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February 27, 2026
Vol. 22, No. 7

The Prairie News

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Bradford passes tuition waiver for non-resident staff

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – Bradford School District employees who live outside the district will no longer have to pay for tuition.

The school board approved that tuition waiver for non-resident staff members at Tuesday’s monthly meeting. The change was made to recognize the substantial service teachers provide for the school district. Enrollment is limited to kindergarten through 8th grade.

The board also passed a change to the yearly compensation structure for paraprofessionals. Under the plan, district 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.

The 2026-27 school year calendar was

Continued on Page 2

SPRING FLING COURT



Pictured above are the king and queen candidates for Galva High School’s Spring Fling dance, which will be held Saturday, March 7, from 8 to 10 p.m. In front (left to right) are queen candidates McKenna Anderson, Ryann Hutchinson and Kailynn Townsend. In back (l to r) are king candidates Cyrus Hurd, J.P. Sloan and Jay Smith. Photo by Carol Townsend.

State trooper hospitalized after two-car crash

Other driver faces felony charges for accident west of LaFayette

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Prairie News

LaFAYETTE – Illinois State Police Officer Braden McFall of Elmwood was hospitalized after a two-vehicle accident last Friday night along the border between Stark and Knox counties.

According to an Illinois State Police statement, an officer was sitting inside a parked squad car on Illinois Route 17 at Knox Road 2400 East when it was struck by a vehicle at about 7:20 p.m. The trooper involved was McFall and the driver of the other vehicle has been confirmed as Joseph S. Pruiett, 45, of Wyanet.

Both McFall and Pruiett were transported by ambulance to OSF Saint Francis Medical

Continued on Page 2

Byzantine church service set for March 22

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – The Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma will hold its first service in Saint John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church on March 22 at 10 a.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend the first Mass, which is expected to last about 75 minutes. The Rev. Thomas J. Loya from Annunciation of the Mother of God Byzantine parish in Homer Glen will preside over the liturgy.

Jake McKean has helped organize the drive for a Byzantine Catholic presence at the historic Saint John’s church, which is otherwise scheduled for permanent closure by the

Diocese of Peoria on April 19 at 2 p.m. Saint John’s is scheduled to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Bradford church on that date.

“This will be our first test to see how this works out,” McKean said. “We’ve had quite a few people who have committed to attend. There are a number of Byzantine families coming from the Quad Cities and Peoria and, honestly, there’s a much better response from the Bradford area than I even expected.”

McKean said he hopes to have an update on establishing a Byzantine mission church in Bradford in time for the first service. The Peoria Diocese has been supportive of selling

Saint John’s to the Byzantine church.

If a mission church is established, services would be held at 3 or 3:30 p.m., McKean said, to allow time for Loya to travel from Homer Glen, located about 37 miles southwest of Chicago.

Saint John’s is a part of the newly formed Incarnation of Our Lord Catholic Parish, which also includes Saint Joseph in Brimfield, Saint Mary of the Woods in Princeville and Saint Dominic in Wyoming.

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.



Pictured above is St. John the Baptist Catholic church in Bradford.

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As in the past, items will include very nice donated and consigned items (FARM AND OUTDOOR ITEMS, GIFT CERTIFICATES FOR FOOD, GOODS AND SERVICES FROM LOCAL BUSINESSES, HAND MADE CRAFTS AND BAKED GOODS, ANTIQUES AND PRIMITIVES, HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, FURNITURE, APPLIANCES AND SO MUCH MORE). There will be multiple rings running for the duration of the auction, so plan accordingly. Donated items will sell first. A few items have come in including a like new 3-point hitch, good 5th wheel, 3 phase electric motor, corn picker ear saver attachment, backpack sprayer, metal file cabinets, 2 matching nice dressers 44"x18" wide 5 drawer, like new glider rocker, nice 72"x35" wooden bookcase and a Vermont Casting Vigilant wood stove. Many hayracks and the church yard will be full of items.

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CRASH: Trooper hit by driver on probation

Continued from Page 1
 Center in Peoria. No report on McFall's condition was available, though he is believed to be alert and speaking with friends and family. An Elmwood High School graduate, McFall has worked as a state trooper since 2024, according to information on the Illinois Comptroller's website.

Pruett was charged Monday in Knox County with felony counts of aggravated battery of a peace officer, aggravated DUI/crash/bodily harm and aggravated reckless driving with bodily harm. He also faces two misdemeanor DUI charges and a misdemeanor count for resisting a police officer, as

well as charges of failure to reduce speed and driving on the wrong side of the road.

Pruett is scheduled for a preliminary hearing March 23 at 2 p.m. in the Knox County Courthouse in front of Judge Andrew Doyle.

Pruett has been on probation since Sept. 5, 2025, after pleading guilty to a Class 4 felony charge of reckless discharge of a firearm in Bureau County. He was arrested Aug. 18, 2025, after allegedly firing his gun during a domestic disturbance, according to Starved Rock Media. Pruiett was initially charged with domestic battery, aggravated assault and reckless discharge of a firearm.

BRADFORD: Board honors spelling bee champions

Continued from Page 1
 adopted with a first day of school for students on Aug. 19 following two days of teacher institutes. Christmas break will be from Dec. 21 through Jan. 4 for students and spring break in 2027 will be March 26-31. The last day of school in 2027 is tentatively scheduled for May 25, depending on days lost to weather.

The board recognized the following 2026 Spelling Bee winners: 6th grade and overall winner - Rebelle Stutler, 7th grade - Ellie Wickenberg, 8th grade - Ra'Var Jordan.

In other business, the board will again allow the Bradford Community Scholarship Fund to use school building to interview Bradford seniors and to hold a senior recognition ceremony on a date to be announced in April.

After closed session, the board approved hiring Linnea Nordstrom as a Junior High ELA teacher and accepted the resignation of Tom Miller as cheer coach.

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PUBLIC RECORD

**Incidents & Accidents
Stark County**

2-16 - James E. Crockett, 53, Newport News, Va., was cited for DUI (2), DUI (1), driving while his license was revoked and speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone. His vehicle was impounded and he was issued a notice to appear in court.

2-18 - Thomas M. Snitchler, 54, Sterling, was ticketed for speeding 78 mph in a 55 zone.

2-19 - Thomas P. Freeburg, 30, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-16 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a loud-music complaint. The resident agreed to turn it down.

2-16 - to the 700 block of NW 4th St. to assist a resident who appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

2-16 - to a residence on NW 5th Ave for a report of a possibly suicidal subject.

2-17 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 100 block of SE 1st St., Lucas Gustafson, 40, Galva, was arrested for driving while license suspended

and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was transported to the Galva Police Department for processing and later released with a court date.

2-17 - along with the Galva Fire Department, to an out-of-control fire that damaged a fence in the 1200 block of NW 5th Ave.

2-17 - to the 400 block of SW 7th St. to remove an unwanted subject after a verbal altercation.

2-17 - As the result of a traffic stop in the 800 block of N. Center Ave., Michael Engelkens, 54, Atkinson, was arrested for driving while license suspended and expired Illinois registration. He was transported to the Galva Police Department for processing and later released with a required court date.

2-17 - to the old wooden viaduct bridge on Hayes Road west of town to check on a suspicious vehicle parked there. A Galva teenager was advised to move along.

2-18 - While patrolling, officer observed a verbal dispute about a property line between neighbors in the 200 block of NW 6th Ave.

2-18 - to the 400 block of NW 2nd Ave. and the 700 block of NE 1st Ave. for solicitor complaints. Officer

determined the subjects involved did not have a valid solicitor permit. The subjects were located and advised to cease their activities.

2-18 - to a juvenile disturbance that had occurred at Wiley Park.

2-18 - to the 300 block of SE 7th Ave. for an illegal-burning complaint.

2-19 - to the NE 2nd St. train tracks for a crossing-arm malfunction. BNSF was contacted for repairs.

2-19 - to the 900 block of W. Division St. to check a subject who appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

2-19 - to the 400 block of NW 1st Ave. to complete a low-speed vehicle inspection.

2-19 - Officer spoke to a subject by telephone in reference to a telephone threat that had been received.

2-20 - to Illinois Route 17 at the Stark/Knox county line to assist other officers with a very unruly subject fighting with police after being involved in a severe two-vehicle accident.

2-21 - to a residence on NE 6th St. to assist Stark County Medic with an unresponsive subject who had reportedly overdosed on medications.

BRIEFS

**McBride appointed at
Camp Grove State Bank**

CAMP GROVE – Camp Grove State Bank has announced the appointment of Robert McBride III as market president/agricultural lender.

McBride brings experience in agricultural, consumer and commercial lending, and will lead local market strategy, business development and community engagement for the bank.

“We are excited to have Robert join the Camp Grove State Bank team.

He brings with him valuable experience with agricultural and commercial lending as well as enhancing the overall customer experience,” Senior Vice President Mark Casada said.

“This area has always been home to me, and I am truly thankful to work alongside so many great people in the community,” McBride said.



McBride

College Honors

• Paige Rewerts of Wyoming, Ill. was elected to membership into The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi (top 10% of seniors and 7.5% of juniors are eligible for membership) at Elmhurst University.

• Tristan Gerber of Toulon was named to Augustana College’s Dean’s list (3.5 gpa or better) for the 2025-26 fall semester.

• Avery Gerber of Toulon made the St. Ambrose University’s Dean’s list (3.5 gpa) for the fall semester.

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Grain farmers facing more debt, less income

By **DANIEL GRANT**
 FarmWeek
 USDA's farm-income forecast released this month projects another challenging year ahead for most farmers, except those in the beef sector.

Overall, net farm income, a broad measure of profits, is forecast at \$153.4 billion in 2026, a decrease of \$1.2 billion relative to 2025.

USDA also revised its estimates for 2025 with net farm income projected at \$154.6 billion, down \$25 billion from the September forecast, while production expenses soared to a record-high \$473.1 billion.

"Together, these revisions suggest the farm economy is experiencing a generational downturn rather than a temporary slowdown," American Farm Bureau Federation economists Daniel Munch and Faith Parum noted in a Market Intel report. "Out-

side of the cattle sector, most commodity markets are weakening."

USDA forecasted cash-crop receipts this year could increase by \$2.8 billion. After adjusting for inflation, crop receipts are projected to decline by nearly 1%, reflecting continued pressure across most crop markets.

Meanwhile, hog receipts were predicted to decline nearly 1% while milk receipts could fall by \$6.2 billion (12.8%) this year, according to the USDA report. The lone bright spot is cattle and calf receipts, which were projected to rise by \$5.2 billion (4.1%).

The report revealed other issues in an increasingly fragile farm economy. Farm-sector debt is forecast to increase by \$30.8 billion (5.2%) to \$624.7 billion in 2026. Debt-to-asset levels for the sector are forecast to increase slightly to 13.75% in 2026 while working capital could decrease 9.2% this year compared to 2025.

"The updated forecast further cements that the expectations of a strong income rebound for 2025 did not come to fruition and this reinforces that farm profitability last year was more fragile than previously believed," Munch and Parum noted.

USDA did forecast a \$13.8 billion increase in government payments due to the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program.

"Even at these elevated levels, government payments do not fully offset the scale of losses farmers have absorbed in recent years," the AFBF economists added. "With production costs still high and market prices under pressure, many operations remain below breakeven, even after accounting for disaster and economic assistance, leaving significant financial gaps."

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Illinois Extension Commercial Ag Specialist **Meagan Diss** will share practical insights, tips, and resources to support farm families in planning for the future. Rural Illinois law specialists Chris Massie, Mike Massie, and Ethen Hunt of **Massie & Quick LLC** will share guidance on farm succession planning and answer questions.

A free taco bar will be served. **No fee to attend; registration required.**
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OBITUARIES

Michael M. Colgan

WYOMING – Michael Marvin Colgan, 82, of Wyoming, died on Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at Richard L. Owens Hospice Home. He was born on March 1, 1943, in Peoria, the son of Earl and Florence (Pauli) Colgan. He married Adelheid “Heidi” Schefzik on Sept. 26, 1964, in Wyoming; she survives.

Also surviving are four daughters, Anita (Ben Chisholm) Colgan of Alameda, Calif., Tina Colgan of Greenville, S.C. Marika (Keenan) Sharpe of Alpharetta, Ga., and Danielle Colgan of Clyde, N.C.; sister Carolyn (Andy) Patterson of Springfield; three grandchildren, Alexandra, Harper and Margaret “Maggie.” He was preceded in death by his parents, Earl and Florence; stepmother Margaret E. Colgan; infant son Aaron Michael Colgan; and sister Mary “Colette” Colgan.

Mike met his beloved wife, Heidi, in high school and followed her to Europe after graduating, where he worked and trained as a cabinet maker. Together they returned to Wyoming and were married. He opened and operated his business, Colgan Woodcraft, from 1966 until his retirement in 2013. He was a volunteer fireman for the Wyoming Fire Department for over 30 years and a longtime member of St. Dominic Catholic Church. He loved archery, gardening, history, trains, camping with his young children and traveling in his retirement. Mike was also a storyteller and always had a well-timed joke.

A graveside ceremony will be at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at St. Dominic Catholic Cemetery in Wyoming. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting with arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Wyoming Fire Department or St. Dominic Catholic Church. Online condolences for Mike’s family may be left on his tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Dr. John W. Hughes

KEWANEE – Dr. John Wayne Hughes, 86, passed away in his sleep on Feb. 16, 2026, in Kewanee, Ill. He was born on Oct. 10, 1939, in LaFayette, Ill. A physician, veteran, father and grandfather, Dr. Hughes lived a life defined by service to country, his patients, and his family.

Dr. Hughes earned his bachelor of science degree from Blackburn College and went on to receive his Doctor of Medicine from the University of Illinois College of Medicine. He served honorably in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War as a field surgeon, providing care under demanding conditions. Following his military service, he dedicated nearly three decades to the practice of orthopedic surgery in Marshalltown, Iowa. In retirement, he returned to Kewanee, a place he called home.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen Ann Hughes; his brother Raymond Hadley Hughes; and his sisters, Julia Helen Watson and Norma Hughes. He is survived by his brother

Clarence “Pete” Hughes; four sons, Peter, Jonathan (Kam), Joseph (Laura) and Samuel (Kathy); and his five grandchildren, Zachary, Ian, Hadley, Jacob and Gabriel.

Dr. Hughes’ passions included spending time with family, playing golf and reading. He leaves a legacy in lives touched through medicine, service, and friendship.

A memorial service is being planned for later this spring, with details to be announced at a future date. Rux Funeral Home in Kewanee is assisting the family with arrangements.

Johanna L. Mueller

WYOMING – Johanna L. Mueller, 76, of Wyoming, passed away at 7:05 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at her home. Johanna was born on March 13, 1949, in Peoria, to parents John Lemuel and Marcia Pauline (Diercksen) Dixon. She married Charles F. Mueller on March 14, 1970, at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Peoria. He preceded her in death on July 14, 2016.

Surviving are son, Charles Jason Mueller, Bradford; daughter, Brita Lee Mueller, Henderson, Nev.; grandchildren, Natasha and Sierra; sisters, Sharon (David) Sager and Teresa (Michael) Macy; brother, John Phillip “Phil” (Marianne) Dixon; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins; and brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Dale and Pauline Bennington. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; and sister-in-law, Audrey Mueller.

Johanna enjoyed cooking and loved spending time outside taking care of her yard and sitting in the fresh air watching traffic and the corn across the valley grow. She loved a good bargain and often found them at estate auctions and garage sales. She attended and was on the board at St. Timothy’s Lutheran Church, where she participated and worked in the kitchen for different functions. She worked at the Railroad Company in East Peoria. She worked and retired from Cub Food after several years. Johanna worked as an election Judge for many years. For 42 years she served as Penn Township Clerk.

Visitation was to be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Wyoming. Funeral will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25, 2026, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Wyoming. Pastor John Sipf was to officiate. Graveside service were to be at Pleasant Valley Cemetery on Route 17 in rural Wyoming.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Wyoming, American Legion Post number 91, or the Stark County High School FFA Program. Condolences may be left for Johanna’s family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

June G. Orwig

TOULON – June G. Orwig, 91, of Toulon, passed away peacefully on Sunday, Feb. 22, 2026. June was born May 20, 1934, in West Jersey, Ill., the daughter of John and Mildred (Sweet) Webster. She married Ronald Orwig on Sept. 4, 1970, at the Bridal Cave near Camdenton, Mo. and the Lake of the Ozarks. Together they celebrated 49 years of marriage.

June is survived by her loving son, Michael (Karen) Williams of Peoria;

two grandchildren, Sean (Ashley) Williams of Brimfield and Melissa Williams of Peoria; and two great-grandchildren, Alivia and Levi Williams of Brimfield. She was preceded in death by her husband Ron; her parents, John and Mildred Webster; her two brothers, Wallace and Harold Webster; and her sister, Mary Lou Sorensen.

June grew up on a farm in West Jersey and graduated from Toulon High School. She worked at Gale Products/OMC in Galesburg for 15 years, where they made Lawn-Boy lawn mowers. She liked to quilt pictures and clip art. She also liked to travel on charter-bus trips and went on cruises all over the world. She was particularly fond of a condo they owned in Bullhead City, Ariz. where they spent the winters entertaining friends and attending shows at Laughlin, Nev. casinos. June and her husband Ron loved to dance. They competed competitively in country dancing for seven years, receiving many honors in Division 1 Senior Dancing throughout the U.S. June’s memory will live on in the hearts of her family and friends. She will be missed.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later time. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Parkinson’s Foundation, 5757 Waterford District Drive, Suite 310, Miami Fla., 33126.

Bernice E. Stoller

PRINCEVILLE – Bernice E. Stoller, passed away at 8:08 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026, at her home in Princeville. She was born Oct. 28, 1929, to George W. and Elizabeth (Aberle) Wagenbach in Princeville. She married Vernon Stoller on March 8, 1953. He preceded her in death on April 26, 2013.

Bernice is survived by her children, Donna (Ted) Blunier of Eureka, Deborah Aberle of Tremont, Lavonne (Marvin) Herrmann of Edelstein and Terri (Craig) Martin of Princeville; 19 grandchildren; 58 great-grandchildren; and sisters-in-law, Martha Stoller of Bradford and Elaine Wagenbach of Princeville.

She was preceded in death by an infant son; son-in-law Peter Aberle; brothers, Ray Wagenbach, Lawrence Wagenbach, and Donald Wagenbach; sisters, Louise Wagenbach and Mary Ellen Martin; and her parents.

Bernice worked at Caterpillar Inc. until she married her husband, when she became a homemaker and a loving mother to her children and, later, her grandchildren. She volunteered at Princeville Grade School and Methodist Hospital until she was 90. She walked with the Lord for many years and was a member of Princeville Apostolic Christian Church.

The funeral was held at Princeville Apostolic Christian Church on Feb. 23, 2026, at 10 a.m. Ministers of the church officiate. Burial was in Princeville Apostolic Christian Church Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Akron-Princeville Ambulance or LifePoints in Morton. Haskell Funeral and Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences for Bernice’s family may be left on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.



Orwig



Colgan



Mueller



Hughes

Church Directory

Toulon Methodist Church

229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
Phone (309) 286-2224
Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 286-2224 or (217) 778-1591
Toulon Sunday School 9:15 a.m., all ages & Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m.

LaFayette Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 17, P.O. Box 147, LaFayette, IL. 61449
Phone (309) 995-3371
Pastor Glenn Corbly Phone (309) 995-3371 or (217) 778-1591
LaFayette Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

West Jersey United Methodist Church

Illinois Highway 78, West Jersey, IL • Rev. Pablo Marty
Phone (217) 425-5707
Sunday Worship: 9 a.m.

Elmira United Presbyterian Church

7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483 • (309) 896-3481
Services each Sunday at 9 a.m.
<https://www.facebook.com/Elmirachurch1852>

The Gathering Church

Location: 105 N. 7th St., Wyoming, IL 61491
Sunday mornings @ 10:30 a.m.
Mail: PO Box 322, Wyoming, IL 61491
email: info@thegathering.life
website: www.thegathering.life/
www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life

1st Congregational Church of Toulon

Reverend David Graham
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon • (309) 286-4901
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
Email fcctoulon@gmail.com
website: firstcongregationaltoulon.org

Galva Congregational Church

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

First Baptist Church

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

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491
Rev. Shawna Marsh
Sunday School: 10 a.m., All ages • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Fellowship 5:30 to 6:30
Thursday Kids Club 5:30 to 7 p.m.
Baby Connection: Wednesday and Thursdays 9 - 11 a.m.
Facebook: Wyoming Naz

First Congregational Church

204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491
(309) 695-4091
Sunday Worship 10 a.m.
Check us out on Facebook
First Congregational Church of Wyoming, Illinois

Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon • (309) 286-4611
Sunday School 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m.
Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.
Wednesday Kid’s Club 5:30-7 p.m.
Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.
Email: pastor@toulonbaptist.com
www.ToulonBaptist.com
www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon
Call us for Salvation Army Assistance

St. Timothy Lutheran Church

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

Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL
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 Wyand Walnut Rd, Bradford, IL. 61421
Services on Sundays at 9 a.m.
Rev Dan Wright
309-897-8113 309-507-1626
thewrights62@hotmail.com

Bradford Apostolic Christian Church

440 E Main St Bradford IL 61421
9:45 a.m. Sunday Worship Service and simultaneous Sunday
School pre-K thru 12+
11:00 Lunch and Fellowship, 12:15 2nd Sunday Worship
Wednesday Worship Service 7:15 pm
www.bradfordacchurch.org; info@bradfordacchurch.org

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More obituaries on Page 7

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– Generac Generators Sales & Installation
– Oxygen & Acetylene Tanks
– Kent Pet Food Supplier

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

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

CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of **RICHARD L. DOWNARD**. Letters of Office were issued on **January 30, 2026**, to **Stacy McDaniel of 237 Marion Cty 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.

Massie & Quick, LLC
Attorneys for Estate
P.O. Box 205
Galva, IL 61434
Telephone: (309) 932-2168

Published 2/27, 3/6, 3/13/26

**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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The regular scheduled meetings of Valley Township Board of Trustees to conduct regular business of the township, to inspect and pay bills, and any such matters that shall come before the board for the fiscal year 2026-2027, will be held on the second Thursday of each month. Meetings will be held at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois beginning at 7:00 PM.

Dated: February 22, 2026

Jodi Dienst

Valley Township Clerk

Published 2/27/26

**PUBLIC NOTICE
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Notice is hereby given to the legal voters, residents of the Town of Valley in the County of Stark and State of Illinois, that the Annual Town Meeting of said Town will take place on Tuesday April 14, 2026, at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois at 6:30 PM for the transaction of miscellaneous business of Valley Township; and after a Moderator having been elected, will proceed to hear and consider reports of officers, and decide on such measures as may, in pursuance of law come before the meeting.

Dated: February 22, 2026

Jodi Dienst

Valley Township Clerk

Published 2/27/26

**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

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
ON ROAD DISTRICT BUDGET AND TOWNSHIP BUDGET**

Notice is hereby given that Tentative Budget and Appropriation Ordinance meetings for Road Purposes of Valley Township, in the County of Stark, State of Illinois, and also for Town of Valley in said county, for the fiscal year beginning April 1, 2026, and ending March 31, 2027, will both be on file and conveniently available to public inspection at Valley Town Hall, 15003 Township Road 300N, Wyoming, IL 61491, after March 12, 2026, by appointment only.

Notice is further given that public hearings on said Budget and Appropriation Ordinances will be held at 6:45 PM and 7:00 PM respectively, Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at the Valley Township Town Hall, Wyoming, Illinois and that action on these ordinances will take place immediately following.

The 7:00 PM regularly scheduled April 9th, 2026 monthly meeting of Valley Township Board of Trustees to discuss regular business will be rescheduled to take place April 14, 2026 immediately following the budget hearings.

Dated: February 22, 2026
Jodi Dienst
Valley Township Clerk
309-230-8953

Published 2/27/26

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

ESTATE OF **NANCY L. DYNES**, Deceased
No. 2026-PR16

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.

**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 2/27, 3/6, 3/13/26

NOTICE OF ASSUMED NAME BUSINESS

Public Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, February 19, 2026, a certificate was filed in the Office of the County Clerk of Stark County, Illinois, setting forth the names and post-office addresses of all of the persons owning, conducting and transacting the business known as COME AS YOU GLO located at 115 WEST MAIN ST. TOULON, IL 61483.

Dated this 19th day of February 2026.

/S/ Heather Hollis
County Clerk

No. 2026ASN-11748

Published 2/27, 3/6, 3/13/26

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Galva, IL 61434
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Business: 309-932-2021

**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. 2026PR14

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**

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 ½ 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

OBITUARIES

Cynthia L. Dutlinger

WYOMING – Cynthia Lou Dutlinger, 76, of Wyoming, Ill., passed away on Feb. 20, 2026, in Creve Coeur, Ill., Cynthia was born on March 20, 1949, in Peoria, to Richard Louis and Laura Charlene (Lindsay) England. She married Raymond E. Dutlinger on March 29, 1991, in Groveland, Ill. He passed away on May 10, 2024.



Dutlinger

She loved baking and cooking, knitting, quilting, crocheting, fishing and camping. Cindy was a huge supporter of the Honor Flight program.

She enjoyed volunteering and helping others. She would volunteer with the prom dress giveaway.

Cindy attended Wyoming Community High School and graduated in 1967. She attended Illinois Central College and received a degree in business. Cindy served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam period, January 1968 thru September 1970.

She worked at Bergner's, the Veterans Association, Trader's Real Estate, Pizza Hut, Western Auto, Norwood municipality and as a certified nurse's aide.

Cindy is survived by her children, Veronica (George) Herbst, Patrick Cloyd and Jimmy (Destiny Smith) Dutlinger; grandchildren Andrew, Lucas, Kaitlynn, Joshua, Lester, Cam-

eron and Elijah; great-granddaughter Paislie; siblings Ronald England, Russell England, Steven England, John England, Christine England and Marlene Hammerich.

She was preceded in death by her parents and husband, Raymond Dutlinger.

A funeral service will be held Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Wilton Mortuary, 2101 N. Knoxville Ave., Peoria, IL. Visitation will be one hour prior. Arrangements and cremation rites have been entrusted to Cumerford-Clary Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to the Carle Health Methodist Hospice Program. Online condolences and tributes can be made at www.cumerfordclary.com.

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 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. We will also be open for early voting on Saturday March 14th from 9 - noon.

Providing peace of mind for you and your family

RUX FUNERAL HOMES

Kewanee | 309-853-4100
Galva | 309-932-2400
Williamsfield | 309-639-4221

www.ruxfuneralhome.com
ruxfuneral@yahoo.com



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COUPON

Anything But Household Auction
Sunday, March 8 2026 at 12 noon
Highway 17 West Wyoming IL (across the street from the Stark County Fairgrounds)

Items already consigned: semi load of cedar fence posts 6" line posts and 8" corner posts, lawnmowers, power tools, shop smith, dust collector, 12' harrogator, 2 gravity wagons, vehicles, trailers, shop tools, and more to come.

Check auctionzip and my facebook page for pictures and updates.

Accepting consignments of tools, machinery, vehicles, and outdoor items. We offer nationwide promotion and competitive commissions. Call soon to take advantage of online advertising opportunities. Loader tractor will be onsite and hauling can be arranged.

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Joe Orwig, Auctioneer
(309)361-0397

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Phone: (309) 484-5591
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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.

MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation
309-364-2287
Stark County Regular Van Schedule for March 2026

Thurs., March 5: Kewanee	Thurs., Feb. 19: Kewanee
Thurs., Feb. 12: Peoria	Thurs., Feb. 26: Princeton

Pick up:

March 5, 12	March 19, 26
Bradford 8:40 a.m.	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.

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FOR SALE

- **MOWER:** Exmark Lazer E Series Zero Turn, 453 hours, \$3,800. (309) 231-6040.

The Prairie News Sports

Galva wins regional opener

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Prairie News

Galva senior JP Sloan eclipsed 1,000 career points Monday night when his team beat visiting Ridgewood 57-43 in a Class 1A boys basketball regional quarterfinal.

Sloan had 15 points, including a free throw with 15.6 seconds left that gave him his 1,000th. He had 1,007 career points as the Wildcats (22-9), seeded fourth in their sub-sectional, headed to a regional semifinal Wednesday night at home against fifth-seeded Elmwood. The title game is set for Friday night.

Blake Stahl had 16 points against Ridgewood, which was seeded 13th.

On Feb. 18 at Woodhull, Galva lost its final regular-season game, 61-48 to Abingdon-Avon for the Lincoln Trail Conference Tournament championship. MJ Louck had a team-high 15 points. Sloan had 13 points, and Stahl had 11 points and six rebounds.

• **Stark County boys** – A freezing first half doomed 12th-seeded Stark County in a 51-32 regional-quarterfinal loss Monday night at Elmwood.

Stark County (8-20) missed at least its first 14 shots and didn't make a basket until 2:43 remained in the first half. Elmwood led 36-7 at half-time. The final score was the same as it was Feb. 4, when Elmwood beat Stark County for the second of three times this season.

"It seems like Elmwood just really enjoys playing us and they get a real thrill out of competing against us," Stark County Coach Kane Mastin said. "They ran their stuff really well. They knew



Galva senior JP Sloan topped 1,000 points for his boys basketball career Monday in the Wildcats' regional-opening win over Ridgewood.

that wanted to be in the gym together, they enjoyed being with one another and I feel like they learned a lot about the game of basketball," Mastin said in assessing the season.

"I don't like to lose in any capacity, and I think there's a lot I can take away from this season that I can apply to the group coming up so we don't have to experience these rough stretches again."

Tanner Bishop had seven points to lead Stark County in its 59-33 loss Feb. 20 to North Fulton. The Rebels trailed 25-16 at intermission of their regular-season finale.

our stuff really well."

Connor Daum had a team-high 13 points.

"I thought we had a few too many games slip away, but we had guys

 **Leezer** March. 6, 2026
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LEASE: No lease in effect for 2026.

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ATTORNEY FOR SELLER: Tom Jennings; Livingston Barger, Brandt & Schroeder LLP in Bloomington, IL

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