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January 5, 2023  
Vol. 20, No. 47

# The Prairie News

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## More than 300 new Illinois laws now in effect for 2024

By **PETER HANCOCK, ANDREW ADAMS & JERRY NOWICKI**  
Capitol News Illinois

More than 300 new Illinois laws took effect Jan. 1, ranging from a ban on book bans to the regulation of “deepfake porn” and prohibitions on videoconferencing while driving.

Thanks to a law signed in 2019, workers at the lowest end of the pay scale will see a pay raise with the new year as the state minimum wage increases by \$1, to \$14 per hour. Gov. JB Pritzker championed and signed that law after it was approved by lawmakers within his first two months of office. The law gradually phases in a \$15 per-hour minimum wage starting in 2025.

The minimum wage applies to most workers 18 and older. Teens who work fewer than 650 hours in a calendar year will go up to \$13 an hour while the minimum wage for tipped workers will increase to \$9 an hour.

Also starting Jan. 1, Illinoisans who own guns, ammunition and accessories prohibited under the state’s “assault weapons” ban are in violation of the law if they don’t register them with the state. A federal judge in late December chose not to temporarily halt the law’s enforcement while a broader legal challenge plays out. The U.S. Supreme Court also recently declined to stay the law.

While permanent administrative rules regulating which guns and ammunition must be registered with the Illinois State Police remain in flux, temporary rules governing registration remain in effect.

Other laws hitting the books include a measure granting paid leave to all workers, indoor vaping restrictions and a ban on youth solitary confinement in state correctional facilities, among others.

• **Paid leave for all** – Starting Jan. 1, anyone who works in Illinois is entitled to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave during a 12-month period, time they can take off work for any reason, regardless of whether they are full-time, part-time, or seasonal employees.

The Paid Leave for All Workers Act passed during the lame-duck session last January – a session that was called primarily to pass the assault weapons ban. Pritzker signed it into law March 13.

“That is a game changer for many employers, particularly those who have not previously offered any type of paid leave to their employees,” Scott Cruz, a labor attorney, said in November.

In particular, he said, the law will be a major change for waiters, waitresses and

*Continued on Page 5*

### NEW ELEVATOR OWNERS

## R&K selling operation to River Valley

By **JEFF LAMPE**  
For The Prairie News

WYOMING – After 70 years and three generations of family management of Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc., the central Illinois grain merchant will sell its assets to the River Valley Cooperative of DeWitt, Iowa.

River Valley announced last week in a press release that it had signed an agreement to acquire the grain assets of Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. and transportation assets of Ezra Rumbold & Sons. The deal is expected to be completed by the end of June.



**Rumbold**



*Rumbold and Kuhn, Inc. is selling its assets to the River Valley Cooperative of Davenport, Iowa. That includes seven grain elevators and a fleet of semi trucks.*

The decision was not an easy one according to Mike Rumbold, 61, president of the company and grandson of founder Ezra Rumbold.

“It is tough because of the 70 years and the three generations we’ve had here. We just didn’t have the fourth generation coming up,” Rumbold said. “It’s probably to the point where we cared enough about our customers and employees that we didn’t want to see things fall apart if something happened to a few of us here.”

But Mike Rumbold said the only

*Continued on Page 2*

## Seeking grant

### Toulon commits to new water tower

By **JOHN A BALLENTINE**  
For The Prairie News

TOULON – Toulon’s city council held a special meeting Dec. 28 to hold a public hearing and to pass a resolution concerning a new water tower grant application.

The council passed a resolution that commits \$150,000 from Toulon’s general fund for the water tower construction project.

Voting for the resolution were Art Nutzhorn, Brandon Simpson, Michael Schott and Donna Lefler. Connie Jacobson was absent. Councilperson Ryan Kelly, who showed up for the meeting, walked out just prior to the start of the session.

Toulon is applying for a \$1,385,000 grant from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic

Opportunity to go with \$150,000 from the city. North Central Illinois Council of Governments representative Richard Norwood presented information at the public hearing.

“The purpose of this meeting is to obtain citizens’ views concerning the city’s plan to submit a grant application to the Illinois Community Development Block Grant program for public infrastructure,” Norwood said.

He said there is \$19,500,000 of grant funds with a maximum of \$1.5 million available to each community.

There was no public input or concerns voiced. The new water tower storage tank will be located north of the existing water

*Continued on Page 2*

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# R&K: Family business started in 1952

*Continued from Page 1*

thing that will change in the immediate future is the business name. "We're still going to have family management and run the business just like we have. Nothing is going to change but the name after July 1," he said. "They've been very flexible with us. We couldn't have had anything better on our side."

Rumbold said River Valley will offer contracts to all 55 current full-time employees of Rumbold and Kuhn. That includes Mike Rumbold's siblings Mark, Gregg, David, Jeff and Marjorie Loudenburg, and his son, Nick.

"He got his economics major at the University of Illinois and is working as a facilities manager, but he said, 'Dad, I don't think I want do what you are doing,'" Mike Rumbold said. "It's really tough to bring forward generation after generation."

The family business got its start in 1952 when Ezra Rumbold and John Kuhn bought an elevator in the village of Stark and then another in nearby Duncan. While Kuhn sold out to his partner early on, the business has grown steadily since, first under Ezra, then under his son Elwin and since the late 1990s under Mike.

Mike is the oldest of the six children of Elwin and Loretta Rumbold.

He eventually took over the company from his father and started in dispatching after graduating from Wyoming High School in 1980.

Ezra died in 1997 and Elwin passed away in 2001.

Today, Rumbold and Kuhn manages seven commercial grain elevator facilities in Illinois, with locations in Duncan, Princeville, Putnam, Speer, Toulon and two in Wyoming. The company has revenues of about \$330 million and employs 55 full-time employees, according to Mike.

The payroll increases to more than 90 employees with part-time help during the fall harvest season.

The transportation side of the operation is made up of 13 semi-trucks painted with the familiar red-and-white Ezra Rumbold and Sons logo. Mike said the truck total doubles during harvest with the hire of independent drivers.

In addition to grain storage, trucking for the company and farmers and selling seed and fertilizer, the main business of R&K is buying and selling grain. Much of the grain is trucked to the Illinois River, though a growing percent is sent to ethanol plants.

River Valley Cooperative is a full-service ag cooperative with annual sales in excess of \$1.2 billion. The

company traces its roots back to 1906.

Owned by more than 3,100 farm families in eastern Iowa and north-west Illinois, River Valley Cooperative has 35 locations with more than 400 employees.

In addition to its grain business, River Valley offers products and services in agronomy, energy and feed.

"The culture and values of River Valley Cooperative are consistent with what Rumbold and Kuhn has developed over its 70-year history, and I am excited to know that our customers will continue to get the same great service their loyalty deserves," Mike said.

"We look forward to working alongside the Rumbold and Kuhn employees within the combined organization and continuing our mutual commitment to excellent customer service," added Tim Burress, River Valley Cooperative CEO. "Having the ability to bring together two dedicated employee teams, shared culture and values and financial stability is a tremendous opportunity. This partnership, along with our recent agronomy facility expansions in the area, further enhances our commitment to serving customers in our Illinois trade area."

# TOULON: Current system at risk of failure

*Continued from Page 1*

tower and directly east of city hall. The proposed construction start date is May 1, with a completion date of April 30, 2026.

The new storage tank's capacity will be 200,000 gallons of water and it will replace the existing

60,000-gallon water storage tank that city officials say is undersized. Toulon's average daily water demand is approximately 125,000 gallons, which makes the water system's pump run continuously. That puts the system at high risk for a failure.

The city currently has to refill the tank two to three times per day.

In addition to residential usage, there potential of the fire department having to utilize city water to battle fires. That would put the system at risk of running out of water.



Pictured above is the proposed East Vine Street location of Toulon's new water storage tank. Submitted photo.

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## PUBLIC RECORD

### Traffic Citations & Ordinance Violations

**12-18** - Lisa D. Westefer - Driving 11-14 mph above limit.

**12-18** - Daniel R. Zarate - Speeding 35+ mph over the limit.

**12-23** - Madison L. Schwigen - Speeding 26-34 mph over the limit.

**12-24** - Jeffery G. Whitehead - Speeding 35+ mph over the limit.

### Misdemeanors & Felonies

**10-7** - DUI - Douglas G. Beeler - Driving under the influence of alcohol & unlicensed.

**10-27** - DUI - A.J. Thomas Jr. - Driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol BAC .08 and driving without headlights.

**10-29** - DUI - Megan E. Ehnle - Driving under the influence of alcohol, driving under the influence of alcohol BAC .08 and improper turn signal.

**12-9** - Criminal Misdemeanor - Joshua T. Humes - Violation of an order of protection.

### Incidents & Accidents Stark County

**12-22** - An accident was reported on West Smith Street in Wyoming. The driver Timothy L. Kelly, 31, of Wyoming, reportedly struck a parked truck owned by Terry Hamilton, also of Wyoming. Kelly was taken by ambulance to Carle Health Methodist Hospital in Peoria to be treated for injuries he sustained. Damage to both vehicles was estimated at over \$1,500.

**12-19** - Demacio D. Warfield, 24, Peoria, was arrested for speeding 69 mph in a 55 zone, failure to wear a seat belt and illegal transportation of adult use cannabis. Warfield was taken into custody and transported to the Bureau County Jail.

**12-19** - Valerie E. Vanhyfte, 33, Johns Island, S.C., was cited for failure to signal when required.

**12-20** - A rural Princeville resident reported being the victim of harassment. The incident remains under investigation.

**12-23** - A 33-year-old Toulon man was bitten by a bat at his residence. He sought medical care at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. The bat was later secured and taken to the Wyoming Veterinary Service to be sent off and checked for rabies.

**12-23** - Stephanie (Dougherty) Jennings, 56, Kewanee, was arrested for aggravated battery. She was taken into custody and transported to the Bureau County Jail. On Dec. 25, she was released with a notice to appear.

**12-25** - A traffic stop netted two arrests including Matthew J. Daulton, 39, East Moline, charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and driving without insurance. Also charged was Ashley A. Merritt, 28, who was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and illegal transportation of alcohol. The pair were later released with notices to appear.

### Galva Report

#### Officer dispatched:

**12-9** - A traffic stop in Abingdon resulted in a Galva man being cited for improper possession of adult-use cannabis in a motor vehicle. Nickolas D. Davis, 40, was behind the wheel of a Chevrolet Silverado a Knox County Sheriff's Office deputy stopped about 5:30 p.m. in the 700

block of N. Monroe St. because one taillight was extinguished. Marijuana and drug paraphernalia were found in a subsequent search of the vehicle.

A 38-year-old woman from Galva, a 68-year-old man from Altona and a toddler in a car seat were passengers, but did not receive citations.

**12-18** - to a residence on NE 4th Ave. for an unresponsive subject. The subject was deceased and the coroner was contacted.

**12-18** - Officer received a complaint about trash piling up in the 300 block of SW 4th St. An officer spoke to the residents and explained the ordinance involving trash pickup.

**12-18** - Officer met with two former residents of the 400 block of S. Center Ave. in reference to a complaint of cats being left in the residence. A window was open and two cats were removed. The window was secured.

**12-18** - along with the fire department, to the 200 block of SE 2nd St. for a small oven fire. Officer used a fire extinguisher to put the fire out prior to the fire department's arrival.

**12-18** - During a traffic stop in the 600 block of W. Division St., Hector Cantu, 36, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle. He was released with a court date.

**12-18** - to check the welfare of subjects that had a fight and wouldn't respond to family members. Officer was able to determine the subjects lived in Galva, Iowa.

**12-19** - to Galva City Hall to meet a complainant in reference to a neighbor accumulating trash on their property. Officer went to the 300 block of SE 3rd St. and spoke to residents about cleaning their property.

**12-19** - along with Stark County Medic, to a residence on NW 2nd Ave. for an unresponsive subject who may have overdosed. The subject was taken by ambulance for treatment / evaluation.

**12-19** - Officer assisted Henry County with serving an order of protection in the 00 block of NE 5th St.

**12-20** - to the 400 block of SE 2nd St. in reference to a complaint involving telephone harassment.

**12-21** - to the 300 block of SE 3rd St. for a possible disturbance. Officer located a subject arguing with a family member over the telephone.

**12-22** - to the 300 block of NE 1st St. for a 911 hang-up call. It was a child playing with a parent's phone.

**12-22** - Officer was flagged down by a subject in reference to a subject lighting fires near a residence in the 300 block of SW 3rd St. Fires were put out and the subject was advised of Galva's burning ordinance. The subject appeared to be suffering from a mental-health crisis.

**12-22** - to the 900 block of W. Division St. for a bag containing suspicious items found on the ground. The bag was taken for destruction.

**12-22** - to the 200 block of NW 1st Ave. for a civil standby while a subject removed property.

**12-22** - to Sentry Estates for an ongoing trash complaint.

**12-22** - Officer assisted the Kewanee Police Department with a stolen vehicle complaint from Kewanee. The vehicle was located and recovered in the 00 block of SW 4th St. This remains under investigation.

**12-22** - to the 700 block of NW 4th Ave. for a dog-bite complaint.

**12-23** - to the 100 block of N. Exchange St. for an accident involving a vehicle striking a building. A heated dispute then ensued between the driver and a witness. A crash report was completed.

**12-23** - to the 300 block of S. Center Ave. for a complaint involving a burglary of a motor vehicle.

**12-23** - to assist Henry County with a complaint involving a burglary of a building and a stolen vehicle just east of town on Illinois Route 34.

**12-23** - Tayler Stewart, 30, Galva, cited for having expired registration in the 00 block of SE 5th St.

**12-23** - Patrick Hammons, 67, Galva, cited for operating a vehicle when registration suspended for no insurance and operating an uninsured vehicle in the 400 block of SW 2nd Ave.

**12-23** - Aaron Willits, 38, Galesburg, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

**12-23** - Bradley Rosenow, 38, Prophetstown, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

**12-23** - Bradley Lantz, 56, Alexis, cited for speeding in the 1200 block of SE 2nd St.

**12-24** - While patrolling the Galva Cemetery, an officer located an abandoned bicycle. It was taken to the Galva Police Department's lost and found.

**12-24** - Benito Diaz-Martinez, 45, Galesburg, cited for speeding in the 1100 block of SE 2nd St.

**12-26** - twice to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for a subject having a mental-health crisis.

**12-26** - to the intersection of NE 9th St. and N. Center Ave. for a two-vehicle accident with damage only. A 17-year-old Galva resident was cited for failure to yield the right-of-way at a stop intersection.

**12-28** - twice to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for a subject having a mental-health crisis.

**12-28** - to the 00 block of SW 4th St. for a harassment complaint.

**12-28** - Officer met with a resident to update their annual violent-offender against youth registry.

**12-29** - During a traffic stop in the 00 block of SW 2nd St., Sonny Wheeler, 34, Kewanee, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance. He was given a court date.

**12-30** - During a traffic stop in the 800 block of SE 2nd St., Hector Cantu, 33, Galesburg, was cited for operating a vehicle when registration was suspended for no insurance. He was released with a court date.

**12-30** - to the 00 block of NE 4th St. for a mental-health crisis.

**12-30** - to the 300 block of SE 3rd Ave. for a physical domestic disturbance in progress. As a result, Alan Wesley, 21, Peoria, was arrested for domestic battery. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

**12-30** - Belinda Wallenfeldt, 48, Galva, cited for expired registration in the 200 block of SW 2nd Ave.

**12-31** - to the 00 block of NE 4th Street for a mental-health crisis.

**12-31** - During a traffic stop in the 00 block of NE 3rd St., Cory Blakley, 40, of Galva, was arrested for driving while license suspended. He was transported to Galva Police Department and released with a court date.

**12-31** - to the 200 block of NE 3rd St. for a fight in progress. It was determined to be a group of children playing outside.

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### PUZZLE ANSWERS

— Super Crossword —

*Answers*

VET	HUNH	SPITITES	BJORN
EGOMANIA	URSULA	FEDON	
NAGURSKI	ROLLIN	LAINÉ	
INASPOOFOFCASABLANCA			
BLAM	YMA	ROTH	
PANACEA	ELOI	NUS	ALMS
FEATURING	ANCIENT	GREEK	
FRIED	IAM	CEO	ELIDE
TORA	ION	ABID	STOGIE
MATHEMATICIANS	WHAT		
ASA	LON	ETHEL	RET
TURNEDOUTTOBEONEOF			
ELLOCO	MIAS	NOR	ITCH
SPENT	SAM	AYE	ATARI
THEMOSTMEMORABLELINES			
SANI	PEI	IRE	ORANGES
GAYE	OLD	IRON	
HERESLOOKINGATEUCLID			
GULAG	ERMINE	DISSUADE	
OMANI	REPEAT	INTERCOM	
DENTS	SNARLS	IGOR	ELI

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— CryptoQuote —

answer

At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person.

- Albert Schweitzer



## The Prairie News

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## Some old cows just want to stay put

Things are finally tucked in for the winter here on our farm. Matt and AJ hauled cows to the Other Place last week.

We keep the coming first calf and second calf heifers here at home, but pretty much everyone else goes to the more sheltered and spacious Other Place for the winter. We keep the younger cows here for a couple reasons, mainly because it is difficult for them to compete with the older, more dominant and generally larger older cows for food, water and snug bedding.

We also want to be certain that even if the weather turns horribly against us and we can't get cows hauled back home before calving starts, which has happened, we have the higher-risk group here at home.

Matt is an expert driver, so hauling four loads of five or six cows each a mile and a half did not take long. First they sorted the cows that would be traveling and secured them in the boarding area of barn. These older cows have some sense that this is a ride they want to take, so most hop into the small trailer without much coaxing.

Any time the trailer arrives at a pasture, it causes excitement. The resident cows never know for sure what may be going to step out of it. In June it's the bull. In December it is these other cows.

They have all been together at one time or another. They are all related to one another to some degree. Some are siblings, aunts, mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers and so on. But that does not mean they are always welcomed unconditionally.

This day, 402, the acting boss cow at the Other Place, met the trailer near the gate. 402 will be 10 years

old this March and is in her prime. She is a big black cow with a non-nonsense demeanor. As the first cohort jumped down out of the trailer, 402 let out a bellow and circled around behind one of the newcomers. Down the hill toward the slough she ran, noisily asserting her dominance.

Others soon joined the chase and chaos momentarily ensued. By the time the men had returned with the second load, however, the herd was calm again.

Once they had downloaded the last batch from home, Matt backed up to the barn at the Other Place and they loaded up the little keeper heifers to bring home for the winter. These are the moms-to-be from this year, not quite a year old. They have recently been measured to ensure they can safely deliver a calf, vaccinated as prescribed and had magnets placed to protect against any accidentally ingested bits of metal.

They will spend the winter in the hay lot and old hog house where they get plenty of feed and easy access to water. They need to be in tip-top shape when they meet the bull for the first time in about six months.

Back at the home pasture, the now-smaller herd was rearranging itself. While these are for the most part the younger cows, there were two older cows still in residence. For one thing, it is good to have some experienced cows in the herd. They are familiar with the routines, come when called, and would instinctively lead a charge against danger, such as coyotes.

But the main reason Pet and 5549 are residing at home is because they are non-loaders. They just will not go into the trailer. Nope, no way, not for your fairy kingdom. So they just stay here in leadership positions.

When AJ and Matt went down to the little pasture to check on the herd, there were the two matrons

lying side by side, rumps touching, in the prime bedding area. Perhaps they really just don't want to ride in the trailer; perhaps they know, year in and year out, just exactly what they are doing.

Either way, they are where they want to be, chewing cud in the sunshine and waiting for more food to be delivered. We should all be so fortunate.

### SPICY CHEESEBURGER SLIDERS

These would be perfect for a Super Bowl party!

#### Ingredients

- 1 pound ground beef (96% lean)
- 9 small whole-wheat hamburger buns, split, divided
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1/2 teaspoon ground chipotle chili powder
- 2 slices pepper jack cheese, cut in quarters

#### Toppings:

- Barbecue sauce, lettuce, tomato slices, pickles (optional)

#### Directions:

Tear one hamburger bun into pieces. Place in food processor or blender container. Cover; pulse on and off, to form fine crumbs.

Combine bread crumbs, ground beef, garlic and chili powder in medium bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Lightly shape into eight 1/2-inch thick mini-patties.

**Cook's Tip:** One-half teaspoon chili powder may be substituted for chipotle chili powder.

Place patties on grill over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8-9 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 9-10 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally. Evenly top with cheese during last minute of grilling.

Place burgers on bottoms of remaining eight buns. Top with desired toppings. Close sandwiches.

*Jeanne Harland is a cow-calf producer in Knox County where she and her husband, AJ, also raise corn, soybeans, oats and turnips.*

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#### Rhoades

We would like to thank everyone for their support and condolences at the passing of Mary Rhoades, especially the Civic Association for their donation, paramedics, ladies of the Methodist church for the luncheon and the State Bank of Toulon.

**The Family of Mary Rhoades**



# POLICE: Statewide problems hiring officers

*Continued from Page 1*

other workers in the hospitality industry who have never received paid leave benefits in the past.

The Illinois Department of Labor has published a list of frequently asked questions to help guide employers and employees through the new law: [labor.illinois.gov/faqs/paidleavefaq.html](http://labor.illinois.gov/faqs/paidleavefaq.html).

• **Banning book bans** – Libraries in Illinois will lose access to grants administered by the secretary of state's office after Jan. 1 if they ban books or other material "because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval."

The so-called ban on book bans, House Bill 2789, was an initiative of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulas. The secretary of state in Illinois also serves as the state librarian, which awards millions of dollars a year in grants to public and school libraries around the state.

Under the new law, libraries must either adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning specific books or resources.

Giannoulas said he proposed the legislation after extremist groups targeted Illinois libraries with efforts to ban certain materials from circulation.

• **Digital forgeries** – Lawmakers this spring approved a new protection for victims of "deepfake porn." Starting in 2024, people who are falsely depicted in sexually explicit images or videos will be able to sue the creator of that material.

The law is an amendment to the state's existing protections for victims of "revenge porn," which went into effect in 2015.

In recent years, deepfakes – images and videos that falsely depict someone – have become more sophisticated with the advent of more readily available artificial intelligence tools. Women are disproportionately the subject of deepfake porn.

Some sponsors of the legislation, notably chief sponsor Rep. Jennifer Gong-Gershowitz, D-Glenview, have indicated interest in further regulating the use of artificial intelligence.

• **Zooming while driving** – Starting on Jan. 1, it will be illegal for Illinois drivers to participate in videoconferencing or check their social media pages while behind the wheel.

The law adds the use of any mo-

bile videoconferencing software, explicitly referencing Zoom, Microsoft Teams and Webex, to banned actions under existed distracted driving laws.

The law also specifically names social media sites Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and "Twitter," which was rebranded to X a few months after the law's passage.

Illinois law currently bans cell phone use generally while driving, although it does allow drivers to use phones through hands-free or voice-activated means. In 2022, more than 24,000 drivers were cited for distracted driving in Illinois, according to the secretary of state's office.

Illinois drivers continue to be able to use cell phones in handheld mode if they are reporting an emergency, are parked on a road's shoulder or if they are stopped due to a traffic obstruction and the vehicle is in neutral or park.

• **Vaping indoors** – People who use electronic cigarettes or vaping devices will now face the same restrictions as cigarette smokers.

It's an update to the state's Smoke-Free Illinois Act, which banned smoking in most indoor public spaces and within 15 feet of building entrances in 2008. "Public places" include restaurants, theaters, offices, stores, libraries, schools, polling places, all government-owned buildings and banks among others.

Tobacco stores and vape shops are exempt from the law, as well as some other facilities, such as smoking rooms at nursing homes, some hotel rooms and tobacco conventions.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported this summer that in 2021, nearly 5 percent of adults were e-cigarette users, although that figure was 11 percent among people 18 to 24.

• **Other new laws** – Youth solitary confinement: House Bill 3140 prohibits solitary confinement in youth detention facilities for any purpose other than temporarily preventing serious and immediate risk of physical harm.

Grocery initiative: Senate Bill 850 created a Grocery Initiative program which will receive \$20 million to fund grants and financial aid to grocery stores opening or operating in "food deserts." It also requires the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to study food deserts.

Underground Railroad task force:

Senate Bill 1623 creates the Underground Railroad Task Force to develop a statewide plan for creating a "cohesive statewide history" of the Underground Railroad and developing new educational and tourism opportunities.

Utility shutoffs: House Bill 1541 prohibits utilities from shutting off gas or electric services due to non-payment of bills when the temperature exceeds 90 degrees or there is a heat advisory in effect.

Rearview mirrors: It's long been illegal in Illinois to hang an object that obstructs a driver's view from a rearview mirror. House Bill 2389 maintains that driving with such an obstruction is prohibited, but it also prevents law enforcement from stopping and searching a vehicle solely because the driver is violating that law.


Civil rights violation: Under Senate Bill 1817, anyone who considers immigration status during a real estate transaction, including purchase and rental transactions, could be guilty of a civil rights violation.

Dangers of fentanyl: House Bill 3924 requires high schools to teach students about the dangers of fentanyl in state-required health courses. The coursework would include differentiating legal and illegal uses of the drug, details about "the process of lacing fentanyl in other drugs and why drugs get laced with fentanyl," as well as information on how to detect fentanyl in drugs and how to save someone from an overdose.

Fentanyl test strips: House Bill 3203 allows pharmacists and retailers to sell fentanyl test strips over the counter.

Bears and primates: Senate Bill 1883 prohibits keepers of bears and nonhuman primates from allowing members of the general public to come into contact with them. Violators of the law would be subject to a Class B misdemeanor. "General public" does not include employees at the facility where the animal is kept, veterinarians or professional film crews.

*Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, nonpartisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to hundreds of print and broadcast outlets statewide. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, along with major contributions from the Illinois Broadcasters Foundation and Southern Illinois Editorial Association.*



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**THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE STARK COUNTY JUNIOR FAIR**  
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**SELL IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!**

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## CLASSIFIEDS

• **FREE AD:** If you are a Toulon or Wyoming business that hasn't placed an ad in any 2023 Prairie News, you can enter a drawing for a free black and white 2x2 ad to appear in an issue of your choice in January or February. (Value \$25.) Email Lori Herold at [theherolds1@gmail.com](mailto:theherolds1@gmail.com) by December 22.

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### Food infrastructure grants now available

New state funding is now available to help build out Illinois' food infrastructure, with the hope of getting more local food out in more markets.

Nearly \$2 million in state funds will be handed out this spring under the Illinois Local Food Infrastructure Grant program, under a new program being administered this year by the Illinois Stewardship Alliance. The group brought together farmers and food consumers to advocate for legislation last spring aimed at addressing one of the biggest challenges facing the state's food system.

Farmers have exciting products ready to reach more eaters. But there needs to be a stronger infrastructure system – from transportation to processing to community kitchens – built out to ensure the food can reach the consumers.

Grants will be awarded of up to \$150,000 per project. At least 12 projects are expected to be funded in this round with recipients announced in March. The deadline for grant applicants is Jan. 31.

A committee of local agriculture and food specialists will review grant applications, and they will be looking for specific pieces on each project.

Smaller farms, processing facilities, food businesses, local governments and even correctional facilities are encouraged to apply, as are underserved farmers and products to be marketed to underserved

### BRIEFS



Jerry and Janett Scott of 403 SW 4th St. in Galva were awarded the Galva: Ready to Grow Holiday Property Pride Award. Jerry is a retired mail carrier and the couple are also retired from the laundry and car wash business they had for years in Galva. The manger was cut out by a family friend, Chet Travis, and Jerry finished the display to the far left. The couple have three grown children, eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren with one more on the way. They have lived in the home for 36 years. Photo by Carol Townsend.

communities. They will be looking for projects that have established community support, a positive economic impact on the local food sector, and those that support long-term economic development in local foods.

"We are excited to partner with the Illinois Department of Agriculture to open new doors of opportunity for dedicated people who share our commitment to a stronger local food network in every part of the state," said Josh Snedden, grant program coordinator for the Illinois Stewardship Alliance.

For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.illinoislf.org>.



This dead armadillo showed up in Maquon in late December and was placed in front of the post office. Did the armadillo wander north? Was it a stowaway in somebody's vehicle? Or did someone, after visiting family down south, drop it off as a prank?

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# Soil archive provides valuable insight

By **ERIN M. HENKEL**  
FarmWeek

A soil sample from 1861 in Perry County was collected as part of the Illinois Geological Survey and provided researchers with information about Illinois geology, landscape and mineral resources. In 1899, researchers started mapping soil types to 3-foot depth and characterizing the distinct soil layers.

The archive of the soil samples was kept in a dark pole-barn near the Morrow plots on the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus until Andrew Margenot and his team of about 40 research personnel discovered the barn's soils and started recovering and curating the soil archives.

Margenot is an Illinois Extension specialist and associate professor in the Department of Crop Sciences and has been working in conjunction with the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council, to resample the locations to identify how soils have changed over time in Illinois.

"We can learn a lot about what has changed over time and that can go as far back as 120 years or so," Margenot said. "That's important because we don't really know how soils changed more than a couple of decades ago, in general, and over a small area like typically one field trial."

Margenot said the project builds on the lifetimes of researchers and soil scientists who have gone into the effort of collecting soil samples. He said because the soil samples were kept with details such as location, year and day of collection, researchers today can resample the soils and see how the soils have changed over a longer period than most soil ar-

chives that span only a few decades.

He also said while there might be "simplicity" in terms of crop rotation in the state, biochemistry and how water, soils and air interact are complex.

"Soils change at a rate that we cannot see as individual humans and it is called generational blindness," Margenot said. "But if you took your great-grandfather and showed him soil now, he would be able to see things that you think are normal. To be able to measure these changes, you have to be able to go back in time."

He said until scientists invent a time machine, the best way to "go back in time" is by using the archive built by previous researchers. He also said due to the size of Illinois, the collection of samples is especially unique.

"The state of Illinois is the size of some entire countries in Europe and to understand soil changes you have to look at it on a large spatial scale," he said. "This archive is one of the oldest in the world, but it's also unlike the other ones in the world — it's the largest by orders of magnitude. That's really important."

Margenot asked farmers and landowners to look at the map of locations needing to be resampled and see if they know the landowner. They would need access to the land to collect six to 12 cores, 1.5 inches in diameter, to 3-foot depth and would provide the farmer with a read-out of soil information at the field level. Any information at field level is protected and anonymized.

"There's very basic questions we can answer on fertility that have direct implications for economic use of fertilizer inputs," Margenot said.

He said understanding



Andrew Margenot is an Illinois Extension specialist who has been working with the Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Nutrient Research and Education Council to recover and curate soil archives to identify how soils have changed statewide over time. Photo provided by Andrew Margenot.

the changes in the soil over time could also help farmers understand micro-nutrient needs such as zinc or boron.

Another benefit for farmers is understanding their soil's potential for carbon sequestration as they navigate the carbon credit markets and determine whether they should enter into a carbon agreement.

Margenot said IFB "has been a great partner," helping the team to work with landowners and farmers.

Margenot said IFB is helping connect the research team with policy-makers at the state and federal level to explain the importance of soil changes and phosphorus losses.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau*

and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit [FarmWeekNow.com](http://FarmWeekNow.com).

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

ESTATE OF ROBERT W. HARDY, Deceased No. 2023 PR 103

**CLAIM NOTICE**  
(Publication)

Notice is given of the death of Robert W. Hardy. Letters of Office were issued on December 19, 2023, to Donna Kistler as Independent Executor 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 June 27, 2024. 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 12/22, 1/5, 1/12/24

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

CITY OF KEWANEE, ILLINOIS, an Illinois Municipal corporation Plaintiff, IN CHANCERY vs.

Case No. 23-OV-109K  
ANGELA WALKER, Defendant.

**NOTICE OF PROPERTY CLEAN-UP AND LIEN BY PUBLICATION**

The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Angela Walker, all Non-Record Claimants, and all Unknown Owners, Defendants in the above-entitled cause, that the above-entitled property clean-up and lien action was filed and is now pending.

1. The names of all Plaintiffs, the Court in which this action was brought, and the Case Number are identified above.

2. The name of the titleholder of record: Angela Walker

3. A legal description of the real estate sufficient to identify it with reasonable certainty is as follows: 23 A

part of Lot 122 of the Village of Wethersfield, now annexed to the City of Kewanee, described as follows: Beginning at a point 132 feet South of the Northwest corner of said Lot 122, running thence South 66 feet along the West line of said Lot 122, thence East One Hundred Fifty (150) feet, thence North Sixty-six (66) feet, thence West One Hundred Fifty (150) feet to the place of beginning ALSO KNOWN AS Lot 18 in Block 2 of Crabtree's Subdivision of the Original Lots 121, 122, 123 and 124 of the Village of Wethersfield, now a part of the City of Kewanee, Henry County, Illinois.

4. A common address or description of the location of the real estate is as follows: 504 Beach Street S, Kewanee, IL 61443.

NOW, THEREFORE, unless you, all Defendants, Non-Record Claimants, and Unknown Owners, file your answer to the Petition for Property Clean-Up and Lien in this cause or otherwise make your appearance therein, with the Henry County Circuit Clerk, 401 E 3rd St, Kewanee, IL 61443, on or before 30 days after the date of this publication, or a default may be entered.

—/s/ Terilyn A. Motley  
Circuit Clerk

Barash & Everett, LLC  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
211 W 2nd St  
Kewanee, IL 61443  
Phone: 309/852-5555

Published 1/5, 1/12, 1/19/24

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT**

TAKE NOTICE that the Board of Library Trustees of the Galva Public Library District, Henry County, Illinois, as of December 30, 2023 has available a copy of its audit report for the period of

July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023. The audit was conducted by the firm of Birkey and Noble, P.C. and may be publicly inspected at the main office of the Library District at 120 N.W. Third Ave., Galva, Illinois, during normal business hours which are: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday 1:00pm to 5:00p.m.

Galva Library District  
By: Barbara J. Caravello  
Secretary of the Board of Trustees  
Published 1/5/24

**BRADFORD FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**  
**ANNUAL STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2023**

Beginning Cash Balance September 1, 2022	\$547,057.93
<b>Receipts</b>	
Property taxes	441,478.48
Donations and fundraising	42,664.00
Replacement taxes	7,184.09
Rental revenue	3,225.00
Miscellaneous revenue	18,956.00
Interest	840.16
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>514,347.73</b>

<b>Disbursements</b>	
Per Vendor List	489,963.69
Total Disbursements	489,963.69
Excess Receipts over Disbursements	24,384.04
Ending Cash Balance August 31, 2023	571,441.97

<b>Vendor List</b>	
ALEXIS	\$7,292.95
Ameren	12,891.86
Frontier	2,793.62
Illinois Public Risk Fund	3,605.00
Kohl Wholesale	2,526.80
Leezer Insurance Agency	14,923.00
Matt Kieser	2,614.34
Peoples National Bank	250,000.00
Stark County	
Ambulance Service	162,074.52
Turasky Meats	3,050.00
Wyant Locker Inc	8,907.34
Vendors Under \$2,500	19,284.26
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$489,963.69</b>

**Gross Payroll Salary Range**  
Under \$25,000 \$-

Leslie E. Fehr, Commissioner  
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of December 2023  
Andrea Scott, Notary Public  
Published 1/5/24

**NOTICE OF SALE of Property Owned by the City of Galva and Invitation to Bid Thereon**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Galva will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property:

The property commonly referred to as 14 S.E. 1st Street, Galva, IL 61434 which property has been assigned PIN # 2427361003 and which is legally described as: THE SOUTH PART, LOT 4, BLOCK 34, ORIGINAL TOWN, CITY OF GALVA, HENRY COUNTY, IL said property being appraised for \$1,160 (one thousand one hundred sixty dollars) which appraisal is on file with the Galva City Clerk.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois, during normal working days between the hours of

8:00 AM and 4:30 PM until 19 January, 2024. Said proposals shall be contained within an opaque envelope addressed to:

Mayor and City Council  
City of Galva  
c/o City Clerk  
311 N. W. 4th Avenue  
Galva, IL 61434

and shall bear the legend: PROPOSAL – SALE OF LOT LOCATED AT 14 S.E. 1st St.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the corporate authorities of the City of Galva to be held at 6:00 p.m. on 22 January 2024.

A contract may be awarded to the highest, most responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interests of the City of Galva, so long as that bid meets the minimum bid amount which is equivalent to 80% (eighty percent) of the appraised value or \$928 (nine hundred twenty eight dollars), the appraised value being \$1,160 (one thousand one hundred sixty dollars). The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 45 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals for the development of the lots upon which they will be bidding. Development proposals should include, but are not limited to: an abstract of bidders building plans and specifications, a statement of financial capacity, a statement of other financial arrangements to facilitate performance of the contract, name of financial institution with contact information, line of credit (personal, special-purpose, or otherwise), or other statements indicating the financial capacity to perform the stated purpose upon which the bid proposal is based.

The corporate authorities reserve the right to include penalty clauses in any and all contracts awarded to successful bidders. Penalties may include but may not be limited to: monetary damages due the City for non-performance of the contractual terms, forfeiture of the lot for non-performance, loss of building permit fees and other assessments which may become a part of a development contract.

Any prospective bidder may inspect the "Land Appraisal Report" for any and all lots upon which they wish to bid at the City Clerk's office during normal working hours. The City Clerk's office may be reached by calling (309) 932-2555 or in writing to: City Clerk, City of Galva, 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois 61434.

Published 1/5/24

**NOTICE OF SALE of Property Owned by the City of Galva and Invitation to Bid Thereon**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT the corporate authorities of the City of Galva will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property:

The property commonly referred to as 315 S.E. 4th Street, Galva, IL 61434 which property has been assigned PIN # 2434113002 and which is legally described as: LOTS 1 THRU 4 & N1/2 VAC ALLEY S & ADJ BLK 11 WILEY,

FLEMING & DAVIS ADD CITY OF GALVA said property being appraised for \$7,000 (seven thousand dollars) which appraisal is on file with the Galva City Clerk.

Bids for the purchase of the aforesaid interest in the above described property are hereby invited and will be received by the City Clerk at 311 N. W. 4th Avenue, Galva, Illinois, during normal working days between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:30 PM until 19 January, 2024. Said proposals shall be contained within an opaque envelope addressed to:

Mayor and City Council  
City of Galva  
c/o City Clerk  
311 N. W. 4th Avenue  
Galva, IL 61434

and shall bear the legend: PROPOSAL – SALE OF LOT LOCATED AT 315 S.E. 4th St.

All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the corporate authorities of the City of Galva to be held at 6:00 p.m. on 22 January 2024.

A contract may be awarded to the highest, most responsible bidder whose bid is found to be in the best interests of the City of Galva, so long as that bid meets the minimum bid amount which is equivalent to 80% (eighty percent) of the appraised value or \$5,600 (five thousand six hundred dollars), the appraised value being \$7,000 (seven thousand dollars). The corporate authorities reserve the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities or irregularities in the bidding. The corporate authorities further reserve the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award within 45 days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bidders are encouraged to submit proposals for the development of the lots upon which they will be bidding. Development proposals should include, but are not limited to: an abstract of bidders building plans and specifications, a statement of financial capacity, a statement of other financial arrangements to facilitate performance of the contract, name of financial institution with contact information, line of credit (personal, special-purpose, or otherwise), or other statements indicating the financial capacity to perform the stated purpose upon which the bid proposal is based.

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Published 1/5/24

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info@eerecycling.com

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104 N Main Ave  
Wyoming  
\$129,000  
4 bedroom/ 2 bath,  
New Roof,  
New electrical- 200  
Amp.

**SOLD!**  
  
512 E Church St. Kewanee \$189,000  
5 bedroom/ 3 bath. Fenced yard.

**PENDING!**  
  
50 SE 3rd St Galva \$22,500  
Handyman special. 1 bedroom/ 1 bath.

**PENDING!**  
  
21 SE 2nd St Galva \$90,000  
2 bedroom/ 1 bath. Quartz countertops. 1 car-attached garage/ 2-car detached - garage. Extra lot.

**NEW LISTING!**  
  
409 E Division St Galva- \$59,900  
3 bedrooms/ 1 bath.  
Partially fenced yard/ 1 car detached garage.

**NEW PRICE!**  
  
817 N Center Ave Galva - \$119,900.  
Corner lot / private backyard, Updated 2-bedroom duplex, Oversized 2-car detached garage.

**PENDING!**  
  
417 East St S Kewanee - \$122,500  
Beautiful Kitchen, 3 bedrooms/ 1 bath,  
Huge yard ( 1.5 acres +/- ).

**Northpoint Estates Subdivision - Galva**  
Build your dream home! Several lots available, in various sizes!



Debbie Wright  
(309) 883-2617  
Broker, Realtor®, SRES®, CRS, ABR  
Licensed in Illinois  
dwright@melfosterco.com

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# Illinois a leader in outbound moves

By KEVIN BESSLER  
The Center Square

SPRINGFIELD – A new report shows that Illinois was among the top states in the country for outbound moves last year.

U-Haul's 2023 Growth Index report, released on Tuesday, is calculated by comparing the net gain of one-way U-Haul trucks arriving in a state against the net gain of trucks departing that state. Only California and Massachusetts ranked lower than Illinois for outbound moves.

"While one-way transactions in 2023 remained below the record breaking levels we witnessed immediately following the pandemic, we continued to see many of the same geographical trends from U-Haul customers moving between states," U-Haul International President John Taylor said in a statement.

According to U-Haul, movers preferred destinations in the southeast and southwest regions of the United States in 2023. Texas was deemed U-Haul's most popular state

for migration for the second consecutive year and sixth time in eight years.

Cory Hall, U-Haul district vice president, said people and companies are moving to Texas for a much friendlier business climate.

"The lower cost of living, taxes, for those companies obviously is a huge investment for them," Hall said. "For the employees moving with them, obviously it is a pay increase because you're not paying state income taxes on top of that and your property taxes are substantially lower here than some of these larger cities."

The latest report is more proof that people continue to flee the Land of Lincoln. Illinois has lost 549,000 people in the past decade according to annual population estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau.

According to U-Haul, behind Texas, the other states people are moving to include Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee

# Animal welfare laws may impact livestock farmers in the Midwest

By KEVIN BESSLER  
The Center Square

A new animal welfare law that took effect in California Jan. 1 mandating space requirements for pigs, cows and chickens has some livestock farmers on edge.

Proposition 12 prohibits sales in California of pork, veal and eggs from livestock whose confinement doesn't meet certain minimum space rules.

The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the law, ruling 5-4 that "while the Constitution addresses many weighty issues, the type of pork chops California merchants may sell is not on that list."

"The Supreme Court decision in National Pork Producers Council v. Ross, affirming the constitutionality of Proposition 12, a law setting standards for the sale of certain animal products in California, was the greatest legal victory in animal protection history," said Bernard Unti, senior principal strategist with the Humane Society of the United States.

In the face of Prop 12, producers are finding themselves at a difficult crossroads. They can either comply with a law they say could risk the health and safety of their livestock, or they'll lose out on market access in California.

Tasha Bunting, Illinois Farm Bureau director of commodity programs and food systems, said the law would be a burden on farmers in Illinois and other large pork-producing states.

The Illinois Pork Producers Association estimates it will cost \$3,500 per sow to upgrade infrastructure to become Prop 12 compliant.

Fourteen other states have passed farm-animal containment laws similar to the one in California.

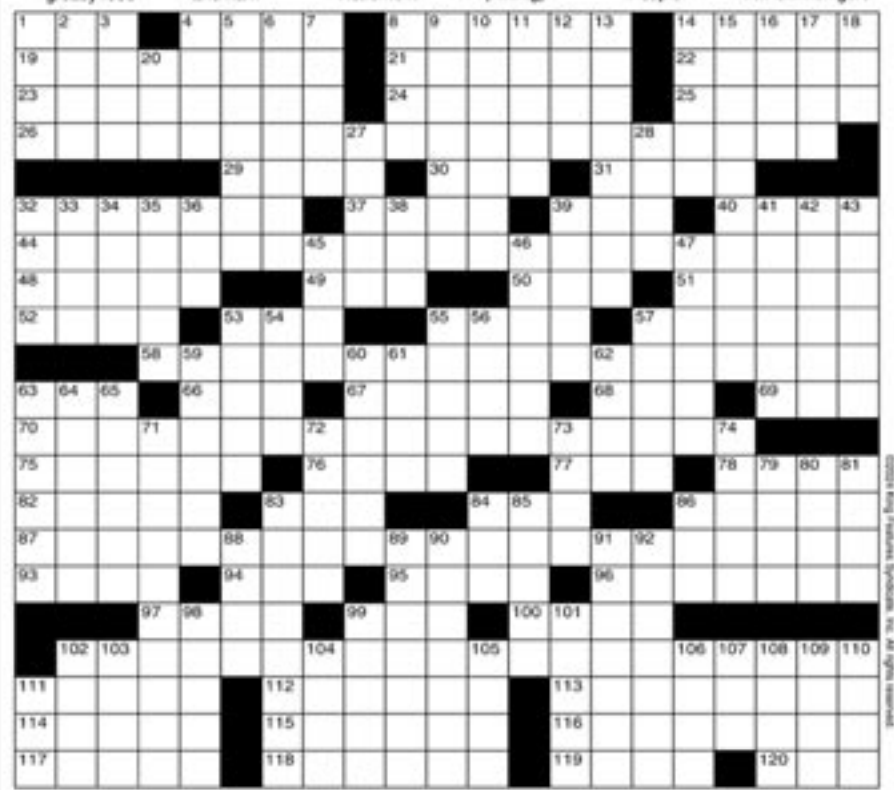
## Sponsor the Crossword Puzzle Call (309) 741-9790

Answers on Page 3

### Super Crossword

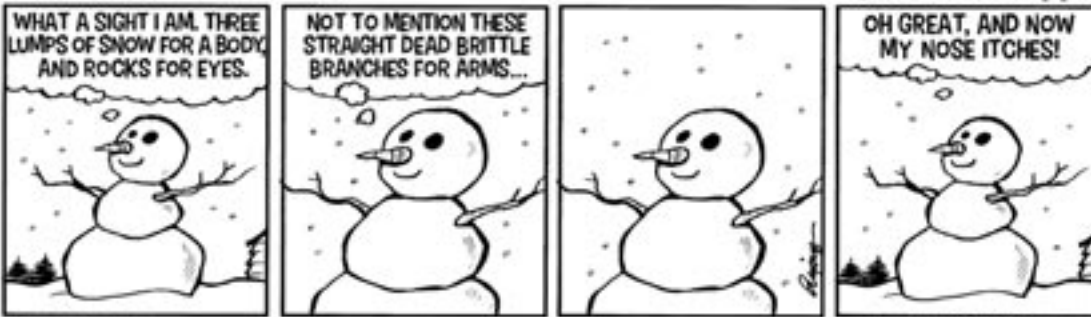
CALCULATING CHARACTERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Pet doc
- 4 "Come again?"
- 8 Treats maliciously
- 14 Tennis player Borg
- 19 Narcissist's problem
- 21 Actress Address
- 22 Ate, as prey
- 23 Football Hall of Famer Bronko
- 24 Arrive on wheels
- 25 Frankie or Cleo of song
- 26 Start of a riddle
- 29 Noise in a comic book
- 30 Exotic singer Sumac
- 31 "The Human Stain" novelist Philip
- 32 Cure-all
- 37 Race of people in an H.G. Wells novella
- 39 Some sorority letters
- 40 Donations to the destitute
- 44 Riddle, part 2
- 48 Like much greasy food
- 49 See 83-Across
- 50 Corp. leader
- 51 Skip over, as a vowel
- 52 World War II film, when tripled
- 53 Charged bit
- 55 Place — (be active on eBay, say)
- 57 Cheap cigar
- 58 Riddle, part 3
- 63 Simile middle
- 66 Chaney of film
- 67 Song-betting Merman
- 68 On a pension, Abbr.
- 69 Military draft go.
- 70 Riddle, part 4
- 75 ZZ Top album whose name is Spanish for "The Crazy One"
- 76 Hamm and Farrow
- 77 Neither's partner
- 78 Tingly feeling
- 82 Totally tired
- 83 With 49-Across, touter of giten eggs and ham
- 84 "Yes" vote
- 86 Early arcade giant
- 87 End of the riddle
- 93 — -Flush (bathroom brand)
- 94 Architect I.M. —
- 95 Made angry
- 96 Florida fruits
- 97 R&B great Marvin
- 99 Not at all new
- 100 Golf club
- 102 Riddle's answer
- 111 Stalin-era labor camp
- 112 Polecat's kin
- 113 Urge against
- 114 Muscat native
- 115 Do over
- 116 Office squawker
- 117 Fender dings
- 118 Menics a mad mutt
- 119 Helper of Frankenstein
- 120 Inventor Whitney
- DOWN**
- 1 "—, vici, vici"
- 2 "The Keep" novelist Jennifer
- 3 Forum wear
- 4 Angel's instrument
- 5 Drunk
- 6 Writer Gogol
- 7 Third-largest city in Israel
- 8 Ride a wave
- 9 Eighth-brightest star in the sky
- 10 Like a haji's religion
- 11 Second-largest city in Oklahoma
- 12 Charles Lamb's alias
- 13 Bay Area California city
- 14 Equivalent of A sharp
- 15 Lee Tracy's "Bombshell" co-star
- 16 Like praiseful poetry
- 17 Gossipy Barnett
- 18 Bakersfield-to-Boise dr.
- 20 Letters before 39-Across
- 27 Swiss watch brand
- 28 Clueless
- 32 Fizzle sound
- 33 Sleek, informally
- 34 Hair removal brand
- 35 Top squad
- 36 Moeer's mouthful
- 38 On the — (fleeing)
- 39 "— say more?"
- 41 Actresses Vivien and Janet
- 42 In — res (mid-plot)
- 43 Clay pigeons to be shot, informally
- 45 Three x three
- 46 Frozen spear
- 47 Eats away at
- 53 "Were — it all over again ..."
- 54 "It can't be!"
- 55 One of the Three Musketeers
- 56 Nickname for singer Justin, with "the"
- 57 Dersive
- 59 One of the three Furies
- 60 R&R alone
- 61 "— boy!"
- 62 Pisa's river
- 63 Nuclear trials, for short
- 64 Class of antimicrobial drugs, in the British spelling
- 65 Actress Sorkin who once hosted "America's Funniest People"
- 71 Like animals that don't roam
- 72 So-called "fifth taste"
- 73 Apartment near the super's, perhaps
- 74 Mesh well
- 79 Piquancy
- 80 Ontario tribe
- 81 Car's warning
- 83 Pittsburgh footballers
- 84 "Chances —"
- 85 "Catch my drift, bro?"
- 86 Pie-mode link
- 88 1974 CIA parody film
- 89 More lactal
- 90 Not cardinal, as a number
- 91 Plundering
- 92 Winter Sabato
- 98 Patronage
- 99 "— Loompa"
- 101 Half-diameters
- 102 Journalist Brit for short
- 103 Zing
- 104 Lucy Liu's "Kil Bill" role
- 105 Insect traps
- 106 Explorer
- 107 Mongrel mutt
- 108 Frilly material
- 109 Shrine figure
- 110 Moore of "G.I. Jane"
- 111 Shrine figure



## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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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## Answers on Page 3

## 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.

UB BWOYF IXJ IGS DWQCB QIYF

IXB UST WF JYHWSTDYT ZV U

FLUJH RJIO USIBCYJ LYJFIS.

— UDZYJB FMCGYWBPYJ

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## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When is Three King's Day celebrated typically?
- TELEVISION: In the drama series "Mad Men," what product is presumed to be Don Draper's last advertisement?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is a chain or collection of islands called?
- MOVIES: To which city is the McCallister family traveling in the holiday classic "Home Alone"?
- LEGAL: What is a moot court?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of the heroine in "The Scarlet Letter"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nut is used in marzipan?
- MUSIC: What is the gift on the 11th day in the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas"?
- SCIENCE: How much of the Earth's surface is covered with water?
- HISTORY: What are the two Japanese cities that the United States hit with atomic bombs in WWII?

### Answers

- Jan. 6, the 12th day of Christmas.
- Coca-Cola.
- An archipelago.
- Paris, France.
- A simulated court to give law students a chance to practice what they have learned.
- Hester Prynne.
- Almond.
- 11 pipers piping.
- Almost 71%.
- Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
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## TOP 10 MOVIES

- Aquaman and the Lost Kingdom (PG-13)
- Works (PG)
- Migration (PG)
- Anyone But You (R)
- Salaur (NR)
- The Iron Claw (R)
- The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes (PG-13)
- The Boy and the Heron (PG-13)
- Godzilla Minus One (PG-13)
- Poor Things (R)
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## CHURCH DIRECTORY

**Toulon Methodist Church**  
229 W. Main St., P.O. Box 538, Toulon, IL. 61483  
Phone (309) 286-2224  
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  
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**  
Rev. Art Blegen  
7874 State Route 93, Toulon, IL 61483  
(309) 896-3481  
Services each Sunday at 9:00 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](mailto:info@thegathering.life)  
web: <https://www.thegathering.life/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringchurch.life>

**1st Congregational Church of Toulon**  
(309) 286-4901  
218 N. Henderson St., Toulon  
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.  
Email [fcctoulon@gmail.com](mailto:fcctoulon@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  
New Preacher! Bryan Griem  
(309) 932-2713 • [GalvaBaptistChurch.com](http://GalvaBaptistChurch.com)

**Wyoming Nazarene Church**  
517 N Madison Ave. Wyoming, IL 61491  
309-695-4523 leave message  
Sunday School: 10:00, All ages  
Sunday Worship: 11:00  
Wednesday Night TBD  
Check us out on Facebook: Wyoming Naz

**First Congregational Church of Christ**  
Pastor Ross Wyman  
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 UCC 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. Katie Gallagher  
Saturday: 5:30 p.m. Worship (in Luther Hall)  
Sunday: 9:00 a.m. Adult Sunday School  
9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship  
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: 9:00

**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](mailto:WyomingUMCPastor@gmail.com)  
Service is held at 10:30 Sunday morning.

**The Oaks Community Church**  
1868 Congregational Road, Dahinda, IL  
(309) 879-2042  
Pastor Marty Briney and Pastor Dean Lane  
Worship Service 8:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.  
Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
Fellowship 9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.  
Website [www.theoakscommunitychurch.com](http://www.theoakscommunitychurch.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch](http://www.facebook.com/TheOaksCommunityChurch)

**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 Wyonet 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)

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## OBITUARIES

### George K. Dunn

PEORIA – George Kenneth Dunn, 80, of Peoria, passed away on Wednesday, Dec. 20, 2023, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

He was born on April 16, 1943, in Wyoming, a son of Frank W. Dunn, Sr. and Mildred J. (Tjaden) Dunn. George married Eleanor Lydia Ehnlé on June 11, 1961, in Wyoming. She survives.

He is also survived by his son, Kenneth A. (Cindy) Dunn of Norwood; his daughter, Kimberly A. (Charles) Varnes of Hanna City; nine grandchildren, Jillian (Daniel) Porath of Channahon, Stephanie (Chris Formhals) Taylor of Groveland, Joshua (Robert) Brown, Kevin (Meng Li) Dunn and Stacey (Matt) Reed, all of Peoria, Kimberly (Rick) Moss of Pekin, Heather (Chris) Dybek of Manlius and C.O. (Rebecca) Varnes of Beverly, Mass.; many great-grandchildren; several great-great-grandchildren; and two sisters, Elsie Leon of Kewanee and Margaret Cantwell of Toulon.

George was preceded in death by his parents; one brother, Frank Dunn, Jr.; and one sister, Alice Tolle.

He worked as a wood pattern maker for Caterpillar, Inc. in Mapleton for 32 years, retiring in 2000.

George was a member of the A.F. & A.M. Lodge #479 in Wyoming and the Peoria Patternmaker's League, where he was a past treasurer. He also was an avid St. Louis Cardinals fan. George loved to re-finish antiques and was an avid gardener. He was especially known for his dry sense of humor and his "one-liners."

George's funeral service was Thursday, Dec. 28, 2023, at the Davison-Fulton Bartonville Chapel. Burial was to take place in Smithville Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home or Illinois Cancer-Care Foundation.

Online condolences may be shared with George's family at [www.Davison-Fulton-Bartonville-Chapel.com](http://www.Davison-Fulton-Bartonville-Chapel.com).

### John Niemeyer

BARTONVILLE – John Niemeyer, 72, of Bartonville, passed away Dec. 29, 2023, at Carle Health Methodist Hospital of Peoria, with family by his side.

John was born Nov. 28, 1951, in Chicago, and was preceded in death by his parents, Richard and Lorraine Niemeyer.

Surviving is his brother Dan

(Rose) of New Hampshire, and their family.

John married his wife of 52 years, Roseann (Way), on Sept. 11, 1971. She survives, as do their two children, Melissa Niemeyer (Wesley), of Harvard, Ill., and John (Melissa) Niemeyer, of Galva, Ill.; as well as four grandchildren, JJ, Deanna, Trenton and Zachary Niemeyer; and two fur grandbabies, Dozer and Jaimey.

John was a member of the UAW and retired from Caterpillar in 2004 after 34 marked years of service. While he did travel when he had to, and even enjoyed it, he was happiest at home with his wife, his chair and his TV shows.

As a native Chicagoan, John was a lifelong Bears fan, a trait that has been passed down through the generations, with a few outliers.

Cremation has been accorded, and a Celebration of Life will be held from 4-6 p.m., Feb. 2, 2024, at Mason-White Funeral Home in Washington, Ill.

Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Central Illinois Chapter. If you would like to share a memory or send condolences, please visit [www.masonfuneralhomes.com](http://www.masonfuneralhomes.com).

### Andrew B. Winkas IV

OGLESBY – Andrew Bernard Winkas IV, 58, of Oglesby, passed away at 5:33 a.m. Friday, Dec. 8, 2023, at St. Mary Medical Center in Galesburg.

He was born on May 25, 1965, at Cook County Hospital to Andrew and Dolores (Banazak) Winkas III. Andy is a former resident of Florida, the Chicago-land area and currently owned a home in Oglesby.

Andy has spent the last 22 years with his partner, Benjamin Taber, who survives. Also surviving are his sister, Andrea (Paul) Mekeel of Tallahassee, Fla.; and two nieces, Rachel and Sarah Mekeel. He was preceded in death by his parents, and his stepmother, Marcia Rentz.

He was currently employed as an auditor for Carelon. He previously worked in hospitality for various hotel chains and loved his former job at RadioShack.

He enjoyed traveling, spending time at the beach and playing pool. He was an avid sports fan; his favorite teams were the Cincinnati Bengals, Atlanta Braves and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Andy's favorite food was a half

pepperoni and half sausage pizza with lots of cheese. He would say pizza was "the most perfect food."

A private service was held for Andy's family. A celebration of life will be held in Florida at a later date.

Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Wyoming is assisting the family with arrangements.

Condolences for Andrew's family may be left on his tribute wall at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

### Jane L. Heaton

TOULON – Jane L. Heaton, 74, of Toulon, passed away Dec. 11, 2023, at Seminary Manor in Galesburg. She was born on Aug. 23, 1949, in Kewanee to Clarence and Dorothy (King) Heaton.

Survivors include two sisters, Cheryl (James) Cinnamon, of Knoxville, and Dian (Gordon) Whittaker of Toulon; four nieces and nephews; and five great nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Jane attended West Jersey Grade School and Toulon High School. She was a member of Toulon Congregational Church and worked in the kitchen at Jimal's Restaurant.

Services were Dec. 22, 2023, at Toulon Cemetery.

Condolences can be left online at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

### Sandra G. Powell

LAURA – Sandra Garrison Powell, 80, of Laura, died Dec. 28, 2023, at Seminary Manor, Galesburg.

She was born June 27, 1943, in Elmore (Rochester), Ill., to Donald and Cleo (Philbee) Garrison. She married Danny E. Powell on July 30, 1967, in Williamsfield. She is survived by her husband, daughter Starla L. (Powell) Yelm, son-in-law Kent Yelm and two grandchildren, Katelynn Yelm and Brandon Yelm.

She was preceded in death by two sisters, Sharon Kay Garrison and Bonnie (Garrison) Stevens, her brother-in-law Jesse Stevens and her parents.

She retired from L.R. Nelson of Peoria in 2007.

Services were to be Jan. 1. Burial was at Glendale Cemetery, Elmore. Memorials may be made to Dahinda Methodist Church or to the Williamsfield American Legion Auxiliary.

Condolences can be left online at [hurd-hendricksfuneralhome.com](http://hurd-hendricksfuneralhome.com).



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## SPORTS: Galva girls earn first win of the season

*Continued from Page 12*

About 90 minutes later, Kewanee beat Stark County 62-55.

Although the Rebels trailed 15-2, they came back to lead in the third period before they ran out of gas, according to Coach Dusty Browning. Will Rumbold had a team-high 20 points vs. his former school as only three teammates scored – Matthew Bowser (13, all in the second half), Rewerts (12) and Saner (10).

“We played hard and had a lead in all four games in the fourth quarter,” Browning stated. “They could have easily went our way. I’m very proud of our resilience.”

Beecher defeated Mercer County for the championship of this pool-play event. Kewanee finished third.

**Galva Girls** – The Lady Wildcats (1-12) claimed their first victory of the year on Dec. 28 in the consolation third-place game of the 12th annual Lee Westerman Girls Holiday Tournament at Princeville.

Galva topped Bushnell-Prairie City, 49-21, behind a balanced scoring attack led by Ava Strom’s 17 points.

KayKay Latcham scored 12, including 10 in the second quarter, and six other players also scored.

“It was a great team effort,” Galva Coach Daniel Russell said. “Our defensive performance and ability to work the ball to our post offensively was the best we’ve had all year.”

Galva outscored B-PC 18-6 in the second quarter to take control. Russell credited his team’s defensive hustle as sparking the big run.

Prior to that, Galva had lost its opener in Princeville on Dec. 26 to eventual champion Elmwood, 48-8. Strom scored five in the loss.

On Dec. 27, Galva lost to Tremont, 48-26.

The Lady Wildcats were to have played Thursday at home vs. Abingdon-Avon (13-4) in Lincoln Trail

Conference action and then have a home game Monday vs. Annawan (15-3).

**Stark County Girls** – The Lady Rebels (2-15) topped Fulton on Dec. 30 at the Erie-Prophetstown tournament, 49-35, as everyone on the Stark County team who played got into the scoring column.

“We had a strong second and third quarter and held Fulton scoreless in the third,” Coach Bob Bohm said. “Overall I believe we are getting better, playing faster and with confidence ... all things we were lacking early in the season.”

Against Fulton, Stark County was led in scoring by Payten Hiller with 20 followed by Lauren Orwig and Emily Demetron with seven apiece.

Stark County finished 1-3 in the tournament.

On Dec. 27, the Lady Rebels put together a strong first three quarters before being outscored 21-6 in the fourth during a 56-36 loss to Bureau Valley. Kenna Newton led Stark County with 14 points in the game and Hillier had 10.

Later on Dec. 27, Stark County lost to a talented Monmouth-Roseville team, 62-24. Hillier scored 17 and Demetron added six.

On Dec. 29, the Lady Rebels fell behind to Erie-Prophetstown 19-1 after one quarter and lost 54-25. Hillier led with 13 points and was followed by Newton with six.

Stark County was to get back into LTC play on Thursday at home against ROWVA-Williamsfield and travels to Brimfield Saturday and Ridgewood on Monday.

**Princeville Boys** – On balance, the Princeville boys basketball team won a tournament championship last week. As has been the frequent case on their way to a 13-2 record, the Princes received double-digit scoring from multiple players Dec. 28 to de-

feat the Morton junior varsity 71-56 in the Princeville Holiday Tournament final. The title was Princeville’s first in this event in four years.

Josh Hunt had 18 points, Parker Melick and Jake Williams evenly split 30 and Tayshaun Kieser scored 12 in a game Princeville trailed only in the opening minutes. Points from five players gave the top-seeded Princes a 17-10 lead after the first quarter over the third seed.

“I think tonight showed how we can play when we come out ready to attack the game and we’re not flat-footed to start,” Hunt said.

Balanced offense also helped Princeville win a semifinal Dec. 27 against Peoria Heights, 71-44. Melick had 22 points, Tucker Sennett had 18 and Williams had 11. The previous day, Princeville beat Ridgewood 54-26 in the first round as Kieser had 13 points and seven teammates also scored.

Tait Sennett acknowledged a lot of games remain this season, but he likes his team’s current trajectory.

“There’s not one guy that thinks they’re above everybody else,” he said. “It’s just, ‘We’re going to be out for each other.’ That makes it so much fun to be around. These kids are just jelling and getting along so nicely. It’s been a lot of fun. A lot of fun.”

**Princeville Girls** – The Lady Princes (13-5) came up just short in a rally against Elmwood (14-2) in the title game of the Lee Westerman Tournament.

Down 19-8 at halftime, Princeville outscored Elmwood 26-18 in the second half and had two 3-point shots to tie in the final 14 seconds. But the Lady Trojans claimed a third straight holiday title at Princeville, 37-34.

Brianna Brodie scored 25 points to lead Princeville and had 20 in the second half.

## Farm income forecast to drop from 2022 record

By TAMMIE SLOUP

FarmWeek

Farm income is forecast to shrink in 2023 after climbing to record highs in 2022.

USDA’s Economic Research Service released its Farm Sector Income Forecast last month, which estimated net farm income to fall by \$31.8 billion (17.4%) to \$151.1 billion in 2023.

Net farm income – a broad measure of profits – reached \$182 billion in 2022, increasing 30% from 2021.

In September, USDA estimated net farm income at \$141.3 billion. (Net farm income reflects income after expenses from production in the current year and is calculated by subtracting farm expenses from gross farm income).

The net farm income reflects overall lower crop and livestock cash receipts, increased input costs, higher interest rates and declining government payments.

“When grouped by commodity specialization, all farm businesses’ specializations except cattle/calves, wheat and specialty crops are forecast to see lower average net cash income in 2023,” the report stated. “Farms specializing in dairy are expected to see the largest decline relative to 2022.”

Although this year’s net farm income is expected to drop below last year’s record high, it’s still one of the

best years on record for the farm sector, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said.

“In fact, net cash farm income for 2023 is 15% above average for the last two decades, and farm income over the 2021-2023 period represents the highest level of farm income in the last 50 years,” Vilsack said in a statement.

U.S. agriculture exports have also seen the three highest years on record in 2021-2023, which is reflected in overall cash receipts, while 2024 is projected to be the fourth highest year on record despite potential declines, he added.

“Even so, the data shows a majority of farm households rely on off-farm jobs to make ends meet, indicating that the income is not evenly distributed across the farm spectrum,” Vilsack said. “USDA will continue our efforts to bolster a complementary system that makes it possible for small- and mid-sized farms to benefit from more, new and better markets and climate smart agriculture opportunities so they can thrive.”

Total production expenses are forecast to increase by \$14.9 billion (3.5%) in 2023 to \$443.4 billion. Interest expenses and livestock/poultry purchases are expected to see the largest increases in 2023 while spending on fertilizer/lime/soil conditioners,

fuels/oils, and feed is expected to decline relative to 2022.

“A bright spot for farmers is that some production costs, including feed, fertilizer and pesticides, have declined,” Vilsack said.

The forecast also reported direct government farm payments are forecast at \$12.1 billion in 2023, a \$3.5 billion (22.3%) decrease from 2022.

Farm sector equity is expected to increase by 6.9% (\$229.4 billion) in 2023 to \$3.57 trillion in nominal terms. Farm sector assets are forecast to increase 6.6% (\$254 billion) in 2023 to \$4.09 trillion following expected increases in the value of farm real estate assets. Farm sector debt is forecast to increase 5% (\$24.6 billion) in 2023 to \$520.7 billion.

American Farm Bureau Federation Economist Daniel Munch noted in a recent Market Intel that farm income numbers for 2022 were not finalized until August 2023 and have been adjusted upward over \$20 billion in the eight months since the year ended. During this time, USDA is digesting new information and data as it becomes available, shifting calculations from estimates to actual values.

“This means there is still much variability in final 2023 net farm income,” he wrote.

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# The Prairie News Sports

## Galva raising expectations

### Boys basketball posts rare three-game win streak

By **NICK VLAHOS** and **JEFF LAMPE**  
For The Prairie News

For the first time since the beginning of the 2018-19 season, the Galva boys basketball team won three games in a row.

That's helped Galva Coach Jake McClintic raise his expectations for the rest of this season.

"I was really hoping for a 10-win season at the beginning of the year," said McClintic, whose team won twice in 2022-23. "Now I'm closer to 17-18 wins we can have by the end of the season if we buckle down and play to our potential."

Galva (5-8) finished 1-2 at the LaMoille Holiday Classic. The Wildcats opened with a 67-34 victory Dec. 27 over DePue, thanks in part to 20 points from all-tournament-pick Braxton Rylander and 17 points and 10 rebounds from Blake Stahl.

The DePue game was the third consecutive victory for Galva. On Dec. 20, Rylander had 22 points and Stahl had 17 as Galva beat Lewistown 57-53. Two days later, the Wildcats defeated LaMoille 59-56 as Stahl had 22 points and 13 rebounds.

LaMoille exacted revenge Dec. 29 at its tournament by beating Galva 54-51 in the third-place game. Following that, Annawan beat Lowpoint-Washburn in the final. The previous day, L-W made two free throws with 10 seconds left and beat Galva 57-55 in the semifinals despite 24 points from Stahl.

Still, Galva came back from a 15-point

deficit. That impressed McClintic, as has the newly eligible Cyrus Lilly. The 6-foot junior had 17 rebounds against DePue.

Senior Carter DeVenney has solidified the point-guard spot, and junior John Ingels and sophomore J.P. Sloan have provided unexpected boosts.

"We're still new to the whole winning thing," McClintic said. "We're learning how to win. A lot of the boys haven't had much success since junior high. As we progress, I'm hoping these close games, we're on the other side of them."

Galva played Wednesday night at West Central and is host tonight to Monmouth United.

**Stark County Boys** – Also playing twice this week is Stark County, which faced Mercer County at home Wednesday and travels Friday to Knoxville. Last week, Stark County (7-7) went 1-3 at the Warkins Memorial Tournament in Erie.

The Rebels led Lena-Winslow with 45 seconds remaining Dec. 30, but its subsequent 3-pointer led to a 46-44 victory. Luke Rewerts and Ross Saner each scored 12 for Stark County.

The previous day, Rewerts had 22 points in a 55-48 beating of Fulton, which trailed by 17 in the third quarter.

Stark County played twice Dec. 27, the tournament's opening day. Offensive rebounds by Orion proved to be the Rebels' undoing in a 59-54 loss, in which Rewerts had 20 points.

*Continued on Page 11*

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