children. Paul fought a long and courageous battle with kidney cancer beginning in 2003. His example of strength through grit, love of family, and love of life was powered by a strong faith in God and prayer and is a lasting legacy for his family and loved ones.

Paul's greatest joy in life was spending time with his family. He enjoyed family vacations spent in the beauty of the northwoods of Wisconsin and the hills of Branson, Mo. He was an avid snowmobiler for years and enjoyed boating with his family. Spending time with his kids and grandchildren brought him tremendous happiness. Paul was an amazing father and a wonderful grandfather.

Visitation will be held from 4-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2026, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. A funeral service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Wyoming, with The Rev. Corey Krengiel officiating.

Memorial contributions may be made to Memphis Morning Center or South Side Mission.

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

**Kathleen M. DeCrane**

GALVA – Kathleen M. DeCrane, 96, of Galva, died Tuesday, Jan. 27, 2026, at the Hillcrest Home in Geneseo. Arrangements are pending at Rux Funeral Home in Galva.

**Martha E. Ray**

BISHOP HILL – Martha E. "Marty" Ray, 83, of Bishop Hill, died

Jan. 22 at her home.

Martha descended from two families that emigrated from Sweden in 1846. She was born on Feb. 28, 1942, in Kewanee, the daughter of Charles and Josephine (Milliken) Nelson Jr.

Survivors include her son Andrew Ray; her nieces and nephews, Missy (Todd) Merkel, Kelly (Chris) Craig, Jennifer Nelson (Peter Burgess) and Amy (Tim) White; several cousins including Janene Blodgett (Lou Lourdeau) with whom she had a special relationship; and many lifelong Bishop Hill friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Ronald Nelson and sister-in-law Dina Nelson.

Cremation will be accorded. A graveside service at Bishop Hill Cemetery and a celebration of her life at the Colony School in Bishop Hill will be held at a later date.

**Max E. Strode**

CHILLICOTHE – Max Edwin Strode, 93, of Chillicothe, formerly of Bradford, passed away peacefully on Jan. 25, 2026, at his daughter's home.

He was born on June 30, 1932 in Vermont, Ill., to Marvin and Delma (Haney) Strode. Max married Shirley Walker on June 28, 1955, in Rushville. They were married for 66 years and she preceded him in death.

Max is survived by his two daughters, Michelle Hyter of La Crosse, Wis., and Yvonne Strode of Peoria; one son, Bill (Theresa) Strode of Wyoming; seven grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.

Per his wishes, cremation rites have been accorded. There will be no services.

Condolences can be left online at [www.woolsey-wilton.com](http://www.woolsey-wilton.com).

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## REAL ESTATE AND AUCTIONS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE  
10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT  
STARK COUNTY - 130 WEST MAIN  
STREET TOULON, ILLINOIS

CBI BANK & TRUST d/b/a F&M  
BANK, Plaintiff,  
vs.

RICK K. MCGHEE; ANITA M.  
MCGHEE; CAPITAL ONE BANK,  
N.A.; CITIZENS EQUITY FIRST  
CREDIT UNION; THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA, INTERNAL  
REVENUE SERVICE; STATE OF  
ILLINOIS, DEPARTMENT OF  
REVENUE; DISCOVER BANK;  
COMMERCE BANK; LNVN  
FUNDING, LLC; PARTIES IN  
POSSESSION; INTERESTED  
PERSONS; UNKNOWN OWNERS  
and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS  
Defendants.  
CASE NO. 2025 FC 2

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
(735 I.L.C.S. Sec. 5/15-1507(c))

Public notice is hereby given to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause that the property hereinafter described, or so much thereof shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest bidder.

1. The name, address and telephone number of the person to contact for information regarding the real estate is Ian Smith, telephone number 309-344-2563.

Dated this 26th day of January, 2026.

/s/Douglas R. Lindstrom, Jr.  
Douglas R. Lindstrom, Jr.  
6291748  
LANE & WATERMAN LLP  
220 North Main Street, Suite 600  
Davenport IA 52801  
563-324-3246  
563-324-1616 (fax)  
[dlindstrom@l-wlaw.com](mailto:dlindstrom@l-wlaw.com)

Published 1/30, 2/6, 2/13/26

**LIVE ONLINE**  
**KNOX COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**LAND AUCTION**  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026 AT 10:00 AM CT



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Tract 1 is situated on the north edge of Dahinda, IL with access along Knox Highway 15. Tract 2 is located approx. 1 mile north of Dahinda, IL with access along Knox Highway 15 in Sections 13 & 24, T11N - R3E, Persifer Township, Knox County, Illinois.

The Moore Acres Inc. real estate represents two tracts that have something for everyone in Knox County, IL. Tract 1 features tillable, pastureland, and recreational land with outbuildings and an older farmhouse. Tract 2 is a recreational paradise with excellent deer and turkey hunting. Illinois DNR and Spoon River State Forest border the farm to the East.

**MOORE ACRES INC.**

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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 Corby 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 Corby 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](http://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 [fccotoulon@gmail.com](mailto:fccotoulon@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**

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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](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)

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

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

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**St. Timothy Lutheran Church**

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

16883 State Route 17, PO Box 158 - Wyoming, IL 61491

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**Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)**</

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**NOTICE TO STARK COUNTY VOTERS**

Early voting for the March 17th 2026 Primary Election will begin February 5th 2026 and end March 16th 2026 at the office of the Stark County Clerk located at 130 W. Main, Toulon. Voting hours are Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm. We will also be open for early voting on Saturday March 14th from 9-noon.

**LEGAL ADS****IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

ESTATE OF **ELDA J. PINNICK**, Deceased  
No. 2025PR115

**CLAIM NOTICE**

(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Elda J. Pinnick. Letters of Office were issued on January 20, 2026, to Robert L. VerHecke, as Independent Administrator whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the **office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois** or with the representative, or both on or before **July 20, 2026**. 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.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
Attorney for Administrator  
P.O. Box 165  
Galva, IL 61434  
(309) 932-2001

Published 1/30, 2/6, 2/13/26

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

Estate of **KEVIN M. DUYTSCHAVER**, Deceased  
No. 2025PR125

**CLAIM NOTICE**

(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Kevin M. Duytschaever**. Letters of Office were issued on **January 7, 2026**, to **Angela R. Carey, as Independent Administrator** whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the **office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois** or with the representative, or both on or before **July 19, 2026**. 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.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
Attorney for Executor  
P.O. Box 165  
Galva, IL 61434  
(309) 932-2001  
everetr@barashlaw.com

Published 1/23, 1/30, 2/6/26

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**STARK COUNTY - 130 WEST MAIN STREET TOLON, ILLINOIS**  
THE HUNTINGTON NATIONAL BANK, Plaintiff, v.

**ANGEL AROCHO, AKA ANGEL C. AROCHO; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS**, Defendants, Case No. 2026FC1

The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Angel Arocho, AKA Angel C. Arocho, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Stark County, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:

The West Half of Lots 4 and 5 in Block 2 in Giles C. Dana's Addition to the City of Wyoming, Illinois, excepting therefrom 10 feet of even width off of the North side of said Lot 4, situated in Stark County, Illinois.

**211 South 7th Street, Wyoming, IL 61491**

**07-01-104-003**

Now, therefore, unless you, Angel Arocho, AKA Angel C. Arocho, Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, and the said above named defendants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Tenth Judicial Circuit, Stark County, Illinois, on or before March 24, 2026, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint.

E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you

must first create an account with an e-filing service provider. Visit <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/faq/gethelp.asp> or contact the Clerk of this Court.

Michael N. Varak (6290959)  
MDK LEGAL  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
One East Wacker, Suite 1250,  
Chicago, IL 60601  
Phone: 312-651-6700; Fax: 614-  
220-5613  
Email: MNVarak@mdklegal.com  
One of Plaintiff's Attorneys  
26-000037  
13281008  
Published 1/30, 2/6, 2/13/26

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT**

**STARK COUNTY - 130 WEST MAIN STREET TOLON, ILLINOIS**

**CBI BANK & TRUST d/b/a F&M BANK**, Plaintiff, vs.

**RICK K. MCGHEE; ANITA M. MCGHEE; CAPITAL ONE BANK, N.A.; CITIZENS EQUITY FIRST CREDIT UNION; THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; STATE OF ILLINOIS; DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE; DISCOVER BANK; COMMERCE BANK; LVNV FUNDING, LLC; PARTIES IN POSSESSION; INTERESTED PERSONS; UNKNOWN OWNERS and NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS** Defendants.

CASE NO. 2025 FC 2

**NOTICE OF SALE**

(735 I.L.C.S. Sec. 5/15-1507(c))  
Public notice is hereby given to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered by the Court in the above-entitled cause that the property hereinafter described, or so much thereof shall be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, will be sold to the highest

**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 informality 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

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

Estate of **DONALD W. GRABBE**, Deceased  
No. 2025PR110

**CLAIM NOTICE**

(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Donald W. Grabbe**. Letters of Office were issued on **November 26, 2025**, to **Erica Grabbe as Independent Administrator** 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 16, 2026**.

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 <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>.

Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

**Barash & Everett, LLC**  
Attorney for Executor  
P.O. Box 165  
Galva, IL 61434  
(309) 932-2001  
everetr@barashlaw.com

Published 1/23, 1/30, 2/6/26

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS - IN PROBATE**

In the Matter of the Estate of **Eleanor A. Addis**, Deceased  
No. 2026PR1

**NOTICE OF CLAIM DATE AND NOTICE TO UNKNOWN HEIRS**

Notice is given of the death of Eleanor A. Addis on **September 1, 2025**, and that Letters Testamentary were issued on **January 15, 2026**, to James D. Addis, whose attorneys are **Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen, 300 Hamilton Blvd., P.O. Box 6199, Peoria, IL 61601**. Claims may be filed within six months from the date of issuance of Letters of Office or within six months from the date of the first publication of this Notice of Claim Date, whichever is later, and any claim not filed on or before that date is **barred** as to the estate which is inventoried within that period.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Stark County Courthouse, Toulon, Illinois, and copies thereof mailed or delivered to said legal representative and to said attorneys of record. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission, any heir or legatee may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the will by testimony of the witnesses to the will in open court or other evidence, as provided in Section 5/6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21). You also have the right under Section 5/8-1 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-1) to contest the validity of the will by filing a petition with the Court within 6 months after admission of the will to probate.

Dated this 22nd day of January, A.D. 2026.

**HEYL, ROYSTER, VOELKER & ALLEN**

By: /s/ **Timothy W. Kirk**

Attorneys for Executor of the Estate of Eleanor A. Addis, Deceased

**Timothy W. Kirk**  
Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen  
P.O. Box 6199  
Peoria, IL 61601-6199  
Telephone: (309) 676-0400

Published 1/30, 2/6, 2/13/26

Stark County, Illinois, Probate division showing that the above named decedent, who resided in Stark County, Illinois, died on September 06, 2021 ad that said decedent left surviving, any Unknown heirs, as the only heirs at law.

Notice is hereby given to UNKNOWN HEIRS OF BOBBIE J.

WALTERS, and to all whom it may concern, that the said above named petitioner prays that Letters of

Administration be granted to Shawn P. Ryan and that said Petition has

been set for hearing, and proof of

heirship of said petition will be

offered to the **Circuit Court of Stark County, Probate Division, Stark County Courthouse 130 West Main Street, Toulon, Illinois 61483**, on **March 13, 2026 at 10:00 AM** or as soon thereafter as counsel

or the matter can be heard, at which time and place you may attend if

you see fit.

Eric Feldman & Associates, P.C.

53 W. Jackson Blvd., Suite 1622

Chicago, Illinois 60604.

8061-961393  
Published 1/30, 2/6, 2/13/26

\*\*\*

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

## SPORTS: Finnegan leads Lady Rebels past Galva

*Continued from Page 8*  
we paid for it. One-hundred-percent my fault. ... My boys played hard and kept fighting."

Stark County is to play Friday at Knoxville. A game scheduled for Jan. 23 at Abingdon-Avon, postponed because of bad weather, was reset to Saturday.

• **Stark County girls** – Sophie Finnegan and Coley Johnston combined for 87 points as Stark County split its last two girls basketball games.

Johnston scored 27

points, with a pair of 3-pointers and had nine rebounds in a 57-53 loss to Knoxville on Jan. 21. Finnegan contributed a dozen points.

In Monday's 61-40 victory over Galva, Finnegan went 12-for-26 from the field and scored 30 points to lead the Lady Rebels (11-12, 3-4 LTC). Johnston had 18 points and 13 rebounds in the win.

Stark County was scheduled to play at Ridgewood on Wednesday (Jan. 28) and then returns home Monday for a matchup

with Kewanee Wethersfield (14-8, 6-1).

• **Galva girls** – The Lady Wildcats dropped to 4-17 after Monday's 61-40 loss at Stark County.

Galva also suffered a 66-57 loss at ROWVA-Williamsfield on Jan. 21.

"Our game against Galva was very physical," Coach Jeff Hannam said. "We turned the ball over

too much, but we also capitalized on their turnovers. We had four girls step up for us on the offensive end."

Riley Smith scored 24 against Galva, Kinley Danner had 11 and Emerson Hannam and Lauren Johnson each scored nine.

Galva was scheduled to host Monmouth United on Wednesday (Jan. 28).

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## NOTICE CITY OF WYOMING

As a result of increased costs to improve, maintain and repair the water plant and wastewater plant, and the increased cost for garbage, the City of Wyoming will be raising the following:

- 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

## REQUEST FOR BIDS MOWING AND TRIMMING, TOULON CEMETERY

The City of Toulon is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of Toulon Cemetery for mowing season of 2026.

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

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

Bids are to be mailed to Toulon City Hall, P.O. Box 597, Attn: Larry Hollis - Mowing Bids, Toulon, IL 61483. Bids will be opened at the February 9th city council meeting.

## AD STORAGE COMPANY

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## KEWANEE OFFICE FOR RENT

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Call Steve at (815) 872-4418

## MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation

**309-364-2287**

### Stark County Regular Van Schedule for February 2026

Mon., Feb. 2: NO DRIVER	Thurs., Feb. 5: Kewanee
Mon., Feb. 9: NO DRIVER	Thurs., Feb. 12: Peoria
Mon., Feb. 16: President's Day CLOSED	Thurs., Feb. 19: Kewanee
Mon., Feb. 23: NO DRIVER	Thurs., Feb. 26: Princeton

### Pick up:

February 5, 12 Bradford 8:40 a.m.	February 19, 26 Toulon 8:40 a.m.
Wyoming 8:55 a.m.	Wyoming 8:55 a.m.
Toulon 9:10 a.m.	Bradford 9:10 a.m.

Fees: People under age 60: \$10 except to Kewanee is \$6; People aged 60 & over: voluntary donation  
Call by 4:00 p.m. the day before you would like to ride the van to make your reservation.

Individual transports are available M - F with advanced reservations.



## Surplus Vehicle:

The Stark County CUSD #100 Board of Education has approved the following vehicle as excess surplus and open for sealed bid:

**2006 Ford F150 - Red**

**151,992 miles**

**Minimum bid: \$750.00**

Sealed bids should be submitted to:

Superintendent's Office, 300 W. Van Buren, Wyoming, Illinois 61491. Outside of envelope should be marked "Truck Bid". Deadline for submitting bids: 12:00 Noon, Friday, February 6, 2026.

Interested bidders may contact Superintendent

Brett Elliott at 309-695-6123

or belliett@stark100.com

for more information.

The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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## NOTICE

The Stark County Genealogy Society, 115 S. Franklin St., Toulon, will be open again for the new year, beginning on Tues. Feb. 3.

Our hours are 1 - 4.

We can be open any other day by appointment. Please call. 309-853-4545, 309-286-3104, 309-896-3041, 309-286-5861.

Any family information you can give us when you call will help us to better help you with your research when you arrive.

## NOTICE

### Elmira Township Roads Load Limit Posting

Elmira Township in accordance with Illinois Vehicle Code 625 ILCS 5/15-316 will impose weight limitations on Elmira Township roads effective immediately and lasting through April 15, 2026, due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.

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

Any questions contact Elmira Township Road Commissioner Matt Bennett at 309-231-1038.

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

## NOTICE

### OSCEOLA TOWNSHIP ROADS LOAD LIMIT POSTING

Osceola Township in accordance with Illinois vehicle code 625 ILCS 5/16-316 will impose weight limitations on Osceola Township roads effective 90 days (Feb. 1, 2026 thru May 1, 2026) due to the deterioration caused by the spring freezing and thawing cycle.

Therefore, no vehicle shall be operated upon Osceola Township Roads having a gross weight vehicle weight greater than 8 tons (16,000 lbs.) on Osceola Township Roads.

Any questions contact  
Osceola Township Road Commissioner  
Kevin Logsdon  
at (309) 238-0560 (cell)

## CLASSIFIEDS

### SERVICES

• **SALVAGE:** Buying junk autos, farm equipment, grain bins, and also doing total farm clean up. Call Doug Lofgren at Spoon River Salvage (309) 299-8531.

• **BEAT RISING HEATING BILLS** with the proven technology of a Classic Edge Titanium HDX OUT-

DOOR WOOD FURNACE. Call today for budget-friendly warmth! (309) 565-4300.

### FOR RENT

• Upstairs 1 bedroom apartment: 105 E. Main, Toulon. Call 309-678-1831.

**ADVERTISE! CALL (309) 286-2185**



# The Prairie News Sports

## Galva boys improve to 5-0 in LTC

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

PRINCEVILLE — A third-quarter reversal Tuesday helped the Galva boys basketball team top Princeville 60-55 in a Lincoln Trail Conference game.

Galva (16-6, 5-0) trailed 27-22 at halftime after it had 11 points in each of the first two quarters. In the third, the Wildcats held the Princes to 11 points and scored 21. JP Sloan had eight points in the third, and Reid Harris scored seven. Galva was 9-for-11 on free throws in the period.

Blake Stahl had a game-high 17 points overall for Galva, which won its seventh in a row. Sloan had 16 points, Harris 11.

ROWVA-Williamsfield is scheduled to play Friday night at Galva. The Wildcats are to play Monday at Knoxville, a game rescheduled from Jan. 23 because of a weather postponement.

• Stark County boys — Connor Daum had 24 points and Tanner Bishop scored 14, but Stark County lost an LTC game Tuesday night to Bureau



Blake Stahl led Galva with 16 points at Princeville. Photo by Galva Sports Network.

Valley, 62-55.

Stark County (5-11, 2-3)

came back in the third quarter after it trailed by double digits. Stark County Coach Kane Mastin then substituted players who appeared tired. According to him, the unfamiliar Rebels lineup led to confusion, turnovers and quick points from Bureau Valley.

“We lost steam after that,” Mastin stated. “I put my kids in a bad spot, and

Continued on Page 7



## WE'RE HIRING

### FULL-TIME BUILDING CUSTODIAN

Galva CUSD #224 is accepting applications for a full time Building Custodian responsible for maintaining a clean, safe, and orderly school environment for students, staff, and visitors.

This position performs daily cleaning, light maintenance, and facility support tasks to ensure school buildings well-maintained and operational.

Email application to [thart@galva224.org](mailto:thart@galva224.org)

Application found at:

<https://www.galva224.org/page/employment-opportunities>



## Galva Freedom Fest 8th Annual soup & chili supper

February 1st, 2026 4-6:30p Galva American Legion

Cost: Free Will Donation

Menu:

Freedom Fest Chili, Chicken Noodle, Cheesy Potato Bacon  
Choice of Pie, and a drink

Call to Order for pick-up during event 309-932-3520

Call to Order for delivery by Friday, Jan 31 @ 4:30pm 309-932-2555

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