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March 6, 2026
Vol. 22, No. 8

The Prairie News

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A PASSION FOR FUR

63 years on the trap line and counting

Brimfield’s Scott Davis still enjoys fur trapping

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Prairie News

BRIMFIELD – The lure was immediate for Scott Davis. Shortly after friend Phillip Reed took him trapping near Swab Run Creek as an Elmwood High School sophomore, Davis was hooked. You could almost say trapped, but that would be inaccurate. Davis, 78, willingly took on a life as a trapper, later in life turning down two factory jobs to make sure he could wade frigid streams each winter in search of fur.

“I applied at (Caterpillar Inc.) and International Harvester and then I told them both, ‘No,’” Davis recalls with a smile. “The main reason was I wasn’t going to be able to trap. I’m glad I didn’t go to Cat.”

Over the next 63 years, Davis became the most consistently productive fur trapper the area. Consider, in one week he caught 350 raccoons, including an epic 65-coon day during that stretch. He had seasons of 868 raccoons, over 800 muskrats, 200 beavers, 265 mink and 117 coyotes. Until health issues slowed him last year, he had trapped every year since 1962.

That’s not bragging, but when you ask Davis for numbers, he has lists to back up his totals. “I’ve got records of it all,” said Davis, who last fall was named to the Illinois



Scott Davis of Brimfield poses with an estimated 97 coyotes he trapped in the mid-1980s. Davis has been trapping in central Illinois since 1962.

Trappers Association Hall of Fame. While all that fur made him money, that was not the main motivation for Davis. And what is the allure of waking early and braving frigid cold?

“Just being outdoors. And being by yourself,” Davis said.

Being alone was even more important to Davis after 27 months and three tours in Vietnam from 1966-69 in the U.S. Marine Corps’ 3rd Tank Battalion. Davis finished as a staff sergeant and spent most of his service time in Dong Ha, but was also at Con Thien and spent 33 long days as part of the siege of

Khe Sanh. “I got into a couple of bad places a couple of times,” he said.

One of those times he found a large bear trap that had been set with the intent of catching a U.S. soldier. Davis still wishes he could have brought that trap home with him. Many other memories he wishes he had not, though he fared better than his friend Reed, who was killed in Vietnam.

Davis returned home on 100% disability with the Veterans Administration and suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder. So the

Continued on Page 7

Wethersfield hires Galva principal as superintendent

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**
For The Prairie News

GALVA – Galva Principal Kurtis Smyth has been hired to take over as the next superintendent of Wethersfield School District 230.

Smyth has been Junior-Senior High principal at Galva for the past five years, during which time he led the implementation of a comprehensive school improvement plan focused on strengthening literacy and higher order thinking skills, resulting in measurable gains in classroom performance, improved assessment outcomes and an increased state summative designation score.



Smyth

“I am truly honored and excited to serve the students, staff, and community of District 230,” Smyth said.

Continued on Page 2

Galva council OKs \$203,000 for streets

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**
For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva City Council approved spending up to \$203,000 on the 2026 street program for the northeast section of the city.

Engineer Greg Peterson of Bruner Cooper and Zuck presented the proposed street program at Monday’s meeting. It was also noted that last year, when work was done on the northwest section of the city, Northwest 10th and 11th streets were not done.

Peterson said those two streets need to be torn out and have new curbs, gutters and base installed. Peterson told the council that project would cost about \$1 million and the cost to add sidewalks would be an additional \$800,000.

Resident Donna Ericson told the council she was very

Inside

• Stark County Republican Central Committee’s Lincoln Day luncheon ahead. Page 6

Continued on Page 2

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SMYTH: Thankful for Galva trust and support

Continued from Page 1

“There is a strong foundation in place, and I look forward to building on that success together. I am grateful to Galva CUSD Superintendent (Joe) Becker for his mentorship. I appreciate the support of the teachers and board of education for their trust and encouragement throughout my time in Galva. I will miss the students, and the supportive community of the Galva School District.”

Smyth helped design and oversee key facility improvements, including recent renovations to the school gymnasium.

Prior to serving as principal at Galva, Smyth worked for three years as dean of students and athletic director, in which role he guided athletic programs through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and successfully transitioned the football program to an eight-man format following the conclusion of the Mid-County cooperative agreement.

He began his career as a social science teacher at Kewanee High School, working nine years in the classroom along with coaching var-

sity girls basketball and varsity boys soccer.

Smyth said he is eager to begin this next chapter of his career as an educator and remains committed to fostering a student-centered culture focused on academic excellence, opportunity and community engagement.

Smyth has two daughters, Kendall, 9, and Adalyn, 6. He was raised in Grayslake, Ill., and lived in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas in his youth. He has a degree in history education and a superintendent endorsement from Illinois State University.

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GALVA: Concerns raised over CO2 project

Continued from Page 1

concerned about the planned CO2 sequestration project in the east of Galva.

“What is going to happen to our property values? Erickson asked.

Erickson said she was very opposed to having carbon dioxide being hauled in from out of town, made into liquid to be put underground.

“How can we stop this?” she asked.

City Administrator Dave Dyeer said that it takes two years to get a permit for the CO2 sequestration project. Dyer said the permit application will be on the EPA's

website and is about 900 pages long.

Citizens who are concerned are encouraged to attend meetings that are held in Galva about the project.

One person in attendance asked what would prevent sequestration of carbon dioxide from additional ethanol plants outside of Galva?

Mayor Rich Volkert said he was concerned about jobs.

Resident Sandra Brock was present and told the council that she has a hearing impairment and asked that they provide a sign-language interpreter for their council meetings, as per ADA regulations. She said it must be a qualified interpreter and noted that can be very expensive.

In other business, 61 letters have been sent out

for ordinance violations, some for junk, furniture, unlicensed trailers and vehicles sitting in yards and terraces. Since the letters were mailed, there have been nine more complaints, so more letters will go out.

Residents are given 14 days to correct the issues and then police officers will come back to review the situation to see if more time is needed.

Second Ward Alderman John Wirth reported that he has been talking to officials with the railroad about trains blocking Galva railroad crossings while leaving and picking up cars at the ethanol plant.

The Stark County Ambulance is located on the south side of the tracks and the Galva Fire Department is located on the north side of the tracks.

Residents have expressed concerns about potential life-threatening delays the blocked crossings create.

It has been noted that first responders have no way of knowing which crossings are open when responding to a scene.

It was also noted during the meeting that email addresses for aldermen are not available on the city's website. Dyer said he will update that.

Third Ward Alderwoman Jackie Clucas raised awareness of the children's book “Journey to Galva” written by Jordan Murray of Galva. The book costs \$30 and those interested can call City Hall at (309) 932-2555.

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PUBLIC RECORD

**Incidents & Accidents
Stark County**

2-23 - A 16-year-old Peoria teen was ticketed for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

2-28 - John L. Strader, 37, Dixon, was ticketed for driving while his license was revoked and for illegal possession of adult use cannabis by a driver. He was released with a court date to appear.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

2-18 - Officer was dispatched to the 1200 block of NW 3rd Ave for a sick or injured raccoon walking around. Officer located the animal and escorted it away from area residences.

2-19 - Officer was dispatched to the 00 block of SW 4th Street for an anonymous trespassing complaint.

2-19 - Officer was dispatched to the 200 block of NW 8th Ave for a possible trespassing complaint after a neighbor saw an open door on a barn. Officer searched the building and did not locate any signs of human activity. The door likely blew open due to high winds.

2-20 - While patrolling, officer located a large tree branch in the roadway in the 300 block of NW 4th Ave. Officer was able to move it off the side of the roadway.

2-23 - to a residence on SW 4th Street for a welfare check. The subject was fine.

2-23 - Officer met with a resident at the Galva PD to return a cell phone that had been stored as evidence until a case was resolved.

2-23 - Officer met with a subject at the Galva PD for a possible theft complaint.

2-24 - to the east edge of town to



watch for a vehicle driving with very dim lighting. Vehicle was located and driver was having alternator problems. The vehicle made it home.

2-24 - to the 700 block of NW 4th Street for a subject who appeared to be suffering from a mental health crisis.

2-25 - to the 200 block of SW 2nd Ave for an activated panic alarm. It was determined to be a false alarm. Officer was notified about a vehicle repossession that was taking place in the 200 block of SW 6th Street. Officer was dispatched to the north edge of town for a reckless driver complaint coming towards Galva. Officer was not able to locate it.

2-26 - to the 00 block of SW 1st Street to assist a citizen with a VIN verification.

2-26 - to the east edge of town for a reckless driving complaint near Black Hawk College. Officer did not locate the vehicle.

2-26 - to assist the ambulance with a medical alarm activation on SW 4th Street. It was determined to be a false alarm.

2-26 - to the 300 block of SE 5th Street for a dog bit complaint. As the result, Kayla Capps, 33, Galva, was issued an administrative warning ticket (AWT) for allowing a dog to run at large.

2-26 - Officer assisted the ambulance with a patient that fell west of town in a driveway.

2-27 - to meet a resident at the Galva PD to complete a low speed vehicle inspection.

2-27 - Officer met with a violent offender against youth registrant to update their employment records.

2-27 - Officer met with a resident at the Galva PD to complete a freedom of information act request form.

2-27 - to the 00 block of NE 4th Ave for a small fire complaint. It was being supervised by a resident.

2-27 - Officer dispersed several juvenile subjects playing basketball at Wiley Park after the park closing time (10 p.m.).

2-28 - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a loud music complaint.

2-28 - to the 400 block of SE 6th St. for a loose dog complaint. Officer was not able to locate.

3-1 - to the 900 block of SE 2nd St. for a 911 hang up complaint. Officer was not able to locate anyone needing assistance.

3-1 - to the 100 block of NE 6th St. for a civil property dispute.

3-1 - to a residence on NW 5th Ave. for a welfare check. The subject was fine.

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Of SAFE-T, a trap door & hoops blowouts

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There are many examples of recent instances when the 2021 SAFE-T Act has failed. You've read about some of them in this space.

Well here's another.

Illinois State Police Officer **Bradén McFall** of Elmwood was on duty Feb. 20 on the Knox-Stark county line and was lucky to survive the evening. His squad car was crushed by a vehicle driven by **Joseph S. Pruiett** of Wyanet, who was reportedly traveling 75 mph at the time and was later charged with felony and misdemeanor DUI charges.



Jeff
LAMPE

Last fall, Pruiett had been released after recklessly discharging a firearm during a domestic disturbance. Some can argue the relative merits of that release.

But how can Pruiett be set free days after the accident with McFall? The crash occurred while Pruiett was still on probation. And after hitting McFall's vehicle, Pruiett fought with responding law-enforcement officers before he was taken into custody.

Adding insult to injury, McFall is not walking as freely as Pruiett, who emerged from the accident virtually unscathed and was released by a judge days after the accident with an ankle monitor. The trooper ended up

with knee and foot injuries and will need rehabilitation to return to his job ... which is to protect innocent citizens of Illinois. Shouldn't protecting the innocent also be a job of elected politicians in the state?

Lyle Ray of Farmington (pictured at right) went back in time last deer season. Ray owns a Springfield model 1873 trapdoor rifle that he inherited from his great grandfather, **Wiley A. Ray**. Great-grandpa Ray won the firearm at a "turkey shoot" in about 1900. The same style of rifle – named because it has a trap door at the back to allow for faster reloading – was popular in the American West in the late 1800s and was used by **Col. George Custer's** men at the Battle of the Little Bighorn in 1876. Despite that less-than-ringing endorsement, Lyle decided he wanted to use the gun during deer season. Before acting on that wish, he tested the gun, firing 16 rounds of 45-70 cartridges in a day of sighting-in. "It kicks like a mule," Lyle said. A high-shooting mule, at that. Still, Lyle handled the kick and adjusted his shooting to compensate for the gun's inaccuracy. The payoff came on Dec. 6 when Ray was able to shoot a small buck with the heirloom rifle.



Carrier Mills-Stonefort, 104-19. There were plenty other blowouts that made me wonder why? Is sportsmanship a forgotten concept? Has the gap between good and bad eams grown that large? And is putting everyone in the postseason really such a great idea? ... Beyond that, the lop-sided hoops scores made me ponder what we will see this fall with expanded football playoffs. It's one thing to get beat 101-11 in basketball. It's another thing to get beat by a comparable score in football, where bodies banging into bodies leave more than just emotional scars. ... Parting shot: We have 175 swamp-bur oak and chestnut saplings growing in the office. With more nuts to come out of the refrigerator and 100 of last year's saplings to be planted, we have more than my aching back can handle. So we are officially in the market to barter trees for rhubarb pie, homemade wine or duck decoys. Cash works, also. And for those I owe, will you accept saplings?

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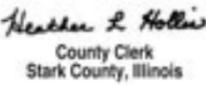

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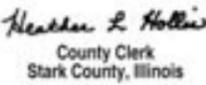
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MARCH 17, 2026		GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION		STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS	
 OFFICIAL DEMOCRATIC BALLOT GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 17, 2026 STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS		To vote, darken the oval to LEFT of your choice, like this ●. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return to the election judge and obtain another.			
FEDERAL	STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION	PRECINCT	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KEVIN RYAN <input type="radio"/> ROBIN KELLY <input type="radio"/> JULIANA STRATTON <input type="radio"/> RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY <input type="radio"/> STEVE BOTSFORD JR. <input type="radio"/> BRYAN MAXWELL <input type="radio"/> JONATHAN DEAN <input type="radio"/> SEAN BROWN <input type="radio"/> AWISI A. BUSTOS <input type="radio"/> CHRISTOPHER SWANN	FOR COMPTROLLER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KARINA VILLA <input type="radio"/> STEPHANIE A. KIFOWIT <input type="radio"/> HOLLY KIM <input type="radio"/> MARGARET CROKE FOR TREASURER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> MICHAEL W. FRERICHS CONGRESSIONAL FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> PAUL NOLLEY	FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEVENTY-THIRD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> NICOLE DOPLER FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINETY-THIRD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE COUNTY FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> HEATHER HOLLIS FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BUREAU, HENRY, STARK) (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE	FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (PEORIA) (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (HENDERSON, KNOX, MERCER, WARREN) (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE COUNTY FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for not more than two) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2 (Vote for not more than two) NO CANDIDATE PRECINCT FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ELMIRA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON OSCEOLA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON GOSHEN (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE	FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON WEST TOULON (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON EAST TOULON (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON PENN (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON WEST JERSEY (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ESSEX (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON VALLEY (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING VOTE BOTH FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01	
STATE	STATE	STATE	STATE	PRECINCT	
FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> (JB PRITZKER CHRISTIAN MITCHELL) FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KWAME RAOUL FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> ALEXI GIANNOULIAS	STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON SIXTEENTH STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> KEVIN LAMM <input type="radio"/> PATRICK CORTESI <input type="radio"/> KIM ARMSTRONG LEGISLATIVE FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE	FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> HEATHER HOLLIS FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BUREAU, HENRY, STARK) (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE	FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for not more than two) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2 (Vote for not more than two) NO CANDIDATE PRECINCT FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ELMIRA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON OSCEOLA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON GOSHEN (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE	YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING VOTE BOTH FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01	

MARCH 17, 2026		GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION		STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS	
 OFFICIAL REPUBLICAN BALLOT GENERAL PRIMARY ELECTION MARCH 17, 2026 STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS		To vote, darken the oval to LEFT of your choice, like this ●. To cast a write-in vote, darken the oval to the LEFT of the blank space provided and write the candidate's name in that space. If you tear, spoil, deface or erroneously mark this ballot, return to the election judge and obtain another.			
FEDERAL	STATE	REPRESENTATIVE	REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION	PRECINCT	
FOR UNITED STATES SENATOR (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> CASEY CHLEBEK <input type="radio"/> DON TRACY <input type="radio"/> R. CARY CAPPARELLI <input type="radio"/> PAMELA DENISE LONG <input type="radio"/> JIMMY LEE TILLMAN, II <input type="radio"/> JEANNIE EVANS	FOR SECRETARY OF STATE (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> WALTER ADAMCZYK <input type="radio"/> DIANE M. HARRIS FOR COMPTROLLER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> BRYAN DREW FOR TREASURER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in CONGRESSIONAL FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS SIXTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> DARIN LaHOOD <input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in LEGISLATIVE FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> NEIL ANDERSON	FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SEVENTY-THIRD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> RYAN SPAIN FOR REPRESENTATIVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY NINETY-THIRD REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> TRAVIS WEAVER COUNTY FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> PAULA K LEEZER FOR COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> CHARLES R DEMETREON REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BUREAU, HENRY, STARK) (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KATHY MARSHALL	FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (PEORIA) (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> GEORGE MCKENNA FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (HENDERSON, KNOX, MERCER, WARREN) (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KATHRYN JENNINGS COUNTY FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> J THOMAS HOWES <input type="radio"/> JAMIE SCHAFFER FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2 (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> STEVEN LISTWAN <input type="radio"/> GERALD JOE ORWIG PRECINCT FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ELMIRA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON OSCEOLA (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> ADAM WILSON	FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON GOSHEN (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON WEST TOULON (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON EAST TOULON (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> MICHAEL S BIGGER FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON PENN (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> J THOMAS HOWES FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON WEST JERSEY (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ESSEX (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON VALLEY (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING VOTE BOTH FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT Typ:02 Seq:0001 Spl:01	
STATE	STATE	STATE	STATE	PRECINCT	
FOR GOVERNOR AND LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> (TED DABROWSKI CARRIE MENDOZA) <input type="radio"/> (JAMES MENDRICK ROBERT RENTERIA) <input type="radio"/> (DARREN BAILEY AARON B. DEL MAR) <input type="radio"/> (RICK HEIDNER CHRISTINA NEITZKE-TROIKE) <input type="radio"/> _____ <input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in FOR ATTORNEY GENERAL (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> ROBERT W. FIORETTI <input type="radio"/> _____ Write-in	STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON SIXTEENTH STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEEPERSON (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> KEVIN LAMM <input type="radio"/> PATRICK CORTESI <input type="radio"/> KIM ARMSTRONG LEGISLATIVE FOR STATE SENATOR FORTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> NEIL ANDERSON	FOR COUNTY CLERK AND RECORDER (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> HEATHER HOLLIS FOR COUNTY TREASURER (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY SHERIFF (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> CHARLES R DEMETREON REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION FOR REGIONAL SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS (BUREAU, HENRY, STARK) (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> KATHY MARSHALL	FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> J THOMAS HOWES <input type="radio"/> JAMIE SCHAFFER FOR COUNTY BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2 (Vote for not more than two) <input type="radio"/> STEVEN LISTWAN <input type="radio"/> GERALD JOE ORWIG PRECINCT FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON ELMIRA (Vote for one) NO CANDIDATE FOR PRECINCT COMMITTEEPERSON OSCEOLA (Vote for one) <input type="radio"/> ADAM WILSON	YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED VOTING VOTE BOTH FRONT AND BACK OF BALLOT Typ:02 Seq:0001 Spl:01	

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Lincoln Day Luncheon planned for March 28

WYOMING – The Stark County Republican Central Committee will host its annual Lincoln Day Luncheon at the Stark County 4H grounds at 310 East Washington St., in Wyoming on March 28 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Invitees include U.S. Rep. Darin LaHood, State Sen. Neil Anderson, State Sen. Li Arellano, State Rep. Ryan Spain and State Rep. Travis Weaver.

Catering will be provided by the Bradford Snack Shack and the event will feature a homemade pie auction. Tickets are \$50 and can be purchased from Mike Bigger at (309) 238-0113. Mail-in order forms will be available on flyers and in an advertisement appearing in the March 20 edition of The Prairie News.

College honors

• **Olivia Jones** of Galva made the Dean's list (3.5 gpa or better) at Augustana College for the fall 2025 semester.

Galva pre-school screenings March 25-26

GALVA – Galva Elementary School will hold pre-school screenings on March 25 and March 26 for the 2026-2027 school year. To qualify, a child must be 3 by Sept. 1. Parents can get informational packets in the Galva Elementary Office.

Parents will be contacted on a screening time for their child. Any

BRIEFS



New members of the National Junior Honor Society were honored in late February at Bradford Junior High School. From left to right are Kennedy Wall, Cory Stotler, Isley Shafer, Layla Dana, Stella Brady and Alec Barto-Colvin. Photo by Becki Hoffert.

current Pre-K student returning next year to Pre-K will be automatically registered.

For more information, contact Mrs. Ford at mford@galva224.org or Mrs. Murphy at smurphy@galva224.org.

– Carol Townsend

Trivia night to support Levitt Amp concerts

GALVA – The Galva Arts Council will host a trivia night fundraiser on Saturday, March 7, at its headquarters located at 128 Exchange St. in Galva. Doors open at 5 p.m., and trivia begins promptly at 6 p.m. The event is open to all ages.

Teams may consist of up to six players for \$90 per team, or individuals may participate for \$15 per person and be assigned a team upon arrival. Guests are welcome to bring snacks. A silent auction will take place throughout the evening and a winner for the raffle of a drum head signed by every performer at last

year's series will be drawn.

Proceeds will help raise the required matching funds for the Levitt AMP grant that supports the annual concert series.

Galva drama presents 'The Lightning Thief'

GALVA – The Galva Drama Club will perform the musical "The Lightning Thief" at Galva Junior-Senior High School March 20-21.

Based on Rick Riordan's best selling series, The Lightning Thief musical tells the story of Percy Jackson. As the half-blood son of a Greek god, Jackson has newly-discovered powers he can't control, a destiny he doesn't want and a mythology textbook's worth of monsters on his trail.

The Lightning Thief is a dramatic comedy appropriate for all ages. Tickets are \$10 and available at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30 both days.

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TRAPPER: Muskrats not as common now

Continued from Page 1
outdoors called to him as soon as he returned.

Instead of factory work, he decided to trap each fall and winter and spend summers doing drywall work and later painting.

“There was a couple years back there when I made more money just trapping in the winter that I did all year drywalling,” he said.

The most notable period for that was in the late 1970s when a skinned raccoon was worth \$39, coyotes fetched \$49, minks were worth \$54 and a red fox could earn you \$87.50. Even an opossum was worth \$13 during that heyday of trapping fueled by crazy interest rates and an equally crazy economy.

Lots of people became trappers in the late 1970s. Very few stuck with it and even fewer bother today. Davis attended a fur sale in late February when raccoons (some skinned, some stretched) averaged about \$4, coyotes brought \$10 and males mink were \$15, up from recent years.

“I know a half-dozen guys around here who still trap, but they don’t hit it very hard,” Davis said.

Those aren’t the only changes he has witnessed. When he began trapping,

muskrats were more abundant than raccoons. Not today. There were fewer bobcats in the 1960s and no river otters. Now Davis sees both regularly. Coyotes started arriving in the early 1970s and pushed out red foxes. Now coyotes are on a bit of a decline locally, allowing foxes to make a comeback, Davis said.

Since 1980, he has supplied trappers via his Kickapoo Creek Supply business, named because the home he shares with wife Yvonne is near the creek. Davis sells anything you might need to start trapping, including his own scented lures such as “Last Supper” and “Coon Swoon.”

“I was giving some away and a few guys said, ‘You should sell it,’” Davis said. “So I did.”

Along the way, Davis also started traveling to Arkansas, where owners of duck clubs and fish farms welcomed trappers. Davis said fur is much more abundant in Arkansas.

“If you trap mink here and catch 50 in a season, that’s a helluva catch. Down there I could catch 50 mink in a week because there’s so much water.”

Davis also regularly bought fur from other



Scott Davis poses with a year’s catch of more than 600 raccoons in the 1980s. In his 63 years as a trapper, Davis said his best year of raccoon trapping yielded 868.

trappers, including one winter when he took 3,600 raccoons to market, of which 750 were his.

“I knew how to grade them and handle them,” he said. “But I would never buy so many that it interfered with my trapping.”

Since Davis bought many furbearer carcasses, that left the less-enjoyable chores of skinning, scraping and stretching to him – and to his son Bryan. That work was done nearly every winter night when Davis was not attending Bradley University basketball games – his other life-long passion.

“A lot of times by the first of April I’d be ready to stop because I was worn out,” Davis said. “But about a month later I’m

ready to be trapping again.”

His son doesn’t miss all the skinning and stretching, but never got burnt out on trapping, either.

“I still fiddle around with it. I could see it being something I mess around with in the future,” Bryan Davis said. “But I couldn’t do it like he did, all day every day.”

His father can’t anymore, either. But while he didn’t set a trap last season, Scott Davis has plans for this fall and would still like to go west to trap a mountain lion someday.

“If I’m healthy, I’m going to trap,” he said. “You keep learning every year. There’s always something new that happens.”

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Church Directory

Toulon Methodist Church

229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483
Phone (309) 286-2224

Pastor Glenn 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

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211 NW 4th Ave GALVA

Main Service: Sun 10:30

Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor

(309) 932-2713 • GalvaBaptistChurch.com

Wyoming Nazarene Church

517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491

Rev. Shawna Marsh

Sunday School: 10 a.m., All ages • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Prayer & Fellowship 5:30 to 6:30

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

Baby Connection: Wednesday and Thursdays 9 - 11 a.m.
Facebook: Wyoming Naz • Website: www.wyomingnaz.com

First Congregational Church

204 N. 7th St., PO Box 35, Wyoming, IL 61491
(309) 695-4091

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

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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

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St. Timothy Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.

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317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL

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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: 9:00 a.m.

Holy Trinity National Catholic Church

Father John Cramer

716 N. Tremont, Kewanee, IL

Mass - Sat. at 5 p.m., Sun. at 9 a.m., Mon.-Thurs. at 9 a.m.

Rectory Phone: 309-852-5191

Father Cramer Phone: 574-329-9292

Wyoming United Methodist Church

Pastor Rebecca Klemm

302 North Main Street PO Box 287 Wyoming, IL, 61491-0287. 309-606-9027

Email: WyomingUMCPastor@gmail.com

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

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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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OBITUARIES

Gary D. Beall

LACON – Gary Dean Beall, 79, of Lacon, Ill., passed away on Feb. 23, 2026, at Lacon Rehab and Nursing in Lacon.

He was born on March 21, 1946, in Peoria, Ill., to the late Robert and Helen (Fox) Beall. He married Mary Ellen Mooberry on Jan. 20, 1968, in Lacon.

Gary is survived by his wife, Mary Ellen Beall of Henry; daughters Kristie (Robert) Luning of Wenona and Nicole (Scott) Hildebrand of Rosamond; and sister Ruth Hollis of Toulon. His grandchildren include Connor Hildebrand of Germany, Cameron Hildebrand of Rosamond, Erik Luning of Wenona and Kayla Luning of Wenona.

Gary graduated from Sparland High School in 1964, and went on to serve in the U.S. Army. On his return he went to work for Caterpillar Inc., and after a few years, determined factory life was not for him. Gary then went into the carpentry business, working for Francis Robison and Sons, eventually forming Robison and Beall Construction. Known for his craftsmanship and dedication, Gary built several homes, remodeled, and repaired many houses and businesses throughout the Lacon area. Eventually, he found the time to build his own home and helped his daughters remodel theirs.

Gary loved to bowl and could be found at Lacon Lanes in the Thursday night businessman's league for over 20 years. When the grandchildren came along, he enjoyed doing things with them including building contraptions, doing science projects, and assembling many toys (he often thought this was harder than building houses). On occasion, his creativity came out and he made his own Christmas decorations, including a candle with a natural gas flame that won third place in the town decorating contest.

Cremation rites have been accorded and a memorial service will be held at Lenz Memorial Home in Lacon on March 8, 2026, from 2-4 p.m., where all who knew him are welcome to gather, share stories and memories. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests donations be made to Alzheimer's Association in Gary's honor.

Online condolences can be left at lenzmemorialhome.com.

Larry W. Beckstrom

DAHINDA – Larry W. Beckstrom, 75, of Dahinda, Ill., formerly of Erie, Ill., and Wyoming, Ill., died Friday, Feb. 27, 2026, at Betty's Garden Memory Care in Kewanee, Ill.

Services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, March 6, 2026, at Gibson-Bode Funeral Home in Erie. Visitation was to be from 4-7 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home and for one hour prior to the service on Friday. Burial will be in Erie Cemetery. A Celebration of Life will also be held from 2-4 p.m. on Saturday, March 14 at The Watering Hole, Oak Run, Dahinda. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Larry was born Dec. 10, 1950, in Central City, Neb., the son of Vernal and Doris (Wisely) Beckstrom. At

age 3, the family moved to Erie where he graduated from Erie High School in 1969. He went on to attend Eastern Illinois University and was a member of the TKE Fraternity. He also joined the Air Force Reserves in 1970.

Larry married Michele Slocum at the Erie United Methodist Church on June 2, 1979.

He first worked for Tegeler Equipment before being hired at John Deere in the Experimental Department. After 10 years with John Deere, Larry went to work for Caterpillar Inc., retiring with 20 years of service in 2014.

In his earlier years Larry enjoyed snow skiing out west, duck and goose hunting, playing slowpitch softball and coaching his son's sports. His favorite teams were the Chicago Bears and Cubs. He and Michele enjoyed traveling and taking cruises together for many years. His greatest joy was spending time with his family and many friends. His grandchildren and their dog meant the world to him.

He is survived by his wife Michele; son and daughter-in-law, Bryce and Stephanie Beckstrom, Brimfield, Ill.; grandchildren, Aubrie, Brooklyn and Barrett Beckstrom; siblings, Diane Daubard of Erie, Rick (Debra) Beckstrom of Morrison and Gary Beckstrom of Erie; brother-in-law Steve (Kathy) Slocum of Rock Island; several nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews; and his beloved granddog, Fitz. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother-in-law James Daubard.

Share a memory or condolence at www.gibsonbodefh.com.

Judith A. Cobb

BRADFORD – Judith "Judy" Ann Cobb, 86, of Bradford, Ill. passed away on Tuesday, Feb. 24, 2026, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria, surrounded by loved ones.

Judy was born on Jan. 21, 1940, in Kewanee, the daughter of Bliss and Eleanor (Deyo) Harris. She graduated from Bradford High School in 1958. Judy married Jearl C. Cobb on October 14, 1959, in Bradford. She was a past member of the Leet Methodist Church. Judy enjoyed sewing, reading and vacationing with family. Most of all she loved spending time with her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Survivors included her husband of 66 years, Jearl Cobb; three children, Michele (John) Masterson, Kent (Karen) Cobb and Paul (Diana) Cobb all of Bradford; six grandchildren, Michael Cobb, Cara Ewing, Melissa Cobb, Travis Cobb, Chase Johnston and Delaney Johnston; six great-grandchildren, Clea Cobb, Brooks Cobb, Jett Cobb, Madden Cobb, Wren Ewing, Margot Ewing and an additional great-grandchild on the way; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

Judy was preceded in death by her parents and nine siblings.

Visitation was held from 5-7 p.m.

on Friday, Feb. 27, 2026 at Grant-Johnson Funeral Home in Bradford, IL. Funeral Service were to be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 28, 2026, with Pastor Rena Witcher, officiating at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow the services at Osceola Grove Cemetery.

Memorials may be directed to OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

Olive E. Hackwith

KEWANEE – Olive Elizabeth Hackwith, better known as "Liz," passed away on Feb. 23, 2026, at Arcadia Care at Kewanee in Kewanee, Ill., surrounded by family. She was 100 years and four days old.

Liz was born on Feb. 19, 1926, in Kewanee, the daughter of John Olaf and Christinia (Ross) Lindberg. She married J. Wayne Miller in 1944, and together they raised four children, Roger (Carol) of Bradford, Nancy Verbout of Gibson City, Gary (Lorene) of Kewanee, and Steve (Janice) of Hanna City.

Liz later married Phil Hackwith in 1977. He preceded her in death, as did her son, Gary Miller, and an infant son Bobby. She was also preceded in death by one sister, Marguerite VanPelt, as well as her parents.

She is survived by her children; one brother, John R. (Norma Jean) Lindberg of Dahinda, Ill.; eight grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

Liz graduated from LaFayette High School in 1944, attended and graduated from Kewanee Business College, and in later years worked for Lutheran Social Services.

She was a longtime member of Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church of Bradford, was a 50-plus-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star and the American Legion Auxiliary 445; where she spent many hours sewing quilts, stockings and many other articles for veterans. Liz also spent just as much time on rug-rags projects with the United Methodist Women's group of Boyd's Grove.

Funeral services are pending. Cremation rites have been accorded. Burial of cremated remains will be in Toulon Cemetery in Toulon, Ill., at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church of Bradford or your charity of choice.

Richard A. Housh

TOULON – Richard A. Housh, 70, of Toulon, passed away Feb. 22, 2026, at home with his wife by his side.

Richard was born Feb. 26, 1955, in Kewanee, the son of Eddie J. and Judith A. (Foltz) Housh.

He married Linda L. Nicholson on Jan. 3, 1974, in Cambridge. She survives. Richard is also survived by his daughter, Patricia Beth Ryann (Josh) Herget, Anacotes, Wash. and one granddaughter, Arianna Herget, of Anacotes.

Following with Richards wishes, cremation will be accorded and there will be no services at this time.

More obituaries on Page 9



Beall



Beckstrom



Hackwith



Cobb

OBITUARIES

Doris M. Snyder

PRINCEVILLE – Doris Mary Snyder, 92, of Peoria, passed away peacefully surrounded by the love of her family. Born on Feb. 23, 1934, to immigrant parents, Joseph Kraft and Hedwig (Kappes) Kraft, Doris lived a life defined by devotion to her family, quiet strength and faith.

A lifelong resident of Princeville, in her early years, Doris attended Princeville Grade School and Princeville High School.



Snyder

As one of many siblings, she treasured a childhood rich with family, friendships and simple pleasures – Saturday movies, ice cream outings to Bluegreen’s and riding her bicycle around town. She was active in high school band and cheerleading, and during those years she met her future husband, George. They were married on Feb. 12, 1955, at St. Mary of the Woods Roman Catholic Church in Princeville.

As a Navy wife for 20 years, Doris demonstrated remarkable strength and independence. During her husband’s long sea-duty assignments, she capably raised and guided five boys at home, providing stability, discipline and

constant love. One story that captures her spirit is the four-week journey she made across the Pacific Ocean on a troop carrier, traveling with her infant son to join her husband while he was stationed in the Philippines. She shared a small cabin with three other young mothers and their babies, endured rough seas and faced the stifling heat without air conditioning. She never described the journey as hardship – only as what needed to be done. Doris was 22 years old at the time. This story reflects the courage, resilience and unwavering dedication that defined her and so many Navy wives of her generation.

She later became a familiar and beloved presence at Princeville Grade School, where she served as secretary for 16 years. Generations of students, teachers and families knew her for her kindness, steady presence and practical wisdom that helped to keep the school running smoothly.

Doris’ Catholic faith sustained her throughout her life. She enjoyed traveling, made friends quickly, feared storms, could crochet a pair of slippers in less than 30 minutes and lovingly sewed many costumes for her grandchildren.

In her later years, Doris’ greatest happiness came from her growing family. She delighted in

every visit, every milestone and especially in the news that another great-grandchild was on the way. It was during this chapter of her life that she joined the community at Proctor Place Senior Living, where she developed meaningful friendships and frequently expressed appreciation for the kindness and care shown by the management and staff.

She is lovingly remembered by her five sons, Michael (Deb), Steven (Debbie), William (Kari), Robert (Leslie) and Mark (Sonya). She was blessed with many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who brought her endless joy. She is also survived by three siblings, Juliann Shafer, James Kraft and Thomas Kraft.

Doris was preceded in death by her husband, George Snyder; her son Donald; and four siblings, Frank Kraft, Ruth Kraft, Charles Kraft and William Kraft.

Those who knew Doris will remember her as kind yet straightforward, practical yet compassionate and devoted to her family and friends. She was proud of her boys and her ever-growing family. Her legacy lives on in the strength, values and love she instilled in each of them.

Her funeral was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church. The Rev. Corey Krengiel officiated. Burial took place in St.

Mary of the Woods Cemetery in Princeville.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital or St. Mary of the Woods Church.

John A. Anderson

TOULON – John Andrew Anderson, 92, passed away peacefully on Feb. 16, 2026, at Hillcrest Home in Geneseo.

He was born on Sept. 23, 1933, on a colony farm near Bishop Hill, to Helen Maurine Johnson and Julian Warren Anderson. John attended a one-room country school and the Bishop Hill Colony School before graduating from Galva High School.

In 1956, John married Martha Lines. She unfortunately died in 1965 after a battle with cancer.

On March 19, 1966, John married Natalie Nelson, who survives him. Together, they joined their families and built a loving and devoted life.

John restored five historic homes, including the Colony Krusbo House in Bishop Hill. In the early 1990s, he became an active volunteer and later a board member of the Bishop Hill Heritage Association, serving in numerous roles focused on building restoration and maintenance.

He is survived by his wife, Natalie Anderson; his children, Jill (Keith) Gasaway, John An-

derson, Charles (Cassi) Anderson, Steven (Karen) Thompson, and Debbie (Bruce) Borkgren; 13 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren

Services were Feb. 21, 2026, at Rux Funeral Home in Galva. Burial was in Bishop Hill.

Patricia L. Sherman

GALVA – Patricia L. “Pat” Sherman, 95, of Galva, went home to be with her Lord on Feb. 20, 2026.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Friday, Feb. 27, 2026 at Rux Funeral Home in Galva with Pastor Karen Martin officiating. Visitation will be held one hour prior. Burial will be in the Galva Cemetery

She was born Feb. 15, 1931, in Galesburg, the daughter of Forrest C. Stevens and Lillian I. Smith. Survivors include her son Stephen (Amy) Sherman of Eldridge, Iowa; four grandchildren; two great-grandsons; her sister-in-law Verla Stevens, and special caretaker Juana Interrial Sturm. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Scyrril D. Sherman, her daughter Anita G. Sherman and son Richie Sherman.

Pat graduated from LaFayette High School. She married Scyrril D. Sherman on Oct. 18, 1957.

Jim Mercer

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NOTICE

GALVA CEMETERY CLEAN UP WEEK:
All grave blankets, artificial flowers, potted flowers, and all other plants are requested to be removed from the Galva Cemetery by Sunday, March 29, 2026 if relatives wish to save them.

No more flowers should be placed on the graves until Friday, April 3, 2026.

Galva Cemetery Board

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NOTICE TO STARK COUNTY VOTERS

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

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David L. Cover

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123 West Court Street, Toulon, IL (P) 309.645.1632
dcover@coverlawgroup.com www.coverlawgroup.com

PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

A	N	E	M	I	A	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	A	I	O	L	I	S	
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CryptoQuote

answer

The time to relax is when you don't have time for it.
— Sydney Harris

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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3	7	4	6	8	1	2	5	9
2	9	5	8	1	3	7	4	6
7	4	8	5	6	9	1	2	3
6	1	3	7	2	4	8	9	5
5	3	1	4	7	8	9	6	2
4	8	2	9	3	6	5	1	7
9	6	7	1	5	2	3	8	4

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MOWING/TRIMMING BIDS
The Village of LaFayette is accepting bids for mowing and trimming of the village park. Term will be for the 2026 season and should specify cost per time. Contractor must provide proof of insurance with written bid, and supply their own equipment.
Bids must be received by Sunday, April 12, 2026.
Please mail bids to: Village of LaFayette
P.O. Box 116
LaFayette, IL 61449

LEGAL ADS

The Stark County Board
is soliciting candidates for the position of
Fire Protection District Trustee
for all four Stark County Fire Departments.
There is one opening in each of the four fire protection districts
(Bradford, Lafayette, Toulon & Wyoming)
The appointment will be for a term of 3 years to begin May 2026 and
conclude May 2029. The trustee candidate must be 18 years of age or
older and a resident of the fire protection district.
Candidates must not have a felony conviction under the laws of the
State of Illinois or comparable laws of any other states or the
United States or is in arrears in the payment of a tax or other
indebtedness to a fire protection district.
Applications are available on the county website at
www.starkco.illinois.gov
or at the Office of the County Clerk 130 W. Main, Toulon.
Completed applications are due in the
Office of the County Clerk by Monday March 30th.

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 In-
dependent 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 deliv-
ery 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

CLAIM NOTICE
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PROBATE
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF **PATRICK R. KING**, Deceased
CASE NO: 2026PR23
NOTICE is given of the death of **PATRICK R. KING**. Letters of Of-
fice were issued on February 17, 2026, to: **BETHANY ALEXANDER,**
401 w Henry St. Atkinson, IL 61235, as Independent Administrator of
the Estate of **PATRICK R. KING**, deceased, whose attorneys are:
Justin M. Raver
KARLIN RAVER, LLC
101 N TREMONT ST.
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 **September 8, 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 Cir-**
cuit Clerk of this Court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illi-
nois, 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 his Attorney of record, unless the representative
or his 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 Bethany Alexander, Independent Administrator
101 N Tremont St.
Kewanee, IL 61443
DATED: February 23, 2026
Published 3/6, 3/13, 3/20/26

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 publi-
cation 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 admis-
sion, 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 pe-
tition 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF: **Peter L. Wallen**, Deceased
No. 2026PR21
CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)
Notice is given of the death of **Peter L. Wallen**. Letters of Office
were issued on **February 12, 2026**, to **Jeffrey A. Wallen** as Execu-
tor 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 repre-**
sentative, or both on or before **August 28, 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 lim-
ited exemptions.
To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing pro-
vider. 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/ge-](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp)
[thelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp). Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.
Name Barash & Everett, LLC
Attorney for Executor
P.O. Box 165
Galva, IL 61434
Phone(309) 932-2001
Email: everettr@barashlaw.com
Published 3/6, 3/13, 3/20/26

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 ad-
dresses 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

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 City 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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF **NANCY L. DYNES**, Deceased
No. 2026-PR16
CLAIM NOTICE
(Publication)
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were issued on **February 6, 2026**, to **Larry M. Dynes** as Executor
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Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the
court, **Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois** or with the representative,
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Any claim not filed by that date is **barred**. Copies of a claim filed with
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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

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT
OF THE FOURTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT
HENRY COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ESTATE OF: **JOHN WAYNE HUGHES**, Deceased
No. 2026PR27
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(Publication)
Notice is given of the death of **John Wayne Hughes**. Letters of Of-
fice were issued on **February 20, 2026**, to **Samuel Brown Hughes** as
Executor whose attorneys are **Barash & Everett, LLC**.
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ble 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 3/6, 3/13, 3/20/26

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Pols discuss Farm Bill timeline

By **TAMMIE SLOUP**
FarmWeek

House Ag Committee Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson is optimistic farm bill legislation will get to the full House floor this year, with committee markup beginning March 3.

Illinois Farm Bureau members have been an integral piece of moving the legislation forward, Thompson said.

“Thank you for your early investment, coming to the table and identifying what your needs were,” Thompson told attendees of IFB’s Governmental Affairs Leadership Conference Feb. 17 in Springfield.

Those grassroots efforts are what make IFB special, IFB President Philip Nelson told attendees earlier in the day.

Thompson spoke to the more than 400 attendees about the proposed farm bill and took questions from IFB members.

As for the tentative timeline, Thompson said he’s reserved several days for committee farm bill markup, adding House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., “is going to get us floor time.”

The text was released Feb. 13 and includes a legislative fix for California’s Proposition 12.

The legislation, if approved, will be sent to the Senate, with the Senate Ag Com-

mittee putting together their version.

The Farm, Food and National Security Act of 2026 is like the previous farm bill draft released in 2024 that advanced out of committee, with a few key updates. That bill never made it to the full House floor.

Thompson expects debate on the Prop 12 provision as well as text requiring uniformity in pesticide labeling nationally.

Proposed farm bill text clarifies that states and local governments cannot impose a condition on livestock production unless the livestock is physically located within such state or local government.

A provision prohibiting states from requiring pesticide makers to label their packaging in a way that differs from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency guidance also has drawn criticism from some groups.

Illinois Farm Bureau called on members to contact Illinois’ congressional delegation to support the proposed farm bill that will be marked up by the House Ag Committee. The committee was set to begin markup on Monday, Feb. 23, but it was postponed due to weather concerns. Committee markup was expected to take place this week.



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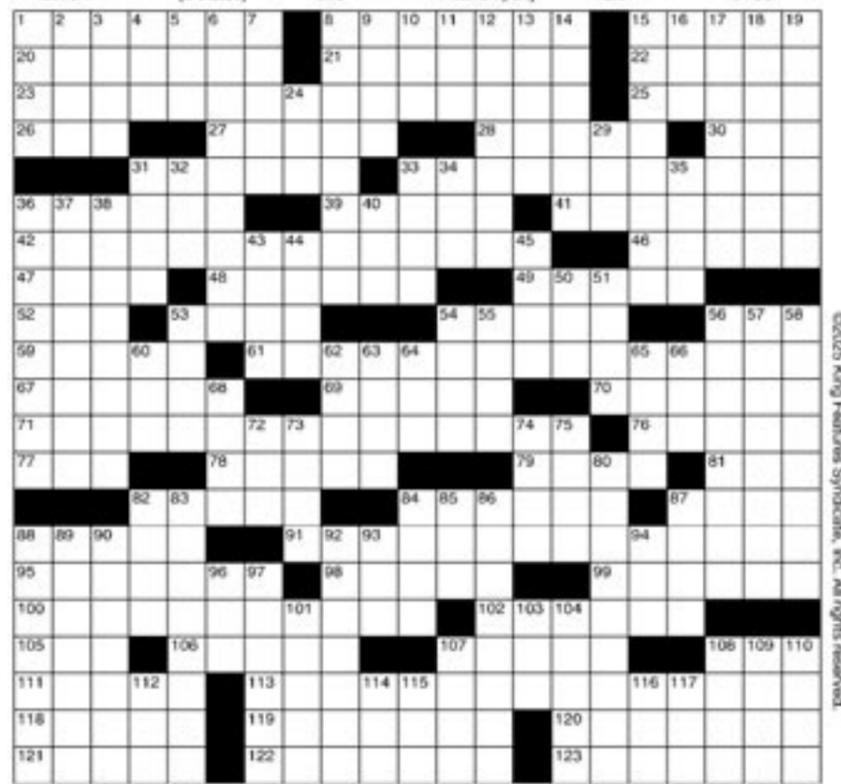
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ANSWERS ON PAGE 6 Super Crossword ONE AND THE SAME

- ACROSS**
- 1 Enchilada alternative
 - 8 Threaten like a mad dog
 - 15 Recurring design
 - 20 Proved to be beneficial to
 - 21 Audrey of “Sabrina”
 - 22 “Magic Bites” author Andrews
 - 23 [Span] [Span]
 - 25 Some spongy balls
 - 26 Morning smes, in brief
 - 27 Astrologer Sydney
 - 28 Films based on rephotage, for short
 - 30 Heavy drinker
 - 31 Musical scale starters
 - 33 [Cogitates] [Cogitates]
 - 36 Severe shock
 - 39 Pear or lime
 - 41 Somber
 - 42 [Criminal] [Criminal]
 - 46 Surrealist painter Max
 - 47 Swiss peaks
 - 48 Ukraine city
 - 49 Having some benefit
 - 52 Pick-up-sticks logic game
 - 53 Lad from London, say
 - 54 Old-time TV announcer Johnny
 - 56 Spike of corn
 - 59 “I — reason why —”
 - 61 [Star] [Star]
 - 67 Reportage on American events
 - 69 Gas station brand
 - 70 Golf great Sorenstam
 - 71 [Residence] [Residence]
 - 76 Old Icelandic poetry books
 - 77 Coast Guard officer. Abbr.
 - 78 Strong winds
 - 79 — and aahs
 - 81 Raised trains
 - 82 Not asleep
 - 84 Obstruct
 - 87 Parisian gal pal
 - 88 Setting
 - 91 [Brotherly] [Brotherly]
 - 95 Bach choral composition
 - 98 Poets’ Muse
 - 99 Pie portions
 - 100 [Dictated] [Dictated]
 - 102 Accessories for cue sticks and blackboards
 - 105 Follower of “http://”
 - 106 Greek epic about Troy
 - 107 Mario’s video game brother
 - 108 Real devotee
 - 111 Jazz singer Cleo
 - 113 [Character] [Character]
 - 118 Snaky curves
 - 119 Attack the integrity of
 - 120 Go in circles
 - 121 Butler played by Gable
 - 122 Foyer sofas
 - 123 For the purpose of diagnosing
 - 8 County officers
 - 9 State east of Wyo.
 - 10 Mo. before May
 - 11 Slugging stat
 - 12 Avoider of high-tech stuff
 - 13 Element #18
 - 14 High, tight sweater collars, briefly
 - 15 Singer of lyric poetry
 - 16 Chilean cheer
 - 17 Process of being twisted
 - 18 Not blurry, as an image
 - 19 Most rapid
 - 24 Scottish cap
 - 29 Purpose
 - 31 Club fees
 - 32 German for “granda”
 - 33 Sushi fish
 - 34 Concealed
 - 35 Metallic string
 - 36 Ooze through pores
 - 37 Trusts in
 - 38 Option lists for e-device downloads
 - 40 Hi — screen
 - 43 Like poems of praise
 - 44 Lavish party
 - 45 Oxidation formation
 - 50 Mattel product
 - 51 Old Cuzco native
 - 53 Play toppings
 - 54 Bicolor whale
 - 55 Roarer in Oz
 - 56 Uncontrolled outbreak
 - 57 Having a pH over 7
 - 58 Appraise again
 - 60 Bird’s beak
 - 62 Wedding veil material
 - 63 Very big birds
 - 64 Conk
 - 65 Low bills
 - 66 Linking word in German
 - 68 Former rival of Nintendo
 - 72 Sturdy wood
 - 73 Symbol on a musical staff
 - 74 Either director of “Fargo”
 - 75 Jedi master
 - 80 They’re called to get assistance
 - 82 Post payment
 - 83 Most fatigued
 - 84 Russia’s — -Tass
 - 85 Came upon
 - 86 Obtains
 - 87 Leaves speechless
 - 88 Giver of an angry look
 - 89 Place to take a dirty vehicle
 - 90 How sausage links are connected
 - 92 Adjust to a situation again
 - 93 Bush press secretary Fleischer
 - 94 “— Tok” (Keshia hit)
 - 96 Phone no.
 - 97 Nike rival
 - 101 intermission
 - 103 That fellow’s
 - 104 Ancient Greek market
 - 107 — majesty (high treason)
 - 108 Manicure tool
 - 109 Off-road trucks, briefly
 - 110 No. in Russia
 - 112 Insect trapper
 - 114 Allow to
 - 115 Start for teen or adolescent
 - 116 Film director DuVernay
 - 117 Large number



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Amber Waves



IT’S FREEZING OUT. ALL THIS WINTER STUFF I BOUGHT ONLINE IS BARELY ENOUGH.

I GAVE THE FELLAS MY CARD NUMBER. THEY CAN’T STILL BE PICKING OUT CLOTHES?

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The Spats



I ONCE CROSSED A FLAMETHROWER WITH A DUCK.

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Weekly SUDOKU

8			4	5	6	7		
	5	6	2		7	4	3	8
3			6		1	2		9
2		5				7		
7						1	2	
				4	8			
5	3		7		9	6	2	
	8				6	5	7	
		7	1				8	4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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FOR ANSWERS, SEE PAGE 14

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L’s, X for the two O’s, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

VDH VMNH VC AHQGB MY
ODHL UCW RCL’V DGZH
VMNH JCA MV.
— YURLHU DGAAMY

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Trivia test by FIS Rodriguez

- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the Acadia National Park?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was an avid dog breeder who gave his hunting hounds funny names like “Sweet Lips” and “Madam Moose”?
- MOVIES: Who is the antagonist of “Shrek” in the first animated movie?
- LITERATURE: What is the pseudonym of the 20th-century author who was born Adeline Virginia Stephen?
- TELEVISION: What’s the family’s last name in the TV sitcom “The Middle”?
- HISTORY: Which famous nurse was known as the Lady with the Lamp?
- GEOGRAPHY: Ringgit is the common currency in which Southeast Asian country?
- ANATOMY: Which human organ stores bile?
- LANGUAGE: What does the Latin phrase “Cogito, ergo sum” mean in English?
- MATH: What is the next prime number after 7?

Answers

- Maine.
- George Washington.
- Lord Maximus Farquaad.
- Virginia Woolf.
- Heck.
- Florence Nightingale.
- Malaysia
- The gallbladder.
- “I think, therefore I am.”
- Eleven (11).

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TOP 10 MOVIES

- GOAT (PG)
- Wuthering Heights (R)
- I Can Only Imagine 2 (PG)
- Crime 101 (R)
- Send Help (R)
- How to Make a Killing (R)
- EPIC: Elvis Presley in Concert (PG-13)
- Solo Mio (PG)
- Zootopia 2 (PG)
- Avatar: Fire and Ash (PG-13)

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The Prairie News Sports



Galva boys drop regional final

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva boys basketball team has made a lot of progress the past few seasons, but this season ended short of its goal.

The Wildcats couldn't overcome 27 points from Griffin White, who led Illini Bluffs to a 55-46 victory Feb. 27 for the championship of the Class 1A Galva Regional. Illini Bluffs (15-19) advanced to the Monmouth Sectional semifinals, where on Tuesday night it lost to Tremont, 49-34.

Galva finished 23-10. That's clearly a long way from the 2022-23 season, when Galva won only twice. But Galva Coach Jake McClintic was disappointed this Wildcats season ended with regional hardware just out of reach.

"It's tough," McClintic said. "At the beginning of the year, our goal was to win a regional championship. To make it there is tough. To win one is even tougher, especially when



Reid Harris looks to pass earlier this season. Harris scored 27 points in Galva's regional final loss last week. Photo by Galva Sports Network.

you haven't had success.

"To come in and change the culture in four years is a pretty big step for us and the players that are graduating this year."

That group includes starters JP Sloan, who this season exceeded 1,000 career points, and Blake Stahl, who in the regional final reached 1,501 career points.

But none of the Galva players could stop White. He made five 3-pointers and shot 58% from the

field.

"We had hands in his face," McClintic said. "We did everything we could, but he just played well."

White did most of his damage after halftime, which began with Galva ahead 26-24. Overall, Reid Harris scored 27 to lead the Wildcats, while Stahl tallied 11 and Brayden Robinson put up 10.

Galva won 22 games last season after it won 10 in 2023-24. Next season shows promise, too. Harris and another regular, MJ Louck, were juniors this season. Louck is 54 points short of 1,000.

"Back-to-back 20-win season and making the regional championship is something to be proud of," McClintic said. "I think we're going to continue this trend. Hopefully the younger kids who watch this growing up will continue to grow the program, and we'll continue to be a force to be reckoned with."

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