

The Weekly Post

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Government revenue losses not as bad as feared

By BILL KNIGHT

For The Weekly Post

State tax revenues used for everything from law enforcement to transportation are better than expected after months of the pandemic, according to a new report from the University of Illinois' Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

That said, the financial experience for local governments in The Weekly Post area has been mixed.

Illinois' General Funds lost \$868 million from major revenue sources during the pandemic, says the 10-page study, "Data Indicate COVID-19 Impact on State Revenue Not as Severe as Feared." That's some 2 percent of total receipts for the General Funds, the state's main accounts for spending on things like schools, health care, operations,

Overall, there has been a decline of \$1.44 billion in all state

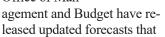
revenues. But that's less than most estimates from the spring.

Those predictions anticipated an extended recession that would severely cut revenues.

"While most forecasters were expecting revenue losses of 15-20 percent from an extended recession, Illinoisans can meet the small net loss of revenue with relief," said the report's lead author, Kenneth Kriz, Ph.D., University Distinguished Professor at the U of I at Springfield and

Director of the Institute for Illinois Public Finance.

"In recent weeks, both the Commission on Government Forecasting and accountability and the Governor's Office of Man-



Kriz

tacitly acknowledge COVID-19related losses were small, and fiscal year 2021 revenue has been revised upward.

"Much of that [General Funds revenue loss] was caused by the delay of the federal tax filing deadline," he said. "Well over half of that revenue loss has been recouped in fiscal year 2021, and General Funds revenues are actually running above what might have been expected for fiscal

Continued on Page 6

USDA needs to help solve carbon issues

One topic most red, blue, and green politicians – and, even more strikingly, farmers – agree on is climate change;

In fact, notes a December 2020 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll, 58 percent of Iowa farmers and landowners now agree that climate change is both occur-

by either human activity or nature. Moreover, if you

ring and is caused

add the 23 percent who told pollsters climate change exists but is only natu-Alan ral, 81 percent of

GUEBERT Iowa landowners and farmers now be-

lieve climate change is real and ongo-

Those numbers also suggest that most everyone in agriculture is at least somewhat open to ideas for on-the-farm carbon sequestration, a long-discussed strategy to both slow and reduce the

Continued on Page 2

BOWHUNTING BOOM



Even after a record-setting archery harvest in Illinois, there are plenty of deer herded up and feeding in snowy fields of the Prairie State.

Archers hit record deer harvest

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

What do you do in your free time when faced with a pandemic that limits your options severely? Evidently, the answer for some Illinois residents was to spend more time alone

in a treestand, socially distanced and bowhunting.

Archers in Illinois this season posted a record harvest of 75,544 deer during the 2020-21 season, which ran from Oct. 1 to Jan. 17. That is an 11.5 percent increase over last

year's archery harvest of 67,743, which was also a record.

While last year's archery boom was largely attributed to more hunters switching to crossbows, many observers speculate

Continued on Page 8

Billtown OKs major water upgrades

By BILL KNIGHT

For The Weekly Post

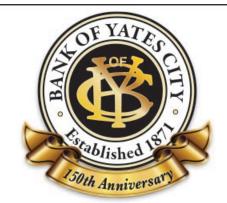
WILLIAMSFIELD – The Village Board on Monday approved proceeding with the community's next water supply infrastructure project, a plan prepared by engineers at Galesburg's Bruner, Cooper & Zuck.

"This next water infrastructure project will encompass improvements to the water treatment plant [and the] addition of new ground-level storage, in addition to replacement and upgrade of water lines on East Gale Street to mitigate breaks and service disruptions there," said Village president Matt Tonkin. Funded in part by an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) loan program, the work will take 12 to 18 months to complete.

"This will be a very large project but is anticipated to hopefully be the final large water infrastructure project for many years," Tonkin said. "The total estimated cost is about \$950,000, in-

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GUEBERT: Will carbon sequestering pay ... or work?

Continued from Page 1 impact of climate-altering atmospheric carbon. So far, however, farm-directed carbon storage has been a tough sell for two big reasons.

The first is the age-old dilemma for all farmers and ranchers: Does this new idea cost or does it pay?

Limited evidence from relatively new, private-financed efforts show decidedly mixed results. Payments, mostly in the \$30- to \$50-acre range, are often less than what participating farmers claim carbon storage schemes cost when bringing in and managing new elements needed for sequestration like cover crops, machinery modifications, extra data collection, and labor.

The second, bigger concern, though, is if carbon sequestration is even possible. Can farmers grab, for the same reason we need to example, 10 percent of the earth's climate-changing carbon and put it back into the soil to help save the planet while feeding it?

Scientific theory says yes; in-the-dirt practice, however, says maybe and if so, it could take decades before minor amounts of carbon can be added to, then stored, in food-growing soils.

At least that's the conclusion of Iowa State University (ISU) research published in Nov. 2019. The 10-year ISU research project (that used winter rye as a cover crop) showed, "The ability of cover crops to stimulate microbes deep in the soil of farm fields leads to significant gains in water quality but does not necessarily increase the capacity of soil to store carbon..."

The main reason, according to the Iowa research, is

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store carbon in the first place: While crops do stimulate soil microbes to store carbon, they also "digest" at least as much carbon as they store. The digestion converts the carbon "to carbon dioxide, which is released to the atmosphere..." which then wipes out any "stored" carbon benefit.

In short, it's what plants were designed to do; asking them to do it differently might be a hard pull for both science and Mother Nature.

But neither is deterring investors and curious farmers from seeking new ways to marry future carbon sequestration with workday agronomy.

On Jan. 22, the Washington Post published a highly detailed, well-balanced examination of carbon sequestration efforts underway on a 10,000acre, Maryland corn, soybean, and wheat farm. It included the farmer's hopes as well as his skepticism. (Links at farmandfoodfile.com)

Indeed, the farmer, Trev Hill, told the Post, farming for carbon "makes life a lot more difficult, and not necessarily more profitable.""

Still, he, like many others who back "regenerative" farming, view carbon sequestration as not only possible, but necessary if the world is to avoid a climate - and food - catastrophe.

Maybe it doesn't work well right now, they admit, but more research, farm testing, and adaptation could provide other ways to some near- and longterm storage successes and profits.

Call me crazy, but that sounds exactly like the work the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) was created to perform.

USDA, after all, has the checkbook to finance public research to make carbon sequestration work and the bureaucratic skill to manage such a multi-disciplinary, multi-year push. It also has a public mandate to supply safe and abundant food today while ensuring the nation's means of food production tomorrow.

What could be more important for our children, grandchildren and the world?

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The Farm and Food File is published weekly throughout the U.S. and Canada. Past columns, events and contact information are posted at www.farmandfood-



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THE WEEK AHEAD

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The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast Thursday Friday Saturday Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Partly Sunny Partly Sunny Partly Sunny Partly Sunny Partly Sunny Snow Partly Sunny 37 22 14 14 40 SSE 9 mph 10 mph W 17 mph NNW 11 mph NW 15 m NW 11 mph SE 14 mph

Elmwood considers sale to Masons

ELMWOOD – The Elmwood City Council did discuss selling a 14-foot wide piece of city property to the Masonic Horeb Lodge at its last meeting, but it was not in the city parking lot, as The Weekly Post reported in a Jan. 28 story entitled "Elmwood approves grant for cafe." The newspaper erred.

The property being discussed is actually located in the vacant lot at 110 N. Magnolia, south of the Uptown Cafe building.

"They want to buy 14 feet south of the building, the length of the building," said

Amy Davis, Elmwood's economic development officer. Currently, a concrete pad used for outdoor dining occupies a part of the property.

The extra space would to allow for a side entrance to the cafe and for a hood vent to be added on the south side of the building during remodeling.

If the property was to be sold, the city would maintain access to the parking lot. The proposal is scheduled to be discussed at today's Elmwood council meeting.

"We're figuring out what it's going to cost," Davis said. "It's a work in progress."

BILLTOWN: Many new ideas for park

Continued from Page 1

cluding required contingencies. The project will be funded via a low-interestrate loan from IEPA, although the village is hoping and applying for a substantial proportion of this amount to be forgiven via the IEPA principal forgiveness program."

In another improvement project, about 150 completed surveys have been returned to the village by residents providing suggestions on possible future plans for the Williamsfield Veterans Memorial Park.

"This is a fantastic response," Tonkin said, "and sets an example of how input

from residents can be effectively solicited and considered in major decisions for the Village."

Trustees also discussed but took no action on several topics:

- Multi-year proposals for new contracts on trash and recycling collection.
- Prioritizing work on streets and sidewalks to possibly be underwritten by Motor Fuel Tax funds.
- Plans for renovating and repairing the KP Hall to perhaps finalize a proposal to submit to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

BILL KNIGHT can be reached at bill.knight@hotmail.com

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The Weekly Post

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GUEST VOICES





"MR. PRESIDENT, THE POLITICAL CARTOONISTS OF AMERICA ARE WAITING."

Of hellos, goodbyes & a rational fear of purses

Change is coming to The Weekly

The big news this week is the resumption of sports at the high school and junior high levels. The fact all athletes should get to play at least a part of a season is very welcome.

But after a long layoff due to COVID-19 restrictions, some athletes will have to work hard to get back in game shape.

The same is true for our reporting staff, which is scrambling to catch

up, to type in schedules and to track down attendance policies. Our plan is to cover sports as fully as possible, even though we may not be able to attend games or get pictures of the action.



Jeff **LAMPE**

As a result, the sports page is going to look a little different. Instead of live action photos, we will feature team pictures over the next few weeks. And there will be less reliance on game stories, with more emphasis on features.

Also, my columns in this space will migrate to the back page and will focus on prep sports, instead of the usual ramblings you see here.

To help fill this space, we are adding a weekly column from awardwinning agricultural journalist Alan Guebert, whose smiling face you can see on the front page this week.

Guebert grew up on a southern Illinois dairy farm and is a University of Illinois graduate who has been writing his syndicated "The Farm and Food File" column since 1993. While he recently moved from Delavan to Wisconsin, Guebert still has close ties to the Prairie State. We're happy to have him aboard.

The other reason we needed to add Alan is because we're going to be saying goodbye to Bill. Yes, at the completion of this eighth full year of publishing The Weekly Post, Bill Knight plans to retire.

How are we going to replace his countless bylines? I have no idea, but there's a good chance it will involve me doing more writing - until we can hire another writer.

While we will sorely miss Bill, I'm happy he will have more time to spend with his granddaughter, Alice. And I plan a better farewell column when the time comes – though there's still a part of me hoping Bill will change his mind.

I have had a fear of women's purses since a young age. Perhaps I was smacked with one at some point, though I don't recall that.

Whatever the reason, I've never felt comfortable venturing into a purse. As a kid, I never knew what

"lady stuff" I might find. As an adult, fear has been replaced by frustration.

My wife's current purse (there seems to be an endless rotation) is large and virtually empty. But that is deceptive, because there are numerous side compartments, zippered areas and hidden pouches designed

In our house, each person has their own drawer in the kitchen. The idea is that by placing wallets, keys and other items in this drawer, they will not get lost. That works well for me and the youngest. The others? No. Keys and wallets are always missing and the older boys can never find their hunting licenses or permits.

My wife's drawer is immaculate, but seldom includes her car keys. I would say keys are in the drawer 10 percent of the time. But that's always the 10 percent when I am stealing her lip balm or hidden cash, never when I need to drive.

When I need her keys, I usually have to brave the purse. And that never works. The other day is a perfect example. I put my hand in every pouch available, but found no keys.

She yelled down to look in "the little side pocket in the middle." Sure enough, the keys were there. But I swear on Bigfoot's grave, that compartment was not there the first time I scoured that frustrating satchel.

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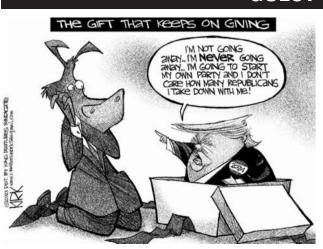
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Don't take your mother for granted

To the Editor:

My mother passed away on Jan. 23, 2021, at 4:26 p.m. She was fun, full of life and stories and sharp as a tack at 93 years young; until the day in the hospital when a procedure was performed to determine what was needed to be done to an infected wound.

After days in the hospital, the effects worsened, so we had her moved back to familiar settings at her new residence. We were called by our brother-in-law to come, as she was slipping away. When I saw her, she was still sharp and could understand who and what was said. Next day, not so much. I panicked and feared she wouldn't understand what I needed to tell her!

I gathered my feelings, and, gracefully, God still left us our real mom for us to say our goodbyes.

What I told my loving mother was that children can take their mothers for granted so easily, and that I was sorry for doing so, that I loved her even when she

said, "Go out and pick a stick (off a willow tree) for your spanking."
She seldom used it, we got the point. They did leave a welt. I always tried to find one that would break. She laughed.

Thank you God, she was still there! She was gone the next day. I was devastated that I wasn't hold-

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there are terrorists in my brain terrorists with weapons of mind destruction terrorists plotting the demise of my memories tearing names away from my lips as soon as I lay eyes on a friend, or acquaintance, or the kid next door whom I've watched grow into a fine young adult from babyhood terrorists planting tripwires across thresholds that I stumble across innocently blasting the very words from my tongue as a sentence struggles to come forth into the midst of a conversation there are terrorists in my brain terrorists lying in wait to abduct entire swatches of my life, as I scramble to gain purchase on the fleeting thought, on the merest whim, that just seconds ago was full and robust there are terrorists in my brain doing what terrorists do best laying waste

Vickie Woodcock, Farmington

ing her hand at that precious mo-

So to all those young and old with parents still in their lives, beware, when mom is talking to you while you're watching the news and turning your ear toward the TV or phone and you're nod-

ding your head or saying "Uh-huh," you may be taking for granted the person who birthed you, fed and bathed you, nourished you, protected you, provided for you, and defended you.

No matter what you did! This is and always will be your mom.

Larry Satterfield, Brimfield

Let's all take the vaccine as soon as possible

To the Editor:

In regards to Dr. Hickerson's letter last week, I appreciate the emergency room doctor's point of view, but I'm trusting the infectious disease doctors and the infection control experts. Let's all take the COVID-19 vaccine as soon as we can.

P.S. The only thing we can prove about Hank Aaron is that he's one of the all-time great home run hitters.

Steve Smith, Princeville

Send letters to:The Weekly Post, PO Box 745, Elmwood, IL 61529 or email to jeff@wklypost.com. Include a phone number. We reserve the right to edit submissions.



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REVENUE LOSS: Local impact fairly minor

Continued from Page 1 year 2021."

Officials from some municipalities – Brimfield, Farmington, Princeville and Yates City – agreed that they haven't been hurt that much so far.

• Brimfield Village President Dan Fishel said, "We have looked long and hard at any pandemic cost to the village, and they are very small if any. I feel we are very solid financially as we expected."

• Princeville Village President Jeff Troutman said, "As far as our financial forecast, the Village of Princeville would agree the impacts are far less than forecasted. I would say we should be within 2 percent of our budget."

• Williamsfield Village President Matt Tonkin said, "We have seen revenues drop. Sales tax is down about 7 percent; gaming down 30 percent. We will make adjustments. I think perhaps the larger impact may have been on jobs and incomes of residents."

• Yates City Village President Leslie Gavelys said, "The village is down some on revenues from the state due to less spending, but it's not 20 percent."

• In Farmington, City Administrator Rollen Wright said, "I don't see that our community is seeing any shortfalls with financials. I've been concerned about how [COVID-19] was going to affect the City. I usually have the budget finished and have it passed before May 1 (when we are to have it in place by statute). This year because of the disaster proclamation is in effect, we passed our budget in October."

Wright this week summarized Farmington's 2020-2021 budget May 1- Dec. 31, and its year-to-date General Funds are at 79.55 percent. Its biggest drop is 55 percent from Oak Ridge Cemetery; its biggest surplus is in Motor Fuel Taxes, at 133.16 percent of its budgeted amount

"We still have four more months in our fiscal year. We seem to have more funds this year, and we are still in our budget projection."

• Elmwood City Treasurer Bonnie Beal provided a detailed summary, that shows the extent of Elmwood's revenue losses. All its expected real estate taxes – \$298,621 – were received, she reported, but less than half of all other revenue sources have come in.

Among the worst were video gaming (just 22 percent of anticipated revenue), income taxes (51 percent of expected revenue), and sale and use taxes (51 percent of anticipated

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-3%	-19%	-8%	-3%	-11%		
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-32.00% -12%	-32.00% -12%	-32.00% -16%	-50.00% -5%	-18.00% -30%		

Peoria County's original estimates for revenue shortfalls are the smaller numerals, below which are adjusted forecasts. (PPRT is Personal Property Replacement Taxes, which replaced revenue lost when some taxes on businesses were dropped in 1970).

revenue). Overall, the City of Elmwood has received \$543,241 of its total of \$790,821 expected – 68 percent of anticipated.

Likewise, county officials concede that revenues are down significantly, but not at the catastrophic levels some foresaw.

"During the early days of the Governor's stay-at-home order and when the economy looked like it was headed toward a recession far worse than the Great Recession of just a decade ago, Peoria County made some pretty dire revenue projections based on the best information and data available," Peoria County Administrator Scott Sorrel told The Weekly Post. "We also reduced our expenditures to match what we expected in revenue loss. Throughout the rest of 2020, we closely monitored both revenues and expenses."

Its updated projections of lost revenue, anticipated shortfalls remain, but they aren't nearly as bad as feared. (See chart above).

"Revenues were still less than originally budgeted but not as bad as we had thought they would be during the stay-at-home order," Sorrel added. "We still have several state shared revenues, like sales taxes, to be distributed to us."

Fulton County had been dealing with deficits before COVID-19 emerged, but austerity measures have helped and maybe prepared the County for weathering the pandemic storm.

"The outlook in Fulton County is no different than most rural communities," said Fulton County Clerk and Recorder Patrick O'Brian. "You could say the status is pending.

"Two out of the last three years the county has passed budgets over \$1 million in the red. However, those budgets closed the years far below those projections with a loss of \$153,000 in 2019 and \$400,000 in the 2020 year of the pandemic," O'Brian continued. "In 2020 the County Board passed a \$223,000 deficit budget for FY 2020-21. The revenues were projected using the 2019 budget as a base. It was aided by a \$180,000 new revenue source in local cannabis taxes and around \$100,000 in savings on the group health insurance plan. On the horizon are potential losses of revenue due to the Duck Creek plant closure.

"Essentially, if the economy recovers and recent trends and state revenues hold, the county could finish the year in the black for the first time in many years," he added.

"However, if there is a massive reduction in state revenues, the County Board will be tasked with cost-cutting measures throughout the year to account for those losses."

Statewide, Illinois' economy has made some gains toward recovery, said Kris, whose work analyzed state data on tax receipts through November 2020 plus consumers' credit-card spending data. It benefited especially from federal stimulus measures, but as long as COVID-19 remains a public-health emergency, there's little confidence of a sure, steady return to normal.

"Going forward, tremendous uncertainties remain, Kriz wrote.
"Forecasts acknowledge potential COVID-19 spikes, vaccine rollout timelines, and political risk at the state and, more importantly, federal level.

"The state faces other budget challenges," he added. "Some of those challenges existed prior to COVID-19 and some have happened recently but are not directly attributable to COVID-19 (voters' rejection of the proposed graduated income tax constitutional amendment)."

BILL KNIGHT can be reached at bill.knight@hotmail.com

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Applications can be filled out online at www.princeville.org or paper copies are available at Village Hall.

Applications must be turned in by Monday, March 15, 2021.

Questions, call Village Hall, 309-385-4765 or email, villagehall@princeville.org



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PUBLIC RECORD

NOTE: Charges are merely an accusation. All suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Police reports

- DAHINDA Michael Martinie of Dahinda struck a deer while traveling southbound in the 1700 block of Knox Hwy. 12 on Dec. 28.
- FARMINGTON Pulled over in his vehicle for a possible domestic issue originating out of Middle Grove, Nathan Christy, 31, of Farmington was cited on Jan. 17 for driving while license revoked, according to a Farmington police report.
- FARMINGTON Farmington police located a man suspected of harassing staff at the Farmington Subway on Jan. 21. Jeffery Lee, 49, of Farmington was charged for domestic battery, according to a report. Subway management also permanently barred him from entering the restaurant. Lee could not post bond and was transported to Fulton County Jail.
- $\bullet \ FARMINGTON-Farmington$ police reported two burglaries to vehicles on Jan. 31 at the Gaslight Trailer Park in the 100 block of W. Pearl Street. Items taken were keys

and a Norwood Tap beer chip.

- ELMWOOD Several cases of unemployment fraud have been reported to Elmwood police officers.
- YATES CITY Police responded to a report of two stolen inflatable Christmas decorations in the 100 block of East Bishop St. on Dec. 19.
- YATES CITY A 14-year-old juvenile was arrested on Dec. 21 by Yates City Police for battery. The juvenile was released to his parents with a juvenile probation appoint-

by sealed bid of property at

216 S. Walnut Ave. Details

bids are opened March 16,

will be published before

Troutman said.



PEORIA OFFICE:

1318 W. Candletree Drive Peoria, IL 61614 (309) 691-9171

CANTON OFFICE: 350 N. Main St. Canton, IL 61520 (309) 647-2655

Page 7

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with plan

For The Weekly Post PRINCEVILLE - Following a public hearing on Jan. 28, the Village Board on Monday discussed the Comprehensive Plan and plans to vote on a final version next month.

"Right now, there aren't any revisions [in the draft]," said Village President Jeff Troutman.

Helped by the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, the 20-year comprehensive planning process seeks to address 16 goals ranging from transportation, population and housing to land use, economy and community pride.

According to the plan's 118-page draft – available at the Village's website, www.princeville.org.

"The aim of this plan is to sustain the rural nature and small-town character of Princeville, highlighting the quality of its schools, parks and recreation options, and rich agricultural heritage. These high-class amenity offerings make Princeville an attractive place to maintain and establish roots, spurring further cooperation and collaboration."

A previous open house gathered community opinions on Princeville's strengths and weaknesses. Strengths include parks and local businesses, citizens said, and weaknesses range from infrastructure to downtown and residential

Also, meetings with Princeville high school students accumulated additional feedback, and youths liked the existing "small-town feel" and churches and wanted options for entertainment, evening dining and a grocery store.

In other news,

- The Board approved seeking engineering and design work for downtown sidewalks and lighting in anticipation of a \$130,000 state grant, which the Village expects to receive in about six months.
- The Village received \$71,689 from the state-administered Coronavirus Urgent Remediation Emergency (CURE) grant to reimburse costs related to the pandemic.
- Trustees OK'd an ordinance authorizing the sale

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Kickapoo Creek Winery (309) 495-9463 \$99.99 dinner for 2 or Valentine Indulgence \$119.99 with a bottle of wine & two signature glasses 6605 N Smith Rd, Edwards 61528 Deadline for Pick up is Saturday, February 13th • 11-3:00 orders, Feb 9th Ready with easy directions for you to bake at home CHARCUTERIE SALADS Chef inspired artisan meats Winter mix greens with house and cheeses paired with marinated vegetables accented olives and toast by an Asian inspired dressing ENTRÉES Your choices (can do one of each or both the same) Beef Wellinton with a Norton demi juicy filet mignon with flavors of bok choy, mushroom, pancetta, and brie wrapped in a golden brown pastry. Cedar smoked salmon en croute fresh wild caught salmon filet on a bed of cream spinach, topped with lemon herb butter wrapped in flaky phyllo dough. Accompanied by twice baked potatoes & roasted vegetable mix & rolls **DESSERT Molten lava cake** with a raspberry rosemary sauce, with seasonal berries

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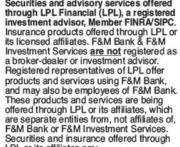
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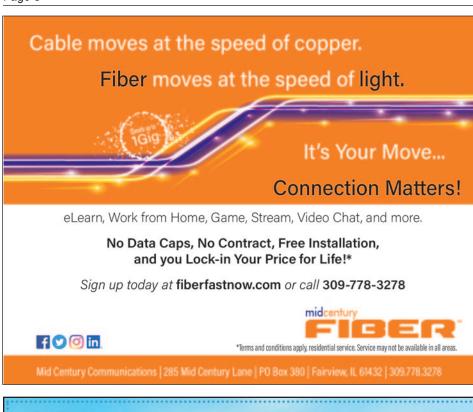
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DEER: Fulton Co. 2nd in deer totals

Continued from Page 1 the extra free time provided by the pandemic was more of a factor this

The record archery total helped boost the overall statewide harvest for the year to 162,575 whitetails for all deer seasons - well above last year's total of 153,174 deer. Of those, 54.6 percent of deer shot were bucks.

Locally, hunters shot 4,105 deer in Fulton County (second highest total in Illinois behind only Pike County), 2,497 deer in Knox County and 2,038

Top Deer Counties

Top counties in Illinois for total deer harvested by hunters in 2020-21.

<u>County</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Pike	4,545
2. Fulton	4,105
3. Jefferson	3,996
4. Adams	3,949
5. Randolph	3,893
6. Jackson	3,597
7. Williamson	3,328
8. JoDaviess	3,212
9. Macoupin	3,121
10. Marion	3,075

in Peoria County.

The archery increase was dramatically ahead of

changes in other seasons.

- Youth: Youth deer hunters harvested a preliminary total of 2,321 deer during between Oct. 10-12, 2020, compared to 3,774 in
- Firearm: Hunters took a preliminary total of 76,579 deer during the traditional Illinois firearm seasons of Nov. 20-22 and Dec. 3-6, 2020, compared with 75,417 deer taken during the 2019 firearm season.
- Muzzleloader: Hunters using muzzleloading rifles harvested a preliminary total of 3,447 deer during muzzleloader-only hunting Dec. 11-13, compared with a harvest of 3,076 deer in 2019.
- Late Winter: The 2020-21 Late Winter Only and Special CWD deer seasons concluded on Jan. 17 with a combined preliminary harvest total of 4,684 deer, compared with a harvest of 3,164 in 2019-20.

There were 15 northern Illinois counties open to the CWD season. There were 20 counties open for late-winter hunting.

Counties that are at or below their individual deer population goal for two consecutive years may be removed from the latewinter season.



Brimfield Alumni Association Fundraiser Keep Brimfield High School History A

The new Brimfield High School (BHS) building is celebrating its 10th anniversary of opening this year in August & the Brimfield High School Alumni Association (BHSAA) was also resurrected 10 years ago in May 2021. The old BHS (1936-2011) as many of you remember used to display BHS alumni class composite photos in its hallways. Over the years some of these photos were put into storage & many of them were completely ruined by water damage or damaged in some way. The BHS composite photos are now in a safe dry storage room in the new BHS & are not on display yet. The BHSAA is going to work in collaboration with the school & Superintendent on a project to restore, replace, & get these composite photos displayed in the new high school. The location of the future display of these composite photos would be on the lower level North hallway (the hallway that is straight ahead & behind the staircase after entering the South entrance by the office) in the new BHS building. This North hallway will be deemed the BHS alumni hallway. The composite photos are of varying sizes & are both displayed in portrait & landscape formats. BHSAA along with the financial help of the school will need to replace or repair some of these photos & display them in large poster size display panels that visitors can flip through. Some of these composite photos may need to be mounted on the wall as well because of their size & display format & won't consequently fit or look good in the display cases.

BHSAA is doing a fundraiser asking the alumni & the community to donate towards getting these photos restored & displayed once again in the new high school. Money donated towards this fundraiser will be allocated towards the BHS composite photos project only. Please donate towards this photo fundraiser to help keep the rich history of BHS & its alumni alive in our new school for years to come.

Donations (cash or checks payable to BHSAA) made towards this fundraiser can be sent to the BHSAA President at the address below. And please make sure to send a note that your donation is going directly towards the BHS composite photo project.

> Clint McKown 505 N Jackson St Brimfield, IL 61517-9700

Photo project donations may also be made online through PayPal & once again please indicate that your donation is going towards this specific project. And when paying by PayPal, please pay to BHSAA as a "Friend" rather than as a "Business" so that fees are not deducted from your payment. Our BHSAA PayPal link:

PayPal

https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/BHSAlumniAssociation



*If two-alumni household, please indicate class year for both.

Alumni Email: brimfieldalumni@gmail.com The Brimfield High School Alumni Association (BHSAA) mails out BHSAA

alumni & faculty membership renewal forms at the beginning of each

calendar year in preparation of funding for the \$1,000 annual alumni scholarship to be presented to a BHS senior in May of that year.

This year we will be giving away a \$50 Amazon gift card again to one lucky BHSAA paid member in a drawing from the first 25

memberships we receive back. Then we will be giving away a \$25

Amazon gift card to one lucky winner from the next 25 member-

ships we receive back. We will continue to give away Amazon gift cards as long as we keep receiving membership forms returned back in multiples of 25.

BHSAA was founded in May of 2011 (10th Anniversary this year) during

the demolition of the old BHS & continues to grow as we head into

2021. The BHSAA has had two alumni banquets and a very successful trivia night in the past. The BHSAA will be having trivia nights on Satur-

day, April 24, 2021 and Saturday, September 18, 2021 both at the Brim-

field legion, depending on the current COVID mitigations at those times.

Farmington council tables building plan again

By BILL KNIGHT

For The Weekly Post
FARMINGTON – Once
more, the idea of escaping
the current municipal
complex and constructing
a new facility was postponed at the City Coun-

cil's latest meeting on

Monday.

A large crowd of people attended the meeting, apparently riled up by social media reports repeatedly asked for a price tag for a project with no site nor design yet determined.

A proposal to seek three architects to detail possible concepts for the new building was tabled.

The discussion on whether to relocate or to build new rather than spend millions of dollars on the deteriorating building is no secret, City Administrator Rollen Wright said.

"This has been dragging on for three years," he said. "The Council made the decision to build, but it's difficult to say how much it will cost with an unknown size and location.

"We haven't got that far," he continued. "If you're building a new home, you can't say how much it'll cost if you don't have a lot and know what kind of house you want."

Wright said the Council's Building Committee plans to meet at 6 p.m. on Feb. 15 to try to nail down the City's preferences on needs, square footage, storage, etc., and he intends to suggest agreeing on a dollar amount and to then start working backward from there.

"We're making responsible decisions," he added.

In other business:

- Police officer Emily Ordaz resigned and the Council approved Police Chief Chris Darsham hiring a full-time officer.
- Darsham reported that the department in January made 57 traffic stops, handled 2 crashes, issued 20 traffic citations or ordinance violations, re-

sponded to 4 property crimes and 3 crimes against people, and made 4 arrests.

- The Illinois Association of Police Chiefs notified Farmington that its Police Department has met the U.S. Department of Justice's use-of-force eligibility requirements, which under the Safe Policing for Safe Communities executive order enacted in June make law enforcement agencies eligible for federal grants as long as they maintain a use-of-force policy that follows all federal, state and local laws, including the prohibition on using chokeholds unless merited in a situation where deadly force is allowed.
- Wright reported that Farmington's Tax Increment Financing fund in January spent \$1,000 for one redevelopment grant

and made a total of \$233,529.27 in "surplus payments" to Farmington Central school district, and Fulton County, plus a disbursement to Petersen Health Systems for a TIFfunded project.

BILL KNIGHT can be reached at bill.knight@hot-mail.com



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OBITUARIES

Patricia A. Dykeman

PRINCEVILLE – Patricia Ann Dykeman, 80, of Peoria, formerly of Princeville, passed away on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021, at OSF Richard Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

Patricia was born on March 17, 1940, in Peoria to

Raymond & Elizabeth (Fuchs) Heiman. She married Harold Gene Dykeman on July 1, 1961, in Peoria. He preceded her in death on April 8, 2016.



Dykeman

Surviving are four daughters, Deborah Lambert, Mary Dykeman, Laura (Michael) Thorne, Sandra (Nathan) Barrick; one son, Steven (Jessica) Dykeman; 19 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one brother, Raymond (Ellen) Heiman and one sister, Susan Gratton. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Angela Dykeman; and a sister, Theresa Gratton.

Pat retired from Members Choice Credit Union in 2004 after many years of serving customers with a smile. She loved spending time with her family, and she and Harold were regular fixtures at the local coffee shops. She enjoyed the outdoors, whether gardening or taking a walk through the countryside. Back in the day, Pat and Harold could cut a mean rug at the local square dance halls. She was a lifelong member of the Catholic church.

Visitation was Monday, Feb. 1, 2021, at Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville. A funeral mass followed at St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church, Princeville. Reverend Monsignor Brian Brownsey officiated. Burial was in the Princeville Township Cemetery following the funeral mass.

Memorial Contributions may be made to St. Mark Catholic Church, Peoria.

Online condolences may be left for Pat's family on her tribute wall at www.haskellfuneral.com.

Barbara A. LaFollett

ELMWOOD – Barbara Ann La-Follett, 74, of Elmwood, passed away at 7:27 p.m., on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021, in rural Brimfield, surrounded by her family.

She was born on Oct. 10, 1946, to William "Eugene" and Mildred "Maxiene"

(Zirkle) Johnson in Peoria. She married Larry La-Follett on July 23, 1965. He preceded her in death on July 27, 2019.

She is survived by two sons, Robbie LaFollett of

Hanna City and Randy LaFollett of Elmwood; eight brothers; two sisters; four grandchildren, Dr. Kayte LaFollett, Megan (Richie) Spring, Jesse LaFollett, and Ryan

LaFollett

Stear; one great-grandchild, Bristol Stear; two step-great-grandchildren, Owen and Myles Spring; several nieces and nephews; and several great-nieces and great-nephews.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two brothers; one sister; and her dog, Mini.

Barbara previously worked at Globe Auto Supplies and cleaned at Caterpillar. She was a farmer's wife and a full-time grandma. She enjoyed attending sporting events, mowing, bowling, dancing and playing cards. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and the rest of her family.

Cremation rites have been accorded. A private service will be held with immediate family only. A visitation will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Oaks-Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood. Due to COVID mitigations, social distancing and face masks will be required.

To leave online condolences or view Barbara's video tribute, please visit www.oakhinesfuneralhome.

Jacinto C. Tolentino

KICKAPOO – Jacinto C. Tolentino, 82, died Jan. 25, 2021, at his home in Kickapoo, Ill.

At his request, no services will be held.

Jacinto was born on Sept. 11, 1938, in Manila, Philippines, to Facundo and Juana Tolentino. He was preceded in death by his parents

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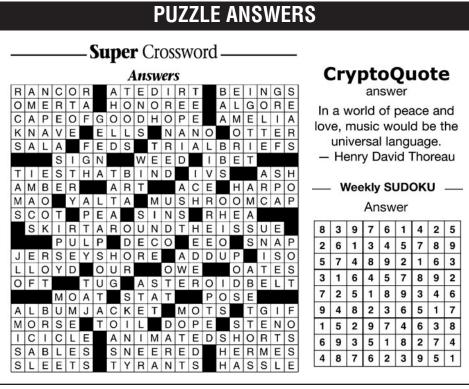
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OBITUARIES

and five siblings: Josefina, Ernesto, Romeo, Alberto and Antonio.

He is survived by his wife, Dolores and two daughters and their spouses: Joanna and Brian Fox and Jo and Nathan Beever; and six grandchildren.

Jacinto graduated from the University of Santo Tomas in Manila, Philippines, with a Bachelors of Science in Psychology.

He came to the United States in 1970 with his sister, Josefina. He went by "Jack" to many who met him here in the U.S. Jacinto and Dolores were married in 1974 and raised their daughters in Galesburg. They then moved to Peoria and most recently Kickapoo.

He enjoyed gardening, shopping (especially for antiques), and going out to eat.

Oliver F. Buhs Sr.

BRIMFIELD - Oliver Franklin Buhs Sr., 86, of Peoria, brother of a Brimfield man, died Jan. 28, 2021, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center.

He was born on June 14, 1934, in Bartonville to Otto and Dorothy (Jacobs) Buhs. He married Shirley J. Parker on Feb. 11, 1950, in Peoria. She preceded him in death on Oct. 21, 2016.

Surviving are six children, Oliver (Cheryl) Buhs Jr. of Peoria, Gregory (Mary Jo) Buhs of Oconomowoc, Wis., Cheryl (Paul) Lohnes of Peoria, Peggy (Pete) Jain of Peoria, Gary (Stephany) Buhs of Peoria, and Lisa (Todd) Stroud of Peoria;

11 grandchildren; 4 great-grandchildren; 1 great-great-grandchild; and 1 brother, Samuel (Judy) Buhs of Brimfield.

Private burial of ashes will be held at Lancaster Cemetery in Glasford.

Condolences can be left online at www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com.

Mary Lou Duckworth

HANNA CITY - Mary Lou Duckworth, 89, of Hanna City died Jan. 30, 2021, at Farmington Country Manor.

She was born on August 20, 1931, in West City. She married Leroy H. Duckworth on Sept. 20, 1958, in Peoria. He preceded her in death.

Surviving are one daughter, Jeanne (Daniel) Wolford of Hanna City; one granddaughter; and three step-grandchildren.

Burial of ashes will be held at a later date at Masonic & Oddfellows Cemetery in Benton.

Condolences can be left online at www.sedgwickfuneralhomes.com.

Shirley I. Gibson

PRINCEVILLE - Shirley I. Gibson, 82, of Peoria, a Princeville native, died Jan. 25, 2021, surrounded by loved ones.

Services will be at a later date. Shirley was born on March 19, 1938, to Robert and Isla (Morrow) McNeeley in Princeville. She married Scott Gibson on Dec. 5, 1986. Surviving are her husband, Scott

Gibson; two daughters, Tammy

(and Jack Terrell) Foster, Dawn ald Foster, Norman Foster and Tobin Gibson; 13 grandchildren;

Denver Green

PRINCEVILLE - Denver Green, of Waukesha, Wis., formerly of Peoria and a native of Princeville, 84, died Jan. 21, 2021.

in Princeville. He married Sharon (nee Burk) on Jan. 27, 1957. She preceded him in death.

Daniel (Lynne) Green of Elm Grove, Wis., Timothy (Sherry) Green of Barto, Pa., Andrew (Marita) Green of Waukesha, Wis., Matthew (Kimberly) Green of Wauwatosa, Wis., and Dr. Melody Green of Urbana; nine grandchildren; five great grandchildren; and one sister.

A memorial service will be held later this year. He will be buried in Princeville Township Cemetery. A graveside service will be scheduled in the near future.

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

Condolences can be left online at

ELMWOOD - Catherine Satter-Wright & Salmon Mortuary in

(and Joel) Jackson; three sons, Donand 12 great-grandchildren.

Denver was born Nov. 13, 1936,

He is survived his children, Dr.

www.haskellfuneral.com.

Catherine Satterfield

field, 93, of Elmwood has died. Peoria is in charge of arrangements.

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BRIMFIELD Baptist Church of Brimfield

Pastor Doug Seeley 321 S. Jefferson St., Brimfield (309) 678-2208 Sun. School: 9:30 am Sun. Worship: 10:40 am Wed. Bible Study: 7 pm

St. Joseph **Catholic Church**

Father John Verrier 314 W. Clay, Brimfield (309) 446-3275 stjosephbrimfield.org Sat. Confession: 3:30-4:45 pm Sat. Mass: 5 pm Sun. Mass: 10:30 am (10 am in the summer) Daily Mass: Tues.-Fri. 8 am

St. Paul's **Lutheran Church** The Lutheran Church -

Missouri Synod "Preaching Christ Crucified" "Liturgical & Reverential" Pastor Michael Liese 204 W. Clav St., Brimfield (309) 446-3233 Sun. Divine Service: 10 am **Brimfield E-Free Church**

Pastor Donald Blasing 11724 Maher Road Brimfield, IL 61517 (309) 446-3571 brimfieldefree.org Worship: 10:30 am Sunday School: 9:30 am AWANA: Wed. 6:15 pm, ages 3-12

Brimfield United Methodist Church

Pastor Roland Millington 135 S. Galena St., Brimfield (309) 573-1833 Sun. Worship: 9 am Sun. School: 9 am Wed. Bible Study: 7 pm

Union Church at Brimfield United Church of Christ

Pastor Stephen Barch 105 W. Clay Street, Brimfield (309) 446-3811 brimfieldunionchurch.org Sunday Worship: 9 am Tuesday Bible Study: 6:30 pm · First Sunday each month is Communion Sunday (glutenfree communion offered) . Youth group meets 2nd Sunday each month, 12:30-2 p.m.

DAHINDA **Dahinda United Methodist** Church

Reverend Teri Shane 1739 Victoria St., P.O. Box 14 Dahinda, IL 61428 Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee: 10:30-11:30 a.m. Sunday School: 10:40-11:30 Church: (309) 639-2768 Pastor's Office: (309) 639-2389 Email: williamsfielddahin-

DOUGLAS Douglas United Methodist

daumc@yahoo.com

Church

Pastor Kristine McMillan 484 3rd St. Yates City, IL 61572 (NOTE: Church is in Douglas) Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. (Maguon worship: 10:30 a.m.) Facebook Live is 10:30 at Maquon UM Church page

EDWARDS Bethany Baptist Church

7422 N. Heinz Ln., Edwards (309) 692-1755 bethanycentral.org Sun. Worship 8:30 & 10 am St. Mary's Catholic Church Father Joseph Dondanville 9910 W. Knox St., Edwards (309) 691-2030 stmaryskickapoo.org Sat. Confession: 3-3:45 pm Sat. Mass: 4 pm Sun. Masses: 7 & 11:00 am Mon. Mass: 5:30 pm Daily Masses: Wed-Fri. 8 am

ELMWOOD

Crossroads Assembly of God Pastor Tim Cavallo 615 E. Ash St., Elmwood (309) 830-4259 crossroadselmwood.org Wed. Worship: 7 pm Sun. Worship: 10:30 am **Elmwood Baptist Church** Pastor Bill Cole

701 W. Dearborn St., Elmwood

(309) 742-7631, 642-3278 Sunday School: 9:30 am

Sun Worship: 10:30 am, 1:15 pm Wed. Prayer Meeting: 7 pm First Presbyterian Church of Elmwood

Reverend Marla B. Bauler 201 W. Evergreen, Elmwood (309) 742-2631 firstpresbyterianofelmwood.org Sun. Worship: 10:30 am

Sun. School: 9:30 am St. Patrick's Catholic Church

Father Joseph Dondanville 802 W. Main St., Elmwood (309) 742-4921 Sat. Mass: 5:30 pm Sun. Mass: 9 am Tues. Mass: 8 am Tues. Confession: After mass **United Methodist Church** of Elmwood Pastor David Pyell

821 W. Main St., Elmwood (309) 742-7221 elmwoodumc.org

Sun. Worship: 9 am, 10:30 am Youth Sun. School: 9 am Adult Sun. School: 8 am

FARMINGTON Farmington Bible Church

Pastor Tony Severine 497 N. Elmwood Rd. Farmington (309) 245-9870 Sunday School: 9:30

Worship Service: 10:30 **First Presbyterian Church** of Farmington

Reverend Andy Sonneborn 83 N. Cone Street, Farmington (309) 245-2914 firstpresfarmington.com Sunday School: 9:15 am Worship: 10:30 am Fellowship: 11:30 am

New Hope Fellowship Assembly of God

Pastor Tom Wright 1102 N. Illinois Route 78 Farmington (309) 231-8076 Sun. Worship: 10 am Wed. Worship: 7 pm

PRINCEVILLE Princeville United Methodist Church

Pastor Zach Waldis 420 E. Woertz, Princeville (309) 385-4487 princevilleumc@mediacombb.net Sun. Worship: 9 am Sunday School: 10:15 am

St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church

Monsignor James Kruse 119 Saint Mary St., Princeville (309) 385-2578 Sat. Confession: 3-3:45 pm Sat. Mass: 4 pm Sun. Mass: 8 and 9 am Mon.-Sat Daily Mass: 8 am

WILLIAMSFIELD St. James

Catholic Church Father John Verrier

Legion Road Knox Road 1450 N Williamsfield (309) 446-3275 stjameswilliamsfield.org Sun. Confession: 7:30-8 am Sun. Mass: 8 am (8:30 am in

the summer) Williamsfield United **Methodist Church**

Pastor Teresa Shane 430 N. Chicago Ave. Williamsfield (309) 639-2389 Sun. School: 9:30 am Hospitality (coffee & finger foods): 10:30 am Sun. Worship: 11 am

YATES CITY

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Reverend Marla B. Bauler 107 W. Bishop St., Yates City (309) 358-1170 Worship: 9 am Sun. School: 10:15 am Thurs. Choir: 7 pm



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Winter pruning can boost berry harvest

URBANA - One of the simple joys of summer is picking berries straight from the bush and enjoying a sweet treat. Pruning blackberry and raspberry bushes now ensures a bumper harvest in the summer.

"As a child, my grandparents would send my sisters and me to the unmanaged portions of their property to pick just enough blackberries from the gangly, thorny bushes for a pie," says Kelly Allsup, University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator. "Although, this was

a tactic to get us out of the house, if those wild berries had been pruned in late winter, we might have brought back enough for 10 pies."

Pruning backyard brambles in February or March when the plants are still dormant forces them to branch out when they start to grow, which creates more wood on which fruit can grow.

Bushes have different pruning needs depending on their attributes. Everbearing plants need to be trimmed in late winter; erect brambles need pruning in summer, as well. To make pruning less intimidating, Allsup recommends identifying the cultivar to make a plan before bringing out the loppers.

Blackberry and raspberry bush canes, the bramble's stems, are a mix of primocanes and floricanes. Primocanes are vibrant green,

SERVICES

new growth canes. These are not ready to produce flowers or fruit, except for fall-bearing brambles.

Floricanes are older. overwintered canes that produce flowers and fruit and can be productive for up to 20 years. These dark red stems are covered in a white bloom, which rubs off and is used by the plant as a sunscreen.

"Without pruning or cutting back canes, the bush produces less fruit and can harbor disease and pests," Allsup says.

For example, on a semierect blackberry 'Chester Thornless,' remove floricanes and diseased canes until there are only six to eight of the strongest primocanes left. On these branches, cut back the tip of the stem to 5 feet. The primocanes will have lateral branches that should be pruned to 18-24 inches. Most brambles produce

on biennial canes, but some are everbearing. If the primocanes that bore fruit in the fall are left to overwinter, they will fruit again, lower on the cane, in late spring and then die. By mowing down all the canes in late winter, there will be a more abundant harvest.

Erect brambles, common in both raspberries and blackberries, produce stiff, upright canes that need summer and winter pruning. Semi-erect brambles produce thick, arching canes that benefit from winter pruning. If not supported by trellises, these varieties will bend to trail along the ground t, limiting fruit production.

Root-suckering brambles create a hedgerow and spread by root suckers. They are thinned by cutting canes to the ground, leaving 6 inches between canes and removing any canes outside of the row.

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WEIRD **Super** Crossword

ACROSS 49 With 7 Accepted 1920s-'30s design style 50 Royal flush humbly 14 Creatures 20 Mafia 51 A Marx code of brother Zedong

Answers on Page 10

- silence 21 Person of the 54 Ukraine city 57 Toadstool-22 Bill Clinton's shaped headwear? 60 Kilt wearer
- 23 Formalwean imparting a optimistic feeling? 25 Flier Earhart
- 26 Tricky rascal 27 Some pipe shapes 28 Model of iPod 30 Weasel's kin
- 31 Room, in Spanish 32 G-men, e.g. 33 Appropriate underwear in a law court?
- 35 Gemini, e.g. 37 Unwanted plant growth 38 "Oh, sure!" 39 Neckwear making people
- 44 ICU tubes 45 Burnt residue 48 Yellow hue

23

26

53

60

108

112

117

120

- 63 Moral errors 64 Actress Perlman 65 Women's encircling a magazine? 71 Tooth filler 49-Across 73 Abbr. of fair hiring 74 Go bonkers wear?
 - 76 Beach where everyone dons athletic 80 Do a tally of 82 Abbr. in personal ads 83 Sir Andrew Webber 84 "- Day Will

62 Stew sphere

Come' 85 Be in debt to 86 Writer Joyce Carol -

35

- 88 Frequently, to DOWN a poet 89 Pull sharply 90 Waist wear inscribed with images of sun-orbiting bodies? 94 Castle trench 96 ERA or RBI 97 Sit as a
- 98 Outerwear with huge pockets to hold LPs? 102 Verbal gems 104 9-to-5er's relieved cry
- 108 Telegraphic code creator 110 Inside info 111 Pro at taking dictation
- 112 Frozen 114 Summe depicting cartoon scenes?
- 118 Looked scornfully 119 Messenger of
- the gods 120 Rains cold pellets 121 Mean rulers 122 Big bother

- 1 Boulders 2 Oven brand 3 Sherpa land 4 Deep fissure 5 An Amerind 6 Brit. mil. fliers 7 Get - of (obtain) 8 Implements
- 9 Closing parts Simpson cry 11 Rusty color 12 Avenged 13 Singer Marie
 - 14 Sheep's call 15 "Rum Punch" novelist 16 "Yeah, makes sense
 - 17 Nick of film 18 Heartache 19 Scorches 24 "Angie" star Davis 29 "Tommy
 - 33 Royal flush 34 They're
 - shot from air 36 Modest reply
 - 37 Comical sort 39 Scots' toppers 40 Many Apples

- 41 Paperless novel, e.g. 42 Turkic language 43 Bit of lifting
- 45 Curved line 46 Mani offerer 47 Quick trip 50 Helper: Abbr. 51 Gardening implements 52 Stock up on 55 As is fitting
- 56 Grabs the attention of suddenly 57 Cut to bits 58 Counteract 59 Buckeye
- State sch 61 A bit drunk 63 Plaintiff 66 Regretted 67 Lysol target
- 68 Jon who played Napoleor Dynamite 69 Join together
- 75 Earring part 76 "I'm Real" singer's nickname 77 Pixie 78 Deteriorate

ofter

22

- 70 Studio prop
- 115 culpa 79 Kiss go-with,

116 "Zip it!"

80 Stupefy 81 Seal schools 85 Mel who wore #4 87 Helpers in • TAX PREPARATION: Giaco-89 — Mahal 90 Painter's bazzi's Income Tax offers tax prepstudio 91 Used a sofa aration, accounting and payroll services. Information can be 92 Elected (to) dropped off in Farmington at for Apple 34825 N. Diamond Point Rd. Email office@giacobazzitax.com 94 Biceps, e.g. 95 Brunch dish or call (309) 685-8003. • SALVAGE: Buying junk autos & 98 Slightly farm equipment. Total farm clean 99 Regional up. Call Doug Lofgren at Spoon 100 Hush money 101 Slide on a River Salvage (309) 299-8531. sled, say • CHARLIE'S CYCLE: ATV Re-102 Polyphonic pairs, most batteries in stock for choral piece 103 Opinion all ATVs. Snowplow and winch special, also tires sold and in-105 Lysol target stalled. Free calendars. Charlie's 106 It's gathered in recon 107 "Pippin" Cycle Supply, 3521 St. Rt. 78, West Jersey. (309) 995-3319 director Bob 110 Mend, as • MORE HEAT. LESS WOOD: Central Boiler certified Outdoor 111 Mets' Wood Furnace. Prices start as low former stadium as \$6,900. Call today (309) 565-113 Ending 4300. for lion or

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- of square and round hay bales (also cornstalks), 20' disc, Ford 300 tractor & loader, small chisel plow, hydraulic drive telescope auger for gravity wagon, Ford 4000 Backhoe, skid steer bucket, John Deere 8'- 3 point blade, pair of 28Lx26 tires and wheels, firewood, feeder calves, large record collection, large antique collection of beer cans & bottles, Honda 750 motor, Honda 90; 110; 185 three wheeler, 1994 Ford Ranger no rust, 66-77 Bronco parts, Chevy dealer promotional tapes, 1966; 70; 72 Mustangs, four bottom plow, freezer beef (hormone free). (309) 565-4440.
- FIREWOOD: Lots of wood, need gone, donations accepted. (309) 361-2941.

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THANK YOU

THANK YOU! New2U Thrift Store in Elmwood would like to thank the anonymous couple who donated the Nativity scene which we had in the window this year. Though you would rather not be known, we hope you understand how much you added to the holiday season. God bless you, as you have blessed us.

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

NOTICE OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS To All Owners and Occupiers of Lands Lying Within the Boundaries of the Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District:

Notice is hereby given that an Election will be held on the 10th day of February, 2021 from 7 am - 5:30 pm at the USDA Service Center, 6715 N Smith Rd, Edwards, IL. Two (2) Directors will be elected to serve the Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District of the State of Illinois.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying

within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firm or corporations are eligible to vote.

When you come into vote, you will also be eligible to put your name in a drawing for door prizes. If you have any questions, please contact the office at 309-671-7040 Ext. 3 ask for Josh or Karla.

> Jerry Wyatt, Chairman Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District November 17, 2020

Published 2/4/21

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by Dave T. Phipps

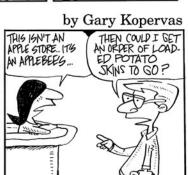
Out on a Limb I GOT THIS SMART PHONE FOR CHRISTMAS AND NEED HELP PRO-CANI HELP 4007 GRAMMING IT.

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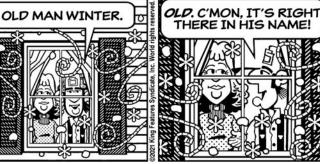
The Spats

I'M HAVING A MIDLIFE CRISIS





by Mike Marland









Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

		9	7	6		4		
2		1	3				8	
	7				2	1		3
	1			5		8		2
7		5			9		4	
9			2	3				7
	5			7	4	6		
	9	3			8	Г	7	
4			6				5	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! © 2021 King Features Synd., Inc

FOR ANSWERS **SEE PAGE 10**

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR

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, costrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each week the code letters are different.

FE Z TDUWC DB XPZJP ZEC WDIP, KLHFJ TDLWC AP MYP

LEFIPUHZW WZEVLZVP.

- YPEUG CZIFC MYDUPZL

TRIVIA TEST By Fifi Rodriguez

1. SCIENCE: What kind of charge does a neutron carry?

2. THEATER: Which 20th-century play features a character named Blanch

3. HISTORY: Which ancient Greek au-

4. LITERATURE: What were the first names of the Bronte authors and

5 FOOD & DRINK: What kind of nut also is known as a filbert or cobnut?
6. AD SLOGANS: Which brand of men's aftershave used the advertising slogan,

"Be careful how you use it"?
7. MOVIES: What was the title of the movie in which Kirk Douglas played the artist Van Gogh?

8. GAMES: Which video game character was the first to be featured as a giant balloon in Macy's Thanksgiving

9. MUSIC: Which Billy Joel song featured a couple named Brenda and Eddie, the king and queen of the prom? 10. GEOGRAPHY: What was the former name of the African country of Zimba-

Answers

A neutron has no charge.
 "A Streetcar Named Desire"

- Aristophanes
 Emily, Charlotte and Anne
- 5. Hazelnut 6. Hai Karate

- 8. Sonic the Hedgehog
- "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant"

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- 1. The Marksman (PG-13)
- 2. The Croods: A New Age (PG)
- 3. Wonder Woman 1984 (PG-13) 4. Monster Hunter (PG-13)
- 5. News of the World (PG-13)
- 6. Fatale (R)
- 7. Promising Young Woman (R)
- 8. Our Friend (R) 9. The War with Grandpa (PG)
- 10. Pinocchio (PG-13)

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BRIEFS

Cook County suburbs exit mitigation tier

SPRINGFIELD - On Tuesday, suburban Cook County moved into more relaxed COVID-19 restrictions, leaving only three of the state's 11 COVID regions still under Tier 1 and Tier 2 restrictions.

Regions 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 11 have all entered Phase 4, meaning indoor dining and high school sports can resume in those areas.

Regions 8 and 9 remain in Tier 1 restrictions, which means indoor dining and bar service is allowed in a limited capacity.

Region 4 in the Metro East area on the St. Louis border is the only region still in Tier 2, which prohibits indoor dining or drinking.

Also Tuesday, the state's rolling seven-day average case positivity rate ticked downward to 3.7 percent – the lowest it's been since Oct. 8.

An additional 47 deaths were reported Tuesday, bringing the statewide virus death toll since the pandemic began to 19,306 out of more than 1.1 million cases and 16.1 million test results reported.

Peoria County SWCD election on Feb. 10

EDWARDS – Peoria County Soil & Water Conservation District will elect two directors on Feb. 10 from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the USDA Service Center, 6715 N. Smith Rd.

All persons, firms or corporations who hold legal title or are in legal possession of any land lying within the boundaries of the said district are eligible to vote at said election, whether as lessee, renter, tenant or otherwise. Only such persons, firm or corporations are eligible to vote.

When you come into vote, you will also be eligible to put your name in a drawing for door prizes If you have any questions, please contact the office at (309) 671-7040, Ext. 3. Ask for Josh or Karla.

Illinois Sheriffs' college scholarships

The Illinois Sheriffs' Association will award more than \$58,000 in college scholarships to Illinois students for the 2021-22 school year. Two \$500 scholarships will be

awarded in Peoria County. Scholarships must be used at institutions of higher learning in Illinois and applicants must be full-time students.

Applications are available online at www.ilsheriff.org. Mail or handdeliver applications to: Peoria County Sheriff's Office, Attn: Ellen Balagna, 301 N. Maxwell Road, Peoria, IL 61604. Or you can email applications to ebalagna@peoriacounty.org. Applications are due by March 15.

College honorees

The following full-time local college students were honored at their school for the fall semester.

- Jessica DeVries of Princeville made the Dean's List (3.6 gpa or better) for the fall semester at Aurora University. DeVries, majoring in Health Science, had a perfect 4.0
- Sarah Stevens of Hanna City made the President's List at Illinois Central College with a perfect 4.0 grade point average.



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Jack Stevens

Jack Stevens was selected as Farmington Central High School's February Senior of the Month. Jack is the son of Curtt and Amy Stevens. He has three siblings; Austin, Paige and Reagan Stevens. Jack excels academically as he is in the top 5% of his class and is a member of the National Honor Society. Along with his studies, Jack is involved in various extracurricular activities including Golf, Track and Field, Science Olympiad, Mathletes, Marching and Concert Band, WYSE/ACES Team, and Scholastic Bowl. In addition to his involvement in school, Jack finds time to give back as he volunteers within the community. He assisted students through our tutoring program at FCHS and entertained children at the Wildlife Prairie Park annual Halloween event. He plans to attend the University of Illinois and major in Chemical or Environmental Engineering. Congratulations and good luck in all your future endeavors, Jack!

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Brimfield, Farmington girls return experience

By VICTOR LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

With very little time to prepare and not much time to improve this girls basketball season, experience will matter even more in a compressed schedule. With that in mind, two area teams look best prepared for the six weeks to come.

Brimfield

The Lady Indians should once again be a powerhouse after losing only one senior from last year and retaining several key players including, seniors Haley Wallace and Megan Bowers and juniors Ella Lune and Elynn Peterson.

Brimfield won its fifth straight regional championship last year in a 25win season.

Coach Maribeth Dura held one-on-one workouts with her players after COVID halted the start of this season.

Brimfield starts the season at home today against Illini Bluffs at 6 p.m. and then will then travel to face Princeville on Monday at 6

Farmington

The Lady Farmers look forward to a promising team filled with experience with all five starters from last year returning.

"We were a very young team last year but with all of our starters returning, I expect us to respond much better this season and to push through any adversity we face" said second-year coach Brad Whitcomb. "We've got a very committed and competitive



Senior Haley Wallace is back to lead Brimfield's girls basketball team after averaging 18.8 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game.

group of girls right now and I look forward to seeing all their hard work pay off."

Farmington will be led by seniors Emma Vallas, Sydnee Barton and juniors Reece Putrich, Delaney Foster and Emma Evans.

"We have some players that we will rely on to do the bulk of our scoring, but on any given night we could have six or seven different leading scorers," Whitcomb said.

The Lady Farmers hope to improve on the defensive end of the floor and focus on ending possessions with rebounds. With their leading rebounder on the team last year graduating, they will need to find someone to step up and fill that void.

"I fully expect us to compete every night and have an opportunity to win each game late in the fourth quarter," Whitcomb said. "Our conference is loaded

with talent and we will be challenged on a nightly basis."

Farmington finished 13-14 and placed fifth in the Prairieland Conference last season.

Farmington gets its first chance to show where they stand in the league Monday in an away game at traditional powerhouse Illini Bluffs.

Elmwood

The Lady Trojans head into this season hoping to compete in every game and work hard.

"Going into this season, we know that any game could be our last. If one of our players gets COVID, we get shut down," Coach Gregg Meyers said. "That being said, I know that we will play hard and do the best we can."

Seniors Molly Malone, Olivia Caldwell, Hannah Burkiett and Paige Svymbersky are expected to lead the Lady Trojans, who

graduated three seniors from last year's 13-17 finisher.

"This is a very coachable team with a great attitude and a good work ethic, although we are a little rusty right now, I am confident that we will be able to compete," Meyers stated.

The Lady Trojans will open at home on March 8 vs. West Prairie.

Princeville

The Lady Princes have also had a successful run the past few years, including last year's 30-3 regional title winner - the third regional win in the past four years.

Princeville will have work to do in replacing three starters who graduated last year: Brinlee Bauman, Emma Lane and Morissa Martin.

This year's most experience players are senior Ashleigh Brawley and junior Caitlyn Thole, who saw significant time last season. Coach John Gross is also expecting good things from sophomore guards Destiny Harwood and Brenna Schupbach.

While Gross said the start of the season could be "rough" against a quartet of top teams, he expects this team to be playing well by season's end. "The expectations have not changed," he said.

Princeville will travel to start the season off against Kewanee Wethersfield Saturday at 1 p.m. in a varsity-only showdown and then host Brimfield Monday at 6 p.m.

SCHEDULES BASKETBAL

BOYS BASKETBALL BRIMFIELD

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

Feb. 5 - vs. ROWVA-Williamsfield

Feb. 8 - at Illini Bluffs

Feb. 12 - at Peoria Christian

Feb. 16 - vs. Delavan Feb. 19 - vs. Farmington

Feb. 20 - at South Fulton, 11 am

Feb. 22 - at Princeville

Feb. 23 - at North Fulton

Feb. 26 - vs. A-Town

Feb. 27 - vs. Bushnell-PC, 1:30

March 2 - vs. Lewistown

March 5 - vs. Elmwood

March 9 - at Peoria Heights

March 12 - vs. Knoxville

ELMW00D

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

Feb. 5 - vs. Lewistown Feb. 9 - at ROWVA-Williamsfield

Feb. 10 - at Stark County Feb. 12 - at Illini Bluffs

Feb. 16 - vs. Peoria Christian Feb. 19 - at Knoxville

Feb. 23 - vs. Farmington Feb. 26 - at Delavan, 5 pm Feb. 27 - vs. Wethersfield, 5 pm

March 2 - at Peoria Heights March 5 - at Brimfield March 9 - vs. Abingdon

March 12 - vs. North Fulton **FARMINGTON**

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity Feb. 9 - at Macomb

Feb. 12 - vs. Peoria Quest Feb. 13 - at Bushnell-PC, noon Feb. 17 - vs. Lewistown

Feb. 19 - at Brimfield Feb. 23 - at Elmwood

Feb. 26 - vs. Knoxville March 2 - vs. A-Town

March 5 - at Peoria Christian March 6 - vs. Mon.-Roseville,

4:30 pm March 9 - vs. North Fulton

March 12 - vs. Peoria Heights **PRINCEVILLE**

(Games 6 pm unless noted)

JV and Varsity Feb. 6 - vs. Wethersfield, 4 pm

Feb. 9 - at Annawan Feb. 12 - vs. Stark County

Feb. 13 - vs. Peoria Quest, 5 pm Feb. 16 - at Galva

Feb. 19 - vs. Ridgewood Feb. 20 - vs. Delavan, 3 pm Feb. 22 - vs. Brimfield

Feb. 23 - at Monmouth United Feb. 26 - at West Central March 2 - vs. Mercer County March 5 - vs. ROWVA-Williams-

March 6 - at Peoria Heights, 5

ROWVA-WILLIAMSFIELD

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

W=Williamsfield, O=Oneida Feb. 5 - at Brimfield Feb. 6 - vs. United (W), 3 pm

Feb. 9 - vs. Elmwood (W) Feb. 10 - at Galva

Feb. 12 - at Ridgewood Feb. 13 - vs. North Fulton (0)

Feb 16 - at West Central

Feb. 19 - vs. Mercer County (W) Feb. 20 - at Peoria Heights, 5

Feb. 23 - vs. Annawan (0) Feb. 26 - at Stark County

Feb. 27 - at Delavan, 3 pm March 2 - vs. Wethersfield (W)

March 5 - at Princeville March 9 - at Peoria Christian

March 13 - vs. Illini Bluffs (0)

GIRLS BASKETBALL RKIMLIELD

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

Feb. 4 - vs. Illini Bluffs Feb. 8 - at Princeville

Feb. 12 - at Midwest Central Feb. 13 - vs. Havana, 1 pm

Feb. 18 - vs. Farmington Feb. 20 - at South Fulton, 1 pm Feb. 22 - vs. North Fulton Feb. 25- at A-Town

Feb. 27 - at Bushnell-PC, 1:30 March 1 - vs. Lewistown

March 3 - at Wethersfield (Varsity only) March 4 - at Elmwood March 8 - at Peoria Heights

March 11 - vs. Knoxville **ELMWOOD**

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

Feb. 8 - vs. West Prairie Feb. 11 - vs. Illini Bluffs

Feb. 13 - at Lewistown, 4 pm Feb. 18 - vs. Knoxville Feb. 20 - at ROWVA-Williams-

field (Oneida), 5 pm

Feb. 22 - vs. Farmington Feb. 25 - at Midwest Central

Feb. 27 - at Ridgewood March 1 - vs. Peoria Heights

March 4 - vs. Brimfield March 6 - vs. Galva (V only)

March 8 - at A-Town March 11 - at North Fulton **FARMINGTON**

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity

Feb. 8 - at Illini Bluffs Feb. 13 - vs. Macomb, noon, (v

only) Feb. 15 - at Lewistown

Feb. 18 - at Brimfield Feb. 20 - vs. Bushnell-PC, noon Feb. 22 - at Elmwood

Feb. 25 - at Knoxville March 1 - vs. A-Town

March 4 - at Mon.-Roseville March 8 - vs. North Fulton

March 11 - vs. Peoria Heights PRINCEVILLE

(Games 6 pm unless noted) JV and Varsity Feb. 6 - vs. Wethersfield 1 pm

(Varsity only)

Feb. 8 - vs. Brimfield*

Feb. 9 - vs. Annawan

Feb. 12 - at Stark County Feb. 16 - vs. Galva (V only)

Feb. 19 - at Ridgewood Feb. 23 - vs. Monmouth United

Feb. 25 - vs. Illini Bluffs Feb. 26 - vs. West Central March 2 - at Mercer County

March 5 - at ROWVA March 10 - vs. Ridgewood*

* - non-conference games

We Cover The News of West-Central Illinois With A Passion

Princeville, others happy just to be playing

By JEFF LAMPE

Weekly Post Staff Writer
This was going to be one of those seasons for
Princeville that you point to as a basketball coach.
With four starters back and five players who played significant minutes on last season's 28-5 boys team,
February should have been the time to start peaking

Not so much this year. But at least, as Coach Jeff Kratzer said Monday, there are games to be played.

for the postseason.

"I'm just glad the boys are able to play," Kratzer said, echoing the comments of many coaches heading into the start of a shortened hoops season. "That's our No. 1 priority."

Even without a postseason to play for – or a Princeville Holiday Tournament to have enjoyed – the Princes still should be one of the area's best and a clear favorite in the Lincoln Trail Conference. League play will dominate schedules this year and Princeville has the goods to contend for LTC glory.

Back for the Princes are four senior starters: do everything guard/forward Cole Daily (11.4 ppg, 5.4 rpg and 4.2 apg), 3-point ace Joey Smith (10.4 ppg, 38 percent on treys), Sam Streitmatter (8.3 ppg) and post player Peyton Garcia (6.4 ppg, 4.4 rpg). Daily is a four-year starter and Smith has been top-five for three seasons.

While Princeville will miss graduated glue-guy Carter Johnson and Cody Thole (whose season was cut short by injury), Kratzer should have enough pieces to complement the top four.

Post player Chase Williams added strength and size from last year and juniors Denver Hoerr and Grant Hunt provide the athletic ability and hustle to add a spark.

Even so, the Princes end their season on March 6, earlier than most. As Kratzker explains, "We wanted to protect our football players and make sure they did not miss out on a week of their season."

Elmwood

The Trojans are a team that figured to give the Princes some good battles, but scheduling won't allow for that now.

Elmwood has five players back who saw a fair amount of varsity experience on a 24-7 regional finalist and three of its top four scorers: junior Andrew Marincic (11.3 ppg) and seniors Luke Hoffmann (10.4 ppg) and Adam Centers (7.6 ppg).

Bad news for the Trojans is that Marincic – who showed flashes of taking over games last year – is suffering from a knee injury.

"He has not practiced much in 3-4 weeks and I don't know when he's going to be ready to go," Coach Josh Fugitt said.

Elmwood will also sorely miss graduated 6-foot-7 defensive ace Braden McFall (11.2 ppg, 8.1 rpg). In his place, Fugitt will look for Centers to step up and for junior Victor Lenzi to take on a larger role inside

"I think Adam is ready to show he's capable of leading us inside," Fugitt said.

Brimfield

A familiar inside presence will also be lacking for Brimfield, which will be without a Novak in the lineup for the first time in nearly a decade.

Even so, Brimfield likely has better size than most of its foes with the likes of 6-3 senior returnee Luke Groeper, 6-4 center Caleb Tyre, 6-1 junior Dunlap transfer Max Walters, 6-1 Levi Moon and 6-foot guard Austin Baysingar.

"We're not Novak-big anymore, but we have decent length compared to a lot of the 1A schools," Coach Scott Carlson said. "Shooting? We'll see."

Carlson rated defense ahead of offense so far in the shortened preseason. Groeper was a starter last year and Baysingar split time with junior Thomas Harmon. Walters has some shooting skills and will fill in at forward and guard Jakoby McKown is back from Nebraska, where he played on the JV team last fall for a 1,600-enrollment school.

"He's in the best shape of anybody on the team," Carlson said.

The coach also noted that this season is dedicated to the memory of Aaron Miller, a promising 6-3 junior who died in a tragic auto accident in August.

Farmington

The shortened schedule, a roster filled with football players and recent COVID direct-contact issues have Farmington Coach Jeff Otto viewing this season a bit like a "summer league."

Heading into the season, five varsity players are sitting in COVID quarantine along with 9 of 11 freshman.

"We have some players, but I haven't seen some of them for awhile," Otto said. "My approach is probably way different than a lot of guys right now. I just want to give the seniors a chance to have some games and I'm kind of leaving it up to them a little bit as to how they want to do this."

Seniors include Ty Anderson, a three-year varsity contributor, Sam Fletcher, Brock Renner, Josh McMillin and David Pepple.

Headlining the junior class is returning point guard Corbin Rutledge, along with classmates Riley Embry, Ethan Evans and Jeremy Schlueter.

All should see time, as Otto rotates quickly to keep fresh legs in the Farmers' run-and-jump defense.

"We're not in great shape, as I'm sure most other teams aren't either," Otto said.

And Otto is also approaching his season with

football in mind, since most of his players participate in both sports. "Our weight training is going to be very different this season," he said.

ROWVA-Williamsfield

Veteran coach Bob Anderson approached this season a bit pessimistically.

"Every time we get a game against somebody where maybe we could win a game, we're going to have COVID come up," he said. "And when we play against somebody good, everybody will be healthy!"

Even so, Anderson has 16 games scheduled to meet the full LTC and ICAC slate.

Senior Ryan Haggerty and junior Carson Malek return after starting last year. Haggerty is a 5-7 guard who can go the basket and Malek is a 5-11 3point shooter. Beyond that are plenty of question marks, though Anderson has high hopes for 6-foot Graham Wight and 5-8 Adam Kohl.

"We'll be looking for a fifth to go with them," Anderson said. "We're probably going to have to play some people off the bench because of our conditioning."

R-W got in its first practice on Monday.

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SPORTS: IESA hoping for track meet

Continued from Page 16 games, but not at JV games, and will livestream on the NFHS website.

Brimfield will have fans at games and streaming on the NFHS site.

ROWVA-Williamsfield will allow home fans but has no word yet on livestreaming of games.

So don't plan any road trips without first checking with the schools to see if fans are allowed. And keep checking back with the schools for streaming information.

The change also impacts coaches.

"The scouting element and the preparation side are all different," Elmwood boys basketball coach Josh Fugitt said.

IESA Schedule

While the Illinois Elementary School Association has already called off the postseason for boys and girls basketball and wrestling, while allowing those sports to play regular season games, the IESA is holding out hope for some other sports.

Girls volleyball is currently planning on playing regionals and sectionals before the March 10 end of the season. And sectionals and state finals for girls and boys track and field are still tentatively on the schedule as planned with the season to end on June 12. The state track meet is the cash-strapped IESA's largest fundraiser of the year.

The IESA said, "A decision on conducting those events will be made later and hopefully no later than March 1."

As in high school, some schools are allowing fans but many are not. Check ahead before planning any road trips. And some schools will be showing junior high games on their YouTube pages.

Busy spring for sports

IHSA, IESA packing plenty into remainder of year

Hoops Previews

Princeville boys team brings

back nearly its entire lineup.

Brimfield and Farmington

is extra important this year.

Boys and girls schedules.

girls return experience, which

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Bv JEFF LAMPE

Weekly Post Staff Writer

Sports are back and athletic directors, coaches and athletes are already caught in an onslaught of action that will likely continue through June.

The Illinois High School Association released a detailed schedule last week that provides all remaining sports a chance to field at least some portion of a

Due to the compacted timeline, though, the new schedule means multisport coaches and athletes will be doing some impressive juggling.

At this point, spring sports will be least impacted by the changes required due to COVID-19. Unlike fall and winter sports, those spring events are scheduled to have a

chance to compete in some sort of a state championship series – though what that will look like is still to be determined.

IHSA Executive Director Craig Anderson said the IHSA Board wanted to, "do everything in their power to prevent spring sports from going two consecutive years with no postseason IHSA play."

"There are obviously no guarantees, as risk levels by sport and local region mitigation statuses will factor significantly," Anderson said. "Postseason could mean being limited to a regional or sectional level of competition, but we have not ruled out the idea of playing a full state

tournament in these traditional spring sports, if possible. The overwhelming feedback we have heard from athletic directors and coaches was that returning to play in all sports should be the main goal."

Scheduling Issues

While there is time to work out the postseason for spring sports, the immediate challenge for athletic directors and coaches has been coming upo with schedules for boys and girls basketball

> games and hiring referees. Area conferences met hurriedly last week after the IHSA announcement and most created schedules that feature almost all league games.

While some basketball teams started last weekend, the first area high school to play is the Brimfield girls squad, which is home against Il-

lini Bluffs tonight.

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Because sports will overlap, some are taking extra precautions. Jeff Kratzer is Princeville boys basketball coach and athletic director. His team is expected to be one of the area's best. Yet Kratzer is intentionally cutting off the hoops season earlier than most.

"In my opinion, it's unfair for basketball to play a gazillion games and baseball play a gazillion games and have football get just six weeks," Kratzer said. "We need to protect our athletes and make sure they are as healthy as possible and make sure we don't overuse them in

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Sport	IDPH Risk	Practices Start	Practice Dates Before Games	State Series	End Date
Boys/Girls Basketball	Higher	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Boys Swimming & Diving	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Dance	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	Virtual (2/27 & 3/6)	March 13
Cheerleading	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	Virtual (3/6 & 3/12)	March 13
Boys/Girls Bowling	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Girls Gymnastics	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	No State Series	March 13
Badminton	Lower	ASAP	7 dates	TBD	April 3
Boys Soccer	Moderate	March 1	7 dates	No State Series	April 17
Football	Higher	March 3	1st Game March 19	No State Series	April 24
Girls Volleyball	Moderate	March 8	7 dates	No State Series	April 24
Boys Gymnastics	Lower	March 15	7 dates	TBD	May 22
Boys/Girls Water Polo	Moderate	March 15	7 dates	TBD	May 29
Baseball	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys/Girls Lacrosse	Higher	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Girls Soccer	Moderate	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Softball	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys Tennis	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys/Girls Track & Field	Lower	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Boys Volleyball	Moderate	April 5	7 dates	TBD	June 19
Wrestling	Higher	April 19	7 dates	No State Series	June 12

IESA SPORTS SCHEDULE

Sport	IDPH Risk	Practice Starts	Practices Prior to Contest	State Series	End Date
Boys Basketball	High	ASAP	7 per individual	No state series	March 12
Girls Basketball	High	March 8	7 per individual	No state series	May 9
Girls Volleyball	Moderate	ASAP	7 per individual	Regional/Sectional	March 19
Bowling	Low			No state series	
Wrestling	High	April 5	7 per individual	No state series	May 30
Track and Field	Low	March 1	7 per individual	TBD	June 12

this very short timespan."

Fans or No Fans?

Beyond scheduling and hiring referees are difficult decisions on how to handle attendance. The IHSA says the limit is 50 spectators, not counting players, coaches, officials and scorekeepers.

Even so, some schools like Elmwood and Princeville are so far planning to have no fans in attendance. Both schools will rely instead on live-streaming home games so fans can watch.

Elmwood will livestream junior high sports on its YouTube channel and high school events at www.nfhsnetwork.com. There is a subscription fee for NFHS.

Princeville will stream junior high and high school events on its YouTube page Farmington will have fans at varsity

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