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July 3, 2026  
 Vol. 22, No. 24

# The Prairie News

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## The Prairie News being sold to The Kewanee Voice

July 10 edition will be the first for new owners of the weekly free publication

Barring an unexpected last-minute change, this will be the final edition of The Prairie News.

But fret not, a successor paper is on the way. Starting next Friday, July 10, regular readers in Stark and Henry counties will begin receiving The Henry-Stark Voice in their mailboxes each week. In addition to a new name, this weekly paper will have new ownership. Taking over operations are Susan DeVilder, Mike Berry, Sherry “TD” Welch and the rest of the staff and board of directors at The Kewanee Voice.

In case you aren’t already

aware, The Kewanee Voice is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that since May 2023 has compiled a free

digital publication dedicated to serving Kewanee and the surrounding area. The goal of The Voice from its inception was to provide a viable source of news for residents of Henry County, and the staff do that every day. In addition to regu-



Jeff  
**LAMPE**

larly updated online content, The Kewanee Voice puts out occasional print publications each year.

Starting next week, the print side of things will become a larger part of The Voice’s overall mission. Fortunately, they have the background to make it work well. DeVilder has served as a city reporter for the Star Courier, a correspondent for the Bureau County Republican and a contributing editor for The Stark County News. She will be publisher of The Henry-Stark Voice.

Berry started his career in jour-

nalism in 1972 at Kewanee’s Star Courier and worked there until retiring in 2017 (except for a two-year stint at the Quad-City Times). He is publisher of The Kewanee Voice and will help with the new weekly print project.

Given that and the success of their online effort, I’m convinced the paper will be in good hands. The Voice will provide new ideas, fresh blood and a larger reporting staff. The latter is important when figuring out who will cover the meetings, sporting events and other stories that arise

every week. DeVilder tells me one of her first items of business is to bring property transactions back to the public-record section. That will make some people very happy, until they sell a farm and don’t want anyone to know “what it brought.”

The new owners are eager to hear from you. Send well wishes and story ideas to them at [news@henrystarkvoice.com](mailto:news@henrystarkvoice.com) or call (309) 489-2721.

It’s also comforting for me to know that Prairie News Office Manager Pam Wulf will assist in

*Continued on Page 2*

## Boyd’s Grove celebrates 175 years

By **ANGIE STANGE**

For The Prairie News

BRADFORD – Boyd’s Grove United Methodist Church hosted its 175th celebration service last Sunday.

Many of those attending consisted of present and former members of Boyd’s Grove, members of Leet Methodist Church in Bradford and community members.

In addition to scripture readings and hymns, Pastor Dan Wright shared some of his first impressions of Boyd’s Grove before asking the congregation to share their memories of the church. The Rev. Mike Crawford, district superintendent, gave the sermon followed

*Continued on Page 4*

## MR. AND MS. FIRECRACKER



Walter Halsall and Ember Lumpkins were selected as Galva’s Mr. and Ms. Firecracker at Sunday’s Levitt Amp Concert. The pair raised the most money for the July 4 celebration and will ride in the July 4 parade. Walter is the son of Carson and Melissa Halsall and Ember is the daughter of Brandon and Destiny Lumpkins.

## Galva OKs extension for Becker

By **CAROL TOWNSEND**

For The Prairie News

GALVA – The Galva School Board approved an amended budget and extended the contract for retiring Superintendent Joe Becker at its meeting on Monday.

Becker told the board that a \$400,000 deficit in the education fund was caused by paying \$1.3 million to special education last year. Becker said the amount will be reduced by half this coming year. The money was transferred from reserved funds to the education fund.

Becker had given notice to retire several years ago on June 30, 2027. His contract was extended to June 30, 2028, at the meeting. He said the

*Continued on Page 2*



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# The Prairie News

The Prairie News has been published every Friday (except June 12 and Dec. 24) by Lampe Publications LLC, 115 W. Main St., Elmwood, IL 61529. We thank you for your support since 2019.

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- **Galva Correspondent** - Carol Townsend

The Prairie News mailing address is PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529. Hours are Mon. to Thurs., 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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**Deadlines** - News due Tuesdays by 3 p.m. Ads due Mondays by 3 p.m. The Prairie News encourages readers to submit news for publication. Email to: news@prairie-news.com

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# GALVA: '26-27 school personnel approved

*Continued from Page 1*

board asked him to stay another year and he accepted.

In other business, the board approved Kohls for food service and Enyeart as the milk provider.

Principal Adam Norway said the teachers lounge is being painted and new furniture, ice and water machines have been ordered.

The board approved to have three special-education teachers, Sean Robinson, Emily Dulla and Marland Rachel, certified at a cost of \$4,000 apiece. Each teacher will make a two-year commitment to stay in the Galva district.

Becker updated the board on the new drug-testing procedure. In years past, the district has taken a piece of hair from the student. The board approved taking students to the health department in Kewanee for a urine sample beginning next school year, but not all members supported taking students out of school.

Becker said he found someone who would come to the district each month to do the testing. Six students will be tested each month.

The district invited all newly hired teachers in June and showed them their rooms and equipment, and gave them a

tour of Galva and Bishop Hill.

Principal Kurtis Smyth, attending his last school board meeting, said summer school went well and several students took classes to get ahead.

All of the summer projects are getting done. The cafeteria at the Junior-Senior High is being painted and big Wildcats have been painted on the windows near the entrance. New landscaping is being installed, also.

The following personnel were approved for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Kylee Conlin as athletics director.
- Sean Robinson as special-education teacher and Marland Rachel as JH special-education teacher; and Koreen Jurgensen as elementary paraprofessional.
- Taylor McMeekan as JH girls track coach; Joe Conner and Jeff Burke as volunteer coaches for the HS trap shooting team;

- Amanda Norway as the HS Scholastic Bowl coach; Greg Jurgenson as volunteer bass fishing coach; Lexi Morse as the JH cheerleading coach; Jilian Rodseth as the head play director; Kylee Robins as the JH/HS dance coach; Josh Harris as the girls varsity basketball coach; Rachel Remmert as JH head softball coach; Daymon McDowell as JH assistant softball coach; Branson Owens as HS head baseball coach; Jared Clark as HS assistant baseball coach.
- Accepted the resignations of Brad Jackson as varsity girls basketball coach and Brynn Schipper as JH girls basketball coach.
- Approved Carol Kitterman as an RTI paraprofessional.
- Approved the resignation of Anna Olson as 6th-grade teacher.
- Approved the disposal list.

# VOICE: Legacy dates to 1800s

*Continued from Page 1*

the transition and Ken Black will join The Voice staff, as will Danny Blakey, our venerable ambassador of goodwill and head of transportation.

As for me, we will continue to publish The Weekly Post, our other newspaper based out of Elmwood. With the last boy headed to the Univer-

sity of Illinois in a few weeks, there's no chance for retirement just yet. I'm very grateful for the support of our advertisers in Stark and Henry counties over the past seven years. It is thanks to them that this paper is mailed for free every week and continues a legacy that dates to the 1800s.

As former publisher Jim

Nowlan is proud to recall, his family operated The Stark County News from 1897 until 1964 in Toulon. Nowlan then resurrected the paper in 2000 and acquired The Prairie Shopper from veteran newspaper man Bud McKirgan of La-Fayette. Those papers were merged into The Prairie News in 2018 and we took over in 2019.

Given the current state of the print industry, I was uncertain what the future might hold for this publication. During meetings to discuss the sale, it was exciting to be around people who understand that weekly newspapers still have a vital role to play ... and can still serve advertisers and readers.

Like you, I look forward to seeing what The Henry-Stark Voice will become.

Contact Jeff Lampe at (309) 231-6040 or jeff@wklypost.com.

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## All Residents of Milo Township, Bureau County are invited!

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence was signed in Philadelphia, PA and sent to the printers. Printed copies were then sent to all the towns to be read to the population on July 8, 1776.

At 5 PM CDT on Wednesday, July 8, 2026, Milo Township will hold a reading of the Declaration of Independence at the Milo Township Hall, 14209 300 North Ave Bradford, IL. After which Hotdogs, drinks, chips & cake will be available.

All around the World, but especially in the USA, in all States, its possessions, territories and other holdings, it will also be read simultaneously (together) at times corresponding to 5 PM CDT. Be a part of this historic reading!

**Please arrive early to be there when it is read, exactly at 5 PM CDT.**

NEW LISTING!

**608 NW 5th Ave., Galva - \$172,500**  
2 bedroom/ 1 bath Ranch home. Completely remodeled! 1-car attached garage / Generac Generator.

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**115 Lyle St., - Kewanee**  
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**2932 Illinois Route 17, Galva - \$367,000**  
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## PUBLIC RECORD

### Incidents & Accidents Stark County

**6-19** - Lakshmisal Devalanka, 32, Dunlap, was cited for speeding 77 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-19** - Morgan L. Dunkle, 24, Creve Coeur, was ticketed for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-19** - Isabella L. Gray, 30, Canton, was ticketed for speeding 62 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-19** - Annalise T. Evans, 20, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 76 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-19** - Zachary R. Pawelczyk, 19, Streater, was ticketed for speeding 70 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-20** - Kayla C. Warner, 35, Pekin, was cited for speeding 75 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-20** - Justin M. Warner, 18, Bradford, was cited for 81 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-20** - Ervin Mendoza, 23, Moline, was ticketed for speeding 76 mph in a 55 zone, operating an uninsured vehicle and driving while his license was suspended. His vehicle was impounded and he was released with a court date to appear.

**6-20** - Devin O. Duncan, 44, Toulon, was ticketed for driving without a valid registration. His vehicle was impounded, and he was issued a court date to appear.

**6-20** - Tammy L. Quick, 53, East Peoria, was cited for speeding 74 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-20** - David A. Closen, 21, Kewanee, was cited for speeding 71 mph in a 45 zone.

**6-20** - Jaime Radilla, 18, no address available, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-20** - Richard D. Schlegel, 70, Toulon, was cited for driving without vehicle insurance.

**6-20** - Catrell L. Reed, 19, no address available, was ticketed for speeding 73 mph in a 55 zone and for illegal transportation of alcohol by a driver. A 17-year-old passenger was also cited at the same traffic stop for illegal possession of alcohol.

**6-21** - Jason M. Johnson, 19, Galva, was ticketed for speeding 85 mph in a 55 zone and for operating an uninsured vehicle.

**6-22** - A 17-year-old Kewanee teen was ticketed for driving without a valid driver's license. He was issued a court date to appear.

**6-22** - Alan L. Longest, 63, no address available, was ticketed for driving on an expired registration.

**6-22** - Kyle R. Harris, 30, no address available, was cited for speeding 78 mph in a 55 zone, operating an uninsured vehicle and driving on an expired registration.

**6-22** - Jeffrey D. Halbach, 46, no address available, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-22** - Grant E. Moore, 34, Burbank, Calif., was cited by the Bradford Police Department for driving on an expired registration.



**6-24** - Robert J. Forbes, 73, Bradford, was ticketed for speeding 71 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-24** - Tyler A. Brian, 31, Elmwood, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-24** - Ryan M. Ziegler, 36, Evansville, Ind., was cited for speeding 76 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-24** - Barbara A. Hacker, 62, Milledgeville, was cited for speeding 79 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-25** - Malinda S. Carley, 43, Toulon, was cited for speeding 80 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-26** - Aric J. Black, 20, Belleview, was cited for speeding 72 mph in a 55 zone.

**6-26** - William T. Vick III, 26, Houston, Texas, 26, was ticketed for driving on a suspended registration for non-insurance and for driving without vehicle insurance. His vehicle was impounded, and he was issued a court date to appear.

**6-27** - Mary E. Martin, 67, Sterling, was cited for speeding 73 mph in a 55 zone.

### Galva Report

#### Officer dispatched:

**6-20** - to U.S. Route 34 east of town to assist a motorist whose vehicle appeared to be broken down. The subject was fine and was able to continue driving.

**6-20** - to the 400 block of NW 1st St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was located and impounded. It was later returned after the owner contacted police.

**6-20** - Officer assisted the ambulance lift a patient on SW 4th Ave.

**6-21** - to the 300 block of NE 6th St. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog ran into a nearby corn field and was not captured.

**6-21** - Officer assisted the ambulance lift a patient on SW 4th Ave.

**6-21** - Officer assisted the ambulance lift a patient on SE 3rd St.

**6-22** - to City Hall to speak to a subject who appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

**6-22** - to the 100 block of NW 5th St. for a loose-dog complaint. Officer was not able to locate the dog.

**6-22** - to the 500 block of SW 4th St. for a complaint involving an attempted phone scam.

**6-22** - As the result of a traffic stop in the 500 block of NE 2nd St., Alisha Woodson, 46, Peoria, was arrested for driving while license suspended. She was later released with a required court date.

**6-22** - to the 900 block of W. Division St. for a verbal disturbance between neighbors.

**6-22** - to the 2300 block of Commercial St. for a civil stand by to retrieve property.

**6-23** - Officer was notified about a vehicle repossession that was taking place in the 100 block of SW 6th St.

**6-23** - to assist Henry County with a complaint involving bones found in a plastic bag located in the ditch along Hayes Road near 1950 East. Officer checked the remains and determined that they were deer bones that had been dumped there.

**6-23** - to the 700 block of NE 1st Ave. for a solicitor complaint. Officer learned no permits had been issued, but was not able to locate the subject.

**6-23** - While patrolling, officer located a license plate in the roadway. The plate was returned to its owner.

**6-24** - to the west edge of town to watch for a reckless-driving complaint. Officer was not able to locate.

**6-24** - to the 300 block of SE 7th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. Officer did not locate the dog.

**6-25** - to the 800 block of NW 7th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog was impounded.

**6-25** - Officer met with a resident at city hall about an ongoing neighbor dispute.

**6-25** - to the 400 block of NW 11th St. for a wild-animal complaint involving a baby raccoon. The complainant was referred to a wildlife-removal company.

**6-26** - to the 300 block of Swank St. for a complaint involving two loose dogs. The dogs were impounded and later released to their owner, who lives several miles south of Galva.

**6-26** - to the 300 block of SW 3rd St. to assist a citizen with questions about an ordinance violation letter.

**6-26** - to the 400 block of NW 2nd Ave. for a juvenile-mischief complaint.

**6-27** - to the 300 block of SE 2nd St. for a verbal domestic dispute with a juvenile.

**6-27** - to the 100 block of SW 10th Ave. for several complaints of illegal fireworks.

**6-28** - to the 400 block of NE 1st St. for a possible prowler complaint. Officer was not able to locate anyone.

**6-28** - to the 600 block of N. Center Ave. for an intoxicated pedestrian laying on a terrace. The subject refused medical care and ultimately walked home safely.

**6-28** - to the 00 block of NE 1st Ave. for a prowler complaint. Officer was not able to locate anyone.

**6-28** - to the area around Wiley Park for a solicitor complaint. No permits were issued, but officer was not able to locate the subject.

**6-28** - to the east edge of town to assist Fulton County with a missing-person report after the vehicle was seen on a traffic camera. Officer did not locate.

We would like to extend a loving thank you to our children **Greg, Katy, Rhonda** and **Carl** for hosting a surprise **60th wedding anniversary party**. The love of our family showed in the planning, decorations and food. Thank you to our granddaughter **Paige** for baking and decorating a small replica of our wedding cake. The picture collages reminded us of our blessings of family. We would like to thank everyone for the cards, gifts and your presence at the party. God has richly blessed us.

**-Danny & Sandy Blakey**

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**BRIEFS**

**College honors**

• **Lauren Best** of Wyoming, made the President's List (4.0 gpa or better) for two consecutive terms at Iowa State University during the spring 2026 semester. Best is majoring in industrial engineering.

**Creative Commons wins Music in Action grant**

**BISHOP HILL** – Bishop Hill Creative Commons, an independent music venue and artist cooperative owned and operated by the nonprofit organization Crossroads Cultural Connections, has been selected, along with 29 other venues, as a recipient of Live Music Society's 2026 Music in Action Grant.

The Live Music Society awarded a combined \$844,000 to support artist

residencies, mentorship programs, educational initiatives, festivals, accessibility projects, audience development efforts and other programs that strengthen the relationship between venues and their communities.

With support from the grant, Crossroads Cultural Connections will launch The Prairie Sound Residency, a new project that will bring established artists to Bishop Hill for a combination of public performances, youth outreach activities, and mentorship opportunities for emerging musicians.

The Bishop Hill Creative Commons is located at 309 N. Bishop Hill St. and was formed in 2018. The space has welcomed musicians and audiences from around the globe.

Recent investments include a new

heating and air-conditioning system, exterior siding work, interior improvements and upgrades to sound and lighting equipment.

**Henry, Stark health departments at fair**

**WYOMING** – The Henry and Stark County Health Departments have a special outreach display on July 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Concessions Building at the Stark County Junior Fair, located at 310 Diagonal St. Staff will offer:

- Free intake and disposal of expired/unused medications.
- Free blood-pressure checks.
- Giveaways and health information

A Get Covered Illinois insurance navigator will also be available.

**BOYD'S GROVE: Church dedicated in 1921**

*Continued from Page 1*

by musical selections from church members Steve and Boo Graham. Allen Piper was honored as the church member who has belonged to Boyd's Grove the longest, 73 years.

Boyd's Grove Methodist Church has a history rich in faith and community spirit. Boyd's Grove is located 4 miles east of Bradford in Milo Township in southern Bureau County.

The official church was established in 1851 when six families, who had been holding meetings in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T.R. Capperune, agreed to organize a church. After several months, the new church building was built at a cost of \$800. The name was taken from the settlement just to the north called Boyd's Grove. The first pastor was J.L. Wilson.

On Aug. 27, 1919, the original church was struck by lightning and destroyed. The present church was dedicated on Sunday, June 19, 1921, at a cost of \$20,500. When the new cement-block church was built, it had a Delco light plant instead of a gas light. In 1939, electricity replaced the Delco plant.

In 1951, a new Hammond electric organ was



*Pictured above are Allen and Kay Piper. Allen was honored for his 73 years of membership at the church, the longest among members.*

gifted and installed in the church in time for its 100th anniversary celebration.

In July of 2019, a dehumidifier in the furnace room heated up and caught on fire, pouring black smoke throughout the building. A major cleaning and updates to the building followed. Between money-making events and personal pledges, many more updates, improvements and repairs have been made over the years.

The Ladies Aid Society of the church's earlier years was well known for its money-making projects to pay off church debts.

Events involved the nearby communities as neighbors for miles in all directions sent their threshers to the church for dinners. There were ice-cream socials, bazaars,

fried chicken dinners and more, all of which helped financially and brought community members together.

In 1940 the Women's Society of Christian Service was established. The organization aided missionary work throughout the world and assisted local charities and youth projects.

The church building has been an asset to the community by offering a meeting place for various groups, including the 4H club and Boy Scouts.

The Boyd's Grove congregation has been active in the Bradford Food Pantry and established a Back Pack program through which qualifying children receive each Friday of the school season a main meal, a breakfast item and a fruit item to help meet their nutritional needs over the weekend.

Sunday school has always been an important part of Boyd's Grove with the annual Christmas program being a special event. In 2020, after Covid brought restrictions which threatened to cancel the Christmas program, several members of the congregation decided a Live Nativity could solve the di-

lemma. The Grunloh farm was the perfect location, as previous Christmas plays had already been performed there.

The Live Nativity was a great success and is held each year on the Saturday following Thanksgiving with attendance increasing each year. Proceeds have been divided among three local ventures, the Kaden Wall Scholarship Fund, the Bradford Community Food Pantry, and the Bradford Betterment Committee.

In 2023, the women's group officially changed its name to the United Women of Faith. Their list of contributions to their church, community and beyond is extensive as many of the traditional programs and activities that were once referred to as Boyd's Grove Church are done by this group.

Within the Bradford community they have helped fund or contributed to the Mound Cemetery Restoration, Christmas boxes, the Bradford Public Library lift and bathroom remodel, Labor Day activities and more.

Boyd's Grove United Methodist Church and Leet Memorial Methodist in Bradford share Pastor Dan Wright.

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## OBITUARIES

### Michael Curry

WYOMING – Michael “David” Curry, 61, of Wyoming, passed away at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at his home.

David was born April 18, 1965, in Peoria to John Ewen and Donita (Swanson) Curry. David, who attended Sparland High School, married Betty (Boseke) Johnson on May 30, 1998, at Elmwood United Methodist Church.

David is survived by his wife; his mother; three children, Amanda Curry of East Peoria, Brandy Sartin of Yates City and Colt (Samantha) Wilcoxon of Woodhull; one brother, James Curry; four sisters, Maria “Kim” Hastings, Gabby Curry,

Debby Seguin and Stephanie McWhirter; and five grandchildren, James Wilcoxon, Amaryliss Stillwell, Clover Rogy, Bentley Mackey and Jaxson Mackey.

David was preceded in death by his father and one brother, Christopher Curry.

David was a truck driver for West Jersey Express and Summit Gold. Betty and David were members of the Allendale Conservation Club. He enjoyed fishing and camping with his wife and spending time with his grandchildren.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. on Friday, July 3, 2026, at Oaks-Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood. A visitation will be held from 1-2 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will immediately follow in Elmwood Township Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Gift of Hope.

To watch David’s video tribute or to leave online condolences, visit [www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com](http://www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com).

Oaks-Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood is in charge of arrangements.

### William E. VanWaes

William “Bill” Eugene VanWaes passed away on Friday, June 26, 2026, at OSF Saint Luke’s. He was born on Aug. 18, 1945, the son of Floyd “Flip” A. and Daisy Belle Jones VanWaes in Kewanee.

He served in the Army from 1963-65. Bill was an award-winning car salesman. In retirement, Bill opened B&B vintage bicycles in Kewanee with brother-in-law Bill Brackett.

Bill is survived by his children, Shelli Hummrich (John) of Lincoln, N.C., Shad VanWaes of Arizona; Traci VanWaes of Princeton and Amber Burress (Andrew) of Orange Park, Fla.; nine grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.



Curry



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### David L. Cover

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Scan to schedule an appointment.  
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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.  
[www.facebook.com/Elmirachurch1852](http://www.facebook.com/Elmirachurch1852)

### The Gathering Church

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

### 1st Congregational Church of Toulon

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

### Galva Congregational Church

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

### First Baptist Church

*"faith in truth"*  
211 NW 4th Ave GALVA  
Main Service: Sun 10:30  
Rev. Bryan Griem, Pastor  
(309) 932-2713 • [GalvaBaptistChurch.com](http://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](http://www.wyomingnaz.com)

### First Congregational Church

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

### Toulon First Baptist Church

110 W. Jefferson St. Toulon • (309) 286-4611  
Sunday School 9 a.m. • Worship 10 a.m.  
Sunday Youth Group 5-7 p.m.  
Wednesday Kid's Club 5:30-7 p.m.  
Wednesday Virtual Prayer Meeting 7 p.m.  
Email: [pastor@toulonbaptist.com](mailto:pastor@toulonbaptist.com)  
[www.ToulonBaptist.com](http://www.ToulonBaptist.com)  
[www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon](http://www.facebook.com/FirstBaptistChurchToulon)  
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](http://allsaintsil.com)

### Galva Messiah Lutheran Church (ELCA)

317 SW Third Street, Galva, IL  
Casual, family friendly Rev. Randy Swanson (interim)  
Wednesday: 4:30 p.m. "See Through the Scriptures" Bible Study,  
5:30 p.m. Worship (in Luther Hall)  
Sunday: Worship: 9 a.m.  
Contact: [messiahlutherangalva@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:preachinghope@gmail.com) • [galvafirst@gmail.com](mailto:galvafirst@gmail.com)  
Sunday Worship: 9 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

### St. Dominic Catholic Church of Incarnation Parish

303 N Galena Ave - Wyoming, IL - 309-385-2578  
[officeic25@gmail.com](mailto:officeic25@gmail.com) - [incarnationcatholic.org](http://incarnationcatholic.org)  
Mass Times: Saturdays 5 p.m. in Brimfield  
Sundays 8AM in Wyoming - 9 a.m. & 11:30 a.m. in Princeville  
Religious Education - 10 a.m. Sunday Mornings

### 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](mailto: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](http://www.bradfordacchurch.org); [info@bradfordacchurch.org](mailto:info@bradfordacchurch.org)

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Answer

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

### CryptoQuote answer

I say if I'm beautiful.  
I say if I'm strong.  
You will not determine  
my story – I will.  
— Amy Schumer

# Farmland assessment changes in store

By HANNAH SPANGLER

FarmWeek

Farmland values could level off and eventually decline under changes to the state's Farmland Assessment Act included in the budget package signed June 16 by Gov. JB Pritzker.

Public Act 104-0468 extends the vegetative filter-strip assessment, adjusts the income-capitalization rate and makes other technical updates to the Farmland Assessment Act. Originally introduced and supported by Illinois Farm Bureau as SB4202, sponsored by Sen. Mark Walker, D-Arlington Heights, and HB5773, sponsored by Rep. Larry Walsh Jr., D-Joliet, the legislative provisions were passed by the Gen-

eral Assembly at the end of the spring legislative session in SB3019.

The changes reflect a collaborative effort by the Farmland Assessment Technical Advisory Board (FATAB), which includes the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences at the University of Illinois, the Chief County Assessment Officers Association and the Department of Revenue.

Unlike residential, commercial or industrial property, Illinois farmland is assessed based on its income-earning potential, IFB Director of Local Government Programs Brenda Matherly explained. That potential is calculated using a state-wide formula that incorporates

commodity prices, input costs and a capitalization rate – a factor in the formula that converts a farm's income potential into an assessed value for tax purposes – tied to long-term farm mortgage interest rates.

This year, IFB set a state and local government priority to adjust how that formula impacts the taxable value of farmland. "The changes included in this legislation did just that," Matherly told FarmWeek.

The new law places guardrails around the capitalization rate by requiring three percentage points to be added to the published rate. If the adjusted rate falls below 8%, it will default to 8%. If it exceeds 10%, it will be capped at 10%.

## LEGAL ADS

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

ESTATE OF DONNA JACOBSON, Deceased  
No. 2026 PR 63

#### CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Donna Jacobson. Letters of Office were issued on June 11, 2026, to Christina I. Acosta as Independent Representative whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of court, Henry County Courthouse, Cambridge, Illinois, or with the representative, or both, on or before December 21, 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 service provider. Visit: <http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm> to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit: <http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp>, or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
Attorney for Executor  
211 W. 2nd St.  
Kewanee, IL 61443  
(309) 852-5555

Published 6/26, 7/3, 7/10/26

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

ESTATE OF LESA K. GRIFFIN a/k/a LESA K. HAYDEN, Deceased  
No. 2026PR65

#### CLAIM NOTICE (Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Lesa K. Griffin. Letters of Office were issued on June 16, 2026 to Sharon Larson as Administrator whose attorneys are Barash & Everett, LLC.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the office of the clerk of the court, Henry County, Cambridge, Illinois or with the representative, or both on or before December 16, 2026.

Any claim not filed by that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney within 10 days after it has been filed. E-filing is now mandatory for documents in civil cases with limited exemptions. To e-file, you must first create an account with an e-filing provider. Visit [efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm](http://efile.illinoiscourts.gov/service-providers.htm) to learn more and to select a service provider. If you need additional help or have trouble e-filing, visit [www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp](http://www.illinoiscourts.gov/FAQ/gethelp.asp). Or talk with your local circuit clerk's office.

Barash & Everett, LLC  
Attorney for Executor  
P.O. Box 165  
Galva, IL 61434  
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Email: [everetr@barashlaw.com](mailto:everetr@barashlaw.com)

Published 6/26, 7/3, 7/10/26

### IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Lilly J. Bays, Plaintiff,  
and Trenton D. Hainline, Defendant No.2026OP2

#### NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

Notice is given you, Trenton D. Hainline, Defendant, that this cause has been commenced against you in this Court asking for a Plenary Order of Protection and other relief.

Unless you file your response or otherwise file your appearance in this cause in the office of the Circuit Clerk of Stark County, Courthouse, Toulon, Illinois, on or before the 7th day of August, 2026, a Plenary Order of Protection and other relief may be granted as prayed for by the plaintiff.

Julie A. Kenney, Circuit Clerk

Published 6/26, 7/3, 7/10/26

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JAMES COLLISTER, Deceased  
CASE NO: 2026PR62

#### CLAIM NOTICE

NOTICE is given of the death of JAMES COLLISTER. Letters of Office were issued on June 25, 2026, to: TAMMY S. NATOF, 315 N Main St. Rio, Illinois 61472, as Independent Administrator of the Estate of JAMES COLLISTER, 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 January 2, 2027, 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: June 25, 2026

Published 7/3, 7/10, 7/17/26

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The City of Toulon will hold a public hearing on Monday, July 13, 2026, at 5:30 p.m., at Toulon Fire Department, 420 N Franklin St., Toulon, IL 61483, to provide interested parties an opportunity to express their views on the proposed federal funded Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. Persons with disabilities or non-English speaking persons who wish to attend the public hearing and need assistance, should contact the North Central Illinois Council of Governments (NCICG), 613 W Marquette St., Ottawa, IL (815) 433-5830 no later than July 8, 2026. Every effort will be made to make reasonable accommodations for these persons.

On or about August 27, 2026, the City of Toulon intends to apply to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for a grant from the State CDBG program. This program is funded by Title 1 of the federal Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended. These funds are to be used for a community development project that will include the following activities: grant administration, construction supervision, and housing rehabilitation of 10 owner-occupied, single-family homes within the city limits of Toulon, IL. The total amount of CDBG funds to be requested is \$800,000. The amount of CDBG funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit low-to-moderate income persons is \$800,000. The City of Toulon also proposes to expend \$20,000 in non-CDBG funds on the project. The \$20,000 non-CDBG funds will be derived from the City's General Fund.

Information related to this project will be available for review prior to the public hearing as of July 6, 2026 at the Toulon City Hall, 122 N Franklin St., Toulon, IL 61483, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Interested citizens are invited to provide comments regarding these issues either at the public hearing or by prior written statement. Written comments should be submitted to NCICG no later than July 13, 2026 in order to ensure placement of such comments in the official record of the public hearing proceedings. A plan to minimize displacement and provide assistance to those displaced has been prepared by the City of Toulon and is also available to the public. The project will result in no displacement of any persons or businesses. For additional information concerning the proposed project, please contact Connie Buchanan or Mike Vennardi, (815) 433-5830, or write to NCICG, 613 W. Marquette St. Ottawa, IL 61350

Larry Hollis, Toulon Mayor

Published 7/3/26

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Jim Andrews Service Tech

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING On Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of Wyoming Public Library District

Notice is hereby given to the Public that on August 4, 2026, at the hour of 6:30 P.M. at the Wyoming Public Library, 119 North Seventh Street, Wyoming, Illinois, a public hearing will be held on the annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Wyoming Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. Any person interested in said budget and ordinance may be present at said time and place and may be heard in regard to the budget and ordinance. The tentative budget is now on file with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Wyoming Public Library District, at the Library office and may be reviewed upon request prior to said hearing by the Public.

Secretary, Board of Trustees Date: July 3, 2026  
Wyoming Public Library District  
119 North Seventh Street  
Wyoming, IL 61491  
(309) 695-2241

Published 7/3/26

### LEGAL NOTICE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING On Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance of the Galva Public Library District

Notice is hereby given to the Public that on August 11, 2026, at the hour of 7:00 P.M. at the Galva Public Library located at 120 NW 3rd Avenue, Galva, IL 61434 a public hearing will be held on the annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for the Galva Public Library District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 and ending June 30, 2027. Any person interested in said budget and ordinance may be present at said time and place and may be heard in regard to the budget and ordinance. The tentative budget is now on file with the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Galva Public Library District, at the Library office and may be reviewed upon request prior to said hearing by the Public.

Secretary, Board of Trustees Date: July 3rd, 2026  
Galva Public Library District  
120 NW 3rd Avenue  
Galva, Illinois 61434

Published 7/3/26

# Farm bankruptcies continue to increase

By TARA SUN

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD—With the growing season well underway in Illinois, farmers once again are struggling to turn an abundant harvest into survival.

In 2025, family farm bankruptcies surged 46% nationwide – reaching 315 filings and marking the third consecutive year of increases. The midwest recorded 121 filings in 2025 – up 70% from the prior year.

The trend has only accelerated. In April alone this year, 62 Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies were filed nationwide – a 130% jump from the prior year and the highest monthly total since February 2020. The USDA projects total farm debt will rise 5.2% to a record \$624.7 billion in 2026, with 330 bankruptcy cases filed.

“I’m scared about there being a real farm crisis,” said Eliot Clay, executive director of the Association

of Illinois Soil and Water Conservation Districts. “This could come down to people being able to save their farms – just knowing that they could put it into some conservation easement or something. Like, they need anything that they can get.”

For Illinois, the crisis is playing out as lawmakers just finished a budget session that delivered few meaningful results for an industry under siege. Gary Asay, who has farmed in Illinois since 1976 and sold crop insurance for more than 20 years, sees clear reasons to worry.

“The increase in the number of bankruptcies and the increased buying of higher-level crop insurance are both signs of the stress that’s in the industry,” Asay said. “Farmers are under stress. They may be having to borrow more money. Therefore, they want more protection.”

Crop insurance, he pointed out, can’t fully

protect farmers from losses. The most common policy, Revenue Protection, covers only up to 85% of projected revenue.

In 2025, U.S. soybean production totaled 4.26 billion bushels, with the average yield per acre estimated at a record 53.0 bushels. Illinois alone harvested more than 639 million bushels.

In February 2025, the U.S. imposed a 10% tariff on Chinese products. China – once the world’s largest buyer of U.S. soybeans – stopped purchasing U.S. crops. Last September marked the first month since 2018 that imports from the U.S. fell to zero, according to China’s General Administration of Customs.

Farmers had entered the 2025 season with a smaller safety net after the pro-

jected price for crop-insurance guarantees fell by 8.7% that year. The drop meant less protection heading into spring planting. But because yields were high, most farms still generated revenue above their guaranteed floor. Although farmers grew plenty, they sold every bushel for less than it cost to produce.

“A lot of farmers cannot sell their corn or soybeans at a profit right now, just because the price is so low,” Asay said.

Bankruptcies in agriculture rarely follow a single bad year. For U.S. farmers, the financial squeeze began well before 2025.

Real estate debt – tied to the land farmers rent or own – is expected to reach \$404.3 billion in 2026, a reflection of the high cost of farmland that has squeezed so many operators.

## MSW Projects, Marshall-Stark Public Transportation

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### Stark County Regular Van Schedule for July

**Monday, July 6 - Individual Transports Available - Call (309) 364-2287**

**Monday, July 13 - Individual Transports Available - Call (309) 364-2287**

**Monday, July 20 - Individual Transports Available - Call (309) 364-2287**

**Monday, July 27 - Individual Transports Available - Call (309) 364-2287**

**Thursday, July 2 - NO DRIVER**

**Thursday, July 9 - KEWANEE - Bradford 8:40, Wyoming 8:55, Toulon 9:10**

**Thursday, July 16 - PRINCETON - Pick up Toulon 8:40, Wyoming 8:55, Bradford 9:10**

**Thursday, July 23 - KEWANEE - Pick up Toulon 8:40, Wyoming 8:55, Bradford 9:10**

**Thursday, July 30 - GALESBURG - Pick up Toulon 8:40, Wyoming 8:55, Bradford 9:10**

**Please Note:**  
The van will leave the destination city at 2:30 p.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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## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



HEY THERE, LITTLE GUY! DO YOU KNOW HOW LUCKY YOU ARE?

YOU CAN JUST UP AND FLY AWAY ANYTIME YOU GET SCARED, HUNGRY, OR JUST PLAIN BORED.

YEAH, SHOULD'VE SEEN THAT COMING.

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering




MARRIAGE IS NOT A WORD...

...IT'S A SENTENCE

## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW TO OPERATE THE PHONE. I THINK IT'S CALLED A "SMARTPHONE" BECAUSE IT REALLY MAKES YOU FEEL DUMB.

**GRIN & BEAR IT**

"I object! Counsel is leading the witness!"

## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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 6

## 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.

H YUO HP H'W JZUMXHPMT.  
H YUO HP H'W YXDNGQ.  
ONM CHTT GNX LZXDWHGZ  
WO YXNDO - H CHTT.  
- UWO YBVMWZD

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1. MOVIES: Who was the only actress to appear in the 1961 and 2021 film versions of "West Side Story"?
2. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the most letters in its name?
3. SCIENCE: What protects the Earth from solar winds?
4. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bar in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"?
5. U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop?
6. LITERATURE: What are the names of the two brothers in the "Hardy Boys" novel series?
7. LANGUAGE: What is a polyglot?
8. FOOD & DRINK: Which herb is most often used in traditional pesto?
9. ANATOMY: Membranes called pleurae cover the surface of which human organs?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of South Korea?

**Answers**

1. Rita Moreno.
2. September.
3. The magnetosphere, an invisible magnetic bubble generated inside the Earth.
4. Paddy's Pub.
5. Vermont.
6. Frank and Joe.
7. A person who speaks several languages.
8. Basil.
9. The lungs.
10. Seoul.

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## TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Toy Story 5 (PG)
2. Disclosure Day (PG-13)
3. Obsession (R)
4. Backrooms (R)
5. Scary Movie (R)
6. Masters of the Universe (PG-13)
7. Star Wars: The Mandalorian and Grogu (PG-13)
8. The Death of Robin Hood (R)
9. Leviticus (R)
10. Michael (PG-13)

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**INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**POLISH MEAL**  
**JULY 4, 2026**



**Large Polish Sausage, Bun Only \$12.00**  
**Kraut (Optional) (Includes Soda Pop)**  
**3 Pierogi** (Add extra Sausage Sandwiches \$6.00 Each)

NO OTHER EXTRA ADD ONS



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 Carol at (309) 853-6605 or  
 Laura at (309) 525-0849

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