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February 20, 2026
Vol. 22, No. 6

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Democrats trying to make a comeback in Stark County

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Prairie News

WYOMING – Kimberly Babb Kent remembers a day when there was an actual slate of Democratic candidates to vote for in Stark County.

Instead of just reminiscing about those days, she is actively working for a return to more balanced ballots in a county that has overwhelmingly favored the Republican Party for decades.

Babb Kent, a Wyoming resident the past 20 years with long-

standing family ties to the county, has organized a town hall for Democratic candidates on Tuesday, Feb. 24, at 6 p.m. in Wyoming's Paramount Theater.

Four candidates on the March 17 primary ballot are scheduled to attend, along with a few representatives from other Democratic campaigns. Refreshments will be served. Expected candidates include Paul Nolley (U.S. Rep. 16th Congressional District), Nicole Dopler (State Rep. 73rd District) and Kevin Lamm and

Patrick Cortesi (16th State Central Committeeperson).

"I got very tired of not seeing any Democratic candidates on my ballot when I vote," Babb Kent explained. "There used to be a vital Democratic party in the county. It's been predominantly Republican since the Reagan era but not always before that."

"My grandfather (Bernard Hughes) was mayor of Wyoming and he was a devout Democrat."

Babb Kent said that helps explain her politics. Her grand-

mother ran Virginia's Drive-In Grocery in Wyoming. From her, Babb Kent said she inherited the gift of the gab.

She is serving as interim chair of the Democratic party in Stark County after being asked to take that role by Dan Kovats of the Illinois Democratic County Chairs' Association.

Babb Kent is also a write-in candidate for precinct committeeperson in East Toulon – the lone Democratic candidate for such a position in Stark County.

If she wins that race, she can be appointed county chair, Babb Kent said. Next election, she hopes for more Democratic candidates on the ballot.

"Our county has progressively gotten worse not better in terms of wages and keeping businesses around," she said. "Republicans always get our vote, but they don't always focus on the rural areas. Democrats don't always do that, either, but I hope to change that by bringing candidates into the county."

STARK SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

Winterfest praise

Stark County students praised for efforts to aid The Baby Connection

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

WYOMING – Stark County school administrators took time at Tuesday's school board meeting to praise high school students involved with a recent Winterfest, saying the events taught students about how to give back.

Students raised more than \$2,500 and hundreds of diapers, wipes, lotions and washes for The Baby Connection out of Wyoming's Nazarene Church.

Elementary School Principal Emily Mastin also noted that Courtney Kunzel received an Award of Meritorious Service from the Illinois State Board of Education for excellence in

her role as a response to intervention teacher.

Junior-Senior High School Principal Megan McGann said parents can give feedback online via the 5 Essentials Survey (survey.5-essentials.org/illinois).

The board also attended to business, approving a 2026-27 high school curriculum guide, school handbooks for the elementary school and junior-senior high school and minor edits to the seniority and honorable dismissal list made in conjunction with the Teacher's Association.

In new business, the board heard a presentation about a new elementary school playground from



The Stark County High School Student Council held a Winterfest Carnival in the Elementary School on Feb. 5. Read about that event and more inside in the latest edition of The Rebel Reporter.

Tim Reil, a sales rep from Team Reil, Inc. No action was taken on the playground or on options presented by Superintendent Brett Elliott about soundproofing the arena.

In personnel the board approved employment of

Cathy Gibler (clerical), Clint Terwilliger (head boys track coach), Aaron Pratt (assistant boys track coach) and Olivia O'Bryant (student cafeteria worker) and the resignation of Sophia Elswick (band and choir teacher).

Galva school board rejects lone bid

Ceiling, light work to be rebid

By CAROL TOWNSEND

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva School Board on Tuesday rejected its lone bid for lowering ceilings and installing new lights in the Junior-Senior High School building.

The job will be re-advertised to hopefully generate more bids by the March 5, 11 a.m. deadline.

Board Member Kaleena Conrad reported that the Policy and Finance Committee was looking at the school district's policy on drug testing. She suggested the school nurse could do a presentation on the policy at orientation in August.

The board received a copy of the proposed school calendar showing the first day of school for students on Aug. 18. Instead of 11:30 dismissals, the new calendar has 1:55 p.m. dismissals almost every Wednesday. Approval of the calendar will be at the March 16 board meeting.

Junior Senior High School Principal Kurtis Smyth reported several candidates have been interviewed for the vocal music teacher position. The High School Mid-Winter dance will be held on March 7.

In personnel, the board approved June Clemens as a building custodian.



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BID NOTICE

The LaFayette Community Fire District is accepting bids for mowing and string trimming as needed at the fire department meeting hall and parking lot.

Mail printed, sealed bids along with proof of insurance to:

Ross Walker

2558 E. Knox Road

LaFayette, IL 61449

Bids must be received by March 6, 2026.

Bids will be opened at the Trustees' meeting

on March 9, 2026, 7 p.m.

The board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids.

PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents

Stark County

2-8 - A domestic complaint was handled in the 300 block of N. Seventh St. in Wyoming.

2-9 - Teresa K. Gudeman, 71, Neponset, ticketed for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

2-12 - Trenton G. Buffum, 18, Edelstein, ticketed for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone and illegal consumption of alcohol by a minor. He was released with a court date.

2-13 - Carolina Gonzales, 45, Wyoming, cited for speeding 77 mph in a 55 zone.

2-13 - Joshua D. Vanmeter, 37, Washburn, ticketed for illegal transportation of alcohol.

2-13 - Alex J. Butterfield, 22, Princeville, cited for driving on an expired vehicle registration.

2-13 - Allison P. Buis, 22, East Peoria, was cited for two counts of driving under the influence, speeding 74 mph in a 55 zone and illegal transportation of alcohol by a driver. Her vehicle was impounded and towed. She received a court date.

2-13 - Yahil T. Gonzalez, 20, Kewanee, was ticketed for illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger and possession of adult-use cannabis in a vehicle by a passenger. He was released with a court date.

2-14 - Faustina M. Bystry, 19, Princeton, was cited for adult-use cannabis by a driver. She was issued a court date. Also cited in the same traffic stop was Yahil Gonzalez-Tirado, 22, Kewanee, for possession of adult-use cannabis and illegal transportation of alcohol by a passenger. He was given a court date.

2-15 - Dillon P. Comb, 34, Toulon, was cited for speeding 70 mph in a 55 zone.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-9 - to a residence in the 100 block of NW 8th Ave for a city ordinance violation involving junk and trash scattered around the property.

2-9 - to the 500 block of SW 7th St. to locate a wanted subject. As the result, Patrick Hammons, 69, Galva, was arrested on a Henry County warrant for failing to appear on the charge of driving while license suspended, no insurance and speeding. He was taken to Henry County Jail.

2-9 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 1000 block of SE 2nd St., Ruby Brodrick, 35, of Gerlaw, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended and operating an uninsured vehicle. She was released with a court date.

2-10 - to the 600 block of N. Center Ave. for a theft and criminal trespass to residence complaint.

2-11 - to a single-vehicle accident in the 300 block of Market St. The vehicle struck a building, causing moderate damage.

2-12 - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. after multiple 911 calls were placed for a non emergency. As the result, John Kurzeja, 45, Galva, was arrested for disorderly conduct-false police reporting and false reporting to a public service agency. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

2-13 - along with Stark County Medic, to a residence on SE 1st Street for an unresponsive person. The Henry County coroner was contacted.

2-13 - to the 600 block of NE 1st Ave. for an illegal-burning complaint for a large fire in the backyard.

2-14 - to a residence on NW 5th Ave for a welfare check on a potentially suicidal subject.

2-15 - to assist Henry County with a forcible detainer/eviction in the 400 block of SW 4th Ave.

2-15 - to the north edge of town to monitor a high-speed vehicle pursuit leaving Kewanee on Page Street. The suspect vehicle crashed on Page Street at the Galva-Atkinson blacktop. The Galva officer responded there and assisted Henry County with an arrest.

MOWING BIDS

Bids are now being accepted for the mowing of the LaFayette Cemetery which includes the McClenahan Cemetery, south of LaFayette and the Himes Cemetery, north of LaFayette for a total of (3) Cemeteries.

Proof of insurance and list of equipment is required. Must be age 18 or older.

Bids should be submitted to:

LaFayette Cemetery/Goshen Township
104 Hodgson St.
LaFayette, IL 61449

Deadline is March 9, 2026

The board reserves the right to accept or reject any bid.

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ANNOUNCEMENT IS HEREBY MADE THAT THE COLORS OF THE OFFICIAL PRIMARY BALLOTS TO BE USED BY THE RESPECTIVE POLITICAL PARTIES AT THE PRIMARY ELECTION TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 17th 2026 WILL BE AS FOLLOWS:

POLITICAL PARTY	COLOR OF BALLOT
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March 8	Boyd's Grove UMC, Bradford	5 PM
March 15	LaFayette UMC	5 PM
March 22	Toulon Methodist Church	5 PM
March 29	First Baptist Church, Toulon	5 PM
April 2	Maundy Thursday, Wyoming Methodist Church	7 PM
April 3	Good Friday, St. Timothy Lutheran	7 PM
April 5	Easter Sunrise, Paramount Theater, Wyoming	7 AM

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

Estate of **Russell McConnell**,
Deceased
No. 2026PR10

CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Russell McConnell**. Letters of Office were issued on **January 29, 2026**, to **Elizabeth McConnell Executor** whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the **clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois** or with the representative, or both on or before **July 29, 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 efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

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

Published 2/6, 2/13 2/20/26

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **MARTHA E. RAY**, Deceased
CASE NO. 2026-PR-14

NOTICE is given of the death of **MARTHA E. RAY**. Letters of Office were issued on February 12, 2026, to: **MELISSA MERKEL, 727 NW 4th Ave., Galva, Illinois 61434**, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of **MARTHA E. RAY**, deceased, whose attorneys are: **Justin M. Raver**
KARLIN RAVER, LLC
101 N Tremont Street
Kewanee, IL 61443

Every claim filed must be in writing and state sufficient information to notify the representative of the nature of the Claim or other relief sought. Claims must be filed on or before August 13, 2026, and any Claim not filed within that period is **barred**. Claims may either be filed with the representative of the Estate or in the Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or both. If filed with the Court, the claimant, within 10 days after filing this Claim with the Court,

- (1) Shall cause a copy of the Claim to be mailed or delivered to the representative and to her Attorney of record, unless the representative or her Attorney has, in writing, either consented to the allowance of the Claim or waived mailing or delivery of copies.
- (2) Shall file with the Court proof of any required mailing or delivery of copies.

Justin M. Raver
KARLIN RAVER, LLC
Attorneys for Melissa Merkel, Independent Administrator
101 N. Tremont Street
Kewanee, IL 61443
DATED: February 12, 2026

Published 2/20, 2/27, 3/6/26

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

ESTATE OF **RICHARD L. DOWNDAR**, Deceased
No. 2026-PR-13

CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **RICHARD L. DOWNDAR**. Letters of Office were issued on **January 30, 2026**, to **Stacy McDaniel of 237 Marion Ct 7044, Flippin, AR 72634**, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney is **Michael Massie, Massie & Quick, LLC, P.O. Box 205, Galva, IL 61434**.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the **Henry County Circuit Clerk, Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center St., Cambridge, IL 61238**, or with the representative, or both, within six months from the date of first publication, the **BAR DATE**, and any claim not filed within that period is **barred**. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within ten days after it has been filed.

Name Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
Address P.O. Box 165
City Galva, IL 61434
Phone(309) 932-2001
Email: everettr@barashlaw.com

Published 2/20, 2/27, 3/6/26

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

ESTATE OF **NANCY L. DYNES**, Deceased
No. 2026-PR-16

CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **Nancy L. Dynes**. Letters of Office were issued on **February 6, 2026**, to **Larry M. Dynes** as Executor whose attorneys are **Barash & Everett, LLC**.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the **clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois** or with the representative, or both on or before August 6, 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 efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp. Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Published 2/20, 2/27, 3/6/26

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE
ESTATE OF **JOSEPH GIOIOSO**, Deceased
CASE NO: 2026PR15

NOTICE is given of the death of **JOSEPH GIOIOSO**. Letters of Office were issued on **February 6th , 2026**, to: **RANDY M. GIOIOSO-GARCIA, 8216 Holly CT. Palos Hills, Illinois 60465**, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of **JOSEPH GIOIOSO-GARCIA**, deceased, whose attorneys are:

Justin M. Raver
KARLIN RAVER, LLC
101 N Tremont Street
Kewanee, IL 61443

Every claim filed must be in writing and state sufficient information to notify the representative of the nature of the Claim or other relief sought. Claims must be filed on or before **August 13, 2026**, and any Claim not filed within that period is **barred**. Claims may either be filed with the representative of the Estate or in the **Office of the Circuit Clerk of this Court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois**, or both. If filed with the Court, the claimant, within 10 days after filing this Claim with the Court,

- (1) Shall cause a copy of the Claim to be mailed or delivered to the representative and to her Attorney of record, unless the representative or her Attorney has, in writing, either consented to the allowance of the Claim or waived mailing or delivery of copies.
- (2) Shall file with the Court proof of any required mailing or delivery of copies.

Justin M. Raver
KARLIN RAVER, LLC
Attorneys for Melissa Merkel, Independent Administrator
101 N. Tremont Street
Kewanee, IL 61443
DATED: February 6, 2026

Published 2/13, 2/20, 2/27/26

STATE OF ILLINOIS
**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL
CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY - 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 2/20, 2/27, 3/6/26

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Library Trustees of the Galva Public Library District, Henry County, Illinois, as of December 31, 2025 has available a copy of its audit report for the period of July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025. The audit was conducted by the firm of Birkey and Noble, P.C. and may be publicly inspected at the main office of the Library District at 120 N.W. Third Ave., Galva, Illinois, during normal business hours which are: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. Galva Library District

By: **Barbara J. Caravello**
Secretary of the Board of Trustees

Published 2/20/26

**BRADFORD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND
DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2025**

Receipts	Beginning Cash Balance September 1, 2024	\$442,340.78
Property taxes		\$616,735.10
Donations and fundraising		\$41,685.00
Replacement taxes		\$2,745.04
Rental revenue		\$1,475.00
Miscellaneous revenue		\$82,191.09
Loan proceeds		\$334,250.00
Interest		\$918.38
Total Receipts		\$1,079,999.61
Disbursements		
Per Vendor List		\$970,551.24
Total Disbursements		\$970,551.24
Excess Receipts over Disbursements		\$109,488.37
Ending Cash Balance August 31, 2025		\$551,789.15

Vendor List

ALEXIS	\$536,578.35	
Ameren	21,694.08	
Centre State International	2,760.89	
Frontier	4,042.28	
Hjerpe & Tennison	2,600.00	
Illinois Public Risk Fund	2,704.00	
Leezer Insurance Agency	15,615.00	
Peoples National Bank	125,680.70	
Stark County Ambulance Service	151,311.64	
Warner Restoration	50,500.00	
Vendors Under \$2,500	57,064.30	
Total	\$970,551.24	
Gross Payroll Salary Range Under \$25,000:	\$ _____	

S/_ Leslie S Fehr, Commissioner
Subscribed and sworn to before me this
10th day of February 2026

S/_ Stefanie Curtis, Notary Public

Published 2/20/26

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

PEOPLES NATIONAL BANK OF KEWANEE,
Plaintiff,
Case No. 2026FC5
v.
**AMANDA L. CURRIER; UNKNOWN OWNERS
AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS**,
Defendants.

NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE BY PUBLICATION

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given to you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants in the above-captioned cause, that the above-captioned mortgage foreclosure action was filed on February 3, 2026, and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs, the Court in which this action was brought, and the Case Number are identified above.
2. The name of the titleholder of record is: **Amanda L. Currier**
3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows:
"The East 1/2 of Lots 17 and 18 Block 1 of Hoffrichter's Addition to the City of Kewanee, Township of Kewanee, County of Henry, State of Illinois"
- PIN:20-32-483-002
4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: **715 Pine Street, Kewanee IL 61443**
5. An identification of the mortgage sought to be foreclosed is as follows:
 - Names of Mortgagor: **Amanda L. Currier**
 - Name of Mortgagee: Peoples National Bank of Kewanee
 - Date of Mortgage: May 8, 2018
 - Date of Recording: May 10, 2018
 - County Where Recorded: Henry County, Illinois
 - Recording Document Identification: 20-1802604

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, Defendants, file your answer to the Complaint for Foreclosure in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the Circuit Court of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit, Henry County, Illinois, Henry County Courthouse, 307 W. Center Street, Cambridge IL 61238, on or before March 13, 2026, default may be entered against you and each of you at any time after that day; and a Judgment for Foreclosure may be entered in accordance with the prayer of the Complaint for Foreclosure.

/s/ **Terilyn A. Motley**
Henry County Circuit Clerk
Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorneys for Plaintiff
211 W 2nd Street
Kewanee IL 61443
Phone: 309-852-5555
zac@barashlaw.com

Published 2/13, 2/20, 2/27/26

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 fcotoulon@gmail.com

website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

Pastor Marshall Jones
211 N.W. 3rd Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434

(309) 932-3733

Service Time 10 a.m.

First Baptist Church

"faith in truth"

211 NW 4th Ave GALVA

Main Service: Sun 10:30

Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor

(309) 932-2713 • GalvaBaptistChurch.com

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491

Rev. Shawna Marsh

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

Wednesday Prayer & Fellowship 5:30 to 6:30

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

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

Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

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

(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Check us out on Facebook

First Congregational Church of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

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

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

Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.

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

Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.

Email: pastor@toulonbaptist.com

www.ToulonBaptist.com

www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon

Call us for Salvation Army Assistance

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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

allsaintsil.com

Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL

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

LIST YOUR CHURCH HERE

Join the directory for \$150 per year. Email ads@prairie-news.com or mail information to

(with a check made out to Lampe Publications LLC)

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

Marilyn K. Evans

BRADFORD — Marilyn Kay Evans, 83, of Bradford, Ill., passed away on Thursday, Feb. 12, 2026, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria from a brief and unexpected illness.



Evans

Marilyn was born on April 15, 1942, in Bloomington, Ill., the daughter of Elmer and Gladys (Zimmerman) Punke. She graduated as salutatorian from El Paso High School in 1960. Marilyn married the love of her life and high school sweetheart, Orval "Ray" Evans, on July 3, 1960, at El Paso Lutheran Church in El Paso, Ill. He preceded her in death on Aug. 12, 2024, and she missed him terribly.

In her younger years, she worked as a telephone operator and later at the Bradford Banking Center in Bradford retiring as vice president after 35 years of service.

Marilyn and Ray took pride in the home they designed and built entirely by themselves in rural Bradford. Upon retirement they were snowbirds and resided in Rockport, Texas, during the winter.

Marilyn enjoyed traveling, crafting, collecting antiques and gardening. She loved her many trips to the boat to play slots and enjoyed playing cards with friends and family. Most of all she loved spending time with her family and will be deeply missed.

She is survived by her two children, Scott (Judy) Evans and Lori (John) Nelson; two beloved granddaughters, Sara and Ashley Nelson; two very precious great-grandchildren, Ryker and Addisyn, all of Bradford. She is also survived by adopted granddaughter Rosemary; best friend and sister-in-law Karen Terry; and dear friend Jacqui Grant. As the youngest of nine she also leaves behind an abundance of nieces and nephews, as well as beloved Texas friends and her shadow and fur baby, Opie.

Marilyn was preceded in death by her parents, husband, six sisters and two brothers.

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date. Cremation rites have been accorded. Memorials may be directed to Ships of the Prairie animal rehab farm in Bradford. Online condolences may be made at www.grant-johnsonfh.com.

Ronald E. Gillam

TOULON — Ronald E. Gillam, 65, of Toulon, passed away at 11:34 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 4, 2026, at his residence. Ron was born on July 3, 1960, in Kewanee to E. Ray and Jessie (Phillips) Gillam.

He is survived by one brother, James R. Gillam of Toulon; one sister, Lori Gillam of Toulon; one niece; one great-niece; one great-nephew; and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by

OBITUARIES

his parents.

Ron enjoyed the simple things in life. He spent time fishing and had a good-hearted nature. He would do anything to help someone in need. Ron recently retired from Midstate in Galesburg. He also worked at Great Dane in Kewanee for many years, and at the former Alcoa in Princeville from 1979-2001.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 17, from 12 to 2 p.m. at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Memorial contributions may be made to Big Tom's Community Cats in Kewanee or the family.

Condolences may be left for Ron's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Martha E. Ray

BISHOP HILL — Martha E. "Marty" Ray, 83, of Bishop Hill, died Thursday, Jan. 22, 2026 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 her sister-in-law Dina Nelson.

Marty grew up in Bishop Hill. Her father owned the Mobile Gas Station which is now the Filling Station and next door was her grandfather's blacksmith shop. Marty would say that "growing up in Bishop Hill was a great environment for all of us kids, we couldn't get in trouble because the adults were always watching us. It takes a village and that was Bishop Hill."

She attended grade school at the Colony School in Bishop until its closing in 1952. She graduated from Galva High School in 1960 and attended cosmetology school in Moline. She worked various jobs over the years including as a cosmetologist and for

OBITUARIES

in Wyoming, to Lyle and Lois E. (Talbert) Robbins. He married Sandra (Groeper) Robbins on Feb. 28, 1953, in Indiana. She preceded him in death on May 5, 2024, after 71 years of marriage.



Robbins

Surviving are two daughters, Catherine (Bob) Howard of Henrietta, Texas, and Cyndi Robbins of Edelstein; one son, Rob (Janita) Robbins of Princeville; four grandchildren, Amanda (Jeff) King, Adam Darling, Jake Robbins and Holly Robbins; two step-grandchildren, Tommy (Karen) Duncan and Lisa Duncan; nine great-grandchildren, Cody, Rylen, Taylor, Bryan, Dustin, Lilly, Addisyn, Ezra and Cole; three sisters, Mary Jane Tilson of Peoria, Bonita Brailey of Memphis, Tenn., and Judy (Mike) Fesler of Danville, Iowa; one brother, Steve (Maria) Robbins, Miami, Fla.; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by one great-grandchild, Alex; one infant brother, Lyle Robbins; one sister, Lois Ann (Bub) Bouton; and two brothers, John (Edith) Robbins and Lloyd (Pat) Robbins.

Homer served in the U.S. Navy after graduating from high school. He then went on to become a master plumber. He worked in various places in Las Vegas and Arizona before settling back in Illinois. He spent the majority of his career working at the Federal Park Service at Lake Mead, Colo., until retiring in 2004. Homer was a great man, with a good sense of humor, who was loved by everyone who came across his path.

A time to celebrate Homer and Sandra's lives will be held in July. They will be buried at Princeville Township Cemetery at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Akron-Princeville Fire Department or OSF of Peoria Hospice. Condolences may be left for Homer's family on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Melissa L. Stewart

GALVA — Melissa Lynne "Missy" Stewart, 56, of Galva, died Friday, Feb. 13, 2026, at her home.

She was born on July 19, 1969, in Kewanee, the daughter of August Richard and Marilyn Kay (Hinderliter) Hass. She married Brent Stewart on Sept. 26, 1987, at the First Baptist Church in Galva.

Survivors include her husband, Brent of Galva; her mother Marilyn

of Galva; two sons, Andrew (Brittany) Stewart of Galva and Austin (Natalie) Stewart of Baytown, Texas; her grandchildren Corinne, Cauley and Macie; brother, Rick Hass of Florida; and her canine friends, Lillie and Lyla.

She was preceded in death by her father August; father-in-law Willie Stewart; and her father-in-law's companion, Pat Cowley.

Missy graduated from Galva High School in 1987, Black Hawk East in 1989 and from St. Francis College of Nursing in 1991, with a degree in nursing. She worked as a registered nurse with OSF HealthCare. Missy cherished spending time with her beloved grandchildren and dogs. She also enjoyed scrapbooking, playing pickleball, quilting, baking and laying in her pool reading her Kindle.

Funeral services were held Feb. 18 at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Bryan Griem officiating. Burial will be in Galva Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please consider directing a memorial to a college fund established for her grandchildren.



Stewart

Galva, Stark County girls fall in hoops regionals

By NICK VLAHOS
and ANDY LATORA

For The Prairie News

One week after knocking off Ridgewood in the Lincoln Trail Conference tournament, Stark County did it again last Saturday in its opening game of the Class 1A Galva Regional.

Stark County (15-16) scored a 53-35 win to advance to a semifinal game on Tuesday against top-seeded Sterling Newman Catholic. The Lady Rebels lost that game, 49-35, despite leading 11-6 after one quarter.

Against Ridgewood, Coley Johnston had 17 points, 10 rebounds and five steals to lead the Lady Rebels. Sophie Finnegan scored 15 and Hallie Newton had 13 points.

• **Galva girls** — The Class 1A regional host Lady Wildcats lost Saturday to Polo, 83-45. Kaylyn Gale and Jovie Weber scored 15 points apiece for Galva (7-20). The regional title game is at 6 p.m. today (Feb. 20).

• **Galva boys** — A 54-40 victory Feb. 14 over Anna-wan put Galva in the LTC-tourney title game. Blake Stahl had 15 points and 10 rebounds for the Wildcats (21-8, 9-2 LTC regular season). MJ Louck tallied 15.

Galva was to play Abing-

don-Avon in Wednesday's final. In a non-tournament game Feb. 12, A-Town beat Galva 78-47. JP Sloan scored 15. Galva was 9-2 in the LTC regular season.

Class 1A Galva Regional

— All first-round games are Feb. 23. ROWVA-Williamsfield, 16th seed in its Monmouth sub-sectional, plays at 6 p.m. at No. 1 seed Abingdon-Avon in Game 1. Game 2 features No. 8 Princeville playing host at 6 to No. 9 Illini Bluffs. Also at 6 is Game 3, No. 13 Ridgewood at No. 4 Galva. Game 4, No. 12 Stark County at No. 5 Elmwold, is at 7.

Semifinals are Feb. 25 and the title game is at 7 p.m. Feb. 27, all at Galva.

• **Stark Co. boys** — Stark County beat host Ridgewood 59-56 for seventh place Tuesday in the Lincoln Trail Conference boys basketball tournament.

The Rebels (8-18, 4-7 LTC) saw a 17-point lead dwindle to one with about eight seconds left, before partially blocking a Ridgewood shot. After two Rebels free throws, Ridgewood missed a last-second heave.

"We got complacent and took a lot of ill-advised quick shots. They slowly

crept back in," Rebels Coach Kane Mastin stated.

Khaiden Turnbull scored 11 of his 12 points in the third quarter to help Stark County expand its lead. Connor Daum scored 18

points.

Stark County lost its tourney opener Feb. 14, 47-31 to Princeville. Daum had 21 points Feb. 12 and in a 62-53 loss to West Central in a non-tournament game.

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

Notice is hereby given that a Primary Election will be held at the various polling places in Stark County on March 17th 2026. All polling places shall be open from 6:00 am until 7:00 pm on election day at which time the Republican and Democratic political parties will nominate or elect the following offices.

List of offices for the Primary Election:

United States Senator

Governor/Lieutenant Governor

Attorney General

Secretary of State

Comptroller

Treasurer

United States Representative in Congress 16th Congressional District

State Central Committeeperson 16th Congressional District

State Senator 47th Legislative District

Representative in the General Assembly 73rd District

Representative in the General Assembly 93rd District

County Clerk & Recorder

County Treasurer

County Sheriff

Regional Superintendent of Schools

County Board Member District #1

County Board Member District #2

Precinct Committeeperson

Precinct Polling Places:

• **East Toulon & Essex Precincts Polling Place**

104 S. 7th, Wyoming (Paramount Theater)

• **Goshen & West Jersey Precincts Polling Place**

3986 State Route 17, Toulon

(Goshen Township Building)

• **Osceola & Elmira Precincts Polling Place**

239 W. Main, Bradford (Bradford Fire Station)

• **Penn Precinct Polling Place**

304 Concord, Castleton (Penn Township Building)

• **Valley Precinct Polling Place**

15005 Township Rd 300 N, Wyoming

(Valley Township Building)

• **West Toulon Precinct Polling Place**

617 E. Jefferson, Toulon (Toulon Public Library)

• **Heather L. Hollis**

Stark County Election Authority

LIVE AUCTION OF FARM EQUIPMENT, FARM ITEMS AND ANTIQUES

The following variety of items will be sold at 1486 Knox Highway 15 Dahinda, IL 61428, (just north of the Dahinda General Store), on

SUNDAY MARCH 1st, 2026 AT 12 NOON

EQUIPMENT/LARGER ITEMS: See pictures online at and

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK for more. Good 1988 John Deere 2355

65 HP diesel front wheel assist tractor, good front tires, fair rears,

16 forward/18 reverse speeds, 3 pt. hitch, 540 PTO, single set of

hydraulics, roll bar, 5230 hrs. #L02355F645257-Nice 1994 Chevy

Silverado 1500 4 wheel drive pick-up, 350 motor, ext. cab, all power,

AC, good cloth seats, NO RUST, running boards, 122,550 miles-SS

Sea Sprite 17.5' boat on Yacht Club trailer, Marines 11.5 HP out board

motor, boat cover, morning cover, life jackets, water toys, titles-Nice

JD 425 all wheel steer lawn mower, 20HP V twin liquid cooled K

series engine, 54" deck, mounted rear grass collector, 1557 hrs-

good New Holland 155 manure spreader, 540 PTO, slop gate, good

floor, single beater-ID 509 rotary mower, 3 pt., 540 PTO, 5'-Nice

New Holland 451 sickle mower, 3 pt., break away 7' sickle bar-Good

14' hayrack on older JD gear w/good floor- Nice 1993 Texas Bragg

trailer, 10'x6.5', good floor, 15' tires, tilt bed, ball hitch, metal ramps,

great shape w/title-JD post hole digger- 6' adj. angle 3 pt. grader

blade-Nice Fimco 3 pt. 40 gallon sprayer w/beams and handgun, 12v

pump-running gear w/wooden box-1 10 gallon plastic sprayer tank-

300 gallon diesel barrel w/electric pump on short stand-300 gallon gas

barrel on stand-Nice Bachtold walk behind weed mower, 8 HP Briggs

& Stratton motor-JD model 3 hydraulic log splitter, 3 pt. hitch-nice

Troy Bilt 3000 PSI port, pressure washer, 8.75 HP Briggs & Stratton

motor-Pro Spray Tech Apex Series Model 1920 paint sprayer, port.,

piston pump, electric motor-JD 80 metal dump yard cart-ID yard

spreader- 12 gallon pull behind sprayer w/12 v. pump-7 and 8 foot

wooden feed bunks.

MISC. FARM ITEMS: 3 partial rolls woven wire-roll barbed wire-braces/brace wire anchor- new gate hangers-woven and barbed wire

stretcher-steel posts and driver-old calf weaning mask-horse yoke and

shoes-wheel barrow-old wheel barrel on steel wheels-cement mixer

w/elect. motor-like new Stihl MS 180C chain saw-nice Stihl MS280

chain saw-old JD 28" bar chain saw-Stihl BR 600 magnum heavy

duty backpack blower-Stihl BG86 gas leaf blower-Stihl FS76 weed

eater-Power Mate bottle air compressor-Sm. Coleman handy carry

gas engine generator-wood and alum. step ladders-18'ext. wooden

ladder-20' and 28' Werner alum. ext. ladder-log roller, carrier, wedges,

roof jacks, 3-ton floor jack, jack stands, Die Hard battery charger,

newer Dewalt hand saw and blades, New Dewalt battery impact

wrench, drill and heavy drill-misc. lumber and tin-like new Craftsman

wrenches and sockets, regular and metric-pry bars, RR bars, log

chains, scoops, shovels, forks and other garden tools, Carpenter tool

boxes, yard magnet, oar, new booster cables and cords, hardware,

organizers, lights, comalong, trash cans, roll cable, hauls, hammers,

hand tools, roll new flex conduit, Brad nailer, hand transfer pump,

Radio Handy cart, shop vac, misc. farm items.

ANTIQUE/MISC.: Old metal kitchen cart-old windows-old lion's

foot rd. table 16 chairs and 6 leaves-oval dining table 16 chairs-old gas

stove and refrigerator-wooden wardrobe-ant. floor lamp-thomasville

chest drawers w/cabinet-ant. dresser-Sweet Mist lg. ant. tobacco tin

w/lid-old crock, nut bowl, cookie jar, Fire King, Pyrex, coll. of

Holstein cow statues-some costume jewelry-Lincoln Logs-plastic

Xmas and all types of S&Ps-silverware-tables/folding chairs-cloth

couch, chair, stool-nice leather recliner electric heaters-sweepers-JD

charcoal grill-misc.

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Prime Rib, Market Insights, and World-Record Yields

Join us for an evening of networking, education, and great food!

Akron Services PreSeason Grower Meeting and Trade Show

March 3rd • 3:30-7pm

Holiday Inn Peoria - Grand Prairie
7601 N. Orange Prairie Rd, Peoria, IL 61615

3:30 PM | Trade Show & Networking
Kick off the afternoon by browsing the latest innovations. Meet with representatives from top fertilizer and chemical manufacturers, seed and feed suppliers, grain industry experts, and the newest technology platforms. (Snacks and refreshments will be served)

4:30 PM | Market Insights with Scott Shellady
Get a pulse on the markets from "The Cow Guy" himself. As the host of "The Cow Guy Close" on RFD-TV, Scott brings a unique and veteran perspective to the current agricultural economy.

5:30 PM | Prime Rib Dinner Buffet
Enjoy a first-class prime rib dinner on us while catching up with neighbors and the Akron Services team.

6:45 PM | Alex Harrell
The 218 Bu/Ac Strategy Learn from the Soybean Yield Record Holder (218 bu/ac) as he shares the management practices and mindset required to push crops to their absolute limit.



Scan to RSVP,
akronservices.com
or call our office by Feb. 27th





Scott Shellady



Alex Harrell

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