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Vol. 11, No. 8

The Weekly Post

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Williamsfield School Board one of few contested races

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Weekly Post

As another election approaches, most voters will have little to decide when they head to the polls April 4.

In addition to contested races for the Brimfield School Board and the Farmington mayoral race (see story, below right), the Williamsfield School Board election also features more candidates than positions open.

You can't tell that from the ballot, though. Listed as running for the Williamsfield CUSD 210 school board are three candidates: Brittany Byrd, Chad Goff and Jenny Smith. There are also two

Election 2023
The Illinois general consolidated election is Tuesday, April 4, from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Early voting will be held today, March 30, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Brimfield Public Library and Friday, March 31, at Kickapoo Township Hall, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

write-in lines provided on the ballot. Write-in candidates are Brittany Gibbs and Rachel Tucker.

Write-ins typically face a stiff challenge to get elected, since their names are not listed on the ballot and must be spelled correctly to count if a voter writes them in.

Here are questions posed to the candidates and their replies, which have been edited for clarity and space.

Question: Can you provide some background on yourself?

Byrd: I grew up on a small farm in Loami, Ill. I have a bachelor of science degree in business management from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. I have worked for the State of Illinois since 1999, first as an accountant and since 2001 as a bank examiner. My husband, Tony Byrd, is a self-employed contractor. We moved to rural Dahinda 16 years ago and have two children who have attended Williamsfield

schools since Pre-K.

Gibbs: I have two sons who attend Williamsfield Elementary. I grew up in Williamsfield and currently work at St. Mary's Medical Center in Galesburg as a nurse.

Goff: I graduated Abingdon High School in 1991, served in the U.S. Marine Corps and met my wife, Angela Hilman Goff, in 2000. In January 2020 I hung up my duty belt, packed away my law-enforcement equipment and began a career with IDOT.

Angela grew up near Oak Run and I have fond memories of spending time with my grandfather on his farm outside of Dahinda. My parents and Angela are

Bomber alumni and in 2006 we moved to Oak Run. We have two children and I have been a volunteer coach in ROWVA-Williamsfield middle school baseball, JFL football and this summer girls 14U softball.

Smith: I grew up in Morton and work as an animal-control officer in Peoria. I'm married to Jason Smith and we have four children. We moved to Williamsfield in 2008. Two of our children graduated from Williamsfield CUSD 210 and two are still students in the district.

Tucker: My husband, Cory, and I have two children, one who is a

Continued on Page 7

NO MORE POOL

Princeville board votes to close pool

Deficits outweighed survey results

By NICK VLAHOS
For The Weekly Post

PRINCEVILLE – More than 83 percent of survey respondents wanted the Princeville Aquatic Center to remain open.

But the Princeville Village Board deemed the swimming complex a luxury its community cannot afford.

With a 5-0 vote March 21, the board decided to close the aquatic center permanently. Mounting financial losses influenced the decision. Minimum-wage increases, higher materials costs and expenses



With projections calling for a deficit of more than \$100,000 to operate the Princeville Aquatic Center this year, the Princeville Village Board has voted to close the facility.

for necessary upgrades were factors.

The complex was projected to be more than \$100,000 in the red to enter the upcoming summer season. The facility that's about a quarter-century old always has operated at a deficit, albeit not as much as the current one, according to village officials.

“We're elected to safeguard the village money,” Village President

Jeff Troutman said. “It's a shame it's come down to this point.

“I know everybody wants it. I know it's a welcome part of the Princeville community. It does add a benefit to our town.”

Fiscal numbers outweighed at least one measure of public sentiment. According to Trustee Teresa Gilroy, the village received 186 responses to a published survey re-

Continued on Page 11

Farmington mayor

Stufflebeam, Zessin vie for position

By JEFF LAMPE
For The Weekly Post

FARMINGTON – Two candidates are vying to become mayor of Farmington in the April 4 election.

Kenn Stufflebeam, 55, was elected as mayor in 2013 and then stepped down June 11, 2015, to be replaced by Kent Kowal. On March 5, 2022, Stufflebeam came full circle, leaving his position as an alderman to serve as acting mayor when Kowal left the position.

Stufflebeam is a key account manager for Cintas, and he and wife Anne have two daughters, Meredith and Alexis.

Chadric Zessin, 29, is a newcomer to the political scene but is familiar with Farmington, where he has

lived for all but four years of his life. An HVAC automation technician, Zessin is the new Farmington-area representative for the Spoon River Scenic Drive. Zessin is single but said he has “two well-behaved dogs and a vocal and opinionated Maine Coon” cat.

Here are the candidates answers to questions regarding the election.


Question: Why are you running to be mayor of Farmington and what are your priorities?

Stufflebeam: To continue moving the City of Farmington forward. Farmington is a great place to raise families and I am committed to ensure that this continues. I want to make sure that we have a viable

Continued on Page 2

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Coming Soon: (Movies Subject to Change)
 Wed April 5 - Super Mario Bros Movie (PG)

Special Event Free small popcorn or soda
Elmwood Kiwanis Easter Movie Hop (PG) Saturday April 8th - 1pm
 Movie gets out at 2:35
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FARMINGTON: Differing views on city building

Continued from Page 1
 police force that is well trained and partners with the community for safety, fiscally responsible City Council that uses our tax dollars wisely, and complete transparency of the decisions that are made for the citizens of Farmington.

Zessin: I am running for mayor because I believe it is time for the next generation to be involved in how the city is run. My priorities are bringing back the feeling of community and pushing the city into the 21st century, while still recognizing what makes our town significant, its history.

Q: Why are you a good candidate to be mayor?

Stufflebeam: I am the right candidate because of my past experience and my commitment to being fiscally responsible. I want to make sure we that we use the TIF District dollars responsibly, and in ways that move the community forward.

Zessin: I would be a great candidate for mayor because, while I am young, my ideas are fresh and they will help this city to regain its momentum and keep us moving in the right direction.

Q: What are the biggest issues facing Farmington and what are the city's biggest strengths?

Stufflebeam: Farmington is a great community. We have many businesses that chose to make this their home. I want to make sure we help market existing businesses while trying to attract more businesses and services that will benefit our citizens.

I would like to partner with our Chamber of Commerce as well as Fulton and Peoria county economic

councils to show that Farmington is a viable community to place a business. Our citizens are very loyal to Farmington and will support businesses as they open.

While inflation is affecting many communities around us, Farmington is well placed and very healthy. In the last three years, Farmington has not increased its tax levy. We have done this by being fiscally conservative. I want to continue this trend.

We have money in the bank to maintain city services while not being an overbearing burden on our homeowners. The city is committed to continually upgrading our infrastructure as needed and keeping our police force well trained.

Zessin: One of the biggest issues Farmington is facing is the lack of options for eating or things to do.

Next, the people want to pay their city bills online. This seems to be a frustrating issue with a lot of the people I have spoken to.

One of the bigger strengths of the city is its history. I think that we need to be pushing more about the fact that we were a prominent stop on the Underground Railroad. We also have a decent school system. Farmington has a lot of untapped potential that I also see as a major strength.

Q: Where do you envision the city offices being located in the next five years?

Stufflebeam: I do not see the city offices moving in the next five years. Farmington has a solid building that can be updated and adapted to meet our needs. It is centrally located and paid for. In the next few months, we will be begin planning on how to up-

date the facility a piece at a time to better suit our needs. This will be done without raising taxes.

Zessin: I hope the location will be revisited at least within that time. I love how central it is currently, but the building is old and outdated. We need to build a new building. If financially plausible I would love to see a new building in the same place.

Q: Anything else?

Stufflebeam: It is my privilege to be the mayor of Farmington. I want to continue to operate in transparency to serve our citizens. There are many aspects of the city that we can be very proud of: Oak Ridge Cemetery, Jacobs Park, Dimmit Park, Reed Park and the Farmington Historical Museum. I encourage everyone to take some time to visit these places.

Our city crew does a tremendous job maintaining our parks and cemetery while the entire volunteer staff at the museum will help you understand the history of our city.

Our school is a shining star of our city as well. In my travels with my job, rarely do I find someone who has not had a positive experience at our school.

Farmington has lots to be proud of, and I want to make sure this continues. This is not done by one person but on the backs of the people that have stepped up to help steer this ship we call the City of Farmington. Please take time to vote on April 4.

Zessin: I would like to see more visually appealing buildings such as bringing back plants and foliage around town. We need to have more events and festivals like the Italian Fest.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

This Week's Hot Picks

- **Band Concert** – The Farmington Community Band will perform its first concert in 40 years today, March 30, at 7 p.m. in the Farmington Central Auditorium. Park in the B Lot.
- **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 Friday, March 31, from 5-7 p.m. at the Brimfield American Legion.

The Weekly Post Seven-Day Forecast

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Partly Sunny	Storms/Wind	Partly Sunny	Sunny	Storms	Storms	Storms
61 53	70 35	47 33	64 45	66 48	60 45	57 41
SE 17 mph	SSW 20 mph	WNN 20 mph	S 17 mph	SSW 14 mph	E 15 mph	WSW 15 mph

This Week's Events

- **Egg Hunts** – An Easter-egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 1, at 10:30 a.m. at Brimfield Evangelical Free Church. An Easter-egg hunt will be held Saturday, April 1, at Trivoli United Methodist Church at 10 a.m. Elmwood Kiwanis will sponsor an Easter-egg hunt April 8 at Elmwood's Central Park at 3 p.m. Elba-Salem Women's Auxiliary has an Easter-egg hunt April 8 at 11 a.m. at Harvest Home Park in Yates City.
- **Pancakes & Sausage** – The Elba-Salem Fire Department has a pancake and sausage breakfast Saturday, April 1, from 7-10 a.m. The Brimfield Fire Department has a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, April 2, 7-11 a.m.
- **Seniors Breakfast** – Princeville Baptist Church, 235 W. Douglas St., has breakfast and coffee for its Senior Singles & Widowed Breakfast Club Satur-

day, April 1, 9 a.m. Call (309) 385-2592.

- **Game Night** – Morrison & Mary Wiley Library in Elmwood has a family game night starting at 6 p.m. today, March 30. Lots of table space available.
- **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.
- **Food Pantry** – Free food boxes given out the last Friday each month at Elmwood United Methodist Church, 10-11 a.m. Visit www.elmwood-umc.com or (309) 742-7221.

- **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

- **Fish Fry** – Kickapoo Sportsman's Club final fish fry is April 7, 4:30-7 p.m. Adult dinners \$16.

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The Weekly Post

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Quotable: "In every walk in nature, one receives far more than he seeks."

- John Muir

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GUEST VOICES



Of non-voting slugs, the Googleopoly & owls

Rambling through central Illinois, pondering the date of this year's first mow – and how quickly the excitement of fresh-cut grass will dissipate.

My favorite sportswriter **Larry Felser** used to start some columns in The Buffalo News with a line that let you know what was coming. "It's one of those opinionated days," Larry would write, before making me smile again and again as he teed off. Well folks, it's one of those opinionated days. ... No, this is not an exciting election. Many who show up to vote Tuesday, April 4, will do so without a contested race on which to offer their wise counsel. So what. Vote anyway. Why? In one of **Mother Teresa's** wonderful prayers, she addresses a list of perceived problems that really are not problems. "If you are honest, people may cheat you ... Be honest anyway. The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow do good anyway." There's more to the prayer, but that gives a sense of the sentiment. There are things we should just do "anyway." Voting is one of them. Of the many rights we have in the United States, selecting our own representatives is close to the top. And while Mother Teresa would definitely not approve the rest of my plea to voters, here it is. "No time to vote? Then shut your pie hole and don't you dare post Facebook rants about politics, you lazy slug. Put your phone down for a few minutes and go vote." ... And if you plan to vote for a write-in candidate, make sure to spell the name correctly or it

won't count. For Elmwood voters, who have a school board race that is not contested but needs a write-in candidate to fill out the slate, that means correctly spelling **Tori Goe-deke**. ... Anybody need a job for a few months? Starting April 12, we need of a delivery driver to haul newspapers. We supply the van and gas. Work is Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 6:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Call me, please!

The Googleopoly needs to be broken up. Yeah, they have a great search engine, but at what cost? And don't get me started on Google Docs, which are supposed to make life easier but usually end up generating more work after the receiver is "denied permission" to look at a sent document. Meanwhile, folks in the Googleopoly have access to everything, with or without our consent. ... The dog and I were in the yard recently doing what we do when unseen owls in the neighbor's tree started hoo-hooing. Hadn't heard them in awhile, but the ruckus reminded me they don't like the dog much. Or maybe it's me? Hard to know. But there's something comforting about having them back, hoo-hooing and all. The best antidote for fear about the end of the world and Mother Nature's legendary wrath is to spend time outside experiencing seasonal changes that make life even more worth living. Owls hooting, bluebells and leaves emerging, frogs croaking in ephemeral pools, kingfishers scolding, geese paired up and ready to nest ... it's so good right now to be outside. Yes, spring is best – until summer arrives. ... All the hooting led the youngest boy and me to discuss why owls don't like **Buck Dog 3**. That led to a discussion on how many owls it would take to whip

him. We set the over-under whipping point at four barred owls vs. one fairly wimpy Labrador retriever. Think MGM will take that action? ... Then we had to reset the over, as we are now up to two rabbit nests in our tiny yard that ended poorly. The dog has been in a bit of trouble, but it's hard to blame him. Almost every day of his life, he chases a rabbit out of the yard with no success. Then one day he wakes up and there are little rabbits right under his nose. Please, **Mama Rabbit**, try elsewhere.

My college-age kids have a new best friend. His name is **Chat GPT** and apparently he's really smart and will write papers for free. Seems not much has changed since I was in college, except we had to pay my buddy **Raju** for his services back then. Maybe technology is good after all. ... Shrub of the week: Check out the silky dogwood, a red-twigged native that helps stabilize streambanks and provides plenty for critters. Plant some if you've got a wet spot in your yard and are brave enough to allow a plant to grow a bit ungainly. ... A recent entry in this space quoted MoneyGeek as saying Illinois is the "least tax-friendly state in the country." Well, there's argument on that subject. WalletHub claims Illinois is only No. 9 nationally for highest tax burden on citizens. Progress! ... Parting shot: Sorry about last week's rant about new faces in the Final Four. Wow. This is the first NCAA men's tourney since seeding started in 1979 that no team ranked better than No. 4 has reached the Final Four. With all the ruined brackets out there, now seems to be the right time for some scabbler like Florida Atlantic to win it all. Go Owls!

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



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GUEST VOICES

Ag's new normal includes trade deficits

Nearly drowned out in all the farm-group cheering that U.S. ag exports hit a record high \$196 billion last year was the inarguable fact that U.S. ag imports also hit a record high, \$199 billion, or \$3 billion more than ag exports.

That's right, sports fans: During its biggest ag export year ever – when the value of American ag exports grew an astonishing \$19.5 billion, or 11 percent, over 2021 – the value of U.S. ag imports grew by \$28 billion, or 16 percent.

All that farm and food outflow and even more farm and food inflow is a hallmark of ever-changing global markets.

Caught in that change is America's fading dominance of world ag markets, markets that yielded a \$17 billion surplus as recently as 2017.

Now, however, it's ag trade deficits and none is going away anytime soon.

On Feb. 23, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimated that the Fiscal Year 2023 U.S. ag trade deficit will balloon to a wide \$14.5 billion as American ag exports fall to \$184.5 billion and ag imports remain at \$199 billion.

If accurate (the trade numbers will be updated May 31), two eye-watering facts leap out. First, FY 2023 will post the largest ag trade deficit since at least 1959 and, second, 2023's forecast means U.S. ag will have run trade deficits in four of the last five years.

Few, if any, American farmers have witnessed a similar run of export red ink.

Part of the U.S. shift to trade deficits swings on 2022's strong commodity prices – tied to both the Ukrainian-Russian war and global weather woes – and the export slowdown those steep, volatile prices caused global buyers.

For example, notes the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) in a recent Market Intel report, "(E)xport value across all products (in 2022) increased by 11% year-over-year, but export volume actually declined by 6%."

Still, that same AFBF analysis showed that "In 2022, U.S. exports remained concentrated in the top six markets. Sixty-seven percent of U.S. ag exports were to China (\$38.2 billion), Mexico (\$28.5 billion), Canada (\$28.3 billion), Japan (\$14.6 billion), EU-27 (\$12.3 billion) and South Korea (\$9.5 billion)."

Like trade itself, however, those big players aren't static. That's especially true for China, our biggest, richest ag customer, suggests a recent article by the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).

Even while "China ranks first globally in producing cereals (such as corn, wheat and rice), fruit, vegetables, meat, poultry, eggs and fishery products," CFR explains, it will continue to import ag commodities like soybeans whose "cost to grow ... in China is 1.3 times than it is in the United States, and the yield is 60 percent less."

Which is exactly what happened in 2022. China's imports of U.S. soybeans were up 8 percent by volume last year but its corn import volumes

dropped 16 percent and wheat fell 13 percent.

That may become a trend, foresees CFR, as China seeks "to diversify its import sources ... In 2021, Brazil replaced the United States as China's largest agricultural supplier, providing 20 percent of China's agricultural imports."

Other observers agree.

In a cold-eyed analysis of recent trade patterns between China and the U.S., the Peterson Institute for International Economics says the die was cast when "U.S. exports to China ... cratered during President Donald Trump's trade war of 2018-19" and now "are continuing to suffer."

Farmers and policy makers should take heed because Peterson is not some lily-livered, lefty anti-trade house.

It is, in fact, the direct opposite; one columnist called it the "locker room of Team Globalization and Free Trade cheering squad."

But this cheerleader can find no good news in the trading relationship that, in 2020, signed a "Phase One" deal that committed China to purchase an additional \$200 billion of U.S. goods and services "(that)... in the end, China bought none of the extra \$200 billion..."

As such, today's facts and tomorrow's forecasts suggest ag trade deficits – not surpluses – may be the new normal.

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Thursday, April 20, 2023

Time slots available:
5:30-6:00 pm
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Elmwood Elementary School Gym
 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:

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

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 whitney@elmwood322.com

PUBLIC RECORD

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

Maquon body confirmed as Richard A. Young

GALESBURG – It's been assumed the decomposing body found last autumn in a Maquon storage unit was that of the former village police chief. On Tuesday, the Knox County Sheriff's Office confirmed it.

DNA testing revealed the remains are those of Richard R. Young, 71. A Maquon woman, Marcy L. Oglesby, has been accused of concealing Young's death, but earlier this month a Knox County judge dismissed murder charges filed against her.

The judge determined the murder charges and some others were filed more than 120 days after Oglesby was taken into custody last October. That would violate her right to a speedy trial, per Illinois law. The Knox County State's Attorney's Office has appealed the ruling, a representative said Tuesday.

Young's family has been notified about the DNA results, a sheriff's-office news release stated.

Oglesby also has been charged with forgery and firearms violations. A pre-trial hearing is scheduled Monday. The investigation remains open and active.

Prescription medicine stolen from pharmacy

BRIMFIELD – About \$200 worth of apparent prescription medication was stolen earlier this week from a Brimfield drug store. According to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office, three males burglarized Sherman's Pharmacy on East Knoxville Street earlier this week.

Burglars forced open the front door and absconded with various drugs, including Tylenol with codeine. They attempted to access a drawer that was the target of a previous incident, but narcotics now are stored in a new safe, according to the sheriff's office.

Citing an ongoing investigation,

the sheriff's office denied a Weekly Post request for a copy of the police report about the incident Sunday.

Police reports

• **ELMWOOD** – A controlled burn at an Elmwood residence became uncontrolled enough to require fire-fighting assistance. The incident happened about 1:15 p.m. Monday in the 700 block of S. Althea St. Flames crept to about 40 feet of a house, according to Bob Tannock, chief of the Elmwood Fire Department.

It took about 15 minutes for fire-fighters to subdue the blaze. Personnel from the Elba-Salem Fire Protection District in Yates City assisted, as did the Elmwood Police Department. About one-half acre of grass was burned, Tannock said.

• **NORWOOD** – A Farmington woman was accused of drunken driving after her vehicle struck a house near Norwood.

Tabitha E. Clift was driving a 2004 Chevrolet Impala about 2:30 a.m. March 9 on westbound Farmington Road near Maxwell Road when the vehicle went off the pavement and struck a street sign, then hit the house. The car and the house sustained extensive damage, per a Peoria County Sheriff's Office report.

Clift said she attempted to brake her vehicle at a stoplight at Farmington and Maxwell roads, but a mechanical error caused the accident. Clift was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to reduce speed.

• **DUNLAP** – No injuries were reported in a two-vehicle accident in Dunlap that involved a Princeville woman. About 11:15 a.m. March 13, Lydia R. Herrmann was driving a 2013 Volkswagen Passat north on Fourth Street near Walnut Street when it rear-ended a 2014 Chrysler Town & Country minivan. Its driver was Michael F. Jacobs of Princeton.

Herrmann said she became distracted by something outside and to the right of her vehicle and didn't see the minivan slow to make a turn, a

Peoria County Sheriff's Office report stated.

Both vehicles sustained bumper damage but were drivable. No citations were issued.

• **PRINCEVILLE** – A civil trial regarding a Princeville High School student who accused two peers of bullying has been rescheduled, according to the Peoria County Circuit Clerk's Office.

The case Noah Guzman brought to Peoria County Circuit Court is to be heard June 8. The trial had been scheduled to begin earlier this week.

Guzman accused the two male students of taking and/or sharing photographs of him partially clad in a school restroom.

• **ELMWOOD** – About 8:15 a.m. March 21, Francis Coon of rural Elmwood was driving in a lot behind Uptown Cafe, 118 E. Main St., when his vehicle struck a parked sport-utility vehicle owned by Chelsi Taylor of Elmwood. Coon was attempting to park, according to the Elmwood Police Department. The vehicles sustained minor damage.

• **FARMINGTON** – Sean R. Holton, 37, of Farmington was arrested at 9 p.m. March 18 and accused of retail theft, unlawful possession of less than 5 grams of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of a hypodermic syringe or needle and unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **WILLIAMSFIELD** – Brayden M. Knoblauch, 25, of Williamsfield was arrested about 3:15 a.m. March 24 and accused of driving under the influence of alcohol, expired vehicle registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office.

• **HANNA CITY** – William A. Tillman, 40, of Hanna City was arrested about 3 p.m. March 24 and accused of failure to appear in court, according to the Peoria County Sheriff's Office. Tillman also was being held for another agency.

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VACANT VILLAGE BOARD TRUSTEE

Due to a recent resignation, there is now a vacant Board Trustee position.

This Trustee's term was set to expire on 04/30/2025. Anyone wishing to be considered for this seat on the Princeville Village Board will need to file both a Letter of Interest and a Statement of Economic Interest prior to Friday, April 14, 2023, 5:00p.m.

Letters of Interest need to be submitted to Princeville Village Hall, Attention: Jeff Troutman. Statement of Economic Interest are to be filed with the Peoria County Clerk's Office.

Filing can be done online, print a copy of the form or find more information at, www.peoriacounty.org/247/Satement-of-Economic-Interests

WILLIAMSFIELD: Candidates differ on extending superintendent's pact

Continued from Page 1
recent WHS graduate and one who is a kindergartner. I was born and raised in Dahinda and graduated from WHS. I have a bachelor of business in finance from Western Illinois. Even while living in Galva for 12 years, we remained a part of this community since so many family members live here. We have lived in Williamsfield since 2017.

Q: Why are you running for a seat on the Williamsfield CUSD 210 School Board and what are your priorities?

Byrd: For over eight years, I have voiced my concerns about staff turnover and checks and balances. I've become increasingly concerned about the lack of checks and balances in regard to finances and the number of faculty/staff members that have left.

Gibbs: I've been impressed with the positive direction our school has gone over the years. I chose to run to help facilitate the continued growth of our schools and to assist in maintaining a positive and peaceful atmosphere.

Goff: I became involved in board meetings during the COVID lockdowns. I watched our kids struggle through remote learning and many other parents I spoke to expressed the same experience.

After surrounding schools, including Galesburg, returned to full time, our district had not made available any information regarding students returning full time. I attended a board meeting and asked the question. I was informed by Superintendent Tim Farquer, as well as our board, that they would return our children back to school full time the following school year.

I came away from that meeting upset for our kids and disappointed in our board. I organized a meeting with other parents, a special meeting was held and the board voted unanimously to return our kids to school full time.

If elected, my priorities are to ensure the board is following its own rules. I will work diligently to keep our taxes low and not support frivolous spending on unnecessary projects. I will work to keep our children safe while receiving the best education by the best educators that our district can recruit and retain. I will work with the educators, their union, administrators and other board members to promote a favorable culture in the school and advocate for proper union representation for our district employees. I will work

to keep local control of our school. I will make sure educators, students and parents can provide opinions and suggestions without fear of retaliation.

Smith: I'm running for school board because we are very invested in the school. My priority is making our school the best it can be while addressing the concerns of the community, faculty, staff members, taxpayers, parents and children.

Tucker: I try to live a "service above self" life and want to give back to my community. I have witnessed the amazing transformation of Williamsfield schools from my time as a student to now. I am interested in making sure the opportunities continue, in making things even better for all the stakeholders and in learning the ins and outs of the business side. My priority is to make sure the school board does all within its power to give the best education by the best educators in the best environment while being financially responsibly with taxpayers' money.

Q: What makes you a good candidate for a school board position?

Byrd: Serving on our school board is a positive way I could contribute and help ensure all stakeholders opinions are represented, respected and heard. I can help provide adequate oversight and transparency over the finances. I know many of the faculty/staff members and I have been an advocate for the teachers for many years.

Gibbs: In my career as a nurse, collaboration is important. I'm successful because I can see the big picture and am able to consider each side's concern or idea and piece the puzzle together for all involved. I'm motivated, approachable and have effective communication skills.

Goff: I've been in a leadership role for more than two decades and understand the importance of a strong employee/management relationship. As a former business owner, I'm versed in finance, budgets, healthcare and retirement systems. I'm a proud union member and have been through many contract negotiations. As a former law-enforcement officer, I'm a listener, a fact gatherer, and I don't believe in making quick decisions without doing research and gathering information. I firmly believe in transparency, integrity and character.

Smith: I know many of the staff/faculty members and I have spoken in public comment about the staff turnover. I listen and make

decisions based on facts and evidence. Creating an environment where people are empowered, supported and engaged are key to understanding how taxpayers want their dollars spent.

Tucker: I am honest, motivated, educated and caring. I am running to be a part of a great education and a great school for all students. I work with budgets, tax levys, resolutions and contracts at work and thoroughly enjoy it. My youngest son is just starting his school career; so while I have a long road ahead, I want to be a part of the school in a positive manner.

Q: What are the biggest issues facing CUSD 210?

Byrd: Two of the biggest issues that I see facing Williamsfield CUSD 210 are the lack of transparency over finances and faculty/staff turnover.

Gibbs: I see some of our biggest issues also as opportunities. I think with continued improvements within our community, our numbers in the district could also increase. Being a small community has huge benefits but unfortunately that also creates challenges. When you are short on numbers you may not have enough kids to fill certain classes, making it difficult to offer. Also being short in numbers affects sports and other activities.

Goff: Transparency with the taxpayers, our teachers and students. Being financially responsible, doing our due diligence in reviewing bills and ensuring the proper bidding process is being followed. Communicating with and encouraging our community for their input and involvement on major projects and controversial issues. Making certain there are checks and balances and clear guidance for our administrators. Promoting a culture where our educators strive to be the best at their craft and our students excel.

Smith: The biggest issues are staff retention and finance concerns.

Tucker: I believe Williamsfield CUSD 210 is facing some of the same issues that schools across the nation are facing – teacher shortage, behavioral and academic problems resulting from COVID-19 shutdowns and burnout and exhaustion. However, it is important to point out Williamsfield is financially strong, receives a fair amount of grants, is working on improving the facilities, has fantastic teachers and helpful staff, has active clubs and programs, has expanding extracurricular activities that are competing at state levels and, most importantly, modern, rel-

evant teaching abilities and flexibility for all students.

Q: Would you have approved an early renegotiation of Superintendent Tim Farquer's contract and met his various requests?

Byrd: No, I would not have approved Mr. Farquer's contract. There was no reason to approve a contract that was not due until 2024, especially since three new members would be seated in April.

Gibbs: I'm not able to answer a yes or no to this question due to not being present in the executive session, where it was discussed and where information was presented. I know most of the people on the current board and the ones that I know are kind people who want what is best for our school and community. I would trust them to make the decision again.

Goff: No. The board members that approved the contract did so in poor faith and not in the district's best interest. It was financially irresponsible, undermines the new board members as well as the ones that did not support it, and eroded the integrity of the board. It provided unprecedented contract terms based from personal agendas instead of merit. If not for concerned citizens the new contract would have taken place in executive session behind closed doors and the public wouldn't have known until after the fact.

Smith: No, there was no

reason to approve a contract extension. I voiced my opinion about the contract extension prior to the approval and after the approval in public comment. Two board members who were leaving the board tied the hands of the future board, and essentially, the taxpayers.

Tucker: Matters involving personnel are discussed in closed session. Since I am not privy to that information, I cannot answer.

Q: Anything else you would like to add?

Byrd: I chose to run because I want to make a difference, not because a group of individuals convinced me to run. It was a decision that I came to after talking to my husband and children. I listen to facts, ask questions and then make a decision. Everyone's voice matters in this community and community members should be comfortable sharing their opinions. Our school district needs to retain and recruit quality teachers.

Goff: My decision to be a candidate took months and many discussions with

friends and family. I wasn't talked into running as a candidate or as a write-in in order to keep a favorable board and to allow our district to continue operating business as usual.

I don't believe in choosing sides but was put on one when I advocated for our students to return back to school. The only side that I am on is that of the district. I'm on the side of its educators, students, employees and taxpayers.

Smith: I love what this school offers in curriculum and I loved the atmosphere. However, I feel the atmosphere has changed over the last few years. I would also like to see formal committees meeting for transparency and oversight.

Tucker: I have not been coerced into running nor have I been paid to run. I am running because I want to. I welcome all voters to the write-in candidates' Meet and Greet Sunday, April 2 from 2-4 p.m. at The Watering Hole in Oak Run. Come ask questions before making an informed vote on Tuesday, April 4.

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Elmwood OKs new after-school care provider

By JEFF LAMPE
 For The Weekly Post

ELMWOOD – The after-school care provider for Elmwood schools will change for the 2023-24 school year.

The Elmwood School Board voted Monday to hire Right at School to run an after-school program. Right at School is based in Evanston and runs after-school and before-school programs and camps

around the state. Superintendent Chad Wagner said he spoke with administrators in Germantown Hills and Dunlap who use Right at School and said they were “very satisfied with it.”

“It’s very curriculum-based,” Wagner said. “Hopefully we can create a good partnership with them.”

Elmwood is signed up for a one-year contract and

Wagner said before-school care is a possibility if there is sufficient demand. He said costs for after-school care will remain the same for families but will not cost the district anything.

Elmwood had posted a job opening for an after-care director after Cheryl Whitehurst opted not to return. But Wagner said the school received no responses.

Wagner said Right at School will try to find local staffers to run the program.

The board also approved an intergovernmental agreement with the Illinois State Police to allow use of an internet portal for submitting notice of students who pose a “clear and present danger.”

Wagner told the board that attorney of Jay Greening of Miller Hall & Triggs

advised approving the agreement, which Wagner described as “an accountability measure that state is asking us to be part of.”

The board also approved membership in the IHSA and IESA for 2023-24.

In personnel matters, the board approved Tyler Baysingar as a high school science teacher for the 2023-24 school year and also as a junior high girls assistant track coach for the 2022-23 season.

The board also approved: Erika Marjanovich as a learning-loss specialist for the remainder of the school year using ESSER funds; Julie Foster as a bus driver for 2023-24 upon completion of necessary requirements; and maternity leave for Sarah Christy during the 2023-24 school year.

Recognized for acquiring tenure status as of 2023-24 was Jen Watts, a 5th-grade and special education teacher.

Board Member Mark Davis reported that after a meeting with the school architect, plans call for a start date of April 24 for the Claude W. Keefer Industrial Arts building. Davis said that would allow for completion by the first or second week of August.

To date, fundraising efforts for the Keefer building have generated \$232,381.25.

Unfortunately, a candidate who interviewed for the industrial arts teaching position took a position elsewhere.

Davis said the sound system for the football field will also be upgraded before this football season.

Board Member Tom Conklin said negotiations with the teacher’s union are expected to be “wrapped up hopefully in the next couple weeks.”

The next board meeting will be Wednesday, April 26, to allow enough time for seating of new board members elected in the April 4 election.

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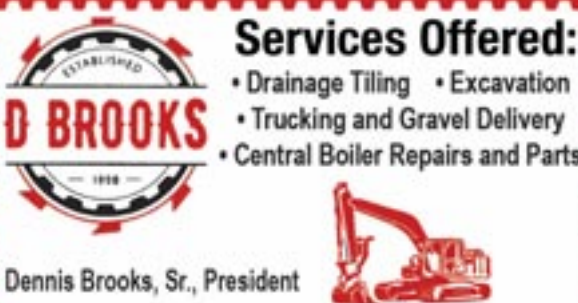
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TORI GOEDEKE

FOR ELMWOOD CUSD 322 SCHOOL BOARD



PRINCEVILLE: Trustee needed

Continued from Page 1
garding whether the aquatic center should remain open. Of those responses, 155 were in favor.

The board also received a letter of aquatic-center support, from Dan and Kathy Sullivan, and in-person testimony from local resident Dan Cordis.

“I think of the pool as a quality-of-life component to the village,” he said. “There are not too many quality-of-life components in town. I think that’s a big deal and probably something that should be avoided at all costs. I think the pool is something that differentiates Princeville a little bit.”

But Village Public Works Superintendent Chad Gardner suggested that difference wasn’t worth the price. Water and sewer funds have been used to help keep the aquatic center afloat.

“There’s an opportunity to find something else that gives you quality of life, things that aren’t a continuous drain on the financials every year,” Gardner said. “Why are we so special that the Village of Princeville has to keep their pool open and everybody else closes theirs?”

Gardner estimated it would cost between

\$100,000 and \$150,000 to decommission the aquatic center. The village intends to sell some of the facility’s equipment. Gardner estimated two to four houses can be built on the aquatic-center property, should the village sell it.

Located at 620 Princeville Ave., the aquatic center has three pools – a 25-yard lap pool, a T-shaped pool and a wading pool. About 4,400 customers used the facility last summer, according to village figures.

Troutman and trustees suggested increases in admission fees wouldn’t be enough to dent the deficit.

“If we close the pool, we’re going to be terrible people,” Trustee Donald Peterson Jr. said. “But they don’t want to thank us for being year upon year in debt to keep the pool open.”

Peterson joined colleagues Ron Delbridge,

Rick Pope, Richard Schoenbeck and Gilroy in voting to shutter the aquatic center. Gilroy chairs the board committee that oversees it. For 30 seconds or so, she appeared to agonize about her vote before she cast it.

“I don’t think it’s an easy decision for any of them,” Troutman said afterward.

Missing from the meeting was Trustee Nathan Wineinger, who resigned. According to Troutman, Wineinger moved outside village limits.

Troutman is to appoint someone to fill the remaining two years of Wineinger’s term, which expires in April 2025. The village is advertising the opening. Troutman said he heard from two people interested in the board opening.

According to Troutman, the village also issued a building permit for a new single-family residence at 1475 N. Town Ave.

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WILLIAMSFIELD SCHOOL BOARD

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meet & greet

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Graham Chapel Road closure starts April 3

ELMWOOD – The Peoria County Highway Department will start construction on Graham Chapel Road near Elmwood on Monday. The road will be closed for a box culvert replacement project located a half-mile west of Stone School Road.

Work is expected to last into August, conditions permitting. A detour will be posted on Stone School Road, Illinois Route 116 and Illinois Route 78.

Elmwood CUSD 322 has rerouted bus routes to avoid the construction area.

Elsewhere, the Peoria County Highway Department will start work Monday on Old Galena Road near Mossville. This project includes new pavement, improved drainage and the addition of a left-turn lane and new traffic signals leading to Mossville Elementary School. The scope of the project is from Boy Scout Road/Neal Lane to the roundabout, and from the roundabout to Illinois Route 29.

College honors

Cory Alcaraz of Hanna City was named to the Milwaukee School of Engineering's Dean's list (3.2 gpa or better) for the winter quarter. Alcaraz is pursuing a bachelor of science in mechanical engineering.

Auditions April 2-3 for Arc Light youth plays

GLASFORD – Arc Light 2023 is holding auditions for its upcoming youth plays, "The 33 Little Pigs"

BRIEFS



Cyril A. Stobaugh Jr. of Farmington (above and left) offers a salute after receiving a plaque honoring his 50 years of continuous service to the American Legion on Saturday during the Farmington American Legion's 100th anniversary celebration. Photo by Dave Giagnoni.

and "Bedlam & Breakfast."

Auditions will be held April 2-3 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Illini Bluffs High School in Glasford.

Auditions are open to kids ages 7-16 and no prepared materials are necessary. Anyone who wants to audition must fill out a Google form (available on www.arclightpro.com)

and reserve a time slot.

A \$40 participation fee will be collected from all selected for cast to cover costs. Rehearsals begin April 12 at Illini Bluffs High School.

For questions, or if time slots are full and available slots do not work with you, please contact jeff@arclightpro.com or call (309) 455-4095.

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Ban on public vaping, cat declawing moving on

By **JERRY NOWICKI**
and **PETER HANCOCK**

Capitol News Illinois

SPRINGFIELD – The Illinois Senate passed 68 bills this week while the House had advanced 284 as of Friday morning with hundreds more to go before adjournment.

It was the first in a two-week stretch of legislative deadlines for bills to move from one chamber to the other. While there are many procedural ways to revive a bill's language after the deadlines' passage, the deadlines mark an annual milestone in the session's final stretch.

Among the hundreds of bills that passed this week are the following.

Vaping ban

A measure banning e-cigarette use in public places passed the Senate on a 48-5 vote. It does so by adding e-cigarettes and vapes to the Smoke Free Illinois Act of 2007, which prohibited smoking in public and within 15 feet of entrances.

Senate Bill 1561 was sponsored by Rep. Julie Morrison, D-Lake Forest, who in 2019 was the lead sponsor on a law that increased the age to legally purchase tobacco to 21.

Morrison said while the state has made progress against what she called a "tobacco epidemic" but a recent "surge" in vaping "has threatened that progress and lured more people toward a deadly addiction." Sen. Steve McClure, R-Springfield, supported the bill and called it a "bi-partisan health issue."

Cat declawing ban

One measure that passed last week in the House, House Bill 1533, would make it illegal to declaw a cat if the procedure is not medically necessary.

The measure would also ban any other surgical process that would "alter a cat's toes, claws, or paws to prevent or impair the normal function of the cat's toes, claws, or paws."

Rep. Barbara Hernandez, D-Aurora, said as a cat owner she knows the sting of its claws. But she backed the measure along with the Illinois Humane Society.

"The science is clear: cat declawing can cause serious enduring discomfort and loss of quality of life for cats," Hernandez said in a statement. "While this used to be common practice, science has shown us that this is a procedure that should only be done if medically vital, and it's time our laws reflect reality."

A person performing such a procedure would be subject to a \$500 fine from the Department of Agriculture for a first violation, \$1,000 for a second and \$2,500 subsequent violations.

New state flag?

The Senate on Thursday also advanced a bill to create a commission that would consider designs for a new state flag. The measure sponsored by Sen. Doris Turner, D-Springfield, passed on a 39-16 vote with Republicans' main concern being that lawmakers could be using their time on more important issues.

She said the measure spurred many calls from constituents that were excited about the prospect of a redesign.

Senate Bill 1818 – a number that coincides with the year in which Illinois became a state – would create the Illinois Flag Commission to develop flag designs and make recommendations to the General Assembly for alternate designs and whether the state should keep its current flag.

The commission would be required report its findings to the General Assembly by Dec. 3, 2024.

The current flag design depicts an eagle perched on a rock and holding a banner with the words of the state motto: "State Sovereignty, National Union." In 1969, the word 'Illinois' was added to the bottom of it.

The measure heads to the House for consideration.

Felons as estate executors

People with previous felony convictions would still be allowed to act as executor of someone else's estate under a bill that passed through the Illinois House on Thursday.

Rep. Lakesia Collins, D-Chicago, said she sponsored House Bill 1268

in part because when her sister died, her father, who had a felony record, was not allowed to serve as her executor despite her sister's wishes.

The bill would allow convicted felons to serve as executors if the deceased person expressly names that person in their will and acknowledges they know the person is a convicted felon. The executor could still be disqualified if they have been convicted of financial crimes or have been held civilly liable for offenses against elderly or disabled individuals, or if they are not legally qualified to act as an executor.

Several Republicans argued those protections were not sufficient. Rep. Jeff Keicher, R-Sycamore, said elderly people are frequent targets for manipulation and financial abuse, often at the hands of their own children.

The bill passed 81-26 and now moves to the Senate.

Rent control on mobile home parks

One bill that did not pass Thursday would have allowed municipalities to impose rent control on mobile home lots. Freshman Rep. Abdelnasser Rashid, D-Justice, sponsored House Bill 3104 which would have carved out manufactured homes and manufactured home communities from the state's general ban on local rent control measures.

More general rent control measures have been proposed in recent years, mainly by Chicago-area lawmakers concerned about the skyrocketing cost of housing there. But they have met fierce opposition from groups representing property owners and real estate developers.

Rep. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria, said he feared that carving out an exemption for the mobile home industry would become a "slippery slope" to broader rent control statewide.

Capitol News Illinois is a nonprofit, non-partisan news service covering state government. It is distributed to more than 400 newspapers statewide, as well as hundreds of radio and TV stations. It is funded primarily by the Illinois Press Foundation and the Robert R. McCormick Foundation.

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Future of autonomous farming takes shape

By **DAN GRANT**

FarmWeek

The use of driverless ag equipment might seem like something from a science-fiction movie, but it's already gaining ground on farms today.

And some of that technology was on display to farmers from around the world at Commodity Classic in Orlando, Fla., as equipment manufacturers set their sights on improved ag efficiencies.

"We are committed to moving forward as an industry," said Matt Olson, precision ag manager for John Deere. "When you look at the future, we continue to evolve at an increasingly fast pace because of technology."

John Deere released its first autonomous tractor for tillage operations last year — 8R tractors with a TruSet-enabled chisel plow, GPS guidance and advanced technologies.

The unit features six pairs of stereo cameras, which enable 360-degree obstacle detection and calculation of distance.

And it's just the first in what Deere envisions as an entire lineup of autonomous equipment.

"We are committed by 2030 to have a fully autonomous production system for row crops, from planting and spraying to harvest and tillage," Olson said.

That could radically change how farmers manage their operations.

"We've gone from managing the whole farm, to fields and more recently to zones," Olson said. "When you look at the technology we have now, we're able to manage at the plant level through sensors, machine learning and through automation."

Deere's new See and Spray Ultimate is one example. The new technology can reduce non-residual herbicide use by more than two-thirds by target spraying weeds.

See and Spray Ultimate uses 36 cameras on a 120-foot sprayer boom to scan more than 2,100 feet at once to apply herbicide only to weeds it detects. Its ExactApply nozzle control technology also helps reduce potential drift.

The latest See and Spray advancements are for model year 2023 John Deere 410R, 412R and 612R sprayers.

Deere also unveiled new ExactRate technology to precisely monitor and control applications of liquid fertilizer during planting. ExactRate is compatible with select models of John Deere planters with electric drive, including 1775NT, 1795, DB60, DB44 and DB66 units.

How do farmers prepare for automated technology?



A John Deere 8 series tractor, featuring autonomy-enabling hardware, sits on display at the 2023 Commodity Classic in Orlando, Fla. Photo by Daniel Grant for FarmWeek.

Olson recommends they get comfortable with the JD Operations Center, gain expertise in working with a connected machine and make sure their farms have high-fidelity boundaries.

Meanwhile, Case IH advanced its autonomous technology when it unveiled its TriDent 5550 sprayer with Raven Autonomy at last year's Farm Progress Show. Farmers can run the applicator from any mobile device.

"That's considered supervised autonomy," Kendal Quandahl, Case IH precision technology marketing manager from Waterloo, Iowa, told FarmWeek at Commodity Classic.

Case IH introduced the autonomous sprayer through market research with farmers, who identified field applications as one of their top labor pain

points, Quandahl noted.

"One of the spotlights for us is the path to autonomy Case IH is working towards," she said. "One of the biggest things we have to help producers understand is it's not just a driverless machine, but rather a series of automated equipment."

Case IH also recognized past achievements in ag equipment design at Commodity Classic as it continued its celebration of the 100-year anniversary of Farmall, an original brand of International Harvester.

Case IH recently launched new Farmall 90 and 120 model tractors.

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

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Pages From The Past

Compiled by Hannah Dobra

5 Years Ago

- The 9th annual Elmwood All-Outdoors Show generated \$17,500 for the athletic programs and athletes at Elmwood High School.
- Local boys basketball players were well represented on the Prairieland all-conference teams, with Farmington seniors Judd Anderson and Jake Uryasz making the 10-player first team, as did Elmwood seniors Vince Lenzi and Ethan Jehle. Uryasz and Lenzi were unanimous picks.

40 Years Ago

- Ms. Kim Carroll, Elmwood, is a new junior member of the American Angus Association.
- Heather Courson, 6, was winner No. 2 in the police department's jellybean counting contest.

45 Years Ago

- The 7th and 8th graders at Princeville Grade School who received first place on science projects were: Donna Gilles, Audrey Martin, Kathy Martin, Rob Vanderheydt, Mike Ladd, Cindy Herrmann, Janice Pinkston, Kris Heinz, Jim Streitmatter, Betty Ladd, Lucia Brown, Aaron Albright and Vic Potter.

50 Years Ago

- Jack E. Kuntz of Princeville represented Peoria County in the "Farmers to Washington" program.
- Bob Snider, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Snider of Elmwood, was named to the Class A all-state basketball team. John Minton received special mention on the all-state team.

55 Years Ago

- Les Stone of Princeville was chosen for the Blackhawk Conference's all-conference first team for basketball.
- The new Farmington Post Office at the corner of West Fort and North West Streets get a roof this week as workmen steadily bring it closer to completion for a late spring or early summer opening.

60 Years Ago

- Twenty-two speakers aired their views at a hearing in Brimfield by the Illinois Department of Highways concerning the location of interchanges proposed in the Brimfield area along Interstate 74.

80 Years Ago

- Westfall School, near Victoria, was demolished during a windstorm. Mrs. Walter Farquer, teacher,

is to continue classes in the Fort Henry School, near Maxey Chapel.

100 Years Ago

- Gov. Small stated he would extend the Peoria-Farmington hard road to Farmington, and then stated the route would be changed so the road would connect with Farmington and Elmwood. If cement were available the road would be extended to Elmwood this summer.
- Mr. Fagette of Edwards is having a mill built there for the grinding of grain. The light company of Elmwood is installing motor equipment, which gives the mill 65 hp.
- Preliminary work in the construction of the Princeville Canning Company has been started.

116 Years Ago

- There are 17 automobiles owned in Farmington, thought to be a record for Illinois towns of this size.

120 Years Ago

- F.E. Shaffer purchased H.C. Tucker's stock of hardware, combining it with his own. Shaffer now has the only hardware store in Williamsfield.
- Burlington, Iowa, has the distinction of having the only sleigh bell factory in the United States.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 16

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.

FQD ZVFMVD, JKKTMCPO FT
ATUD AKCDPFCAFA, LCSS HD
DYJKFSW SCND FQD BJAF,
TPSW ZJM UTMD DYBDPACRD.
— XTOP ASJIDN

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Trivia test

- by Fifi Rodriguez
1. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. states share a border with Mexico?
 2. MOVIES: Which movie was the first sports film to win the Best Picture award?
 3. U.S. PRESIDENTS: How many former first ladies are still living?
 4. TELEVISION: What is the name of Bart's teacher on "The Simpsons"?
 5. LANGUAGE: What does the Japanese phrase "domo arigato" mean in English?
 6. CHEMISTRY: What is the lightest element?
 7. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Who is Marie Laveau of New Orleans?
 8. AD SLOGANS: Which product was advertised with the slogan, "Great taste, less filling"?
 9. U.S. CITIES: In which city would you find Thomas Jefferson's Monticello?
 10. LITERATURE: Who wrote the autobiography "Dreams From My Father"?
- Answers**
1. Four: California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.
 2. "Rocky" (1976).
 3. Five: Rosalynn Carter, Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama and Melania Trump.
 4. Edna Krabappel.
 5. Thank you.
 6. Hydrogen.
 7. Famous voodoo queen.
 8. Miller Lite beer.
 9. Charlottesville, Virginia.
 10. Barack Obama.

TOP 10 MOVIES

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

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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 1st, 2023.**

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

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

HANNA CITY & TRIVOLI UNITED METHODIST CHURCHES

Easter Events

- Saturday April 1, Easter Egg Hunt, At The Trivoli U.M. Church at 10 a.m.
- Palm Sunday worship services, on Sunday, April 2, With open Holy Communion, and the choir singing, At 9:30 a.m., at The Trivoli U.M. Church, And 11 a.m. at The Hanna City U.M. Church.
- Maundy Thursday worship service, on Thursday, April 6, At The Hanna City U.M. Church, at 7 p.m.
- Good Friday worship service, on Friday, April 7, At The Trivoli U.M. Church, at 7 p.m.
- Easter sunrise worship service on Sunday, April 9, At The Hanna City U.M. Church, at 6:30 a.m., Followed with a light breakfast there.
- Regular worship services on Easter Sunday, April 9, With the choir singing at, The Trivoli U.M. Church at 9:30 a.m., And The Hanna City U.M. Church at 11 a.m.

Come Join us, everyone is welcome!

Senior Singles & Widowed Breakfast Club

April 1st 9 am

This is a Free Event!
Come for coffee, light breakfast and fellowship

Princeville Baptist Church Fellowship Hall • 235 W. Douglas St. (Enter at the rear of the building)

Questions? Call (309) 385-2592



OBITUARIES

Richard L. Blackhurst

FARMINGTON – Richard Lee “Dick” Blackhurst, 84, of Farmington, passed away Thursday March 23, 2023, at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria with family by his side.

Born Oct. 9, 1938, son of Rodney and Nina (Foster) Blackhurst, Dick married Roberta (Painter) Blackhurst Nov. 23, 1963. She survives along with their three children and seven grandchildren.

Survivors include his children Jackie (Eric) Kersh of Farmington, Paul (Lisa Martens) Blackhurst of Hanna City and Vince (Amy) Blackhurst of Farmington; his sister, Jean Kipling of Macomb, Ill.; and seven grandchildren, Madison Kersh, Regan Kersh, Jordan Blackhurst, Jake Blackhurst, Jadin Martens, Cole Blackhurst and Cam Blackhurst.

His parents and a sister, Carol Ann, preceded him in death.

Dick proudly served in the United States Navy from 1958-61. He was a route salesman for BlueStar Potato Chips in Burlington, Iowa, before being transferred to Peoria, Ill., in 1971. In 1973 he began ownership of Kitchen Cooked Potato Chips in Farmington, Ill., and expanded to Bushnell, Ill.

Dick loved his friends, employees, and customers of Kitchen



Blackhurst

Cooked and supporting American veterans. He enjoyed visiting with friends and LOVED the Green Bay Packers.

His most enjoyable times were spent at his cabin on the lake at the farm enjoying a cocktail with friends.

Cremation rites have been accorded through Oaks-Hines Funeral Home and Crematory in Canton. Dick was adamant against a visitation or funeral, but a celebration of life will occur at a later date.

Memorials may be made to Farmington Rescue Squad.

To leave online condolences, visit oakshinesfuneralhome.com.

Gary E. Smith

PEORIA – Gary E. Smith, 80, of Peoria, originally from Brimfield, passed away Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 6:25 p.m at the OSF Richard L. Owens Hospice Home in Peoria.

He was born April 27, 1942, in Rushville, Ill., to Hall and Nola Grace (Spivey) Smith. He married Mary Ann Schelkopf on July 30, 1966, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Brimfield. She survives along with one daughter, Teresa Smith, and her husband David Pittman of West Peoria; one granddaughter, Annelise Smith of Denver, Colo.; and one sister, Carolyn (Clifford) Gray of Missouri.



Smith

He was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Andrew Smith; two sisters, Sue Pille and Joyce Edwards; and one brother, Hampton Smith.

Gary graduated from Brimfield High School in 1960. He was a paratrooper in the United States Army serving from 1960-63.

He was a machine repairman at Caterpillar, from where he retired after 30 years. As a retiree, he worked for the Uftring Auto Mall for several years and as a volunteer at Wildlife Prairie Park as train engineer for 11 years.

The family would like to thank the Richard L. Owens Hospice Home for their care and compassion for Gary. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He was definitely “one of a kind.”

Visitation was to be Wednesday, March 29, 2023, from 5-7 p.m. at the Davison-Fulton Woodland Chapel in Peoria. Funeral services will be Thursday, March 30, at 11 a.m. El Vista Baptist Church in Peoria. Additional visitation will be one hour prior to the services on Thursday at the church.

Entombment will be in Resurrection Mausoleum in Peoria with military honors following the services.

Memorials may be given to his church, El Vista Baptist Church or Wildlife Prairie Park.

Thomas C. Zinser

PEORIA – Thomas C. “Tom” Zinser, age 73, of Kickapoo, Ill., passed away at 6:20 p.m. on Sun-

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Veronica Haskell, Certified Funeral Celebrant/Licensed Pre-Need Agent
Nicole Reed, Funeral Director/Licensed Pre-Need Agent/
Certified Funeral Celebrant

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PUZZLE ANSWERS

Super Crossword

Answers

A	D	P	A	G	E	O	D	D	S	E	T	R	E	C	A	T	E		
T	O	R	N	A	T	P	I	R	A	T	E	H	A	T	O	D	I	N	
T	H	E	G	R	A	P	E	S	O	F	W	R	A	T	H	N	O	N	A
I	A	M	B	L	U	R	P	E	I	T	E	N	F	R	O	M			
C	R	I	B	M	A	S	N	A	C	H	O	L	I	B	R	E			
A	M	E	R	I	C	A	N	P	I	E	C	H	I	E	D	S	E	L	
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S	T	A	I	N	I	M	A	C	D	N	A	I	N	T	A	K	E		
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C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N	O	F	T	H	E	C	O	R	N			
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T	E	X	T	O	N	T	O	R	E	N	E	V	A	S	S	A	R		

CryptoQuote

answer

The future, according to some scientists, will be exactly like the past, only far more expensive.

— John Sladek

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

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OBITUARIES

day, March 26, 2023, at Washington Senior Living, Washington, Ill., with his family by his side and surrounded by the wonderful staff and friends at the facility.

Tom was born on May 15, 1949, in Peoria, a son of Rae Charles and Thelma Rose (Heinz) Zinser.

Tom is survived by brother Jim (Sheila) Zinser, sister-in-law Christine (the late Dr. Robert) Zinser, and numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.



Zinser

Tom was preceded in death by his parents and one brother, Dr. Robert Zinser.

Tom began working at Meadowbrook Dairy in Peoria, while in high school. Later he worked for the Illinois Department of Conservation, becoming the assistant site superintendent at Jubilee College State Park.

Through the years, Tom enjoyed attending stock car races and, at one time, was a part owner of a race horse name Race Time Randy. He was an avid deer hunter, loving the time spent outdoors while hunting in Missouri and Illinois.

Cremation rites have been ac-

corded, per Tom's wishes.

A graveside burial of ashes will be held on Friday, March 31, 2023, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Kickapoo, Ill. Fr. James Pankiewicz and Fr. David Heinz will officiate.

In lieu of memorials, do something nice for someone else in Tom's memory.

Friends and family may view full obituary and sign the online guestbook by logging onto www.wrightandsalmon.com.

Steve Gilles

KICKAPOO – Steve "TD" Gilles, 74, of Kickapoo, Ill., passed away on Thursday, March 23, 2023, at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, surrounded by his family.

Steve was born on Nov. 14, 1948, in Peoria, a son of Francis "Donald" and Gladys (Doering) Gilles. He married Pam Burdett on March 1, 1975, at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Kickapoo. She survives.

Survivors also include children Stephanie (Marc) Koch of Brimfield, Jennifer (Travis) Kimble of Germantown Hills and Michael (Molly) Gilles of Brimfield; grandchildren Chelsea (Clint), Brayton, Jake, Adrienne, Cadence, Levi, Veronica, Ezekiel and Elizabeth; step-grandchildren Sabrina and Luke; great-grandchildren McKenna and

Asher; as well as sisters Linda Belton of Bartonville and Sharon Graf of Texas.

Steve was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Roger and Ronnie; two sisters, Nancy Dalton and Carolyn Huffman; and his in-laws, Glenn and Wanda Burdett.

Steve honorably served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He worked for Caterpillar for 30 years as a machinist and was a proud UAW member, retiring in 1999. He then worked for Kelch Landscaping in Kickapoo for several years and then operated Gilles Gallons Water Hauling.

Steve was a member of The Knights of Columbus Bishop Rosetti Council #5034 third degree, the Kickapoo Sportsman Club and the morning coffee club. He enjoyed fishing and hunting, but his favorite pastime was spending time with his grandkids.

Visitation was March 28, 2023. Funeral Mass was to be at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29, 2023, at St. Mary's Catholic Church, with a half hour prior visitation. Fr. James Pankiewicz will officiate and burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Kickapoo.

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

More Obituaries, Page 18

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Salem Township Cemetery Board

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AREA CHURCHES

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. 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 Thyatira (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?
2. Who was David's oldest brother who picked on him for coming to the battle lines? Abner, Omri, Amasa, Eliab
3. After Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, who lived in a cave with his daughters? Job, Lot, Levi, Joel
4. In Luke 3, who told Roman

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

DOUGLAS
Douglas United Methodist Church

soldiers to avoid taking money by force? John the Baptist, Paul, Mark, Matthew
5. What Canaanite city was burned down by the men of Dan? Tarsus, Antioch, Laish, Cana
6. In which book is the phrase, "Salt of the earth"? TITLE: None, Matthew, Mark, Jude
ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Eliab, 3) Lot, 4) John the Baptist, 5) Laish, 6) Matthew 5:13
(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

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



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OBITUARIES

Charmaine E. Smith

ELMWOOD – Charmaine E. Smith, 91, of Elmwood, passed away at 5:53 a.m. on March 17, 2023, at the Apostolic Christian Home of Roanoke.

She was born May 3, 1931, in Roanoke and was preceded in death by her parents, Leo H. and Martha E. (DeLaval) Pruvost, her brother Norman (Lynn) Pruvost of Los Alamos, New Mexico, and her son Rusty Blunier of Roanoke.

Charmaine was married to Gaylord Blunier of Roanoke in June of 1951, and later married to Clark Smith of Peoria in July of 1978. Surviving Charmaine are her daughter Rebecca Duffield of Eureka and her sons

Chris (Dee Ann) Bodine, Sean (Mandy) Duffield and Spencer (Amy) Duffield; son Michael (Kam) Blunier of Roanoke, and their sons Adam (Katie) Blunier and Garret (Whitney) Blunier; and daughter Jennifer Schupbach of Branson, Mo., and her daughter Audra Schupbach. She was also great-grandmother to Evelyn, Rhyann, Arthur, William, Annie and Carla.

Cremation was accorded by Macons Funeral Home in Metamora, Illinois. Private graveside services to be held at a later date.

Donald G. Stegmaier

EAST PEORIA – Donald Gene Stegmaier, 91, of East Peoria, died on March 19, 2023, at Proctor Place in

Peoria, Ill.

Born Sept. 23, 1931, in Peoria to Henry and Stella (Moushon) Stegmaier, he married Dawn JoAnn Pinkney in 1952. She preceded him in death on Jan. 24, 2002.

He is survived by his three sons, Michael Stegmaier, Mark (Gloria) Stegmaier and Jonathan (Lisa) Stegmaier, all of Brimfield; seven grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

Donald served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, was a 67-year member of Carpenters Local 237 and owned Stegmaier Builders from 1972 until retiring in 1994.

Visitation was Monday, March 27, 2023, and services were March 28, 2023, at Parkview Cemetery in Peoria.

LEGAL ADS - Call (309) 741-9790

•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS
M&T BANK, PLAINTIFF, VS.
CHAD D MCLEE A/K/A CHAD MCLEE; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, DEFENDANTS.
NO. 22 FC 0000222
1809 NORTH PARK ROAD PEORIA, IL 61604
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE UNDER ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE ACT
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered by the Court in the above entitled cause on December 7, 2022, Sheriff of Peoria County will on 04/24/2023, in ROOM 203 OF THE COURTHOUSE, 324 MAIN STREET, PEORIA, IL 61602, at 08:30 AM, sell at public auction and sale to the highest bidder for cash, all and singular, the following described real estate mentioned in said Judgment, situated in the County of Peoria, State of Illinois, or so much thereof as shall be sufficient to satisfy said Judgment:
THE SOUTH HALF OF LOT 4 AND ALL OF LOT 5 IN YORKSHIRE, A SUBDIVISION OF PART OF LOT 2 OF NELSON CLARK'S RESURVEY AND SUBDIVISION IN THE NORTH-EAST QUARTER OF SECTION 8, TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 8, EAST OF THE FOURTH PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, SITUATED IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA, IN THE STATE OF ILLINOIS.
TAX NO. 18-06-226-008
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1809 North Park Road Peoria, IL 61604
Description of Improvements: The property is a single family. The property has a two car garage. The garage is attached. The exterior is brick. The color is tan. The property has a fence. The property is occupied.
The Judgment amount was \$131,537.25.
Sale Terms: This is an "AS IS" sale for "CASH". The successful bidder must deposit 10% down by certified funds; balance, by certified funds, within 24 hours. NO REFUNDS.
The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments or special taxes levied against said real estate, water bills, etc., and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to plaintiff. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
Upon payment in full of the bid amount, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.
The property will NOT be open for inspection. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the sub-

ject premises.
If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For Information: Visit our website at <http://ilforeclosuresales.mrpilc.com>.
Between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. only - McCalla Raymer Leibert Pierce, LLC, Plaintiff's Attorneys, 1 N. Dearborn St., Suite 1200, Chicago, IL 60602. Tel. No. (312) 346-9088. Please refer to file# 22-106711L
PURSUANT TO THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, THE PLAINTIFF'S ATTORNEY IS DEEMED TO BE A DEBT COLLECTOR ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
Plaintiff's attorney is not required to provide additional information other than that set forth in this notice of sale.
I3210391
Published 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/23
•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans Inc. PLAINTIFF VS.
Thomas D. Pierce; et. al. DEFENDANTS
No. 2022-FC-0000286
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 02/15/2023, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on April 26, 2023 at the hour of 1:00 PM at Peoria County Courthouse 324 Main Street, Courtroom 203 Peoria, IL 61602, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Peoria and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
LOT NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN (118) IN EL VISTA, A SUBDIVISION IN RICHWOODS TOWNSHIP, ILLINOIS SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF PEORIA AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
PIN 14-30-456-006
Improved with Residential
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 2222 W Albany Ave Peoria, IL 61604
Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the

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The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-07370. I3215287
Published 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/23
•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS
U.S. Bank National Association PLAINTIFF VS.
Nicholas Chester; et. al. DEFENDANTS
No. 2022-FC-0000013
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 06/06/2022, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on April 26, 2023 at the hour of 1:00 PM at Peoria County Court-

house 324 Main Street, Courtroom 203 Peoria, IL 61602, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Peoria and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
LOT 41 AND THE EAST 1/2 OF LOT 42 IN BLOCK 3 IN RESERVOIR HEIGHTS ADDITION, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN BOOK "C", PAGE 68, IN THE CITY OF PEORIA, SITUATED IN PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS.
PIN 14-27-404-023
Improved with Residential
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1513 E London Ave Peoria, IL 61603
Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
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The property will NOT be open for inspection and Plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the Court file to verify all information.
IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.
For information: Examine the court

file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-22-00235. I3215288
Published 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/23
•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR THE 10TH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS
Fifth Third Mortgage Company PLAINTIFF VS.
Christopher J. Kidd; et. al. DEFENDANTS
No. 17-CH-00519
NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on 05/07/2018, the Sheriff of Peoria County, Illinois will on April 26, 2023 at the hour of 1:00 PM at Peoria County Courthouse 324 Main Street, Courtroom 203 Peoria, IL 61602, or in a place otherwise designated at the time of sale, County of Peoria and State of Illinois, sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:
LOTS FORTY-FOUR (44) AND FORTY-FIVE (45) AND FORTY-SIX (46) IN BLOCK THREE (3) IN RESERVOIR HEIGHTS ADDITION TO AVERYVILLE, NOW CITY OF PEORIA, ACCORDING TO THE PLAT THEREOF RECORDED IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS IN PLAT BOOK "C", PAGE 68; SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF PEORIA, COUNTY OF PEORIA AND STATE OF ILLINOIS.
PIN 14-27-404-021
Improved with Residential
COMMONLY KNOWN AS: 1505 E London Avenue Peoria, IL 61603
Sale terms: 10% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the auction; The balance, including the Judicial sale fee for Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated at the rate of \$1 for each \$1,000 or fraction thereof of the amount paid by the purchaser not to exceed \$300, in certified funds, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court.
If the property is a condominium and the foreclosure takes place after 1/1/2007, purchasers other than the mortgagees will be required to pay any assessment and legal fees due under The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(g)(1) and (g)(4).
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minium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).
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Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser shall receive a Certificate of Sale, which will entitle the purchaser to a Deed to the real estate after Confirmation of the sale. The successful purchaser has the sole responsibility/expense of evicting any tenants or other individuals presently in possession of the subject premises.
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For information: Examine the court file or contact Plaintiff's attorney: Codilis & Associates, P.C., 15W030 North Frontage Road, Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, (630) 794-9876. Please refer to file number 14-17-17871. I3215637
Published 3/16, 3/23, 3/30/23
•••
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE TENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT PEORIA COUNTY, ILLINOIS
CHANCERY DIVISION - MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE STEARNS BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, PLAINTIFF, v.
TUNNEL BUS PROPERTIES, INC., an Illinois corporation; METRO RAIL, INC., an Illinois corporation; SUBWAY REAL ESTATE, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company; UNKNOWN OWNERS AND NONRECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN TENANTS, OCCUPANTS AND LEASEHOLDS, Defendants.
CASE NO.23 CH 4
Property Address: 8717 North Knoxville Avenue Peoria, IL 61615
NOTICE OF SERVICE BY PUBLICATION
The requisite Affidavit for Publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you.
Unknown Owners, Non-Record Claimants, Unknown Tenants, Occupants and Leaseholds, Defendants in the above-entitled suit, that said suit has been commenced in the Tenth Judicial Circuit Court of Peoria County, Illinois, by the said Plaintiff against you and other Defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage and Assignments of Rents conveying the premises described as follows, to-wit:
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Continued on Page 19

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Farmington softball opens with win

By **NICK VLAHOS**

For The Weekly Post

Madilyn Hanlin was 2-for-4 with three RBI as Farmington won its softball season opener 9-4 on March 23 at Monmouth United.

Farmington scored three times each in the fourth, fifth and sixth innings. Emylee Mahr had a two-run home run to left field in the sixth as the Farmers had 14 hits overall.

Starting pitcher Lydia Overcash struck out eight. The Farmers were scheduled to play Tuesday at Stark County and Wednesday against Eureka.

They are to play today (March 30) at ROWVA-Williamsfield, Friday against Canton and Satur-

day against Bartonville Limestone.

Brimfield-Elmwood

Schyer Meinders struck out six in a five-inning, one-hit shutout Monday for Brimfield-Elmwood (2-1), which defeated Princeville 11-0.

C.J. Troxell had four RBI and was 3-for-3, including homers in the third and fourth. Kierra Johnson homered in the fourth.

The Indians were scheduled to play Tuesday at Abingdon-Avon. Brimfield is also scheduled to have games today against Midwest Central and this weekend in the Hits For A Cure event at the Louisville Slugger Sports Complex in Peoria.

Princeville

In an 11-0 loss Monday at Brimfield-Elmwood, Mekeya Cihla had the only Princeville hit.

Princeville (0-2) was scheduled to play Wednesday against Chillicothe IVC.

ROWVA-Williamsfield

A five-run fifth inning Monday gave the lead for good to ROWVA-Williamsfield, which won 11-8 at North Fulton.

Ava Landon was 3-for-5 and drove in two runs in the pivotal inning. She also pitched two innings of scoreless relief.

R-W (1-1) was scheduled to play Wednesday at West Prairie and today against Farmington.

ALL-SPORTS ROUNDUP

Princes, Cougars earn all-LTC honors

Five girls basketball players from Princeville and ROWVA-Williamsfield were selected to the Lincoln Trail all-conference team earlier this

spring.

Destinee Harwood and Brianna Brodie of Princeville were both named first-team all-LTC. From ROWVA-Wil-

liamsfield, Lizzie Johnston was a second-team selection and Emma Seiboldt and Avery Rigg were both selected as special mention picks in polling of league coaches.

• **Turkey season** – Turkey season is already underway for youth hunters, who had last weekend and the coming weekend to hunt gobblers. Dates for the second youth weekend are Saturday and Sunday, April 1-2.

The first season of regular hunting begins April 3-7 in the South Zone and April 10-14 in the North Zone. Hours are one-half hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. The fifth season runs through May 4 in the South Zone and through May 11 in the North Zone.

North Zone season dates are April 10-14, April 15-20, April 21-26, April 27 to May 3 and May 4-11.

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ON THE BASIS OF EXISTING BOARD MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERS MAY BE ELECTED IN THE FOLLOWING NUMBERS FROM EACH CONGRESSIONAL TOWNSHIP.

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 NOT MORE THAN 3 MAY BE ELECTED FROM TOWNSHIP 10N RANGE 4E
NOT MORE THAN 2 MAY BE ELECTED FROM TOWNSHIP 11N RANGE 4E
 NOT MORE THAN 1 MAY BE ELECTED FROM TOWNSHIP 12N RANGE 4E
 NOT MORE THAN 3 MAY BE ELECTED FROM TOWNSHIP 10N RANGE 5E
 NOT MORE THAN 3 MAY BE ELECTED FROM TOWNSHIP 11N RANGE 5E
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TRACK: 13 freshman will boost Farmer boys

Continued from Page 24
 a leg on the Trojans' 4x800 relay, where he will be joined by senior Brendan Williams and two others. Early candidates for what is E-B's usual qualifying event are freshman Aiden Faulkner and sophomore Reed Florey.

Hill and Williams could also be part of a 4x400 relay.

Meyers is optimistic about a 4x200 relay that returns three seniors from a school-record-setting crew: Gavin Buhl, Aiden Frail and Brayden Lehman. The challenge is finding a fourth runner for the 4x200 and 4x100.

Candidates are juniors Riley Royer, Dax Alger and sophomore Daniel Yeagle.

"Our biggest thing is going to be finding some guys to fill in some field events," said Meyers, who has 24 athletes out this spring. "We've got to get some jumpers."

Senior Caleb Hollis leads the returning throwers.

If the pieces fit well, Meyers said a third straight sectional title is a goal.

Farmington

A class of 13 incoming freshmen will round out a Farmington boys team that should be much more competitive in meets this spring. The freshman group shows particular promise in the field and distance events, Coach Brad Whitcomb said.

That meshes well with a Farmers team that already had strengths in the sprints, pole vault and high jump.

Senior Logan Morse is back after qualifying for state in the high jump last year and is fresh off a Top Times showing that saw him place seventh in the high jump (1.85 meters) and run the 400 (55.21).

Also competing at Top Times was junior Brayden Morse, who was 10th in pole vault, clearing 3.7 meters. He was 15th at outdoor state last year.

The other group of qualifiers is the 4x200 relay of Hunter Darsham, Dane Hitchcock, Jake Martin and Logan Morse.

Other expected point producers are Chandler Whisenand in high jump and Caden Mowen in discus and shot.

"In years past our track team has had great talent, we just haven't had the depth to accumulate points to place as a team," Whitcomb said. "We should be able to move people around between relays and open races to compete in all events in hopes of winning the meet as a team."

For the Farmington girls team, senior thrower Anna Webel is the most decorated returnee after placing ninth at state last year in discus with a throw of 117 feet, 6.75 inches.

While Webel is the lone state qualifier back, junior Mariah Hayden qualified for Top Times in the 4x200 and 200 (she ran a 28.61) and figures to be a top sprinter and pole vaulter for the Farmers.

Coach Lillybeth Mendez said she has other good sprinters in junior Kyleigh Miller and sophomores Averie Gilstrap and Lilly Swanson. Those three joined Hayden on the 4x200 that was 11th at Top Times in a time of 1:54.69. Added sprint support should come from sophomore Paige Stevens.

Freshman Halie Whitby also looks strong in the jumps and sprints, Mendez said, noting she has other promising freshmen as well.

"We have a young team, with only two seniors," Mendez said. "From our first two indoor meets we have already seen some improvements and are working hard to improve to reach our highest potential by the end of the season."

Princeville

The graduation of standouts Grant Hunt and Denver Hoerr signals big changes for the Princes,

who should still be strong in the relays and had 24 boys out, but likely won't place as high as last spring.

"With Hoerr and Hunt you could be in anything from the 100 to the two-mile," Coach Jon Carruthers said. "Losing them is tough, but we should have a decent team with a variety of kids."

Relays should be solid, with Marcel Primera and Tayshaun Kieser back from a 4x100 that was 23rd at state. They will look for support from Parker Melick and freshman Eli Christiansen.

The 4x400 won at the LTC indoor meet in 3:44.78 and was made up of Kieser, Jordan Johnson, Joey Bosch and Melick.

Carruthers also has options for the 4x800 and distance races with Johnson, Melick, Bosch, Tucker Sennett, Jack Lied and Edward Tendrick. The 4x800 was second at the LTC indoor meet in 9:19.04 and Bosch was second in the 3,200 in 11:05.1.

Logan Carruthers (discus) and Josh Hunt (shot put) will be top throwers.

Top performer for the girls team figures to be junior Brianna Brodie in the discus. She set the school record twice last year and will seek to better her mark of 125-11.

Montana Hoerr and Paisley Schock should be solid in the middle distance races, senior Kyra Hilsabeck is back in the mile and 3,200 and Brinae Rice has the most experience in the sprints.

ROWVA-Williamsfield

The R-W boys and girls teams look to be competitive in the ICAC and Lincoln Trail conferences, according to boys coach Chris Campagna.

Potential state qualifiers figure to be senior Brody Bledsoe in shot put, senior Cadence Manning in the 800 and the 4x200 relay of sophomore Erin Welch, Cadence Manning,

sophomore Haven Manning and senior Natalie Gonzalez.

All of those athletes competed at the Top Times meet, with Bledsoe throwing 13.48 meters in shot, Manning running 2:32.45 in the 800 for 10th place and the 4x200 relay posting a 10th-place time of 1:54.27.

At the LTC meet, Jack Cordle was second in the 55 dash (6.84), Justin Godsil was second in the 800 (2:24.96) and Bledsoe was second in shot (13.55 meters). The Cougars' 4x800 relay was fourth in 10:39.09 and consisted of Godsil, Dylan Moore, Wyatt Hall and Jaxson Pemberton.



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Athletes back on track Outdoor season starts this week

By **JEFF LAMPE**
For The Weekly Post

Cold? Windy? Spitting rain? Ahh, outdoor track & field must be under-way.

A season that usually includes all the weather Illinois can muster starts in earnest this week and runs through the end of May. Well, it sort of starts this week. A planned triangular at Elmwood with Knoxville and Farmington was called off Tuesday because of forecasted cool evening temperatures.

Eventually, things will get going and, as usual, area teams have several state qualifiers to build around. Here's a look at the local scene.

Elmwood-Brimfield

With five state qualifiers back, including sophomore double medal winner Mya Strahm, the E-B girls team is poised for another strong spring.

"We have a good balanced team of new freshman and upperclassmen," Coach Kyle Anderson said. "Mya Strahm had a good offseason of training in pole vault but is dealing with an injury from earlier this

winter."

Other state qualifiers back are sophomore Chloe Howerton (4x100, 200), senior Ainsley Faulkner (4x100), junior Emma May (4x100, long jump) and junior Etta Wagner (shot put). Wagner placed seventh in the shot last year with a throw of 37-1 and was one of two non-seniors in the top nine.

Finding someone to replace graduated Ellyn Peterson on the 4x100 is a first-order of business for Anderson, who has plenty of options in a strong group of upperclassmen and freshmen.

The distance crew will get a big boost with three freshmen from the cross country team out for track: Addy Turner, Abby Dawson and Natalie Babcock. Also out for the first time is Addie Symonds, a

junior. And sophomore Liv Stage is healthy after missing time because of and injury last spring.

Elmwood was second at sectional last year after not scoring a point two years ago.

The boys team is coming off two straight sectional titles and should be led by junior Isaiah Hill, who is



Elmwood-Brimfield junior Isaiah Hill placed fifth in the 1,600 last weekend at the Illinois Top Times indoor state meet.



Mya Strahm is back for Elmwood-Brimfield after winning two medals at last year's state track meet: second in pole vault and sixth in the 300 hurdles.

fresh off a fifth-place showing in the 1,600-meter race at the indoor Top Times indoor state meet held last weekend at Illinois Wesleyan. Hill finished the mile in 4:31.05 behind two seniors and two juniors, including race winner Isaac Teel of Pickneyville (4:22.81).

"I thought he ran a fantastic race," E-B Coach Gregg Meyers said. "After the first 400 he was in dead last but he didn't panic and then he just kept moving and ran a really good race. That's a great place for us to start with him."

Hill will be a force in the mile this outdoor season and will no doubt run

Continued on Page 23

Indians baseball unbeaten after 4

By **PHIL JOHNSON**
For The Weekly Post

The Brimfield-Elmwood baseball team jumped to a 4-0 start this season with an 11-1 Prairieland win at home last Friday over South Fulton.

Winning pitcher Kyle Binder threw six innings, allowing one hit, walking three and striking out four in a complete-game performance.

Landon Binder went 3-for-3 at the plate with three RBI and Brady Johnson had an RBI and a hit.

Earlier last week, B-E downed Putnam County 5-3 in a non-conference matchup at home on March 22. Cam Blodgett (three innings pitched with two earned runs) and Cleve Bizzosky (four frames with five strikeouts) combined from the mound to hold down the visitors.

"Putnam County is a good win for us," Indians coach Brandon Porter said.

The Indians also picked up a 8-5 non-conference home victory over Peoria

Notre Dame on March 21.

The Binder cousins provided plenty of B-E's offense, as Landon went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBI and Kyle was also 2-for-4 with a home run, driving in two.

Zach Minton drove in one, and Brody Kenney had a base hit with two RBI.

Brady Johnson pitched the first 4.1 innings, yielding five earned runs. Drew Kieser finished the final 2.2 frames by striking out three and yielding no free passes.

"Brody Kenney, a freshman in his first varsity start, had a key two-run RBI. Kieser finished the game very strong on the mound for us," Porter said.

Next up for B-E is an ICAC matchup against Illini Bluffs at home today (March 30).

Farmington

Farmington (1-3) continued to show good progress, despite coming up short in a 5-4 decision to always-good East Peoria in

Continued on Page 21



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