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Thursday  
 March 23, 2023  
 Vol. 11, No. 7

# The Weekly Post

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## Crowded field of 10 candidates for Brimfield School Board

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – Voters in the Brimfield School District won't be lacking in school-board choices this election.

There are 10 candidates, including one incumbent, running for four spots on the seven-member board. Election day is April 4.

Candidates for three four-year terms are Rachel Blodgett, Nick Butterfield, Nathan Hamilton, David Hicke Jr., Meliss Klabel, Constance Monk, Josh Murdock and Christopher Schachtrup. Katie Kappes, who was appointed to the board in 2021, is running against Natalie Zeman to fill the remaining two years of that term.

### Next Week

- Two candidates running to be Farmington mayor.
- Three candidates on the ballot and two write-ins will vie for three Williamsfield School Board spots.

No more than three board members can reside in the same township, so that complicates who might win election. They might not be the top vote-getters.

Kappes and Zeman reside in Brimfield Township, as does a current board member who isn't up for re-election. That means only one of the four-year seats can be filled by a Brimfield Township resident. Monk and Schachtrup reside in Brimfield Township.

Only two Jubilee Township residents can be elected. Blodgett, Butterfield, Hicke and Murdock reside there. Hamilton and Klabel reside in Kickapoo Township, which is not represented on the current board.

Board members Brent Graham, Todd Johnson and Patrick Meyer are not running for re-election. They, Kappes and holdover members Mark Bell, Jason Snyder and Steve Updyke are charged with finding a replacement for Superintendent Tony Shinall. He is leaving in June for the same job at Princeville.

School-board candidates might have input in the hiring process, according to Snyder.

All candidates except Klabel and Murdock participated in a forum last month at Brimfield High School. Responses to three questions asked during the forum are listed below. The Weekly Post asked the same questions of Klabel and Murdock, who emailed responses. All responses have been edited for brevity and clarity.

*Question: Why are you running for a seat on the board, and what are your priorities if elected?*

**Rachel Blodgett:** My life and family are deeply invested in this district. Respectful dialogue and creative compromise are key.

**Nick Butterfield:** Safety. My background in the last 15 years as a police officer (Peoria County

Sheriff's Office) is geared that way.

**Nathan Hamilton:** I want to be a catalyst for our district to get back to pre-COVID achievement levels. That's not to shame and blame any of our teachers. It's a consequence of COVID.

**David Hicke Jr.:** I've been attending school-board meetings for many years and have not always agreed with them, but you have to respect what they have to do. It got to a point where I think that I could step in (and offer fiscal) accountability.

**Katie Kappes:** I hope that if I can continue in my board seat, I can continue to be a neutral, mod-

*Continued on Page 9*

## THE SANDSTONE FARM

### Making the most of your surroundings

Ruined mower sparks rock-selling business

By JEFF LAMPE

For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – Not long after the mower blade went through the deck of a ruined mower, Craig Kingsley got a brainstorm.

What wrecked the lawnmower that fateful day a few years ago was a rock, sticking above the surface of the ground. That a sizeable rock would be protruding from his lawn was no surprise, since Kingsley lives on 26 acres of former strip-mine ground north of Farmington.



Maggie Venzon (left) and Craig Kingsley are selling rocks dug from Kingsley's 26 acres of former strip-mine ground located north of Farmington. Photo by Jeff Lampe.

Kingsley's ground had its underlying seams of coal removed before more earth-friendly reclamation laws came into existence. So rocks abound.

"After the mower got wrecked, he started digging the rocks up," Kingsley's partner Maggie Venzon explained. "We've been digging them up ever since."

Over time, digging turned to cleaning and admiring the various uncovered rocks. And that, in turn, has evolved into a new business venture: selling landscape rocks.

"Once you get them uncovered and cleaned, off they really are rather unique," Kingsley said. "I got to cleaning them and said, 'Hey, there's a market for these.'"

*Continued on Page 2*

## Brimfield approves co-op with Elmwood

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

BRIMFIELD – The sports cooperative between Brimfield and Elmwood high schools will continue for at least two more academic years.

Without discussion, the Brimfield school board voted 6-0 during its meeting March 15 to authorize co-op renewal. Students from Brimfield and Elmwood still will combine to form teams in baseball, cross country, football, softball and track and field. The schools also share a spirit-squad team.

The future of the co-op has been deliberated at board meetings of both districts. Last month, Elmwood school-board members voted 5-1 to

renew the co-op for 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Brimfield board's extracurricular committee also pondered the co-op's fate.

"I think a lot of the discussion took place between the extracurricular meeting that we had and the meeting that we had with Elmwood," Brimfield Board Vice President Jason Snyder said about the perfunctory approval.

"We felt like we were in a good place to extend the co-op. Obviously, (Elmwood) felt the same." There was some question about whether the co-op, which has existed for more than three decades, would be renewed.

Baseball Coach Brandon Porter was among the most

*Continued on Page 7*

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**Coming Soon:** (Movies Subject to Change)  
 March 31 - Jesus Revolution (PG-13) Fri, Sat, Sun Only  
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 Wed April 5 - Super Mario Bros Movie (PG)

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# ROCKS: Big boulder has yielded broken chains

*Continued from Page 1*  
 So starting this spring, Kingsley and Venzon will sell rocks by the pound in their natural form, coated with a clear sealant or even painted and personalized. Prices for most rocks – which are primarily sandstone, but include some shale and limestone – will range between \$10 and \$400 depending on weight. “Unless they want Moby

Dick,” Venzon said, referring to the largest boulder they have uncovered so far. Efforts to move Moby Dick have so far resulted in broken log chains and differing opinions. Kingsley wants to blast the boulder into several little rocks, but Venzon prefers seeing the massive stone intact. Time will tell on that. What’s certain, Kingsley said, is that they have



Maggie Venzon sits on the largest rock uncovered so far at Craig Kingsley's property. The rock is known as Moby Dick.

enough rocks on the property to meet demand. “We’ve got acres of them,” he said. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday at 56 Knox Road 2300 East, aka Potato Chip Road, north of Farmington. Rock delivery will also be available, depending on the location. Call or text (309) 550-1343 or 231-4558. Kingsley, who has almost as many ideas for his property as he has rocks, said he plans to build a mineshaft where youngsters can dig their own

rocks for a few dollars. Given time, he’d also like to set up a go-cart track, offer camping and more. For now, the focus is on the rocks, many of which are set apart by different patterns and colorations. A long-time body repairman, Kingsley’s latest projects have drawn on some earlier work experience he had in a rock quarry in the 1980s. “Once you clean them, you find the beauty of them,” Kingsley said.

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**THE WEEK AHEAD**

**This Week's Hot Picks**

- **Fish Fry** – The Kickapoo Sportsman's Club has a fish fry March 24, 4:30-7 p.m. Other date April 7. Adult dinners \$16, kids 12 and under fish dinner \$5, kids hot dog meals \$4.
- **Musical** – St. Mary's School in Kickapoo presents "Seussical Jr." Friday and Saturday, March 24-25, at 7 p.m. at Robert C. Schmitt Gymnasium. Tickets \$5 and sold at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
- **Historical Society** – The Elmwood Historical Society meets Tuesday, March 28, at 7 p.m. at 102 E. Main St. All are welcome.

**The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast**

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Storms	Showers	Partly Sunny	Showers	Showers	Partly Sunny	Showers
<b>52</b> 37 NW 12 mph	<b>47</b> 34 NNE 10 mph	<b>42</b> 26 WNW 9 mph	<b>55</b> 39 SE 13 mph	<b>49</b> 32 NNW 19 mph	<b>52</b> 39 WSW 11 mph	<b>54</b> 39 S 14 mph

**This Week's Events**

- **Bingo** – Salem Township Library in Yates City has bingo on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 2 p.m., including today, March 23.
- **Story Time** – Morrison & Mary Wiley Library in Elmwood has story time and crafts today, March 23, at 6 p.m. focused on "Cloudy With a Chance of Rain." Kids ages 1-8 and caregivers welcome.
- **Trivia Night** – Elmwood Business Women's Trivia Night is Saturday, March 25, at Maple Lane Country Club. Doors open 5:30 p.m. Cost \$100 per table of up to eight people. Call Jeanne at (309) 712-4527. Proceeds go to Claude Keefer Industrial Arts Building.
- **Soup Supper** – Farmington First Presbyterian Church Soup Supper is March 25, 4:30-7 p.m.
- **Toddler Gym** – Youngsters can play at Elmwood Community Center every Friday school is in session, from 9-11 a.m.

Cost \$1. Call Bonnie at (309) 742-8507.

- **Yoga** – Yoga classes Thursdays, 6 p.m. in Brimfield Library Activity Room. \$4. Classes also on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. at Princeville's Lillie M. Evans Library.

**Future Events**

- **Manna Meal** – The monthly Manna Meal is the last Thursday of each month, including March 30, at Elmwood United Methodist Church at noon. Bring table service. Meals \$8.
- **Fish Fry** – Brimfield Area Men's Club has a fish and shrimp fry March 31 from 5-7 p.m. at Brimfield American Legion.
- **Food Pantry** – Free food boxes given out the last Friday each month at Elmwood United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m. Visit [www.elmwoodumc.com](http://www.elmwoodumc.com) or (309) 742-7221.
- **Egg Hunt** – An Easter egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Brimfield Evangelical Free Church.

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5:30-6:00 pm  
6:15-6:45 pm  
7:00-7:30 pm

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Children must be five years of age on or before September 1, 2023 in order to register for class.

We are asking parents to bring the following:

- Copy of your child's birth certificate
- Physical / Dental / Vision / Immunization records if complete
- Emergency phone numbers
- Any information regarding medication, doctor orders, allergies, etc.

Please visit our school website and sign up for a time slot for your family's visit by **Wednesday, April 12<sup>th</sup>!**

Staff will be available the evening of the Open House to assist with online registration.

**Don't miss a great evening to meet the teachers & see the classrooms!**

(Online registration will open in April. More information to come.)

If you are unable to attend, please call the Elementary School at (309) 742-4261 or email [twitney@elmwood322.com](mailto:twitney@elmwood322.com)

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# The Weekly Post

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**Quotable:** "I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle."

- Winston Churchill

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## GUEST VOICES



## Of a new Farmington band & crab-walking cars

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering the latest headlines outlining the end of our world.

• • •

The band is getting back together in Farmington. After an estimated 40-year absence, Farmington will have a community band this spring and possibly this summer. Farmington High School Band Director **Allison Smith** has been organizing the new group, which has its first concert next Thursday (March 30) at 7 p.m. in the Farmington High School auditorium. "Our first rehearsal only had 12 people attend, but it has grown since then and we've had 38 people interact with our group since then," Smith said. "While we don't have every person at every practice, our full ensemble for the concert on March 30 should have 29 individuals playing." Band members range in age from 12-75. "We have engineers, teachers, students, a chemist, healthcare workers, stay-at-home parents and more. Some members of our ensemble play regularly and others hadn't played for many years," Smith said. "It's really cool when so many seem-

ingly random people get together and make wonderful music." Smith said more musicians are welcome. Email her at [aksmith@dist265.com](mailto:aksmith@dist265.com). Plans call for an outdoor concert on Memorial Day and possibly more later in the summer at Reed Park.

• • •

Two veterinarians have expressed their unease to me about House Bill 1533, which would make it illegal to declaw cats in Illinois and establishes fines for those who violate the law. Only New York and Maryland currently ban declawing, according to Springfield's State Journal-Register. The Illinois bill passed through the House last Thursday, 67-38, and is now before the Senate. In addition to comments from vets, I've heard from one person who thinks it is barbaric to declaw cats and says the bill is a good idea. As in most things, there are opinions on both sides. What I do find very ironic is that if HB 1533 passes, people will have to cross state lines to get their cats declawed, since that practice is still legal in all neighboring states. At the same time, Illinois is advertising itself as the go-to state for women seeking abortions.

• • •

The wife was wondering out loud why all the males in her house were excited about watching the NCAA college hoops tournament. So she sat down for four minutes, watched Fur-

man pull off a thrilling upset of Virginia and said, "Well that was fun." She hasn't watched again but has left the TV to the hoops-heads in the house. ... During sports seasons, it's hard not to see a lot of commercials. Some are enjoyable, but now and then there's one where the product is clearly flawed. Like those flip-phone cellphones. "No way that screen won't crack," I yell to anyone who will listen. Satisfyingly enough, the techs at our Verizon store confirmed that hunch. While they say the "second generation" is a good product, the first generation screen was not. How quickly did things go bad? "Usually a few months." ... Well, my Spidey Sense has been tingling ever since seeing **LeBron** drive a Hummer EV that can crab walk. Can that possibly work without huge problems? So far, Googling uncovers no problems (except for issues with the electric batteries and the \$80,000 base price for those bad boys). A lack of recalls makes me smile, since you can't help but like that little crab riding next to LeBron with a seat belt on. ... Parting shot: For all the NCAA upsets, there's too many familiar faces in the Sweet 16. Here's hoping Alabama, UCLA, Texas, UConn and Gonzaga get waxed and an upstart takes it all. Just not Princeton.

Contact Jeff Lampe at (309) 231-6040 or [jeff@wklypost.com](mailto:jeff@wklypost.com)



**Edward Jones**  
**Maggie Connell**  
Financial Advisor  
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Canton, IL 61520  
Bus. 309-647-0076  
Mobile 309-264-6513  
[maggie.cecil@edwardjones.com](mailto:maggie.cecil@edwardjones.com)  
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# New cellphone policy proposed in Princeville

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – Some educators and students have called for a new Princeville School District student cellphone policy.

The policy proposed during a school-board meeting March 14 allows high school students to check cellphone messages in hallways during passing periods. Currently, students are prohibited from carrying cellphones during school hours. They must be off and stored in lockers or vehicles.

“That wasn’t happening, and quite honestly, it wasn’t going to be feasible if we continued down that path,” Junior-Senior High School Principal Rich Thole said.

A committee of 20 students and seven staff members formed in mid-January and developed the proposed policy, according to Kelly Jenkins, the district technology coordinator. A board vote is expected in April.

“We did see our current policy was a little outdated and probably pretty hard to enforce,” Jenkins said.

Committee member Brianna Brodie, a high school junior, said students believed the top priority regarding a new policy should be safety and communication with parents. Under the current policy, students are to use school phones in emergencies and parents are to call the school office.

The proposed policy mandates students store silenced phones where teachers or other students can’t see them. If a phone rings or vibrates, is visible during class time or is being used during class time, staff will be allowed to confiscate

it. Students on the committee were OK with that, per Jenkins.

“We were very happy with the students that were definitely seeing things from the teachers’ perspectives, too,” she said. “They also said classroom integrity was important to them.”

Cellphone use also would be prohibited in restrooms and physical-education areas. Jenkins suggested the proposed policy was not related to Princeville junior Noah Guzman’s recent claim that two students took and/or shared cellphone photos of him partially unclad in a school restroom.

“I think there’s always been a conversation about having an updated cellphone policy,” Jenkins said. “That’s been a big thing for the students. That’s been on the table for quite some time.”

Guzman has sought legal redress regarding the bathroom incident, alleged to have taken place in December. A civil trial is scheduled to begin Tuesday in Peoria County Circuit Court.

The proposed policy prohibits cellphone photography or video recording on school grounds. Board President Darwin Stahl suggested that be modified to allow photos or video at Princeville athletic and agricultural events.

“We’ll try to figure out a way to accomplish that and maintain the integrity of the purpose behind it,” Thole said.

According to figures Superintendent Shannon Duling provided, there have been 25 high school cellphone-policy violations this academic year.

Duling announced Junior-Senior

High School Assistant Principal Kyle Dennison is resigning. He is to become principal at Wethersfield Elementary School in Kewanee. Also resigning are kindergarten teacher Kacey Bohanan, junior-high science teacher Clark Brown and high school assistant softball coach Alyssa Brabant.

Regarding action items, the board authorized a \$29,569.60 contract with Heart Technologies Inc. of East Peoria to provide a new door-access system. The current system has out-of-date software, according to Duling.

“If we ever have an issue and the system goes down, we won’t be able to fix it,” he said. “That means none of our doors will open. So it’s a nightmare.”

Among other things, the board:

- Approved spending \$37,633 for a new van from Bob Lindsay Honda of Peoria, contingent upon Head Start funding the purchase.

- Approved an agreement with Jostens Inc. to provide yearbook and school photographs for 2023-24. Unlike the current vendor, Jostens offers online ordering, according to Jenkins.

- Renewed a deal for \$3,083 per month with Digital Copy Systems of Peoria to provide copiers.

- Authorized hiring high school students Ted Fritzenmeier, Neleh Geiger and Aiden Huss and staffers Jeremy Melick, Elizabeth Snyder and Leamond Taylor for technology summer employment.

- Approved Daniel Murk and Mikey Sheets as volunteer baseball coaches and Dan Stone as volunteer softball coach.

# Camp Big Sky holding volunteer open house

For The Weekly Post

MIDDLE GROVE – Camp Big Sky is actively recruiting volunteers to assist visitors of all abilities as they actively participate in a number of accessible outdoor activities at the central Illinois camp.

Camp Big Sky is located at 17185 East McCord Road, Fairview, about 2 miles southwest of Middle Grove.

Volunteers are matched with outdoor activities they choose to support campers and their families, friends and caregivers as they access, discover, learn and enjoy the outdoors.

Volunteer help is sought from the first week of May until the end of October. The camp is open Wednesdays through Fridays and Saturdays by special request. A typical volunteer day runs from approximately 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Camp Big Sky is entering its 20th season and provides all-day activities at no cost thanks in a large part to extensive use of volunteers. Orientation and training are provided to insure a safe, positive and meaningful experience for volunteers and visitors.

To learn more about volunteering,

Camp Big Sky is holding an open house on Friday, March 24, at the Learning Center and Lodge from 9 a.m. until noon. At the open house, volunteers can learn more about making a commitment.

Volunteer orientation is Friday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to noon. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, contact Brad Guidi at (309) 635-6104 and guidibrad@gmail.com or Steve Rees at (309) 258-6383 and cbsoperations-manager@gmail.com or online at www.campbigsky.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**

• **FARMINGTON** – A traffic stop in Farmington resulted in the arrest of a Bellevue man wanted by Peoria County law-enforcement authorities.

Andrew J. Chiarvalle, 35, was driving a 2009 Ford Ranger pickup truck when a Farmington police officer stopped him about 12:15 p.m. March 11 at Main Street and Barlow Road. Chiarvalle was traveling 47 mph in a 30-mph zone, according to a Farmington Police Department report.

Chiarvalle also had an outstanding warrant for larceny. He posted \$605 in bond and fees and was released from custody. Chiarvalle also was cited for speeding.

• **FARMINGTON** – A passenger in a vehicle police stopped in Farmington was wanted in Chicago for an unspecified crime.

Joseph A. Wessely, 31, was riding in a 2011 Chevrolet Impala about 5:45 p.m. March 5 on Fort Street. Police pulled over the vehicle because it was missing a driver's-side headlight, according to a report.

Wessely, whose hometown was unavailable, was transported to the Fulton County Jail in Lewistown. The driver, a Farmington woman, was issued a warning.

• **DAHINDA** – A Galesburg man avoided injury in a single-vehicle accident south of Dahinda.

About 2:30 p.m. March 9, 33-year-old Zachary J. Monti was driving a 2015 Dodge Dart west on Interstate 74 at milepost 59 when the vehicle slid off slick pavement and stopped along the north-side tree line, a Knox County Sheriff's Office report stated. The car sustained at least \$1,500 in damage and was towed.

• **FARMINGTON** – Daniel S.

Dallefeld, 35, of Farmington was taken into custody about 1 a.m. March 9 on a Fulton County warrant for driving under the influence of drugs, according to a Farmington Police Department report. Dallefeld posted \$750 bond and was given a notice to appear April 12 in Fulton County Circuit Court in Lewistown.

• **KICKAPOO** – No injuries were reported in a two-vehicle crash near Kickapoo.

About 3:30 p.m. March 8, Florence M. Bach of Hanna City was driving a 2019 Ford utility vehicle south in the 4600 block of N. Koerner Rd. when she stopped because a small dog ran onto the pavement. A 2007 Ford Fusion driven by Stacie L. Decker of Bartonville then crashed into the rear of Bach's vehicle.

Decker said she was unable to stop in time to avoid the collision, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The rear passenger-side bumper and wheel well on Bach's vehicle were damaged. So were the front driver's-side headlight and fender on Decker's.

• **HANNA CITY** – Shortly after 11:30 p.m. March 3, Breanna H. Divan of Farmington was driving a 2019 Nissan Sentra east on Farmington Road west of Taylor Road when the vehicle struck a deer.

Neither Divan nor her passenger was injured, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle sustained more than \$1,500 in front-end damage and was towed.

• **KICKAPOO** – About 1 a.m. March 7, Sarah E. Reed of Kewanee was driving an eastbound 2017 Kia Sportage on Interstate 74 about one-half mile west of Kickapoo-Edwards Road when the vehicle hit a tire that was lying on the pavement. The vehicle undercarriage sustained heavy damage but was not towed, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office re-

port stated. Reed said she wasn't injured.

• **ELMWOOD** – Shortly after 7 p.m. March 10, John Birmingham of Elmwood was driving a northbound 2014 Ford Edge on Illinois Route 78 one-quarter mile north of Graham Chapel Road when the vehicle hit a deer.

No injuries were reported. The vehicle sustained front-end damage, according to the Elmwood Police Department. The accident killed the deer.

• **OAK HILL** – At 6 a.m. March 4, Corey J. Ciota of Trivoli was driving a 2014 Dodge Durango north in the 2900 block of N. Eden Rd. southeast of Oak Hill when the vehicle struck a deer.

The animal had jumped across a fence on the west side of the road, a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated. No injuries were reported.

The vehicle sustained more than \$1,500 in damage. Its front bumper was torn off, a headlight was smashed and the vehicle was leaking coolant.

• **BRIMFIELD** – About 6:15 p.m. March 2, Lynn M. Dawson of Peoria was driving a 2019 Toyota Highlander west in the 15100 block of U.S. Route 150 east of Brimfield when the vehicle struck a deer. No injuries were reported. The vehicle's front-right quarter panel, bumper and grille sustained more than \$1,500 in damage, according to a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

• **HANNA CITY** – Timothy J. Verbeke, 57, of Hanna City was arrested at 8:15 p.m. March 17 and accused of criminal damage to property less than \$500, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

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# BRIMFIELD: Numerous qualities sought in new superintendent

*Continued from Page 1*  
erate voice on the board. You go on social media and you see the Facebook posts and everything seems very divisive right now.

**Meliss Klabel:** A lot of parents have asked me to run. They believe I will be the best person to represent them. My first priority is to remind everyone why we all are here, what our commonalities are and that we are all working for the same goal – the betterment of all the kids.

**Constance Monk:** I do feel my degree in education and my classroom experience would be a benefit to the board. My perspective could be very beneficial to understanding faculty needs and a day in the life of a classroom.

**Josh Murdock:** I grew up in a small district like Brimfield. I love the small school, its class sizes, the closeness of the community. My priorities are to protect Brimfield's rich traditions, protect its kids and support a superintendent that leads his or her team toward keeping these traditions.

**Christopher Schachtrup:** I want to continue to expand academic offerings while protecting fiscal responsibility and transparency. I write (requests for proposals) and agenda briefs. This is the experience I want to put to work on the school board.

**Natalie Zeman:** I started going to school-board meetings and seeing there would be a minority of people that would control the meeting and the agenda. My pri-

orities would be for there to be a positive work environment, that we can make sure to retain our excellent teachers and get the best teachers and administrators as possible.

*Q: What do you think is exceptional about the Brimfield district, and what do you see as the most pressing problem in the district?*

**Blodgett:** I grew up in Peoria and went to a parochial school there which did its best to simulate a small town. I would love to keep that, to foster communication between the school and the community and to not do things that would be divisive.

**Butterfield:** It was a great place to grow up. One of the biggest problems is social media. It's kind of gotten out of control a little bit. I'd like to implement a technology program for younger kids.

**Hamilton:** We have a great staff. We're known for academic excellence. Are we preparing our kids well enough for them to go on to the rigors of college? It's a mind-set, not academic. At the younger grades, it's been well documented (whether) our curriculum is age appropriate.

**Hicke:** I think we have longevity. We have people committed to the community, committed to our kids, and I think that is a good foundation for continually building on. I think we need to have some accountability and some transparency.

**Kappes:** When I was in high school here, the school motto was "Large enough to prepare, small

enough to care." I love the size of our school. (Regarding pressing problems) I think it's the hiring of a new superintendent. That role is so vital.

**Klabel:** Our district is exceptional because of the academic, athletic and extracurricular opportunities. There is a place for everyone to excel. The most pressing issue facing the district is the disconnect among the superintendent, administration, board, teachers and parents.

**Monk:** We have teachers who come here and they spend their whole career here. And they provide more than just a teaching experience. They care about the whole child. Communication is really, really important. It seems some community members are concerned about what's going on and want clear communication from the board.

**Murdock:** Its sports programs have developed disciplined student-athletes and a rich environment for community enjoyment. Illinois has its share of financial challenges, and my goal is to make sure we support the administration with resources to get our best for the kids with the budget we have.

**Schachtrup:** Our government in this state is very largely driven by Chicago and big-city politics. There are a lot of things that tend to come down that are tricky for us.

**Zeman:** Our faculty and staff are what is exceptional about this school. We're so lucky to have

(Grade School Principal Julie) Albritton, who did curriculum work and did reviews of curriculum. I'm really impressed with the curriculum in the classrooms.

*Q: What qualities and qualifications would you be looking for in a new superintendent?*

**Blodgett:** Priorities should include experience as an administrator and educator, as well as excellent communications skills and a desire to foster relationships with the faculty, parents and community. He or she needs to have vision, both short and long term, with focus on advancing student opportunities and achievement while remaining fiscally responsible.

**Butterfield:** I'd like to see somebody with a curriculum-type background who has high energy to encourage principals and teachers to grow in their fields. Somebody who has a good long-term plan for our district.

**Hamilton:** They've got to love kids. They've got to have great business acumen. They've got to be able to lead and delegate and reprimand well. Someone whose values align with our community.

**Hicke:** We need experience. We need someone who's walked in those shoes. They have to have a passion for the kids, not just looking for a job. It's going to be a tough search.

**Kappes:** We'll be looking for a superintendent that has a teaching background and some administrative experience. A superintendent is really going to set the tone

for your school. That's hard for somebody coming in new at the top level. That's why I'm going to be looking for someone who can come in and understand our culture and really make sure we're all sharing the same goals.

**Klabel:** The first qualification I will be looking for is their ability to understand the uniqueness of a small district.

**Monk:** This is a very heavy task. One of the most telltale signs of how a superintendent is going to do is by speaking to faculty, community members and staff in their previous district. I think you want to get a feel for who they are and what their goals are in education.

**Murdock:** I would first simply look to see if this person has passion and joy for kids. I would want a great communicator, organized and financially savvy individual. It would be a plus to have someone that is from a small, like-sized school and had a lengthy tenure (there).

**Schachtrup:** I'd like to see somebody that's a really good fit culturally. I think it's really important to find somebody who has a good working relationship with their administration. I hope that when we're done finding our superintendent that somewhere, there's a very sad principal.

**Zeman:** I would want somebody who is easy to communicate with, who has experience at all different levels of education and who has an open mind.



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## Judge nixes Maquon murder charges

By **NICK VLAHOS**  
 For The Weekly Post

GALESBURG — Marcy Oglesby still faces charges in connection with the death of a Maquon man last year. But first-degree murder no longer is among them.

During a hearing March 16 in Knox County Circuit Court, Judge Andrew Doyle granted a motion to dismiss four charges against Oglesby.



Oglesby

Her 51st birthday is April 2.

Oglesby was accused of using eye drops to poison to death someone believed to be former Maquon Police Chief Richard Young. Oglesby is alleged to have hidden Young's body in a Maquon storage locker for almost a year. It was discovered last Oct. 7, after neighbors complained about an odor.

The murder charge against Oglesby was filed Feb. 6. Also filed that day were charges of attempted murder, aggravated battery by administering a

dangerous substance and concealment of a homicidal death.

Oglesby's defense attorney argued the additional charges were filed more than 120 days after Oglesby was taken into custody. That would violate her right to a speedy trial, according to Illinois law. From Oct. 7 until Feb. 6 is 122 days.

Knox County State's Attorney Jeremy Karlin did not return a telephone message from The Weekly Post. According to Tri-States Public Radio of Macomb, Karlin said his office "respectfully disagrees with Judge Doyle's interpretation of Illinois law and his decision."

An appeal to the Fourth District Appellate Court in Springfield is expected.

Earlier, Oglesby was charged with forgery, firearms violations and concealment of a death. She pleaded not guilty. A preliminary hearing is scheduled April 3.

The Knox County Sheriff's Office has yet to receive DNA test results from what's believed to be Young's body, according to Sgt. Brad Davis.



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# New IDNR director anticipates budget increase

By **GRETCHEN STEELE**

For The Weekly Post

Natalie Phelps Finnie has an answer for doubters who question whether her background has prepared her to be director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

The Eldorado native's background is as an advanced practice nurse with a robust medical background. Finnie was a state representative from 2017-19 and comes from a political family. Her father David Phelps served in the General Assembly from 1985-98 and in Congress from 1999 to 2002.

Finnie said she sees experience as a legislator and nurse as attributes to understand the legislative process and administration side of her new job. She replaces Colleen Callahan of Edwards, who stepped down on Jan. 16 after four years as DNR director

"To be the head of an agency, you have to have a broad experience and skill level," she said. "To be hyper-focused on biology could be problematic. Knowing who's who is government, knowing who to call and already having a relationship developed is hugely important."

Finnie said one of her greatest skills from being a nurse practitioner is listening and getting to the heart of a problem.

"You must know the right question to ask to determine the true problem," Finnie said. "When to call in the experts to consult. I look at the DNR as my patient."

Finnie served as deputy director of IDNR since August 2021, overseeing legislative affairs, land management (which includes state parks and historical sites), mines and minerals and oil and gas. She also served as the department's Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act coordinator.

When asked what she saw as challenges for her upcoming tenure, Finnie

quickly pointed out that even though last year's budget was the largest IDNR budget in several administrations, "We still have a roughly \$850 million maintenance backlog. That's a pretty tall mountain to climb. We also are still so short-staffed."

Given strong support from the governor, Finnie anticipates that the upcoming agency budget will be even larger than the current budget.

"I want the employees of this agency; I want people in this state to look at IDNR and say, 'That is how government should be run,'" she said. "Also, I want us to be the best DNR in the country. It's about public service. It's about being in the trenches with people, leading by example, and doing the tough work with them. That's how I lead."

Finnie also stressed prioritizing projects, being fiscally responsible, and, most importantly, increasing public perception and participation in the agency's processes.

"You know, I learned really quickly as deputy director that we need to do a better job of working with public input on rules, regulations and that sort of thing" Finnie said.

Other goals are making appointments to a redesigned Natural Resources Advisory Board and taking a hard look at IDNR properties and how they can be better managed, especially

state historic sites. "It's an exciting time to be IDNR director," she said. "We currently enjoy some of the best support as an agency that we have had in years."

**AT THE MOOSE LODGE THIS WEEK!**

**March 23** Queen of Hearts Drawing 7:30pm  
Jackpot \$18,310 (Tickets available all week)  
Fajitas 5:30-7:30pm

**March 24** Lasagna 5-7pm

**March 25** Pitch Tournament 1pm  
Karaoke 8pm - Midnight

**March 26** \$7 Pizza \$2.50 Beer  
\$3 Ultras

**March 27** Tenderloins 5-7pm  
Bingo 6:30

**Upcoming Event**  
**April 1** Captain Geech & The Shrimp Shack Shooters  
Doors Open 5:30 Band 7:30

FARMINGTON MOOSE LODGE 1571 1001 E. FORT ST.  
(309) 245-2318 • Visit our Facebook Page!

**Peoria FLEA MARKET**

Exposition Gardens (Peoria)  
**March 26<sup>th</sup> 7:30am - 3pm**  
For info call Aaron (309) 825-1223

*Annual Women of the Moose*

**Mother & Daughter Banquet**

Sunday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> • 1 p.m.  
Farmington Moose Lodge  
Reservations  
Call Karen (309)264-2638

**ST. MARY'S SCHOOL PRESENTS**

*Directed by Gillian Cramer*

**SEUSSICAL JR.**

**MARCH 24-25TH**  
**7:00 PM**

**ROBERT C. SCHMITT GYMNASIUM**

**TICKETS \$5/PERSON SOLD AT THE DOOR** **DOORS OPEN AT 6:30**

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**Tuesday – Tacos!**  
**Wednesday – Baked Pork Chop**  
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Call for Take Out Only 309-639-2700 • Karaoke March 25<sup>th</sup> D.J. Max  
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**Brimfield Grade School Kindergarten Registration**  
**Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**  
**5:30-6:30 p.m. • BGS Cafeteria**

Do you have a child eligible for kindergarten for the 23-24 school year? If so, please plan to attend the upcoming registration night.

**Your child must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2023.**

**Registration will be 5:30-6:30 in the grade school cafeteria.**  
**An informational meeting will be held at 6:00 PM**

This evening is for **Parents Only**. Parents will be asked to fill out all registration packets and pay registration fees that evening.

Kindergarten registration fee is \$55 cash or check made payable to BGS.

Parents will sign up for kindergarten screenings to be held on Friday, April 21, 2023

Before and aftercare (BAC) fees will be explained at the meeting. Registration for a single child is \$25


**If you are unable to attend or if you have any questions please contact the school at 309-446-3366, for registration papers and to sign up for a screening time.**



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# USDA says food costs continuing to increase

By **DAN GRANT**  
 FarmWeek

Food costs will continue to eat away at consumers' pocketbooks 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.

"It isn't attributable to any category, but rather it's driven by higher prices across the board," MacLachlan said.

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%.

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, a vice president at FMI – the Food Industry Association.

"It looks like a year in flux," 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.

*This story was distributed through a cooperative project between Illinois Farm Bureau and the Illinois Press Association. For more food and farming news, visit FarmWeekNow.com.*

April 4th  
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 to Elect

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<h2 style="margin: 0;">Brittany Gibbs</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Williamsfield High School Graduate</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree in Nursing</li> <li>• Has worked for OSF Healthcare since 2009</li> <li>• Current PAT President</li> <li>• Child focused with deep ties to community</li> <li>• Motivated to continually seek improvements in maintaining the growth of our schools</li> <li>• Mom of enrolled first grader and preschooler</li> </ul>	<h2 style="margin: 0;">Rachel Tucker</h2> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Williamsfield High School Graduate</li> <li>• Bachelor's Degree in Finance</li> <li>• Paralegal at the same law firm since 2005</li> <li>• WHS Alumni Association Officer since 2010</li> <li>• Dahinda United Methodist Church Treasurer</li> <li>• Galva Rotarian since 2011; been an Officer since 2014</li> <li>• Past Cub Scoutmaster</li> <li>• Mom of WHS graduate and an enrolled kindergartener</li> </ul>
--	--



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**LIMITED NUMBER OF TABLES AVAILABLE**

Register online @ Eventbrite using this QR Code:

**At ST. MARY'S OF KICKAPOO**  
 Hosted by Matt Gulette

**Saturday, April 1st**  
**7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

Event Open to the Public; Must be 21.  
 Cash Bar and Light Snacks Provided.  
 Doors Open at 6 p.m.

**\$100 per Table (Max 10) or \$15 per Person**

Make required reservations online at Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/st-marys-trivia-night-tickets-57469165721767>

OR  
 Drop off payment to the School Office:  
 9910 W. Knox Street, Edwards, IL 61528

**BRIEFS**

**10th Judicial Circuit to allow electronic devices**

PEORIA – As the result of a new ruling by the Supreme Court of Illinois, visitors to the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court facilities will be permitted to bring portable electronic devices into the courtroom.

Chief Judge Katherine Gorman recently issued Administrative Order 2023-03, which modifies current court practices to comply with the new Supreme Court policy.

Court visitors will be permitted to bring smartphones, tablets, computers, smartwatches and e-books into Tenth Judicial Circuit Court facilities in Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark and Tazewell county courthouses (and all branch court facilities) effective this week.

The order does restrict the time, place, and way such devices may be used. All devices brought into court facilities must be put on “silent” mode. Within common areas of court facilities, visitors will be able

to use portable electronic devices if they are not causing a disruption to court facility operations or to others within court facilities.

However, the taking of photos, audio recordings or video recordings – whether in the courtrooms or in common areas – is strictly prohibited.

“Electronic devices such as cell-phones and tablets have become essential tools today, and the courts must adapt to the times,” Gorman said.

**CLASSIFIED ADS**

**FOR SALE**

• **CHEVY COLORADO:** 2006, 4x4, high miles, well maintained, sold as is, \$3,500 OBO. Call or text (309) 231-2370.

• **LOT:** Oak Run in Old Orchard subdivision, Lot 199. (309) 368-2837 please leave message.

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• **SALVAGE:** Buying junk autos, farm equipment, grain bins, and also doing total farm clean up. Call Doug Lofgren at Spoon River Salvage (309) 299-8531.

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• **DRIVERS:** Dump trailer/tandem drivers wanted, Class A needed, but can work with Class B, home every night, seasonal work, benefits offered, competitive wages. Rask Transportation, 1880 State Rte 167,

Victoria, IL, phone (309) 879-2221, email krask@rasktransportation.com, John Rask (309) 368-1027 or Kris Rask (309) 368-2469.

**GARAGE SALES**

**5309 W. Vale Ct., Bartonville**  
Fri., March 31 & Sat., April 1  
8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
Lots of fishing equipment. Any questions call Chuck (309) 208-9831.

**ESTATE SALE**

**734 E. Moneta, Peoria Heights**  
Sat., March 25 & Sun., March 26  
Sat., April 1 & Sun., April 2  
9 am – 5 pm

Collectible colored & clear glassware, some crystal, dishes, small appliances, household goods, couch, hutch, holiday decorations, 45 records, albums, cassettes, CDs & DVDs, (1960s-70s-80s), California

Raisin collectibles, tools, grill, yard tools, extension ladder & much more!

**THANK YOU**

Thank you, Rachel Tucker and Brittany Gibbs, for running as write in candidates for CUSD #210 Board of Education. You are both graduates of this district and have grown up in this area. You understand the importance of a strong school district. Community service is not about personal agendas but about doing the right thing even when it's not popular. Thank you for your willingness to serve this community that has helped to mold you both into the women you are today. – Janet Collopy

Email free Thank-Yous to shelly@wklypost.com.

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Grilled Cheese  
Cup Soup \$8

**Wednesday**  
Tenderloin w/ side \$9

**Thursday**  
Livers & Gizzards  
\$5.50  
Tenders w/ side \$9

**Friday**  
Whole Catfish w/2 sides  
\$12.50  
Wings \$1

**Saturday**  
Ribeye Sandwich w/1 side  
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**Sunday**  
Pizza 1/2 Price  
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**Amber Waves**  
by Dave T. Phipps

OK, CLASS, TODAY WE ARE GOING TO DISCUSS OUR FAMILY HERITAGE.

GRANDMA SAYS WE ARE ENGLISH ON HER SIDE AND GERMAN ON GRANDPA'S.

THAT'S WONDERFUL, AMY. OK, AND YOU, GERALD?

MY GRANDMA SAYS SHE'S 100% IRISH AND GRANDPA IS EXTRA CAUTIOUS.

**The Spats**  
by Jeff Pickering

I MARRIED HER FOR HER LOOKS

...BUT NOT THAT ONE.

**Just Like Cats & Dogs**  
by Dave T. Phipps

WHY BOTHER GOING TO A DOCTOR? I LOOKED UP MY SYMPTOMS ON THE INTERNET AND I'M A GONER.

“Congratulations! You made America's most un-wanted.”

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦**

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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**FOR ANSWERS SEE PAGE 14**

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

SK SH VMM RICW NIMM KB  
OBZW NLVK BUI HIIH, QJK SK  
SH DVC QIKKIC KB PCVN NLVK  
BUI UBN BUMW HIIH SU BUI'H  
XIXBCW. – IPYVC PIYVH

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**Trivia test** by Fifi Rodriguez

- AD SLOGANS: What company advertises its clothing with the ad slogan, "Quality never goes out of style"?
- SCIENCE: What is the tallest grass in the world?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the camp in "Friday the 13th"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the term when two water streams join to form a larger stream?
- INVENTIONS: What is Tim Berners-Lee credited with inventing?
- ANATOMY: Where are the quadriceps located?
- LITERATURE: Which poet wrote a six-volume biography of President Lincoln?
- TELEVISION: Timothy Lovejoy is a minister on which animated TV series?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: Yaks are native to which region?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Before he was elected president, which of the founding fathers attended the coronation of Napoleon at Notre Dame Cathedral?

**Answers**

- Levi's.
- Bamboo.
- Camp Crystal Lake.
- Confluence.
- World Wide Web.
- Thighs.
- Carl Sandburg.
- "The Simpsons."
- Tibet, China.
- James Monroe and his wife Elizabeth.

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**TOP 10 MOVIES**

1. Scream VI	(R)
2. Creed III	(PG-13)
3. 65	(PG-13)
4. Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania	(PG-13)
5. Cocaine Bear	(R)
6. Jesus Revolution	(PG-13)
7. Champions	(PG-13)
8. Avatar: The Way of Water	(PG-13)
9. Puss in Boots: The Last Wish	(PG)
10. Operation Fortune: Ruse de Guerre	(R)

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**Princeville Township Cemetery**

Family and friends wishing to save grave decorations in the *Princeville Township Cemetery* please remove them by **Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023.**

After this date, cemetery personnel will dispose of all winter grave decorations.

**Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.**

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**OBITUARIES**

**Richard H. Bebber**

PEORIA – Richard “Dick” Henry Bebber, 89, of Peoria, formerly of Brimfield, passed away at 11:25 a.m. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria. Richard was born on July 29, 1933, in Buffalo, N.Y.; the son of Nelson and Ann (Hamann) Bebber. He married his first wife Theresa M. (Garrido) in 1954; she preceded him in death in 1975. He later married Pamela Cornue, his wife of 44 years, on Jan. 13, 1979, in Hoffman Estates, Ill.; she survives.



Bebber

Dick is also survived by his daughter, Renee (Robert) Kenney of Fox River Grove; son, Ronald Bebber of Chicago; grandson, Russell Bebber of St. Louis, Mo.; one great-grandchild; daughter-in-law, Teri Bebber of Greenfield, Ill.; sister-in-law, Kathy Bebber of Ohio; and dear family friend, Harold Obermann.

He was also preceded in death by his parents; son Richard Bebber; daughter Ruth Bebber; two brothers, Nelson Bebber and Clifford (Jane) Bebber; and sister Sis (Robert) Tuschel.

Dick was a member of the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church in Peoria, where he actively volunteered.

He began working for American Airlines as an 18-year-old in 1951, handling baggage. He held many positions during his career, retiring in

1995 as the passenger sales manager for Central Illinois.

He loved traveling and made over 100 trips throughout the world. Dick also enjoyed golfing, gardening, playing cards (even though he wasn't the best at losing), photography, sharing a good joke, a tasty meal, a mariachi band and lots of laughter.

A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, April 1, 2023, at 2 p.m. at Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. Rev. Mary Beenken will officiate. Visitation will be one hour prior to the service at the church. Haskell Funeral & Cremation Services in Princeville is assisting the family with arrangements.

In lieu of flowers and memorial gifts, please make contributions to OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home or Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. Condolences for Richard's family may be left at [www.haskellfuneral.com](http://www.haskellfuneral.com).

**David Renner**

FARMINGTON – David Renner, 80, passed away on Sunday, March 19, 2023, at OSF St Francis Hospital in Peoria. He was born on Feb. 5, 1943, in Canton to Ralph and Frieda (Curless) Renner.

He married Becky Renner on June 4, 1967, in Astoria. She preceded him in death on June 16, 2020.

Also surviving are his children, Michael Renner of Farmington, Marci (Bobby) Allen of Canton; two



Renner

brothers, Rex (Pat) Renner of Rochelle, Ill., and Don (Mary) Renner of Sycamore, Ill.; six grandchildren, Amelia (Scott) Begner, Broedy Renner, Brock Renner, Josh (Ashlyn) Allen, Katie Allen and Jake Allen; and four great-grandchildren, Hadley, Ryker, Jared and Rylee.

David served in the U.S. Air Force. He later worked as a surveyor for the local coal mines. He was a member of the Farmington United Methodist Church. David enjoyed taking his wife Becky out on dancing dates throughout their marriage. He also loved his children and grandchildren and attending the grandkid's sporting events.

Cremation rites were accorded by Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Canton and a graveside service will be at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Farmington on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at 11 a.m. There will be no visitation. Memorials may be made to Farmington United Methodist Church.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com](http://www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com).

**Ruth A. Smith**

PEORIA – Ruth A. Smith, 78, of Peoria, formerly of Elmwood, passed away on Monday, March 13, 2023, at Grand View Alzheimer's Care Center in Peoria. She was born June 22, 1944, to Stanley and Emma (Yehl) Knapp. She married William G. Smith on June 29, 1974. He preceded her in death in 2014.

She is survived by three children, Greg Wear of Peoria Heights, Emma Wear of Williamsfield and Elly (Brian) Fennell of Lafayette, Ind.;

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**Notice**

Anyone wishing to save grave decorations in Yates City, Douglas, Uniontown, or Blakeslee Cemeteries, please remove them by **April 1, 2023.**

Salem Township Cemetery Board

**Got Ants?**

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**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**Super Crossword**

Answers

SK	IM	ASK	CAN	CUN	I	TH	A	C	A										
L	A	R	A	M	I	E	A	P	O	L	L	O	N	E	E	D			
O	P	E	N	I	N	G	C	R	E	D	I	T	S	D	E	E	M	E	D
P	O	N	E	S	L	A	P	S	F	R	I	S	E	L	I	L	O		
E	W	E	S	J	E	T	S	T	A	R	T	B	U	T	T	O	N		
E	E	R	R	E	O	E	T	N	A										
G	O	B	A	G	S	M	O	M	S	T	O	B	E	O	P	E	R	A	
I	N	A	U	G	R	A	T	I	O	N	B	A	L	L	S	N	I	P	
F	E	M	T	O	O	N	A	N	T	I	N	E	A	R	T	V	S		
T	A	B	U	B	A	I	T	E	D	D	E	S	R	E	E				
C	O	M	M	E	N	C	E	M	E	N	T	S	P	E	A	K	E	R	
A	T	O	N	A	L	S	E	R	I	E	S	I	N	K	A				
P	E	Z	P	L	U	R	A	L	S	A	L	E	P	R	O	W	L		
U	R	L	S	I	N	I	T	I	A	T	I	O	N	R	I	T	U	A	L
P	S	E	U	D	Z	O	O	M	L	E	N	S	A	U	S	S	I	E	
N	O	T	I	L	A	S	O	K	S										
L	A	U	N	C	H	P	A	R	T	A	X	E	J	A	D	E			
O	M	N	I	E	S	T	E	E	H	O	L	Y	S	E	X	E	D		
C	O	H	E	R	E	I	N	T	H	E	B	E	G	I	N	N	I	N	G
K	R	I	S	T	Y	M	A	R	I	N	O	E	M	A	N	A	T	E	
S	E	T	T	E	E	E	L	A	P	S	E	N	O	G	A	L	E	S	

**CryptoQuote**

answer

It is all very well to copy what one sees, but it is far better to draw what one now only sees in one's memory. — Edgar Degas

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

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# OBITUARIES

three stepchildren, Jerry (Valerie) Smith of Appleton City, Mo., Patty (Shaun) Halpin of Big Bend, Wis., and Michael Smith of Arizona; 10 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She is also preceded in death by two brothers, Fred Knapp and Rene Knapp.  
Ruth was a former secretary at the Peoria Auto Body Shop, Redeemer Lutheran Church, and Peoria School District #150.



**Smith**

A funeral service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 25, 2023, at Oaks-Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood. A visitation will be one hour prior to the service from 2-3 p.m. at the funeral home. Cremation rites will be accorded following the service. Food and fellowship will also follow the service at the First Presbyterian Church, 201 E. Evergreen St., Elmwood, Ill.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Easter Seals and the American Alzheimer's Association. To leave online condolences, or to view Ruth's video tribute, please visit [www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com](http://www.oakshinesfuneralhome.com).

Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Elmwood is in charge of arrangements.

## Archie W. Bloss

WILLIAMSFIELD – Archie W

Bloss, 87, formerly of Williamsfield, died March 19, 2023, in Springfield at The Arbor Assistant Living Facility. Archie was born Dec. 26, 1935, in Meadville, Mo. He lived in Missouri until his parents moved to Dahiinda in the early 1950s.

He married Sharon L. Myers-Wolfe on June 16, 1957. They had three children, a son, Archie "John" (Debbie) Bloss, and daughters, Diana (Rick) Noble and Kimberly (Scott) Koch. They also had seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter, who died in 2013.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. on April 1 at Williamsfield United Methodist Church. Visitation is at 10 a.m. There will be an informal burial following the service at the Williamsfield Cemetery. A meal will be provided following the burial.

## Karen L. Dean

FARMINGTON – Karen L. Dean, 74, of Farmington, died Monday, March 13, 2023, at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. She was born Dec. 13, 1948, in Peoria.

She is survived by two children, Michael (Michele) Dean of Peyton, Colo., and Robert (Lisa) Dean of Orange Park, Fla.; three sisters, Shirley (Brad) Dilts, Nancy Armstrong and Debra Forrester; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

A funeral service will be at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 25, at Oaks-

Hines Funeral Home in Elmwood. Burial will follow at Elmwood Township Cemetery.

## Jerold Porter

FARMINGTON – Jerold Porter, 66, of Farmington, died March 14, 2023, at OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria. He was born Aug. 31, 1956, in Peoria. He is survived by two children, Crindy (Joseph) Hedges and Adam Porter; four sisters, Diane Gilstrap, Terri Psinas, Jamie Leeper and Donna Nelson; nine grandchildren; and three stepbrothers, Ethan Wise, Aaron Wise and Brandon Porter.

A celebration of life will be at Canton Assembly of God Church on Friday, March 24. Military honors are at 2 p.m., with the service to follow.

## Larry J. Walters

FARMINGTON – Larry James Walters, 78, of Farmington, died Friday, March 17, 2023, at Red Oak Care Center in Canton. He was born on April 14, 1944. He married Marilyn Martin on Nov. 27, 1964, in Canton. She survives.

Also surviving is his daughter, Julie (Dan) Edwards of Farmington; two grandchildren; one great-grandchild; four brothers; and four sisters, including Leigh Ann Fox of Edwards.

Funeral services will be at 11 a.m. on Friday, March 24, at Sedgwick Funeral Homes and Crematory in Canton. Visitation is today, March 23, 4-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

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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. Clay 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 David Pyell  
135 S. Galena St., Brimfield (309) 221-4879

**BIBLE TRIVIA**  
By Wilson Casey  
1. Is the book of Colossians (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?  
2. Who hid 100 prophets in a cave when Jezebel was trying to kill them? Obadiah, Achan, Rachel, Joseph  
3. In Revelation 21:1's vision, what will not exist in the world to come? Sky, Mountain, Sea, Darkness  
Sun. Worship: 8:30 am  
Sun. School: 8:30 am  
**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 (gluten-free communion offered)  
• Grief & Loss Group meets Tuesday afternoons 3-4:30 p.m. until further notice.  
**DAHINDA**  
**Dahinda United Methodist Church**  
Pastor Teri Shane  
1739 Victoria St., P.O. Box 14  
Dahinda, IL 61428  
Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.  
Church: (309) 639-2768  
Pastor's Office: (309) 639-2389  
Email: [williamsfielddahindaumc@yahoo.com](mailto:williamsfielddahindaumc@yahoo.com)  
**DOUGLAS**  
**Douglas United Methodist Church**

4. What's the only animal/creature in the Bible that tells a lie? Serpent, Camel, Donkey, Dove  
5. In which book is the phrase "The nations are as a drop of a bucket"? TITLE: None, Genesis, Isaiah, Romans  
6. Which city was famous for its fallen walls? Derbe, Jericho, Corinth, Capernaum  
ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Obadiah, 3) Sea, 4) Serpent, 5) Isaiah 40:15, 6) Jericho  
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Pastor Kristine McMillan  
484 3rd St.  
Yates City, IL 61572  
(NOTE: Church is in Douglas)  
Sunday Worship: 8 a.m.  
(Maquon worship: 11 a.m.)  
Facebook Live is 11 am at [Maquon UM Church page](https://www.facebook.com/MaquonUMChurch)  
**EDWARDS**  
**Bethany Baptist Church**  
7422 N. Heinz Ln., Edwards (309) 692-1755  
bethanycentral.org  
Sun. Worship: Inside services at 9 & 10:30 am  
**St. Mary's Catholic Church**  
Father James Pankiewicz  
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  
Daily Masses (Mon., Wed. Thurs., 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  
Sun. Worship: 10:00 am and 12:30 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 James Pankiewicz  
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  
Sat. Worship: 5 pm  
Sun. Worship: 10 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**  
Pastor Cindy Bean  
83 N. Cone Street, Farmington (309) 245-2914  
firstpresfarmington.com  
Sunday School: 9:15 am  
Worship: 10:30 am  
Live on Facebook also  
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: 8:30 am  
Sunday School: 9:45 am  
**St. Mary of the Woods Catholic Church**  
Father Corey Krengiel  
119 Saint Mary St., Princeville (309) 385-2578  
Sat. Confession: 3-3:45 pm  
Sat. Mass: 4 pm  
Sun. Confession: 8-8:45 am  
Sun. Mass: 9 am  
Tues., Thurs., 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: during worship  
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









# Indians a winner as baseball starts slowly

By PHIL JOHNSON

For The Weekly Post

The winner on the baseball diamonds this past week was, for the most part, rainy and cold weather in the area. The following are the games that did take place.

### Brimfield-Elmwood

The Indians topped Kewanee 5-1 at home March 15 in non-conference action with combined one-hit pitching from Brady Johnson (nine strikeouts in four innings), Kyle Binder, who struck out the side in one inning of work, and Drew Kieser (two strikeouts in two innings).

Offense came from Jude Strahm's two hits and one RBI. Binder drove in two. Cleve Bizosky and Zach Minton each had a hit.

"Brady threw strikes, pounding the zone. That will be what all of our pitchers will need to do successfully," B-E Coach Brandon Porter said.

"Striking out the first nine batters in his first varsity start is pretty good."

The Indians are at Cuba Saturday vs. Decatur St. Teresa and Pittsfield.

### Farmington

Farmington traveled to non-conference rival Delavan Monday and lost 9-0. The Delavan pitching staff regis-

tered 14 strikeouts and Alias Hart had the only FHS hit.

"We played better than in our opener last week, but Delavan pitchers constantly threw the ball by us," Farmington Coach Justin Begner said.

Carter Lambin threw four innings for the Farmers, striking out five. Landon Crawford pitched two frames, yielding two hits and striking out two.

FHS had a rough start to the season with a 21-2 non-conference setback at home Ito Chillicothe IVC on March 15. Nine team errors and eight team walks hurt the Farmers. Kyle Litchfield, Jacob Evans, Brody Evans and Lambin each had a hit.

"It was a frustrating start for us. Our defense really struggled," Begner said.

Farmington next hosts Monmouth-Roseville today (March 23) in a non-conference matchup.

### Princeville

Princeville traveled to Manlius for an 11-0 season-opening loss to non-conference foe Bureau Valley on March 15. Nine runs in the bottom of the first were all the home team needed.

A bright spot for the Princes came from Parker Dickinson's three frames of relief pitching, which featured seven strikeouts. Josiah Christianson had the lone hit in the game for the Princes.

Princeville is at Henry on Saturday in non-conference play.

### ROWVA-Williamsfield

R-W came up just short in a 2-1 loss to begin their season at non-conference foe Rock Island Alleman on March 15. Jake McGarry gave up both runs, unearned, in the first inning.

R-W scored in the fourth and had runners on base in the next three innings but couldn't get the needed hit.

"Being it was the first game of the season and not being able to practice on the diamond due to inclement weather, we played very well," R-W Coach Arnie Gonzalez said. "We have a lot to build on after this good effort.

"We will get better. We just have to continue to practice hard, to have confidence and patience."

The Cougars next game is Friday at Oneida versus non-conference opponent Lena-Winslow.

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**JESUS REVOLUTION**

**PLEASE NOTE**  
 the change of date from March 24<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>.  
 The show on the 24<sup>th</sup> will have the regular admission.

**Movie Shown at The Palace Theater Elmwood**

**Everyone is Welcome!**  
 Consessions responsibility of each attendee  
 March 31<sup>st</sup> show sponsored by the Adult S.S. Class of the Elmwood Presbyterian Church

# R-W's Wight MVP in Kiwanis All-Star Game

By NICK VLAHOS

For The Weekly Post

CANTON – ROWVA-Williamsfield senior Graham Wight had 15 points March 18 to lead the North boys to an 81-70 win over the South in the Kiwanis All-Star Game.

Wight was selected as most valuable player of the boys basketball game, which like the girls game was a seniors-only event at Spoon River College.

The South won the girls game 56-51 behind 17 points from MVP Meghanne Freehill of Lewis-town.

At halftime, the South boys led 35-33. But in the second half, Oliver Heinz of Brimfield scored 11 of his 13. Elmwood seniors Brendan Williams, Zach Howerton and Brayden Lehman had 14, 12 and nine points, respectively. Adam Kohl of R-W had two points.

Josh Fugitt of Elmwood was the North coach.

In the girls game, Brook Pieper of Abingdon-Avon had a team-high 17 points for the North. Melody Glenn of Elmwood scored 11. Elmwood teammates Ainsley Faulkner had three points and Liv Meyers had none.

Elly Doe of Brimfield and Anna Weibel of Farmington each had four points. Destinee Harwood of Princeville had three points, and Kaly Yelm of Galva scored two. Dan Russell of Galva was the North coach. Doe and Bo Benassi of Pekin teamed to win the games' 2-ball Hot

Shot competition, with 98 points. Competitors alternated shots for one minute from different designated spots on the floor, and points varied depending on distance from the basket.

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 Music 8 pm - 12 am  
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**Janice Nash**  
 Producer

# Weekly Post Sports

Thursday, March 23, 2023

## B-E softball returns deep bench

By NICK VLAHOS  
For The Weekly Post

Brimfield-Elmwood's top softball pitcher from last season, Maddie Hessing, was a senior. But as the 2023 season begins, B-E Coach Kurt Juerjens believes he has a deep bench in that regard and others.

Juniors Rylie Cornelison and freshmen Sawyer Drury and Schyer Meinders are expected to see significant time in the circle this season, particularly early. Returning pitcher-outfielder Brooke Sumner is unable to practice because of an injury, according to Juerjens.

Hessing, now pitching in college at Lewis, joined fellow graduates Marisa Unes and Lauren Troxell as key contributors to a B-E team that finished 21-7-1 last season and advanced to the Class 2A sectional semifinals.

"We have a number of girls capable of stepping up," Juerjens stated. Among them is at least one who already has stepped up – junior Kierra Johnson. She hit .483 last season, with 12 home runs and 50 RBIs. Johnson also was a



Brimfield-Elmwood softball coach Kurt Juerjens says he has a deep bench this spring.

second-team all-stater and a unanimous first-team pick in the Prairieland Conference North Division.

Other returning B-E starters include senior Ella Florey (.395, 3 HRs, 30 RBIs) and junior C.J. Troxell (.437, 4 HRs, 30 RBIs). Senior Kate Yemm also returns, as does junior Kylee Vaughn, who missed last season because of injury.

B-E became 1-1 by winning 8-0 on Monday at Peoria Notre Dame.

Vaughn went 4-for-4 and

homered in the first inning. Meinders allowed three hits in five innings. In the season opener March 15, B-E lost 3-1 to Knoxville under the dome at the Louisville Slugger complex in Peoria.

A game March 16 against Olympia was canceled. The Indians were scheduled to play Wednesday at home against Putnam County and today (March 23) at Pekin, rescheduled from March 18. Another game is scheduled for Monday against Princeville.

### Farmington

Farmington lost five starters from a 13-9 team. But Farmers Coach Jeni Fauser hopes a talented group of underclassmen can blossom and grow.

Sophomore Lydia Overcash figures to handle most of the pitching, according to Fauser. Freshmen Ava Essex and Neveah Howard are expected to help.

"We are very untested at the varsity level and will most likely have some growing pains," Fauser stated. "We will have to find a way to score and

*Continued on Page 18*

## WILLIAMSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

WRITE-IN CANDIDATE

# meet & greet

### SUNDAY 2:00PM- April 2nd 4:00PM

### The Watering Hole at Oak Run

Join us for refreshments and a casual Meet & Greet with Rachel Tucker & Brittany Gibbs, the write-in candidates for Williamsfield School Board. Sit and talk, ask questions, and get to know your candidates before voting on Tuesday, April 4th.

## STAY INFORMED - YOUR VOTE MATTERS!

Hosted by supporters of Brittany Gibbs & Rachel Tucker

# EHS Scholar Of The Month



Congratulations to **Olivia Meyers**

Year: 12<sup>th</sup>, Senior

Birthday: Nov 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004

Favorite Subject: "Math,

Numbers are easy for me to understand."

Favorite Restaurant: Panda Express

Favorite Musical Artists: The Lumineers

Favorite Book: Where the Crawdads Sing

Favorite Ice Cream : Cookie Dough

Parents: Janelle & Gregg Meyers

I'd like to visit: Greece

College Plans: Illinois Wesleyan, Accounting

Future Plans: Still working on them

## Spring Suite

Elmwood High School and Junior High School fine arts will be featured Friday during the annual Spring Suite held at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium.

In addition to band and chorus performances, student artwork will be on display. Admission \$4 adults, \$2 students, Senior Citizens 62+ free.



## BRIGHT FUTURES SCREENING

Bright Future Screenings for the Elmwood and Brimfield area are April 11-13. Peoria County Preschool Screening provides free screenings for all pre-school children (ages birth through five years of age, not enrolled in Kindergarten) living in Peoria County. Screening checks

areas of development that include: vision and hearing, speech and language, behavior and social development, small and large muscle coordination, thinking and reasoning skills, and other readiness skills.

The purpose is to identify children who may qualify for a free preschool education.

Appointment required. Call the Special Education Association of Peoria County offices at (309) 697-0880, ext. 206.

### Dates To Remember

March 31- Midterm Reports

April 5-10 – No School, Spring Break!

April 22 – Prom, Grand March 4 pm, Dinner 6 pm at Lake Storey Pavilion

April 24 – Brown Bag It, Peoria County Courthouse, 11 am to 1 pm

May 8 – Senior Class Trip to Chicago's Shedd Aquarium

May 10 – Last Day for Seniors, 11 am honk honk

May 16 – 8th grade promotion, 9 am in the auditorium

May 21 – High School graduation, 1 pm, H.S. gym

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