



THE STATE
Journal Register

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Dealership has new owners

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Springfield’s Harley-Davidson has changed hands, which has not happened since 1962. Previously known as Hall’s Harley-Davidson and owned by Stan and Pat Hall, the dealership has been purchased and renamed Simpson’s Harley-Davidson. Rhett, Trent and Linn Simpson purchased the business, according to a news release from Performance Brokerage Services. The dealership is located at 2301 N. Dirksen Parkway. “It is a bittersweet moment when you

think about selling the Harley-Davidson dealership that you and your family have painstakingly cared for over 63 years,” Stan and Pat Hall said in a statement, adding that they felt comfortable entrusting the new owners “with the future of our Harley-Davidson family.” The location will remain the same, the release shared. This sale marked the second acquisition of a Harley-Davidson dealership for the Simpsons. “The Simpsons continue the multi-generational, family-owned legacy of Andrae’s Harley-Davidson in Urbana, Illinois,” the release shared. The Simpsons have “decades of

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Simpson’s Harley-Davidson, which was formerly owned by the Hall family, is pictured at 2301 N. Dirksen Parkway on Dec. 18. THOMAS J. TURNEY/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER



Kenneth Pacha, Vice President and Media Communications Director, left, talks with board member Tom Huber on Dec. 16. PHOTOS BY STEVEN SPEARIE/THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER

WQNA-FM radio to return to Springfield

Tom Ackerman
Springfield State Journal-Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

SPRINGFIELD – Community radio is coming back to the airwaves in Springfield. A passionate group of people who formerly worked with WQNA-FM, which was a cooperative between the Capital Area Career Center and the Springfield community, plan to start broadcasting again under the same call sign, but a different frequency on the dial. The Springfield Community Broadcasters, a nonprofit, announced on Dec. 16 that they aim to be back on the air by March. They made the announcement from the historic Myers building, where their studio will be located — in the former location of Prairie State Hemp. The station was sold in 2019 before it went off the air. Seven people make up the board, most or all of whom were previously in-



President of the Springfield Community Broadcasters, Jim Pemberton, was among those at the announcement of the return of WQNA on Dec. 16. involved with the station. That leadership is eager to re-integrate the station into the community and especially engage young people in hopes of making WQNA a permanent fixture. Most of the legwork has been done and an antenna will soon be installed,

said Ken Pacha, who is the vice president and media communications director. Efforts have been underway to revitalize the station as an official charitable organization since its closure. Asked about the plan moving forward and sustainability at the announcement, Jim Pemberton, president of the Springfield Community Broadcasters, said the group intends to continue fundraising, in addition to working with local businesses and keeping costs minimal. The organization plans to be as local as possible and will maintain a presence at parades, events and shows. They also want to build a space in their studio to host live musical performances. “It’s almost like we’re running for mayor, in a sense,” Pemberton said. “It’s making sure that people know that we’re there, and we’re not just sitting in this building, playing our favorite records for

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Hegseth Christianity push in Pentagon

Service members ‘voluntold’ to attend Christian services

Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

ARLINGTON, VA – In the courtyard at the center of the Pentagon, service members and military officials gathered for a Christmas worship service that featured Christian rock music and concluded with a short sermon from Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. It wasn’t the first prayer service at the Pentagon. Since May, Hegseth has held regular monthly worship services during working hours at the building. In line with his sweeping push to purge political correctness and “woke-ness” from the military, Hegseth has espoused a vision of a military guided

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Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth spoke at a Christmas worship service at the Pentagon on Dec. 17. ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Thursday, Dec. 25, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

