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Vol. 21, No. 49

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Stark County town hall seeks to inform and inspire

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

Jim Mercer looks around him and doesn't see the same Stark County he remembers so fondly.

There are fewer stores in his hometown of Wyoming, fewer shoppers too. The days of three doctors and two dentists in town are gone.

But Mercer, the Mayor of Wyoming, is not giving up. Since his election last March, Mercer has been working on initiatives to spur business in Wyoming and to clean up vacant buildings. He

has written letters to the editor (including one on Page 4 of this edition) encouraging more local engagement.

And on Jan. 27, he's aiming beyond the boundaries of his city by helping to organize a town hall for all of Stark County. The meeting at Wyoming's Paramount Theater starts at 6 p.m. and will include officials from across the county and from Springfield, as well.

In addition to Mercer, Toulon Mayor Larry Hollis and Bradford Village President Sharon Cau-

thon will attend. Also scheduled to appear are State Rep. Travis Weaver, State Sen. Li Arrellano Jr. and State Sen. Neil Anderson. State Rep. Ryan Spain is unable to make the gathering.

Bank presidents and business leaders have indicated they will attend and discuss what they are seeing, Mercer said.

Stark County CUSD 100 Superintendent Brett Elliott will serve as master of ceremonies for an event designed to inform but also to inspire and encourage.

"Small towns are dying every

day. And I'm trying to prevent Stark County as a whole from dying as a county," Mercer said. "We're going to lose our small towns if people don't start buying local."

That's a message Mercer hopes to impart. Having three of the county's four state representatives on hand will also allow people to hear how the legislative process is working.

"I'm hoping everyone who has questions for our reps will come," Mercer said.

Overall, Mercer stresses that

he feels there is hope for the Stark County his family has called home "forever." As proof, he points to recent improvements in Wyoming. New sidewalks and an upgraded water and sewer system are among those changes.

More than that, Mercer said he is seeing a slight shift in people's views toward buying local – a view he hopes spreads.

"The theater seats 180 and I'm hoping to pack it," Mercer said. "People need to get more active to save our town and our county."

CHURCH CHANGE?

New hope for Bradford Catholic church

Byzantine interest

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – New hope has emerged for the future of Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Bradford.

Slated for permanent closure by the Diocese of Peoria after a final service on April 19, the church has attracted interest from the Byzantine Catholic Church. Working with local supporters, a group is exploring using St. John's to establish a mission church for the Ohio-based Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma.

Residents of Bradford and the surrounding area are invited to a community informational meeting on Jan. 18 at 3 p.m. at the Saint John's parish hall to learn about a



The Byzantine Catholic Church has expressed interest in starting a mission at Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church in Bradford, which faces closure in April.

proposal that could keep the historic church building in active use. Also invited are nearby Byzantine Catholics, who would be prospective parishioners.

The meeting will include a short presentation followed by time for questions and discussion. Speakers will include clergy and others involved in the transition

who will explain the proposal and what level of community interest and support would be required. A light soup and sandwich lunch will be provided.

Saint John's is a part of the newly formed Incarnation of Our Lord Catholic Parish, which also includes Saint Joseph in Brim-

Continued on Page 2

McClintic will lead Galva water dept.

New playground equipment coming

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA – Jake McClintic was named superintendent of water and sewer at Monday's Galva City Council meeting.

McClintic will replace Greg Thompson, who has worked for the City of Galva for 46 years. McClintic worked to get his water and sewer licenses in preparation for Thompson's retirement.

Third Ward Alderman Dougie Anderson thanked Thompson for his 46 years of service to the city.

Galva had been seeking a new water/sewer employee and McClintic chose Galva resident and licensed plumber Nick Carvello for the position.

In other business, City

Administrator David Dyer said a representative from Play and Park was unable to attend the council meeting to discuss the new children's playground in Wiley Park.

Dyer said it will take time to get the new playground equipment so he will go ahead and order it this week.

Cost of the equipment is \$150,000. City employees will remove the old equipment and volunteers from the community will work with city employees to install the new equipment. Smaller playground equipment will not be replaced.

Chicago-based BOW Renewables, which is installing solar panels in three Galva locations, do-

Continued on Page 2



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GALVA: City still seeking source of water leak

Continued from Page 1
nated the \$150,000 to be used in the park for the playground.

The current equipment was installed in 1996 and would likely fail inspection, as many pieces have been broken or vandalized, including a small fire that was started on one of the slides.

Thompson reported there is a water leak on the west side of Veterans Park. The water department initially thought it might be from a leaky fire hydrant but now believes the water is coming from under U.S. Route 34

and Illinois Route 17 next to the Burlington Northern railroad tracks.

Thompson said he thinks the leak, which is pumping out 30 gallons per minute, will have to be located electronically.

Second Ward Alderman John Wirth said maybe the city could get together with the Property Pride Committee to create a home appreciation award that a resident or business could win for improvements such as landscaping or new siding. Wirth said it would be nice to focus on improvements with a gift certificate,

rather than the negative

Bids will be opened at the Feb. 2 city council meeting for a vacant lot at 214 NW 1st Ave. and for a 2006 F450 truck that has 102,000 miles. A house on the lot was in bad condition and the city paid to demolish the structure. Bids are due by Jan. 30 and specifications will be published starting in the Jan. 16 edition of The Prairie News.

The city is waiting on an appraisal of another vacant property at 403 NE 2nd St. before selling that parcel.

CHURCH: 'A possible answer to prayers'

Continued from Page 1
field, Saint Mary of the Woods in Princeville and Saint Dominic in Wyoming. The Rev. Corey Kriengel is pastor of Incarnation Parish and said both he and Bishop Louis Tylka of the Peoria Diocese are very supportive of selling Saint John's to the Byzantine church.

"We're not in formal negotiations yet," Kriengel noted. "Right now we

don't know if they're going to buy it or lease it. We're still working out those details."

While all involved say no decision has been made, the plan could involve the Rev. Thomas J. Loya of Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine church in Homer Glen, located about 37 miles southwest of Chicago.

Kriengel is hopeful

some deal can be worked out, ideally after the final service planned for Saint John's on April 19 at 2 p.m. That service is a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Bradford church's founding.

"We were trying to find a solution to keep the church open and this came up," Kriengel said. "I do see it as a possible answer to prayers."

The Byzantine Catholic church shares the same faith as the Roman Catholic Church and is in full

communion with the Pope but has some differences in worship style and liturgy.

"Byzantine Catholic churches are an equally valid option for (Roman) Catholic believers,"

Kriengel said. "It's a version of Catholicism that's more common in other parts of the world. It's comparable to the Maronites in Peoria" who worship at Saint Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church.

THANK YOU

The Wyoming Christmas Baskets would like to say thank you to all who gave generously by your monetary donations or your time, we are truly grateful and blessed by such a caring and giving community. May you all have a wonderful and blessed New Year. God bless you.

Marilyn Swearingen and Mike Finnegan

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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents

Stark County

12-28 - Joseph M. Clark, 19, East Peoria, was cited for disregarding a stop sign.

12-30 - Shauna C. Cooper, 47, Princeville, was cited for driving a vehicle without a valid registration. The vehicle was towed and impounded and Cooper was issued a court date to appear.

12-31 - Bailey E. Leverette, 26, Galva, was cited for speeding 67 mph in a 45 zone.

12-31 - Kaiden G. Sarnes, 18, Princeville, was cited for operation of an uninsured vehicle. He was issued a court date to appear.

12-31 - Tyriona D. Walker, 29, Peoria, was cited for driving vehicle with no insurance.

12-31 - Yahil Gonzalez-Tirado, 29, Peoria, was cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

1-1 - Brock A. Colgan, 46, Bradford, was cited for speeding 54 mph in a 30 zone.

1-1 - Taneira D. Veazy, 31, Peoria, was cited for driving an uninsured vehicle and for driving on a suspended registration.

1-1 - Steven H. Scholl, 24, Sparland, was ticketed for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone and for driving on a suspended registration due to mandatory insurance. Passenger Louis A. Brown, 31, Lacon, was ticketed for not wearing a seat belt and a second passenger, Mayson W. Robbins, 23, also of Lacon, was cited for illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger.

1-2 - Christian A. Silva, 27, Humble, Texas, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

1-4 - Dale E. Amack, 56, Wyoming, was arrested for driving while revoked for DUI and driving a vehicle with a loud altered and or defective exhaust. He was issued a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

12-29 - While patrolling, officer noticed the NE 2nd St. railroad crossing arms were going up and down and activated with no trains present. BNSF was contacted for repairs.

12-29 - to the 100 block of E. Divi-



over to a parent.

12-31 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a civil standby to retrieve property.

1-1 - to the 100 block of NW 5th Street for a loose-dog complaint. The owner took the dog back home.

1-1 - to the 700 block of NW 1st Ave. for a dog-bite complaint. The animal owner was the victim and the dog was current on all shots.

1-1 - to a residence on SW 7th St. to remove an unwanted subject.

1-1 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 500 block of SE 2nd St., William Barnes, 41, Galva, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a required court date.

1-1 - While patrolling, officer located an abandoned vehicle in the 300 block of SE 2nd Street. It was tagged with a 72-hour tow away notice.

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

1-1 - to the 300 block of Market St. for a 911 open-line call. It was determined to be a medical emergency. Stark Co Medic was dispatched to respond.

1-1 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a deceptive practices and fraud complaint.

1-1 - to the 500 block of SW 4th St., for a loud-music complaint.

1-2 - to the 500 block of SE 2nd St. for a child-custody exchange.

1-2 - to the 800 block of NE 2nd St. for a civil matter regarding a home repair fraud complaint.

1-3 - to the 300 block of NE 5th St. for a sick/injured wild-animal complaint involving a raccoon.

1-3 - While patrolling, officer located a disabled vehicle near SE 2nd St. and Industrial Ave.

1-4 - Officer spoke to a resident by telephone about a trespassing complaint in the 00 block of SW 4th St.

1-4 - Officer had an abandoned vehicle removed from the 300 block of SE 2nd St. that had previously been tagged for removal.

1-4 - along with Stark County Medic, were dispatched to a medical emergency in the 400 block of NW 11th St. There were no signs of life and the coroner was contacted.

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GUEST VOICES

Maintaining and revitalizing our small town

To the Editor:

Every small town faces its own set of challenges, such as business closures, school mergers and limited employment opportunities. As members of such a community, we should consider how we can address these issues and improve our town.

One way to make a positive difference is by ensuring our town looks clean and well-kept for drivers passing through. This includes keeping yards mowed, avoiding clutter such as old couches and junk on porches and maintaining a tidy overall appearance. In addition, when interacting with out-of-town visitors, being friendly and helpful goes a long way.

We can let others know Wyoming is a wonderful place to live, with a low crime rate and neighbors who look out for each other.

It is essential to encourage our young people to stay in town and consider opening new businesses. When they take this step, we should support them and help these new ventures succeed.

I was born and raised in Wyoming and would not have wanted it any other way. I remember all the stores we once had: the Dime Store, Hardware Store, Gamble Store and two doctors. There was also a dentist, three grocery stores, a dress shop,

two barbershops, three restaurants, a hotel and three gas stations. We also enjoyed the annual three-day Spoon River Days, which included a parade lasting at least 40 minutes and a carnival. It was truly a wonderful experience to be a kid in those days.

One of the best reasons to live in Wyoming is that your children can play outside. Everyone watches the kids in your neighborhood. I will never forget my

father telling me that I better not do anything to get in trouble because he would know about it before I even got home! That ended up being very accurate.

Let's work together to ensure Wyoming is one of those small towns that not only survives but thrives.

— Jim Mercer,
Mayor of Wyoming
Trivia night thanks for
Saint John's support

To the Editor:

As a 50-plus-year member of Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church of Bradford, it is very difficult to see the upcoming closure of our local parish. As a way to prepare for this inevitability, we parishioners have been holding monthly parish and community events to commemorate Saint John's 150th anniversary.

On Jan. 17, we are hosting a Trivia Night as an appreciation gift to those who have supported us in so many ways throughout the years. Please join us for an evening of fellowship, trivia and the inevitable sharing of fond memories of our parish and community. Doors open at the church's Carmody Centre at 5 p.m. and trivia starts at 6 p.m.

Don't worry about the questions. There will be a variety of categories with several religious and Bradford trivia categories interspersed between the other typical ones.

There is no entrance fee for this event. Put together a team or join others as you arrive to form a team. Please refer to the ad in this edition of the paper for more details.

We at Saint John's are celebrating 150 years as a parish and valuable part of the community. This is one of our ways to thank you for your support as we move forward to the official closure of Saint John's parish in April.

So please help us celebrate being an important part in the lives of so many from Bradford, Stark County, the Diocese of Peoria and beyond.

— Angie Stange, Bradford
Email letters to the editor to jeff@wklypost.com or mail to:
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BRIEFS

Wyoming water rate to rise \$8 per month

WYOMING — The Wyoming City Council on Tuesday approved raising water rates for customers by \$8 per month.

This follows an \$8 increase for sewer payments and a \$3 increase for garbage pickup that the council passed in December.

"It was an oversight by me not to include (the water rate change) in December," Wyoming Mayor Jim Mercer said.

Mercer said the city has been eating costs increases for the past 10 years without raising its rates.

"If you want to have good water and sewers, it costs you," he said.

At its Feb. 17 meeting, the Wyoming council is expected to start discussion on a possible new ordinance dealing with vacant commercial

buildings. Mercer said the council is also expected to vote on installing stop signs and yield signs on Madison, Main, North Galena and 7th streets.

Traffic flow surveys for those streets are complete and will be discussed.

Book highlights Illinois' Revolutionary War role

A new book on Illinois' leaders and actions in the Revolutionary War helps celebrate America 250 with an array of little-known stories to inspire and excite readers.

"Illinois in the Revolutionary War" by Carlinville author Tom Emery is believed to be the first work solely devoted to the role of Illinois in the Revolution.

The book sells for \$19.95 plus \$4.86 postage and \$1.19 tax (\$26 total). Orders may be placed with

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College honors

• Sam Rouse of Bradford made the Dean's list (3.5 gpa or better) at Coe College for the fall 2025 semester.

• Sadie DeWolfe of Toulon was named to the Southern New Hampshire University President's list (3.7 gpa or better) for the fall 2025 term.

Et cetera

• The Environmental Health Division of the Henry and Stark County Health Departments has radon home test kits available for \$15 through their offices in Kewanee and Toulon. Call (309) 852-0197.

In gratitude for our 150th Anniversary Year at *St. John the Baptist Catholic Church*, the Bradford Catholic Women invite you to join Tom Ryan at Carmody Centre for...



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@gb.com 319-863-3232.

Published 1/9, 1/16/26



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Ceiling/Lighting Replacement Project

DATE: January 5, 2026

PROJECT: Ceiling and Lighting Replacement Project at Galva Junior/Senior High School for Galva CUSD #224

LOCATION: Galva Junior/Senior High School 1020 North Center Avenue Galva, Illinois 61434

OWNER: Galva CUSD #224

ARCHITECT: 224 Morgan Road Galva, Illinois 61434 Richard L. Johnson Associates, Inc. 4703 Charles Street Rockford, Illinois 61108 (815) 398-1231 (815) 398-1280 FAX

SCOPE: Bids shall be submitted for a single contract for all Work.

BIDDING REQUIREMENT: Electrical Contractor must be an approved Ameren Contractor for the Small Business Direct Install (SBDI) Program. Contact Gretchen Primeau at 309-512-2778 or gprimeau@ameren.com.

DATE DUE: Sealed bids will be received until 2:00pm, Monday, January 26, 2026 at the office of the Galva CUSD #224 School District, 224 Morgan Road, Galva, IL 61434 and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time.

PRE-BID MEETING: All prospective Contractors are urged to attend a pre-bid meeting at 11:00am on Monday, January 12, 2026, at Galva Junior/Senior High School.

MANDATORY PRE-BID SITE VISIT: Contractors are required to make a mandatory survey of the existing conditions prior to bidding.

ACCESS TO BIDDING DOCUMENTS: Bidding Documents are on file for reference at the following locations:

Office of the Architect Rockford, Illinois
Bidding Documents may be secured from the office of the Architect.

Plans and Specifications are available for download at www.rlarch.com under "Contractors".

DEPOSIT REQUIRED: Bidders may secure up to two (2) sets of bidding documents by sub-

mitting a non-refundable check for \$100.00 per set, or \$150.00 per set if documents are to be mailed.

BID FORM: Bids shall be submitted in duplicate on forms issued by the Architect.

PERFORMANCE BOND: A performance and payment bond for the full amount of the Contract will be required of the successful bidder. All costs associated with the bond shall be included in the bid amount.

BID SECURITY: Bids shall be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 5% of the total amount of the base bid and all additive alternate bids. This may be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, or bid bond, payable to the Owner as a guarantee that the bidder will enter into a contract with the Owner and will furnish the proper performance and payment bond within the time limited by the Owner. If the successful bidder so files the contract and performance and payment bond, upon the execution of the contract by the Owner, the Bid Security will be returned to all bidders. If he/she fails to file such contract and performance and payment bond the amount of the Bid Security will be forfeited to the Owner as liquidated damages.

WAGE RULES: The general prevailing rate of wages in the locality in which the work is to be performed for each craft or type of worker or mechanic needed to execute the contract will adhere to all Federal Laws and Laws of the State, and to all local ordinances and regulations applicable to the work hereunder, and having force of law.

RIGHTS RESERVED BY OWNER: The Owner reserves the right to waive any irregularities and/or reject any or all bids when, in the opinion of the Owner, such action will serve the best interests of the Owner.

WITHDRAWAL OF BIDS: No bid may be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the opening of bids without written consent of the Owner.

By order of the Board of Education for Galva CUSD #224.

Published 1/9/26

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

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

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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

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.bradfordaccchurch.org; info@bradfordaccchurch.org

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Ruby A. Jones

GALVA – Ruby A. Jones, 98, of rural Galva, died at 9:15 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025, at her home.

She was born on Dec. 31, 1927, in Galesburg, the daughter of Floyd and Norma (Upp) Peck. She married Donald W. Jones Jan. 4, 1948, in Galva and he preceded her in death on Aug. 26, 2018.



Jones

Survivors include her son, Tom (Mei) Jones of Galva, her daughter, Teresa (Mike) Gibbons of Galva, five grandchildren; Cooper (Darcie) Langdon, Heather (Gary) Kiesling, Josh (Holly) Hopping, Zack Hopping and Kylee (Josh) Glaser and eight great grandchildren; Rhett Kiesling, Parker, Olivia, Sawyer and Raya Hopping, Adlin Langdon and Nora and Lucy Glaser. She was also preceded in death by her parents, daughter, Linda Langdon and two brothers, Bob Peck and Wallace in infancy.

Ruby graduated from Oneida High School in 1945. She had worked at Abilities Plus and in her earlier years at Metcalf Hardware in Oneida. But mainly, Ruby was a farmer's wife who took care of her family. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church in Galva and she enjoyed carving, painting, crocheting, knitting and baking. She especially loved her family and cherished the time spent with them.

Funeral services were to be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 7 at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Rebecca Gearhart officiating. A visitation will be held one hour prior to the services at the funeral home. The burial will be in Galva Cemetery. Memorials may be directed to OSF Hospice or to Caring Seniors of Gallesburg.

Ralph R. Moodie

BRADFORD – Ralph "Chip" Richardson Moodie, 79, of Bradford, passed away on Dec. 27, 2025, in Peoria. Chip was born in Princeton, Ill., to Robert and Elizabeth "Betty" Moodie of Bradford.

Chip married his beloved wife, Jody (Jones), of Davenport, Iowa, on June 22, 1974. They celebrated 50 years of marriage last year with a joyous party and a family vacation to Cook, Minn.

Chip and Jody were blessed with three sons: Aaron and his wife Tiffany and their daughter Bridget of Hopewell; Corey, who sadly passed away in 2012, but is survived by his

OBITUARIES

wife Wendy and their children, Lane and Haylie of Bradford; and Matthew, his wife Jennifer and their three children: Asher, Grace, and Zeke of Medford, Wisconsin. Chip took great pride in his children and grandchildren and their many accomplishments.

He is also survived by his sister, Jerrell, and her husband, Andy



Moodie

Bills, of Troy, New Hampshire.

Chip graduated from Bradford High School in 1964, and attended Illinois State University, where he served on the Beef Judging Team and earned a degree in Agricultural Education in 1968. He went on to teach agriculture at Nokomis High School and Wethersfield High School. He was awarded the Honorary FFA Chapter Degree in recognition of his contributions. Chip fondly recalled his experiences as an FFA Advisor and his role as a chaperone on a six-week trip to Europe. He was also an avid sports fan, cheering on the Fighting Illini and the Chicago Bears.

Beyond his roles as a husband, father, and grandfather, Chip cherished his role as a farmer. For 38 years, he worked for John Deere while also farming at home alongside his father and sons, ensuring that his family legacy lives on.

Chip placed his faith in his Lord Jesus Christ and was baptized at Bunker Hill Church, where he was a member and served as deacon and Sunday School teacher. His faith was evident through his service to others. Chip and Jody devoted their time and expertise to ten medical mission trips to Haiti. He served as a member of the Bradford School Board for 14 years, a member of the Bradford Scholarship Committee and held the position of Osceola Township Clerk for nearly 30 years.

An avid boater and water skier, Chip achieved the notable feat of barefoot water skiing. He was instrumental in the formation of the Bradford Sno Blazers snowmobiling club and roared hogs for over 40 years in support of the Bradford Rescue Squad. He also brought the Bradford Labor Day Parade to life, with his vibrant commentary and unmistakable baritone voice. Chip will be missed by all who loved him.

Visitation was to be held from 4 - 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 2, 2026, at Bunker Hill Church in Buda. Funeral Service was to be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2026, at Bunker Hill

Church with Pastor Chantha Chhim officiating. Burial was to immediately follow at Bradford Cemetery in Bradford, IL.

OBITUARIES

Continued from Page 6

Streitmater; two great-grandchildren, Elijah Fischer and Atlas Streitmater; sisters-in-law, Pearline Streitmater, Dorothy Martin, Kathryn Honegger and Evelyn Saal; and brothers-in-law, Gary Gundy and Bruce Leman.

He was preceded in death by his parents and all of his 11 siblings, Mildred Huber, Lucille Thomas-Beyer, Sylvia Blunier, Doris Rocke,

Geraldine Streitmater, Paul Streitmater, Vernon Streitmater, infant sister Verna Streitmater, Donald Streitmater, Alfred Streitmater and Shirley Kieser. He was also preceded in death by five of his wife's siblings.

The funeral will be held at Princeville Apostolic Christian Church on Saturday, Jan. 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. Ministers of the church will officiate. Visitation will be Friday, Jan. 9, 2026, from 4-6 p.m. at the Prince-

ville Apostolic Church Fellowship Hall. An additional visitation will be held at the church prior to the funeral service 9-9:45 a.m. Burial will be in Princeville Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Princeville Apostolic Christian Church or Apostolic Christian Skylines.

Online condolences may be left for Jeff's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

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Bradford Village Clerk Needed

Part-Time
Hours must be flexible to accommodate meetings.

Core Responsibilities Include: Record Keeping, Meeting Management, Election Coordination, and Administrative Support. Must also complete FOIA training.

Qualification and Skills will include strong organizational skills, attention to detail, computer knowledge, multitasking capabilities, and good communication skills.

Please acquire an application at the Village Hall in Bradford between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday or 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. Each applicant will need a background check before employment.

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Why Shopping Local Is Essential to Wyoming's Future

Small towns across America are facing a slow but steady decline, and Wyoming is no exception. As more spending shifts to online retailers and big-box chains, local businesses struggle to survive. The reality is simple: small towns are dying if we don't support them.

When we choose to shop locally, we do far more than make a purchase. We keep our dollars circulating within our own community. Local businesses hire local workers, pay local taxes, and reinvest in the town. That money strengthens Wyoming's economy in a way outside retailers never can.

But the impact isn't just financial. Our local shops give Wyoming its identity — the familiar storefronts, the friendly greetings, the places that make our town feel like home. When a business closes, we lose more than a service. We lose a piece of who we are.

Local businesses also support the heartbeat of community life. They sponsor youth sports, donate to school events, contribute to fundraisers, and show up when the town needs them. They are not just businesses; they are neighbors. Choosing to shop local is choosing to invest in the future of Wyoming. It is choosing a community over convenience. If we want our town to stay strong, vibrant, and alive, it will be because we support the businesses that support us.

The future of Wyoming is in our hands — and in our shopping choices.

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

Answers on Page 3 Super Crossword FAMILY EXPANSION

ACROSS
1 It turns litmus paper blue
7 Strip a disguise from "Baby" (#1 U2 album of 1991)
20 Arrive like the tide
21 Savage
22 Less dull
23 Rural lumber-jack resting after chopping?
25 Lounged around
26 Dreamcast producer
27 Get as clear profit
28 100-yr. period
29 Heap (up)
30 Trough for toting bricks
33 Extended cloth used for messy cold-weather meals?
38 Hostile force
40 Down food
41 Purple spring blooms
42 Wide-shoe letters
43 Spool
44 Gets firm
45 Produced a napped surface on
48 Chart showing the highs and lows of actress Ellen's career?
51 LP replacers
52 KGII's milieu
56 "— all over!"
57 Asian dress
58 Alex of "The Godfather"
61 Unit of work
62 Orioles great Ripken
63 Gp. for Qatar
64 Sea in 75-Across
65 "Now I see!"
67 Matchstick-removing game
68 Suffix with senior
69 Item pinned on to support a Russian poet's election to office?
72 Sarge, e.g.
73 Abbr. for a handy-andy
74 Mil. missions
75 Qatar locale
76 Lovers' deity
77 Still
78 Revise
80 Prepare to give a ring?
81 Horse father
82 Beijing-to-Shanghai dir.
83 Fluids
84 "— see it..."
85 One of the Skywalkers dressed up as St. Nick?
89 Kind of pear
93 With skill
95 Fir's cousin
96 "Ender's Game" star
97 Butterfield
98 Unmoving machine part
99 Troop gp.
100 They negate deles
101 Afghan- wrapped football?
105 Matchstick-removing game
106 "Help!"
107 Guthrie at Woodstock
108 B-to-F string
109 Thai tongue
110 "Think of — a loan?"
112 Foot lever
114 Clean a jack-o'-lantern with a Hoover?
120 More weighty
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125 Nail coater
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127 Aden citizens
128 French edict site of 1598
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130 Weedkillers
131 Singly
132 James Fenimore Cooper novel, with "The"
133 Wall St. opportunist
134 Singer Rawls
135 Dutch airline
136 Home to edelweiss
137 Suffix of enzymes
138 Architect Jones
139 Monogram in civil rights
140 Alien craft
141 Grab quickly
142 Writer Anais
143 Not be joking
144 "Get Happy" songwriter
145 Departure
146 Trio less one
147 Alien craft
148 Writer Anais
149 Not be joking
150 Crustacean such as a wood louse
151 Kudos
152 Features of cloudless days
153 Cuts, as pie
154 Far-off distance
155 Jewish mysticism
156 "McQ" actor Gulager
157 Speed skater Dan
158 Mac (loan provider)
159 Linda in 1998 headlines
160 Rabbit, Run" novelist John
161 Graham or Lome
162 Sister of Bert Bobbsey
163 Headlines
164 Clean a jack-o'-lantern with a Hoover?
165 Mac (loan provider)
166 Shout of joy
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Galva boys hoping for health

Injuries slowed 10-6 team that aims to end strong

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

The first half of the Galva boys basketball season has been a bit brutal, injury-wise. But Galva Coach Jake McClintic hopes for better times as Lincoln Trail Conference play begins and the state tournament approaches.

Galva (10-6) enjoyed a 62-59 victory Monday over Varna Midland. MJ Louck returned from an ankle injury to record 28 points and four assists. JP Sloan had 14 points, seven rebounds and three steals.

Louck is one of several Galva players to miss time because of injury. Sloan was out for three early games and another scoring leader, Brent Stahl, hurt his right hand in the third game and hasn't played since then. McClintic expects Stahl to return sometime this month.

"That was a struggle right off the bat," McClintic said. "It's just been one person after another. This is the first year I've had to deal with injuries, so it's new to me as to how to go

about it."

Galva was runner-up in the LaMoille Holiday Tournament. Sloan had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Louck scored 11 in a 52-24 semifinal win Dec. 30 over Amboy. The following day in the final, top-seed Galva lost to seventh-seeded Polo 56-39 despite 13 points from Sloan and 11 from Louck.

McClintic suggested Polo was better than its seed. Polo also shot 64% from the field and Galva shot 23%. Sloan and Louck were all-tournament selections. On Jan. 3, Sloan scored nine and Galva was 0-for-7 on free throws in a 37-32 loss at Brimfield (12-3).

"That was the difference," Galva Coach Jake McClintic said about the foul shooting. "Brimfield is a very good team. I'm not happy we lost, but I'm happy with the way we played with our main scorers out."

The other Wildcats have done a good job filling in for their injured teammates, according to

McClintic, whose team opens LTC play tonight (Jan. 9) at home against Ridgewood.

"We're kind of looking at conference and regionals more than anything," McClintic said. "It stinks losing some of these early games, but it's good getting our 7-8-9 guys some good minutes."

• Stark County Girls –

The Lady Rebels (9-8) rebounded from a 45-20 loss at Brimfield Monday with a 46-13 home win over Henry-Senachwine on Tuesday.

Coley Johnston scored 19 points in the win over Henry, Hallie Newton added 12 points and a team-high eight rebounds and Sophie Finnegan chipped in nine points.

Next up for the Lady Rebels is a Monday, Jan. 12, game at Orion.

• Galva Girls – The Lady Wildcats improved to 4-11 with a 68-36 win over Peoria Heights on Tuesday at home. Next for the Lady Wildcats is a game Monday, Jan. 12, at Bureau Valley.



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