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Stark Co. board appoints Demetreon interim sheriff

By JEFF LAMPE
for The Prairie News

TOULON – Chuck Demetreon’s tenure as interim sheriff of Stark County got off to a good start Tuesday night.

Not long after the Stark County Board approved Demetreon as interim sheriff, he gave his first official report to the board in his new role.

Demetreon outlined plans to cut overtime, hire a new dispatcher and deputy and acquire two new squad cars in the next

eight to 10 weeks. That prompted a board member to say, “That’s the most thorough report we’ve had all year.”

Demetreon, 49, takes over for longtime Stark County Sheriff Steve Sloan, who announced his retirement last month, ending a 48-year career in law enforcement. Demetreon has worked in the Stark County Sheriff’s Office



Demetreon

since November 2003 and has been chief deputy since 2017.

“It’s something I’ve had in my headlights and aspired to,” Demetreon said. “I’m excited to start this. Excited and nervous. But it’s something I think I can handle. I’ve got a lot of support, family, friends and coworkers – a good crew behind me to work with and bounce ideas back and forth.”

Reducing overtime is his first challenge. The department racked up over \$300,000 in over-

time last year but OT has been cut to about \$100,000 moving forward, Demetreon said.

“I’ve been thinking about it since Steve approached me, long before his announcement,” Demetreon said. “So I started jotting numbers down and knew there were areas I could take care of to cut that down.”

Adding a 14th dispatcher to the staff, he said, will help with short shifts that had previously been covered as overtime hours. Demetreon is also cutting deputy

schedules and will use impound fees to outfit the new squad cars.

Prospective Deputy Derek Welge of Kewanee should graduate from the police academy in March, in time to take the spot of Gary Bent, who plans to retire in April. Welge will work full time as a deputy and part time for the Toulon Police Department.

In other business Tuesday, the board heard some details on the new county highway building in Bradford. County Engineer Judd

Continued on Page 2

FEDERAL FUNDS TO FARMERS

Farm Aid on the way

Trump earmarking \$12 billion for farmers

By JIM TALAMONTI
The Center Square

President Donald Trump has announced \$11 billion in federal public aid for farmers.

The president made the announcement during a White House roundtable Monday afternoon, along with Cabinet members, federal lawmakers and members of the farming community.

The relief funds are aimed for producers of row crops, with an additional \$1 billion in public funds for specialty crops and others.

Trump said the money would come from the “hundreds of billions of dollars” the U.S. is bringing through tariffs.

“What we’re doing is, we’re taking a relatively small portion of that and we’re going to be giving and



Despite a bumper crop during harvest, Illinois farmers have been hurting financially due to low prices for commodities. President Donald Trump’s \$12 billion aid package will help ease those financial woes.

providing it to the farmers in economic assistance,” the president said.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said the relief funds are necessary due to a crisis that the Trump administration inherited.

“We are going to be effectuating

an \$11 billion bridge payment to our farmers. The money will move by Feb. 28, 2026,” Rollins said, adding that farmers would know what their payment would look like by the end of December.

“You will have that number in hand,” Rollins said, so farmers

Continued on Page 2



Pictured (left to right) are Doug Parrott, President and CEO of the State Bank of Toulon; Chloe Lund, chief operating officer of Freedom House; Jennifer Tanner Beaver, Freedom House board member; and Doug Blunier, SBT executive vice president and chief lending officer, presenting Tanner Beaver with a check for \$50,000 towards the renovation of the Kewanee domestic violence shelter.

SBT donates \$50k to Freedom House

For The Prairie News

KEWANEE – The State Bank of Toulon has awarded Freedom House a \$50,000 contribution to the organization’s capital campaign for its new domestic violence shelter in Kewanee.

Freedom House is undertaking a full renovation of the former medical arts building at 716 Elliott St., which was donated by

OSF HealthCare in December 2024. The new shelter – expected to open in spring 2026 – will include 40 beds and offer a state-of-the-art, client-centered environment featuring ensuite bedrooms for families, counseling and advocacy offices, a communal kitchen and dining space, and secure outdoor playground.

Continued on Page 2





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BOARD: Special meeting needed for MFT resolution

Continued from Page 1

Giffin reported that the first quote to remove concrete and install stainless-steel trench drains in the building was for \$97,000, with \$57,000 in materials alone. Giffin said he had hoped to have drains installed for under \$50,000 and plans to look at other options moving forward.

Work is also progressing to clean the building and two new garage doors have been installed, Giffin said.

Board Member Adam Wilson said he is “pushing on the architect” to have plans for the new building by the board’s Jan. 13 meeting. Wilson said his goal is to have building renovations shovel ready by April 1.

In other road-related news, Giffin said snowplowing has gone well so far this winter and the county’s new plow truck performed well. “It’s a beast,” he said, noting the truck has a 12-foot wing plow compared to the previous 8-foot plow.

Painting of stripes has

been done on some roads. Giffin said some roads that have been resurfaced could not be striped since equipment borrowed from Bureau County could only be used on roads that still had faint lines to follow.

Giffin also said that due to a “mess-up” the board would need to reconvene for a special meeting before the New Year to approve a resolution for equipment rental for 2026 so it can be reimbursed by Motor Fuel Tax funds. A meeting date had not been set by press time.

County Treasurer Paula Leezer reported that the final disbursement of property taxes has been sent to taxing bodies and was just over \$17.8 million. In regards to the annual budget, she said the General Fund, State’s Attorneys Office and County Clerk’s Office were all significantly under budget while the Sheriff’s Office was over budget for 2025.

The board also approved 2026 dates for its

6:30 p.m. meetings: Jan. 13, Feb. 10, March 10, April 15, May 12, June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8, Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

Finally, Katie McCauley from the Stark County Soil and Water Conservation District distributed a survey to board members seeking input for a natural resources inventory reporting application she is developing.

Minutes from two board meetings in November (Nov. 10 and Nov. 26) were approved and show the following:

- Approval of the Fiscal Year 2026 budget appropriation and tax levy ordinance, showing \$2.67 million in estimate revenues and \$2.825 million in estimated disbursements for an expected deficit of \$155,000.

- News from Board Member Robin Nowlan that a timeline for the wind-farm project has been moved up for Stark County, which is now in Phase Two, instead of

Phase Three.

- Approval of the appointment of Valerie Wagner to the County Board of Appeals.

- The 2026 insurance package was approved with estimated disbursements of \$260,200, up from \$239,000 in 2025.

- A proposed purchase of E-Ticket software for the Sheriff’s Department will not happen.

- Approval of a resolution to correct the levy rate in the county federal aid matching fund request sent to the Illinois Department of Transportation. This required a transfer from the general fund to bring the rate up to the required .045%.

- Approval was given to: an annual intergovernmental agreement with Marshall and Putnam counties for probation services; a 2026 noxious weed work plan; purchase of a truck for the highway department; a revised food ordinance; and approval to use IDOT grant funds for bridge repairs.

FARM AID: Governor declares ag trade crisis

Continued from Page 1

could make plans for the year ahead.

Joe Maxwell, Farm Action’s chief strategy officer and co-founder, said farmers across the country are hurting. Maxwell said the current problems facing the U.S. agriculture system have been decades in the making due to policy that prioritizes commodity crops for export, which he said only benefits global grain traders and meat-

packers.

“Without addressing the root causes of this issue, farmers will be left to continue relying on government assistance into the future. That is why Congress must take action and fix our failed subsidy system in the next farm bill,” Maxwell added.

Trump’s announcement comes weeks after Gov. J.B. Pritzker declared an agricultural trade crisis in Illinois. On Oct. 29,

Pritzker signed an executive order directing state agencies to take immediate action to enhance domestic markets for ag commodities and to bolster mental health support for farm families.

Pritzker and Illinois Department of Agriculture Director Jerry Costello said Illinois’ roughly \$26.4 billion agricultural sector had been hurt by Trump’s tariffs and trade policies.

Trump said he would be open to tapping into tariff revenue for farmers again if necessary. He also said moves to eliminate the estate tax and end green equipment requirements

would help farmers across the nation.

Illinois Rep. Jonathan Jackson, D-Chicago, said the president is trying to paper over a crisis of his own making.

Illinois Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro, said the president’s announcement is welcome news.

“After years of soaring input costs, unstable markets, and zero new trade deals under the Biden–Harris administration, the Farmer Bridge Assistance Program will provide real, timely relief to producers who have been stretched thin through the years,” Bost posted.

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PUBLIC RECORD

Incidents & Accidents
Stark County

12-2 - Driver Daniel E. Hartman, 60, Galva, reportedly backed into a parked vehicle owned by Carley McKenzie, 26, of Kewanee in the 700 block of E. Main St. in Toulon. No tickets were issued but damage was estimated at over \$1,500.

12-2 - Gustavo Gutierrez-Verduzco, 43, of rural Toulon, was issued a notice to appear for allowing dogs to run at large and for failure to inoculate his pets. The Stark County Sheriff's Office has received ongoing complaints from Toulon residents regarding a pair of huskies running loose. The dogs were impounded by a Stark County deputy until the owner could prove the dogs were scheduled for vaccinations.

12-6 - Kayvance N. Summerville, 28, Peoria, was arrested for driving under the influence. She was also ticketed for speeding 73 mph in a 55 zone, improper lane usage, possession of cannabis by a driver and illegal transportation of alcohol. She was released with a court date.

12-7 - Aaron B. Bell, 39, Peoria, was arrested for possession of a stolen vehicle, driving while his license was revoked, theft, driving on a suspended registration and driving without insurance. The vehicle was impounded, Bell was taken into custody and transported to Bureau County Jail pending a court appearance.

Knox County Report

11-9 - A Galva man avoided apparent injury from a two-vehicle crash north of Galesburg. Wyatt E. Johnson, 18, was driving a southbound 2007 Chevrolet Cobalt shortly before 10 a.m. on U.S. Route 150 when at Knox Road



2000 North it rear-ended a 2012 Toyota Prius, according to a Knox County Sheriff's Office report. Melissa V. Enloe, 71, of New Windsor was the other driver.

Enloe, who reported no injuries, said she slowed to make a left turn. Johnson was cited for failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident.

Peoria County Report

11-27 - Shortly after 5:30 p.m., David W. Orwig of Wyoming was driving a northbound 2018 Jeep Grand Cherokee in the 9700 block of N. Princeville-Jubilee Rd. north of Kickapoo when the vehicle struck a deer. Neither Orwig nor his passenger was injured, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

Galva Report

Officer dispatched:

12-1 - to the 400 block of SE 6th Ave. for a domestic disturbance.

12-2 - to the 400 block of SW 1st Ave. for a harassment complaint.

12-2 - to a residence on SE 3rd St. for a mental-health evaluation.

12-3 - to the 900 block of N. Center Ave. after a reported natural gas leak. Ameren also responded and shut the gas off.

12-3 - to the 600 block of N. Center Ave. for a missing person report.

12-3 - to the 100 block of SE 2nd St. for a verbal domestic disturbance.

12-4 - While patrolling, officer

found an unoccupied vehicle in a ditch on Bonham Road west of town.

12-4 - to a residence on E. Division St. for a welfare check.

12-4 - While patrolling, Officer noticed a crossing arm malfunction at the Chester St. and NE 2nd St. train tracks. BNSF was contacted.

12-4 - to the 100 block of NW 6th Ave. for a loose-dog complaint. The dog returned home on its own.

12-4 - along with deputies from Henry County, to a residence on NW 4th St. after a report of a suicidal subject holding a knife to their own throat. After an extended time, the subject surrendered and was taken by ambulance for evaluation .

12-5 - to the 200 block of Morgan Rd. to assist a motorist who locked keys inside a vehicle. A family member brought a spare key.

12-5 - to the 200 block of NW 7th Ave. in reference to a runaway juvenile. The juvenile was located at a friend's house and returned.

12-6 - to a physical domestic disturbance in the 400 block of NE 3rd St. As the result, Ryley Rafferty, 24, Galva, was arrested for domestic battery and unlawful restraint. He was taken to the Henry County Jail.

12-7 - to assist Henry County with a traffic stop and vehicle search in the 00 block of NW 8th Ave. that resulted in an arrest for methamphetamine possession and a full nationwide warrant with no bond. Henry County transported the arrestee to the Henry County Jail.

12-7 - Officer was notified that a subject that was entered as a missing person-adult last week had been located in Laguna Beach, Calif.

12-7 - While patrolling, officer located a vehicle that slid off the road in the 700 block of SW 4th St. A friend pulled them back onto the road.



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

CryptoQuote

answer

The ego can be the great success inhibitor. It can kill opportunities, and it can kill success.

— Dwayne Johnson

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SHELTER: Offers various services

Continued from Page 1

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According to Chloe Lund, the agency's Chief Operating Officer, Freedom House has served tens of thousands of survivors.

“One in four women and one in seven men will experience severe intimate partner violence in their lifetime,” Lund said. “The need for our services continues to grow.”

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Are members of the Stark County school community aware of what is happening educationally at our local schools? As a concerned citizen, I encourage you to view the information copied from the following websites as well as additional information available there. School board member contact information is available through the district from the following website:<https://www.stark100.com/schoolboardcontact>. If you are concerned that your contact through the school website may not be forwarded, here are the names of current school board members. Stark County CUSD #100 school board includes Ann Orwig (President), Bruce West (Vice-President), Emily Leezer (Secretary), Dane Richards, Erin Price, Joe Rediger, and Chelsea Streitmatter. I would encourage you to compare our district results to those of surrounding districts listed on these websites. Information listed below is taken from the listed websites.

<https://www.illinoispolicy.org/how-well-are-your-local-third-graders-reading/> Illinois lowered its standards in 2025, but over half of third graders still couldn't read at grade level. It's a critical milestone. See how your students did. Even under loosened proficiency standards, over half of Illinois third graders couldn't read at grade level in 2025. How well did your local public school prepare children to read by the critical third-grade milestone?

School	District	% not proficient	% proficient
Stark County Elem Sch	Stark County CUSD 100	95.7%	4.3%

Assessment data from spring 2025 shows Illinois students across grades continued to struggle to read. But the data is particularly concerning when it comes to third graders. If a child has not learned to read by the end of third grade, that child is likely to struggle throughout his or her education. That's because fourth grade is when students move from learning to read to reading as their main method of learning. Clearly, there is a literacy crisis in Illinois, and it threatens the future of Illinois' children. But this crisis can be reversed. Five proven reforms used in other states can be promoted by Illinois lawmakers and embraced by local school districts:

1. Provide an early universal reading screening for every student in first through third grades to identify reading deficiencies.
2. Provide reading interventions for any student in first through third grades with a reading deficiency.
3. Notify parents and keep them engaged in their student's reading deficiency diagnosis and intervention.
4. Ensure schools use proven, science-based instruction methods to teach reading.
5. Discuss and determine grade promotion decisions with parents and teachers for students whose reading deficiencies are not remedied by the end of the school year.

Illinois' young students have a literacy problem, but there are solid solutions. Adults just need to help them by making the right decisions.

<https://www.publicschoolreview.com/stark-county-high-school-profile>

Quick Facts (2025-26)
Grades: 9-12
Enrollment: 238 students
Student-Teacher Ratio: 16:1
Minority Enrollment: 8%
Graduation Rate: 80-89% (Btm 50%)
Overall Testing Rank: Bottom 50%
Math Proficiency: ≤10% (Btm 50%)
Reading Proficiency: 11-19% (Btm 50%)
Science Proficiency: 40-49% (Btm 50%)
Source: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IL Dept. of Education

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

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Answers on Page 5

Super Crossword

MECHANICS OF SOLVING

ACROSS

1 Has a snooze

5 Workout unit

8 Anti-DUI ad, maybe

11 "The Mahese Falcon" hero

19 Conical-bore woodwind

20 Log chopper

21 Possess

22 Former airline to Rome

23 Composer of the 1938 ballet "The Incredible Flutist"

26 Squirrel-sized monkeys

27 Super-cold

28 Poddled plant

29 What a dieter may reduce

31 Pressure-reducing elastic stockings

34 Mark's home planet

35 German city

36 Ordinal suffix

37 Yvette's "yes"

38 "Gremims" actress Cates

44 Folk great Bob

47 Edison's phonograph medium

49 Writer Rand

52 Prefix with treat or trust

53 Bird bill

55 Booting out

56 Horn honk

58 Cleans up, as code

60 Hit PC game of the 1990s

62 Director

63 Heater along the bottom of a wall

67 Houston ballplayer

68 Ending for Gator

69 CIO partner

70 Greek vowels

75 Bracing wear for a body-builder

81 Dog in "The Thin Man"

85 "Little" actress Rae

86 Mrs. with a famous cow

87 "500" auto race

88 Hone

90 William of "Hopalong Cassidy"

91 Its cap, is Buenos Aires

93 Levy

94 Video

97 Of — (somewhat)

99 Bit of skin art

100 Tamed

101 Cable TV channel for buying goods

103 Flea to weed

107 "I solved it!"

108 Type of needle-free syringe

111 ThinkPad power source, e.g.

118 Cl- or Na+

119 Gold, to Luisa

120 Zesty potato chip go-with

121 Whose nine key words in this puzzle can be found

124 Word after poet or Nobel

125 LA-to-MI dir.

126 Tea vessel

127 Swing about

128 Evaluated

129 Lobbed thing

130 Turndowns

131 Actress Harper

9 Very muscular, in modern lingo

10 Year, to Nero

11 Like "Weekend Update" reports

12 "Alas and —"

13 "Bosch" actress

14 Lee of Marvel

15 Component

16 Et — (plus others)

17 Rinky- —

18 Relieve

24 Person for whom a thing is named

25 Kilt wearer

30 Butter-and-flour mixture

32 Crosswalk user, for short

33 Coop female

37 Tree of Illinois

38 Largest dwarf planet

39 — and hers

40 Aware of

41 Revise text for later yrs.

42 Crooked

43 Therefore

45 Venice beach resort

46 Totally lost

47 That — close call!

48 Former Royals manager Ned

49 "Mamma Mia" group

50 In-favor votes

51 Chick's home

53 Indian religion

54 White heron

57 For each

59 Talks big

60 Ticked off

61 Crimean resort port

64 Cursy, e.g.

65 How often the sun rises

66 Fix, as a fight

71 Osaka sash

72 Festival

73 Actor Alan

74 River of myth

76 "Old Mac-Donald" letters

77 Lacks entity

78 Impend, as a deadline

79 Investments for later yrs.

80 Songwriter Laura

81 Helper; Abbr.

82 Old New York ballpark

83 Diplomacy

84 In — (mired)

89 Expert

90 Large inlet

92 Actor Lorne

95 Like a slingshot or a wishbone

96 Schmoose

97 Singer

98 DiFranco

98 Pampering, for short

101 Cowboy doing a roundup, say

102 Eye affliction

104 Peter of resort port

105 Spongelike

106 Wears away

107 Grab — (eat fast)

108 Actress

109 Hot rod fuel

110 Long — (winter undies)

111 Singer

112 Santa — (hot winds)

113 Name of 12 popes

114 Ripped

115 Small bills

116 Sidewalk smooches, e.g., for short

117 Melody

122 Leg it

123 Prez after FDR

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

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35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43

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99 100 101 102 103 104 105 106

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111 112 113 114 115 116 117 118 119

120 121 122 123

124 125 126 127

128 129 130 131

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT STARK COUNTY - 130 WEST MAIN STREET TOULON, ILLINOIS

ESTATE OF Fernando De Vargas, DECEASED.
25 PR 10

Notice is given of the death of the above named decedent. Letters of office were issued to Maria De Vargas, 140 Brittany Trail, Elgin, Illinois 60120, as Independent Administrator, whose attorney of record is Martin J. Fogarty, Heartland Law Firm, 1545 Waukegan Road, Suite 1-3, Glenview, Illinois 60025.

Notice is given to Caleb and Unknown Heirs, Heirs of the Decedent whose names or addresses are not stated in the petition for independent administration that an order was entered on September 19, 2025, granting independent administration of the estate. This means that the administrator will not have to obtain court orders of filed estate papers in court during probate. The estate will be administered without court supervision unless interested persons ask the court to become involved.

Claims against the estate may be filed with the clerk or with the representative, or both, on or before May 28, 2026, or, if mailing or delivery of a notice from the representative is required by section 18-3 of the Probate Act of 1975, the date stated in that notice. Any claim

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF BANK BRANCH OFFICES

Notice is hereby given that **Community Sate Bank, 625 SE 2nd Street, Galva, Illinois, 61434**, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to establish branch offices at **25013 State Street, Elberta, AL 36530; and 3459 Gulf Shores Parkway, Gulf Shores, AL 36542.**

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the regional director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its **Chicago Regional Office, 300 South Riverside Plaza, Suite 1700, Chicago, Illinois, 60606-3447**, not later than **December 27, 2025**. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file at the appropriate FDIC office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

Community State Bank
Galva, Illinois

Published 12/12/25

not filed on or before that date is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the clerk must be mailed or delivered by the claimant 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>.

Martin J. Fogarty
Heartland Law Firm (6201215)
1545 Waukegan Road, Suite 1-3
Glenview, Illinois 60025
(847) 729-3300
13276852
Published 11/28, 12/5, 12/12/25

STARK COUNTY NOTICE OF TAX DEED SALE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT, TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, STARK COUNTY, ILLINOIS CAUSE NO. 2025TX11 TO THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSONS (AND IF DECEASED, TO THEIR UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVI-SEES), AND TO THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, AND TO ALL INTERESTED DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES THEREOF, INCLUDING AMONG OTHERS ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL, ILLINOIS DEPT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES, STATE OF ILLINOIS DEPT OF HEALTHCARE & FAMILY SERVICES (PUBLIC AID) GENERAL COUNSEL AND STARK COUNTY CLERK, STARK COUNTY TREASURER, CITY OF TOULON, STARK COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY, AND TO OCCUPANTS, UNKNOWN OWNERS AND PARTIES INTERESTED IN THE PARCELS HEREINAFTER NAMED

Parcel Number	Owners/Parties Interested	Cert Number	Street Or Common Address
03-18-428-001	FEUCHT, EARL	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-428-001	FEUCHT, MARGARET	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-428-001	PUBLICANI INVESTMENT CORP.RA: DENNIS BALLINGER JR	202200018	WASHINGTON ST.
03-18-437-003	FEUCHT, EARL	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-18-437-003	FEUCHT, MARGARET	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-18-437-003	MB TAX PARTNERSRA: JOHNNIE MCKEE	202200019	MULBERRY ST.
03-24-403-003	COPPLE, MATTHEW	202200020	506 N. CULBERTSON ST.
03-24-403-003	CITY OF TOULON	202200020	506 N. CULBERTSON ST.
04-36-302-015	INTERNATIONAL SUPPLY CO	202200045	507 N. GALENA AVE.
04-36-318-013	WILSON, MARCUS	202200048	104 E. WILLIAMS ST.
04-36-318-013	CITY OF WYOMING	202200048	104 E. WILLIAMS ST.
05-16-100-012	WILLIAMS, JUSTIN	202200050	310 N. SHERMAN ST.
05-16-100-012	WILLIAMS, JESSICA L.	202200050	310 N. SHERMAN ST.
07-02-219-019	TURNER, JEFFREY A	202200059	508 S. 7TH ST.
07-02-219-019	TURNER, NATHAN O.	202200059	508 S. 7TH ST.

TAKE NOTICE THAT THE ABOVE SAID PARCELS WERE SOLD ON **OCTOBER 24, 2023**, FOR GENERAL-TAXES FOR THE YEARS 2022 AND PRIOR YEARS, AND THAT THE PERIOD OF REDEMPTION FROM SUCH SALE EXPIRES **MAY 15, 2026**. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE THAT A PETITION FOR ORDER DIRECT-ING ISSUANCE OF TAX DEEDS HAS BEEN FILED IN THIS CAUSE AS TO THESE PARCELS BY STARK COUNTY, AS TRUSTEE, AND THAT ON **JUNE 5, 2026 AT 9:00 AM [COURTROOM A]**, SAID PETITIONER WILL APPLY FOR AN ORDER THAT A TAX DEED ISSUE AS TO EACH ABOVE SAID PARCEL NOT RE-DEEMED ON OR BEFORE **MAY 15, 2026**.

/S/ STARK COUNTY AS TRUSTEE, PETITIONER.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK
ADDRESS: 130 WEST MAIN, TOULON, IL 61483
TELEPHONE: (309) 286-5911

Published 12/5, 12/12, 12/19/25

SPORTS: Galva boys lose 2 in tourney

Continued from Page 12
ketball, they think of Stark County. We can really use it as a hub not just for the school but for the community at large.”

On Dec. 5, Stark County fell to 0-6 when it lost a nonconference game 64-42 at Brimfield. Connor Daum had 17 points and Caleb Gentle scored 12 for Stark County, which trailed 24-16 with 1:51 left before halftime. Unde- feated Brimfield then scored 15 in a row.

• **Galva boys** – Due to losses in its first two tournament games, Galva can finish no higher than ninth in the 12-team, pool-play Colmone Classic in Spring Valley.
Galva (4-3) lost 72-69 on Monday to Kewanee and 70-40 on Dec. 6 to Minonk Fieldcrest. Against Fieldcrest, MJ Louck had 13 points and five rebounds. Against Kewanee, JP Sloan had 22 points, Louck scored 15

and Braden Murphy scored 10.
The Wildcats are to play either for 11th place at noon Saturday or for ninth place at 1:30 p.m. Saturday. The opponent will be Peru St. Bede or Bureau Valley, depending on other tournament results.

Sloan had 18 points, eight rebounds and three steals Dec. 5 in a 36-33 non-tournament victory over North Fulton. Louck scored 12.

• **Stark County Girls** (3-3) – The Rebels produced their highest point total of the season in a 54-39 vic- tory over Peoria Christian

on Dec. 4.
Coley Johnston had 25 points and seven re- bounds, Sophie Finnegan scored 12 and had three assists and Hallie Newton grabbed eight rebounds and also had three assists.

On Monday, Stark County visited Kewanee and dropped a 46-27 deci- sion, scoring single digits in each quarter.

• **Galva Girls** (1-6) – The Wildcats lost their third game in a row on Tuesday, falling at home to Henry- Senachwine, 42-32. Galva also lost to Midland 60-30 on Dec. 2, and to Kewa- nee 71-44 on Dec. 4.



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3 bedrooms / 2 baths. Beautiful woodwork. 2-car detached garage.

PENDING!




516 S. Peoria St. - Bradford **\$123,500**
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SOLD!



407 Ross St Kewanee- \$79,900
3 bedroom/ 1 bath. Oversized 1 car detached garage. Shed.


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509 E. 2nd St. -Kewanee **\$109,900**
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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
3.99 ACRES	2.41 ACRES	6.40 ACRES	2.63 ACRES	2.35 ACRES	2.19 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES	0.96 ACRES

Amber Waves



CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK! CLUCK!



OH, BARB, DID YOU ALL HEAR ABOUT HELEN'S DAUGHTER? I MEAN, WHAT A SCANDAL!



EXCUSE ME, I'M HELENE



OK, THAT'S IT. WE ALL NEED TO START WEARING NAME TAGS.

by Dave T. Phipps

The Spats



DO YOU PREFER PAPER OR PLASTIC STRAWS?



NEITHER...



...THEY BOTH SUCK!!

by Jeff Pickering

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



NO, THERE'S NOT A "DOWNHILL SETTING." DEAR, I THINK YOU'RE MISSING THE POINT.

GRIN & BEAR IT



"I wanted Roscoe to spend more time with the boys. ... What was I thinking?"

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 14

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR is LONGFELLOW

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

PGB BAY RNU HB PGB

AMBNP FVRRBF ZUGZHYPYM.

ZP RNU WZOO YJJYMPVUZPZBF.

NUS ZP RNU WZOO FVRRBF.

— STNQUB DYGUFYU

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Trivia test

- by Fifi Rodriguez
1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
 2. HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
 3. MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
 4. MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
 5. ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
 6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
 7. FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
 8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
 9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
 10. SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

Answers

1. Duke.
2. The Ming dynasty.
3. "Holes."
4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon & Garfunkel.
5. Kneecap.
6. Santiago.
7. A Benedictine monk named Dom Perignon.
8. The cherry blossom and the chrysanthemum.
9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez.
10. Black, although red also can be hot in two-wire circuits.

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TOP 10 MOVIES

1. Zootopia 2 (PG)
2. Wicked: For Good (PG)
3. Now You See Me: Now You Don't (PG-13)
4. Predator: Badlands (PG-13)
5. The Running Man (R)
6. Eternity (PG-13)
7. Rental Family (PG-13)
8. Hamnet PG-13)
9. Sis: Road to Revenge (R)
10. Nuremberg PG-13)

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The Prairie News Sports

Rebels home for the holidays

Stark County boys holding five-team Xmas tourney

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Prairie News

The Country Roads Classic is intended to take the Stark County boys basketball team home for the holidays.

A first-year tournament, the five-team round robin is to begin Saturday in Toulon. Each team is to play twice Saturday, then twice Dec. 20 in the two-day event.

In addition to showing off the new Stark County gymnasium, which opened last season, the tournament will give the Rebels a chance to breathe a little, according to Coach Kane Mastin. The new event replaces on the Stark County schedule the usual post-Christmas holiday-tournament appearance at Erie.

Many of the Stark County basketball players also were on the school's football team that qualified for the Class 1A state playoffs. That scenario happens more years than it doesn't, which leads to perhaps too busy a schedule, Mastin suggested.

Country Roads Classic

Saturday, Dec. 13

10 a.m. - Lowpoint-Washburn vs. Dunlap JV

11:30 - DePue vs. Manito Midwest Central

1 p.m. - Stark County vs. Dunlap JV

2:30 - DePue vs. Lowpoint-Washburn

4 - Stark County vs. Midwest Central

Saturday, Dec. 20

10 a.m. - Midwest Central vs. Dunlap JV

11:30 - Stark County vs. Lowpoint-Washburn

1 p.m. - DePue vs. Dunlap JV

2:30 - Midwest Central vs. Lowpoint-Washburn

4 - Stark County vs. DePue

"We're a football school where basketball is not always the top priority," he said. "To get kids excited to play games the day after Christmas is difficult.

"Having the new gym and having the opportunity to maybe do something at home before Christmas, I think it'll be great for rejuvenating the energy with the program, to get the kids five or six days off between Christmas and New Year's and

hit the ground running for conference season."

Mastin said most of his players' families support the plan. Playing in a traditional holiday tournament requires either a long trip – Erie is more than an hour north of Toulon – or a short trip to Princeville, where most of the field consists of teams Stark County plays during the regular season.

The new tourney might already be a success. According to Mastin, sponsors have pledged about \$7,000. Mastin's goal was \$2,500. Part of that is to cover new road uniforms.

"Our travel uniforms now are essentially crepe paper. Very thin," Mastin said about the current, old duds. "It seems like there's no losing in this situation, other than maybe taking a few days off where we might get a little rusty.

"I'm just hoping that it turns into a tradition where the community can really build around. When they think of holiday basketball," Mastin said.

Continued on Page 7

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