

Douglas County Court

Traffic Citations

Kevin A. Smith, 31, Arcola, operated a vehicle with a suspended registration.

Jordan T. Sheppard, 25, Paris, operated a vehicle with a suspended registration.

Nathaniel Peacock, 57, Monee, speeding 21-25 MPH above the limit.

Maravan L. Hicks, 19, Chicago, operated a vehicle with a suspended registration.

Cameron A. Mooney, 29, Villa Grove, operated a vehicle with a suspended registration.

Criminal Charges

Tracy S. Dunn, was charged with a Class 4 felony for alleged possession of a controlled substance.

Keiwan A. Taylor, 33, Harrisburg, was charged with a Class 2 felony for alleged possession/use of a firearm; a Class 4 felony for alleged unlawful use of a weapon; a Class A misdemeanor for driving with an allegedly revoked registration; driving without a license.

Hugo A. Alvarez-Patino, 24, Arthur, was charged with a Class 2 felony for alleged aggravated domestic battery; a Class A misdemeanor for alleged domestic battery; a Class A misdemeanor for allegedly interfering with the reporting of domestic violence.

Jeremiah W. Baker, 44, Charleston, was charged with a Class 4 felony for alleged driving on a revoked license; a Class A misdemeanor for alleged driving on a revoked license.

Criminal Judgment

Nicholas G. Lynch, 26, Decatur, pleaded guilty to aggravated fleeing of a police officer and was sentenced to 24 months in the Illinois Department of Corrections, six months of mandatory supervised release and fined \$500.

Jerrel T. Stockstill, 34, Mound City, pleaded guilty to unlawful manufacture or de-

livery of cannabis between 2,000 and 5,000 grams and was sentenced to four years in the Department of Corrections; one year of mandatory supervised release and fined \$500.

Zachary J. Schott, 27, Saint John, Ind., was sentenced to 180 days in Douglas County Jail for aggravated driving under the influence; 24 months of probation and fined \$500.

Marriage Licenses

Lori Ann Smith, Mattoon, and Blake Ryan Smith, Mattoon.

Jonathan Lee Roy Jones, Newman, and Kendra Mary Smith, Newman.

Real Estate

Morton Community Bank granted Mary Ellen and Michael Rutledge a release mortgage at 406 Forest Arthur. Parcel number: 02-07-30-337-004.

Busy Bank and JPMorgan Chase Bank NA granted Donald C. Donn and Josephine R. Padilla a release mortgage at 2 S. Pine St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-10-218-007.

First Neighbor Bank NA granted Catrina and Timothy W. Akers a satisfaction of mortgage at 901 S. Sycamore Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-11-309-001.

Zachary R Keller granted Chris and Seymour Laws a satisfaction of mortgage at parcel number: 04-03-02-308-005.

Voss Family Partnership granted Loretta Mae Trust and Loretta Mae Trustee a quit claim deed at parcel numbers: 03-09-16-300-004, 03-09-16-400-008, and 03-09-21-100-002.

Mary Margaret Bosch granted Mary Margaret Bosch Trust and Mary Margaret Bosch Trustee a quit claim deed at 312 S. Shirley St. Newman. Parcel numbers: 07-04-36-400-005, 08-12-17-400-001, 07-06-32-200-001, 07-04-24-

300-002, 07-04-36-400-003 and 07-04-36-400-004.

Farm Credit Services granted Patricia L., R. Stephen, Robert W. and Ruth C. Holaday a release mortgage.

Farm Credit Services FLCA granted Patricia L. and R. Stephen Holaday a release mortgage.

Fisher National Bank granted Roy Rentals LLC - 411 Vine Camargo Series a satisfaction of mortgage at 411 Vine Camargo.

First Neighbor Bank NA granted Kelley E. Drake an agreement at 612 Newkirk St. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-208-301.

First Sate Bank granted Samuel Beachy a release mortgage at 422 S. 1st St. Atwood. Parcel number: 05-01-32-413-004.

JPMorgan Chase Bank granted Paul Pizzola a warranty deed at 104 S. Pine St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-10-224-008.

Shawna Executor Barber granted JC Estate Brown an executor's deed at 114 A Fina Dr. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-08-03-206-018.

A & M Rentals LLC granted Longview Bank a mortgage at 114 A Fina Dr. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-08-03-206-018.

A & M Rentals LLC granted Longview Bank an assignment at 114 A Fina Dr. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-08-03-206-018.

Benito G. and Leticia Benito G. and leticia Tijerina granted Benito G. Benito G. a quit claim deed at 304 S. Walnut Arcola. Parcel number: 01-14-04-429-007.

Morton Community Bank and State Bank of Arthur Trust No. 439 granted Fammie. M. and Stephen K. Kauffman a trustee's deed at 491 N CR 100 E Arthur. Parcel numbers: 02-07-29-100-013 and 02-07-29-100-014.

Internal Revenue Service granted Sweepers R & B Inc., Sweepers Bar and Sweepers

Restaurant a federal tax lien release.

Maggie Gingerich granted Gray L. and Rachel M. Gingerich a warranty deed at 614 N CR 475 E Tuscola. Parcel numbers: 02-07-14-400-028 and 02-07-14-400-128.

Gray L. and Rachel M. Gingerich granted First Community Bank of Moultrie County, First National Bank of Sullivan and Trust No. 677 a warranty deed in trust at 614 N CR 475 E Tuscola. Parcel numbers: 02-07-14-400-028 and 02-07-14-400-128.

Flat Branch Mortgage and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. granted Bradley N. and Linda S. Osborne a release at parcel numbers: 03-09-13-200-007 and 03-09-13-400-005.

Jon Alan Co. Trustee Cole, Julie Ann Co. Trustee Fulton, Charles F. Martial Trust and Charles F. Trust Tucker, and Julie Ann Co. Trustee Tyberendt granted Julie A. Fulton a trustee's deed at parcel numbers:07-06-31-100-002, 07-06-31-100-012, and 07-06-31-111-001.

Julie A. Fulton granted Julie A. Fulton Trust a warranty deed in trust at parcel numbers: 07-06-31-100-002, 07-06-31-100-012, and 07-06-31-111-001.

Eli C. Estate Gingrich and Raymond A. Executor Hotetler granted Nancy and Ruben M. Gingerisch an executor's deed at 595 N CR E Tuscola. Parcel number: 02-07-21-200-038.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and United States Department of Housing and Urban Development granted Mark Murphy a warranty deed at 706 N. Court St. Tuscola.

Jimmy Dean Donnals granted Busey Bank a mortgage at 912 E. Pembroke St. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-224-015.

Marilyn Hancock granted Marilyn J. Trust, Marilyn J. Trustee, William P. Trust and

William P. Trustee Hancock a quit claim trust deed at parcel number: 04-03-10-215-005.

Tyler Harrison granted Edward and Robin Sanford a warranty deed at 104 S. Walnut St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-10-223-008.

Edward and Robin Sanford granted Flat Branch Mortgage Inc. a mortgage at 104 S. Walnut St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-10-223-008.

Capital One Home Loans and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. granted Larry Kenneth Moseley Sr. a satisfaction of mortgage at 912 E. Wilson St. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-410-006.

Hallmark Home Mortgage LLC and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. granted Tyler Harrison a satisfaction of mortgage at 104 S. Walnut St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-10-223-008.

First Mid Bank & Trust NA granted a release mortgage to Robert A. and Stacy R. Rea at 707 Pheasant Run Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-27-201-020.

Bruce D. and Melanie M. Allen granted Trust Bank a warranty deed at 708 E. Walnut St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-02-316-009.

Bruce D. and Melanie M. Allen granted Villa Grove State Bank a mortgage at 708 E. Walnut St. Villa Grove. Parcel number: 04-03-02-316-009.

Andrea G. Shellenberg granted JP Morgan Acquisition Corp. a lis pendes at 461 E. Washington St. Arcola. Parcel number: 01-14-03-306-012.

First Mid Bank & Trust granted Julie W. Cox a release mortgage at 604 S. Locust St. Arcola. Parcel number: 01-14-09-220-016

Andrew S. and Rebecca Conner granted James and Karen Fortado a warranty deed at 800 E. Van Allen St. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-420-003.

James and Karen Fortado granted Mortgage Electronic

Registration Systems Inc. and Rocket Mortgage a mortgage at 800 E. Van Allen St. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-420-003.

Carl. T. and Melissa A. Burrell granted Sheyenne Hearn a warranty deed at 406 S. Neal St. Camargo. Parcel number: 04-03-35-304-004.

Sheyenne Hearn granted Flat Branch Mortgage Inc. and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. a mortgage at 406 S. Neal St. Camargo. Parcel number: 04-03-35-304-004.

Morton Community Bank and State Bank of Arthur granted First Community Bank of Moultrie County, First National Bank of Sullivan and Trust No. 677 a deed in trust at 477 E. St. Rt. 133 Arthur. Parcel number: 02-07-35-400-002.

U of I Employees Credit Union granted Janice L. and Ricky G. Shonkwiler a satisfaction of mortgage at 330 W. Main Arcola. Parcel number: 01-14-04-305-032.

Amber N. Allison granted LVNV Funding LLC a memo of judgment at 224 W. Main St. Arcola. Parcel number: 01-14-04-307-009.

Tamara Farina granted Sandstorm Properties LLC a warranty deed at 504 N. Broadway Newman. Parcel number: 07-06-31-107-007.

Sandstorm Properties LLC granted Longview Bank a mortgage at 504 N. Broadway Newman. Parcel number: 07-06-31-107-007.

Sandstorm Properties LLC granted Longview Bank an assignment at 504 N. Broadway Newman. Parcel number: 07-06-31-107-007.

Fletcher Stevens granted Brooke Ray a warranty deed at 507 N. Niles Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-211-004.

Brooke Ray granted Flat Branch Mortgage Inc. and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. a mortgage at 507 N. Niles Ave. Tuscola. Parcel number: 09-02-34-211-004.

USDA: Food costs to remain on upward trajectory

By **DAN GRANT**
FarmWeek

Food costs will continue to eat away at consumers' pocket-books this year.

USDA estimates food price inflation could increase another 8% this year after racing to its highest level last year (9.9%) since 1979.

"In the next year, we expect prices to continue to increase, although substantial uncertainty exists," said Matthew MacLachlan, economist at USDA's Food Economics Division.

Grocery purchases, or food at home, could experience the highest inflation this year at 8.6%, down from 11.4% in 2022. Meanwhile, prices of food away from home could increase 8.3% in 2023, up from 7.7% last year.

"We're predicting food-at-home prices will continue to increase, albeit at a slower rate than last year. Food-at-home prices at this level (in 2022) had not been observed since 1974," MacLachlan said at USDA's 99th annual Ag Outlook Forum.

The higher prices will continue to affect pretty much anything shoppers put in their carts or order out. No segment of the food market will be spared from historically high inflation again this year, according to USDA.

"This is a very high level of inflation. It isn't attributable to any category, but rather it's driven by higher prices across the board," MacLachlan said. "Prices for all food categories increased at least 5% in 2022."

After posting some of the highest price increases in 2020-21, inflation for beef/veal and pork eased to 5.3% last year.

Egg prices posted the highest gain at 32% in 2022.

Even with the higher costs, food expenditures remain about the same portion of spending (12%) for U.S. consumers compared to other years when food prices increased closer to the historical rate around 2%.

"This roughly aligns with past expenditures," MacLachlan said. "But this represents the 'average' household and not necessarily those with low income, which food is a much larger share of their expenditures."

The higher prices reflect the increasing cost of inputs along the entire food chain, MacLachlan noted.

Along with higher costs for everything from transportation to packaging, the food sector continues to struggle with labor issues, according to Andrew Harig, vice president of tax, trade, sustainability and policy development for FMI – the Food Industry Association.

Annual employee turnover at grocery stores averaged about 50% pre-COVID but currently remains above 60%.

"It looks like a year in flux. Challenges will persist," Harig said. "These (food) prices don't look like they'll come down any time soon."

The average weekly grocery scan of food purchases increased from an average of \$121 in February 2020 to \$151 last month. The average grocery purchase peaked at \$161 per week at the beginning of the pandemic as many consumers went through a "stockpile" phase, Harig noted.

But the higher cost of the average grocery purchases

doesn't reflect the whole story. Consumers are also cutting back on total purchases to deal with inflation.

"Consumer worries continue to rise," Harig said. "What we've seen in the past year is volumes are down."

A recent survey found 59% of consumers are currently shopping for more deals, 45% are buying more store brands and 41% are buying fewer items overall, according to FMI.

"Consumers are feeling this more than estimates show," said Harig, who noted grocers and retailers have been caught in the crosshairs. "Your last trip to the store often shapes how you feel about the food industry."

While some consumers often blame the point of purchase for high costs, Harig noted high food prices are the result of inflation across all sectors. Higher prices actually erode margins for food retailers, whose profit margins hover around 2-3%.

"People really don't know where their food comes from or how it's produced, so when the price changes, it's a bit of a mystery," he added. "We've seen the supply chain already stretched, and it would normally bounce back. But, it hasn't and a lot of it still traces back to COVID. We're still feeling the effects today."

Meat, dairy demand remains strong amid price volatility

The high food price envi-

ronment forced many consumers to reevaluate their spending in recent years. But it hasn't chased them from the meat or dairy aisle.

Sales of red meat, poultry and dairy products remain strong as consumers around the world look to get the most nutrition out of each food dollar, according to industry experts.

In fact, U.S. beef and dairy exports set new records in 2022 while pork exports were the third-largest on record, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) and U.S. Dairy Export Council.

"2022 was a groundbreaking year for U.S. beef's international presence, with global demand stronger than I've ever seen in all my years in the industry," said Dan Halstrom, president and CEO of USMEF.

Beef exports set records for both volume (1.47 million metric tons) and value (\$11.68 billion) in 2022, up nearly 40% from the five-year average.

Meanwhile, U.S. dairy exports surged to a record \$9.6 billion last year. Cheese sales alone nearly topped 1 billion pounds.

"We all know about inflation. The question is, will consumers continue to buy dairy products," said Mike Hutjens, University of Illinois Extension dairy specialist and professor emeritus.

"The last half of 2022 dairy consumption only went down about 2%. Some people were surprised it didn't go down more as the cost of those products was up about 22%," he noted. "It shows consumers,

even though they paid more for dairy products, are still willing to buy just about what they did in previous years."

USDA predicts the all-milk price could decline from an average of \$25.55 per hundredweight in 2022 to \$21.60 this year, which could ease inflationary pressure on dairy items.

But, lower milk prices could also result in a smaller dairy herd. Dairy cow slaughter was up 8% during a recent four-week stretch, according to the CME Group's Daily Livestock Report.

So, why have sales of dairy products remained so strong amid the price volatility?

"Dairy is a great bang for the buck," said Molly Pelzer, CEO of the Midwest Dairy Association. "Consumers are looking at their (food) dollar differently and they understand two things about dairy — it's delicious and nutritious."

As for U.S. pork exports, sales reached 2.67 mmt last year valued at \$7.68 billion, down 5% from the 2021 record. But pork sales to Mexico surged 10% to a record \$2.03 billion.

"The Mexican market has been a star performer for U.S. pork for many years, but the 2022 results were truly remarkable," Halstrom said.

At the local level, operators of many meat processing companies continue to report phenomenal demand for services as consumer interest in local freezer beef, pork and other products continues to grow.

"I have a standing waiting list so even when there's a

cancellation, we get the spots filled," Cassie Rea, manager of Farmhouse Meat Co. in Carthage, told FarmWeek.

Alternative competition fizzles

Meanwhile, as many consumers look to maximize their protein purchases at the meat counter, their appetite for alternatives fizzled in 2022.

The Washington Post reported retail sales of plant-based and high-tech meat substitutions dropped more than 10% in the past year following steady growth in the early stages of the COVID pandemic.

Prices, nutrition and value for the dollar are among the reasons consumers decided to stick with the real thing when it comes to meat purchases. The cost of plant-based meat is still about two times higher than beef while alternative chicken is about four times as high, the Post reported.

While investment in alternative proteins continues, JBS SA announced plans last fall to shutter its two-year-old Planterra Foods U.S. plant-based meat operation. McDonald's also recently discarded plans to roll out a McPlant burger nationwide.

Overall, an Elanco Animal Health executive projects sales of plant-based meat will remain about 1% of the market through 2027 while meat demand continues to grow.

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